

Mesa Elementary School

November 6, 2005



THE MESA MESSENGER

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parent Community,

We are in the process of reviewing and revising our Crisis/Emergency Plans. Discussions have taken place during staff meetings, PTO sessions and Coordinating Council meetings; they will continue during the next scheduled School Improvement Team meeting on November 8. The number one priority at Mesa Elementary School, in addition to student achievement, is to ensure the safety and welfare of students and staff. As we edit and revise our school emergency procedures, we have requested input from parent groups in collaboration with Mesa staff.

At the November PTO meeting, parents suggested:

- ?? All visitors must wear a visitor badge
- ?? All visitors must sign in
- ?? All BVSD employees should wear a badge
- ?? As many doors as possible should be locked throughout the school day

The main objective of these suggestions is to prevent occurrences like the one that happened recently at a BVSD school, which is elaborated in another article in this newsletter. At Mesa we make every effort to be prepared in the event of an emergency or unwanted act by some member of our society.

Please cooperate as we ask you to sign in every time you work or visit Mesa and wear a badge. Specific changes will be communicated to you next month as we finalize Mesa's Crisis/Emergency Plans

Mesa's PTO has decided to sponsor a parent volunteer group which will supervise the afternoon crosswalk area. This will require having a parent volunteer check in at the office and be available to supervise the crosswalk from 3:00 PM until 3:15 PM every school day. Mesa teachers will continue to supervise the morning crosswalk from 8:15 AM until 8:30 AM. It is difficult for teachers to leave the classroom immediately after school to cover crosswalk duties. We thank PTO for their continued support of the Mesa staff.

In Partnership with our Parent Community,

Mike Medina

MISSING: Mesa Visitor and Volunteer Badges. Please return any you might have to the box in the main office right away. We cannot insist visitors wear a badge if we have none to hand out. Many are missing.

WANTED: Parent volunteers for afternoon crosswalk duty and perhaps a parent coordinator for this worthy cause. If interested and available, please contact Judy Bullert in the main office @ 303-494-4704. No prior experience necessary!

THANK YOU FOR THE PLANTS, MESA!

The First Grade Brownie Troop leaders would like to thank the parents and Brownies who helped clean up and plant the front garden area at Mesa. You will see all the benefits next spring when both old and new plants start to grow and bloom. Thank you for your help and donations.

LOST AND FOUND ITEMS TO BE DONATED

Whenever you come to Mesa, please check out the overflowing Lost and Found alcove, located by the library. Coats not picked up by Thursday, December 1, will be donated to the Rotary Club Share-A-Coat Drive.

If items are not picked up by end of the day Monday, December 19, everything will be donated to a charity.

KEEPING OUR STUDENTS SAFE A TOP PRIORITY—PLEASE PLAN AHEAD

Last month an unknown man entered a BVSD school, and his presence raised the suspicions of staff members. When attempts were made to talk with him, he quickly left the building. At the same school, a man exposed himself to a student waiting outside the front door.

This is a good time for parents and teachers to revisit conversations about personal safety. We are asking families to remember that students should not be dropped off at school before 8:15 AM unless they are attending a supervised activity. Students also need to be picked up promptly after school. Students who are waiting to be picked up after 3:15 PM, after adult supervision ends on the playgrounds, are asked to come to the office to call for a ride home. **There should be no unattended students on the playground or on school grounds after 3:15 PM or before 8:15 AM.** Whenever parents are late, we request that you come into the building to pick up your student. In addition, if you are picking up your child early, please meet them inside the building and sign them out at the main office. This is a matter of safety. Thank you for discussing these safety issues with your child.

BVSD BUDGET INFORMATION AVAILABLE ONLINE

This information is from Bill Sutter, BVSD Director of Budget Services, 303-447-5193 ; bill.sutter@bvsd.org

Parents who want to be more "connected" with budget issues at the district level (AKA:

snapshot survey results regarding "I know how to obtain as much school budget information as I care to"...) will soon be able the link to the budget section of the BVSD website on the Mesa homepage website. This link will make it much easier for parents to access the district budget information available to the public and will help get information into the hands of community members. The link will be titled "District Budget Information" to distinguish it from budget information specific to Mesa. Until the link is on the Mesa homepage, please use this one: www.bvsd.org/index_budget.asp.

