

Mesa Elementary School

April 20, 2006



THE MESA MESSENGER

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parent Community,

This Friday, during staff development day, Mesa staff will work on preliminary planning for the 2006 – 2007 school year. Our initial staffing allocation has been received from BVSD. It appears Mesa will schedule three kindergarten sections, two 1st grade sections, two 2nd grades, three 3rd grades, two 4th grades and three 5th grade sections. The work on Friday will involve arriving at the best possible grade level class configurations given these allocated resources. The specific teachers at each grade level will not be determined until mid-May due to human resources requirements, etc. Some time toward the end of May, our staff will place students with assigned teachers. On Wednesday, June 7, class lists will be posted and students will visit their next year's teachers during the morning. This process includes collaboration with all Mesa stakeholders. It will be shared with PTO, The School Improvement Team and approved by our site decision-making body (Coordinating Council). The Coordinating Council is composed of a representative group of stakeholders and meets monthly.

Mesa does not accept requests from parents for a particular teacher. We do have an optional information form available through the office which is designed to provide teachers with additional information as we place students. This student profile form has been revised, and parents can pick up the form in the office beginning Monday, April 24. It is due on Monday, May 1. The information shared on this form will be kept confidential and used by teachers as they assign students to classrooms. The task of placing students is a very difficult one as we make every effort to balance classrooms by gender, ethnicity, academic and other special needs. The task of creating

balanced classrooms would be impossible if we considered numerous requests for particular teachers.

Every year we consider the open enrollment space available to new students outside Mesa's attendance area. Our efforts to attract additional students are usually driven by our desire to maintain full-time PE and music specialists and a media specialist or librarian, along with a half-time art teacher. These specialists ensure we are able to provide a quality all-round educational experience for students at Mesa. During the past week an article in the Daily Camera described BVSD's efforts to control the growing segregation of schools in the school district as a result of current open enrollment practices. We believe small schools enhance a student's overall educational experience and provide an enriched environment for social development. Our staff's appeal to the school district has been to consider reducing open enrollment space at Mesa with BVSD ensuring support for small schools like Mesa and Bear Creek. If BVSD provides full time specialist support, we can ensure a high quality experience for the students within our attendance area without relying on open enrollment. Our staff supports the current de-stratification proposal to the school board. Dr. Chris King's article appears as an insert in this newsletter.

In Partnership,

Mike Medina
Principal

MESA’S DESTINATION IMAGINATION TEAMS DO WELL AT COMPETITION

Congratulations to the Destination Imagination Teams for the outstanding job they did representing Mesa at this year’s regional tournament at Monarch High School on April 8. Mesa was represented at the competition by a 1st grade team, a 3rd grade team and two 4th grade teams.

This year’s 4th grade teams deserve special recognition as both will be advancing to the state tournament at the University of Denver on April 29. The Magical Maniacs placed first in the On Safari Challenge improvisation. The team consists of manager Pam Berdanier and members Emma Berdanier, Ellis Burgin, Ella Jenak, Sara Lemberg and Abby North. The Creepy, Crawly, Crazy Critters, managed by Kathy Smith and Betty Tobias, placed second in the Inside Dimension building challenge; this team consists of Alex Curtiss, Hannah Gould, Maria Rocken, Dylan Schlager and Anabelle Smith.

A special thanks to all the parent volunteers who supported DI at Mesa this year, both as team managers and tournament appraisers.

Good luck at the state competition to the Mesa Teams!

BE MINDFUL OF NO PARKING ZONES

Please remember that the No Parking Zone in front of Mesa is for drop-off and pick-up of students only. It is NOT for parking. Do not leave your car unattended in this area. Boulder police ticket any parked cars in this no parking zone, for the safety of our children.

MESA ARTS DAY IS THURSDAY APRIL 27

This coming Thursday, Mesa will celebrate an entire day dedicated to all the arts. Some special events include 10 visual artists demonstrating their talents in the cafeteria. There will be a weaver, an oil painter and a woodcarver, to name a few. The Longmont Dance Theater will perform. Mesa will experience some musical groups too, including a marimba band. PARENTS: Feel free to come visit Mesa on this special arts day.

A big THANK YOU! to the Mesa PTO for helping fund this event.

NOTE: The cafeteria will be closed and no food will be served on April 27.

BVSD SUMMER CAMP OPEN HOUSE

Boulder Valley School District’s Summer Camp (formerly called SPIRIT Camp) is a day camp program designed to keep children active throughout the summer. The camp runs Monday-Friday, 7:30 AM-6:00 PM, with flexible scheduling. Come check it out at their open house on Thursday, April 27, from 7:00-8:30 PM at Douglass Elementary School, 840- 75th Street, Boulder. You can also check out the website at www.bvbsd.org/sac or call Mike Stein, School Age Program Manager, at 303-499-1125, ext. 242.

