

Mesa Elementary School

September 1, 2006



THE MESA MESSENGER

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parent Community,

The first week of school was fantastic! The school year is off to a great start and our students have adapted well. Once again the Mesa staff has been extremely busy evaluating the data from the 2005 – 2006 school year. This data will drive our school improvement efforts. Our emphasis as an excellent school will be to maintain a continuous quality improvement process. This self-evaluation process will help achieve the high expectations we have at Mesa Elementary School. For the past six years Mesa has been recognized as a **School of Excellence** by the Colorado Governor's Office.

Please be reminded of Mesa's efforts to keep your children safe. **After the school day begins, only one door (the south parking lot door) will remain open.** All other doors will be locked throughout the school day. Additional doors will be open between 8:00 and 8:45 am and 2:45 and 3:30 pm. A new key fob system has been installed at Mesa. This system enables staff to use their fob to open four exterior doors. These doors are associated with the heavy traffic of students and staff and have been identified as; the south doors, the north doors, the third grade east doors and the doors adjacent the music room. All other doors, including the front doors on the east side, will be kept locked during the school day. This system allows teachers the convenience of taking a class out to recess and bringing them back with their key fob.

Mesa is a very safe school with a tremendous human traffic flow as parents, students and staff come and go. **Because we have so many people in and out of the building we will enforce the visitor badge requirement.** During the school day, all non-staff visitors who are planning to participate in a school activity or volunteer, as well as BVSD service and maintenance employees, must sign in at the main office and wear a badge. Please understand any inconvenience to you will result in a safer environment for your children. **These procedures will also apply to our playground areas.** We often have adults walking dogs etc. on

our school grounds during school hours. Our staff is instructed to inform anyone on the grounds that Mesa is off-limits during the school day. Parents and other adults who are visiting will be asked to sign in at the office and get a badge.

Throughout the school year we schedule emergency practice drills for fires, tornadoes and other potential dangers. We have been fortunate over the past several years not to have experienced a dangerous episode at Mesa. Our diligence will hopefully create a much safer environment and yet maintain the balance necessary to keep the fantastic sense of community which has evolved at Mesa.

On a very personal and sad note, as many of you already know, my son Michael was killed in a tragic automobile accident in July. It has been the most difficult time of our lives. Our tragedy will forever change who we are as a family and as human beings. We are honored to have been blessed with so many people who took the time to share their love and grief for our family. Although those first days were agonizing, you made them bearable with your expressions of caring. Thank you!

Many of you have asked what you can do for us during this difficult time. Now that we have had time to reflect, there is something you can all do. If you know someone who is lonely, reach out to them. Be kind to every person you encounter, as you never know what that person may be going through. Don't be afraid to tell those that you love, that you love them; tell them often. If you are upset at someone, please forgive them as life is so preciously short.

At Mesa I will champion the worthy cause of making sure all students are treated with dignity and respect. As a staff we aspire to ensure all students are safe and experience success.

With Sincere Gratitude and
In Partnership with Community,

Mike Medina
Principal

MUSICAL NOTES

From Sarah Knoebel

All Mesa 4th and 5th Graders are invited to sing in the MESA M&M's! We practice on **Tuesday** and **Friday** mornings at **7:45 AM**. During the month of September, the 4th Graders will *only* rehearse on **Fridays** and the 5th Graders will *only* rehearse on **Tuesdays**. If you already have an M&M shirt (from last year or a brother's or sister's), you do not need to order a new one! New M&M's may order a shirt by returning the t-shirt order form that will be sent home in Friday folders as well as a check for \$15.00 payable to Mesa School. Please order your shirts by September 29.

The **5th Grade Handbell Choir** will also begin soon! To be eligible to play in the 5th Grade Handbell Choir, students must audition. All 5th Graders at Mesa will have the opportunity to play handbells and grow in musicianship during regular classes. The Handbell Choir is in addition to regular music class and meets at **7:45 AM Wednesday and Thursday mornings**. Due to the numbers of bells, size of the tables, and amount of printed music, the choir is limited to 17 ringers. Students must first take a written test that was given this first full week of school before and after school or at noon. Students must also participate in a performance audition; these auditions will be held on September 5 and 6. Permission slips and written tests must be completed BEFORE the performance audition! The final Handbell Choir list will be posted on the music room door on Friday, September 8, after school ends.

I am looking forward to a fabulous year of music making! Parents, please feel free to visit music class any time!

Questions?: The best way to contact me is sarah.knoebel.bvgsd.org.

