

Mesa Elementary School

October 7, 2005



THE MESA MESSENGER

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parent Community,

The past two weeks have been extremely busy and very successful. The fifth grade returned from the annual outdoor education experience at Camp LaForet. This three-day outdoor educational program is sponsored by the Mesa PTO. The fifth grade students were proud of their accomplishments during the three days. Walk to School on Wednesday was a tremendous success; kudos to Christy Barth and Steve Cast, Mesa parents, for their direction with this event. We also completed two weeks of parent/teacher conferences, which were meaningful and beneficial for both parents and teachers. This Friday, October 7, our fabulous PTO has organized and is sponsoring the Fall Festival (5:00 PM – 8:00 PM). I am sure it will be a tremendous success and hope to see you all here tonight. On behalf of the entire staff and our community, we wholeheartedly thank all PTO members and volunteers for their continued dedication and contributions to Mesa.

On October 15 of each school year, every school has to report on the progress towards goals established for the previous school year. Mesa's School Improvement Team (SIT) together with teachers have invested a great deal of time and effort to evaluate the progress we are making as a school related to our established goals. We also identify areas in need of improvement. I am submitting the Mesa End of Year Report and our revised multi-year School Improvement Plan. These documents will be available in our office and will

be published on Mesa's web site. Mesa Elementary School is an excellent place for learning, and students are proud of their school. This past week we received a very special award from the State of Colorado for being an Accomplished School. The award is given to schools that have 90% of their students achieving at the 90 percentile over a three-year period in a particular grade level. Congratulations to our students and to Mesa staff!

In Partnership,

Mike Medina



Principal Mike Medina leads Mesa students as they walk to school on Wednesday for International Walk to School Day.

MESA'S MAGNIFICENT MILE RUNS

Mesa's Mile Runs are happening next week on Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday, October 11, 12 and 14. Check your child's permission form for the specific day and time. There are a few changes to the original schedule. Grade 5 has been moved to Tuesday from 9:00 to 11:00; Ms. Chartrand's 4/5 class will run at this time too. Grade 2 is still Friday, but the time is now from 12:45 to 2:55. Otherwise, all other grades are the same as originally scheduled. We are hoping for your enthusiastic support for this event, whether you can come for the entire time or only for the run. If arriving for the run only, please allow at least 30 minutes from our start time at Mesa to get to the Fairview track, to organize and stretch. Hope to see you there!

SCHOOL PHOTOS/RETAKES OCTOBER 20

Picture re-takes will be Thursday, October 20. If you missed the September photo session or want to have your photos re-taken, please plan on having your picture taken October 20. If you want more information, Life Touch has a customer service hotline available 7:00 AM – 6:00 PM Monday-Friday: 888-974-6867. NOTE: If you paid after the September photo session, your photos will arrive at Mesa, but they may come up to two weeks later than the regular school delivery.

WILD OATS GROCERY CARDS

Great news! We have enough interest in the Wild Oats grocery card program to cover the minimum order amount. The October order will be placed on Tuesday afternoon, October 11, so you still have time to order an October Wild Oats grocery card. Remember, Wild Oats will donate 5% of your amount to the Mesa PTO! Order forms are available in the Mesa office, and orders will be placed at the beginning of each month.

SHARE-A-COAT COMING TO MESA

In 2004, the Boulder Valley Rotary Club collected and distributed over 3,000 coats and other items of clothing through its Share-A-Coat program. The Share-A-Coat program benefits needy families and charitable organizations in Boulder County. This year, in addition to coats, you may also donate children's books. Collection boxes will be available October 13, with pick-up dates on October 27, November 10 and December 1. Donated coats will be

cleaned and distributed on December 17 and 18.

Once again, there is a contest associated with this program. Cash prizes will be awarded to the three schools that collect the most coats per student population. Mesa could earn \$50, \$75, or \$100. Thanks in advance for cleaning out those outgrown coats and donating them through Share-A-Coat.

HURRICANE RELIEF DONATIONS TOP \$1000!

A BIG THANK YOU! to the generous children and families of Mesa Elementary. Together we collected over \$1111.00 for hurricane relief. All donations have been sent to the American Red Cross and the Houston Public Schools. This significant donation will make a big difference in the lives of those impacted by the hurricane.

MESA AN "ACCOMPLISHED" SCHOOL

Mesa was identified by the Colorado Department of Education as an "Accomplished" school based on 90% of our students scoring proficient or advanced on CSAP in the area of Reading over the three years 2003-2005. These significant results have been recognized by state policy makers and will be featured before the State Board of Education.

DISCOVERY CENTER MATERIALS NEEDED

Don't forget to save those extra cereal boxes etc., for the discovery center in the art room. We still need a regular supply. Please drop them off in the art room any time. Thanks!

KICAPUT SINGERS AND DANCERS

Mesa had a special assembly on Friday, October 7, of the Kicaput (pronounced "gitch-ah-put") Singers and Dancers. This group is comprised of Yup'ik descendents who now live in Anchorage, Alaska. Though the Yupiit (plural for "Yup'ik) have long been known as Eskimos in American popular culture, they much prefer to be referred to by their traditional name. They performed in traditional Yup'ik regalia.

RECYCLE WORN ATHLETIC SHOES!

Please bring worn athletic shoes (no dress shoes, sandals, boots, muddy, or spiked shoes) to the collection bins in the front hall at Mesa until October 12. Eco-Cycle will collect used athletic shoes to be reused or recycled through the Eco-Cycle/City of Boulder Center for Hard-to-Recycle Materials (CHaRM). Many will be turned into surfaces for playgrounds and athletic fields. What better reason to clean our your closet!

