

Mesa Elementary School
January 13, 2006



THE
MESA MESSENGER

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parent Community,

As the school year moves along at a very rapid pace, we are actively planning for the 2006 – 2007 school year. The Boulder Valley School District is in the midst of the open enrollment season, and Mesa has hosted numerous tours and orientations for prospective families. During these tours and orientations, and after talking with many prospective parents, I am reminded of just how special a place this school named Mesa is! We are truly fortunate to work at this school, and your children are the recipients of this great fortune.

The incredible community surrounding Mesa Elementary School was especially evident this past holiday season. Emily Robbie, Mesa's new secretary, commented on how overwhelmed she was with the generosity and kindness of Mesa students and parents. The Mesa staff is genuinely appreciative of your thoughtfulness, especially the gifts during the holidays.

On behalf of all Mesa staff, I wish to extend a heartfelt thank you to our community for your continued support of our work with your children.

Enclosed with this newsletter are two letters. One letter is from a Mesa parent who recently experienced adversity and has been kindly supported by this community. In addition, I received a letter from one of our students who I believe writes for the many thankful students within our student population.

I always close my newsletter article with my usual salutation "In Partnership with Community," and I have welcomed all people at our orientations and tours by explaining that "educating all children takes all of us." I believe the enclosed letters are evidence of a community in harmony with these endeavors. Thank you one and all!

Sincerely and In Partnership
with our Community,

Mike Medina
Principal

**MISSING:
PLAYGROUND PLANNING NOTEBOOK**

This fall someone borrowed Mesa's 3-ring binder filled with information about planning for the playground. If you have this notebook, please return it to the office right away. It is our **only** copy!

SHARE-A-COAT DRIVE A SUCCESS

This information comes from Bob Harberg, Coat Drive Coordinator for the Boulder Valley Rotary Club:

Thank you for your participation in this year's Share-A-Coat program. Your efforts were sincerely appreciated. With your help, we collected over 3,600 coats and many other winter garments such as sweaters, snowsuits, hats, gloves, scarves and boots from Boulder and Broomfield County schools and businesses.

On Saturday and Sunday, December 17 and 18, many of these garments were given to the less fortunate people of Boulder County as part of the Holiday Giving Program. Other garments were given to various charitable organizations for distribution throughout the winter. Storybooks were also collected and distributed by Share-A-Gift; approximately 1,000 books were collected.

It is because of the participation of schools that we did so well. On behalf of the Boulder Valley Rotary Club, we extend a heart-felt **THANK YOU!** Without your help, it would not have been possible. We look forward to working with you again next year.

THANK YOU MESA COMMUNITY!

**MEALS FOR TEACHERS NEEDED FOR
CONFERENCE NIGHTS**

Parent/Teacher Conferences are coming up on January 31, February 2, 6 and 8. It would be nice to supply our time-pressed teachers with dinner, especially since they will be teaching 8:00 AM-3:00 PM and then begin conferencing at 3:30 PM until 7:00 PM on those days.

It has been suggested that finger foods on some nights and soup and salad on other nights might work well. Set-up and clean-up duties are covered, but we need volunteers to bring food for six people each night.

Please contact Lisa Melli Gillespie, Erin's mom, at 303-494-8820 or lisamgillespie@msn.com if you are willing to help with dinner for any (or all!) of the conference dates. There will be a sign-up sheet at the office beginning the week of January 23. Thank you for your help.

MESA YEARBOOK NEEDS PICTURES

The Yearbook Committee reminds you to help your student's teacher by taking 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@comcast.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.

**P.E. NEWS
FROM JACY BRUNO**

Jump Rope for Heart is quickly approaching and will take place the week of Valentine's Day on February 13, 14, and 15. Be looking for more information to follow in your child's Friday folder.

We will also be having an after-school Jump Rope Clinic that will take place on Mondays and Wednesdays. The dates are January 25 and 30 and February 1, 6, and 8. (There will be no clinic on January 23 due to a professional development day.) The clinics run from 3:00-4:00 PM. Any interested K-5 student may participate. Students will be able to learn new tricks and work on short and long rope skills.

**BIRTH CERTIFICATES NEEDED IN EVERY
STUDENT'S CUMULATIVE RECORD FILE**

The No Child Left Behind Act requires tracking of all students in all schools throughout the country. In order to do this, full legal names, as they appear on a birth certificate or passport, are required to identify each student. This is why "Betsy" has to be recorded as "Elizabeth" on her official student records.

Over the next few weeks the office staff will be checking student files, to see if a birth certificate is recorded. Parents will receive a request to provide legal documentation of their student's name, and we thank you for providing the information promptly when you receive this notice.

IMPACT ON EDUCATION FUNDS CREATIVE CLASSROOM PROJECTS

This information comes from Amanda Cherry, Development Associate, Impact for Education:

Impact on Education, formerly the Foundation for Boulder Valley Schools, annually awards creative teachers funds to implement classroom projects that bring the curriculum to life through its Classroom Mini-Grants program.

