

# Mesa Elementary School

## May 18, 2006



# THE MESA MESSENGER

## FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parent Community,

Welcome new students! Students entering Mesa in the fall are receiving this newsletter in the mail. We look forward to meeting you all!

This Friday we will begin the challenging task of assigning classes for next year. We will also continue planning for the 2006 – 2007 school year. Our staffing allocation has been configured to include:

Three Kindergarten classes (two morning sessions and one afternoon session) are planned. Ms. Orr and Ms. Anderson will teach these sessions.

Two Grade 1 classes are scheduled with Ms. Nankervis and Ms. Jimenez.

Two Grade 2 classes are planned with Ms. Knox and Ms. Boswell as the teachers.

Three Grade 3 classes are scheduled with Ms. Schoolmaster, Ms. Manning and Mr. Converse.

Two Grade 4 classes are planned, with Ms. Aderman-Hagerty, possibly teaming with Ms. Thompson.

Three Grade 5 classes are scheduled, and the teachers will be Ms. Chartrand and Ms. Fischer. We welcome Mr. Rico Kellogg as the new addition to this terrific team.

We are sad to announce the departure of Samantha Gilpatrick, who will be moving to New Hampshire with her husband. Sam has been a fantastic teacher at Mesa for the past three years and will surely be missed. We are disappointed Mesa's Media Center Specialist, Arlene Martin, will not be returning. Arlene has been responsible for revitalizing our library. In her two years she has contributed greatly in transforming the Media Center into the learning hub of our school and has truly made a difference for children and staff. We wish both Samantha and Arlene well.

Sarah Thompson has worked this school year at the fifth grade level and has made the decision to seek the fourth grade position, which will be finalized later this month.

Mesa is delighted to have teacher Ms. Terry Snyder return as our new Media Center Specialist. Terry has been on leave from Mesa for the past year. She brings a great deal of expertise to her new position.

At the last school board meeting, the board made a decision not to cap Mesa's enrollment. There have been many discussions and articles in the newspaper which detailed the de-stratification proposal by central administration. The de-stratification plans will continue but will not include capping Mesa and Bear Creek's enrollment. Our school improvement team is considering adopting a formal focus or becoming a Focus School. Currently we advertise ourselves as a triple A+ school, emphasizing the arts, athletics and academics as our informal focus. Since all of the surrounding schools have adopted a formal focus, Mesa is the only purely neighborhood school in the area. These discussions will be ongoing throughout this next school year.

Our next SIT meeting will take place on Tuesday, May 30, at 3:30 PM. Please contact me or any SIT member if you would like to share your thoughts. Mike Barnes is our School Improvement Team Chairperson. Stephen Topping and Erin Moran are also active parent representatives on this committee.

In partnership,

Mike Medina  
Principal

## **SCIENCE FAIR A TREMENDOUS SUCCESS!** by Jordana Ash

The Mesa Science Fair had over 100 exhibits of truly fascinating scientific topics. Thank you to all the young scientists (and their moms and dads) who researched, experimented, graphed, analyzed, charted, reviewed, demonstrated, etc. A great job was done by all!

A huge thank you goes out to the parent and community evaluators who devoted much time, energy and interest in the children's work. More than 25 adults helped evaluate the projects over two days. The evaluators made all the difference, and we could not have done the Science Fair without them.

A special thanks goes out to Julie Gelderloos and Gary Strand. As co-chairs and ever reliable right hands, they did much of the behind-the-scenes work that ensured a great event. They were invaluable; much of the credit for the success of the science fair belongs to them. Thank you one and all!

## **SUMMER READING SUGGESTIONS ONLINE**

Looking for a good list of books for summer reading? Log on to [www.kathimitchell.com/summread.htm](http://www.kathimitchell.com/summread.htm) for a comprehensive list of suggestions from a number of sources, including public libraries, school libraries and the American Library Association. A hard copy of this site is available in the Mesa library.

## **NEWS FROM THE LIBRARY** by Arlene Martin

This has been a great year for reading library books, but now all the books must be returned to the library no later than Friday, May 26, 2006. As an incentive, we will reward each class with an ice cream party if all the students have all their books turned in by that date. With each visit to the library, your child is reminded of the status of books checked out. Please ask them now whether or not they are responsible for a book that needs to be returned. If he/she has lost a book, we ask for payment of \$6.00 for a paperback and \$16.00 for a hardback book. Checks should be made out to "Mesa Elementary School" and submitted to the librarian.

