



# Integrated News

Boulder Community School of Integrated Studies

June 1, 2007

## Principal's report

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Dear Parents,

### Class Lists

We know that many of you are waiting with great anticipation for the new class lists to be published. For those families with students entering first or fourth grades, you will receive a letter from your child's new teacher early in the week after school ends (June 11th or 12th). The letter will include a complete class list, and information on the summer Class Picnic.

The reason we made the decision to publish the newly created class lists after this school year ends is to hold the integrity of the current class communities. Teachers have observed that when students discover their new teacher before the year ends, the children become focused on their new class group, and their experience of closure and completion for their current community is lessened. Thanks for your patience and understanding.

For those of you who have children continuing on with their current teacher, you will also receive a letter in June with a class list that includes any new students, along with the date and time for your summer Class Picnic.

### Early Assessment Days

The Boulder Valley School District calendar has changed for the 2007-2008 school year. Instead of all children beginning class on August 16th, the first two days of school (August 16th and 17th) are designated as assessment days. These days are specifically designed to provide each child with individual time with their teacher, who will assess their current level of skills in literacy and/or math. In these valuable two days, students will have the opportunity to connect with their teacher individually; teachers will gather essential information to start the school year solidly knowing each child. We will begin school for all children with our Rose Ceremony on Monday August 20th.

During the second week in June we will be sending out your child's scheduled time to meet with his/her teacher. Scheduled appointments will last from 45 minutes to an hour. As you can imagine, scheduling these appointments is logistically challenging. Please do your best to attend at your scheduled time. If it is impossible to attend during this time, please call the office at 303-494-1454 before June 15th to reschedule.

### Goodbyes

This year we are saying goodbye to three people on the BCSIS staff. If you have a moment during our last week, please give them a warm send-off. First, **Mona Estrada** is heading off to tackle new challenges and creative endeavors. If you have ever been touched in some way by Mona's one-of-a-kind energy and spirit, now is your chance to let her know. Second, **Jean Johnson**, our Library Assistant, is retiring after 26 years of outstanding work in the Aurora 7 Library. Thank you, Jean! Finally, **Devorah Dettloff** is leaving us after a year of hard work training our staff on ESL Instruction. We want to thank Devorah for helping us to become better educators for all students!

Phil Katsampes

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

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

June 5 (Tues) 2-3pm. **Michael/Four Wishes Performance** (Grades 2-4)

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; 11:45am-12:15pm: Fifth Grade Music Performance

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

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

June 22 (Fri) **Welcome New Families: 10am at Eben G. Fine Park (4th & Arapahoe)**

July 30 (Mon) **Welcome New Families: 10am at BCSIS playground**

August 4 (Sat) **Welcome New Families: 10am at BCSIS playground**



# News & Notes

## Help still needed for Teacher Appreciation Lunch

Donations or help are needed on June 8 for the Teacher Appreciation Lunch. Shift 1 is from 10am-12pm. Shift 2 is from 12-2pm. Kids are welcome and they get lunch. The feeling is relaxed and festive. Additionally, we need many folks to donate food OR cash to offset the cost of groceries. A teacher appreciation lunch donation envelop is at the front office. This really brings a smile and grateful thanks from teachers who have to come in and clean/work on this Friday, after all the kids are done. Please e-mail Sonja Toutenhoofd at [sonjamarc@earthlink.net](mailto:sonjamarc@earthlink.net) or call 720-890-2937. Thanks already to the several people who've offered to bring things and help!

## Moved Lately?

If you moved this year or are planning a move this summer, please let us know so that we can send the Welcome Packet to you at your correct address this summer. Please send your contact information to Kim Baugh at [kim.baugh@earthlink.net](mailto:kim.baugh@earthlink.net).

## Plant Sale success!

The BCSIS Spring Plant Sale was another big success this year! We raised over \$2500! "Most Plants Sold" goes to Annie Szczurek Davis in the 5th grade, Runner-up: our wonderful Dianne Ladd! Thanks to Rose Harnos-Holder for organizing the many volunteers necessary to bring this off with good cheer! Those volunteers include Jennifer Shriver, Michelle Wemple, Julie Ireland, Mignon Macias, Jasmine Poole, John and Stacey Cole, Liz Mac for the fabulous posters, Edica Schuckman, Robin Allegra, Kim Greene, Kelly Simmons, Mary Di-neen, Erika Primozich, Anne Gilchrist, Ty Romijn, Eileen Cochran, Karen Nicholson, Nan McGinnis, Sara Weatherley, the office staff for helping in all sorts of ways, Brooke for giving up half of her gym, and finally, Robyn Rathweig, for leading the way in previous years and going beyond the call of duty this year. And let's not forget all of you who choose to support our school with your hard-earned money! Extra plants will go to the school gardens to add even more beauty to our great school. Thanks everyone (especially those I may have neglected to mention...!) - Vicki Kurzban

