

# Mesa Elementary School

## September 23, 2005



# THE MESA MESSENGER

## FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Mesa Community,

This past Monday, while students were not at school, our staff spent the entire day in a planning session related to school improvement. Members of the School Improvement Team, under the leadership of Mike Barnes, were actively involved in the process. As we shared with you in the last newsletter, Mesa students performed very well on the CSAP (Colorado Student Assessment Program) tests administered last year. Our school must submit an end-of-year report and a new school improvement plan by October 17, 2005.

During the in-service day, we analyzed and engaged in discussions specifically addressing performance in all aspects of student achievement. Each grade level reported to the entire group how their students performed in assessments specific to their grade level. Our emphasis was "that no child is left behind." We are proud to report Mesa Elementary School has met the Annual Yearly Progress (AYP) expected by The No Child Left Behind legislation. Our school met all 14 goals specified.

For this school year 2005-2006, our team will continue to examine and explore all possibilities related to reading, math and science, to ensure maximum student achievement in these content areas. As a school we will target student writing as our main goal for the year. In addition, we

will include an organizational goal which promotes providing a safe and pleasant learning environment for Mesa students and staff. Another goal will be to guarantee equity for all student groups at Mesa. Overall the intent is to provide an equitable learning experience for all Mesa students.

The final Year End Report and School Improvement Plan will be shared with the community on our web site. It will be available in November 2005.

In Partnership,

Mike Medina

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### **\*\*WANTED\*\***

Someone who has a math background, works well with students and is available daily. If you think you might be this person and are available approximately one and a half hours during each school day, you can be a Math Instructional Tutor at Mesa. Please call and let us know at 303-494-4704.

### **PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES**

Conferences will be held on September 27 and 29 and October 3 and 5 from 3:30—7:00 PM. Sign up sheets are across from the office.

**FALL BIKE COLLECTION**

Mesa has participated in Share-a-Gift's annual **Fall Bike Collection** in the past. This year's bike collection will be on Friday, October 7. Families are asked to donate outgrown or unused children's bikes and helmets. Bring the bikes to Mesa **before** school. These bikes will be given away to children in need in the Boulder Valley school area. Your support of this worthwhile project is appreciated. And it gives you a chance to clean unwanted bikes out of your garage! For more information, contact Tom Corrigan at 303-591-1235.

**FLU SHOTS**

Flu shots will be available for Mesa parents and staff at Mesa on Thursday, November 3, from 3:15 — 5:15 PM. The vaccine in shot form will cost \$25. The nasal spray Flu Mist vaccine will cost \$30. Participants must be 18 or older. Sign up in the office.

**DESTINATION IMAGINATION**

This year's Destination Imagination program will kick off with a meeting for interested children and their parents on Tuesday, October 11. The meeting will be held from 7:00 — 8:00 PM in the riser area. Destination Imagination is a team-based activity, which helps students develop creativity and problem solving skills. Grades K-5 can participate. If you have any questions, please contact Barry Berdanier at 720-890-9166.

**YOUR HOME COMPUTER CAN HELP THOSE LESS FORTUNATE**

If you have access to a computer, you can log on and click to make a donation to several very worthy organizations.

At the Hunger Site, your click helps feed the hungry with 1.1 cups of staple food;

At the Breast Cancer Site, your click funds free mammograms for women in need;

At the Child Health Site, your click provides basic but critical health services to children in need;

At the Literacy Site, your click helps provide books to children in need;

At the Rainforest Site, your click funds the preservation of 11.4 square feet of endangered rain forest; and at

At the Animal Rescue Site, your click provides .6 bowls of food and care to a rescued animal in a shelter or sanctuary.

It costs nothing to click because donations are made by the sponsors of each site. The sites make it easy: just bookmark one in your "Favorites", and at the top of the site are tabs indicating the other sites.

Your click each day can make a big difference. Check it out at [www.thehungersite.com](http://www.thehungersite.com).

