

Mesa Elementary School

January 27, 2006



THE MESA MESSENGER

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Mesa Community,

The open enrollment period ended on January 20th with another year of large turnouts for our tours and orientations at Mesa Elementary School. We had many parents who facilitated the tours, and they were fabulous ambassadors for the school. We are anticipating three classes (rounds) of kindergarten for next year. The remaining number of classes (rounds) per grade level is determined by how many students we have enrolled. The overall staffing allocation is determined by BVSD. This process is decided upon in April and May each year.

Mesa staff spent time with members of the School Improvement Team (SIT) on Monday and assessed progress on the School Improvement Plan (SIP) which was developed last year. This year we have targeted writing as our main achievement goal; school climate and no bullying are targeted as our organizational goals. As a result of our staff development sessions on Monday, we determined we are on track to attain our goals but have some adjustments to make to guarantee all our students are successful. We often assess the importance of maintaining a safe school environment for all students. Mesa is a high achieving school, and we must continue to evaluate our strategies to ensure continued success. We are extremely grateful for the hard work and commitment of our SIT members.

During in-service discussions on Monday, the staff explored ways to schedule math at a common time for Grades 3 through 5. This common math period would allow more flexibility in meeting the needs of individual students. We are considering flooding resources during this time period to better serve students at various skill levels. In addition, we

would add resources to the primary grades to assist teachers with math in Grades 1 and 2.

With so many assessments mandated by Colorado, we are always scrambling to prepare students for the "high stakes" CSAP tests. Please keep in mind the CSAP testing windows as we approach CSAP beginning with 3rd Grade Reading on February 15. The exact testing schedule is included in this newsletter.

In addition, Parent/Teacher Conferences will be held over the next two weeks. The sign-up sheets are located across from the office.

In Partnership,

Mike Medina

****IMPORTANT FEBRUARY DATES FOR PARENTS****

Parent/Teacher Conferences 3:30-7:00 PM

Tuesday & Thursday, January 31 & February 2

Monday & Wednesday, February 6 & 8

Jump Rope Clinics 3:00-4:00 PM

Monday & Wednesday, January 30, February 1, 6 & 8

Student Council 8:00 AM

Wednesday, February 1 & 15

Chess Club 3:00 PM

Wednesday, February 1, 8, 15 & 22

Chess League Tournament 3:30 PM

Thursday, February 2 & 16

POPCORN FRIDAY February 3

School Store 8:00 AM

Wednesday, February 8 & 22

CSAP Grade 3 Wednesday & Thursday, Feb. 15 & 16

NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS

Friday & Monday, February 17 & 20

MESA CALENDAR UPDATED FREQUENTLY

The school activity calendar is updated both on-line and in the newsletter. Please recycle your older calendars as we change and add activities frequently. We encourage you to pull out the calendar included in every newsletter and post it on your refrigerator.

THE PONY EXPRESS FUNDRAISER

The Pony Express is returning to Mesa to deliver all your special Valentines! This is a fund-raiser sponsored by the Mesa K-Care and Kindergarten students. Last year students delivered \$165-worth of mail and donated the money to the Red Cross Tsunami Fund. Although we are undecided on this year's charity, we would love to increase the amount collected, so plan on mailing lots of cards. Parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, brothers, sisters, students, friends, staff members and teachers ... anyone can send cards for 5 cents each.

The Pony Express Station is set up outside the K-Care classroom across from Mesa's main office. It is run on the honor system. Place your money in the muffins tin and your cards in the appropriate classroom bag. The Kindergarten children will be delivering the mail each day starting on Wednesday, February 1, through Tuesday, February 14. We CANNOT deliver candy, balloons or stuffed animals, just items that fit in the individual envelopes.

Thank you, and we look forward to delivering your mail!

ART/SCIENCE GRANT COMMITTEE MEETINGS SCHEDULED

The parent/staff committee researching a grant for the Mesa art and science classroom improvements is working hard. If you are interested in helping, please plan to attend any of the regularly scheduled meetings on the first and third Tuesdays of the month beginning February 7. The meetings will start at 3:15 PM in the Art Room. The dates on the calendar are February 7 and 21; March 7 and 21; April 18; May 2 and 16; and June 6.

For more information, contact April Christenson or Betsy Puls at 303-494-4704.

A GOOD BREAKFAST HELPS

BVSD Food Services reminds parents that a good breakfast fuels a child's mind and body and is especially important during test times, which can be stressful. Food Services suggests eating a (whole) grain food (cereal, bread,

crackers, bagel, etc.) with a protein (low-fat milk, cheese, yogurt, peanut butter, beans, eggs, meat, etc.) and lots of fruits and vegetables to provide maximum energy. It is also important to drink plenty of water throughout the day to stay hydrated.

VISUAL ART NEWS

From April Christenson, Mesa Art Specialist

I would like to clear up the confusion about art classes that are sometimes scheduled after school. Many parents think the Mesa art teacher sponsors these classes, but in reality I do not select nor have any input into these art classes. Most of the classes are sponsored by Community Schools, which is a separate entity that solicits people from the community to teach classes at different schools throughout the school district.

I am happy to provide parents some tips for choosing a good art class for their child:

1. Stay away from classes where students will be copying or tracing. Ask the teacher about their curriculum. Students can use a reference picture or real object to draw from but should not necessarily be tracing someone else's drawing or photograph. You cannot learn to draw unless you practice freehand.

2. Ask to see samples/photographs of actual student work. A good class will have the same concepts, but students' art work should exhibit individual differences. If the art from all the students looks exactly the same, the class is not allowing for creativity of the individual students.

3. Ask for references from parents whose children have taken the classes. I recommend someone who has experience teaching the age level of your child. Just because someone is a well-known painter does not mean that person can effectively teach your child to paint.

