

# Mesa Elementary School

## September 22, 2006



# THE MESA MESSENGER

## FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parent Community,

Last week's Back to School Night was very well attended and reflected the high level of support for which Mesa's parent community is known. Many exciting endeavors are underway at Mesa this year. Our staff will participate in several book studies, and topics will include differentiation in the classroom, the latest in brain research and professional learning communities. Throughout the school year our staff will learn more about the strategies associated with differentiating the instruction and what brain research indicates are the most effective instructional strategies. The staff development approach is coordinated with the school district in an effort to build capacity within teaching staffs.

This school year Mesa teachers will continue to evaluate, discuss and put into action strategies associated with best practice methodologies for the purpose of maximizing learning. Our goal will be to challenge all students to meet their potential in all content areas.

In addition to student academic achievement, the most important thing we do daily is to ensure the safety and welfare of all Mesa students. Our goal is for all students "to be the best they can be!" We will continue the work on our "**No Bullying Program**" at Mesa. All staff members are promoting and emphasizing the importance of **respecting each other**. The program identifies behaviors which are inappropriate and specifically clarifies expectations of all students in every possible setting. These expectations are conveyed during each Monday morning assembly. Each student is required to share the student handbook with parents, and parents sign off, acknowledging they were apprised of all student expectations. We are confident these strategies will improve our school climate and ensure the best possible atmosphere conducive for learning.

Parent Teacher Conferences are a time to meet with teachers and identify strategies which will enhance your child's performance at school. Please be reminded conferences are on-going, and parents may always schedule a conference with a teacher as needed. **During the scheduled parent/teacher conferences this fall, we can accommodate only one conference per family.**

As we approach the month of October, please make sure your child attends each day because our school funding is determined by the October Count of students actually present in school. The actual count period begins Friday, September 22, and extends through Friday, October 6. The number of students we get funding for is equal to the average in attendance throughout the 11-day period. Please plan around this window if possible.

In Partnership,

Mike Medina

### IMPORTANT NOTICE

There is no supervision of Mesa's playgrounds before 8:15 AM or after 3:15 PM. Please do not send your child to school before 8:15 AM, and make sure your child is picked up by 3:15 PM because we cannot guarantee your child's safety outside when there is no supervision. The YMCA does provide before and after school care at Mesa on a full-time, part-time or drop-in basis. For more information contact the YMCA at 303-443-4474 x2001.

## **SIGN UP FOR PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCES AT MESA**

Parent/Teacher Conferences will be held 3:30—7:00 PM on Monday, September 25, Wednesday, September 27, Tuesday, October 3 and Thursday, October 5. Please sign up on the sheets on the table in the hallway across from the main office. You can sign up any time school is open.

Because of time constraints, please sign up for only one conference with your child's teacher. It is very difficult for our staff to arrange more than one conference per student.

## **INTERNATIONAL WALK TO SCHOOL DAY ON WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 4**

Join your classmates and neighbors in celebration of International Walk to School Day on Wednesday, October 4. Children and families around the globe will all be walking or bicycling to school on this one day. Mesa will have coffee and refreshments for you when you arrive at school. If you live too far away and drive or take the bus, join our principal, Mike Medina, at 8:15 AM at Bear Creek Park (Lehigh and Bear Mountain Drive). We will walk together from there to school.

Everyone can and should be a part of this event. Why? To enhance the health of our kids.

To improve air quality and the environment.

To create safer routes for walking and biking.

Thank you Mesa bakers and Starbucks for providing refreshments!!!

## **WHAT TO DO IF YOU SEE DANGEROUS WILDLIFE IN THE AREA**

As a follow-up to the letter sent home earlier this month, we have been asked by the Boulder Police Department to notify the Mesa community to call 9-1-1 if a wild animal is sighted in the neighborhood. A call to the Urban Wildlife Department at 303-340-4911 will also bring help in re-locating any wild animal to a more appropriate setting.

## **HELP NEEDED IN KEEPING OUR GROUNDS CLEAN FOR PLAY**

Very often Mesa's open playgrounds are used by neighbors to run their dogs. We have found that people are not very good at picking up; several younger students have brought "pet treasures" to our attention.

**PARENTS:** If you see people using Mesa's open space with their pets, please remind them that children use the area too, and we need to keep it clean and sanitary for our students. Thank you for your help!

## **MUSICAL NOTES**

### **From Sarah Knoebel**

M&M and handbell members need to remember to wear jeans and their red M&M's shirt on Tuesday, September 26, because it is picture day. Pictures will be taken for handbells at 7:45 AM and for M&M's at 8:00 AM. Proceeds from the sale of these pictures go to the Mesa music fund.

