



Integrated News

Boulder Community School of Integrated Studies

November 5, 2007



Principal's report

Dear Families,

I sincerely hope you all survived the intensity and excitement of Halloween. We had many satiated little faces on Thursday morning; children content that their costumes and candy had been a success. As the holidays approach, please remember that children need rhythm and relaxation during this high-energy time. Limiting after-school activities, keeping to predictable schedules and rhythm at home, and assuring that children get plenty of sleep will help to make the holidays more pleasurable for all.

Full Participation

I would like to express both deep appreciation for all who have donated to the Full Participation fund and also strong encouragement to those who are still considering a donation. The BCSIS Full Participation donations are the direct reason that our classrooms are beautiful and full of natural materials. Our children experience high-quality, natural learning supplies, and our teachers are able to attend outstanding professional development activities as a result of the generosity of the parents. The suggested donation is \$100 per semester, per child. Please give as you are able, more if your resources allow and less if resources are tight. We appreciate any amount, and our main goal is to have all families take part in the Full Participation campaign.

Lantern Walks

Last week, I sent out a detailed description of what to expect at the Lantern Walk/Fall Festival. The K-2nd Grade Lantern Walk is on November 8th from 5:30 to 6:30pm. The 3rd-5th Grade Fall Festival is on November 15th from 6-7pm. Here is a list of important reminders:

- These events are part of our core curriculum. The focus of the events is to provide the students a reverent, authentic connection to nature and the changing seasons.
- Dress warmly; you will be spending time outside and it can be very chilly.
- Keep younger siblings under control and with you at all times. This will help hold the quiet, reverent atmosphere for the students.
- Be on time. The songs and stories for both events will begin promptly at the start time.

The actual Lantern Walk for both the younger and older grades will be silent this year. Please hold all conversations, silence cell phones, and help us create a silent experience with light and nature for the children. Thank you!

School Improvement Plan

Our school Goals and Improvement Plan were taken before the District Accountability Committee this week. The DAC is comprised of parents from all BVSD schools. The DAC approved our School Goals and Improvement Plan with flying colors! That means they agreed that, based on our school data, we identified appropriate areas for improvement, and we determined appropriate strategies for working toward improvement. As a reminder, here are our school goals for the 2007/2008 school year:

- Academic: BCSIS will improve student performance in the area of writing.
- Organizational: BCSIS will help students feel more able to deal with bullying behaviors and relational aggression.
- Equity: BCSIS will help Special Education students improve their performance in math.

In a past newsletter, I shared in detail about our strategies for improving student performance in writing. I will be giving updates on our progress in this area, and I will share more information about our Organizational goal and our Equity goal in future newsletters.

Phil

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Nov 8 (Thurs) 5:30-6:30pm. **GRADES K-2 LANTERN WALK**

Nov 9 (Fri) Professional Day – **NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS**

Nov 12 (Mon) Veteran's Day – **NO SCHOOL**

Nov 14 (Wed) 4-5:30pm. **ED COUNCIL MEETING** in Library

Nov 15 (Thurs) 6-7pm. **GRADES 3-5 FALL FESTIVAL**

Nov 16 (Fri) **DEADLINE** for Silent Auction donations and Talent Show sign up sheets

Nov 19-20 (Mon-Tues) Conference Exchange Days – **NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS**

Nov 21-23 (Wed-Fri) **THANKSGIVING BREAK**

Nov 26 (Mon) **OPEN ENROLLMENT BEGINS**

Nov 27 (Tues) 9-10:30am: **OPEN ENROLLMENT CLASSROOM VISITATION**; 10:30-11:30am: Meet the Principal/K Teacher

Nov 29 (Thurs) 11am-1:30pm. **FOURTH GRADE MEDIEVAL FESTIVAL** (Open Space)

Nov 29 (Thurs) 6:30-7:30pm. **MATH NIGHT FOR ALL PARENTS** (Library)

Dec 1 (Sat) 12-4pm. **SILENT AUCTION AND TALENT SHOW**

Dec 3 (Mon) 9-10:30am: **OPEN ENROLLMENT CLASSROOM VISITATION**; 10:30-11:30am: Meet the Principal/K Teacher

Dec 4 (Tues) 2:30-4pm. **BOOK FAIR** (Library)

Dec 5 (Wed) 2:30-4pm. **BOOK FAIR** (Library)

Dec 6 (Thurs) 2:30-4pm. **BOOK FAIR** (Library)

Dec 6 (Thurs) 6-7pm. **ROCK FOUNDATION** movie night and discussion with Bay Roberts (Library)

Dec 11 (Tues) 6:30-8pm. **3rd-5th GRADES LITERACY NIGHT** (Library)

Dec 12 (Wed) 4-5pm. **ED COUNCIL MEETING** (Library)

Dec 14 (Fri) 9-10:30am: **OPEN ENROLLMENT CLASSROOM VISITATION**; 10:30-11:30am: Meet the Principal/K Teacher

Dec 18 (Tues) 6-7:30pm. **OPEN ENROLLMENT OPEN HOUSE**

Dec 19 (Wed) 9:30-10am. **BAND PROGRAMS**

Dec 19 (Wed) 1-2:30pm: **OPEN ENROLLMENT CLASSROOM VISITATION**; 2:30-3:30pm: Meet the Principal/K Teacher

Dec 24-Jan 4 (Mon-Fri) **WINTER BREAK – NO SCHOOL**



News & Notes

Easy ways to raise money for BCSIS

When shopping at Grand Rabbit's Toy Shoppe and PlayFair Toys, tell the cashier that you are a BCSIS family. Both stores will give a percentage of the purchase to our school.

