



Integrated News

Boulder Community School of Integrated Studies

September 22, 2008



Principal's report

Dear BCSIS Community,

I would like to share with you recent changes affecting Leson Dunkley. For those of you who do not know Leson, she has been a teacher and a parent at BCSIS for the past six years. She is currently on a one-year leave because last winter she discovered she has breast cancer.

Over the past five years her amazing spirit and deep understanding of children has touched many students and parents in our community. During her first three years at BCSIS she taught kindergarten, and then she moved to the intermediate grades and taught both fourth and fifth. Along with that, her four children have attended, or currently attend, BCSIS, Boulder High School, and The Watershed School, among other schools in Boulder. Leson has become a dear friend of many teachers and parents at BCSIS as well. She is truly interlocked with our community in essential ways.

In the time since Leson discovered she has cancer, we have done everything we can to give her the space and privacy to take the path of healing that she is choosing. Truthfully, Leson's bravery and independence of mind are an inspiration to those who know her well. Recent events have come quickly though, and Leson feels the time is right for "full disclosure" to the community that cares so much about her.

Last week, Leson discovered the cancer has moved into her brain and lymphatic system. She has decided to proceed with two major surgeries in the next few weeks. At the same time, her financial situation is concerning. Having a family of four children puts an understandable strain on her finances, as you can imagine.

This week you will receive a "parent-to-parent" letter with many more details about Leson's current challenges and ways that we as a community can support her. The teachers have also come together in a coordinated effort to help her with everyday stresses, such as meals, cleaning house, and transportation to appointments.

Equally valuable, however, will be our combined energy as a caring

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Sept 23 (Tues) K-2nd grade **PICTURE DAY**

Sept 24 (Wed) 3rd-5th grades **PICTURE DAY**

Sept 25 (Thurs) **ALL CLASS PICTURE DAY**

Oct 14-15 (Tues-Wed) 2:30-4pm. **BOOK FAIR**

Oct 16 (Thurs) 6:30-8pm. **FALL COMMUNITY MEETING** in the Open Space

Oct 22 (Wed) 8-9am. **PICTURE RETAKES**

Oct 31 (Fri) **NO SCHOOL** - Professional Development Day

Family Literacy Program

The After-School Family Literacy Program at our school will begin on Tuesday, Sept. 23rd. This is a 22-week program offering English as a Second Language and GED instruction to adults in our current school community and in our neighborhood. We will also offer tutoring, homework help and childcare. We are still in need of adult volunteers for the childcare component of the program. The sessions run from 5 to 7:30 pm, on Tuesdays and Thursdays, from Sept. 23, 2008 to March 5, 2009. Volunteers may commit to one or both days, the whole 2½ hour session, or just part of it. Any period of time that you can sign up for is highly appreciated in our efforts to build a caring and engaging community. Many thanks. Please contact Ema Lyman, Community Liaison, at 303-494-1454x279.

Thank You Corner

1. For the Fall Fest Ice Cream Social, BCSIS received ice cream donations from Boulder Ice Cream, King Soopers and Safeway. Some parents will follow through with thank you notes signed by students.
2. The Fall Fest was organized and supervised by Cory Potash and Karen Cobble. Thanks to them for being two of our "uber" generous parents who are committed to community-building at BCSIS.
3. For the first time ever, our Fall Fest had live music which featured the sounds of "Slater Falls." Thanks to Doug McGinnis, father of 5th grader Aidan, and his brother, Kelly McGinnis, for providing us with the concert of all-original music.

Free Skiing for 5th Graders

As in years past, Vail Resorts will continue to offer Colorado 5th grade students three free unrestricted days of skiing (or snowboarding) at each of its Colorado resorts – Vail, Beaver Creek, Breckenridge and Keystone – through a newly named program administered by the Company called "School of Shred." Sixth graders will receive four unrestricted days of skiing (or snowboarding) at each of the Company's Colorado resorts for \$99. To receive the 5th or 6th grade "School of Shred" pass, a parent or guardian must present documentation proving eligibility (report card or school ID that indicates grade level or a valid birth certificate) at any resort season pass office or any Front Range Vail Resorts' pass sales location during the fall pass sales time period. Students must be present at time of purchase to get their photo taken. Passes will be loaded with the ski days and will also be enabled with radio frequency technology to allow for a hassle-free "easy scan" process, eliminating the need to physically present the pass in the lift lines this season. Passes are non-transferable and the 6th grade pass is non-refundable. For details, visit www.coloradopass.com or call 888-215-3867, M-F, 9am-5pm.

BCSIS Named Top School in 5280 Magazine

In the September 2008 issue of 5280 magazine, a "smarter education report card" that includes a school's character was used to determine the top 44 schools in the Denver Metro area. BCSIS was chosen for its curriculum that "uses a holistic and arts-integrated approach that stresses active involvement with fellow students and teachers as a way toward learning, self-expression, and an appreciation for cultural diversity." Check it out on p. 96.

Painting Class for Ages 7-11

Lifelong Learning is offering an Arts-Acrylic Painting on Canvas for ages 7-11 at BCSIS. Learn to paint on a variety of canvas surfaces with acrylics. Canvas paper, canvas board, and stretched canvas will be used while exploring the versatile medium of acrylic paint. The work of famous artists will be introduced, along with vocabulary, and technique. Five sessions on Tuesdays, Oct. 7 through Nov. 4, 3:30-4:45pm; cost is \$115. Instructor: Ray Geier. Register early to secure your spot at www.bvsvd.org/LLL or call Julie Kurzawa at 303-499-1125 x222.

If you have items for the Integrated News, please send them to Phil at mail to phil.katsampes@bvsvd.org and Cynthia Carosella at mailto:cynthiacarosella@hotmail.com.

community to hold Leson in love and positive hope in our hearts and minds. I know for many of you this news will mean difficult conversations between you and your children. If you need any support with that, please do not hesitate to contact me. I will work to put you in contact with school personnel that can give you guidance.

Thank you for being such a unique parent community. As I was running here and there doing odd jobs at the recent Fall Fest, I was again struck by the fact that BCSIS parents have come to find joy and support in each other's company. I know the



bonds at our school go far beyond the classrooms. These recent changes for Leson will be a chance for all of us to come together to support someone who shares her gifts with so many of us.

Phil