

Welcome Back LES Panthers!

July 31, 2009

Dear Louisville Elementary Families,

It is my pleasure to welcome our LES students and families back for the 2009-10 school year! For our returning Panthers, I hope you all had a summer filled with fun and relaxation. I hope that you are energized to start another year of learning at Louisville Elementary. We have approximately 70 new kindergarten children who begin their schooling with us this fall, in addition to some new families and their children who have joined our amazing community, rated the #1 place to live in 2009 by *Money* magazine. Our talented teaching and support staff have many impressive and first-rate activities and units planned for our students this school year. Welcome!

As you all know, we began our bond construction project this summer. Since there is a lot of great information to report, please refer to a separate letter included in this mailing for the latest bond updates. I will be highlighting information about our bond and building at the first PTA meeting on 9/2/09, which runs from 6:45 to 8:15. Tom Blahak, our bond Project Manager, will be co-presenting this section with me. In addition, bond personnel will be on hand to answer any questions at Back-to-School Night (B2SN) which will be held on September 9th from 6:00 to 7:45 pm. As in the past, B2SN will be broken up into two sessions, 6:00 to 6:45 p.m. for morning kindergarten, 1st and 2nd grades, 7:00 to 7:45 for p.m. kindergarten, 3rd, 4th, and 5th grades, and specials teachers from 6:45 to 7:00 p.m.

Although the building has been under construction, our building has undergone summer maintenance thanks to Mike Giese, Eric Millard and Ajka Durmisevic! Our custodial staff has done an excellent job working with the bond staff and refurbishing our school! The gym floors have been sanded, buffed, and waxed. The tile floors that haven't been torn up, in the gym hallway, stage, and kindergarten classrooms have been cleaned, stripped, and waxed. The restrooms have been scrubbed top to bottom. Carpet areas that weren't replaced have been shampooed. Student chairs have been pressure washed. Various areas of the building have been painted (pillars, doors, door frames, etc.). The custodial staff also replaced uni-vent filters in the classrooms, and helped set up the classrooms. In regards to the bond, custodial staff helped the movers by moving furniture, phones, computers, and various school materials. Please thank our bond and custodial staff for their hard work and attention to detail when you see them. They will greatly appreciate the recognition!

The 2009-10 school year, brings some changes in staffing. We've found some outstanding applicants to fill the five positions that were posted this spring/summer. Two positions are intervention positions, special education and literacy teacher. These two positions necessitate working with a variety of staff members and grade levels. As you all know, Barb Schuttenberg retired last year. We were able to hire Marisa Filippone to fill the special education position. Marisa recently served as a special education teacher at Centennial Middle School. Marisa was awarded an Impact on Education Grant while at Centennial. She also was a therapeutic counselor at a camp in Attaway, Maryland in 2007 and 2008, where she designed and implemented therapeutic and multi-sensory recreation activities for children with ED, BD, and ASD. She also implemented behavior modification strategies for campers. She has experience working with students with autism, as well as a strong reading instruction background. Laura Lyon was our other "retiree." Tiffany Boyd, Laura Lyon's former teaching partner at Mapleton Elementary, will be taking over as our literacy teacher for the intermediate grades. Tiffany is in her 17th year of teaching in BVSD. As a classroom teacher for 11 years, Tiffany taught 4th, 5th, and 6th grades at Mapleton Elementary and Southern Hills Middle School. Since 2002, she has been a literacy teacher for 2nd, 3rd, 4th, and 5th grades. She has traveled and presented with Anne Goudvis, author of *Strategies that Work*, *the Comprehension Toolkit*, and the *Primary Comprehension Toolkit*. With Heinemann Seminars, Tiffany has been working in K-8th grade classrooms across the country modeling lessons and guiding teachers in using best practices and

active literacy instruction across the curriculum. Tiffany is also the co-owner of EveryoneIncluded. As lead consultant, she coordinates and implements inclusion training workshops aimed at educating municipalities and businesses on the Americans with Disabilities Act.

From the grade level teaching ranks there have been some changes as well. Cheryl Crain is due back from maternity leave, job-sharing in 1st grade with Nicole Smith. Second grade teacher, Kristin Tatnall, got married this summer; beginning this school year she will be Mrs. Welty. Fourth grade teacher, Kim Nguyen, tied the knot as well; her new name is Mrs. Lucky. We also wish Christina Hamilton well on her recent marriage and move to Avon, Colorado, and we welcome Diane Olson to the 5th grade team. Diane majored in elementary and special education. Diane has twelve years teaching experience, primarily in BVSD schools. She has worked in special education, and has taught Kindergarten, 1st grade, 5th grade math, 6th grade math, and social studies. Diane's other passions are volunteer work and care giving. Most recently she worked as an Activities Associate and Caregiver at Juniper Village in Louisville.

We have two new positions this year. Due to our kindergarten population bubble we will be running four 1st grade classes next year, and we hired an English as a Second Language (ESL) teacher for our new program that will be inaugurated this year. For the 1st grade position we had 127 applicants, so a deep pool of people to choose from. We have hired Holly Hansburg to be the fourth member of our 1st grade team. Holly has taught in Illinois, Idaho, and most recently on limited-term contracts at Monarch K-8, Eldorado K-8, and Superior Elementary. Holly has taught Language, Learning and Literacy Development at the university level. She has also taught the Student Teaching Practicum course. Holly has served on a number of district and school committees, and has been the recipient of district grant funds to hold numerous family nights in the classroom. Holly has also written district curriculum assessments for 3rd grade math. While working in Illinois, she organized a school pep rally which was televised on three major networks and written up in the Chicago Sun Times and Time magazine. The ESL position garnered a deep pool of candidates as well! I'm happy to report that our new program will be lead by Katie Bell. Katie has a Bachelor of Arts in Spanish Language and Literature, and she holds a Master's Degree in Bilingual Education. Katie has taught for the past six years in St. Vrain School District. While in St. Vrain she was a 3rd grade bilingual classroom teacher, a bilingual kindergarten teacher, and a Spanish Literacy teacher for grades K-5. Katie has also taught professional development literacy courses to St. Vrain's teaching staff; she has taught "Guided Reading Grades 3-5" and "Moving in the Right Directions." These courses focused on literacy instruction for the English Language Learner. Prior to her tenure in St. Vrain, Katie served as a Native Language Literacy Tutor in BVSD. Katie has co-coached the Longmont Youth Triathlon Club and Central Elementary school's Running Club. She has been the Longmont High School's Junior Varsity Boys Soccer coach, and she was an All American Triathlete in 2008. When we return, please welcome (or welcome back), these new additions to our staff!

Finally, grade level supply lists for students have been posted on the LES web page since last spring, <http://schools.bvsd.org/les/index.html>. See you soon. Enjoy the rest of the summer!

Regards,

Jennifer Rocke
Principal
Louisville Elementary School