Sister school presentation



Will's Class is hosting a 30-minute movie presentation about the Rock Foundation School, our Ugandan sister school, on Thursday, Dec. 6, at 6pm. We will show our movie and I will be there to answer any questions. Last year, the Africa Club and Will's 2nd graders raised funds to pay for the 30 neediest students to eat lunch at the Rock Foundation School. BCSIS children have also written letters back and forth to RF students and have sent projects. It is truly wonderful that our children have this connection to other children in the world, especially those in impoverished circumstances. Please come, get involved and learn more about this program. - Bay Roberts, contact for this project

Seeking Sponsorship and Art and Craft Donations for Bacaro Festivita

Help sponsor our Bacaro Festivita with a financial donation, and we'll give your business some of the spotlight. Or, donate hand-crafted goods and fine arts to earn money for BCSIS. Contact Robin Allegra at 720-291-3046 or rallegra@comcast.net for more information.

Student Newspaper Submissions Needed

Our school newspaper, The School Key, would like to publish original stories, comics, poems, drawings, crossword puzzles and reports created by BCSIS students. Please add your child's name to the submission and place it in the box for Kimberly Zerbey in the copy room.

Testing for TAG

If you are interested in having your student tested for the Talented and Gifted program, please fill out a nomination form. They are located outside of the TAG office, east of the main office. Return forms to Kimberly Zerbey's box in the copy room. - Kimberly Zerbey, TAG Education Advisor/Literacy Teacher, 303-494-1454 ext 278

Volunteers Needed

- Open Enrollment: Parents needed to hang flyers in the community and give tours of the school to interested families in late November, December and January. Contact Darcy Pace at 303-499-9183 or darcypace@comcast.net.
- Monday Mail helper for Kael: Someone to help for one hour with copying the Integrated News at 9am every other Monday and delivering to classrooms for Monday Mail. Contact Kael Davis at 303-447-5516 or just stop by the office and ask about it.
- Volunteer Coordinator: The main contact to coordinate the school's wonderful volunteers. To start after winter break, this posi-

tion entails keeping "an ear" to the volunteer needs of the school, revising and updating the volunteer sign-up sheet in the spring, conducting a few meetings during the year, working closely with Kael to coordinate events with the office staff. This is a great way to hone your career skills in management, communication and volunteer leadership. You do not have to volunteer for every event. The current volunteer coordinator, Sonja Toutenhoofd, can provide training and guidance if you desire. She has designed and established the foundation for a very organized and enthusiastic committee and is looking for someone else to take over. She insists that no experience is necessary – just enthusiasm. Please contact Phil at 303-447-5516 or Sonja at sonjamarc@earthlink.net or 720-890-2937 to find out more.

• Chairperson for Friends of BCSIS: Lead the fundraising folks. This position is available now. This has always been a fun committee and is open to all. Would you be willing to call the meetings and help keep perspective on what the goals of our fundraisers are and how many we should have? Kim Green can provide training and guidance and has wonderful energy to share about this. Again, this job requires mostly enthusiasm to start, but you will come away with a rich experience and growth that will help you in future years. If interested, please contact Kim at landofkimberly@msn.com, Phil or Kael at 303-447-5516.

Share-A-Coat Program

It's time again for donating those too-small, somewhat-worn, but still-warm coats to the annual Share-A-Coat program. A box is located in our hallway, so please bring in both children and adult coats you are no longer using by November 30. Children's used story books and textbooks are also being collected. The top three schools (in terms of number of coats collected per student) will receive cash prizes. Let's see what we can do to help other children in our community. For more information, please call Bob Harberg, Program Coordinator, at 303-441-3124.



Lost and Found Reminder

Maybe your son's extra sweatshirt is NOT at his father's house. Maybe that hand-me-down jacket from your favorite niece was not lost at the soccer game. Maybe, just maybe, these items and many more are waiting for you at the Lost and Found Hall, on the left before the ramp down to the library. Take five minutes to browse. The sweatshirts and fleeces are already four deep and it's not even cold yet! Thanks! - Robyn Rathweg

After School Activities at Aurora 7

Looking for a fun and safe place for your student after school? The YMCA of Boulder Valley offers before and after school care for your child at Aurora 7. Children participate in arts and crafts, active game and quiet time for homework. A nutritious snack is provided daily. Contact Ashley Pranke, Community Site Director, at 303-443-4474 ext 4214 or hpbcsis@ymcabv.org.