

Mesa Elementary School

June 2, 2006



THE MESA MESSENGER

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parent Community,

Wow! The school year has passed so quickly and this is the last newsletter of the year. We have truly experienced a fantastic year at Mesa. The students have been great; the parent contribution has been phenomenal. Overall as a staff we can't begin to express our gratitude for such a positive experience this year. Parent Mike Barnes accompanied some members of our staff to the Governor's Reception as Mesa Elementary School accepted our annual award as "A School of Excellence." This award would not be possible without the team spirit we have in this community. Together the parent community and staff bring out the best in our students. As a team we truly are a "community of excellence."

For the past three years Mike Barnes has served Mesa as Chair of the School Improvement Team (SIT). Mike has performed this duty with grace and integrity. Even though he has a very busy schedule, he found time to serve our school community. His contributions have certainly made a difference! Erin Moran will serve as our newly elected chairperson; we welcome Erin to the team.

Samantha Madden Gilpatrick is leaving Mesa to live closer to family in New Hampshire. As a fourth grade teacher for the past three years, she has demonstrated many of the attributes associated with gifted teachers. Mesa is a better place due to Sam's contributions. We will certainly miss her and wish her and her husband the best.

Arlene Martin retired two years ago as a fourth grade teacher and returned to restructure our library. Over the past two years Arlene's work has revitalized our library into a welcoming learning center for all students and staff. Her work is appreciated by all in our community.

We will miss Arlene and wish her health and happiness during her retirement.

Angie Zimmerer has filled in for Gretchen Jimenez in the first grade for the past three months while Gretchen was on maternity leave. Angie did an excellent job and the transition was very successful. We are also thankful to Angie for her excellent contributions. At the same time we welcome back Gretchen as she returns from her leave to finish out the school year.

At this time we welcome Mr. Rico Kellogg as the new fifth grade teacher. This past year he taught at Bear Creek and had a great experience there. We also congratulate Mrs. Sarah Thompson who will take Samantha Gilpatrick's place in the fourth grade this coming fall. We also welcome back Ms. Terry Snyder, who returns to Mesa as the media center specialist.

Mesa students will meet their teacher for next year on Wednesday, June 7. Class lists will be posted at 3 PM on the same day. The entire Mesa staff has invested a great deal of time and effort to balance classes in the best possible manner for all. Please be courteous and understanding of this process as students meet their new teacher for the 2006 – 2007 school year.

I extend a heartfelt thank you to all students, parents and staff for a successful school year and look forward to another great year beginning in August. Enjoy your summer!

In partnership,

Mike Medina

NEWS FROM THE LIBRARY

From Arlene Martin

Congratulations to the following classes for returning all their borrowed books to the library by the deadline on Friday, May 26:

Ms. Nankervis's first grade;
Mrs. Jimenez's first grade;
Ms. Schoolmaster's second grade;
Mr. Converse's third grade; and
Mrs. Thompson's fifth grade.

We celebrated these bodacious book borrowers with an ice cream party this week. Of course, it goes without saying that parents and teachers are also to be congratulated!

I am leaving the Mesa library next year. It has been an exhilarating and satisfying experience, and I shall miss it very much. I am grateful to Mike Medina for allowing me this opportunity for the last two years. And I am particularly indebted to Connie Tadehara for her guidance and expertise in daily tasks and media wisdom. You have been the wind beneath my wings, Connie!

SUMMER LITERACY CLASS OFFERED THROUGH LIFELONG LEARNING

From Cathy Conery

Students in Grades 1 or 2 who have difficulty with phonemic awareness and decoding words can enjoy additional practice in reading through activities that reinforce the general reading curriculum. Lifelong Learning is offering a class called Multi-Sensory Reading for Kids Grades 1-2, which will use music, art, movement, games and, of course, books to improve skills. Students who struggle with reading will find a supportive and respectful environment in this structured adventure in reading. The class will be taught by Kathleen Mayer, a certified teacher with an MA in Education and training in multi-sensory reading who has taught in the Denver and Boulder Valley Public Schools for five years as a special education teacher. The class will be held at Community Montessori School and will be offered Monday-Thursday, June 19-July 20, from 9:30-11:00 AM. Tuition is \$265; scholarships are available. For more information, contact the Lifelong Learning Office at 303-499-1125, ext. 222.

KINDERGARTEN AND LITERACY NEED YOUR BOOKS!