BOULDER COUNTY FLU CLINICS

Influenza is a contagious respiratory virus that can be prevented by immunization. Symptoms of flu include fever, headache, extreme tiredness, dry cough, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose and muscle aches.

If you missed the flu clinic at Mesa, or if your own doctor no longer has the vaccine, there are still flu clinics in Boulder County. There are children only clinics scheduled at the Boulder County Public Health Department from 1-6 PM on November 9, 16 and 23. For more information call the Colorado flu hotline at 1-877-462-2911 or visit their website at www.immunizecolorado.com.

AFTERSCHOOL ACTIVITIES AT MESA

Several parents have asked what activities are available at Mesa for students outside of school hours. The main office is compiling a list of organizations/activities, along with contact names and phone numbers, which will be posted on the Mesa School Community Board. Below is the list we have compiled so far. If you have more information, to correct or add, please call the Mesa office and let us know: 303-494-4704.

- Brownie Troop 1943 Wed.
- Brownie Troop 1285 Thurs.
- Chess Club Wed. (11/30-3/22) 303-494-4704
- Cub Scouts Pack 171 Tues.
- Girl Scout Troop 37 Wed.
- Kidlingua/German Wed. 303-499-1671
- Kids Speak Spanish Tu+Th 303-440-7196
- Science Matters Mon.+Fri. 303-805-9287
- YMCA Before & After School Care Mon.-Fri. + some holidays 303-494-9526

A GREAT GIFT IDEA: KINDERGARTEN NOTEPADS

Get out your holiday gift list! The deadline or ordering your Kindergarten Notepads is **Monday, November 7, 2005**. Mesa students in all grade levels, siblings, parents, and friends, can design and order personalized 4" x 5" notepads. It's easy:

1. Draw a design on a small sheet of white, unlined paper (half of an 8½" x 11" sheet of paper) using black ink (fine tip marker). The drawings will be reduced to fit in the corner of a 4" x 5" notepad.
2. Order a minimum of 5 notepads per drawing (\$1.50 per pad).
3. Return (1) order form (available outside the office); (2) drawing(s); and (3) check made out to "Mesa Activity Fund" to the Mesa office or your teacher.

We look forward to seeing all of the wonderful drawings, and thank you for supporting the Mesa kindergarten students!

MESA MAGAZINE

The Mesa PTO is pleased to sponsor Mesa Magazine, featuring stories, poems and articles written by the students of Mesa Elementary School. All students are welcome (and encouraged) to submit their writing for publication. More information will be coming soon for students, teachers and parents, but for now, expect a deadline in early or mid-December. Again this year students can drop off their finished pieces in a box in the Mesa Library. As always, this project needs lots of parent volunteers. Direct your inquiries to Stephen Topping at 303-543-3762 or satopping@comcast.net.

HALLOWEEN COSTUMES BRING SMILES

What a wonderful day on Monday—an awesome parade of costumes and delicious classroom treats. Everyone had a wonderful time. Here are some snapshots of the fun.

Ghouls, ghosts, witches, firefighters—all made an appearance during the school parade!



If Mesa had a costume contest, the best costume award would have gone to third grade student Max, based on originality, creativity and leading the way to a great Halloween.



Yum! Yum! Thank you for our treats!



Dr. Haley Rogers from Mr. Converse's class assists exotic bird Leah and glamour queen Madi.

MESA SILENT AUCTION

Mesa School is planning to have an adult night out this year for our silent auction. The date is yet to be confirmed, but we are looking at February 3, 4, 10 or 11. If you have any contacts or ideas for a festive location or delicious food, please contact Brenda Garby at 303-554-9339 or (howelgarby@comcast.net). Also, please start saving baskets; they will be needed to fill with great items for the auction. Stay tuned, as more details will be communicated soon, but plan on a big night out (adults only!) in February.

WILD OATS GROCERY CARDS

The November order for Wild Oats grocery cards will be placed on Monday afternoon, November 7. If you shop at Wild Oats, please consider purchasing a Wild Oats grocery card, as Wild Oats will donate 15% to the Mesa PTO. Order forms are available at the office.

PTO BOOK FAIR

NOTE: The dates for the annual PTO Book Fair have changed. The dates for the Book Fair will be Thursday and Friday, December 8 and 9. There will be NO HOT LUNCHESES served on those days.