**INTERNATIONAL WALK TO SCHOOL DAY WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2005**

Walking to school with your child is one of life's little pleasures – just ask a parent whose children are grown and now want to drive to high school! Walking to school seems to slow things down and allows you and your child to talk, observe and enjoy each other's company. If you drive your child to school, think about parking a few blocks away and walking the final block or so to school with your child.

Why not try this on Walk To School Day? Mesa Elementary will be joining children and adults from schools around the United States and 36 countries around the world to celebrate International Walk to School Day. Please mark your calendar, "Walk, Don't Drive on 10/5." It would be great to have close to 100% participation from our school community on this official walk to school day. And who knows, walking to school could become a daily habit with your family.

**FAIRVIEW MARCHING BAND PERFORMANCE**

The Fairview High School Marching Band would like to extend an invitation to parents of elementary and middle school students to attend a performance of their 2005 marching show on Wednesday, October 26, at 1:00 PM. The performance will take place on the football practice field to the east of Fairview High School on Greenbriar Boulevard.

Each year immediately after their competitive season, the Fairview Marching Knights put on a performance expressly for elementary and middle school instrumental music students. Last year over 700 people attended. This year we would like to make sure parents know that they are also invited to attend.

This is a great opportunity to get a glimpse of what the high school marching program is about. If you have any questions, please contact Fairview band parent Priscilla Walker, 303-527-3832.

We hope to see you there!

**OFFICIAL PUPIL COUNT DAY IS FRIDAY 9/30**

Please try to have your student in school on Friday, September 30, because the number of students counted on this day determines the level of funding that BVSD will receive from taxes, state funding and other sources. The count is also used for reporting student-teacher ratios and for enrollment projections.

**GARDEN BEAUTIFICATION PROJECT**

Brownie Troop #1943 will be working on the gardens in front of Mesa Elementary. Our project is scheduled for October 2. If you are thinning your garden or have outdoor plants that need a new home, please give us a call. You can also donate money to purchase plants. If you are at a local nursery and see a plant or bulbs you would like to have at Mesa, feel free to purchase and donate your selection for the beautification of our school. Any and all plants and bulbs will be appreciated. Thank you for your help.

Dian Kiwiet 303.554.9028  
Vicky McPherson 303.494.4587

**KING SOOPERS GROCERY CERTIFICATES**

This is one of the biggest PTO fundraisers of the year. The great thing is that all the funds raised come directly from King Soopers. Through this program, King Soopers has donated approximately \$10,000 a year to Mesa.

You simply need to buy King Soopers grocery certificates at school and use them to purchase your groceries, pharmacy items, lift tickets or anything in the store. Each certificate costs \$25, and you receive the equivalent amount (\$25) of items at any King Soopers store in Colorado (with change back if you spend less). For every \$25 certificate sold, our PTO receives \$1.25 (5%). If you purchase \$500.00 a month in certificates, King Soopers annual contribution on your behalf is \$250!

The certificates are always on sale in the office or in front of school before or after school on designated days. You may also sign up to purchase certificates on a monthly basis using your credit card (we receive 2.5%) or post-dated checks.

**\*\*OFFICIAL PUPIL COUNT DAY IS FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 30.\*\***

**\*\*PLEASE MAKE SURE YOUR CHILD COMES TO SCHOOL THIS DAY IF AT ALL POSSIBLE.\*\***

**WILD OATS GROCERY CARDS**

New this year! Wild Oats offers a program similar to King Soopers. Each month we will collect orders for Wild Oats grocery cards. You will receive a grocery card for the amount you have specified, and the Mesa PTO receives 5% of that amount from Wild Oats. Look for the order form in your Friday folder this week. NOTE: The total of all orders must be at least \$500 to proceed with this program. If you shop at Wild Oats, please consider purchasing a grocery card to benefit our school.

