

Mesa Elementary School

October 6, 2006



THE MESA MESSENGER

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parent Community,

Last year we implemented new security procedures at Mesa. During that time, the front office and I received several complaints regarding the inconveniences to many adults as a result of these procedures. Unfortunately, as we were recently reminded, we live in an era where danger persists and violence in schools is becoming more common place. We again are in the midst of dialog as our parent community discussed security procedures at Mesa during the PTO meeting last night. As a result of these discussions, we will continue to enforce the following procedures and precautions at Mesa: (This is a reprint from a previous newsletter, to emphasize the procedures.) ***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 between 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 to the music room. All other doors, including the front doors on the east side, will be kept locked. This system allows teachers the convenience of taking a class out to recess and bringing them back with their key fob.

The cost of this system was covered by BVSD as Mesa is a pilot school for additional security measures. In addition, a video camera may be installed, which would allow BVSD security to monitor the main entry ways and record the human traffic flow.

Mesa has been 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.*** 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. This next week we will practice our lockdown drill, which is part of our crisis plan. 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.

We apologize for any inconvenience to anyone as we try to ensure that all students are safe and that they experience success at Mesa.

In Partnership,

Mike Medina

****NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS****
Monday, October 9 — In-service
Friday, November 10 — Holiday
Monday-Friday, November 20-25 —
Thanksgiving Break

P.E. NEWS

From Jacy Bruno

Mesa's Magnificent Mile Runs are happening next week on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, October 11, 12 and 13.

PARENTS: We are hoping for your enthusiastic support for this event, whether you can come for the entire time or only for the run. If arriving for the run only, please allow at least 30 minutes from our start time at Mesa to get to the Fairview track—we need to organize and stretch. Hope to see many of you there!

Schedule:

FIFTH GRADE	Thursday, October 12 8:45 AM—10:45 AM
FOURTH GRADE	Friday, October 13 8:45 AM—10:45 AM
THIRD GRADE	Wednesday, October 11 8:45 AM—10:45 AM
SECOND GRADE	Friday, October 13 12:45 PM—3:00 PM
FIRST GRADE	Wednesday, October 11 12:15 PM—1:30 PM

THANKS TO ALL MEAL PROVIDERS AND COORDINATORS!

From Lisa Melli Gillespie (Erin and Avery's Mom)

A great big THANK YOU to all parents and staff who contributed to the success of the teacher conference meals these past two weeks. There was a huge response of willing people providing delicious food to our hard-working teachers. We are especially grateful to the office staff and others who helped with the prep and clean-up. Thanks also to Debbie Gould and Robin Goldstein-Lincoln, who unofficially coordinated the sign-up while I was out of town.

There is another set of Parent/Teacher Conferences in the spring, so if you missed out on this round, have any general comments, food "theme" suggestions or thoughts on how to make the process go even more smoothly, feel free to email me at lisamgillespie@msn.com.

Thank you again for everyone's help!

DESTINATION IMAGINATION STARTS IN OCTOBER

This year's Destination Imagination program will kick off with a meeting for interested children and their parents on Tuesday, October 24. The meeting will be from 7:00 to 8:00 PM in the riser area. Destination Imagination is a team-based activity which helps students develop creativity and problem-solving skills. Any student in Grades K-5

can participate. If you have any questions before the kick-off, please contact Barry Berdanier at 720-890-9166.

SPRING CSAP DATES

Please plan to have your student attend school for the Colorado Student Assessment Program (CSAP) test. The dates are:

Grade 3	Reading—Feb. 12 & 13, 2007 Math—March 5 & 6, 2007 Writing—March 19 & 20, 2007
Grade 4	Reading/Writing—March 6, 7, 8, 9, 12 & 13, 2007 Math— March 14, 15 & 16, 2007
Grade 5	Reading/Writing—March 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 & 12, 2007 Math—March 13, 14 & 15, 2007 Science—March 16, 19 & 20, 2007

THANK YOU TO ADDITIONAL PTO VOLUNTEERS

We neglected to add the names of some very important PTO volunteers who will be helping us this year: Mary Tapolsky (Boxtops for Education/Campbell soup labels) and Debbie Gould/Leisha Bauer (Parent Engagement Network).

It is never too late to add your name and efforts to the incredible Mesa PTO and its activities.

STUDENT COUNCIL BEGINS

From Jacy Bruno and Gretchen Jimenez

Welcome to all of our 2006-07 student council representatives! Two students were selected from each classroom in Grades 1 through 5 to participate in student council. Student council meetings are held at 8:00 AM in the Art Room the first and third Wednesday of every month. Our first meeting will be Wednesday, October 18 (because of Walk to School Day was October 4). The student council-sponsored school store is set up the second and fourth Wednesday of every month, beginning at 8:00 AM. Student council representatives are asked to work the school store about three times a year.

