

Mesa Elementary School

November 18, 2005



THE MESA MESSENGER

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parent Community,

We recently met with all stakeholder groups who represent the Mesa community to discuss security procedures at Mesa. As a result of these discussions, on January 4, 2006, we will implement the following procedures and precautions at Mesa:

- ?? ***After the school day begins, only one door (the south parking lot door) will remain unlocked;*** all other doors will be locked throughout the school day.
- ?? All doors will be open between 8:00 AM and 8:45 AM and between 2:45 PM and 3:30 PM.
- ?? A new card-swipe key system will be installed at Mesa. The system will enable staff to use their card to open four exterior doors and allow students and staff to enter and exit the building conveniently. These four doors are (1) the south door, (2) the north door, (3) the third grade east door and (4) the door adjacent to the music room. All other doors, including the front east door, will be kept locked.
- ?? A video camera will be installed which will allow BVSD security to monitor the main entry.

The majority of the cost for this security system will be covered by BVSD as Mesa is a pilot school for this new system.

Mesa is a very safe school, but it has a tremendous human traffic flow. Because we have so many people in and out of the building during the school day, ***we will strictly enforce the visitor badge requirement.***

All non-staff visitors who are planning to participate in a school activity, volunteers, as well as BVSD service and maintenance employees, must sign in and visibly wear a badge. Please understand, while this may be inconvenient to you, the new policy will result in a safer environment for our children.

These sign-in procedures will also apply to the Mesa playground areas as we often have adults walking dogs, jogging, etc. on school grounds during the school day. Our staff will be instructed to inform anyone on the grounds that Mesa is off-limits when school is in session. Parents and other adults will be asked to check in at the office to get a badge.

Throughout the school year, in addition to regularly scheduled fire drills, we also schedule emergency practice drills for tornadoes and other potential dangers. We have been fortunate over the past several years not to have any dangerous situations at Mesa, but we will continue to familiarize our staff with possible scenarios so they will be able to respond appropriately to any situation. Our diligence hopefully will create a safer environment and yet maintain the balance necessary to keep the ***fantastic sense of community*** which has evolved at Mesa.

In Partnership,

Mike Medina

SHARE-A-GIFT — A MESA TRADITION

Mesa will be participating in the Share-a-Gift program again this year. Now in its 34th year, Share-a-Gift is the annual, all-volunteer toy collection and distribution holiday project. Each year over 2,000 boys and girls, ages birth to 14, in over 700 households within the BVSD area receive these community donations. To be successful, Share-a-Gift needs thousands of new and gently used toys, games, books and puzzles. Share-a-Gift allows children to participate meaningfully in gift-giving by sharing their own slightly used or new toys with a less fortunate child.

If you would like to help with this worthwhile project, please call 303-494-4258. Share-a-Gift is coordinated with the Holiday Giving Program, including Holiday Food Basket, sponsored by EFFA, and Share-a-Coat, sponsored by local area Rotary Clubs. Donations may be dropped off in the Share-a-Gift box, which will be in our school beginning the Monday after Thanksgiving, November 28, through Wednesday, December 14.

LIBRARY NEWS

Thank you so much to the Mesa PTO for enabling Arlene and Connie, Mesa's library staff, to attend a day-long conference in Thornton entitled, "Increasing the Effectiveness of Your School Library Program." They heard ideas for managing the library, ordering books, weeding out books, teaching library and research skills, scheduling, and promoting excellent literature. Many of the ideas from presenter Susan Haggberg and other librarians in attendance will be incorporated over the school year. Both Connie and Arlene are grateful for this most stimulating day!

TAG TALK

Betsy Puls, TAG Coordinator

Just a quick reminder that Chess Club starts the first Wednesday after Thanksgiving Break. There is nothing special to bring unless you want to bring your own chess set (and keep an eye on it so the pieces do not get mixed up with others). Just come to the Mesa library right after school on Wednesday, November 30; we will be there until 4:00 PM. Snacks will be

provided. PARENTS: When you come to pick up your children, please sign a permission slip which will allow your child to participate in Chess Club until Spring Break. Return the forms to me or my mailbox in the main office. We especially welcome girls and beginner players. Come check out Chess Club!!

