

Mesa Elementary School

March 24, 2006



THE MESA MESSENGER

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Mesa Parent Community,

Recently our school was outfitted with new security as part of a new district-wide system. Several years ago, after the Columbine tragedy, schools throughout the country were directed to follow strict safety procedures throughout each school day. The Boulder Valley School District implemented guidelines for schools on locking most doors during the school day except for one main entrance, and these guidelines are still in place. As time has elapsed we have become more complacent, and recently many doors have been left unlocked throughout the school. In order to move into direct compliance with BVSD expectations, Mesa is going to tighten our adherence to these guidelines. Only two doors will remain open during the day: the parking lot door and the north playground door. All remaining doors will be locked. Every teacher who uses these locked doors during the day for recess and other activities will have a key fob that will magnetically open the locked doors. This is a new feature which is part of the new security system. All doors are available for exiting the school.

Please keep in mind the number one priority from all Mesa staff is to ensure the safety and welfare of every child. Mesa Elementary School is a very safe community, with kind and caring adults everywhere. No school could wish for more supportive parents. Our challenge is to balance safety procedures with our needs as a community. As we implement safety procedures, we will remain flexible and attempt to retain the great sense of community prevalent at our school.

Please remember that we require all adult visitors to check in and wear a visitor badge if they plan to visit classrooms or to volunteer. Periodically we have had strangers come and go through our doors. So if we greet you and request that you go to the office to sign in, please do not be offended for we are only attempting to guarantee the safety of our children.

As we prepare for Spring Break and wrap up another year of CSAP testing, we have numerous students who will need to take make-up tests when they return from break. This might require taking several portions of these tests in a day upon their return. Please prepare your child if they have missed several days of school over the past weeks. We thank all of you for your consideration with scheduling during these testing windows.

I wish to extend the gratitude of all Mesa staff to our fabulous PTO for the fantastic success of the annual Silent Auction held last Saturday night. It was a great adult evening for all parents and staff who attended, and the event raised a great deal of money for Mesa Elementary School.

In Partnership,

Mike Medina

WANTED: SCIENCE FAIR EVALUATORS

The Science Fair Committee is looking for some additional science fair evaluators—no experience necessary! This is a fun opportunity to give positive feedback on science fair projects here at Mesa.

We need people either Wednesday or Thursday, April 19 or 20, from 8:30-11:00 AM (or any portion of that time). The committee will give on-the-spot training, as well as coffee and bagels, to keep up your stamina.

Please contact Jordana Ash, preferably by email, at ashlignell@msn.com or at 303-494-0468, to sign up or to ask any questions.

THE MESA FITNESS CLUB IS COMING!

Mesa's annual walking and running club will begin this year on Monday, April 17. If your child shows an interest, he/she will receive a registration packet during P.E., so be on the lookout for these packets in their backpack between Wednesday and Friday, April 5 and 7. **Registration** materials will be **due** back on **Monday, April 10.**

The Fitness Club also needs adult help to be successful. A few key volunteers are essential:

- * T-shirt volunteer: process, order and distribute t-shirts for Fitness Club
- * Registration Paper Party Day: a 1-day only event to help process all registration materials on Tuesday, April 11, right after school in the Mesa gym
- * Charting parents: 4-6 parents who will record the children's mileage each week. This job takes place every Tuesday and Thursday morning from 8:30 AM-10:00 AM for the full 6 weeks of fitness club.

If you are interested in helping or have questions, please call Diana Tanner at 303-499-0504.

P.E. NEWS

From Jacy Bruno

In the last newsletter I accidentally left out a HUGE THANK YOU to all the parents who volunteered their time to help with Jump Rope for Heart last month. And an **EXTRA BIG THANK YOU** to Deena McCain for helping with all the events for Grades 1-5. Your help is always greatly appreciated!

MESA SILENT AUCTION

The night was a big success! Thank you to everyone who helped with the auction and to everyone who came and enjoyed the evening. A special thank you to JAN NORTH, who, as PTO President, not only juggles all PTO affairs, but also worked very hard organizing and tracking the silent auction bid items as well as helping to coordinate the event. A BIG THANKS for all YOU do, Jan!

\$1,150 BUNNY BUCKS

This is a lot of money! Thank you, parents, for shopping at Grand Rabbits! Five percent of your amount of purchase was returned to Mesa, giving us the opportunity to select anything from the store. This year Mesa purchased about 50 beautiful hardback books and colorful accessories for the library and for the literacy room. We are very grateful that you remembered to say you were a parent from Mesa Elementary.

Did you know that Play Fair Toys will also donate five percent of your purchase to our school? It is worth mentioning Mesa when you shop there too.

VOLUNTEER/VISITOR BADGES MISSING

The supply of badges specific to Mesa that our volunteers and visitors are required to wear are getting low. Please check around your house (and car!), to see if any of our badges are there and return them to the tan box at the main office. Thank you!

MESA YEAR BOOKS FOR SALE

A HUGE THANKS to everyone who worked on the year book this year and donated pictures. A special thank you to Erin Moran, Peggy Kaufman, Frances Hartogh, Janna Gustafson, Jan North, Gaylen Howard and Lisa Barnes for all the collages.

If you are interested in a 2005-2006 yearbook for your child and have not yet turned in an order form, please do so now. The yearbook is full of pictures, not only of each class, but also of plays, music, art and p.e. classes. The cost is only \$18. Make checks payable to the Mesa PTO. Fill out an order form and turn it in at the main office.