## Spring Carnival

Kudos go to Cory Potash and Karen Cobble, who really, truly made this happen! When you see them in the hallways, please thank them for this fabulous event. - Robyn Griggs Lawrence

## The children from Uganda thank you

A warm thank you to folks who brought baked goods or bought snacks at the bake sale at what is a busy time of year. Several people gave generous donations as well. Together we raised \$240, which goes a long way to funding school lunches for the neediest children at the Rock Foundation School for three months. Children at BCSIS have been writing letters to the kids at the Rock Foundation School and so this ties in nicely with caring for our friends. Bay Roberts said to pass along that the children are very grateful. - The Africa Club, Will Humke and Erin Koenig

## Thanks to Playground Parents

A warm thank you to the many parents who donated their time at recess a few times or many times this year. Even one additional grown-up provides a soothing presence for the children on the playground, giving them someone to come to, to talk to, to play with, and to watch over them. Thanks to Matthew Cryer, Ward Johnson, Nisargo Troy, Marya Read, Jamie Olson, Stephen Wollhandler, Cory Potash, David Olson, Cindy Alaimo, Paul Berger, and any other parents who helped out. - Val Sloan

## Welcome new families this summer

We will be welcoming nine new families in Grades 1-5 and 35 new families in kindergarten. Meet some new folks, and help your new classmates feel less anxious about starting or changing schools. It would be great to have kids of all grades join us so that the new children can make at least one friend in their grade.

- Friday, June 22nd, 10am at Eben B. Fine Park. Contact Val Sloan at [val.sloan@comcast.net](mailto:val.sloan@comcast.net)
- Monday, July 30th, 10am at BCSIS playground. Contact Kimberly at [mamaberl@yahoo.com](mailto:mamaberl@yahoo.com).
- Saturday, August 4th, 10am at BCSIS playground. Contact Patrick Wilson at [coachpatrick@earthlink.net](mailto:coachpatrick@earthlink.net).

# Letter from incoming Ed Council Co-Chairperson

Hello All,

This, my family's first year at BCSIS, has been such a wonderful experience for my daughters (Emma in Suzanne's 3rd Grade and Isabel in Erin's 1st Grade), my wife (Rebecca) and myself. Thank you all for welcoming us into this community and making this year so meaningful and fun! I have really enjoyed getting to know many of you and look forward to meeting those of you whose paths have not crossed my own yet. This community of families is truly amazing! We are so fortunate to have so much talent and goodness here at this school.

I want to thank Anna Stewart for the leadership that she has provided to ED Council for the past two years and for her commitment to make my transition into the parent co-chair role as smooth and easy as possible. I also want express my appreciation for all of the people who comprised this year's ED Council, and especially for those parents who have contributed so much over the previous years and are going to be taking a break (Michelle Wemple, Beth Parish, Sandy Crowell and of course Anna). Even though you will not be actively participating in the ED Council next year, I am sure that we will be tapping into your collective wisdom. Thank you all.

In taking over for Anna as the Co-Chair for the ED Council, I wanted to share my hopes for the coming years, and set the tone for what I hope to accomplish. My first priority is to be responsive to the needs and desires of the community and to make myself as available as possible for your questions and concerns. Beyond that I really hope to strengthen the BCSIS culture (the general awareness of the values, beliefs and history) in our community so that we all have a consistently strong, common identity. I believe that a strong, collective culture, that is consistently communicated and reinforced, is what allows us to come together and work effectively for a common goal and purpose. I hope that an offshoot of having that strong culture will be a more universal investment in the school in financial terms and in terms of volunteer hours. BCSIS is an amazing school and our time and money are part of what will allow it to continue to develop and grow in excellent and sustainable ways.

I look forward to serving this community and am always open to feedback on how I could be more effective in my role. Have a great summer and I look forward to another outstanding year coming up!

All the best,

Patrick Wilson  
[patrick@blackhorsecoaching.com](mailto:patrick@blackhorsecoaching.com)  
303-516-4042

## **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 11:30am: 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](http://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](mailto: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.

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