VISUAL ARTS DEPARTMENT

Recently the fourth grade students went to the Denver Art Museum, where parents and students enjoyed the activities that Mrs. Christensen had planned. The students visited the European painting floor, which had artists such as Georgia O'Keefe, Picasso and Monet. The activity in these galleries had students and parents hunting for paintings which they thought filled a certain niche, such as: Find the painting you think took the most time to make, and Find the painting you would like to hang in your house.

Another floor visited was the Native American floor. It had traditional arts and crafts as well as some very contemporary Native American art. We did an activity sheet which had drawing exercises for students. They used their sketchbooks to record visual details of interesting art work on the Native American floor.

Mesa students received compliments for their wonderful museum behavior. Good job Fourth Graders! Special thanks to our parent volunteers who came along: Sudy Reynolds, Kristie Dimock, Kathy Smith, Kristine Schlager, Jane Ann Lockwood, David Rudman, Pam Berdanier, Margee Sullivan-Watkins, Ann Lamson, Kathy Larson, Peggy Kaufman, and Diana Fields.

BALANCING CAREGIVING WITH WORK WHEN YOUR CHILD IS SICK

(This message is from BVSD Health Services)

Count on it: Your child is going to get sick. For many parents, it means time away from work, lost pay and increased stress for all family members. By preparing for this event now, you can promote your child's health and keep your boss happy, too.

Before your child gets sick, try to find people who can help with care-giving. Options may include: Grandparents or other relatives, friends, neighbors, retired people, members of faith communities, college students, other parents who stay at home or run home-based businesses. As you search for alternative caregivers, you can offer value in exchange. Some people want money, but others might be willing to work in exchange for you taking on household chores, errands, or babysitting on evenings or weekends. If possible, line up several people to call. Have a plan A and plans B, C, and D.

It pays to discuss this issue ahead of time

with a spouse or partner. Be proactive regarding your child-care options. Plan ahead, and please make sure you identify key people on student's emergency card at school. Thank you!

HOW TO KNOW WHEN SCHOOL IS CLOSED

Under all but the most extreme conditions, school officials have a responsibility to keep school in session. When the weather is bad, but school is open, parents must make a family decision regarding attendance or late arrival for their children. It is your right as a parent to determine whether your child should be in school. A call or a written note will excuse a student's late arrival or absence during these conditions. When the weather is severe enough to close schools, it is extremely important that working parents have pre-arranged child care available to them. Please plan ahead in the unlikely event school is closed unexpectedly.

Announcements of closures will be made at BVSD's website, www.bvsd.org, and the following television and radio stations:

<u>Television:</u>	<u>Radio:</u>
KCNC channel 4	KBCO 97.3 FM
KMGH channel 7	KOA 850 AM
KUSA channel 9	KOOL 105.1 FM
Channel 8 in Boulder and Broomfield	KRNC 1060 AM
FOX 31 channel 13	KGNU 88.5
	KBNO 1280 AM
	KLAC 105.9 FM

VISION AND HEARING SET FOR OCT. 18

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

PTO SPONSORS HAWK QUEST

A special thanks to the Mesa PTO for sponsoring the second grade Hawk Quest presentation. It was an enriching experience to get up close and personal with these magnificent birds of prey.



Mesa Elementary School October 7, 2005

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

**Winner of the:
?? John J. Irwin Excellence Award 1999/2000
and 2000/2001 2003
?? Kennedy Center Schools of Distinction Award for Arts
Education
?? 2005 Colorado Department of Education
Accomplished School Award**

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@bvsd.k12.co.us

We're on the web
www.bvsd.k12.co.us/schools/mesa/

PTO CORNER

We hope everyone has a great time tonight at Mesa's biggest fall party, the Fall Fest. It takes loads of volunteers to make the Fall Fest so fun. Thanks to all the parents and teachers who volunteered!

We had a very successful PTO meeting on Tuesday night. **Monica Papis** did a terrific job presenting the 2005-2006 Teacher Mini-Grant Requests. For the last several years, our total approved mini-grants have averaged about \$7,000. On Tuesday we approved over \$13,000! A wide range of mini-grants were approved, including curriculum specific programs and cultural assemblies. The PTO is pleased to support these mini-grants which significantly enhance our children's education.

Thanks to **Christy Barth** and **Steve Cast**, who organized another great Walk to School Day. After a few years of rainy Walk to School Days, it was wonderful to walk to school on a beautiful fall day!

Our gift wrap sale kicked off today, thanks to **Lisa Beauchamp** and **Tara Neuman**. Proceeds from the gift wrap program directly offset the cost of Mesa's fantastic Outdoor Education program. While the main emphasis in the fourth grade program is orienteering

MESA CALENDAR	
Oct. 10	NO SCHOOL
Oct. 18	Vision/Hearing Screening
Oct. 17	8:45 AM All-School Assembly
Oct. 20	School Picture Retakes
Oct. 31	8:45 AM All-School Assembly 1:45 PM Halloween Parade 2:00 PM Class Parties
Nov. 1	6:15 PM PTO
Nov. 11	NO SCHOOL

and team building, the fifth graders advance to very challenging activities like rock climbing and high ropes courses. Parents in attendance at the recent fifth grade outing were amazed to watch the teamwork and encouragement from the kids toward their fellow classmates. It is an experience most kids would probably never have without this opportunity. We hope you can help support this program by buying some gift wrap. Out of town friends and relatives can also help by ordering on-line. Look for your catalogs, which include many wonderful new products, in your child's Friday folder.



Tara Neuman practices setting up the Gift Wrap Display on her Gift Wrap Co-Chairman Lisa Beauchamp.