BVSD SUMMER CAMP

Don't forget to check out the website for the district's summer camp at bvsd.org/sac. The camp will run Monday-Friday from 7:30 AM-6:00 PM. Explore the website to see what the camp has to offer!

RAZZLE DAZZLE SURE TO BE A HIT

The following information comes to us from Amanda Cherry, Development Associate, Impact on Education.

Impact on Education is a non-profit organization dedicated to raising community support for Boulder Valley Schools. The organization impacts student learning within its three areas of focus: teacher excellence; science, math & technology; and at-risk students. Impact on Education’s annual fundraiser, Razzle Dazzle, is one of the premier fundraising events held in Boulder Valley and raises nearly 75 percent of Impact on Education’s annual operating funds, as well as major support for the Opportunity Fund. The Opportunity Fund is Impact on Education’s largest program. It was established in 2004 to ensure that the 4000+ students in Boulder Valley from low-income homes are able to access academic, extracurricular and enrichment opportunities that require participation fees. Through a distribution of \$100,000 to participating schools every year, the Opportunity Fund allows students from low-income families to rent musical instruments, attend field trips, take advanced placement classes, secure transportation to school and much more.

With over 500 people, Razzle Dazzle is bound to be a veritable “who’s who” of area business and community leaders. This year’s theme—Beach Ball, Parasol—will extend to the food, décor and music. The event, which will take place from 6:00 PM until midnight, June 10, 2006, at the Boulder Reservoir, will include dancing, a brief program and exciting live and silent auctions. The event’s title sponsor is Fresh Produce. To reserve tickets, which are \$150 each, contact Impact on Education at (303) 524-3865.

ART NEWS

From April Christenson

The committee for a new art room and renovated science room (Art/Science Grant Committee) is moving forward. The members have met with district officials, and the district is behind our grant/fund-raising efforts for a new art room and renovated science room. The new art room will be built on the north end of the open space areas. The current art room will become what it was originally designed to be —

a science room. The room will be updated and storage space will be increased. PARENTS: If you would like to join this committee, the next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 18, at 3:15 PM in the Mesa Art Room. The committee needs people to do jobs, both large and small.

Our first fund-raiser is selling prints by the artist Jim Freeheart, who came to Mesa to paint for Mesa students February 28. It was a great educational opportunity. We hope parents had a chance to come to watch him paint. Students from all grades visited while he painted. They asked questions and observed him painting. Mr. Freeheart has donated his beautiful original painting to the children at Mesa. The painting eventually will hang somewhere at Mesa. Mr. Freeheart has given us permission to sell prints of the painting. Half of the proceeds will go to the Mesa PTO, and half have been designated for seed money for our new art room/science room renovation. See the enclosed flyer/order form. We are also offering affordable cards and mugs with the painting image on them.

If you have any questions, please leave a written note in Mrs. Christenson’s teacher mailbox in the Mesa office; don’t forget to leave your phone number with your message.

MUSIC NOTES

From Sarah Knoebel

A reminder to Grade 3 students and parents that the date of the Grade 3 Colorado History Music Program has been changed from its Original date. The program will now take place on Wednesday, April 19, with the evening performance at 7:00 PM. Dress rehearsal will be the same morning at 8:45 AM. Remember to wear your costumes representing the early days of Colorado. Everyone is invited!

CLASS PICTURES APRIL 26
Save the date: Wednesday,
April 26, will be Class Picture
Day.



Mesa Elementary School March 24, 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@bvsd.k12.co.us

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

PTO CORNER

Almost 200 people ventured out on a snowy evening for Mesa's silent auction, making the event a success! We grossed over \$11,000. Thanks to everyone who donated items and helped organize the event, and to all who attended!

On Tuesday, April 25th, the Parenting Engagement Network (PEN) and PTO are presenting a parent workshop called *Parenting Safe Children*. This workshop is valuable for parents of children of ALL ages. Some of the workshop topics will include: Creating a communication-rich environment for your children; Empowering children to set and maintain boundaries; Body safety rules for children; Characteristics of safe homes; The nature of secrets; Misconceptions and truths about victims and perpetrators; What is age-appropriate sexual behavior; Recognizing and utilizing "teachable moments." A big thanks to **Debbie Gould** and **Leisha Conners Bauer** for helping to organize this event.

Wanted: New PTO Leadership

The term for the current PTO board expires at the end of this school year and new PTO leadership is

MESA CALENDAR

Wed. April 5—8 AM School
Store

Mon. April 10—8:45 AM All-
School Assembly

Tues. April 11—
3:30 PM SIT

6:15 PM PTO

Wed. April 12—8:00 AM
School Store

Fri. April 14—POPCORN

FRIDAY

needed! The PTO board members (president or co-presidents, vice-president, treasurer, secretary) are elected and serve a one- to two-year term. Although all major decisions are voted on at PTO meetings, the board members develop and make all of the significant budget and fundraising recommendations. For example, the PTO board recommends which fundraisers to hold, when to hold them, and if applicable, which outside vendors to use. The board also recommends the allocation of funds. For the past two years, the PTO has raised approximately \$50,000 and has helped fund classroom materials and programs, academic tutors, computer support, and the *Mesa Magazine*. We have also been able to provide money for specific requests from Mr. Medina, including \$10,000 for computer room infrastructure and the funding of additional literacy support.

It is a very rewarding experience to work closely with Mesa's teachers and Mr. Medina, knowing you are enriching your child's Mesa experience. If you would like to hear more about PTO board leadership, please contact Mr. Medina or any of the PTO board members: (Jan North, Brenda Garby, Diana Fields, Stephen Topping).