COMPOST AVAILABLE AT MESA MAY 2 AND 3

Eco-Cycle wants to thank the Mesa community for its support of the Green Star Schools Project by bringing a load of finished compost to our school. Parents, staff and students will be able to use the compost on school grounds or take it home (in bags or buckets you provide). Please bring your own shovel or scoop.

A large metal box of compost will be delivered by 7:45 AM to school on Tuesday, May 2, and will be left at school until Wednesday, May 3, at 5:30 PM. Eco-Cycle staff will be present before and after school on those two days; compost will be available for “scooping” before, during and after school.

For more information, contact Nancy Dudek, Eco-Cycle Green Star Schools Coordinator, at 303-444-6634, ext. 118.

VOLUNTEER/VISITOR BADGES MISSING

Not many Mesa badges remain. Please check around your house and car, to see if you can find one and return it to the tan box in the Mesa office. Thank you!

IMPORTANT DATES FOR STUDENTS

NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS

Friday 4/21

NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS

Friday 5/19

NO SCHOOL/MEMORIAL DAY

Monday 5/29

LAST DAY FOR STUDENTS

Thursday 6/8

LAST DAY FOR TEACHERS

Friday 6/9

HATS ON DAY A GREAT SUCCESS

Student Council and the Pony Express combined their fundraising efforts and are pleased to announce that the Mesa community raised \$440.53 for The Foundation for Children with Cancer. Hats On Day was established in 1995 by four 6th grade students in St. Louis, Missouri, to support their friend, Kevin Beffa. Kevin was diagnosed with Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma and passed away shortly after the fundraiser was created. The founders continued to raise awareness and money in Kevin's memory for children undergoing cancer treatment.

We are so proud of our Mesa students for supporting this foundation. We thank the Pony Express and Mrs. Albinak's K-Care students for generously donating the \$200 raised by their delivery of valentine messages. Mesa students continue to make a difference!

LUNCHROOM NEWS

From Lori Madden, Mesa Cashier

It's that time of year again, when school is winding down and lunch charges will no longer be allowed. Those of you with outstanding balances who normally do not buy hot lunch will be notified by a note sent home in your child's backpack. If you are unsure as to what your child's balance is, either have your child ask me or leave a message for me at school, 303-494-4704. There are only 26 more hot lunch days left. If your child is planning to order hot lunch, it is important to plan accordingly.

Any balances at the end of the year will be rolled over to the next school year, including 5th grade students going on to middle school. Anyone who is moving out of BVSD will receive a refund. Please let me know as soon as possible.

Thank you in advance for making the end of the year run smoothly. I have really enjoyed your children and look forward to seeing most of them again next year.

PE NEWS

From Jacy Bruno

Fitness Club started this week and went very smoothly, thanks to some very hardworking parent volunteers. Grade 5 students must remember to turn in home logs to his/her coach at Fitness Club each Monday.

Track & Field Days are quickly approaching. Be on the lookout for information to come soon in your child's Friday folder. Track & Field Days will be the week of May 8.

SPANISH CLASSES ENROLLING NOW FOR FALL

The Elementary Spanish Program will be offering Spanish classes for the 2006 school year. If you register your student by May 15, you will receive a \$100 discount. Your child will learn Spanish through songs, games, stories and interactive activities. See the Mesa community board for information; yellow registration forms are available at the Mesa office. If you need more information about this program, call the Elementary Spanish Program office at 303-440-7196 or log on to kidsspeakspanish.org.

HEALTH CORNER: SECONDHAND SMOKE

By Carol Siegel Friefeld, MD, MSPH

Carol is a pediatrician at Clinica Campesina, mom to kindergarten student Lillian and active PTO member. She provides this information from the Boulder County Department of Health and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Do you smoke? Secondhand smoke has serious, harmful effects on children. Children who breathe secondhand smoke are more likely to have coughing spells, pneumonia, bronchitis, ear infections, asthma attacks and allergies. There is no safe level of secondhand smoke exposure.

Approximately 85% of Colorado smokers report wanting to quit. They need support! A new resource is available for smokers interested in quitting. The Colorado Quitline provides telephone counseling support and FREE nicotine replacement therapy (the nicotine patch or nicotine gum) for any Colorado resident over the age of 17. Nicotine replacement is quite expensive, often not covered by conventional health insurance and the most effective way to quit smoking. The Colorado Quitline can be reached by calling 1-800-639-7848. Services are available in English and Spanish. Stop the harmful effects of secondhand smoke on our children. Call for the sake of someone you love!!

ONLY TWO MORE MESA MESSENGERS

The next *Mesa Messenger* will go home with students on Thursday, May 18. There is no school for students on Friday, May 19. The final *Mesa Messenger* will go home with students on Friday, June 2.

