ISSUE 1 OCTOBER 2026

VOL. 4

CUB REPORTER

Cub Reporter Edited By
Simla Journalism Dept

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UPCOMING EVENTS

October 2-3
Homecoming Weekend

October 5
HS Matchwits @ Hanover

October 9
End of 1st Quarter

October 12
K-8 Cheer Camp
9am-12pm

October 13
Seniors to Limon College

October 14
Picture Day

October 15
PSAT/NMSQT Testing

October 16
8th Grade to PPSC

October 17
BFL Volleyball Tournament

October 19
Elementary Parent Teacher Conferences

October 23
Grandparents Day

October 30
Elementary Class Parties

October 31
Halloween

5

7

13

16

14

HONOR CHOIR RESULTS

Congratulations to the 4th Grade through High School Kids who auditioned for Honor Choir! They are:

4th
Izelle Alba
Willow Blanchette
Cheyenne Bohlander
Jason Burgreen
Sybil Hoops
Ashlynn Hraban
Harlen Madden
Glenn Masonia- Hackler
Lyncoln Offutt
Karelly Ruiz
Ursula Torrez
Allie Zodrow

5th
Asher Bohlander
Vinny Bratrsovsky
Lily Buhring
Joey Choate
Kylie Choate
Skylar Mcquilliams
Hudson Wright
Aspen Yowell

Middle School
Quinn Anson
River Miller
Skylar Griffin
Zailynn Madden
Ivy Anson
Jaylene Wright
Payge McCune
Autumn Reiley
Boeman Buckner
Lyla Richie
Zaylaa Lally
Allie Foster
Keira Whitt

High School
Tanya Nipple
Crystal Ortiz
Landree Cox
Leah Sieck
Emmaleigh Carlson
Aevry Boyd
Haven Jorgensen
E Santistevan
DJ Douglas
Joe Lawson
Sage Allen
Emma Boucher
Zephyr Madden
Brystol Hintz
Emma Ramirez
Natalie Watts
Perrin Choate
Ryker Griffin

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PARENTS...

Parents, please help us keep your students safe by helping with the following:

·Do not leave running cars unattended in the parking lot.

·Please park your car in a designated parking spot to walk your students into the building, or you can just drop them off in the roundabout.

·Do not leave your children unattended after school to wait for practice or a game.

OCTOBER STUDENT OF THE MONTH

Our **October Student of the Month** is first grader, Keni Brazell. She was picked by her teacher, Mrs. Norris for being an excellent student in every way! Thanks, Keni!

TUCKER TIDBITS FOR ELEMENTARY

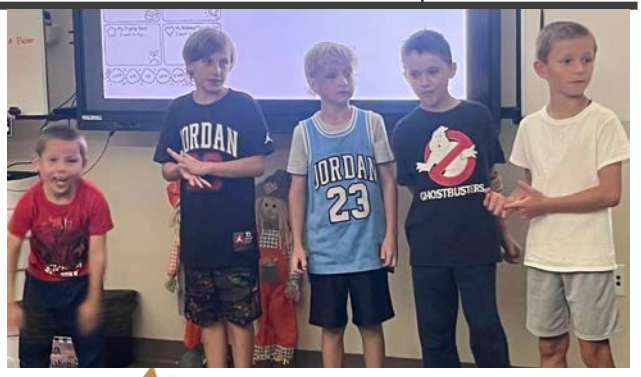
KATHY TUCKER ELEMENTARY

Elementary Volleyball Kids getting announced at the HS Volleyball game vs. Calhan!

As the leaves begin to turn, the mornings grow crisp, and the colors of fall start to brighten our landscape, we are reminded that change can bring new opportunities. This season, our Bearcubs are embracing those opportunities and continuing to "Dig Deeper!" We are challenging our students to dig deeper in their learning, try new things, set goals, work through challenges, and never give up when something gets tough. Just as the roots of a tree grow deep and strong, we want our students to build strong foundations that will help them grow and succeed. One simple way families can help is by making time for reading at home each day. Reading together—even for a few minutes—can make a lasting difference in a child's academic growth. As we enjoy the beautiful colors and cooler days of fall, let's celebrate all that our Bearcubs have already accomplished and look forward to what lies ahead. **Keep growing, keep learning, and keep digging deeper!**

INTRODUCING OUR 2026-2027 STUCO LEADERS

I am thrilled to introduce you to our 2026–2027 Elementary Student Council leaders! These outstanding students were selected to represent our school and help lead their peers through a year full of learning, growth, and fun. Please join me in congratulating Aspen Yowell, Weston Amendt, Jackson Sedlak, Asher Bohlander, and Hudson Golanoski as an alternate on this well-deserved honor!