Recently, Impact on Education announced the 2005-06 Classroom Mini-Grant recipients. In total, the organization funded 148 projects in 48 schools for a total of \$83,770! Projects span all curriculum areas and grade levels. To view a complete list of all 2005-06 recipients, log on to www.impactoneducation.org and click "Classroom Grants."

Classroom Mini-Grants are available to teachers and other Boulder Valley School District employees. The application process is entirely on-line and will be available again next fall. In addition, Impact on Education currently is developing an on-line "best practices" database containing information about the best projects it has funded. The database aims to help potential applications develop and refine their project ideas. It will be available on Impact on Education's website early in the first quarter of 2006.

Classroom Mini-Grants are sponsored by local businesses, foundations and community members. A donation of \$750 underwrites an entire project, including the cost of program support provided by Impact on Education. Sponsors often choose to be matched with a school or curriculum area of their choice. They receive a thank you note from the teacher and students and recognition in Impact on Education's annual report. To sponsor a 2006-07 Classroom Mini-Grant, contact Impact on Education at its new offices, located in Boulder at 75 Manhattan Drive, Suite 2005 (zip code 80303) or call 303-524-3865.

MUSIC NEWS

FROM SARAH KNOEBEL

The recording of the M&M Winter Concert is available in either DVD or VHS format. Pick up an order form in the music room. Cost is \$20.00 (DVD) or \$15.00 (VHS).

Rehearsals continue on this year's musical,

"Once Upon This Island." Ms. Fischer's class will have its dress rehearsal at 1:00 PM on Wednesday, March 1, with their formal performance at 7:00 PM. Ms. Thompson's class will have their dress rehearsal at 1:00 PM on Thursday, March 2, and their formal performance at 7:00 PM. All are welcome to attend any performance.

TAG TALK

FROM BETSY PULS, TAG COORDINATOR

Chess News: Our Wednesday Chess Club has been going full tilt. We have had over 60 students in attendance for the past few weeks. No one is too much a beginner or too rusty to participate. In particular we would love some girls to attend. Books which parents might be interested in buying for their children include:

The Kids' Book of Chess and Illustrated Chess for Children, both by Harvey Kidder

Chess For Kids, by Michael Basman

Starting Chess with Internet Links, by Harriet Castor (Usborne)

Junior Great Books: Junior Great Books is a shared inquiry method of learning and sharing stories, some of which can be quite challenging. Grade level sessions which occur during the school day will happen later this spring. Parents should be thinking about whether their student will participate. Each child is expected to have his/her own copy of the book (multiple stories within each book) that will be read. The cost is approximately \$10.00 to \$15.00 for each book, depending upon the grade level. Scholarships are available. Sign-up sheets will be available through your child's teacher the last week in January.

LIBRARY NEWS

FROM ARLENE MARTIN

Thank you to many parents who donated books at the Scholastic Book Fair. What a wealth of enjoyment and learning our library has become!

Thank you to the individuals who donated the books Eloise and Battle to the Mesa Library. If you would please identify yourself, we would like to put your name on the inside cover to recognize you as the donor.



Mesa Elementary School January 13, 2006

**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

Jan 16 *NO SCHOOL*

Jan 17 3:30 PM SIT

Jan 19 10 AM *K-5 School
Tour*

1 PM & 7 PM *Grade 2
Music Program*

Jan 20 Open Enrollment
Closes

Jan 23 *NO SCHOOL*

Jan 25 Grade 3 Magic of

Science Program

PTO CORNER

Happy New Year! Following are four easy and painless New Year's resolutions that will make you feel good and help Mesa at the same time.

1. I will buy King Soopers certificates.

Buying KS certificates is easy, and for every \$25.00 certificate sold, Mesa receives 5%. Purchase certificates on a monthly basis using post-dated checks or your credit card, and an envelope with your KS certificates will magically appear in the office at the beginning of every month (courtesy of **Bruce Bauer**). KS certificates are always on sale in the office.

2. I will go out for an adult-only evening.

How does a beautiful setting, fantastic food and drinks, casual dress, stimulating conversation with other parents and teachers, and exciting auction items sound? This year's adult-only Silent Auction will be the evening of March 11, from 6:30 - 9:30 PM, and will take place in the beautiful Nature Conservancy building on Pearl Street. Make a date with your significant other and come for the whole evening or just stop buy

for a bit. If you are in the mood to bid on auction items, there will be lots of fun stuff like teacher outings for the kids, classroom pottery, tickets to museums and sporting events and, of course, lots of cool gift baskets. We are even hoping to organize a YMCA baby-sitting night at Mesa for that night.

3. I will clean out my house.

Do you have any baskets left over from holiday gifts? If you do, we need them for silent auction gift baskets. Please drop them off in the office.

4. I will get more involved at school.

There are so many ways you can contribute your ideas, opinions or a helping hand to our school, and attending a Tuesday evening PTO meeting is a great way to start. Our upcoming meetings are February 7 and March 7 at 6:15 PM. Besides getting the inside scoop on all things Mesa, you may even win a reserved parking spot!