TAG TALK

By Betsy Puls, TAG Coordinator

What do you do with a large body of knowledge and quick wits? Compete in KMO (Knowledge Master Open) !

Congratulations are in order to the Grade 5 KMO Team which participated in a nationwide competition, via computer, once in January and then again in late March. Fourteen Mesa students answered questions from all areas of the curriculum on the same day other students were competing across the entire United States. To achieve maximum points, determining place, they had to answer each of 100 questions correctly within ten seconds for each question, not a small feat considering they first had to consult as a team and corroborate each other's answer. In January, the Mesa team achieved first place in Colorado and eighth place in the US out of 258 teams. In March, they maintained first place in Colorado and achieved 13th place in the US out of over 300 teams. Bravo for Mesa!

REMINDER TO CROW CANYON PARENTS (GRADE 5 SCIENCE ENRICHMENT TRIP)

If you have not already done so, please turn in your medical forms and signature sheets to Betsy Puls no later than 3:00 PM on Tuesday, April 25. There are two Mesa forms:

1. permission/waiver form; and
2. medical form.

There are four Crow Canyon forms:

1. registration form;
2. medical and immunization forms (3 pages);
3. liability waiver; and
4. campus rules contract.

These forms, as well as other basic information, were handed out at several parent meetings and/or were put in your child's Friday folder. If cannot find these forms, please let Betsy know immediately; call her at her home, 303-499-3033. Betsy will send home forms with your child on Monday, April 24.

Next week, watch for turquoise-colored paper with last minute information and a telephone tree. The Crow Canyon bus leaves Mesa promptly at 7:00 AM on Tuesday, May 2.

NOTE: Lack of completed forms means no trip for your child.

IMPORTANT DATES FOR STUDENTS

NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS—Friday 4/21
 NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS—Friday 5/19
 NO SCHOOL/MEMORIAL DAY—Monday 5/29
 LAST DAY FOR STUDENTS—Thursday 6/8

GIVE YOUR CHILD THE CHANCE TO BE PRINCIPAL THROUGH RAZZLE DAZZLE

This information comes to us from Amanda Cherry, Development Associate, for Impact on Education.

You can contact her at amanda@impactforeducation.org.

At Impact on Educations' annual fundraiser, Razzle Dazzle, which takes place from 6:00 PM until 12 midnight on June 10 under tents at the Boulder Reservoir, the organization will auction off the opportunity to bid during the event's live auction to give their child the chance to run his or her school for a whole day! Other fabulous live auction items include trips to worldwide destinations and catered dinners.

In its 19th year, 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. The event provides substantial support to our Opportunity Fund, which allows the 4,000+ students from low-income families the chance to access academic and extracurricular opportunities that require participation fees. Money raised at the event also helps us fund creative classroom projects; support at-risk students; and increase student achievement in science, technology, engineering and math. Community attendance and support are critical to our success and ultimately the success of our students and schools!

With over 500 people, the event is bound to be a veritable "who's who" of area business and community leaders. This year's theme, which is "Beach Ball—Parasol," will be evident in all aspects of the event, from the food to the décor to the music. In addition to an exciting live auction, the event will include a silent auction, a brief program and dancing. Fresh Produce is the event's title sponsor.

To reserve tickets, which are \$150 each, contact Impact on Education at 303-524-3865.

Impact on Education is a non-profit organization dedicated to leveraging community support to impact student learning and build support for public education in Boulder Valley. For more information, or to make a donation, log on to www.impactoneducation.org. You may also send a check to Impact on Education, 75 Manhattan Drive, Suite 205, Boulder, Colorado 80303.

REMINDER FROM THE MESA LIBRARY

The last day to turn in Mesa library books is Thursday, May 25. Classes with all books turned in by all students will be rewarded with an ice cream party! Books lost or not returned will cost \$6/paperback and \$16/hardback for replacement.

MESA YEARBOOK 2006 HAS ARRIVED!

If you did not get a chance to pre-order the Mesa yearbook, extra copies are available for sale in the office. Ask to see the fabulous Wild About Learning 2006 and purchase your own copy. It is full of wonderful memories of this school year. The cost is \$18; if paying by check, please make it out to Mesa PTO.

Thank you to all the people involved with providing photos and suggestions. A super big **THANK YOU!** to Dian Kiwiet, mom of Alex Vlasity, Grade 5, and McKayla Vlasity, Grade 1, for being in charge of this year's book.

BVSD BLOOD DRIVE MAY 17

Boulder Valley School District is hosting a blood drive on Wednesday, May 17, from 1:30 PM until 5:30 PM in the Board Room at the Education Center, 6500 Arapahoe in Boulder. Bonfils Blood Center needs 4,350 volunteer donors each week to meet Colorado's needs. Please contact Susana Aguirre at 303-447-5022 to schedule an appointment to donate blood.