If you would like to spend some time volunteering in the quiet setting of our library, please let Connie or me know before the end of the school year. This year's faithful volunteers, Nancy Billica, Francis Hartogh and Judy

Koeber, are graduating to middle school with their children, leaving us helpless! It is possible to arrange for you to be in the library when your child's class visits, or at almost any time during the school day throughout the week. There are always books to stamp, label, cover, to check in, shelve, repair, etc. We would welcome you as a regular, once-a-week helper or as an on-call person. Please call the school at 303-494-4704, and leave a message at extension 234. We will be in touch!

Thank you to the many parents who have helped their children become responsible library patrons and bodacious readers! Continue to read over the summer.

## **CLARIFICATION ABOUT ATTENDANCE**

There has been some confusion about absences and tardies for this school year. The following information is found on Page 6 of the Mesa Elementary School Handbook, revised 2004, which every Mesa family received this past fall:

Consistent, on-time attendance is important and relates directly to academic success. Please call the school office before 9 a.m. if your child will be absent or tardy to school. Children who arrive after 8:30 a.m. are considered tardy and must sign in at the Office before going to class. Excessive absences or tardies (more than 5) will result in a notification letter.

All tardies are excused tardies, but they are counted in attendance and are listed on report cards. Students who leave school during the day, for whatever the reason, are considered absent.

The Boulder Valley School District considers absences from the classroom and its learning experiences disruptive of the continuity of the educational process, both for the absent student and the students who are in the classroom. Obviously, a child coming late to class is also disruptive to the classroom environment.

## **MESA YEARBOOK**

It is not too late to purchase a yearbook for your child. Wild About Learning 2006 is a wonderful compilation of pictures and memories of this school year. Come take a look at one in the Mesa office. The yearbook costs \$18.

## **\*\*\*\*\*DATES FOR LAST DAYS\*\*\*\*\***

**Last day for students = Thursday, June 8**

**Last day for teachers = Friday, June 9**

**Last day for Mesa office = Thursday, June 15**

## WHAT IS ADHD?

ADHD is a condition of the brain that makes it difficult for children to control their behavior. It is one of the most common chronic conditions of childhood. It affects 4% to 12% of school-aged children. About three times more boys than girls are diagnosed with ADHD. There are three types of ADHD:

1. Inattentive only (formerly known as ADD, attention deficit disorder): Children with this form of ADHD are not overly active. Because they do not disrupt the classroom or other activities, their symptoms may not be noticed. Among girls with ADHD, this form is most common.

2. Hyperactive/Impulsive: Children with this type of ADHD show both hyperactive and impulsive behavior but can pay attention.

3. Combined Inattentive/Hyperactive/Impulsive: Children with this type of ADHD show all three symptoms. This is the most common type of ADHD.

It is normal for all children to show some of these symptoms from time to time. Your child may be reacting to stress at school or home. He/She may be bored or going through a difficult stage of life. It does not mean he/she has ADHD.

If you do suspect your child may have ADHD, your pediatrician can use standard guidelines developed by the American Academy of Pediatrics, [www.aap.org](http://www.aap.org). These diagnosis guidelines are for children 6 to 12 years of age. It is difficult to diagnose ADHD in children 5 years of age and younger. It is also difficult to diagnose once a child becomes a teenager.

If you have questions about ADHD or need more information or support for other disabilities and learning challenges, contact the BVSD Parent Liaison, Anna Stewart, at 303-245-5918, [anna.stewart@bvsd.org](mailto:anna.stewart@bvsd.org).

## PUT IN YOUR TWO CENTS FOR THE GRADE 4/5 COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECT

The Fourth/Fifth Grade class is working on a project trying to make the Boulder community aware of the 15,000 people in the city who live at or below poverty level. The class has been collecting 15,000 pennies and already has almost 14,000. Would you help us collect the last 1,000? There is a collection bin opposite the Mesa office. There will be a plaque in the Public Library to remind Boulder of this issue, and the class will donate the pennies to an organization that works with people who live below the poverty level.

Thank you from The Mongo Mangoes (4/5 class) for giving us your two cents!

## P.E. News

by Jacy Bruno

Mesa Field Days was a huge success last week! I changed the format and appreciate the positive support I received from so many of you. The kids did an amazing job! I want to send a special thank you to the 5th grade students who helped with the K/1 and 2/3 field days and also a huge thank you to the parents who helped with the 4/5 field day. Everyone had a great time!

## TAG TALK

by Betsy Puls

The Crow Canyon TAG—Science Enrichment Trip was highly successful and surpassed the expectations of the adults involved. I am very pleased because I felt the curriculum experienced there, as well as the pull-out teaching beforehand at Mesa, built directly upon previous third and fourth grade curriculum at Mesa. Thanks to everyone involved who helped organize the trip. The students were marvelous!

