



Integrated News

Boulder Community School of Integrated Studies



Principal's report

April 19, 2007

Dear families,

We're excited to announce our upcoming Spring Festival on May 1st! This will be our 11th annual celebration, and as always, we look forward to the infusion of fresh energy, flowers, and music. We began this lovely tradition as a way to celebrate the arrival of spring and the sense of renewal and joy it brings us both individually and as a community. The joy we all experience as our children sing and dance and create is invigorating!

Parents, please celebrate with us by bringing a small bouquet of flowers for your child's crown (plus a few other flowers for the children who are not able to bring any for themselves). Check with your classroom teacher to see if they need fabric strips ahead of time or any other assistance. Also, help us by modeling a quiet and respectful audience during our children's songs and dances. We will be meeting in classrooms from 8:30-9:30am to make the crowns, and your help is greatly appreciated! From 9:30-10am, we will meet outside to enjoy the Maypole Dance and the Sword Dance. From 10-10:30am, we will experience the folk dances. After that point in time, we'll begin games and ice cream for grades K-3. The afternoon kindergarten class will do their Maypole Dance and celebrations at 1:30pm.

With sadness, we announce the departure of our kindergarten teacher, Mona Estrada. Mona has been a presence of joy and energy for our entire community, and we will greatly miss her. We wish her all happiness as she pursues her passion for drama. She is planning to get an endorsement to be a drama teacher. However, we do have a positive announcement as well—Baty Greenwald will rejoin our BCSIS family in the autumn as our kindergarten teacher. I know that we all joyfully welcome her back and look forward to a year of discovery for our incoming kindergarteners.

Phil Katsampes

Looking for something for your kids to do this summer? LIFELONG LEARNING offers classes for children ages 6 -12!

Join us this summer for some fun in the sun (and inside too)!

We offer a variety of classes for children:

Literacy... publish your own book! · Math... construct geometric shapes!

Art... paint a masterpiece! · Languages... learn French! · Horseplay... play with horses!
Visit our website at www.bvds.org/lll or check out our catalog sent home with your child!

Call 383-499-1125x222 to register. Scholarships available. Classes run in the morning or afternoon in various BVSD schools and other locations.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

April 24 (Tues) **Egypt Night** for 2nd grade (classrooms)

April 30 (Mon) **Plant Sale order forms due**

May 1 (Tues) **Spring Festival - a BCSIS tradition.** Starts at 8:30am.

May 4 (Fri) 1:45-2:30pm. **Curriculum Committee Meeting**

May 8-10 (Tues-Thurs) **Fifth Grade to Outdoor Ed**

May 9-11 (Wed-Fri) **BCSIS Plant Sale pick up in gym**

May 15 (Tues) 9-11am. **Fourth Grade Field Day**

May 16 (Wed) 9:45-11:15am: **Fifth Grade Strings Program** in Open Space; 12:30-2:30pm: **Fifth Grade Field Day**; 6:30-7:30pm: **Band Performance**; 6-8pm: **BVSD Special Ed 101**, Ed Center at 6500 Arapahoe Rd

May 17 (Thurs) **BCSIS Spring Carnival**

May 18 (Fri) **District Professional Development Day** - No school for students

May 22-23 (Tues-Wed) **Scholastic Book Fair** - times to be determined

May 24 (Thurs) Kindergarten Teas (4-4:30pm for last names A-G; 4:45-5:15pm for last names H-Z)

May 28 (Mon) **Memorial Day** - No school

June 6 (Wed) 8:45-10:45am. **Fifth Grade End-of-Year Ceremony** in Cafeteria

June 7 (Thurs) **LAST DAY OF SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS**



Notes from the Ed Council

The following are the minutes from the Ed Council meeting of April 11:

This was the last Ed Council meeting for parent co-chair Anna Stewart. We will miss Anna's endless initiative and great organizing skills. Patrick Wilson, who has daughters in 1st and 3rd grades and works as a Life Coach, will co-chair the Ed Council together with Will Humke for the next two years. The Ed Council is still seeking volunteers for the positions of secretary, representative to the District Accountability Committee, and voting class representatives. If you are interested in one of these positions, please contact Patrick, Will, or principal Phil Katsampes.

With great sadness, Phil announced that Mona Estrada will be leaving BCSIS to pursue drama work. We wish you a good journey, Mona! Batya will be the new kindergarten teacher. No other staff changes are planned at this time.