## **OCTOBER COUNT PERIOD HAS BEGUN— PLEASE BE SURE TO MINIMIZE ABSENCES**

Each school district in the State of Colorado is required to count pupils in attendance as of the school day nearest to the Count Day, which is always October 1. The October Pupil Count is used to determine the level of funding that the district will receive from taxes, state funding and other sources. The Pupil Count is a head count of students by school and grade who are enrolled in an educational program provided by the Boulder Valley School District. This is a one-day membership or enrollment count.

Because October 1 is on Sunday, the official count day this year is Monday, October 2. Mesa would appreciate your making sure your child attends school that day. We recognize students can be unexpectedly sick or there may be unforeseen family emergencies; this year October 2 is also a religious holiday. That is why there is an 11-day count period, from September 22 through October 6. Funding is not taken away for students who are absent on Count Day or any of the other days during the count period. However, it creates more work to verify a student's attendance in these cases. Please try to have your student at school on Monday, October 2, if at all possible. Thank you!

## **P.E. NEWS**

### **From Jacy Bruno**

Mesa's Magnificent Mile Runs are happening the week of October 10. More information will be coming home with your child soon in the Friday folder. Each grade level will run separately, and there will be a permission slip for each child. There will also be a parent volunteer form if you are interested in helping. We need parents to monitor students as we walk to Fairview and to help keep track of laps and times for each child. Check your child's permission form for the day and time your child will participate in the Magnificent Mile Run.

## **KINDERGARTEN PARENTS: SAVE THE DATE**

Kindergarten Literacy Night will be Thursday, November 16, at 7:00 PM in the Mesa Library. More information will follow.

## SAVE THOSE OLD SHOES!!

During the week of October 2, Ecocycle will place several bins at Mesa Elementary for recycling old shoes. These old shoes will be turned into material which can be used to re-surface athletic fields, courts, tracks and playgrounds.

Please bring in only athletic shoes with a distinct upper, cushioned midsole, and outer sole—this means NO hiking boots, dress shoes, winter boots, sandals (even if they are athletic sandals) or slippers. Also, no athletic shoes with metal parts, cleats, spikes or mud, please.

## TAG TALK

### From Betsy Puls

Chess Anyone? Mesa has a regular “play-for-fun and learning” Chess Club, which will be held Tuesdays after school in the library beginning November 28, the first Tuesday after Thanksgiving. Students in all grades and at all levels of ability are invited to come learn and to play chess at Tuesday Chess Club.

There is also a competitive Chess Team that plays for fun and learning but which requires more commitment on the part of the student and parent. The Chess Team plays other schools in Boulder Valley, both by hosting them at Mesa and by playing away at various locations. This year the competitive team plans to have structured lessons with a chess coach as part of its activity. There will be a fee for the lessons, depending upon how many students sign up; scholarships are available. This competitive Chess Team will soon be forming; if you are interested in this team, leave a note in Mrs. Puls’ mailbox. Watch for flyers at school which will advertise times and events. The competitive team will always have its activities on Thursdays.

## MESA’S FALL FESTIVAL IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER—FRIDAY, OCTOBER 13

The leaves are falling and the nights are getting cooler. This must mean that *Fall Festival* is soon! This year *Fall Festival* will be **Friday, October 13, from 5:30 - 8:00 PM at Mesa**. *Fall Festival* is a PTO-sponsored, fun-filled evening of carnival booths, food booths, games and dinner. The whole family will enjoy the variety of activities which will include soccer, arts & crafts, movie star dress-up, balloon darts, a bouncy house, air hockey, guessing jars and the always popular cake walk. *Fall Festival* has become a fun tradition at Mesa. Kids love running to the different booths sponsored by each class, where they get to win prizes. Pizza and hot dogs will be available for dinner, along with lots of other treats.

Tickets will be sold at the door for all food and booth activities; the money raised goes to the PTO.

Co-Chairs Sally Hoechstetter and Anne Fedor, along with Room Parents, are busy planning this year’s event. Parents play a key part in making this evening a success. Parent volunteers are responsible for running the booths, selling tickets, setting up and breaking down the booths, patrolling the grounds and baking for the cake walk and the bake sale. *Fall Festival* depends on parents to volunteer. This year, to encourage older students to be more involved in *Fall Festival*, we will be asking them to sign up to help at the booths; separate sign-up sheets will be put up for them.

To make this exciting event a success, become a volunteer by signing up for these important jobs on the sheets outside of the office or talk to your Room Parent. *Fall Festival* is great family fun and a wonderful way to support the Mesa PTO!