ART SKETCHES

From April Christenson

Welcome back Mesa artists and parents! I hope you had a fabulous summer. I spent many hours in the mountains, hiking and doing artwork. I joined the Estes Park Plein Air painters for their Wednesday painting events in Rocky Mountain National Park. Plein Air is when an artist works outside on a painting from beginning to end and does not use photographs. Claude Monet was one of the first painters to paint Plein Air. One amazing part of this activity is seeing the wide variety of paintings created at the same location at the same time.

Last year Plein Air painter Jim Freehart

worked at Mesa. Stop in to see his original painting, looking west from Mesa, in the library. Mr. Freehart donated this painting to the students of Mesa. Prints of the painting can still be purchased; more information will follow soon.

The Art Room needs volunteers to help every week, especially at the beginning of this year. I have injured my shoulder and am not supposed to do overhead lifting (bulletin boards). If you can help, leave a message in my office mailbox with your phone number and when you might be available. Or you can stop by the Art Room Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday when I am at Mesa. You can come just once, twice or every week—let me know what works for you!

The Art Discovery Center always needs boxes and containers (cereal boxes, egg cartons, t.p. and paper towel rolls, etc.). When students have finished their daily assignment in art class, they are free to go to the discovery center, where they can do their own art project using found objects. They may also draw in their sketchbooks. Most students choose to create three-dimensional sculptures and really cool creations. Because of time and space constraints in art, the discovery center gives students more opportunity to work in three dimensions. Feel free to drop off your saved containers in the main office any time or the art room when I am at Mesa.

ART/SCIENCE ROOM GRANT COMMITTEE CONTINUES ITS WORK—JOIN US!

The Mesa community has formed a committee to raise funds to build a true art room on the north end of the school and to remodel the current art room into an updated science room. The committee welcomes volunteers to help! There are jobs that are very small and some that will require some time. Even if you have only a small amount of time to spare, your help would be greatly appreciated by all of us at Mesa. Leave a note in Mrs. Christenson's mailbox or call her at 303-494-4704. She is at Mesa Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday each week.

CELL PHONES AT SCHOOL NOT A GOOD IDEA

More and more students are bringing cell phones to school. Cell phone use in school can be a distraction, and the Mesa staff cannot assume the responsibility for lost or misplaced student cell phones.

Mesa does not recommend students bring cell phones to school. If it is necessary for your child to have a phone at school, please discuss the appropriate use of cell phones with your child.

NOTE: Cell phones are generally not allowed to be used during the school day.

P.E. NEWS

From Jacy Bruno

I am very excited for a new school year and feel right at home after one year at Mesa. It's a great feeling to be back and the kids have been great! This summer my husband and I did a little camping and had many friends and family visit. I made it back to Nebraska a few times, to Johnson's Lake where my parents have a cabin, and I was able to fish, water ski and wakeboard. The weekend before we came back to school my husband and I traveled around Colorado and stayed in Vail one night, then stopped at Hanging Lake and stayed in Grand Junction, drove by Black Canyon, stayed in Alamosa, and sledded down the Sand Dunes. It was a very relaxing trip. I look forward to seeing all of you!

TAG TALK

From Betsy Puls

September is the fall month for testing students who are nominated for TAG evaluation. There are applications in the main office. They are due to me by Tuesday, September 15; you can place them in my mailbox in the office. If your student was on the Grade 2 list from last spring (those students are now in Grade 3) OR your student was in the process of being evaluated (no matter what grade level), you do NOT need to re-apply. If you are in doubt about your situation, leave a note in my mailbox; include your email address. I can also be reached at betsy.puls@bvsd.org or 303-494-4704.

You might be thinking about whether your student would like to join the official Mesa Chess Team which competes in BVSD league competitions (usually held on Thursdays several times each month). Let me know your interest. Mesa also has a Chess Club which meets once a week after school and runs after Thanksgiving until Spring Break. Chess Club is open to children in all grades and of all ability levels.

HEALTH ROOM NEEDS CLOTHING

There are days when students need a change of clothes, especially when it is wet outside. Socks and "big kid" clothes are especially in short supply.

We would also appreciate children underpants. If you could donate a new package of underwear, of any size or gender, it would be helpful. Just bring any items to the main office. Thank you!

WELCOME BACK LUNCHEON FOR STAFF— DELICIOUS AND SUCCESSFUL

Julia Hoilien, Cece Bloomfield, Bernadette Gimpel and the Mesa PTO would like to extend a huge thanks to the many volunteers who made *"Back to School with Rachael Ray"* a delicious and successful

luncheon for our hardworking Mesa teachers and staff. Thank you for the great food and assistance Catie McDowell, Kathy Cornelius-Smith, Peggy Kaufman, Steph Griffin, Anne Fedor, Debbie Gould, Susan Wortman, Susan Hollowell, Diana Fields, Kate Kupferer, Clare Stocker, Aleta Sherman, Anne Hedlund, Katrina Walsh, Betty Tobias and Jan North.