When you are spring cleaning and find beginning reading books your child may have outgrown, please consider donating them to Mesa's kindergarten classes or literacy library. These books will be leveled and sent home as "take home" books for our students. Decodable books are also wanted for the literacy library. Please, no baby books or board books.

MESA'S NURSE IS LEAVING

After 10 years as Mesa's nurse consultant, Dr. Margaret Huffman is leaving BVSD to take a position with the Colorado State Health Department. Mesa welcomes Heidi Meyers, RN, BSN, as our new nurse consultant. Nurse Meyers has been with the district for more than six years and will be available this fall for any health questions.

TAG TALK

From Betsy Puls

The district literary magazine, Facade, has just published its annual edition, and six Mesa students have either a short story or a poem included. Congratulations to second grade student Sydney Keenan; fourth grade students Emma Koltun-Baker, Emma Berdanier, Mike Vlasity and Erin Gillespie; and fifth grade student Matthew Eckl.

In earlier editions of this newsletter, the results of our Grade 5 Team's competition in both a winter and a spring Knowledge Master Open (KMO) contest, held online via computer, have been reported. Results were exemplary in both cases: first place in Colorado both times; nationally eighth out of 258 schools in January and 13th out of 328 schools competing in March. The following students were on the team for either one or both of the contests: Evan Blum, Katt Bragg, Sarah Bragg, Rafael Castillo-Halvorsen, Teddy Chalfen, Gabe Dreiman, Bryce Garby, Shawna Gustafson, Cayla Kennedy, Evan Koeber, Peter Rock, Noa Sachs, Nick O'Dell, Sarah Walters and Grace Wilson. Congratulations to all of these students for a job well done in representing Mesa Elementary School nationally!

The Mesa TAG Program will be restructured and redefined for the upcoming school year. More specific information will be available in August of 2006.

PE NEWS

From Jacy Bruno

Fitness Club and Pasta Pig-Out were a huge success!!! Congratulations to everyone who was involved in these enjoyable events. Without such great parent volunteers, these special events would not have been possible. Thank you to everyone who helped. And a special thank you to Deena McCain, Diana Tanner, Karen Jones and Jennie Whitcomb for taking on the large roles they did!

Another huge thanks to the entire Mesa Community for making my first year here a wonderful one. You are the best!

MESA MAGAZINE CORRECTION

Because of an editing and production error, the poem about spring by Rachel Heilbronner (from Mrs. Orr's afternoon class) had an incorrect first line. Here is the corrected version:

Spring Makes me Feel. . .
By Rachel Heilbronner

Spring makes me feel happy and joyful

Because everything is alive.

Flowers are coming up,

Baby animals are born,

And new baby plants come up!

Everything is green!

**CRAYONS TO CALCULATORS:
SCHOOL SUPPLIES FOR KIDS IN NEED**

In Boulder Valley, there are over 4,000 students from low-income homes who begin school every fall without adequate supplies. When you are buying school supplies for your student this fall, please consider buying an extra set and stuff a backpack for a student in need! To sign up and to find out more ways you can provide support and learn about volunteer opportunities, log on to www.crayonstocalculators.org or call 303-245-5880.

This drive is sponsored by the Boulder Rotary Club and BVSD Impact on Education as well as many other service organizations in the Boulder community.

HOT LUNCH PRICES TO INCREASE

BVSD Food Services will need to raise the cost of lunch items this coming fall. Prices have not increased for several years despite food and

labor costs which have continued to rise over the years. Prices at the elementary level will be:

- Lunch, full price \$2.25
- Lunch, reduced price \$0.25
- Adult, with or without milk \$3.25

The 8-ounce container of milk will still sell for \$0.50.

MUSIC NOTES

From Sarah Knoebel

We are looking for a committed volunteer or two who would be willing to learn how to help with the stage work for the many performances at Mesa throughout the school year. Our beloved Rob Fauver, whose child has graduated to middle school, does so much for Mesa. This year he did a variety of tasks such as taking curtains up and down and building platforms by himself. He would love some help! It would be great to groom a parent or two who would be at Mesa for a number of years to come, but if your child will be in fifth grade this fall, you can still "learn the ropes" at the master's hand. Please contact me if you are interested in helping. Leave a message at Mesa at 303-494-4704.

Thank you for all your support during this year. It has been a wonderful experience! Our students are awesome!

**PLEASE CHECK LOST AND FOUND BEFORE
THE END OF THE SCHOOL YEAR**

The lost and found is now on display in the hallway across from the cafeteria. Please be sure to check for your items by the end of school on Thursday, June 8. Anything left after June 8 will be donated to a local charity. Thank you!

