UPCOMING CRF SUMMER CONFERENCES

The CRF Summer conferences are just weeks away. All schools have registered and final details are being put in place to promote two great days of learning opportunities.

The first day will be for New CRF staff, and be optional for returning CRF staff. The second day is required for ALL CRF staff.

Dates: The following are the dates and cities for the conferences plus hotel information.

**July 26-27 Denver**
Sheraton Denver West
360 Union Blvd
Lakewood
Reservations - $89 per night single or double
303-987-2000
Group Code-CDG23A

**July 30-31 Colorado Springs**
The Broadmoor
1 Lake Avenue

**August 6-7 Pueblo**
Pueblo Convention Center
110 W First Street
Pueblo, CO
719-542-3200
Rate: $109/night
Event under Sopris West Educational Services

Hotels nearby:
Doubletree Hotel-World Arena
1775 E Cheyenne Mountain
719-576-8900
Rate: $109/night
Hotel reservation deadline: July 6
Homewood Suites
9130 Explorer Drive
719-574-2701
Rate: $99/night
Group Code-CRF
Rates include buffet breakfast. Rooms include Queen bed, sleeper sofa and kitchenette.
Hotel reservation deadline: July 6
FedRooms.com is a website that provides a comparison of hotels in the area and the government rates offered.
http://www.fedroomssearch.com/Integer/Welcome.jsp

**August 9-10 Alamosa**
Adams State College
208 Edgemont Blvd.
Alamosa, CO
(exact room/building to be announced)
Remember to request the government rate. No room blocks are reserved.
Hotels nearby:
Comfort Inn
6301 US 160
719-587-9000
Rates include complimentary breakfast.
Holiday Inn Express
3418 Mariposa
719-589-4026
Rates include complimentary breakfast.
Inn of the Rio Grande
333 Santa Fe Avenue
719-589-5833
800-669-1658
Best Western Alamosa Inn
2005 Main St
719-589-2567
Visit the CRF website at www.cde.state.co.us/cdecomp/CRF/cohort2/Registration.html for ongoing updates and to access the link for registration.

NOTICE:
The next issue of Touching Base will be released on July 27, 2007.
The 2007-08 CRF online courses are now available. To enroll in the courses, email the following information to onlinelearning@cboces.org:

- Name
- Job Title – please be specific and include the predominant grade level(s)
- School District
- School
- Work Address
- Work phone
- Email: work or personal
- Last 4 digits of your social security number

Please note: your access to this year’s courses does not mean the automatic enrollment into those courses for the following year. To enroll in the new courses, you must email the information above to: onlinelearning@cboces.org.

### DIBELS

**Fall Benchmark**
The date for the Fall DIBELS window will be determined in the following way. The testing window opens one week after school starts. Schools will have two weeks to administer DIBELS and then one week to enter the scores.

As an example:
ABC school starts August 13. The DIBELS window opens August 20. DIBELS is administered through August 31. The data is due September 5.

**Winter Benchmark**
January 7-18, 2008: DIBELS window
January 25, 2008: Data due

**Spring Benchmark**
April 7-18, 2008: DIBELS window
April 25: Data due

**BEAR**
April 28-May 9, 2008: BEAR window
May 16, 2008: Data due

**Action Planning**
September 14, 2007
February 22, 2008

**New Coaches Training:**
August 21, 2007 Denver

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#### 2007-08 Online Course requirements

**1st Year CRF Teacher Online Courses**
Courses should be taken in the order listed. The courses can be taken earlier, but not later.