The Mesa Staff also thanks you all for making us feel so special! Yum!

ATTENDANCE INFORMATION

Please be sure to call Mesa at 303-494-4704 before 9:00 AM if you know your child will be late or will not be in school for the day. The school has voice mail when there is no one in the office to answer the phone. If your child gets sick in the middle of the night, there is no need to wait until 8:30 AM to call—just leave a message on voice mail, and both you and your child can go back to bed. If you will be on an extended vacation, please send a note to the office so we know in advance when your child will be absent.

Because frequent absences from the regular classroom disrupt a student's educational process, the Colorado Legislature has adopted compulsory attendance laws to ensure regular school attendance for children under the age of 16 years. These attendance laws place the responsibility of regular attendance on the student and the parents. Students are required to be in regular school attendance during the school year. If a student is absent for 10 days unexcused during the school year, the student is in violation of the Colorado Attendance Law and BVSD District Policy, and the district may commence disciplinary action. Mesa will notify parents by mail or telephone after a student is absent more than 8 days. It is our belief that students learn from each other, and being in the classroom every day, on time, interacting with one another, is part of the total education process.

Attendance during the October Count Period, September 22 through October 6, is especially important. During this time period Mesa and the school district would greatly appreciate it if you could be sure your child is in school each and every day.

HOT LUNCH PRICES HAVE INCREASED

Hot lunches now cost \$2.25, with or without milk. You can bring lunch money for your student to the office at any time or sign up for regular charges to your credit card. Forms for this are available in the main office. Menus are available on the district website and are sent home each month to every Mesa family. Extra copies are also available in the office.



Mesa Elementary School September 1, 2006

A Triple 'A' School
Academics
Arts
Athletics

Winner of the:

?? John J. Irwin Excellence Award
1999/2000, 2000/2001, 2001/2002, 2003/2004,
2004/2005 and 2005-2006

?? 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/

MESA CALENDAR	
Mon. Sept. 4—	NO SCHOOL
Thurs. Sept. 7 6:30 PM—	Back To School Night
Mon. Sept. 11 8:45 AM —	All-School Assembly
Tues. Sept. 12 6:15 PM -	PTO
Mon. Sept. 18—	NO SCHOOL
Tues. Sept. 19 3:30 PM—	SIT
Sept. 22– Oct. 6—	OCTOBER COUNT WINDOW

PTO CORNER

Welcome back. It is hard to believe that our summer break is over and school has started up again. We hope everyone had a wonderful summer!

For those of you unfamiliar with Mesa's PTO (Parent Teacher Organization), we hope that the PTO information packet sent home today will help inform you as to all the ways the PTO makes a big difference at Mesa. We have a budget of approximately \$40,000 to enrich our children's education by paying for academic support (math, literacy and computer help), classroom supplies, field trips, guest speakers, and our terrific Outdoor Education program. We also provide volunteers for many school events and organize school spirit activities.

Please be sure to turn in the volunteer sign-up form. We couldn't sponsor all of our fantastic programs without many, many volunteers. There is no minimum time commitment, but there are so many ways you can contribute to our school.

Several volunteers worked hard over the summer to make sure we started the year off right. **Julia Hoilien, Cece Bloomfield, and Bernadette Gimpel**, PTO's catering chefs, organized another successful Teacher Luncheon the day before school (see their thanks in the newsletter to the many

volunteers who prepared the food). **Brett and Sage Helstad** are leading the effort to create our popular school directory. Don't forget to send in your directory information and order forms. Mesa's new Kindergarten parents have **Susan Hallowell** to thank for the summer Kindergarten play dates. **Bruce Bauer**, again this year, is handling the sale of King Sooper's grocery certificates, a significant source of funds for the PTO. Please be sure to complete the order form in the PTO packet to participate in this easy fundraiser.

Don't miss our first PTO meeting on **Tuesday, September 12th at 6:15 p.m. in the library**. We will be approving the PTO budget and would like input from everyone as to how to spend and raise PTO money. Pizza and childcare for children 5th grade and younger will be provided for \$4.00 a child. We hope to see you there!

REMINDER
****NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS****
MONDAY SEPTEMBER 4
MONDAY SEPTEMBER 18
MONDAY OCTOBER 9