A big "Thank you" to Dr. Swaby from UCCS for donating books to each student in our elementary!!!!

2026-2027 CUBS DEN LEADERS

Our fifth graders are stepping up and digging deeper into leadership this year! Led by Mrs. Stanko and Mrs. Townley, our fifth-grade class will be leading our Cub's Dens throughout the school year. Their first meeting was held on September 11, and our fifth-grade leaders kicked things off by introducing the theme "Digging Deeper." They did a great job taking on their new leadership roles, and it was exciting to see their enthusiasm as they worked with the younger Bearcubs. We are proud of our fifth graders and look forward to watching them grow as leaders, mentors, and role models throughout the year!

READ ALOUD MONTH

At the end of September, your child will be bringing home an exciting reading challenge—a letter with all the details and a special reading log! Here's how it works: whenever your child reads to you or you read to your child for 20 minutes or more, just help them record it on their log. Books should be age-appropriate, unless you're reading aloud (which we highly encourage!).

Once the log is filled out, make sure it's signed and returned to your child's teacher by Thursday, October 29. Every student who completes the challenge will earn a certificate, a special treat, and an extra recess—what a fun way to celebrate a love of reading!

Let's make reading a part of your family's fall routine—curl up with a good book and help us show that when it comes to reading, we say: **Dig Deeper!**

HOMECOMING-OCTOBER 2-3, 2026

Elementary Dress Up Days
Tuesday Favorite decade in the 1900s: 50s, 60s, 70s, 80s, 90s...etc
Wednesday Drippin in Gold (flashy)
Thursday Cub's Den Colors
Friday Blue/Gold Day

Details about your class' float building plans will be sent home soon. If you would like for your child to ride their class float, please donate your time or send money to help cover the cost of building the float.

ELEMENTARY PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES

Parent-Teacher Conferences will be held on Monday, October 19, 2026, by appointment. Some teachers may schedule appointments during their plan times or after school as well. More information will be sent home as the date draws closer. Please communicate with your child's teacher.

According to research, when parents are involved in their children's education, students will exhibit higher academic achievement, more school engagement, and a greater motivation to succeed. Our school's goal is 100% contact with all elementary parents. Please help us achieve our goal!!!

ACCOUNTABILITY COMMITTEE

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday, October 13, 2026, 3-4 p.m., in the library. More information will be emailed out to all members.

Congratulations to our new 2026/27 officers: President-Reese Baker, Vice President-Logan Rayfield, and Secretary-Brooklynne Billmire

If you are a parent and/or community member who would like to be a part by serving on our Accountability Committee, please email Mrs. Tucker @ ktucker@bigsandy100j.org. We would love to have you join our team!

OCTOBER IS FIRE PREVENTION MONTH

Each October, our Simla Fire department educates our students on fire safety. You can do your part too by making sure that your family has an evacuation plan as well as a meeting in the event of a fire. Also, don't forget to regularly change those fire alarm batteries!

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OCTOBER IS FIRE PREVENTION

HALLOWEEN PARTIES

Halloween Parties will be on Friday, October 30, 2026. Preschool parties will take place on Thursday, October 29th. Please note: Students will be allowed to wear their costumes to school on the day of their Halloween parties. Please make sure that your child's costume is conducive to learning in the classroom. If a part of your child's costume could be a distraction, then please have him or her wear that part at recess or at the end of the day. In addition, please do not choose costumes that have weapons/guns, blood, guts or gore. Thanks for your help!

