

Mesa Elementary School

December 16, 2005



THE MESA MESSENGER

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parent Community,

We are very thankful for the great partnership we have established with our community. Mesa parents have been tremendous contributors toward the overall success of our school. The Colorado Department of Education (CDE) has just released the School Accountability Report (SAR) for the 2004 – 2005 school year. This report is the official report card for overall school performance. The two major categories evaluated were: overall academic performance on state assessments and academic growth of students. Mesa received the highest rating possible in each of these categories. In addition we attained 12 out of 12 targeted goals in meeting Annual Yearly Progress (AYP), as defined by the *No Child Left Behind* legislation. Mesa has earned **Excellent School Status** and also earned **Significant Improvement Status** in the two areas. This report card is being sent home to every family in their student's Friday folder.

As we begin to plan ahead for next year we have hosted open enrollment tours for prospective families. The timing of these tours has coincided with the release of these awards for Mesa Elementary School. On behalf of our staff, we are extending a very special thank you to all our parents and

PTO representatives who have contributed greatly in developing advertisement posters, brochures and a new DVD, all of which are being used to promote Mesa. Special kudos to: Doug Moldawski for producing the professional DVD; Brenda Garby for her photography work; Debra Topping for her creative artistic designs; Debra, Amy Menell, Jan North and Catie McDowell for producing the new Mesa brochure (they also have worked on the open enrollment committee). Thank you also to Catie, Sue Erickson, Mia Jenak, Julianna Giudici and Ann Fedor for helping guide the open enrollment tours. So many Mesa parents have contributed to these overall efforts. You know who you are, and we thank every one of you!

I am often reminded of the belief that "*Educating Everyone Takes Everyone.*" Certainly the recognition of Mesa can be attributed to our entire community for its fantastic support of our teachers and school. On behalf of Mesa Elementary, we wish everyone in the community the best possible holiday season.

In Partnership,

Mike Medina
Principal

GIFT SUGGESTION FROM IMPACT ON EDUCATION

This information comes from Amanda Cherry, Development Associate, Impact on Education. You can contact her at 303-524-3865 or amanda@impactoneducation.org

The offices of Impact on Education have moved: 75 Manhattan Drive, Suite 205, Boulder 80303.

This holiday season, surprise your friends and family with the perfect holiday gift: *Boulder on Board*, Boulder's own real estate trading game, was developed by Impact on Education, formerly the Foundation for Boulder Valley Schools, to benefit the Opportunity Fund. This "opoly"-style game features Boulder's own businesses and attractions. Game tokens include a buffalo, skier and snowboarder and prairie dog. The board centerpiece is a montage of Jim Freeheart's gorgeous art depicting the Flatirons, Chautauqua, Farmer's Market, Pearl Street Mall and Boulder Creek.

Best of all, proceeds benefit kids in need by way of Impact on Education's Opportunity Fund. The Opportunity Fund provides funds to allow the 4,000+ BVSD students from low-income families the chance to access academic, extracurricular and enrichment opportunities that increasingly require participation fees. By purchasing a game, you can help a student rent a musical instrument, attend a field trip, pay for advanced placement classes and much more!

Boulder on Board can be purchased at Art Mart, Celestial Seasonings, the CU Bookstore, McGuckin Hardware, Peppercorn and Sturtz & Copeland for \$34.99 plus tax. Log on to www.boulderonboard.org for more information.

HEALTH ROOM NEEDS SPARE CLOTHING

If your children have outgrown their clothing, please consider donating some of it to the Mesa health room. Especially on cold, wet days, it is nice to have dry clothing on hand for children to borrow when they get wet on the playground. We especially need socks. Thank you for your support.

P.E. NEWS—FROM JACY BRUNO

Over the last two weeks, all students have been working on hockey skills. Grades K and 1 have been focusing on staying under control while dribbling and passing. Grades 2-5 have been working on these same skills plus goal shooting, and they have played different games to incorporate those skills. They are all doing a great job!

STOCK UP ON KING SOOPER

CERTIFICATES FOR YOUR HOLIDAY SHOPPING

Don't forget to purchase enough King Sooper grocery certificates to see you through the holidays. Mesa's main office will be open until 4:00 PM on Tuesday, December 20, and will re-open 8:00 AM on Wednesday, January 4. Thank you for your continued support of our school!

WILD OATS/IDEAL MARKET GROCERY CARDS

The next Wild Oats grocery card order will be placed on Monday, January 9, 2006, and the cards will be in the Mesa office on Wednesday, January 11. Please fill out an order form available which is in the main office.