## SHARE YOUR WISDOM, EXPERTISE AND PASSION!

The following information comes from Anna Stewart, PPP Parents as Mentors Liaison in the BVSD Division of Special Education.

BVSD, through the department of special education, has a unique program of parent volunteers who offer support, information and resources to other families who have students with special needs. And we need you!

Parents as Mentors (we call them PAMs) participate in outreach at their school and are available to receive phone calls from parents. They in turn are supported by their principal and school staff as well as through the Parent Professional Partnership office which is part of BVSD special education. New PAMs will receive training and materials and be expected to attend regular meetings with other PAMs. It is a wonderful opportunity to share your hard-earned expertise, offer a supportive ear and provide accurate information to help guide families through the special education system. We also have opportunities to offer support through small groups working with preschool, English language learners and other topics.

If you are interested in representing your child’s school as a PAM, please download an application form from our website, <http://www.bvsd.org/C13/PPP/default.aspx> or ask at your school’s front office. Principals will make the final selection. If you would like more information on the role of PAMs, please call Anna Stewart, PAM Liaison at 303-245-5918 or [anna.stewart@bvsd.org](mailto:anna.stewart@bvsd.org).



## Mesa Elementary School September 22, 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](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/)

### MESA CALENDAR

*Mon. Sept. 25 8:45 AM—*

*All-School Assembly*

*Monday, Oct. 2—*

### OCTOBER COUNT DAY

*Tues. Oct. 3 6:15 PM—*

*PTO Meeting*

*Wed. Oct. 4—*

*Walk To School Day*

*Mon., Oct. 9—*

*NO SCHOOL*

# PTO CORNER

We had a great PTO meeting on Tuesday, September 12. We approved a budget of approximately \$40,000 for the 2006-07 school year, with spending priorities once again given to Academic Tutors (math, tech, literacy support), Teacher Mini-Grants (programs, field trips, books, supplies), Outdoor Education (4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Grade programs), and Class Appreciation (\$100/teacher). For more information about specific PTO meetings, please read the PTO Minutes which are posted each month on the bulletin board near the office. Also, please join us at our next meeting, **Tuesday, October 3 at 6:15 p.m.**, when we will be approving Mini-Grant requests submitted by the Mesa staff and discussing final details for the upcoming Fall Festival.

Mark your calendars for **October 13 from 5:30 to 8:00 p.m.**, the date of Mesa's popular Fall Festival (fall carnival)! The Fall Festival is a great opportunity for our kids to play games and have fun, and for the parents to socialize with other parents, staff and volunteers. Please look for ways you can volunteer to help make this evening a success! More information about Fall Festival is included inside this newsletter.

Mesa parents never disappoint us in their willingness to volunteer. Thank you to the following parents who have volunteered to chair upcoming events/committees at Mesa: Monica Papas (Mini-Grants), Christy Barth (Walk-to-School Day), Lisa Gillespie (Teacher Dinners), Sally Hoechstetter/Anne Fedor (Fall Festival), Tammi Livingstone (Picture Day), Kate Kupferer (Bake Sale Coordinator), Gina Kelman (Sally Foster - Gift Wrap), Sherisse Hawkins (Volunteer

Coordinator), Sue Bryant (Book Fair), Jan North/Lisa Beauchamp (Outdoor Ed), and Maggie Janssen (Corporate Fundraising). It's not too late for **you** to volunteer—just return a PTO volunteer sheet any time to the office.

The Mesa PTO is successful, not only because of its wonderful volunteers but also because of the generosity of Mesa parents and the Boulder community. Don't forget all the ways you can support Mesa without spending an extra penny: (1) buy King Soopers and Wild Oats gift certificates on sale at the Mesa office or pre-order them with post-dated checks or credit cards; (2) register your credit card at [escrrip.com](http://escrrip.com) (Group: Mesa Elementary; ID: 6536652); (3) recycle printer cartridges and cell phones; (4) designate "Mesa" for store credit when you shop at Grand Rabbits and Play Fair Toys; (5) collect General Mills Boxtops for Education; (6) use store credit cards that give a rebate to Mesa PTO; and (7) shop on-line at [Schoolcash.com](http://Schoolcash.com).

Finally, thank you to Starbuck's Coffee on the hill (1402 Broadway), and store manager Allison Woodcock, for supplying coffee this year for PTO-sponsored events at Mesa. Help us thank our donors by patronizing their businesses. Also, please think of ways you or your organization can make in-kind or other contributions to Mesa. Any donations that benefit our children are always welcome and greatly appreciated.

**Next PTO Meeting, October 3, 2006, 6:15 p.m.**  
(Childcare and pizza available for children under 12— \$4/child)