TRUNK OR TREAT

"Trunk or Treat" will be returning this year! This will take place in the overflow parking lot in front of the school (same place as last year). If you would like to participate, please let Mrs. Tucker know by emailing, ktucker@bigsandy100j.org, or by calling the front office, 719-541-2291. Parents, family members, community members, and business owners are encouraged to participate and provide a fun experience for our students. The more, the merrier! The schedule will be as follows:

2:10-2:25 recess
2:30-2:40 parade
2:40-3:10 Trunk or Treat
3:10-3:55 Halloween parties

The annual parade for K through fifth grades will begin at 2:30 p.m. This will be held outside in front of the school in the main circular driveway, weather permitting. Then students will make their way down to the Trunk or Treat. All classroom parties will follow. Once again, thank you parents for supporting students and providing super parties! while waiting for a game to begin.

GRANDPARENTS DAY

We will be hosting Grandparent's Day on October 23, 2026

Time: 7:50 am -noon

Come join us for a fun filled morning!

Students who do not have grandparents are allowed to invite a special adult in their life.

More details will follow

"Children are great imitators. So, give them something great to imitate."

– Anonymous

Simla proud!

What are your goals for this school year?

Brystol

Goal: Keep straight A's

Keria

Goal: Get sraight A's

Mrs. Paintin

Goal: Read 20 books.

Harper

Goal: Make new friend

Halloween
Would you rather

AXEL

BATMAN OR SPIDERMAN?

BATMAN

EVERLY

HAVE A PET BAT OR PET SPIDER?

BAT

ANDER

BE A VAMPIRE OR A WAREWOLF?

VAMPIRE

NOAH

SLEEP IN A COFFIN OR HANTED HOUSE?

COFFIN

CRYSTAL

TELEPORT OF TRAVEL BY BROOM?

TRAVEL ON A BROOM

JAYLY

EAT CANDY CORN OR PUMPKIN PIE?

EAT CANDY CORN

COUNSELOR CORNER

CHAD THIEMAN & SHANNON HOOPS

Happy fall, everyone!
The Counseling Office operates with an ***open-door policy***. If Mr. Thieman or Mrs. Shannon Hoops can assist a student or parent, our doors are always open—please stop by and see us!
Parents, please call ahead at ***719-541-2291*** so we can make sure someone is available to assist you. You may also email us at ***cthieman@bigsandy100j.org*** or ***shannonh@bigsandy100j.org.***

SENIORS

Our seniors are currently researching degree programs and exploring college, vocational and technical school, and apprenticeship opportunities. We are making extensive use of ***SchooLinks***, a web-based career and college guidance tool that provides resources for career planning, college planning, and financial aid. We also use SchooLinks to help fulfill the ***Colorado Department of Education's Individual Career and Academic Planning (ICAP)*** requirements. Funding for this subscription comes through the ***School Counselor Corps Grant Program (SCCGP)***.

Colorado Free Application Days

In October, Colorado colleges and universities participate in ***Free Application Days***, when participating public colleges and universities waive their application fees. This is a great opportunity to submit applications at no cost!

Free Application Days are October 20–22

I recommend that seniors apply to ***at least three colleges*** as they explore their post-secondary options.

Job Shadows

Seniors must have their required ***job shadow completed by Friday, October 9***, the end of the first quarter.

FAFSA

The ***Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)*** is now available. Completing the FAFSA is an important step in the financial aid process, as colleges and universities use FAFSA information to determine eligibility for certain types of federal and institutional financial aid.
Students and parents can begin the FAFSA process at: ***studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa***

Scholarships

Seniors should remember to sign up for the ***scholarship book*** in the Counseling Office to receive information about scholarship opportunities as they arrive.
We continually update our scholarship list and are always looking for new opportunities. If you hear about a scholarship that is not already on our list, please let me know!
A link to our scholarship spreadsheet is also available on the school website at ***www.bigsandy100j.com***. Another useful scholarship-search resource is ***www.fastweb.com***. Several scholarship applications are already available, so seniors should begin working on them now. ***Do not wait until the last minute!*** I regularly remind our seniors that there will not be enough time during Senior Seminar to complete every application. Students will need to use additional time outside of school to complete their applications.

