



Integrated News

Boulder Community School of Integrated Studies

May 17, 2007

Principal's report

Dear Parents:

Ever wondered what's going on in all the classrooms at BCSIS? This month tends to be a fun, exciting project time for teachers and students. Here's a glimpse of some of the things going on:

- **Mona's Kindergarten:** Children in Kindergarten created hand-made dolls, which started as socks and evolved into expressive Kindergarten Buddies. These dolls stimulated imaginations as the children wrote and told stories of their doll's birth, life and discoveries in between!
- **Erin's First Grade:** Erin's class is studying balance and motion. As part of this science study, the children built varied and creative sculptures which had to balance on a finger or other small surface. The sculptures were then combined into a Balance Museum and other classes toured the display.
- **Emily's First Grade:** Emily's class is beginning a poetry unit. The students started by drawing and labeling things in their hearts. They then took the hearts and made a list of descriptive words. The class is working on turning the descriptive words into a poem (or poems) focusing on the most important themes.
- **Will's Second Grade:** In Will's class, the students are studying weather. They went to the park and sat alone in the grass for 10 minutes to observe the spring weather. Afterwards, the students wrote paragraphs about their moments in nature. In order to experientially learn about air, children constructed small parachutes, built fountains using plastic syringes, and used balloons to propel bags suspended on zip lines.
- **Diane's Second Grade:** The class had a homework assignment to talk with families about their heroes and then write about their findings in their journal. They then talked about hero qualities, and the children chose heroes about which they want to learn more. The project will culminate in the creation of dolls of their heroes. In addition, each student will dress up and be interviewed in character as their hero.
- **Jen's Third Grade:** Jen's class has begun their study of the Ancient Mayan Culture. They will focus on Mayan inventions and how the discoveries of this culture affect us even today. The project will involve planting herbs and constructing a model of Mayan irrigation systems.
- **Suzanne's Third Grade:** Each student in Suzanne's 3rd grade class chose a subject to study on their own. Students came up with wonderful ideas such as: electricity, turtles, hip hop music, and cockroaches. Each student presented the findings of their research and produced a creative display or sculpture of their topic of study. They had life-sized turtles, panda reserves, and hedgehog homes in

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MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

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

May 21 (Mon) 3:45-5:15pm: **Shared Building Committee Meeting/D.A.T. - CANCELLED**

May 21 (Mon) 6-8pm: **Kindergarten Celebration (Gym and Open Space)**

May 21 (Mon) **Bake Sale** after school to benefit the **Rock School Foundation**

May 22 (Tues) 7:45-8:30am & 2:30-4:30pm **Scholastic Book Fair in Library**

May 23 (Wed) 2:30-4:30pm **Scholastic Book Fair in Library**

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

May 29 (Tues) 3:30-5pm. **Design Action Team Meeting** in Library

May 29 (Tues) 6:30pm. **4th Grade MacBeth Performance**

May 31 (Thurs) 2-3pm. **Michael/Four Wishes Performance** (Grades 2-4)

June 4 (Mon) 6:30-8pm. **4th Grade Night of Notables** (Open Space)

June 5 (Tues) 6:30-8pm. **4th Grade Performance** (Open Space)

June 6 (Wed) 8:45-10:45am. **5th Grade End-of-Year Ceremony** in Cafeteria

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

June 8 (Fri) **Last Day for Teachers:** 11:30am: **Staff Appreciation Luncheon for teachers**



Notes from the Ed Council

The following Minutes are from the Ed Council meeting of May 9

The Ed Council needs a TREASURER and more

The Ed Council is looking for a co-treasurer. This position takes two hours per week. Some of the desirable skills are: being able to work with integrity and confidentiality, and being computer savvy with a spreadsheet. Training will be provided. If the Ed Council cannot find a volunteer, we may have to turn this into a paid position.

Additionally, the Ed Council is seeking volunteers for the positions of secretary and representative to the District Accountability Committee. Talk to principal Phil Katsampes or Ed Council co-chairs Will Humke and Patrick Wilson.

