

Mesa Elementary School

October 27, 2006



THE MESA MESSENGER

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parent Community,

In the last two newsletters we have shared our strategies for making Mesa more secure. All doors are locked during the school day. We have discussed at length the security measures which will be most effective and yet enable us to maintain the great sense of community which has evolved at Mesa over the years. Our staff recently practiced a lockdown drill in the event of a worst case scenario. We have also discussed procedures with Boulder Valley School District officials to collaborate on specific procedures and protocols related to crisis management. These discussions will continue at PTO meetings in the next few months. Please be assured that statistically schools are still the safest place for children to be during the day. And the safety of your children is the most important responsibility we have at Mesa.

The Boulder County Clerk's office and BVSD have been in discussions regarding using schools as polling and voting places after this upcoming election. We believe the time has come to utilize other facilities for voting purposes.

At Mesa this year we will use our gym area on Tuesday, November 7, and close off the other areas of the school to the voting public. We are recruiting parent volunteers to monitor the areas adjacent to the gym and voting booths on this day. A sign-up sheet is posted by the office on the front window for this purpose. Monitors will escort voters if they need to use a restroom, etc. These measures will enhance our efforts to limit access to our school when school is in session. Please sign up to give an hour or so for this important duty and help maintain a safe school environment on election day.

Open enrollment is once again upon us. Here are some important dates to keep in mind:

OPEN ENROLLMENT TIMELINES

Monday, November 27, 2006

Open Enrollment application forms will be available at all district schools, the Education Center and from the BVSD website at www.bvsd.org. Forms can be downloaded from the website but cannot be

submitted electronically. The signatures of both parents are required on the application in most circumstances.

Friday, January 19, 2007 – 4:00 p.m.

Deadline for parents completing and returning the signed application form to the Education Center. Application forms may not be returned to schools.

Friday, February 2, 2007

First round of acceptance letters mailed.

Wednesday, February 14, 2007 – 4:00 p.m.

Last date for parents to return signed confirmation letters from the first lottery round to the Education Center. Confirmation forms may not be returned to schools.

Wednesday, February 28, 2007

Second round of acceptance letters mailed.

Monday, March 12, 2007

Last date for parents to return signed confirmation letters from the second lottery round to the Education Center. Both parents need to sign this form.

Confirmation forms may not be returned to schools.

Monday, April 4, 2007 (approximately)

Wait list information mailed to parents.

Friday, August 31, 2007 – 4:00 pm

Open Enrollment is closed.

January 2007

Registration for students new to a school.

Important Reminder: If you currently have a student at Mesa who is open enrolled and have another student whom you want to start at Mesa next year, you must go through the open enrollment process for your incoming new student.

If you have any questions, please feel free to call the Mesa office, 303-494-4704, and we will be happy to help you.

In partnership.

Mike Medina

SHARE-A-COAT DRIVE HAS BEGUN

It is time again for donating those too-small, somewhat-worn but still-warm coats to the annual Share-A-Coat program. Each year the Boulder Valley Rotary Club, with cleaning services donated by Art Cleaners in Boulder, collects coats from many of our local schools, cleans and distributes them in mid-December to families and children who are in need of them.

A collection box has been provided at Mesa across from the office, so please send coats you are no longer using to school with your student. Both children and adult size coats are needed!

Rotary volunteers will pick up the coats from Mesa and deliver them to the cleaners. Coats will be picked up on October 26 and November 10; the last pick-up is scheduled for the morning of Friday, December 1. The top three schools, in terms of number of coats collected per student population, will receive cash prizes of \$150, \$100 and \$50 respectively.

In addition to coats, Boulder Rotary is also collecting children's used story books and textbooks that can be recycled back through the schools and other organizations.

Let's see what we can do for the less fortunate in our community and perhaps even win top honors! Thank you for your support

If you want more information, contact Mr. Bob Harberg, Coordinator, Share-A-Coat Program, Boulder Valley Rotary Club, at 303-441-3124.

WILD OATS GROCERY CARDS

Do you shop at Wild Oats? Buy a grocery card and Wild oats will donate 5% of the amount purchased to the Mesa PTO! Order forms can be found at the Mesa office. You may order a card for any amount. You can choose to have a grocery card automatically ordered each month or place a one-time order. Orders are sent to Wild Oats the first week of each month, and you will be emailed when your card is ready to be picked up at the Mesa office.

Order your grocery card in time for the opening of the new Wild Oats store at Twenty Ninth Street!

MESA FALL FESTIVAL A BIG HIT

This year's Fall Festival was a great success. The beautiful weather and the spirited Mesa community contributed to a night of fun for everyone.