Donating blood is one of the easiest ways to volunteer, with each donation taking less than an hour. Donated blood is used during medical treatments, such as organ transplants, emergency surgeries and trauma cases, to save and enhance lives. When you give blood, it is always needed and always appreciated.

SPECIAL ALL-SCHOOL ASSEMBLIES IN MAY

On Thursday, May 4, Mesa will celebrate Cinco de Mayo with an all-school assembly beginning at 1:45 PM. There will be dancers and special music to enjoy.

On Friday, May 5, Mission: Wolf will be visiting Mesa for another all-school assembly at 9:00 AM. See the enclosed flyer with information about this organization and the work it does.

APRIL 28 WILL BE A FUN DAY AT MESA

Mark Friday, April 28, as an especially great day at Mesa: it is Popcorn Friday AND Face Paint Day. Bring your quarters, paint your face and celebrate the spring season at our school!

MOVING? CHANGING YOUR ADDRESS?

If you are moving in the next few months, please be sure we have your correct mailing address in the database before the end of the school year. CSAP results from the March testing period will arrive in late August and will be mailed directly to parents from the BVSD Education Center accessing the Mesa database. Please make sure an accurate mailing address is on file at school to ensure delivery of these CSAP results.



TREATING BEE STINGS FROM BVSD HEALTH SERVICES

Most people will have a few encounters with a bee at some time in their life. Only four percent of the population is allergic to bee stings and would require emergency medical treatment. Everyone else will benefit from quick action to reduce the pain and swelling associated with the sting of a bee.

1. Determine whether the student has an allergy to bee stings.

2. If there is no history of allergic reaction, follow these steps:

A. Look for the raised, reddening area and inspect it carefully for a small, dark object in the center that looks like a small splinter. This could be the stinger.

B. **Remove the stinger** by grasping it between thumb and forefinger as close to the skin as possible. Pull it straight out. OR: Scrape the skin with a straight-edged, firm object like a credit card. **DO NOT USE TWEEZERS.** Pulling the stinger with tweezers can actually squeeze the stinger and deposit more venom into the victim's skin.)

C. Wash the sting area with soap and water.

D. Apply ice while mixing a baking soda paste.

E. Apply a paste of baking soda and water. This neutralizes the venom and reduces the swelling and pain.

F. Apply ice around the sting area, but not directly on the paste, if desired.



Mesa Elementary School April 20, 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

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 Boulder, CO 80305

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MESA CALENDAR

Mon Apr. 24 8:45 AM—All-School Assembly

Tues. Apr. 25 5:30 PM—PTO Workshop

Wed. Apr. 26 8:00 AM—School Store

Thurs. Apr. 27—Arts Day

CAFETERIA CLOSED

Tues. May 2 6:15 PM—PTO

Wed. May 3 8:00 AM—Student Council

PTO CORNER

Warm spring weather, longer days and the start of Fitness Club can only mean one thing: Mesa's running season has begun! Mark your calendars for Sunday, May 21, the date of Mesa's Third Annual Shoelace Frenzy Fun Run. The Shoelace Frenzy is a fantastic school spirit event, fun for kids and adults of all ages. The event is a non-competitive "race" consisting of three different routes, all of which begin at Mesa. Two routes (three and five miles), twist through the beautiful open space behind Mesa, while the third route heads down and around Viele Lake. Raffle prizes, food and music are also part of this wonderful family event!

Speaking of running, a BIG congratulations to Mesa's Boston Marathon participants. Fifth grade teacher **Mindy Fischer** and Mesa parent/PTO treasurer **Diana Fields** both ran in the prestigious Boston Marathon on Monday, April 17. Great job, ladies!

Don't forget to sign up for the Parenting Safe

Children (How to Talk with Kids about Emotional & Physical Safety) seminar, co-sponsored by the Parenting Engagement Network (PEN) and the Mesa PTO. This exceptional seminar will be held at Mesa this Tuesday, April 25, from 5:30—8:45 PM and will be extremely valuable for parents of children of ALL ages. The seminar is conducted by Feather Berkower, who is a licensed clinical social worker with 20 years of experience working in the field of social work with a focus on child sexual assault prevention. **Please sign up by Monday, April 24. A sign up sheet is in front of the Mesa office.** Childcare is provided.

Finally, you are not too late to submit your name for a PTO board position; there are still a few open positions available for the upcoming school year. Serving on the PTO board is a very rewarding experience! If you would like to learn more about PTO board leadership, please contact Mr. Medina or any of the board members: Jan North, Diana Fields, Stephen Topping or Brenda Garby.