**CHILDREN OUTGROWING CLOTHES? THE
HEALTH ROOM NEEDS THEM!**

If your child has outgrown clothes which are in good shape, please donate them to the Mesa Health Room. We especially need larger sizes for older children who enjoy running through puddles and can get their pants and T-shirts dirty and wet. Socks would be appreciated, too.

**NO LUNCHES WILL BE SERVED
ON THE LAST DAY OF SCHOOL**

The cafeteria will be closed on Thursday, June 8. Be sure to pack a lunch for your child that day.



Mesa Elementary School June 2, 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

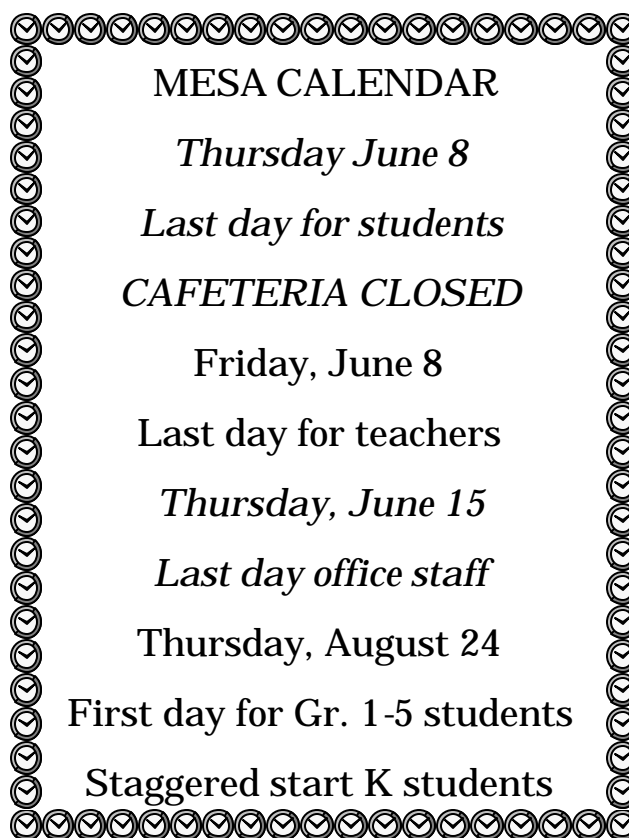
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We're on the web
www.bvds.k12.co.us/schools/mesa/



MESA CALENDAR

Thursday June 8

Last day for students

CAFETERIA CLOSED

Friday, June 8

Last day for teachers

Thursday, June 15

Last day office staff

Thursday, August 24

First day for Gr. 1-5 students

Staggered start K students

PTO CORNER

Thank you parents and teachers for supporting another successful year for Mesa's PTO. We organized and provided volunteers for numerous school spirit events, funded several important programs and raised over \$40,000 to support programs for next year.

The following is a partial list of functions/programs supported by the PTO this year:

1. Teacher mini-grants (\$14,000 this year): field trips, copyright fees for our musical productions, classroom supplies, school-wide assemblies, and guest speakers;
2. Mesa Magazine;
3. Our computer lab (\$10,000 this year): for wiring and furnishings;
4. Math and technology academic tutors; and
5. Literacy support to replace critical Read to Achieve grants not funded by the state this year.

A big thanks to all the chairpersons for PTO's school spirit and fundraising events:

New Parent Orientation, **Nancy Printz**
Fall Festival, **Stephanie Keller**

Mini Grants, **Monica Papas**
School Directory, **Brett Helstad**
Walk to School Day, **Christy Barth**
T-shirt Sales, **Lisa Beauchamp**
Open Enrollment, **Catie McDowell**
King Soopers Grocery Certificate Program,
Bruce Bauer
Gift Wrap Sales, **Lisa Beauchamp** and
Tara Neuman
Scholastic Book Fair, **Susan Richstone**
Mesa Magazine, **Stephen Topping**
Silent Auction, **Brenda Garby**
Parent Engagement Network (PEN),
Leisha Conners Bauer
Teacher Appreciation, **Debbie Gould** and **Mia Jenak**
Yearbook, **Dian Kiwiet**
Boxtops for Education, **Nancy Billica**
Bake sales, **Kate Kupferer**
Popcorn Fridays, **Cece Bloomfield** and
Julia Hoisen

Thanks also to **Sara Knoebel** and **Juli Aderman-Hagerty**, PTO's teacher representatives.

Have a safe, fun and healthy summer!