**K and 1st Grade:**
Phonemic Awareness - Due October 19, 2007
Phonics - Due January 18, 2008

**2nd and 3rd Grade:**
Phonics - Due October 19, 2007
Fluency - Due January 18, 2008

**Core Training-Coaches:**
Denver
October 16, 2007 Open Court
October 17, 2007 Harcourt
October 18, 2007 Houghton Mifflin
October 19, 2007 Macmillan

**Principals, Coaches and Regional Consultants:**
Sept 25, 2007 Denver
February 5, 2007 Colorado Springs

**Spring CRF Conferences**
April 16: Denver
April 17: Colorado Springs
April 18: Pueblo

**Assessment - Due March 21, 2008**
Course of choice - Due May 31, 2008

**2nd and 3rd Grade:**
Phonics - Due October 19, 2007
Fluency - Due January 18, 2008

**Assessment - Due March 21, 2008**
Course of choice - Due May 31, 2008

**All CRF Teachers:**
The Reading Process - Due March 15, 2008.

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“A teacher affects eternity; he can never tell where his influence stops.”
~Henry B. Adams~
**Book Study**

The final Reading First professional development course will be a book study on the reading process rather than an online course. It will be based on David Sousa’s book, *How the Brain Learns to Read*, an informative and readable analysis of the research and process of reading. The book costs about $40, so we suggest that you build this cost into your 2008 budget. We recommend that you purchase at least one book for every two teachers. The book study is designed to take place for one and a half hours per week over a ten week period, although you may choose to structure the course differently. So that Colorado Reading First can document that all CRF teachers have taken the course, you will need to register and take the end-of-course assessment online.

The book study and accompanying Facilitator’s Guide will be available in August. You may pre-register for the book study through CBOCES at [http://online.cboces.org](http://online.cboces.org). The course should be completed no later than March 15, 2008.

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**Meet Me in St. Louie**

We would like to invite all of you who are planning on attending the National Reading First Conference, July 18-20, 2007 in Saint Louis, Missouri to join us for a spirited get-together with the Colorado delegation. When you register at the conference, be sure to mark the date and times of the state meetings. This is a great time to talk with other schools and share your successes with each other.

We look forward to seeing you and sharing some Colorado camaraderie.

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**Summer Reading Programs**

The U.S. Department of Education web site provides supports and resources for parents—including tips on helping your child read—as well as updated information on the ways in which the Department through No Child Left Behind and other policies and initiatives are helping parents, school leaders and teachers to ensure that all children are prepared to succeed in the global economy. The *No Child Left Behind: A Parent’s Guide*, *Helping My Child with Academics*, *Summer Learning*, *American Competitiveness Initiative*, *Reading Resources* and *Involvement in My Child’s Education* are just a handful of the related resources and programs available at the Department’s web site.

"Project Learn" reinforces and enhances the skills and knowledge young people learn at school through "high-yield" learning activities at the *Boys and Girls Clubs of America* and in the home. It is based on research that shows fun, but academically beneficial activities, increase academic performance.

The *Collaborative Summer Library Program* (C SLP) is a grassroots consortium of states working together to provide high-quality summer reading program materials for children at the lowest cost possible for their public libraries.

The *Book IT! Program* is a regular school year reading incentive program sponsored by Pizza Hut®. In addition, during the summer months, their *Shake, Rattle and Read! Summer Challenge* allows participating students to build upon their regular school year reading skills.

Visit the *Department of Education web site* to learn more about summer reading programs.
“I have been so impressed with Pike Elementary! They have an excellent Principal leader in Manuel Ramsey, and an extremely knowledgeable coach (Kellie Chandler) who communicates clearly, and is always eager to learn! Both of these individuals have been willing collaborators with me, willing to make changes and take risks when the data stalled out. Their teachers have also been open to adjusting their instruction, and always striving toward optimum progress for every child! Their leadership team focuses on data monthly, and works as an effective team, which I am sure is due to the leadership provided by Manuel and Kelly. It has been a pleasure to work with this school, and observe their progress!”

Debbie James, Regional Consultant

2008 Distinguished Title I Teacher of the Year Nominations

Start thinking about your Title I teacher nominations now! The revised 2008 application will be available soon (summer 2007). The selected teacher(s) will receive statewide recognition and a check for $5,000.

There is also consideration for awarding a Title I Principal/Administrator of the Year. Look for updates in August. For more information on this program and to read about Shelia Perez, the 2007 Title I Distinguished Teacher visit www.cde.state.co.us/FedPrograms/awards/index.asp.