This event could not have taken place without many volunteers. The Mesa PTO would like to thank the following volunteers for helping to coordinate this year's Fall Festival: Marilyn Decalo, Kate Kupferer, Katrina Walsh, Steve Griggs, Pat Felt, Roger Wolsey, Greg Frost, Gary Strand, Betty Tobias, Tammi Willmarth, Cece Bloomfield, Gina Kelman,

Julia Hoilien, Dian Kiwiet, Debbie Gould, Catie McDowell, Susan Hallowell, Brenda Garby, Jan North, Keith Bell, Amy Paa-Rogers, Maggie Janssen, Maryanne Cast, Diana Fields, Sally Hoechstetter and Anne Fedor.

We would also like to thank the wonderful parent, student and teacher volunteers who worked booths, baked goodies and brought in countless guessing jars. In addition, a special thank you to the office staff for their support. Without all of you, this event would not have been so special!

A big THANK YOU goes out to Eldorado Water, King Soopers and Baked in Boulder for their contributions. Also thank you, once again, to Starbuck's which donates coffee for PTO events.

PERFECT ATTENDANCE CLARIFICATION

At Mesa, perfect attendance for students is defined as being in school or in a school-sponsored activity 100% of the school day for all 173 days of the 2006-07 school year. This means no tardies, no excused absences for doctor appointments, etc. We realize this penalizes some students who are absent for religious holidays or family emergencies. After discussion with the staff, we have decided, in addition to perfect attendance, to have an exemplary attendance award for those students who are present in school 98% of the time. This 98% attendance translates to missing only a total of three days for the entire school year. Attendance at 98% is still an incredible accomplishment, and we know many Mesa students will qualify. We appreciate all those who truly make an effort to be at school on time each and every day of the school year.

AFTER-SCHOOL ACTIVITIES AT MESA

There are many wonderful activities that happen after school at Mesa of which you might not be aware. Information is always posted on the Community Board near the music room. For the fall, here is a partial list with contact numbers:

Brownies—Marilyn Fausset (303-543-8918)

Dian Kiwiet (303-554-9028)

Chess Team—Joel Parker (303-494-1479)

Chinese—Peggy Lui (720-890-6076)

Cub Scouts—Mark Chance (303-641-3814)

Destination Imagination—Barry Berdanier
(720-890-9166)

Elementary Spanish—Petra Masnicova
(303-440-7196)

Karate—Jacy Bruno (303-494-4704)

Kidlingua—Kate Boras (303-499-1671)

Science Matters—Barbara (303-805-9379)

YMCA Day Care—Brian & Mike

(303-443-4474 x 361)

ANNUAL EVERGREEN AND HOLIDAY PLANT SALE

Back by popular demand—this wonderful fundraiser for Mesa’s fantastic Outdoor Education program! This year orders will be due by Friday, November 17. Your beautiful holiday plants, evergreens and wreaths will be available for pick-up in the Mesa gym on Thursday, November 30. Look for order forms soon! Any questions? Contact Diana Tanner at 303-499-0504.

WAGONS NEEDED TO HELP WITH LUNCHES

If you have a wagon your children have out-grown, please consider donating it to our Kindergarten and Grade 1 classrooms. On days when there are a lot of cold lunch sacks, the students struggle carrying all those delicious meals to the lunchroom, and a wagon or two would make the job a whole lot easier for our younger students.

PLEASE LOOK FOR MISSING MESA BADGES

Several years ago, Mesa was provided 50 badges for our volunteers and visitors. At last count we had only 16! Please look around your house, your car, your purse or the jacket you have not worn since last winter, to see if you can find any badges to return. With our new security system, we need to be sure everyone who visits Mesa has a badge. Thank you for your help.

USBORNE BOOK FAIR COMING THIS THURSDAY AND FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 2 AND 3

Please plan on stopping by the cafeteria this Thursday and/or Friday to see the incredible Usborne Book Fair. Mesa receives 50% of sales in free books. These books are educational, of high quality, have great illustrations and make wonderful holiday gifts. There are several ways to participate:

- 1. **Book Fair** November 2 7:30 AM – 7:00 PM
November 3 7:30 AM – 5:00 PM

The book fair will be located in the Mesa cafeteria (NOTE: The kitchen will be closed both days—no hot lunches will be served on November 2 or 3.)

You can enter a drawing for a free book and help fulfill teacher wish lists. You will be able to take home your purchases the same day. Feel free to shop with your children before or after school.

