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Fisher Early Learning Center

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# Fisher Family News

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Issue 3 | Date of publication September 2025

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## Director's Message

Dear Fisher Families,

September brings the start of Hispanic Heritage Month, celebrated nationally from September 15 to October 15. This is a wonderful opportunity for us to honor and recognize the many contributions, traditions, and vibrant cultures of Hispanic and Latino communities. It is also a time for us to celebrate the diversity within our own school community and create opportunities for children to learn about, respect, and embrace cultures that may be different from their own.

Throughout the month, you might see our teachers incorporate stories, music, art, and activities that highlight Hispanic heritage and traditions. This is so children can have the chance to explore themes of family, community, and history through engaging, age-appropriate experiences. Our goal is not only to celebrate but also to foster curiosity, appreciation, and understanding of the rich cultural fabric that shapes our world.

We encourage families to join us in these celebrations at home as well; whether by sharing a favorite family recipe, reading books by Hispanic authors, listening to Latin music together, or talking with your child about the importance of cultural pride and inclusion. Together, we can help children see the value of honoring both their own heritage and the heritage of others.

Thank you for being a part of this celebration and for supporting our efforts to create a learning environment where every culture and identity is respected, honored, and embraced.

Best,

*Lauren*

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## Save The Date

- September 25 – Back to School Night (adults only)\* at the Chamber Center (Asbury & High) from 5:45pm-7:00pm
- September 26<sup>th</sup> Professional Development Day- No School
- September 29<sup>th</sup>- Oct 2<sup>nd</sup> Picture Days
- October 3<sup>rd</sup> Family Movie Night
- October 7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> Chook Chicken\*
- October 31 Halloween Campus Trick-or-Treating.
  - Early Release Fisher Closes at 12:00 p.m.



*Rainbow Fish practicing letters*

\*See Flyer Attached



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*Friendly Sea Turtles cooking up something yummy to share!*

## Sibling Priority Enrollment & 2026–2027 Enrollment

Sibling Priority Enrollment forms for the 2026-2027 school year will be out in the front office this month, please keep an eye out for them and an email from Krista. Forms will be distributed in September and are due in October. A \$100 enrollment fee will be billed to families through FACTS at the time of submission.

In addition, we are asking all families to share their intention to return for the 2026–2027 school year. This helps us plan for staffing, classrooms, and resources for next year.

We will also be starting tours for the 2026–2027 school year, and the lottery for new families will open December 1 through February 13. Current families do not need to reapply for the lottery.

Thank you for helping us plan a smooth enrollment process for all families!



*Moon Bears seeing how high they can go!*

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## Parking Reminder

We kindly ask families to avoid parking in the staff parking lot during drop-off and pick-up times. Teachers and staff pay for these spaces, and the university has recently become very strict, issuing tickets and even booting cars. To avoid fines or disruptions, please use street parking when dropping off or picking up your child. Thank you for helping us keep things running smoothly!



*Abiyoyos out on Campus*

## Picture Day

Picture Day will take place during the last week of September. Please note: this session will include individual photos and sibling photos. (Individual pictures will not be offered again in the spring unless your child is in PreK.)

If you would like a sibling photo that includes a student who has already graduated, please contact [Melanie.L.Lewis@du.edu](mailto:Melanie.L.Lewis@du.edu) to arrange a scheduled time.

Classrooms will share your child's specific photo day soon. We look forward to capturing these special memories!



*Cowboy Bunnies exploring outside*

## Colorado Food Program Forms

The Colorado Food Program is asking all families to complete a form so that Fisher can receive reimbursement for the meals we provide to students. Letters with the form will be sent home with your child—please complete and return them to Krista at the front desk. Thank you for your support!

## Campus Safety Reminder

We encourage all families to download the DU Safe App for real-time safety updates and resources while on campus. Parents/guardians should also sign up for DU emergency notifications using the [\[DU Alerts Sign-Up Form\]](#). These tools help keep our community safe and informed. Thank you for your partnership!