Finances

Co-treasurers Michelle Wemple and Jennifer Shriver presented the actual to-date values of the 2006-2007 budget. The Council decided to reallocate some money to allow \$500 for the Spring Carnival and to approve \$1,000 for scholarships for the Outdoor Education trip. Next year the Ed Council needs to get the requests for Outdoor Ed scholarships earlier in the year to make planning easier.

The budget for next year has not been voted on yet. That needs to be done in the first meeting of the Ed Council in the fall.

Photocopy paper was supplied to the front office from money in the District supplied teachers' accounts.

DPC and DAC Reports

Theresa Southard reported that, at the last District Parent Council meeting, the District added Gender Identity to the list of groups that cannot be discriminated against.

Sandy Crowell reported on the discussion that took place in the last meeting of the District Accountability Council regarding increasing math and science requirements for high-school graduation. They discussed issues such as a possible increase in the drop out rate. This was Sandy's last meeting as a BCSIS representative. Thanks Sandy, for all your insightful reports.

Bylaws

The Ed Council approved the revised Bylaws. They reflect the change from the shared leadership model to the principal-

ship model.

Changes at BCSIS

Phil reported that the only teacher change will be in kindergarten. Mona Estrada will be leaving to pursue a drama endorsement and Batya will be teaching both kindergarten classes.

BSCIS will no longer benefit from the Read-to-Achieve grants, which are now only available to schools with a higher proportion of low-income children. This program brought about \$2,200 of paraprofessional time per year to the school.

In the next school year, BCSIS will not hold Spanish classes. Steve, the current Spanish teacher, will take a position as librarian. He will be reading stories to the children and will, together with the Ema Lyman, be bringing multi-cultural awareness to the children. Emma has already been doing the Read to End Racism program at the school.

Phil has requested that Lifelong Learning offer an after-school Spanish class at BCSIS as well.

The TAG program will be slightly expanded, with Kimberley Zerbey being funded at ½ time. Kimberly was instrumental in redesigning BCSIS's TAG program in 2007.

Building Committee

The BCSIS group that will oversee the construction associated with the bond has been formed. It is composed of, among others, Julie Herman, Sharon Tuck, Diane Furuya, Sara Benson, John Parr, Jeff Phillips, and Will Humke. Will is very interested in having the builder use Green Building concepts.

Volunteer Program

The volunteer program at BCSIS is being re-structured. Another meeting took place on Friday, May 12.

Building Community

Emma suggested the idea of having a monthly Community Mingle Day. Parents would use the front of the school to exhibit any products or services they sell. Children could do bake sales. Families from High Peaks and Eisenhower could participate.

Outgoing Ed Council co-chair Anna Stewart started a new program called "Parent Partners." Its purpose is to connect current and incoming families. It is modeled on the WEBS and LINKS programs that do the same for middle and

high schools, respectively.

Friends of BCSIS

Friends is an umbrella for all volunteer, community building and fund-raising activities of BCSIS. It relies heavily on the treasurer, which is why the Ed Council needs to fill that position soon. Kim Green reported on the bookmark she is preparing. It lists many ways to build community at BCSIS and will be sent in the summer package that goes to all families. Friends needs more volunteers, particularly people with skills in wordsmithing.

Regarding 2008 fundraising events, the Baccaro event will be redesigned as a cheaper event at cocktail hour. The plant sale will be happening in 2008. The idea of doing some durable product (maybe T-shirt) sale was considered.

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the classroom!

- Leson and Meaghan's Fourth Grades: The classes have been involved in a two-month Bunraku puppetry project. Bunraku puppetry is considered the highest form of Japanese puppetry. The puppets are large and very animated and require three people to work collaboratively to operate. The children built the puppets from scratch, including clothing. They are using the puppets to perform an adapted production of Macbeth. This project is culminating in a performance at the Children's Shakespearean Festival at CU on May 31st.
- Sabine and Terry's Fifth Grades: The fifth grades are creating sock dolls. Each child will create a distinctive doll with character and personality. The children will then interview their dolls and write a life history and character study for their unique creation. The project will culminate with the students writing a Comparison Study, comparing themselves with their doll. The teachers are amazed at the integration of the students' own personal qualities into their doll creations.
- Sara Benson's Field Days: The BCSIS/HP Field Days have been happening for the 3rd, 4th and 5th grades this week. Sara reports that favorite activities are: the high jump, group cooperative games, water balloon toss and potato-sack races!