CU WIZARDS SCIENCE SHOW IS THIS SATURDAY, DECEMBER 17

The University of Colorado invites you and your students to the next FREE CU Wizards Show on Saturday, December 17. "Boom!! The Physics of Sound and Air Pressure" will be presented by CU Professor Mike Dubson. The show begins at 9:30 AM in Duane Physics G1B30 (the first show this year in the physics building) and lasts approximately one hour. For a campus map and more information about upcoming CU Wizards Shows, please visit their website at: www.colorado.edu/physics/Web/wizards/cuwizards.html. If you have any questions, contact Anna Clark, Assistant to David Nesbitt, University of Colorado, Boulder, 303-492-5011, anna.clark@jila.colorado.edu.

FINAL DETAILS ON THE PLANT SALE

If you picked up plants "needing a home" across from the office after the Outdoor Education Plant Sale earlier this month and forgot to pay for them, please contact Judy at 303-494-4704 right away.

DRESS STUDENTS FOR THE WEATHER

Boulder is a great place to live, and as you know, "if you don't like the weather, just wait a minute or two and it will change." Please be sure your student is dressed appropriately each school day no matter what the weather. Mesa students work hard in the classroom and need some time outside for physical activity. Students will be going out for recess if at all possible and be expected to wait outdoors before the morning bell rings.

SAVE THE DATE—MESA SILENT AUCTION SET FOR SATURDAY, MARCH 11

The Mesa Silent Auction will be held at The Nature Conservancy (Spruce and Folsom in Boulder) on Saturday evening, March 11, from 6:30 – 9:30 PM. We are very thankful to The Nature Conservancy for allowing us to use their beautifully designed and decorated space. We hope you can join us for an enjoyable evening full of great deals, food and company!



The Nature Conservancy, Boulder

NAMES NEEDED IN PERSONAL ITEMS/ LOST AND FOUND IS DONATED

Please put your student's name in all personal items brought to school. This includes hats, mittens, coats and lunch boxes. We do return items which are labeled, but without identification, not everything in the Lost-and-Found finds its way back to its owner.

REMINDER: The Mesa Lost-and-Found will be donated to charity after Tuesday, December 20. Be sure to stop by and check for anything your family may be missing.

VOLUNTEER NEEDED FOR AWESOME JOB

Mesa needs a sound and lights person to help with upcoming shows this spring. This person will be trained by Rob Fauver and Doug Pintar. Lots of fun to be had!!! Please contact Sarah Knoebel, Mesa's music specialist, if you would like more information:
sarah.knoebel@bvsd.org.

THANK YOU MESA! FROM SHARE-A-GIFT

Share-a-Gift would like to thank Mesa families for their generous contributions to our annual holiday toy collection. These toys will brighten the holidays for 1,400 children in the Boulder Valley School District attendance area.

GRANTS FOR ART AND SCIENCE

As we continue to refine science teaching and programming at Mesa, we have assembled a committee to write grant proposals for converting and remodeling the current art room into a science lab and building an art room, complete with kiln, on the north end of the school.

The committee needs interested parents, as well as architectural expertise, to help with the work of this important committee. Our capital campaign goal is \$100,000+. Please consider donating your talent and/or time during the spring of 2006. Contact Betsy Puls or April Christenson if you have any questions or want more information: betsy.puls@bvsd.org or leave a message for them at 303-494-4704.

TAG TALK—FROM BETSY PULS

Chess Club is up and running with 50+ students, including some eager young women learning this ancient royal game. Bravo! Thanks to parents Laura Spicer and Richele Mein for their wonderful help.

A good book for students is Starting Chess, an Usborne publication with internet links, by author Harriet Castor. Remember to practice your strategies with family members over Winter Break.

ISSE UPDATE

Last school year the Mesa staff made a decision to discontinue the International School to School Experience program (ISSE). As part of that decision, we agreed to host a group of students from Mexico City and their chaperone and not to send Mesa students to Mexico. As we transition out of this program, we are hosting the Mexican students beginning January 15 through February 3, 2006. A welcome assembly is scheduled for our Mexico City friends on Tuesday, January 17 at 9:00 AM. Parents are welcome to attend.

We would like to extend a special thank you to all the families who are hosting these students from Mexico.

WOW! WHAT AN ASSEMBLY!

A special thank you to Lori Kemmet and Jeff Bailey, parents of kindergarten student Georgia Bailey, for sponsoring the fantastic assembly held on Friday, December 16, featuring Rich Castro, a talented storyteller and musician.