4. In some classes, students will not have a finished "masterpiece." This is ok; art is about not only a finished product but also experimenting with ideas and materials.

5. Have your own art classes at home. Schedule some time with your child to do some drawing together, or build a sand castle in your sandbox.

6. Enjoy art with your child!

ALL VISITORS NEED TO SIGN IN AT THE OFFICE AND GET A BADGE

Please remember to sign in and get a badge every time you come to school when it is in session. Even if you are only taking your student a forgotten lunch, you need to pick up a badge before walking the hallways. This is a security issue for the safety of our students and staff.

CSAP TESTING BEGINS SOON

The Colorado Student Assessment Program (CSAP) tests will be administered to students in Grades 3, 4 and 5 beginning in February. All students currently enrolled in these grades will be tested on specific days throughout the state. It is important that children are at school for the test and are well-rested. Please do not schedule doctor appointments or vacations during the test dates. We know children can wake up and be sick. Please call the school promptly to alert us to any absences.

Please support your child and Mesa by making sure your child is in attendance on the following dates:

- GRADE 3: February 15-16
March 6-7 & 20-21**
- GRADE 4: March 8-20**
- GRADE 5: March 6-21**

These dates are also on the calendar included with this newsletter and on-line.

REGISTRATION FOR 2006-2007 SCHOOL YEAR NOW IN PROCESS

Please turn in your child's registration form for the next school year to your child's current teacher. Mesa needs to have an accurate count of who is coming in the fall in order to have an accurate count for open enrollment openings. This includes any new kindergarten students. If you need another form, please stop by the office. We would appreciate getting the forms no later than Friday, February 3. Thank you!

RESERVED PARKING SPOT AVAILABLE IN THE MESA PARKING LOT

With the cooperation of the PTO and Mr. Medina, the Mesa parking lot now has a "Reserved Parking" space near the south door. The reserved space is part of a PTO fund-raiser for our school.

At last spring's Silent Auction, the space was auctioned to the highest bidder for the balance of last year. This year, while we wait to auction off the space again at our Silent Auction on March 11, the space will be assigned by lottery to someone attending the monthly PTO meetings. Everyone who attends the February and March meetings will have a chance at the space before it goes up for bidding at the auction. (So, there it is, a good incentive to attend our PTO meetings and possibly get for free what could cost untold zillions come silent auction time.)

In order for this fund-raiser to be successful, however, it is important no one park in the reserved space other than those who have been selected or who have paid. Compliance thus far has been spotty, but now you have been warned! We hope everyone will cooperate and leave the space available so that we will not have to dream up brilliantly annoying ways to discipline transgressors.

IMPACT ON EDUCATION SUPPORTS EXCELLENCE IN THE CLASSROOM

This information comes from Amanda Cherry, Development Associate, Impact on Education

Studies consistently show that teachers are one of the single most important factors impacting student achievement. This is why Impact on Education, formerly the Foundation for Boulder Valley Schools, supports and promotes excellence in teaching. We impact teacher excellence through our Classroom Mini-Grants and Impact Awards programs.

Classroom Mini-Grants: This program annually awards teachers funds to complete creative classroom projects. During the 2005-06 academic year, Impact on Education awarded 148 projects in 48 schools for a total of \$83,770! Projects are supported through donations from community members and local businesses and organizations. A donation of \$750 underwrites an entire project.

Impact Awards: Impact on Education annually recognizes five excellent educators in Boulder Valley. Teachers and other educators are nominated by community members and peers. Impact Award winners receive a personal award and \$1,500 for their school or department. In addition, they are publicly recognized at the Impact Awards Dinner. This year's award recipients will be announced in early February, and the awards dinner will be held April 6. To purchase tickets, which are \$35 each, call Impact on Education at 303-245-5937 and provide a credit card number, or send a check to the organization at 75 Manhattan Drive, Suite 205, Boulder, Colorado 80303.

Impact on Education is a 501c (3) non-profit dedicated to raising community support for public education in Boulder Valley. The organization impacts student learning through three focus areas: teacher excellence, science and technology and "at-risk" students. For more information or to learn how you can help, log on to www.impactoneducation.org.



Mesa Elementary School January 27, 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	
Mon. Jan 30 8:45 AM	ISSE Cultural Show
Tues. Jan 31 3:00 PM	Parent/Teacher Conferences
Thurs. Feb 2 2:00 PM	ISSE Farewell Assembly
3:00 PM	Parent/Teacher Conferences
Feb 3	POPCORN FRIDAY
Tues. Feb 7 6:15 PM	PTO Meeting

PTO CORNER

Lets Make Some Noise with the Silent Auction!

Thanks to **Brenda Garby** and her silent auction committee volunteers, the March 11th silent auction is shaping up nicely. After several years of auction soirees in our exciting Mesa library, we are breaking out and hitting downtown Boulder. The adult-only evening will be held from 6:30 PM - 9:30 PM (yes, it is a Saturday evening!) in The Nature Conservancy building, 2424 Spruce Street in Boulder.

Terry Snyder, Julia Hoilien, Cece Bloomfield and **Anne Fedor** recently sent donation request letters to past Mesa donors and to area businesses. Here is a sampling of what has been donated so far:

CU Football Tickets and Sweatshirts ** Mountain Condos
Pony Lessons ** Homemade Jewelry
Ski Passes ** Restaurant Gift Certificates
Museum and Zoo Passes ** Athletic Club Passes
Hotel Overnights ** Children's Books
Massages ** NCAR Behind the Scenes Tour
Classroom Pottery ** Teacher Outings
Gift Baskets

You will be receiving your Silent Auction Invitation soon!