Our Chess Tournament Team did very well last Wednesday in their match against Lafayette Elementary School. There were nine students who played. Of the top four in the "chess ladder", Positions One through Three won both games; Position Four won one game and lost one game. Only the top four scores count officially; the rest of the team played for fun and the experience of getting better through practice and competition with other students.

SHARE-A-COAT AND LOST AND FOUND

IMPORTANT REMINDER: The last pick-up day for Share-A-Coat at Mesa is Friday, December 2. All coats in Mesa's lost-and-found on that day will be donated to Share-A-Coat, so be sure to check out the overflowing alcove by the library before Friday.

So far Mesa has collected 71 coats for this worthwhile endeavor.

CU WIZARDS SCIENCE SHOW THIS SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 19

The next CU Wizards FREE science show is Saturday, November 19, at 9:30 AM on the University of Colorado Boulder campus in Chemistry 140. Professor Casey Hynes will be presenting "H₂O!!" If you haven't attended a CU Wizards science show, this is an excellent one to see because it is a fun, exciting and interactive exploration of this small molecule.

Mark your calendars for Saturday, December 17, at 9:30 AM, when CU Wizards will present "Boom! The Physics of Sound and Air Pressure" with Professor Mike Dubsen in Duane Physics Room G1B30. Parking is FREE in Lots 169, 308, 396 and 436 on campus.

To find a campus map and to access the year-long schedule of CU Wizards, visit: <http://www.colorado.edu/physics/Web/wizards/cuwizards.html>. If you have any questions, call or email Anna Clark, Assistant to David Nesbitt at the University of Colorado, Boulder Campus, 303-492-5011; anna.clark@jila.colorado.edu.

NOMINATE AN EXCELLENT TEACHER FOR AN IMPACT AWARD

Every year, Impact on Education recognizes educational excellence through the Impact Awards program by providing a visible forum and cash awards to individuals who make extraordinary contributions to public education.

Impact Award winners receive a \$500 personal award and also \$1500 for their school or department. In addition, winners are publicly recognized at the community-wide Impact Awards dinner, which this year will occur on April 6. Award recipients claim it is the high point of their careers!

To learn more or nominate an exceptional teacher, staff member or volunteer you know, log on to www.impactoneducation.org. Click "Programs," then "Impact Awards." Nomination forms are due December 16. The information above was provided by Amanda Cherry, Development Coordinator, *Impact on Education* — Community Partnership for Boulder Valley Schools (formerly the Foundation for Boulder Valley Schools), 303-245-5914; amanda@impactoneducation.org

PARENT WRITING SKILLS URGENTLY NEEDED FOR SCIENCE GRANT PROPOSAL

Several newsletters ago, interested parents were invited to join a committee to help write a grant for improving Mesa's science teaching facilities. Perhaps some parents intended to respond but forgot. If you are interested, please contact Betsy Puls, Mesa's TAG Coordinator, right away. She cannot carry this important endeavor alone, and February is the deadline for filing a proposal. Leave a message for Betsy with your name and contact information at 303-494-4704, ext. 252 or via email: betsy.puls@bvsd.org

LAST NEWSLETTER OF THE YEAR

The Mesa Messenger will be published only once in December: Friday, December 16.

ANNUAL PTO BOOK FAIR DECEMBER 8 & 9

The Mesa Book Fair will be set up in the cafeteria on Thursday and Friday, December 8 and 9, from 8:00 AM until 7:00 PM.

NOTE: No hot lunches will be served on these two days.

Family and friends are especially invited to visit the Book Fair because this is a wonderful place to find books for gifts and other items which may be of interest. There will also be classroom "wish lists" so you can donate books to a specific class. Cash, checks and charge cards will be accepted. Come do some holiday shopping and benefit Mesa at the same time.