- 2. **e-Book Fair** www.ubah.com/BF19429

Now through midnight November 6, you can order books online from over 1,400 titles. There are also special internet-only sales. Shipping is free for books sent directly to Mesa; select “ship w/School Free Books” when ordering online. Or you can choose to pay for your books to be shipped directly to your home. Please share this website with family

and friends to help earn more books for Mesa!

- 3. **Mini Catalogs** Return in Friday Folders by 11/3.

NOTE: Credit card orders require zip code. Checks should be written to “Usborne Books”.

NEWS FROM THE LIBRARY

From Terry Snyder

Fourth Grade Explorer Research

We recently wrapped up our fourth grade research club, and the fourth grade students did an impressive job on their Explorer projects. We will have more after-school research support as projects occur during the school year.

Things We Have Been Doing in the Library

We are very busy in the library. Classes have listened to me read many books that relate to what they are studying this year. Kindergarten has learned much about autumn, first grade has been studying families and seeds, second grade is now working on community, and we thoroughly enjoyed reading different types of owl stories. Third grade has learned about maps and the skeletal system, fourth grade was presented with a three part Power-Point series on Explorers, and fifth grade has been involved in a variety of activities, including listening to real stories of the Civil War. We have and will continue to work on many library skills as well.

Volunteers

Thanks to all the wonderful volunteers who keep things running smoothly in the library. We could not do what we do without all your support!

IMPORTANT DATES AND INFORMATION

- Sunday 10/29: END DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME
- Tuesday 10/31: 1:45 PM—Halloween Parade
2:00 PM—Class Parties
- Wednesday 11/1: Picture Re-takes
- Thursday + Friday 11/2 + 3: Usborne Book Fair in cafeteria
NO HOT LUNCHES SERVED
- Tuesday 11/7: 7:00 AM-7:00 PM—Election Day
6:15 PM—PTO Meeting
- Wednesday 11/8: 8:00 AM—School Store
- Friday, 11/10: NO SCHOOL/Veterans’ Day Holiday
- Tuesday 11/14: 3:30 PM—SIT Meeting
- Thursday 11/16: 11:45 AM—Pizza with Principal
7:00 PM—Kindergarten Literacy Night
- Friday, 11/17: Report cards go home
- Monday-Friday 11/20-11/24: NO SCHOOL/ Thanksgiving Break

THE MESA MAGAZINE IS COMING!

We are now accepting submissions from students for the *Mesa Magazine*. Stories, poems, articles, reviews, essays, etc.—all are welcome! The deadline for submission is Wednesday, November 15. Stories may be deposited in the *Mesa Magazine* box in the school library (just to the left of the entrance). Students should be sure to include their first and last names and their class (such as 2-B for Mrs. Boswell's Grade 2 class).

All Mesa students are welcome to submit literary pieces. Because of limited space, we will operate on a first-come, first-served basis. For very long pieces, we may be able to publish only an excerpt. So, along those lines, a chapter from a longer story is welcome. Students may submit more than one piece, but we may have to limit them if we have more submissions than we can accommodate. Students who submit more than one piece can help out by letting us know which is their favorite; otherwise the editors will choose. Also, we are looking for writing rather than artwork. We may be able to include artwork that accompanies writing, depending on layout and available space.

For students who compose their pieces on a computer, we would be happy to have electronic files (so we do not have to re-type everything!). For anything written at school, please work with Mrs. Garby; for anything written at home, a file can be sent by e-mail to satopping@comcast.net.

Any parents who believe it would be tremendously enjoyable to read and edit student writing and want to volunteer to help edit the *Mesa Magazine*, please contact Stephen Topping at the email address above.

SCHOOL CLOSURE INFORMATION

Fall is here, and the changing seasons remind us that inclement weather can result in school being closed for one or more days. We all need to plan ahead and be ready in case that happens.

Under all but the most extreme conditions, school officials have a responsibility to keep school in session. When the weather is bad but school is open, parents must make a family decision regarding attendance or late arrival for their children. A personal contact by the parent or a written note to school officials will excuse a student's late arrival or absence during these conditions.

Occasionally, the weather is severe enough that it is necessary to close schools in all or part of the district, such as what happened today. When this occurs, it is extremely important that working parents have pre-arranged child care available to them; arrangement with a friend or neighbor;

provision at a child care center; child care leave from work (if available); arrangements with a neighborhood teenager who also would be out of school; etc. It is very important for parents to make these arrangements now, since Colorado weather is unpredictable and it is not unusual to be hit by a severe storm at almost any time during the school year. During these past two weeks we have already had three snowstorms!