We look forward to meeting all of this year's representatives!

PICTURES! PICTURES! PICTURES!

Please take pictures for the Mesa yearbook of any events your child's class is undertaking. This year we are not providing disposable cameras because the picture quality is so poor. If you have a digital camera and can give us copies on a CD, label it and turn it into the main office. If you have printed pictures and would like to provide them for the yearbook, please turn those in at the office also. If you have any questions, contact Dian Kiwiet at kiwiet@comcast.net.

COUNSELING CORNER

From Debbie Price, School Psychologist

There are so many challenges our children face in society today. Divorce is one that affects many families, and it can be difficult for children to understand and accept. Even the most connected, positive, loving families need help and support from time to time.

I am offering a short-term divorce support group for Mesa students. It will run during school hours. If you are interested and would like more information, please contact me at Mesa, 303-494-4704. I am at Mesa all day Monday and also Tuesday mornings.

ART SKETCHES

From April Christenson

Help! My shoulder injuries have not improved and I really need help creating the bulletin boards and hanging student artwork in the hallways. Even if you only have an hour or two and can help only once, some working shoulders would be so appreciated! Leave a note in my office mailbox; I work at Mesa on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays.

Remember to continue to save your boxes, egg cartons, paper rolls, etc. The Art Discovery Center needs boxes and containers from your recycle bin all year. Drop off your saved containers in the main office any time, or you can bring them to the art room when I am at Mesa.

NEWS FROM THE LIBRARY

From Terry Snyder

There will be two more sessions for Grade 4 students to come to the library for Explorer research. The first time will be Tuesday, October 10; the second will be Wednesday, October 11. Both sessions run 3:00-4:15 PM. If notecards are finished, then we can help with the rest of the research. It would be great if parents or babysitters could also come to help out, if possible.

Let me know if your child is coming, what day and whether an adult will be volunteering. The best way to contact me is through email at terry.snyder@bvsd.org. Please respond by Monday, October 9, before 3:30 PM.

We had a great first session and look forward to working with as many fourth grade students as possible. Thanks so much for coming to help out if you can!

ART/SCIENCE GRANT COMMITTEE MEETING

Please plan on joining this important committee as we seek to raise funds to build a true art room

and remodel the current art room into an updated science room. There are many important jobs, both large and small. Come find out what we are doing! Our next meetings are Tuesday, October 10 and 24, beginning at 3:15 PM in the Art Room.

LOST-AND-FOUND: GOING! GOING! ALMOST GONE!

PARENTS: Be sure to check the lost-and-found articles which will be outside the cafeteria this coming week. Items not picked up will be donated to a local charity after Tuesday, October 17.

INTERNET SAFETY NIGHT FOR ELEMENTARY PARENTS– October 26 at Southern Hills

The BVSD Instructional Technology office and the Boulder Valley Council PTA, supported by local law enforcement agencies, are launching the i-SAFE program to educate and empower families to help make the Internet experience safe and responsible for their children, increase community awareness of safety issues, and provide family communication tips. Elementary school parents are encouraged to attend the event at the middle school closest to their child's school attendance area. If that is not possible, parents can attend any of the evening sessions, since they will all present similar information. See the enclosed flyer for specific times, dates and locations.

IMPORTANT BVSD PARENT INFORMATION CONCERNING EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES MASTER PLAN

This information comes from Briggs Gamblin, BVSD Director of Communications.

On Tuesday, August 22, 2006, the Boulder Valley Board of Education unanimously voted to place a \$296.8 million capital facilities bond issue on the November 7, 2006 general election ballot.

The recommendation for this bond issue came from the Capital Improvements Planning Committee (CIPC), a majority of whose members were volunteer community and business leaders. Appointed in 2004, the CIPC carefully examined the capital needs of all 57 BVSD buildings for more than two years and identified each school's needs in four specific areas: 1) facilities, 2) program impact, 3) multi-use outdoor facilities, and 4) information technology.

On June 13, 2006, the School Board accepted CIPC's Educational Facilities Master Plan. As part of that plan, the CIPC recommended \$296.8 million in capital improvements be made district wide.

Those recommended improvements are broken out on a school-by-school basis and are available online at www.bvsd.org.