FALL DESIGN EXPO AT CU

Parents and students are invited to attend the CU-Boulder's Integrated Teaching and Learning Program's Design Expo on Saturday, December 3, from 1:00 PM until 3:00 PM at the ITL Laboratory on the CU-Boulder campus. At this free and open-to-the-public event, young students, their parents, siblings and teachers will be able to learn about and see engineering and technology in action in a university setting. Free parking is available across the street in Lot 436.

Developed by CU engineering students, many inventions and re-designed products will be on exhibit. This is a fantastic learning experience for students who may someday pursue a career in science, technology or engineering, and also a great way to introduce higher education to the younger student. This semester's engineering exhibits include an automatic ski waxer, a skateboard braking system and wind turbines. Everyone is welcome to attend.

For more information, please call the ITL Laboratory at 303-492-7222.

OPEN ENROLLMENT PERIOD IS NOVEMBER 28 THROUGH JANUARY 20

If your family has moved out of the Mesa attendance area since September 2005, your student can continue to attend Mesa for the remainder of this school year. If your student expects to attend Mesa next fall, you will need to fill out and return an open enrollment form before 4:00 PM on January 20, 2006. If your student has open enrolled to Mesa and will be going to middle school next year, your student will be assigned to the neighborhood school, based on your home address.

Open enrollment forms will be available at any BVSD school beginning Monday, November 28. If you have any questions about open enrollment, contact the Education Center at 303-245-5900.



Mesa Elementary School November 18, 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/

MESA CALENDAR	
Thurs. Dec. 1	10:00 AM School Tours
Tues. Dec. 6	6:15 PM PTO
Wed. Dec. 7	1:00 PM School Tours
Thurs. & Fri. Dec. 8 & 9	8:00 AM-7:00 PM Book Fair
NO HOT LUNCHES	
Tues. Dec. 13	10:00 AM School Tours
	3:30 PM SIT
Thurs. Dec. 15	1:00 PM & 7:00 PM M&M Winter Concert

PTO CORNER

The open enrollment period begins on November 28, and a dedicated group of Mesa volunteers have been updating Mesa's open enrollment materials. This year it is particularly important for Mesa to enroll a large Kindergarten class and a lot of open enrollees so that we can keep our full-time specialists. Mesa will be giving guided school tours and K-5 orientations for prospective families, but every parent can help too. Tell you friends and neighbors about Mesa! Our school is nationally recognized for our exemplary CSAP achievement, and we balance our superior academics with outstanding art, music and athletic programs. As you know, Mesa's teachers are fantastic and they work hard to create a seamless integration from grade to grade and across the music, art and PE programs. For many people, however, the greatest attribute that distinguishes Mesa from other schools is our strong sense of community. Help spread the word!

This year the Mesa PTO will facilitate an "Adopt-a-Family" holiday gift exchange with the Whittier International Elementary School PTA. Whittier is a Family Resource School. The Family Resource Program encompasses schools in the City of Boulder that have a higher percentage of children eligible for free and reduced lunches, English as a Second

Language, and families under financial stress. If you are interested in purchasing gifts for a family in need or in helping coordinate this exchange, please contact Debbie Gould (303-494-8266) or dwgould4@comcast.net. We will be sharing more information as we receive it from the Whittier PTA. Thank you!!!

Thanks to everyone who ordered the Sally Foster gift wrap. It is not too late to order on-line at SallyFoster.com. Mesa's school account number is 53458.

Lauren Claflin, our former PTO co-president and mother of the infamous triplets, had a baby girl on Thursday, November 15. Campbell Collinsworth Claflin weighed 7 lbs. 1 oz. and was 19" long. The Claflins moved to Kansas City last summer but will hopefully be back for a visit this winter. Congratulations to the entire Claflin Family!



Future Mesa PTO president Campbell Claflin