



Happy New Year from all of us at Denver Green School. We hope you and your family had a joy filled holiday season and that 2017 is off to a great start for you. We want to start off by thanking everyone for always supporting DGS and the investments you all make in our children's lives. As we turn the page to a new year, it's also a great time to reflect on all of our great accomplishments in 2016, we have lots to celebrate as we look back.

Here are just a few highlights that we are proud of from 2016:

* We have received a green status on our School Performance Framework (a fancy name for our state report card) and received "high growth" and "high status" designation from the district for the fourth year in a row. We are quite proud of all of our students and teachers for their hard work.

* We were among the top 3 schools (out of 183) in all of Denver for the growth that our English Language Learners made last year.

* We had our first out of state excursion (6th grade went to Moab, UT for a week) and each one of our students participated in dynamic "hands-on, brains-on" learning projects through our Field Studies program.

Given all the great things we celebrated from 2016, we can only look ahead with even more excitement about all the great things that 2017 has in store for us here at DGS. Speaking of things we are excited about, we want to introduce you to this year's signature fundraiser, the Apex Fun Run.

What is the Apex Fun Run you ask?

Good Question. Read on to find out more and how you can help DGS achieve our goals. The Apex Fun Run is a dynamic interactive program that helps schools all over the country raise money, while promoting leadership and fitness in schools.

Who can participate?

Every student from ECE to 8th grade will get a chance to participate. And all of our friends and family can participate too by supporting our students with pledges. You can pledge per lap or with a flat pledge. More info coming home in the packets on how to do that and support DGS.

Why have we chosen this as our signature event for the year?

The Apex Fun Run is a great fit for DGS because it aligns with our mission and vision and focuses leadership and movement and it's a short and sweet fundraiser. We are simply asking for your dollars and not the heavy lift of an auction or lots of bake sales. So, enjoy all that extra.

Where will the money go?

The DGS Partners and the PTA have decided to take all the money we raise and put it toward Field Studies and Technology. Our goal is \$12,000. With additional funding we can pay for

more buses and entrance fees to our parks and museums thus increasing the number of excursions for our students. With increased technology funding, we are able to get more iPads and chromebooks for our students in Kinder through 3rd grade.

When is it?

The Apex Fun Run will last for 2 weeks and will kick off with a Pep Rally on Tuesday, January 17th at 3:00pm. The pledging window will last all the way up to the big day on January 26th--the day of the actual FUN RUN! Every student will have a 45 minute block that day to participate.

Can families participate too?

We encourage you to come to the Pep Rally if you can make it; but we would REALLY love to see you at school for the day our students do their run on January 26th. Those times will be posted on our website, facebook page and sent home by your child's teacher in the next two weeks.

How do I get pledges?

Ask anyone and everyone. Please look for your child's Pledge Kit that they will receive on January 17th to see how it works. We will also have emails coming from your teachers. Please feel free to visit www.apexfunrun.com to learn more about this interactive program that will help DGS achieve it's fundraising goals for the year. This year's character theme is Apex Legends, where students along the way these five friends discover what it truly means to be a Legendary leader:

What does the Fun Run Look like?

During the Apex Fun Run, students are challenged to get pledges for the laps they will run on Thursday, January 26th to help their school. Students will run for 30 minutes and average 26-36 laps, with the maximum amount of laps being 36 (each lap is 1/16th of a mile). Sponsors can pledge \$1, \$2, \$5 or any other amount for each lap students run. All participants will receive an access code that allows you to enter pledges online.

The Apex Fun Run is for every student regardless of financial giving. All students will receive Apex bands, race-day lap counters, and team awards. We invite all parents to come to the Apex Fun Run and share in this great event! The times for the Apex Fun Run are as follows:

- * Fun Run 1: Thursday, January 26th @ 11:30am (6th, 7th, 8th grades)
- * Fun Run 2: Thursday, January 26th @ 1:30pm (3rd, 4th, 5th grades)
- * Fun Run 3: Thursday, January 26th @ 2:45pm (ECE, Kindergarten, 1st, 2nd grades)

You can help our school be successful in the following four ways:

- * Help connect your child to potential sponsors (family/friends) to acquire pledges and raise money for DGS.
- * Ask your child about the "Legend" character lessons, and download the "Apex Fun Run" App.
- * Come to the Apex Fun Run and don't forget to invite others to attend our fun-filled community event on our field.
- * Help volunteer for the race! We need a few parents to help cheer on students and mark laps. If you would like to volunteer for your student's race, please contact your teacher.

Thank you again for your continued support—we are so excited to be on this journey with you and we look forward to seeing you at the Fun Run.

Sincerely,
Mr. Coyne, Ms. Daniels, Mr. Jaquette
Your Proud Lead Partners of DGS