Mesa Elementary School October 6, 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**

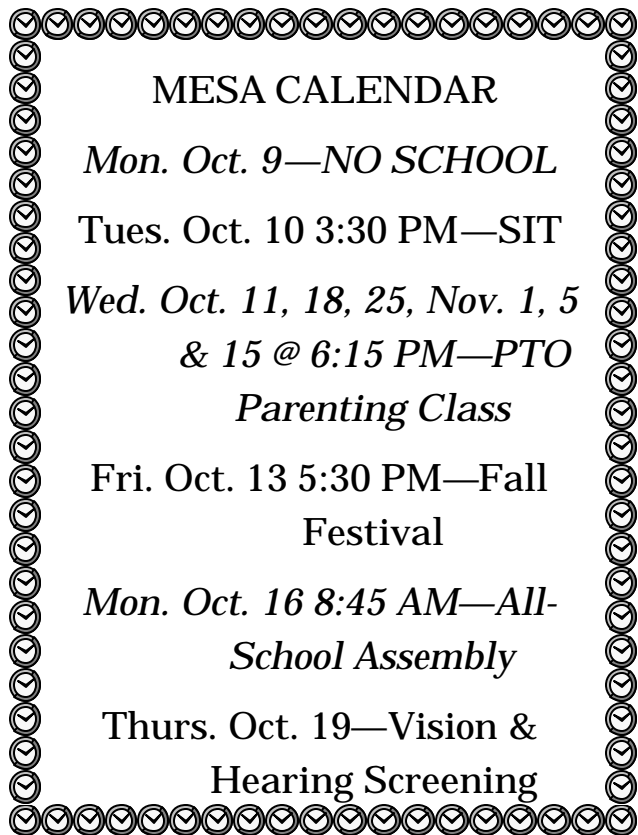
**?? Kennedy Center Schools of Distinction Award
for Arts Education**

**?? Colorado Department of Education
2004 Accomplished School Award**

Principal: Mike Medina
Secretaries: Judy Bullert and Emily Robbie

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MESA CALENDAR

Mon. Oct. 9—NO SCHOOL

Tues. Oct. 10 3:30 PM—SIT

Wed. Oct. 11, 18, 25, Nov. 1, 5
& 15 @ 6:15 PM—PTO
Parenting Class

Fri. Oct. 13 5:30 PM—Fall
Festival

Mon. Oct. 16 8:45 AM—All-
School Assembly

Thurs. Oct. 19—Vision &
Hearing Screening

PTO CORNER

Thank you to all the parents who attended the PTO meeting on Tuesday, October 3, and helped make important decisions on teacher mini-grants. We were reminded that the PTO supports many wonderful programs at Mesa, but that it is critical to have the financial resources to pay for those programs. This year, the PTO was pleased to receive requests from teachers for mini-grants in the amount of approximately \$16,000. The grant requests included funds for speakers, field trips, dictionaries, science programs, text books, keyboards, the Mesa Magazine, music copyright fees, yoga instructors, assemblies, and many more items. Unfortunately, due to a limited budget, the PTO cannot fund all of these requests at this time; only \$7,000 has been budgeted to pay for mini-grants. We, therefore, were faced with the difficult decision of deciding which mini-grant requests could be approved at this time. Decisions were made to approve grants that benefited the most children in all grade levels. Some mini-grant requests were deferred until the spring; some may have to be denied altogether. All of the mini-grant requests the PTO received are worthy. It is our hope that the PTO fundraisers this year will exceed our expectations so that additional funds will be available to fund some of these important programs later this spring. Please remember to support the school fundraisers, especially by purchasing King Soopers and Wild Oats grocery certificates.

Ask any Mesa 5th grade student how lucky they are to have an Outdoor Education program supported, in part, by the Mesa PTO. The 5th grade students just returned from a 3-day Outdoor Education program at La Foret in Colorado Springs where they participated in team-

building exercises, high ropes courses and rock climbing. The PTO contributed \$75 per student toward the total \$275/student cost. These funds were available from the sales of Sally Foster gift wrap and other products. The Sally Foster fundraiser is starting again this year to help fund Outdoor Education programs for the 4th Grade (a 2-day program at the YMCA camp in Estes Park this spring) and for next year's 5th Grade Outdoor Education program at La Foret. Please look for the Sally Foster sales package sent home today with each student. This is the **only** PTO fundraiser where students will be selling products. Although the funds raised support the 4th and 5th Grade programs directly, all students benefit from continuing these programs at Mesa, and all Mesa students and parents are encouraged to participate in this important fundraiser.

The date of our next PTO meeting, **November 7th at 6:15 p.m.**, is also Election Day. Mesa parent Kathy Gebhardt explained to parents at the last PTO meeting how important it is to vote on that day and become educated about the ballot issues affecting education. For more information about the upcoming election, please read the PTO minutes posted in the hallway or contact Kathy Gebhardt directly.

Finally, thanks to all for a successful Walk to School Day. Also, we look forward to seeing **everyone** at the Fall Festival, Friday, October 13, 2006, at 5:30 PM.

**Next PTO Meeting, November 7th, 2006, 6:15 p.m.
Childcare and pizza available for children
under 12—\$4/child**