Phil



New Volunteer Sign-Up Sheet/ Directory Form

Help us get prepared for next year by looking at the new (and dare we say, improved) volunteering/directory form enclosed in this week's Friday folder. If you predict changes in your address etc. for next year or no change please indicate. Naturally, information will be checked in the Fall again to account for summer changes. This will really help the directory team get the directory and volunteer sheets out earlier for the Fall of 2007.

At the same time, glance over the new arrangement of volunteer areas. It would be wonderful if you would find two or three areas (or more!) that interest you. Our goal is that each family volunteers 20 hours of time to the school per year.

We are excited about forming a more accountable structure for volunteers so that your willingness to help does not go unnoticed! Thanks in advance and please return this form by Thursday, May 31st to the classroom or front office. Thanks to the volunteering team for coming up with all these great ideas for improving organization of BCSIS parent energies! - Sonja Toutenhoofd

ppppsstttt!

Teacher Appreciation Notes: This is teacher appreciation time of year. Please invite your child(ren) to make a note and/or picture to give to their teacher next week, sometime between Monday, May 21 and Friday, May 25th. The teachers are not expecting this—but it would be sweet if each teacher received a bunch of appreciation notes this week...

Teacher Appreciation lunch June 8 1:30am: Donations or help needed

Yes folks! The annual teacher ap-

preciation lunch is almost upon us. Last year we had a delightful burrito bar that was enthusiastically received by all staff in the building at the time. Let's do a repeat spread to show how special this group of teachers and staff is to us!

Needed: Two helpers (in addition to Sonja Toutenhoofd who will be coordinating) to help set up or tidy up and make a few take-home boxes. If you could help for two hours (lunch included!) that would be great. Shift One is from 10am-12pm. Shift Two is from 12-2pm. Kids welcome and they get lunch. The feeling is relaxed and festive.

Additionally, we need many folks to donate items such as: 3 bags each of flour and corn tortillas, 2-8 cup bags of shredded "Mexican" cheese, salsas, beef or bean or chicken fillings, lettuce, 5 tomatoes, salad mix, dressing, fruit, mushrooms, brownies, flowers, beverages (sparkling water and water) - OR money donations to offset costs of groceries. Need about \$75 usually in addition to food donations for plates etc. A teacher appreciation lunch donation envelope will be at the front office. This really brings a smile and grateful thanks from teachers who have to come in and clean/work on the Friday after all the kids are done. Please e-mail Sonja Toutenhoofd at sonjamarco@earthlink.net or call 720-890-2937.

Thanks in advance to Beth Parish for her famous bread pudding for dessert! Thanks to all wonderful parents for making this happen—and teachers for giving above and beyond throughout the year!

Thanks gardeners!

A huge thanks to Stephen Rodelli and Janet Corning for their hard work on the peace garden. They generously donated the organic soil,

coordinated the process and did the physical work! So amazing!

Accounting skills needed!

We are still seeking parents with accounting skills to whom we can "pass the torch" for taking over the roles of co-or tri-treasurers. Please contact me at 303-527-0960 when you realize this could be your next calling. - Michelle Wemple

Bake Sale, Monday, May 21, to benefit Rock School Foundation

Our goal is to raise \$330 to feed the 30 neediest children at the Rock Foundation School lunch for one semester or three months. We were able to provide lunch for these children for a semester with proceeds from the December bake sale, and to buy large pots for the cook. These children likely go without food at home, and so this support is huge for them, allowing them to thrive, to learn, and to feel supported. Help us reach our goal of raising \$330 by buying a snack or bringing baked goods to the Open Space on Monday, May 21. All items will be 50 cents. This event is sponsored by Erin's class, Will's class, and the Africa Club.

Bolder Boulder Registration

Whether the Bolder Boulder is a tradition in your family or you are thinking about signing up for the first time, join the fun of participating with your BCSIS community. When you register, sign up for the "NE" wave which is for joggers and walkers and then look forward to starting with familiar faces. Go to www.bolderboulder.com for additional registration information. You can also drop by the registration location at Twenty Ninth Street and receive your race "schwag" on the spot. A good place

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to meet when you are ready to sit in Folsom Field is Section 205. If you are in the race and want to be on the BCSIS list of participants so that we can all look for each other, send an email to cynthiacarosella@hotmail.com.