The PTO Book Fair is a great time to stock up on new books and to purchase holiday gifts. This is an important fundraiser for our school. Book Fair profits go to the PTO general fund and are used for projects like teacher mini-grants awarded by the PTO.

MESA COMMUNITY BOARD

Have you had a chance to notice the Community Board in the hallway by the music room? On it is posted information the school receives which might be of interest to our community members. Be sure to take a look the next time you are in; there might be some things of interest to you and your family.

PURCHASE YOUR HOLIDAY PLANTS, WREATHS AND GARLANDS AT MESA

Information has been sent home about the holiday plant and wreath sale to benefit Mesa Outdoor Education. Please consider buying your holiday plants and decorations from Mesa. Orders are due by Friday, November 18, and will be available for pickup on Thursday, December 1, after school in the Mesa gym. For more information, please contact Diana Tanner at 303-499-0504 or d4t5ooar@indra.com.

BIRTHDAY BOARD IN ENTRANCE HALLWAY

Mesa has started a birthday bulletin board for students and staff. Right now birthdays for the months of August, September, October and November are posted. There is a guessing contest for the number of birthdays in each month. Feel free to take a guess!

MESA ART DEPARTMENT STARTS FUNDRAISER

Here is your chance to get products as unique as your child and support the Mesa art department at the same time. KidzArt creates products that feature your own child's full-color artwork. There are greeting cards, art and writing journals, matted prints, calendars, coffee mugs, T-shirts, sweatshirts, mousepads and decorative art tiles, all featuring artwork from your favorite artist...your child! These color reproductions will last longer than the original because of the quality of the inks KidzArt uses. Do not stress about holiday or special occasion shopping because you can do it all with KidzArt.

Look for your child's fabulous artwork featured on your KidzArt sample greeting card in a Friday folder you received. Please turn in the order form to your child's classroom teacher. Checks should be written to "Mesa Elementary School." **Orders are due this Monday, November 7.** If you are not ordering, please consider checking the box on the bottom of the order form, which gives permission to use your child's art in a school notecard assortment package.

PE NEWS FROM JACY BRUNO

All Mesa students have been working on their throwing skills. Students in Grades K and 1 have been focusing on quality underhand throws, while Grades 2 — 5 have been focusing more on quality overhand throws. After working in different stations, students are now learning fun games to incorporate their throwing skills. They are doing a great job, and it is fun to watch them develop.

WAGONS NEEDED AT MESA

Do you have a wagon that you no longer use? Please consider donating it to Mesa for use by the Grade 1 students. Thank you!

NEWS FROM THE LIBRARY FROM ARLENE MARTIN

Congratulations to Mrs. Knox's second grade class and to Mrs. Nankervis's first grade class! These students did not have any books that were more than two weeks overdue, and they will receive bookmarks as a reward.

CHESS LEAGUE COMPETITION

On Thursday afternoon, October 27, Mesa's competitive Chess League Team met the team from Fireside Elementary School in their first match of the season, and Mesa's team scored very well. Out of a total of eight games, Mesa won six, lost one and came to a stalemate in one game. Congratulations to the Mesa Team!

CHESS CLUB STARTS NOVEMBER 30

The Mesa Chess Club is recruiting new members. Students from all grade levels can participate, and beginning players are especially welcome. Chess Club will meet in the library the first Wednesday after Thanksgiving Break, right after school until 4:15 PM.

For some reason, chess seems to attract more boys than girls. This year we are making a special effort to have girls join Chess Club. After several weeks of practice, a girls-only competitive chess team will be formed, and this team may play girls from other schools. So, come on girls, let's show everyone that concentrated mental effort, planning ahead and thinking about strategies is not for boys only! We know females have these strengths in abundance; why not apply them to chess? Competition does not have to be knock-down, drag-out; we compete for fun and confidence as well. Talk to Principal Mike Medina or Betsy Puls, TAG Coordinator.

ROCKY MOUNTAIN TALENT SEARCH

Every year the University of Denver administers an off-grade level exam for students in Grade 5 through early high school with the goal of finding strong academic talent early and nurturing it. Although they used to give the SAT exam, now they give the PLUS exam to 5th and 6th grade students. For extremely bright children, this is an excellent chance to discover the extent of their academic strengths. The University invites children who score in a certain range to special summer classes. While this is especially valuable during the middle school years, there are also worthwhile classes or one-week camps for upper level elementary students. If you are interested in participating in this search, please contact Betsy Puls, Mesa TAG Coordinator, who can share more specific information with you. Her email address is betsy.puls@bvsd.org. You can also contact the University of Denver directly. The PLUS exam is given several times during the year.