College Fair

Our seniors will attend a ***College Fair in Limon on Tuesday, October 13, from 8:30–11:00 a.m.***

Graduation Video & Yearbook Photos

Seniors should submit pictures for the ***graduation video*** and ***yearbook*** to the following:
Graduation Video: Mr. Tucker – ***ttucker@bigsandy100j.org***
Yearbook: Mrs. Sedlak – ***ksedlak@bigsandy100j.org***
Please submit pictures by ***December***. Contact Mr. Tucker or Mrs. Sedlak by email with any questions.

Senior Seminar Participation Policy

Virtually all of the content in Senior Seminar is delivered through direct student-teacher instruction and participation. Because regular attendance and participation are important, we have established the following partici-

pation policy:

·Students who are present and participating receive ***5 daily points.***
·Students who are absent or are not participating do not receive the daily points.
·The only accepted excuses for non-participation are:

1. College visits or job shadows
2. Other school-related events, such as early dismissal for athletics
3. A doctor's written release from attendance/participation

If a student does not earn participation points for a day, they will have an opportunity to complete an extra-credit assignment at the end of the quarter to earn additional points.
This policy is intended to help ensure that seniors are attending and actively participating in Senior Seminar on a regular basis.

JUNIORS & SOPHMORES

PSAT/NMSQT

We will administer the ***digital PSAT/NMSQT on Wednesday, October 14***. This optional assessment is available to 10th- and 11th-grade students. It provides practice for the SAT and serves as the qualifying assessment for juniors who wish to be considered for the ***National Merit Scholarship Program***. Qualification for the scholarship competition is based on PSAT/NMSQT performance. See Mr. Thieman for additional information or to sign up.

Career & Industry Exposure

Our juniors attended an ***Innovate Pikes Peak industry exposure field trip*** in September. Students toured a Nunn Construction building site and InnovaFlex Foundry, giving them an opportunity to learn about a variety of career options available in our region.

Later this year:
·8th and 10th graders will visit Pikes Peak State College.
·9th graders will participate in an industry exposure field trip.

The goal of these experiences is to provide students in grades 8–11 with an opportunity each year to learn more about careers and the education or training required to pursue them.

ACT

The next ACT test date is ***December 12***, and the regular registration deadline is ***November 6***. The cost is ***$70***. Students can register at ***www.act.org***.

SAT

All enrolled juniors will take the ***SAT for free at school in April.***

8TH GRADERS

As mentioned above, our 8th graders will take a field trip to ***Pikes Peak State College on Friday, October 16***, to explore the various degree programs and educational opportunities available.
This field trip will give students an opportunity to learn more about potential career paths and the education and training needed to pursue them. ***The School Counselor Corps Grant Program (SCCGP)*** will provide funding for lunch and transportation expenses.

ALL HIGH SCHOOL GRADES

College Admission Requirements
To meet the ***Higher Education Admission Recommendations (HEAR)*** for Colorado's public colleges and universities, students should plan to complete:

·4 years of English
·4 years of Math (Algebra 1 and higher)
·3 years of Science
·3 years of Social Studies
·1 year of Foreign Language (Simla offers Spanish)
·2 additional years of academic electives

Please note: Foreign Language is not required for graduation at Simla, and only three years of high school mathematics are required for graduation. However, students should keep college admission requirements in mind when selecting courses each year.

Mathematics Reminder

Students who took ***Algebra 1 during 8th grade*** are still expected to complete ***three additional high-school-level mathematics courses*** during grades 9–12.
Our expectation is that each high school student successfully completes ***Algebra 1, Geometry, and Algebra 2*** as part of their regular mathematics program.

Weekly Eligibility Reports

Each Tuesday morning, an eligibility report is posted for all junior high and high school students.

·A course grade of ***60%–64.99%*** places a student on the ***Near-to-Fail*** list.
·A course grade ***below 60%*** places a student on the ***Failing list***.