Kim Green is leaving the leadership of Friends of BCSIS, and Michelle Wemple is leaving the treasurer position. They both did wonders to create community and raise money for the school and will be greatly missed.

Michelle presented the fundraising report for the year, showing that most of the

Friends income came from parent donations, with the fundraising events next, followed by grandparents' donations. The percentage of families donating to the full participation campaign peaked in the 2004-2005 school year and has fallen since then. Friends needs new energetic volunteers to bring those numbers back up.

The school events for next school year are being planned now, and Sonja Toutenhoofd is leading the effort in re-structuring the parent volunteer program. A volunteer coordination team was created, and the volunteer sign-up form that goes home at the beginning of the year has been restructured. All jobs have been broken down into smaller pieces that make them more manageable.

Since paraprofessional help will move from the Library to the classrooms, more parent volunteers will be needed in the Library.

BCSIS and High Peaks will form a joint committee to oversee the Aurora 7 remodel associated with the recent Bond. The committee will be composed of parents, teachers, administrators, and possibly a community member. There will be one to two hours of meetings with the assigned architect and Project Manager

every month. Meetings will start in summer. If you interested in participating in this committee, please contact Phil.

Thanks to the relentless work of Community Liaison Ema Lyman, Darcy Vandervie, Thia Walser, and parent volunteers, there was great interest in BCSIS this year. All grades are full and with waiting lists.

Art teacher Jan May and the 5th grade musical group Jazz Mountain led the audience in a rehearsal of the songs for the Step it Up Rally against Global Warming which took place on April 14th.

The final part of the meeting was a break-out in small groups with teachers. The groups were tasked with discussing how well BCSIS is doing in creating community, what we could do better, and how we could support BCSIS goals and values. The groups shared their discussions, and some of the ideas to foster community were: to create more opportunities for socialization between parents, to clarify and communicate well the school values and the meaning of the festivities, and to celebrate our achievements.

The next Ed Council Meeting is on Wednesday, May 9 at 4pm in the Library. Ed Council meetings are open to all parents.



News & Notes

BCSIS needs new "Treasure Keepers"

Our current treasurers would like to "pass the torch" to other parents with accounting skills to take over the roles of co-, or tri-, treasurers. See the attached flyer and contact Michelle Wemple at 303-527-0960 when you realize this could be your next calling.

Plant Sale order forms due April 30th!

A great way to raise \$1000s for BCSIS and spread beauty in the world at the same time! Share it with your friends and family! Order some for all the mothers on your list. And don't forget to bless your own garden with a few perennials or a new ornamental grass. It's a knockout! For you cottage garden types, the shrub rose blooms all summer long and the honeysuckle will make any corner a charming, verdant place to be. Anyone interested in helping out at this very wonderful event, contact Rose Harnos-Holder at roseharnosholder@earthlinknet or 303-581-1597. Spring is here!

Running River School fundraiser

Running River School, another sister school to the Rock Foundation School in Uganda, will host "An Evening in Africa," a family celebration of African culture, which will include a meal, silent auction, professional performances and drumming circle. This is a fundraiser for their school and they send 15% of their proceeds to the Rock Foundation School. The event is on Satur-

day, April 28th, from 5:30 to 8:30 at St. Andrew's Church, 3700 Baseline Rd. The cost of tickets is \$20 per adult, \$12 per child, and free for children three and under. A family of four or more is \$60. Purchase tickets at the door or call Running River School at 303-499-2059. More information is at www.runningriver.org.

Thank you to our wild weeders!

Thanks to Nan McGinnis, Kathleen Christensen and Julie Ireland, the Peace Garden is looking better already! The beautiful array of plants are visible and inspiring. We can thank Dan and Brook Gerace for the incredible flowers near the entrance of the school! They provided the plants, soil and labor. Enjoy them and please walk around them.

More weeders needed...

Let's do it again and finish the job! Sunday, April 29th at 1pm. Bring gardening tools and a snack. Contact Julie Ireland at 303-443-8154 or julieireland@comcast.net.

Paper crunch

Believe it or not, the school office is STILL in desperate need of copier paper. Please pick up a package when you are at the grocery store or office supply store next and drop it off at the office. The appreciation you receive from our wonderful staff will be neverending.