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## Spotlight on Our Fisher Inclusion Team

At Fisher, we are proud to have a dedicated Inclusion Team that works alongside our teachers, students, and families to create an environment where every child can thrive. Our Inclusion Team provides support in a variety of ways, offering strategies to teachers, partnering with families, or ensuring that classrooms are equipped to meet the unique needs of every learner.

This amazing team brings a wealth of knowledge, experience, and heart to our community. We are excited to introduce them to you, so you can get to know the people who help make Fisher such a welcoming and inclusive place for all children.

FIT provides consultation, modeling, and support for teachers, families, and children as part of Fisher's mission to promote inclusion and serve children of all needs and abilities. We also help support families in getting and teaming with providers for direct services through early intervention with an Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) or school based services with an Individualized Education Plan (IEP).

Below, you'll find photos and short bios highlighting each member of our Inclusion Team. Please take a moment to learn more about them and the important role they play in our school community!

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### **Speech/Language Pathologist (SLP): Tom O'Malley, MA, CCC-SLP**

Speech Language Pathologists assess and treat speech, language, cognitive-communication including articulation, receptive and expressive language disorders.

Tom has been the speech therapist at Fisher for 11 years. He is a Colorado native and has two kids. Outside of work you can find him skiing, biking and golfing.

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### **Social Worker (SW): Elizabeth Low, LCSW**

Social Worker assesses and addresses the social, emotional and psychological issues that may affect a child's academic progress. The goal is to assist with mental health and behavioral concerns, provide positive behavioral and support.

Betsy is a Colorado native, grew up in the Denver Metro area and earned her B.A. in Psychology from the University of Puget Sound in Tacoma, WA. She later completed her Master's in Social Work at Tulane University, specializing in child and family psychotherapy.

Outside of work, Betsy and her husband are enjoying their new chapter as empty nesters. Their oldest daughter lives in San Diego, and youngest daughter lives here in Denver. She loves traveling, playing pickle ball, and spending time with her family.



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## **Occupational Therapist (OT): Joanie McMullen, OTR/L**

Occupational Therapy focuses on the underlying components of development, promoting improvement in sensory processing, self regulation, body awareness, motor planning and the development of gross motor, fine motor, visual motor, oral motor, feeding and functional skills. Joanie has has a rewarding career working in a variety of OT settings including Adult Rehabilitation, Long Term Care, Early Intervention and in the school setting. Working with children is her favorite. She is a Denver native (even her parents were natives!) She is married and has 2 adult boys. Joanie loves being in the mountains, cooking, gardening, traveling and spending time with her family at concerts, plays.

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## **Physical Therapist (PT): Jean Taylor, PT, DPT**

Pediatric physical therapy assists in early detection, diagnosis, treatment, and management of children with a variety of delays and disabilities that affect the muscles, bones, joints and neuromuscular system. Intervention is routine and play based to progress and achieve gross and fine motor skills, balance and coordination, strength and endurance.

Jean graduated from the University of Kansas with her Bachelor of Arts and Master of Physical Therapy. She continued her education earning her clinical Doctorate of Physical Therapy at the University of Colorado in Denver. She has many years of experience as a pediatric physical therapist serving children and their families through Early Intervention and the public schools in Denver and Chicago. Jean owns and operated Red Wagon Therapy and provides direct pediatric physical therapy services. She loves to spend time in the great outdoors skiing, sailing, golfing and gardening.



## **Therapy Dog, Maisie**

Maisie graduated from Professional Therapy Dogs of Colorado. She loves running in the outdoors, walks, treats, calm bodies and gentle pets;

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## **Fisher Inclusion Team Coordinator: Sharon Lenfest, Associate Director**

As Inclusion Team Coordinator, Sharon meets weekly with the FIT therapists to discuss the goals and progress of each child served by FIT. She also observes classroom practices and meets regularly with the Fisher teachers to support their learning and implementation of inclusive strategies in their room.



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Questions? Reach out to [fisherinclusionteam@du.edu](mailto:fisherinclusionteam@du.edu)



# Parent & Family Engagement Activities for Hispanic Heritage Month

## Infants (0–6 months)

- **Music & Movement:** Play traditional Hispanic lullabies or gentle Latin music and gently sway, bounce, or dance with your baby.
- **Color Exploration:** Show your baby brightly colored fabric or scarves in colors of Hispanic flags, letting them touch and observe.
- **Storytime:** Read simple picture books with vibrant images and rhythmic language, pointing and naming objects.