A student must first appear on the Near-to-Fail list in a specific class ***before*** being declared ineligible, regardless of the grade they currently have. This provides students with a one-week grace period to raise their grade to a passing level.
Parents will receive an email and/or letter if their student appears on one of these lists. If you receive a notification, please log in to the ***Infinite Campus Parent Portal*** to check your student's current grades.
Any athlete who is on the Failing list and is marked ineligible in one class will be ineligible to participate in that week's athletic contests. Eligibility can be regained when the next eligibility list is published the following Tuesday, provided the student has a grade of ***60% or higher*** in the specific class.
If you have questions about the eligibility process, please contact Mr. Thieman or Mr. Nienhuis directly at ***719-541-2291.***

INFINITE CAMPUS

Our online student information system, ***Infinite Campus***, provides parents and students with access to current grades, attendance information, and other important student information.
If you need assistance obtaining a Parent or Student Portal log-in, please contact ***Mr. Tucker at 719-541-2291*** or ***email ttucker@bigsandy100j.org.***
A link to the Infinite Campus portal is also available on our school website at ***www.bigsandy100j.com.***

ELEMENTARY

Mrs. Hoops continues to provide classroom lessons for all elementary grades.
During the past month:

·Kindergarten–3rd grade: Listening with your whole body
·4th–5th grade: Defining responsibility

ALL GRADES

Save the Date: January 26!
Mark your calendars for ***January 26***!
Dr. Sharon Todd of Playful Perspectives Training and Consulting will present a one-hour workshop on the ***impact of technology on children.***
We hope you will be able to join us for this informative and timely presentation!

WE'RE HERE TO HELP

Students and parents, please stop by our offices anytime to say ***hello*** or ask a question. We are always happy to visit with you and help however we can.
Enjoy the beautiful fall weather, and have a great October!

Drama Tech Students testing out and experimenting with various lighting techniques

2026-2027 YEARBOOK ORDERING IS COMING UP!

The Journalism Class is working hard on the upcoming 2026-2027 Big Sandy Yearbook. Online Ordering will soon be live but if you would like to pre-order your yearbook, please get a hold of Mrs. Sedlak at ksedlak@bigsandy100j.org!

SECONDARY PRINCIPAL NOTES:

BRIAN NIENHUIS

Junior High & High School Sports are in full swing! This week is Homecoming Week so come out and support these Bearcubs!

We are off to a great start this school year. There are currently 95 high school students and 61 junior high students.
Our fall sports and student organizations are officially underway! This season's lineup includes: football, volleyball, cheer, choir, band, drama, Student Council, Matchwits, Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA), National Honor Society (NHS), TrueSport, and Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA).

It is exciting to see so many of our students involved in these extracurricular activities!

QUARTERLY INCENTIVES

Each quarter, our junior high and high school students have the opportunity to earn special "Incentives" by demonstrating excellence in academics, attendance, and behavior. To meet the 'Simla Standard' and qualify for quarterly rewards, students must achieve the following: maintain passing grades with no D's or F's; have zero behavior referrals; and maintain fewer than 5 overall tardies to school or class. The first quarterends on Friday, October 9th, and we are excited to celebrate the students who meet this 'Simla Standard'. Let's finish the quarter strong!

We will add one more criteria for Quarter 2 incentives: no more than 4 days of unexcused absences.

ATTENDANCE

Attendance is a huge part of being successful at school. Our goal is a 95% attendance rate. We want everyone at school every day. With that being said, we do want your child to stay home if they are sick.

Please call the office if your child isn't feeling well, and if you do go to the doctor, please bring a doctor's note back to the office when your child returns to school.

HONOR ROLL

Each year the Honor Roll will be divided into three tiers, determined by the Grade Point Average (GPA) a student acquires in a nine-week period:

Blue - 3.00 - 3.49 GPA
Gold - 3.50 - 3.99 GPA
Superintendent's - 4.00 GPA

At the end of each nine-week period, student grades will be finalized and GPAs will be calculated. The Honor Roll names will be posted outside the principal's office. Qualifying students will receive a prize each time they earn this academic distinction.

HALF DAY POLICY

Secondary students participating in extra-curricular activities (sports and clubs) must attend school for at least a half-day to participate in practice or events on that same day. A half-day is defined as a minimum of four hours of school attendance. If a bus is leaving after 12 PM, the student must be in attendance for four hours of that school day.
If the bus is leaving earlier than 12 PM, the student must be in attendance for all hours in that school day. If you know your child is going to be gone for an appointment, please call the office to pre-excuse them.

