

Mesa Elementary School

March 10, 2006



THE MESA MESSENGER

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Mesa Community,

Traditionally Mesa has published its newsletter every two weeks. Many aspects related to front office responsibilities at our school have changed, including additional administrative tasks, new accounting procedures and a new, complex web-based database. The production of the *Mesa Messenger* has evolved over the years to a much larger undertaking for our front office staff.

We are trying to assess the impact of going to a monthly production of the newsletter. Please respond to the following survey, either by email to the editor, Emily Robbie, at emily.robby@bvsd.org, dropping off the questionnaire in the office or calling and leaving a message at 303-494-4704.

How often do you read the *Mesa Messenger* newsletter?

When do you read the newsletter? The day it comes home? Over the weekend? Monday or later?

Would you prefer the newsletter every two weeks?

Would it be inconvenient for your family if it were published only once a month?

What do you like most about the newsletter?

What do you like least about the newsletter?

What would you like to see in the newsletter that is not there now?

Do you receive a weekly classroom newsletter?

How can we improve the level of communication with families?

Please respond to these questions as soon as possible. We appreciate your input.

In Partnership,

Mike Medina

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR TODAY FRIDAY, MARCH 10

Science Fair proposals were due today. Turn in your proposal to the main office first thing Monday morning if you have not done so already.

A district-wide **Chess Tournament** is being held tomorrow at High Peaks Elementary School. See insert for details.

Families and staff who were not able to attend any of the BVSD Capital Improvements Planning Committee's charrettes are asked to fill out the **CIPC on-line survey**, to give input on the important improvement proposals. These are the same questions asked at the charrettes themselves. Visit

www.bvsd.org/CapitalNeedsSurvey.

This needs to be done before 5:00 PM TODAY.

DISTRICT INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

The following information comes from Judy Skupa, Assistant Superintendent of Learning Services. You can reach Dr. Skupa at 303-447-5088 or by email at judy.skupa@bvsd.org.

Inserted in this newsletter is a letter from the Colorado Department of Education (CDE), informing you that the Boulder Valley School District did not make Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) as defined in No Child Left Behind. Though BVSD is very pleased that 132 out of the 145 subgroups of our students reached this achievement target, which equals achieving 91% of our goals, we are working with our schools to improve the achievement of the 13 subgroups that did not make AYP in 2004-05. We are submitting a Program Improvement Plan to CDE that reflects this work. Because our Program Improvement Plan will reflect the work that our schools have already done with the input from their parent communities, we are not planning any separate district-level activities regarding parent involvement. Please feel free to contact any of our schools, to ask what they are doing.

The district has previously released information about specific schools that did not make AYP. However, please remember that our district and its schools operate under two additional accountability and accreditation systems, the State Accountability Report (SAR) and the District Accreditation Contract with the Department of Education. The district received the highest praise in its most recent accreditation report from the State of Colorado; all of the district's schools are fully accredited, and 75% of our schools rated Excellent or High on the SAR.

The letter that is being sent home continues to reinforce this excellent level of performance of the school district.

The following information comes from Becky McClure, Executive Director, BVSD Human Resources. You can contact Ms. McClure at 303-447-5031.

Under the provisions of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 2002, No Child Left Behind, all public school districts receiving federal funding must notify parents they have the right to request and receive certain information about the qualifications of their children's classroom teachers. This is much the same notice parents have received in previous

years; there is no change in the policy or procedure.

There is a standard form available in the school office or on the BVSD website in .pdf format. This form should be returned directly to the BVSD Human Resources Department at the Education Center, 6500 Arapahoe, Boulder, CO 80301.

PARENT ENGAGEMENT NETWORK UPDATE

On Tuesday, March 14, from 6:30-9:00 PM, PEN will present "HOPE Successfully Navigating Depression" in the Glenn Miller Ballroom at the University of Colorado in Boulder. There will be speakers and interactive opportunities, as well as information on depression and suicide for people of all ages. For more information, contact Betsy Fox, Boulder County Prevention Connection, at 303-441-3981, or bfox@co.boulder.co.us.

On Thursday, April 20, PEN will present "Boys and Girls Learn Differently!" Training from 7:00—8:30 PM with the Gurian Institute. This is a free training for parents with Kathy Stevens, co-author of *Minds of Boys*, and Micheline Brault. Although it is held at Monarch High School, the training is for parents of children of all ages. For more information on this event, contact Kelley King at Douglass Elementary School, 303-447-5540, or kelley.king@bvsd.org. Mesa Parents: a flyer and informational article by Jonathan Wright were inserted in the February 24 *Mesa Messenger*.

CSAP TESTS ARE HERE

All CSAP testing has begun. March CSAP testing for Grade 3 includes two sessions each of math and writing. Grade 4 students have three sessions each of reading, math and writing. Grade 5 students have three sessions each of reading, writing, math and science. The district expects to receive the 3rd grade reading results in early May. CSAP results from all March testing will arrive in late August. Parents will receive the CSAP reading results in May directly from the school, while the August results will be sent via US mail from the BVSD Education Center. Please make sure that an accurate mailing address is on file at school to ensure delivery of CSAP results.