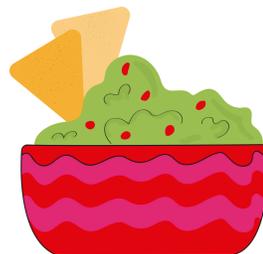
## Infants (6–12 months)

- **Baby Instruments:** Give your baby soft maracas or rattles to shake along with Latin rhythms.
- **Peek-a-Boo in Spanish:** Play simple peek-a-boo games while using basic Spanish words like “¡Hola!” or “¡Adiós!”
- **Sensory Play:** Use bowls of colored rice or beans to explore textures safely while talking about colors and shapes.



## Toddlers (12–24 months)

- **Food Exploration:** Introduce small tastes of foods from Hispanic cultures (like mild salsa, guacamole, or tortillas) and talk about colors, textures, and names.
- **Dance Party:** Put on lively music like salsa or merengue and encourage clapping, stomping, and moving to the beat.
- **Art Activity:** Finger-paint with bright colors inspired by flags or traditional crafts.



# Parent & Family Engagement Activities for Hispanic Heritage Month



## 2-Year-Olds

- **Storytime & Song:** Read bilingual books or books about Hispanic culture; sing simple songs together.
  - [HOW ARE YOU | CÓMO ESTÁS](#)
  - [Lizard and the Sun](#)
  - [Señorita Mariposa](#)
  - [The Colors in Spanish | Jack Hartmann Colors Song](#)
- **Animal & Object Matching:** Show pictures of animals or objects common in Latin American stories and repeat the words in Spanish.
- **Mini Fiesta:** Create a small indoor celebration with decorations and safe, colorful props; encourage the child to participate in decorating.



## 3-Year-Olds

- **Crafts:** Make paper maracas, papel picado (cut paper banners), or simple flag crafts.
- **Cooking Together:** Prepare simple recipes together (like tortilla chips with guacamole or fruit agua fresca) and talk about ingredients and traditions.
- **Storytelling:** Encourage your child to tell a story using puppets or toys based on a Hispanic folktale you read together.



## 4-5-Year-Olds

- **Cultural Exploration:** Watch age-appropriate short videos or read books about Hispanic holidays, traditions, or famous figures.
  - [Hispanic Heritage Month Song](#)
  - [National Hispanic Heritage Month Facts](#)
  - [Hispanic Heritage Month for Kids! | Hispanic Culture](#)
- **Music & Dance:** Learn a simple salsa or cumbia dance together; incorporate scarves or ribbons for fun movement.
- **Family Tree Activity:** Share stories about family heritage and traditions; help your child create a simple “family map” or family tree with names, flags, or drawings.
- **Art & Language:** Paint or draw something inspired by Hispanic culture and label it with simple Spanish words or colors.





# BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHT



Thursday, September 25th 5:45-7:00pm

Come to the Chambers Center to chat with your teachers at  
Back to School Night!

Grownups only!

Beverages available for purchase and refreshments provided.

Chambers Center (Asbury and High)

1901 E Asbury Ave, Denver, CO 80210



← RSVP here!



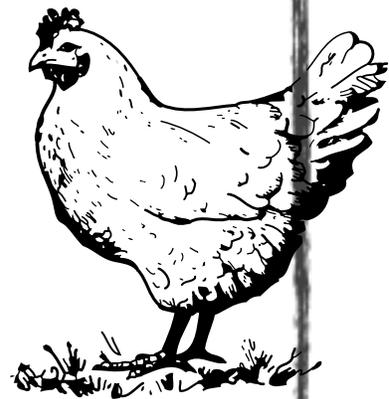


Feed your flock!



**Tuesday & Wednesday**  
**October 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup>**

Mention Fisher Early Learning or enter code **“Schools20”** online at [ChookChicken.com](http://ChookChicken.com) & we'll donate back a portion of sales.



*Looking to feed an office or crew? Email [catering@chookchicken.com](mailto:catering@chookchicken.com)*

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