MESA YEARBOOK NEEDS PICTURES

The Yearbook Committee has started working on pictures and needs your support. Please help your student's teacher take pictures of classroom activities and action shots of the children. You can take digital pictures and either email them to the yearbook editor, Dian Kiwiet, at kiwiet@comcost.net or copy the pictures to a CD and place the CD in the PTO mailbox at Mesa. Your student's teacher also has a class camera to take pictures. If you have any questions, please email them to Dian.

INCREASE IN CLASSROOM MINI-GRANT APPLICATIONS FOR IMPACT ON EDUCATION

Impact on Education, formerly the Foundation for Boulder Valley Schools, received 309 Classroom Mini-Grant applications this year—a 90 percent increase over last year! The Classroom Mini-Grant program funds creative, hands-on classroom projects that inspire and reinforce a love of learning. Last year, Impact on Education was able to fund all approved projects—a total of 140. However, this year the foundation had to drastically increase their fundraising efforts in order to fund as many approved projects as possible.

A donation of \$750 underwrites an entire Classroom Mini-Grant, including the cost of program support provided by Impact on Education. Donors at this level are matched with a project, listed in Impact on Education materials, and receive acknowledgment from the teacher and students. Because applications have been received from virtually every school, in most cases Impact on Education can match a donor with a Classroom Mini-Grant project in the school of his or her choice.

For more information about Classroom Mini-Grants, log on to www.impactoneducation.org. You can also contact Amanda Cherry, Development Coordinator for Impact on Education, at 303-245-5914, or email her at amanda@impactoneducation.org

A huge THANK YOU! to Debbie Gould, one of Mesa's Grade 4 parents, for representing Mesa on the Impact on Education Committee.

MS. CHARTRAND AWARDED IMPACT ON EDUCATION MINI-GRANT

Congratulations to Devira Chartrand, 4/5 Grade teacher, who has received an Impact on Education mini-grant! The money received will be used to produce hardbound books based on interviews by her students. The class is working with residents at the Meridian Retirement Community. Each resident will receive a book of their interviews.



Mesa Elementary School November 6, 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
?? Colorado Department of Education
2004 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 have begun planning on our next big event, Mesa's Silent Auction. This year's event will be an adult evening away from school sometime in February. If you have any contacts or ideas for possible locations, please contact Brenda Garby at howelgarby@comcast.net. And don't forget to save your baskets from holiday gifts. We can use all sizes and shapes for silent auction gift baskets.

Many thanks to **Catie McDowell** and **Amy Menell** who are working hard to enhance Mesa's open enrollment program. They are updating the brochures, tours and orientation programs Mesa provides prospective parents. If you have any input you feel is important or can provide them with a 2-3 sentence testimonial, please e-mail Catie at grosscmd@yahoo.com. Thanks also to **Brenda Garby** and **Doug Moldawsky** who are creating a video/DVD which will highlight the many innovative programs Mesa offers students.

Help Wanted: Mesa needs a parent representative for the District Parent Council (DPC). The DPC is a parent advisory group to the Boulder Valley School District's Superintendent, Administration and School Board. The representative is responsible for bringing

MESA CALENDAR

Tues. Nov. 8 4:00 PM SIT

Wed. Nov. 9 3:30 PM Open

Enrollment Planning Meeting

Thurs. Nov. 10 End Trimester 1

Fri. Nov. 11 **NO SCHOOL**

Fri. Nov. 18 Reports Cards Go Home

Nov. 21-25 *Thanksgiving Break*

Mon. Nov. 28 Open Enrollment forms available

issues concerning Mesa to the attention of district administrators. Meetings are held on the fourth Wednesday of the month, from 6:30 PM until 9:30 PM at the BVSD Education Center. If you are interested in this important position, or have questions, please contact Diana Fields at dcfields@qwest.net.

Finally, remember to buy King Soopers certificates. Mesa receives 5% of every \$25.00 purchase. The certificates are always on sale in the office or in front of school on selected mornings and afternoons. Don't forget to bring your checkbook!



Catie and Amy worked hard all week figuring out creative ways to attract prospective Mesa families