'WE ARE SIMLA' FACEBOOK & INSTAGRAM

Be sure to follow the 'We are Simla' Facebook page and the simla_bearcubs Instagram for the latest updates on athletic schedules, student activities, and events times. Shout out to Mrs. Sedlak for doing an awesome job sharing all of our secondary student events. School closures and delays will also be posted on the 'We are Simla' page as well as the simla_bearcubs Instagram.

SUPERINTENDENT BOARD NOTES

DAVE ROBINSON

SUPPORT

As we continue through another school year at Big Sandy School District 100-J, I continue to be reminded that some of the greatest strengths of our district are also some of the simplest: our students, our staff, our families, and the relationships that connect all of us.

Being a small rural school district provides opportunities that we should never take for granted. With all our students on one campus and small class sizes throughout our district, our staff can truly get to know our kids. We know their academic strengths and struggles, but we also know them on the athletic field, on the court, in activities, and throughout our community. Those relationships make a difference.

ACADEMIC SUCCESS WORTH CELEBRATING

We also have a lot to celebrate academically. Our most recent state testing results once again demonstrated that Big Sandy students can compete with anyone in Colorado. Our elementary students posted some of the top state assessment results in Colorado, an accomplishment that deserves recognition throughout our entire community.

Those scores don't happen by accident. They are the result of hardworking students, dedicated teachers and support staff, involved families, and a school system that places a priority on student learning. Our small class sizes allow teachers to know where individual students are succeeding, where they need additional support, and when they are ready to be challenged further.

While we should always look at areas where we can improve, I also believe we need to celebrate success when it happens. Our elementary students and staff have given Big Sandy something to be extremely proud of. Their performance is another example that a small rural school on the Eastern Plains can achieve at an exceptionally high level.

At the same time, test scores are only one measure of success. Our responsibility is to continue challenging every student while providing the support necessary for them to grow academically and personally. We will continue using assessment information to guide instruction, strengthen interventions, and identify opportunities for improvement throughout our K-12 system.

If you would like to look through our testing scores, the link is provided below. Make sure to look to the right of the graph to change the district code to Big Sandy.

https://ed.cde.state.co.us/accountability/data-tools/district-and-school-dashboard

RELATIONSHIPS & SAFETY

Relationships also play an important role in school safety. We will continue to improve our physical safety measures, procedures, communication systems, and emergency planning. However, knowing our students is one of the best safety tools we have. When staff members know students well, they are more likely to recognize when something has changed or when a student needs help. Strong relationships build trust, trust encourages communication, and communication helps create a safer school.

CONTINUING TO TELL OUR STORY

Another priority is continuing to improve communication with our families and community. I believe it is important that we not only communicate what we are doing, but also why we are doing it.

Whether we are discussing academics, finances, facilities, safety, staffing, or new opportunities for students, our community deserves clear and consistent information. Just as importantly, we need to continue telling our own story and celebrating the great things happening at Big Sandy.

As superintendent, I also understand the responsibility we have to be good stewards of the resources our community provides. We will continue working to maintain a financially responsible district, improve our facilities, seek grant opportunities, and make decisions that provide the greatest benefit to our students while protecting the long-term financial health of Big Sandy.

There will always be areas where we can improve. Our goal will never be to simply maintain what we have. We continue asking how we can make Big Sandy better for our students, staff, families, and community.

While we look forward, we should also be proud of what is happening right now. Our students are achieving at some of the highest levels in the state. We have dedicated employees, successful activities and athletic programs, supportive families, and a community that continues to stand behind its school.

Our challenge is to build on those strengths while continuing to move forward.

The district mission provides a simple direction for that work:

Inspire Academic Excellence.

Cultivate Citizens of Character.

Thrive in an Ever-Changing World.

Those words are more than something stated in meetings or at the bottom of an email. They will guide the decisions we make and, most importantly, what our students experience every day.

There is a lot to be proud of at Big Sandy, and there is even more to look forward to.