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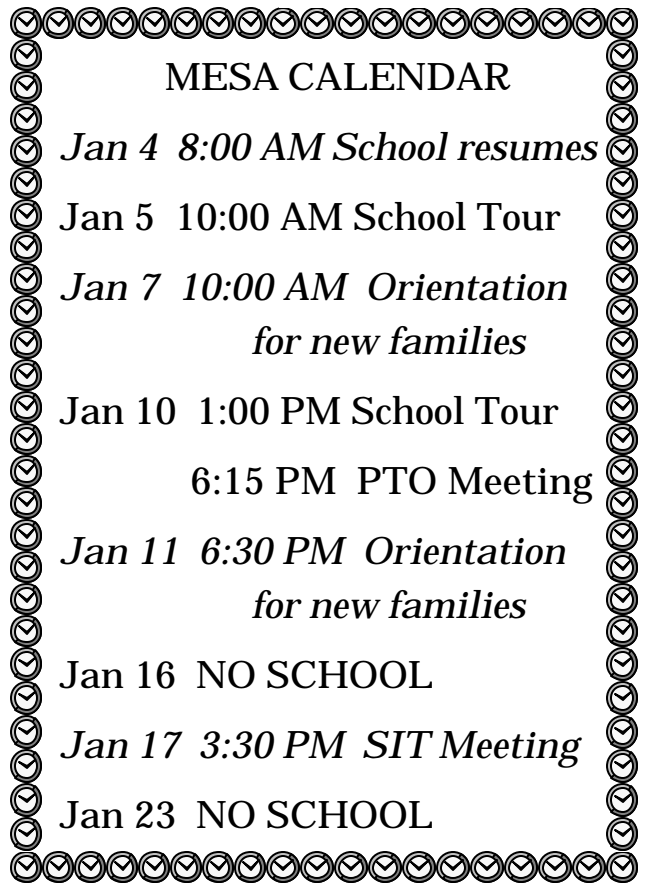
A Triple 'A' School
Academics
Arts
Athletics

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
****Colorado Department of Education****
2004-05 School Year School Accountability Report
Excellent Overall Academic Performance
Significant Improvement Academic Growth of Students.

Principal: Mike Medina
Secretaries: Judy Bullert and Emily Robbie

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MESA CALENDAR

- Jan 4 8:00 AM School resumes*
- Jan 5 10:00 AM School Tour*
- Jan 7 10:00 AM Orientation
for new families*
- Jan 10 1:00 PM School Tour
6:15 PM PTO Meeting*
- Jan 11 6:30 PM Orientation
for new families*
- Jan 16 NO SCHOOL*
- Jan 17 3:30 PM SIT Meeting*
- Jan 23 NO SCHOOL*

PTO CORNER

Happy Holidays! Despite being a busy time of year, Mesa's PTO and parent volunteers have been working hard:

Open Enrollment

Mesa has had three very successful tours so far, each with more participants than expected. Thank you **Catie McDowell, Sue Erickson, Anne Fedor, Mia Jenak** and **Julianna Giudici** for leading tours. Participants have been very impressed with Mesa, and many have commented on our strong sense of community. A huge thank you to **Debra Topping** for lending us her graphic artist expertise to create beautiful new brochures and posters. Thanks again to **Doug Moldawsky** and **Brenda Garby** for creating the DVD which highlights the many innovative programs Mesa offers students. Three more tours are scheduled for January.

Silent Auction

Save the date! Mesa's "parent only" silent auction will be Saturday, March 11th from 6:30 - 9:30 PM. This year's offsite event will be held at the beautiful and "green" Nature Conservancy. Many thanks to **Diana Fields** for obtaining this great

location. Please start thinking about goods and/or services you might be able to donate, and don't forget to save your holiday baskets for our popular auction baskets. Look for more information after the break.

Scholastic BookFair

Thank you **Susan Richstone** and the many volunteers who ran the Scholastic Book Fair. The fair raised almost \$1800.

Parenting Engagement Network (PEN)

Leisha Conners Bauer, a Mesa parent who is the Boulder County representative for PEN, attended our December PTO meeting to give a report on PEN and the resources it can make available to Mesa. The Parent Engagement Network (PEN) is a parent-based group which seeks to engage parents and the community in fostering youth resiliency and developing solutions to high-risk behavior. We are working with Leisha to arrange a Parent Night Talk on transition (e.g., from elementary school to middle school) to take place early in 2006. We will also be looking at sponsoring other events to address communication, bullying and parenting skills in general. Thank you Leisha!