All CSAP results are a party of the school accountability report that will be published in the fall. While these tests are very important, they are only one way in which to measure our students' achievement and the success of our school. Teachers' daily observations tell us more about the progress that each child is making. CSAP tests and other external tests are an additional way of measuring achievement that can offer information about our progress and areas to improve.

BVSD SUMMER CAMP

The district will run a day camp program this summer, with swimming, field trips, games and other exciting activities to keep children busy all summer. The camp will be in session Monday through Friday, 7:30 AM—6:00 PM. There will be flexible scheduling, to work around your family's summer schedule.

More information is available on-line at bvsd.org/sac. You can also contact Mike Stein, BVSD School Age Program manager at 303-499-1125, ext. 242.

UNEXCUSED ABSENCES AND TRUANCY

The truancy rate will be reported for the first time to the State of Colorado in the 2005-2006 Safety and Discipline Report. The truancy rate will be calculated for our school, as well as for the district overall, by comparing the number of unexcused student absences to the total number of student days possible.

Mesa needs your help in reporting the reason for ALL student absences so that we have an accurate picture of our school's truancy rate. Unexcused absences will include absences that remain unverified and/or unknown. As a result, parents need to communicate with us when their student is absent so that we can record the reason for the absence in our student data system. If you are called about an unexcused absence for your student, please respond quickly. Mesa has 24-hour voice mail for your convenience after hours or when all lines are busy; leave a message at 303-494-4704.

By working together, we will ensure that our student attendance data are accurate. With your cooperation, we will be able to report more accurately our school's truancy rate to the state.

CALLING ALL MESA SCIENTISTS!

Science Fair proposals were due by today, March 10. Please be sure you have turned in your proposal. The Mesa Science Fair will be April 19 and 20. If you have any questions, please call Jordana Ash at 303-494-0468.

MUSIC NOTES

From Sarah Knoebel, Music Specialist

A GIGANTIC THANK YOU to all the parents (and former parents!) who spent countless hours sewing costumes, designing and painting scenery, providing snacks, setting up chairs, etc., etc., etc., for the wonderful productions of "Once On This Island."

Do you have photos of the "Once On This Island" performances? We would like to create

a collage to hang in the hallway. Please send in copies of your pictures. A reminder too that videos and DVDs are still available for purchase.

The M&M Spring Concert is the annual "oldies" show. It is a revue of rock & roll music and other popular styles from the 50's through the 90's. Be sure to save the date: May 18. There will be a dress rehearsal at 1:00 PM and an evening performance at 7:00 PM. Dust off your disco outfits and poodle skirts. We will see you there! M&M's continue to rehearse on Tuesday and Friday at 7:45 AM.

NOTE: The date for the Grade 1 Dino Music Program has been changed to Tuesday, April 18, with a dress rehearsal at 1:00 PM and evening performance at 7:00 PM.

MESA MAGAZINE SPRING EDITION

The spring edition deadline is fast approaching! In order to produce a final edition of the *Mesa Magazine* before the end of the school year, we would like to have all poems, stories and articles submitted by Friday, March 24. That is just two weeks from today.

Don't let the days slip by. It is time to sit down and put words on paper and put those papers in the *Mesa Magazine* box in the library. (For students and parents who prefer electrons to ink, we can accept Microsoft Word attachments sent to satopping@comcast.net.)

HELP WANTED FOR ART SHOW

Help is needed right away for the upcoming March 21 Mesa Art Show. Please leave a message for art teacher April Christenson in the main office if you can help. Many hands would help tremendously.

TAG TALK

From Betsy Puls, TAG Coordinator

CHESS CLUB—Mesa's chess club has been speeding along, with more than 50 attendees each session. In addition to participating in teaching sessions, children have been playing chess to the sounds of snack chewing. We would like to thank especially Richele Mein for providing food and helping attendance procedures go smoothly. We are starting to induct into the Royal Chess Court some players who have met the requirements of attendance and participation. Next week we will have a Chess Party. If you want to bring special goodies to this party, please sign up on the sheet near the library doors.

CHESS LEAGUE TEAM—Mesa's Chess Team has finished its formal matches for this year and will soon know its final district standing. A BIG THANK YOU! to Mark Kilmer for serving as Chess Coach and Chief Transportation Officer for the team. Ably assisted by his wife, Eve, and also by parents Kim Hansen and Joel Parker, our team and guests were always carefully transported, fed (both before and during matches) and chaperoned.

CROW CANYON TRIP—A reminder that the second payment of \$200 for the Crow Canyon/TAG and Science Enrichment Trip is due in the Mesa Office by today, Friday, March 10. A parent information night will be held in the library on Tuesday, March 21, starting at 5:30 PM. At least one parent should be in attendance at this meeting so we can be sure all forms are completed and signed and any questions you might have are answered. The last payment of \$250 is due Friday, April 7. There will also be a second but optional parent meeting on Tuesday, April 11, at 5:30 PM in the library. If you have any questions you need answered before the parent meetings, contact Betsy at Mesa, 303-494-4704, or on-line at betsy.puls@bvsd.org.