It's a great day to be alive and be a Bear Cub!

Teacher of The Month ....

Miss Montague

Teaches: Physical Science, Chemistry, Anatomy, and Algebra 2.

What High School and college did you attend?

"I went to Simla High school and Grand Canyon University."

Favorite Class You Attended?

"Pathophysiology: study of human disease."

What Quote Do You Live By?

"You could rattle the stars. You could do anything, if only you dared." -Throne of Glass by Sarah J. Maas

Fun Fact About Miss Montague...

"Moose are her favorite animal, but she has never actually seen one."

Advice For Your 16 year old Self?

"Always have patience and be kind."

BEARCUBS FAVORITE HALLOWEEN CANDIES

Jackson

Jan

Aubery

Titus

BEARCUBS FAVORITE NFL TEAM

TATUM JACKSON S.

JACKSON H. NOLAN

When: October 20-October 30, 2026

Where: Our school library

Special Event: Grandparents' Day – Friday, October 23, 2026

Time: More information to follow – we're working on the details!

Book Fair flyers will be sent out ahead of the book fair.

Come check out the amazing selection of books available to your young readers and help make this year's book fair a success!

Our book fair profits are used to develop classroom libraries and to emphasize the importance of reading and literacy in our school and community.

If you have questions or need more information, please contact:

SCHOOL NURSE UPDATES

FROM THE SCHOOL NURSE
MARGARET (MAGGIE) VOLOSIN, BSN, RN
MVOLOSIN@BIGSANDY100J.ORG

As a friendly reminder, the State of Colorado requires that all students be current on all required vaccinations OR have a current immunization exemption on file at the school.

If you have not yet done so, please provide an up-to-date immunization record or current exemption to the school as soon as possible. I will begin reviewing immunization records and sending letters in the coming weeks to those who do not have an up-to-date immunization record or current exemption on file.

My goal is to have all of this information collected and recorded prior to Thanksgiving break. Please provide a current immunization record or exemption to the school prior to leaving for Thanksgiving break.

Please read the following information for details and requirements to be considered compliant with the state immunization requirements.

Immunizations:

Required and recommended vaccines:
Before a student's first day of school, Colorado law requires parents or guardians to provide each school their student attends with at least one of the following:

A. An immunization record showing that the student has received school-required vaccines and is up to date according to their age,
B. An in-process plan signed by the student's health care provider showing that the student is in the process of catching up on missing vaccine(s) following the minimum intervals between doses described in the catch-up schedule,
C. A Certificate of Medical or Nonmedical Exemption for any missing doses of school-required vaccine(s)

****To meet the requirements, students may have one or a combination of these documents for the different school-required vaccines.*

Colorado law requires students attending Colorado public, private, or parochial kindergarten, elementary, or secondary schools through grade 12 to be vaccinated against certain diseases unless an exemption is on file at the school.

Vaccines required to attend school (K-12):

Vaccine name and abbreviation	Number of valid doses*
Hepatitis B (HepB)	3 doses
Diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis (DTaP)*	5 doses
Inactivated poliovirus (IPV)*	4 doses
Measles, mumps, rubella (MMR)*	2 doses
Varicella (chickenpox)*	2 doses
Tetanus, diphtheria, pertussis (Tdap)**	1 dose

Students aged 4 through 6 years are required to have their final doses of DTaP, IPV, MMR, and varicella before kindergarten entry.

Get seventh-grade ready:
Beginning in the 2026-27 school year, Colorado law requires adolescents to receive one dose of Tdap before their first day of seventh grade. Adolescents who had a Tdap at sixth-grade entry for the 2025-2026 school year do not need another dose for seventh grade. Questions? Refer to the Tdap letter, linked on our school webpage.

