



# Integrated News

Boulder Community School of Integrated Studies

December 10, 2007



## Principal's report

### Dear parents,

What a beautiful weekend of snow and sun! I hope you all had a chance to get outside to enjoy the eclectic Boulder weather. Also, thanks so much to those who braved the roads on Sunday night for the Winter Festival/Spiral Garden. Claudia Frick did a wonderful job organizing that unique event.

### Silent Auction/Talent Show

The Silent Auction/Talent Show was a huge success. We are so appreciative to three parents who truly went above and beyond the call of duty to organize the event. Mignon Macias, Anne Gilchrist and Gabi Werkmeister put in countless hours over the past several months preparing this fantastic fundraiser. Initial estimates are that the event grossed in the neighborhood of \$10,000!

Of course, the Talent Show was a delight as well. From singing, to rock 'n roll, to poetry, to Broadway, the afternoon was full of talented, enjoyable performances. Thank you to Jan May for helping to organize and run the show, and also a big thanks to all the children who shared their gifts with the community.

### CSAP Schedule

We know that many of you are looking ahead to the remainder of the year to schedule vacations, family events, etc. Please remember to take into account the upcoming CSAP assessments for 3rd, 4th, and 5th grades. The 3rd Grade Reading CSAP test window is February 20th and 21st. All other CSAP assessments for 3rd, 4th and 5th grades will be given between Monday, March 3 and Tuesday, March 18. Spring Break is the following week, beginning Monday, March 24.

Please plan to have your child in school on all assessment days for their grade level. I certainly realize that there is a wide range of opinions within our community regarding CSAP implementation. However, assuring that all students take the CSAP is very important for maintaining our accreditation as a public BVSD elementary school. We truly appreciate your understanding.

### School Improvement

Earlier this year, I outlined the School Improvement Goals that we adopted for BCSIS this school year. One of our goals is in the area of School Climate. The primary source of information for this goal is the yearly Student Climate Survey, which is given to 3rd, 4th and 5th graders each year in the spring.

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

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 17 (Mon) 5-7pm. Diane's 3rd Grade **GREEK NIGHT** (Open Space)

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

Dec 19 (Wed) 9:40-10:10am. **BAND PROGRAMS**

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

Dec 19 (Wed) 5-7pm. Will's 3rd Grade **GREEK NIGHT** (Open Space)

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

Jan 7-8 (Mon-Tues) Professional Days **NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS**

Jan 9 (Wed) **SCHOOL RESUMES**



# Ed Council Notes

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The Ed Council Meeting took place November 14th, 2007. In Attendance: Patrick Wilson, Jennifer Shriver, Darcy Vanderbie, Sonja Toutenhoofd, Connie LeClerk, Erin Koenig, Pam Stratton, Jessica Klauzer-Zimmerman, Denise McCorvie, Rosa Olsen, Greg Guerin, Ema Lyman, Phil Katsampes

## Open Enrollment Update

Open enrollment starts the Monday after the Thanksgiving break (Nov 26th). Parent volunteers will be posting information about BCSIS in preschools and businesses. There are five events scheduled for classroom visits and tours. Dates and times can be found at <http://schools.bvsd.org/bcsis/openenrollment.html>. We are very optimistic about reaching our enrollment goals for the coming year. Ema has done a wonderful job with Open Enrollment and the school de-stratification process. She is currently in the last year of a two-year contract and we are hopeful that she will be able to continue working with our school in coming years to nurture the programs that she has initiated.

## Volunteer Update

The key positions of Volunteer Coordinator and Coordinator of Friends of BCSIS are still open and we need to come up with strategies to fill them. Anyone who is interested in volunteering in either of these positions should contact Sonja Toutenhoofd, Patrick Wilson or Phil Katsampes. The directory is complete; thanks to Kim Baugh for all of her work in putting this together.

We are finding that many parent volunteers are not stepping forward even though they signed up to volunteer at the beginning of the year. In a future meeting we will discuss how to regenerate interest in volunteering.

## Treasure's Report

Currently, 50% of BCSIS families have contributed to the Full Participation Campaign which has yielded \$27,500 as of Nov 12 '07. In order to achieve our budget goal we need at least \$30,000 in Full Participation Contributions, so we are still gladly accepting donations from families that would like to contribute. Another future agenda item: How to create fresh perspective and greater involvement in the Full Participation Program.

We discussed the \$6326.20 that is remaining from the playground construction, and what to do with it now that the playground construction is complete. The money is shared by BCSIS and High Peaks, making the decision a bit more complicated. Phil and Jennifer will discuss and we will have a follow-up at our next meeting. We will also discuss some of the other budget line items at our next meeting.