JUNIOR GREAT BOOKS—These grade-level groups will be starting soon and take place primarily during the month of April. If you are interested in participating, please contact Betsy, Junior Great Book Coordinator Kristie Dimock or your child's teacher. There is a Junior Great Books mailbox in the office for your messages.

HATS ON DAY COMING MARCH 24

Mesa will be having a Spirit Day on Friday, March 24, called Hats On Day. This is a fund-raiser to support children fighting cancer through the Foundation for Children with Cancer. Students (and parents working/visiting on Friday) will be able to wear a hat for the day for a small fee, which will be collected and donated to help support children with cancer.

Student council members will be discussing this fund-raiser at our next meeting this Wednesday, March 15, at 8:00 AM. Be on the lookout for more information and fliers posted around the building.

SHOE COLLECTION UNDERWAY FOR ONE WEEK ONLY

Do you have any unwanted shoes in good condition? Julia Paine, former Mesa parent and teacher at Meadowlark Preschool is working with students from Naropa and The American Association for The Education of Children (AAEC) The students will be traveling to Jalapa, Nicaragua (Boulder's sister city) on March 18 to work with local people to help build a school in an impoverished barrio outside the city. The students will be taking the shoes with them. No snow boots, please, but rain boots are greatly appreciated. Please consider donating your used shoes in good condition, or perhaps a new pair, in the box by the Mesa office. For more information, contact Julie at 303-499-2646.

NOMINATE AN OUTSTANDING TEACHER FOR A JARED POLIS FOUNDATION AWARD

Impact on Education, formerly the Foundation for Boulder Valley Schools, is proud to publicize to the BVSD community the Jared Polis Foundation's 2006 Teacher Recognition Award. This spring, the foundation will honor 15 teachers throughout the Denver metro area who demonstrate the following qualities:

1. Commitment to their students
2. Innovative and effective teaching
3. Ability to work collaboratively with colleagues to create a focused and positive school environment

Each of the honorees will receive a \$1,000 award, and their schools will receive a \$1,000 grant. Teachers and their schools will be honored during a recognition ceremony at the Butterfly Pavilion in Westminster on May 2.

If you know a BVSD teacher who should be considered for this award, please write a brief essay (no more than one page, double-spaced) describing how the teacher meets the three qualities listed above. Submit this essay to Gina Nocera, Education Program Director, at gina@jaredpolisfoundation.org by April 3. In your email submission, include your full name, email address, phone number, the full name of the nominee, the nominee's email address or phone number, and the name and address of the nominee's school. All submitted essays will be reviewed by an external review committee consisting of representatives from community and educational non-profit organizations. The teachers will be notified by April 17.

Jump Rope For Heart Photo Montage on
this page



Mesa Elementary School March 10, 2006

**A Triple 'A' School
Academics
Arts
Athletics**

Winner of the:

**?? John J. Irwin Excellence Award
1999/2000, 2000/2001, 2001/2002, 2003/2004 and 2004/2005
?? 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@bvds.k12.co.us

We're on the web
www.bvds.k12.co.us/schools/mesa/

PTO CORNER

Tomorrow is the Silent Auction and it couldn't have happened without so many helping hands. A big thanks to **Brenda Garby** for organizing the entire event, obtaining food donations, creating the invitations and signs, and organizing the ticket distribution and collection.

Several other Mesa parents have played key roles, including **Terry Snyder, Julia Hoilien, Diana Fields, Mia Jenak, Debbie Gould,** and **Anne Fedor** who worked hard soliciting for donations and food. **Julianna Guidici** and **April Christenson** helped our kids create the beautiful classroom pottery, and **Peggy Kaufman** spent hours gathering and creating gift baskets. **Lisa Beauchamp** and **Gail Ross** worked behind the scenes creating the bid sheets and gift certificates. **Carol Friefeld, Paula Dhillon, Jeff Mason, Steve Griggs, Margee Sullivan,** and **Magda Schoenhals** helped with transport, errands, and set

MESA CALENDAR

Mon. Mar 13—2:00 PM

All-School Assembly

Tues. Mar 14

3:30 PM SIT

6:15 PM PTO

Wed. Mar 15—8:00 AM

Student Council

3:00 PM—Chess Club

Wed. Mar 22— 8:00 AM

School Store

up. Finally, thank you to everyone who donated items and/or are helping the night of the event.

Do you need one more reason to come to the auction? Boulder painter Jim Freeheart, who came to Mesa last week and dazzled the children by painting his mural in one day, will display his finished product and prints at the auction. Limited edition giclee prints, on watercolor paper and canvas, will be available for sale. In addition, you will be able to bid on the opportunity to have your child painted into one of the paintings. Jim will be at the auction for a portion of the evening to demonstrate.

Our next PTO meeting is Tuesday, March 14th at 6:15 pm. Remember, all Mesa parents are PTO members. We welcome new faces and would love to see you there. You may even win a free parking spot!