**HELP AVAILABLE FOR FAMILIES IN TRANSITION IN BVSD**

We are painfully aware of the situation of families who have been displaced by Hurricane Katrina. But homeless situations can also occur here in Boulder. Parents can lose jobs and have to sell their home; parents can separate and have to live with grandparents. If you experience a change in your economic situation and find your family in transition, please know that your children have the right to continue in the school they are attending and receive transportation to that school, as well as receive hot lunch each day at no cost. BVSD believes if children stay in the school where they are familiar and comfortable, they continue to learn. Please talk to Mike Medina if your family is in transition, or contact the BVSD Coordinator, Christina Suarez, at 720-272-2074. All information is strictly confidential.

**HURRICANE RELIEF EFFORT**

Cayla Kennedy's mom, Jennifer Colvin, will be going to Slidell, Louisiana, to help with hurricane clean-up and the rebuilding effort. If you would like to contribute phone cards or gift cards from Target, Sears, or other major department stores, please contact Jennifer at 303-819-7250 or 303-828-5307. Look for posters with more information at school.

**VISION & HEARING SCREENING**

Vision and Hearing Screening will be Tuesday, October 18, beginning at 9:00 AM. Make sure your student attends school that day and brings his or her contacts, glasses and hearing aids to the screening. If you can volunteer for part or all of the day, please contact Jan North, PTO President, at 303-499-9112.



# Mesa Elementary School September 23, 2005

**A Triple 'A' School**  
**Academics**  
**Arts**  
**Athletics**

**Winner of the:**  
??**John J. Irwin Excellence Award 1999/2000,**  
**2000/2001, 2001/2002, and 2003/2004**  
??**Kennedy Center Schools of Distinction Award**  
**for Arts Education**

Principal: Mike Medina  
Secretaries: Judy Bullert and Emily Robbie

1575 Lehigh Street  
Boulder, CO 80305

Phone: 303-494-4704 Fax: 303-494-5908  
E-mail: mike.medina@bvds.k12.co.us



## MESA CALENDAR

*Sept. 27 & 29 and Oct. 3 & 5*  
3:30-7:00 PM Parent/Teacher  
Conferences

**Fri., Sept. 30 OCTOBER COUNT**

*Tues., Oct. 4 4:00 PM SIT*  
*6:15 PM PTO*

**Wed., Oct. 5 Walk To School Day**

*Fri., Oct. 7 5:00-8:00 PM Fall Fest*

**Mon., Oct. 10 NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS**

*Tues., Oct. 18 Vision & Hearing Screening*

# PTO CORNER

Thanks to everyone who volunteered (on the blue volunteer forms) to help with PTO's school spirit and fund-raising activities. Not only does the money raised by PTO enrich our children's classroom experience, but all of the school spirit activities PTO supports help Mesa generate our strong sense of community.

One of the many ways PTO helps our children is through Teacher Mini-Grants. **Monica Papas** has worked hard over the last month compiling mini-grant requests from Mesa teachers. This year, our mini-grant requests are larger than ever! Typical mini-grants include classroom speakers, field trips, supplies and assessment tools. Monica will present this year's mini-grant requests at our next PTO meeting for review and voting. Thank you Monica!

Don't miss the most important fall social event in Boulder. Fall Fest planning is successfully underway thanks to **Stephanie Keller**, PTO's Room Parent Coordinator. A favorite Mesa event for all kids, Fall Fest is filled with carnival booths, dinner served by teachers, cake walks, outside activities such as a jumpy castle and sports, plus much more. Many volunteers are needed to make this event a success. Be sure to check out the Fall Fest sign up sheets posted outside the office. Tickets will

go on sale in the office beginning October 3, or buy them at the door. **Fall Fest is Friday, October 7, 5 PM - 8 PM.**

Many thanks to **Tara Neuman** and **Lisa Beauchamp** for leading the Gift Wrap program which benefits our Outdoor Ed program. Look for details in the beginning of October.

Have you noticed the reserved parking spot on the north side of the parking lot? Brett Helstad won the spot at last spring's Silent Auction. Mesa's one reserved parking spot is up for grabs for the months of October — January. Anyone who attends the next PTO meeting, **(Tuesday, October 4, at 6:15 PM)**, gets a chance to win the spot for October!



After countless hours preparing for the event, Stephanie Keller and friends celebrate at the Fall Fest