Exclusion from school:
If there is an outbreak of a vaccine-preventable disease at your student's school, and your student has not received the vaccine for that disease, they may be excluded from school for many days. That could mean lost learning time for them and lost work and wages for you. For example, if your student is not up to date with their MMR vaccines, they may need to stay home from school for at least 21 days after someone at the school gets sick with measles. (https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/cdphe/school-resources)

***For the full 2026-2027 parent letter from CDPHE go to**: 2026-2027_ParentLetter_School K-12.pdf - Google Drive*

Immunization Exemption Process:

******It is the parent or guardian's responsibility to provide a physical or electronic copy of the Certificate of Medical or Nonmedical Exemption to each school that the student attends.******

There are two ways to obtain a Certificate of Non-Medical Exemption:

Option 1:	Option 2:
Obtain a Certificate of Nonmedical Exemption by completing the Online Immunization Education Module. (This does not require the signature of your or your child's healthcare provider.)	Obtain the signature of your or your child's healthcare provider who **1)** meets the criteria to sign the Certificate of Nonmedical Exemption, and **2)** is willing to provide immunization consultation and sign the Certificate of Nonmedical Exemption.

*Non-medical exemptions **MUST** be submitted **ANNUALLY** at the beginning of every school year (Valid July 1 through June 30th of the following year).*

Just as a reminder it is important to keep your children home when they are sick to control the spread of illness.

Illness Policy:
We will follow the most current Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment "How Sick Is Too Sick?" guidelines to help determine whether a child should attend school. Please understand the evaluation of a sick child must take into consideration which illnesses are currently circulating among students, staff, and the community. Known exposure to confirmed cases or an outbreak of a contagious disease—including, but not limited to, illnesses referenced in the guidance document below—may require more stringent return-to-school requirements, even without a confirmed diagnosis.

There are four main reasons to keep children and adults at home:

1. The child or staff member could infect others with a contagious illness due to symptoms, a diagnosis, or recent exposure to a contagious disease.

2. The child or staff member does not feel well enough to participate in normal daily activities. For example, a child may be overly tired, unusually fussy, or inconsolable.
3. The child requires more care and attention than teachers and staff can provide while still safely caring for other students.
4. The child or staff member has symptoms of, or an illness included on, the guidance list that requires them to remain at home.

For the full guidance document go to: ChildCare_How_Sick_Is_Too_Sick_English (r2505).pdf - Google Drive

LUNCH

OCTOBER 2026

Big Sandy 100J

This Institution is an equal Opportunity provider.
Menu Subject to change.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
			1 Lasagna Lettuce, salad bar Garlic bread Fruit, Milk	2 Corn Dog Chips, Baked beans Carrots, Salad bar Fruit, Milk
5	6 Taco w/Rice Lettuce, Cheese Salad bar, Churro Fruit, Milk	7 Chicken Gravy Biscuits, Mixed vegetables Salad bar, Fruit Milk	8 Spaghetti Cheesy Bread sticks Lettuce, Salad bar Fruit, Milk	9 BBQ Chicken sandwich Chips, Potato salad Carrots, Salad bar Fruit, Milk
12	13 Grilled cheese sandwich Chicken/ Tomato soup Carrots, Celery Salad bar, Fruit Milk	14 Super Nachos Lettuce, Salad bar Brownie, Fruit Milk	15 English Muffin Sausage, Egg, Cheese Hash brown, Carrots Salad bar, Fruit Milk	16 Sloppy Joe Chips, Green Beans Salad bar, Fruit Milk
19	20 Chili Frito Pie Lettuce, Cheese Salad bar, Fruit Cinnamon Bread stick Milk	21 Chicken Noodles Whipped potatoes Corn, Dinner roll Salad bar, Fruit Milk	22 Orange Chicken Rice, Mixed vegetables Salad bar, Fruit Milk	23 Ham Salad/PB'J sandwich Chips, carrots/cucumber Salad bar, Cheese stick Fruit, Milk
26	27 Pizza Lettuce, Fruit Pudding, Salad Bar Milk	28 Burrito Green chili w/Pork Lettuce, cheese Salad bar, Fruit Cowboy cake, Milk	29 Bubbling Cauldron of Bugs Grave moss, zombie scabs Haunted Salad bar Mummy rolls, Toenails/Mud Bat Juice	30 Chicken sandwich Chips, Baked beans Salad bar, carrots Fruit, Milk Cookie

Have a Safe and Happy Halloween!
T-R-I-C-K or T-R-E-A-T