The Junior Great Books sessions are almost finished. I am hearing the parent volunteer leaders are having good experiences, and the children seem to really enjoy the small group-shared inquiry procedure and experience. A huge thank you to all those who led the groups at each grade level, and especially to parents Kristi Dimock and Adrienne Lee who organized the volunteers.

Once again, a huge THANK YOU! to Jordana Ash for organizing Mesa's Science Fair. The library was filled with wonderful student projects and experiments.

## ART/SCIENCE FUNDRAISER

by April Christenson

If you ordered a Jim Freehart print, they will be in the main office beginning Friday, May 26. Mugs and cards ordered will be sent home with your student. If you have not ordered, you can still do so; order forms are available in the office and are due no later than Wednesday, May 31. A time lapse DVD of Mr. Freehart's painting "Table Mesa Majesty" at Mesa is also available for \$10.00.

Stop by the office to see the mug and card on display and turn in an order form for this incredible donation to our art/science fundraising efforts.



## Mesa Elementary School May 18, 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](mailto:mike.medina@bvsd.k12.co.us)

We're on the web  
[www.bvsd.k12.co.us/schools/mesa/](http://www.bvsd.k12.co.us/schools/mesa/)

# PTO CORNER

## 2006-2007 PTO Board

Congratulations to the new PTO board,  
elected on May 2nd:

Co-Presidents:

**Diana Fields and Dian Kiwiet**

Vice President:

**Gail Ross**

Secretary:

**Carol Friefeld**

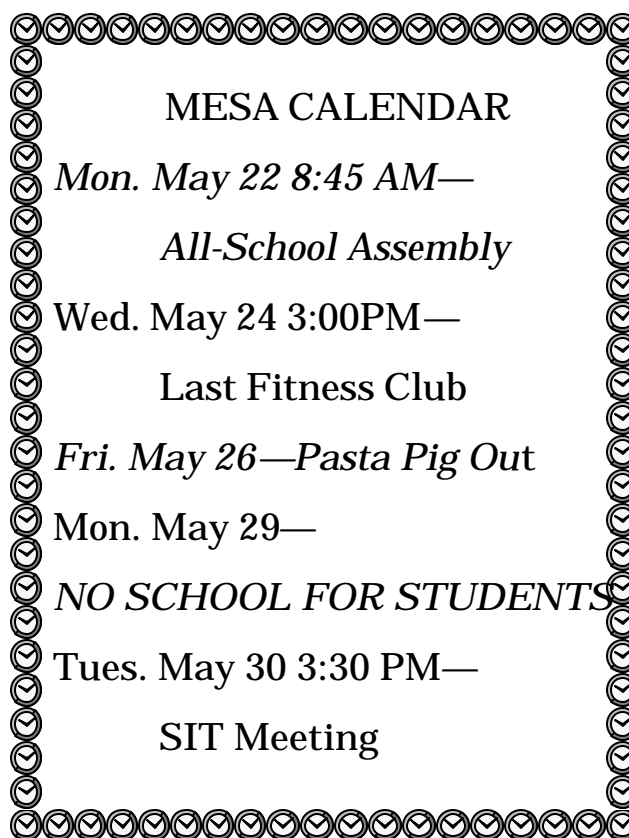
Treasurer:

**Jan North**

The new board is a combination of old and new members, which should make for a smooth transition. Don't forget that all Mesa parents are members of PTO and that it is never too late to get involved!

## Shoelace Frenzy

Unfortunately the Shoelace Frenzy had to be canceled due to a variety of reasons,



## MESA CALENDAR

*Mon. May 22 8:45 AM—*

*All-School Assembly*

*Wed. May 24 3:00PM—*

*Last Fitness Club*

*Fri. May 26—Pasta Pig Out*

*Mon. May 29—*

*NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS*

*Tues. May 30 3:30 PM—*

*SIT Meeting*

primarily because there was no one heading the event. Hopefully the event can be held next year.

## Spring Donation Letter

The PTO counts on spring donations to provide between 20–25% of its budget. The funds are used to enhance your children's education in many ways, including Teacher mini-grants (field trips, guest speakers, programs, classroom supplies), Math and Technology support, Mesa Magazine, and "emergency" purposes. The Mesa PTO was able to step in and support our innovative early intervention literacy program this past August when, only a few days before school opened, state funding for the Read to Achieve program was cut. Every contribution, big or small, helps your child. Look for the Spring Donation Letter in your child's folder today.