Open positions for '07-'08 year

Ed Council Secretary: Time: 2.5 hours/month. The main role of the Ed Council secretary is to be present at the monthly Ed Council meetings, take notes, and prepare the minutes that appear in the Integrated News. The meetings are 90 minutes long and typing the minutes takes another 60 minutes.

While preparing minutes is the main job of the secretary, all Ed Council members participate in discussions and decisions about a variety of topics that come before the group. Those vary from macro school organizational and financial issues down to specifics of purchases, relationship to the District, and academic goals. As an Ed Council member, the secretary has the opportunity to be engaged in these topics and may choose to de-

vote additional hours to pursue them. Outgoing: Ligia Bernardet.

District Accountability Committee: The purpose of DAC is to help the schools in our district to meet district and state accreditation requirements and to help them remain accountable. Members of DAC do this by reviewing school improvement plans of various schools in the district and offering input to help them stay on track. DAC members meet with school representatives in person and review plans on paper. This is an excellent way to stay on top of how the district is running and what works for schools in our district. It's also a reminder of what makes our school so unique! There are district representatives there each meeting as well as school board representatives.

The DAC time commitment varies at different times of the year. There is a required monthly meeting from 6-8:30pm the first Tuesday of each month. DAC requests a 2-year commitment from new members. At school accreditation reviewtime there may be additional hours needed for a couple of months. And, of course, the rest of the year there is the opportunity to be involved as much or as little as you'd like.

Helpful skills: having an eye for statistics and being able to analyze data. But there are a variety of committees available which appreciate a diverse range of skills. It is best to join DAC at the beginning of a school year. Missing too many meetings in the beginning of the year may make it difficult to jump in and participate in the school accreditation review. Outgoing: Sandy Crowell

Voting Class Rep: Approximately five hours a month. Responsibilities include:

1. Attend monthly Ed Council meetings-two hours/month
2. Send e-mails to class reps K-2 re: needs/information/communication for them to then communicate to their respective classes and teachers if need be; one hour/month
3. Give input and vote on voting issues that arise during Ed council meetings
4. Communicate closely with co-chair and assist with communication; one hour/month.
5. It would be nice for this person to also be visible at school a couple times per week at pick-up or drop-off.
6. Someone who enjoys interacting with teachers, parents and generally approachable.

Letter from Departing Ed Council Co-chair

Dear BCSIS families,

This is my last letter to you as the Ed Council co-chair. I've thoroughly enjoyed the last two years serving our community. I'm happy to turn over the role to Patrick Wilson, a dynamic father in our community who has daughters in 1st and 3rd grades. When he was asking me about the job, I told him my goals were to make it meaningful, to make things sustainable, and to have fun. Our move to sit in a circle of staff and parents, to have a simple check in and to delve deeper into topics through our small group discussion meant all three of my goals were met.

At the April Community Council, we discussed what we think is working well at BCSIS and what needs to improve. The first thing I noticed when I compiled the list is that very few suggestions were about the curriculum or what our children are learning, which says so much about the incredible teachers and their high quality of teaching!

The top priorities are: 1) finding ways to strengthen the culture of BCSIS through community building, clear communication, a welcome committee, etc. and 2) looking for ways to get parents more in-

involved in the BCSIS experience—greater participation in volunteering, fundraising, special events such as a regular Community Mingle, parent seminars and better volunteer organization and acknowledgment.

Many of the parents you know best are working together to make our dreams into a reality. For the first time, we have an organized way of welcoming new families with phone calls and invitations for regular summer park dates. We are reorganizing the volunteer system and it's already more fun, meaningful and sustainable! We'd love to have some new parents join us in big or small ways. Call me or Sonja Toutenhoofd to learn more.

I hope you all welcome Patrick into his new role. He'll be looking for class reps in the fall, so get ready. I'm going to be on the Goals and Accountability team, and I'm hoping to bring more recycling, reducing, and reusing education and action into our school and our homes. Let's make Roots and Shoots into a tree!

Thank you for the honor of being part of Ed Council. It's been a blast.

Blessings, Anna