## Changing the Ed Council meeting day from Wednesday to Thursday

The school district has set aside Thursday for schools to schedule meetings like the Ed Council meeting so that these school level meetings won't conflict with district level meetings. With our meeting currently on Wednesdays, some of our teachers on the Ed Council are running into scheduling conflicts. Starting next year, we will most likely move the meeting day to Thursday, but were wondering if we could switch the meeting day to Thursday in time for our December meeting. Patrick will send out a group e-mail to poll Ed Council members to see if their schedule would allow for this change, and will report the information back to Phil.

## Items for discussion at future meetings

The following are items that we would like to discuss at future meetings:

- School Pictures/Photographer
- Fundraising – Communication and Coordination
- Generating greater participation and enthusiasm for volunteering
- Generating greater participation and enthusiasm for Full Participation
- Kids coming home from art class with ink/paint on them
- Halloween costumes at school
- Science Fair
- Discussion of media stories in the classroom
- Website updates/design for greater utility
- Foreign Language Instruction

If you have other items that you would like to bring up in an Ed Council meeting please discuss with your classroom rep, or contact Patrick Wilson.



# News & Notes

## Gratitude

A huge amount of appreciation is sent to the Winter Wonderland parent volunteers who orchestrated our first weekend silent auction and talent show. The team was headed up by

Gabi Werkmeister, Anne Gilchrist and Mignon Macias. Please thank them when you see them and again when



you see them next. In other words, we cannot thank them enough!

The event was a success on many levels: the hallways were beautifully decorated, the talent and audience benefitted by having the show performed in the gym, the meal kept everyone going and the generous donations and bids for the silent auction items were indicative of our community's giving nature. A long list of dedicated parents covered the long list of responsibilities that helped to make this event run seamlessly. The school treasurers will report on the amount raised at this Wednesday's ED Council meeting.

## Lost but not yet found

The Lost and Found articles will be out in the main hallway next week. You have about a 50/50 chance of finding something of yours. On the evening of Friday, December 21, the unclaimed articles will be packed up for donation to a charity. On that Friday afternoon after school, parents are invited to take some of the unclaimed items for their own purposes. Thanks to Robyn Rathweg for taking this on and forwarding the unclaimed articles to a charity.

## Dates for Winter Break

Please note that while the Winter Break lasts through January 4, school resumes January 9 due to two professional development days on January 7 and 8.

## Literacy Night

Join BCSIS teachers who will be discussing ways to support your 3rd-5th grade students with literacy at home. Tuesday, December 11, 6:30-8:00pm.

## Seeking sponsorships, arts and crafts 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](mailto:rallegra@comcast.net) for more information.

## 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 east of the main office outside the TAG office. Return forms to Kimberly Zerbey's box in the work room.

## Student newspaper submissions needed

Our school newspaper, The School Key, will be publishing 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 Kimberly Zerbey's box in the copy room.

## Lifelong Learning Classes at BCSIS

Three Lifelong Learning classes will be offered at BCSIS during the Spring semester:

1. Beginning Spanish for Kids ages 6-8
2. Friday Afternoon Art Club for kids ages 7-12
3. Creative Dance for ages 7-10.

More information and registration at [www.bvsd.org/LLL](http://www.bvsd.org/LLL) and 303-499-1125 x222.

## Principal's Report

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In looking at the survey given last spring, we have much to celebrate. For example, 92% of students responded that they feel safe on the playground. Also, our work towards helping students learn and hold school behavior expectations was very successful. The percentage of students responding that our school rules are clear and easy to understand increased from 47% to 71% over the past two years.

The area which still indicated the need for more growth is in helping students recognize and feel confident dealing with bullying behaviors. Our work this year as a faculty has focused on helping students to develop a "toolbox" of strategies for dealing with situations involving bullying or relational aggression. The Ed Council also discussed ways in which parents can help support this goal.

The teachers have worked this year to adopt a school-wide bully-prevention curriculum so that all students will learn a consistent set of strategies for these situations. Also, on January 7, a Professional Development day for teachers, we will be hosting a district expert in this field, Lisa Cech, who will provide training in bully-prevention. We are looking forward to this valuable experience.

Have a wonderful holiday month of December. Remember that children are often overwhelmed with energy and anticipation at this time of year. Regular routines and rhythms at home, plenty of sleep and nutritious food all help calm their frenzy (and ours)!

Phil