The BVSD website (www.bvsd.org) is the first line of public communication for school closures and class cancellations as it is notified before radio or television sources. Notification is given prior to 6:30 AM, or as soon as the decision is made to close during the day. PARENTS: Lack of any closure announcement on our homepage and cancellation page means that classes are being held as usual. Typically the media will also only release information if school is closed. In most cases, no media announcement also means that schools are open.

For more information, tune to one of the following radio or TV stations:

KGNU	88.5 FM	KCNC-TV	Channel 4
KJMN	92.5 FM	KMGH-TV	Channel 7
KTCL	93.3 FM	Bldr PA-TV	Channel 8
KISS	95.7 FM	KUSA-TV	Channel 9
KBCO	97.3 FM	KDVR-TV	Fox 31 News
KOSI	101.1 FM	KCBC-TV	Channel 50
FOX	103.5 FM	KHOW	630 AM
KOOL	105.1 FM	KOA	850 AM
ALICE	105.9 FM	KRCN	1060 AM
KBPI	106.7 FM	KBNO	1280 AM
KWGN-TV			Channel 2

In the case of partial closings, where only certain schools or areas in the district area closed, the principal of each affected school will determine whether activities such as parent meetings, programs, athletic events and building-use contracts, will be held, cancelled or postponed. Please check with our school office for this information. In the event of a district-wide closure, under most circumstances all events will be cancelled.

HELP NEEDED FOR ART TEACHER

April Christenson, Mesa's incredible art teacher, has had shoulder surgery and needs some volunteers throughout the day in her room to help with the physical things that need to be done to teach art—nothing too strenuous at all, mostly set-up for each art class. April works Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. Please call the Mesa office at 303-494-4704, and let us know if you can give an hour or two over the next month or so. Thank you!

BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION

Save your Box Tops for Education labels to benefit PTO programs! Box Tops labels can be found on many General Mills cereals, Betty Crocker baking and snack products, Yoplait yogurts, Ziploc bags and other food service products. In addition, bonus grocery coupons for the Box Tops for Education program are sometimes earned at the check-out stand. Each box top is worth money for the school; Mesa receives several hundred dollars every year from labels saved through this program. Deposit your labels in the big yellow box with labels underneath the Mesa office window.

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 phones. If your child gets sick in the middle of the night, there is no need to wait till 8:30 AM to call—just leave a message on our 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 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 17 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 Boulder Valley School District Policy, and the district may commence disciplinary action. Mesa will notify parents by mail or telephone when a student’s absences or tardies are affecting the classroom environment. It is our belief students learn from each other, and being in the classroom every day, interacting with one another, is part of the total educational process.

FREE & REDUCED LUNCH OPTIONS

We understand family circumstances may change throughout the year. If you feel your family may qualify for school lunch at free or reduced cost, please stop by the Mesa office for an applica-

tion form, which is also available on the BVSD website. The form may be submitted at any time during the school year. The information provided on the application is confidential and goes directly to the BVSD Food Service Department, which makes a determination within 10 days of receiving an application and mails a letter of qualification to the family. If you have any questions regarding your child’s free/reduced status, please call Linda Stoll, BVSD Food Service Director, at 303-447-5042.

TIME IS RUNNING OUT TO ORDER KIDZART FOR THE HOLIDAYS

There is still time to order KidzArt, unique products featuring your own child’s artwork. The deadline is this Monday, October 30. Samples of KidzArt can be seen in the display case near the Mesa office.

This year KidzArt is offering greeting cards, journals, calendars, matted prints, mugs, T-shirts, sweatshirts, mouse-pads and ceramic art tiles. A portion of the cost of KidzArt is a contribution to Mesa! Extra order forms are available in the office. KidzArt makes great holiday gifts for all family members.

P.E. NEWS

From Jacy Bruno

Magnificent Mile Runs

Thank you to everyone involved in the Magnificent Mile Runs that took place October 11-13 at Fairview High School. It would not have been successful without great parent support, teacher support and our wonderful 1st-5th grade runners. The kids did an amazing job, and we are very proud of them. Thanks again to all involved with this wonderful event!

Yoga at Mesa

Some of you have been inquiring about the after-school Yoga program that will be offered at Mesa. Here are a few details for you. There will be both a Fall and a Spring session. Both sessions will take place on Wednesdays and Fridays after school from 3:00-4:00 PM. Each session will run for 6 weeks and will cost \$40.00.

Fall Program

- November 29
- December 1
- December 6
- December 8
- December 13
- December 15

Spring Program

- March 7
- March 9
- March 14
- March 16
- March 21
- March 23



Mesa Elementary School October 27, 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

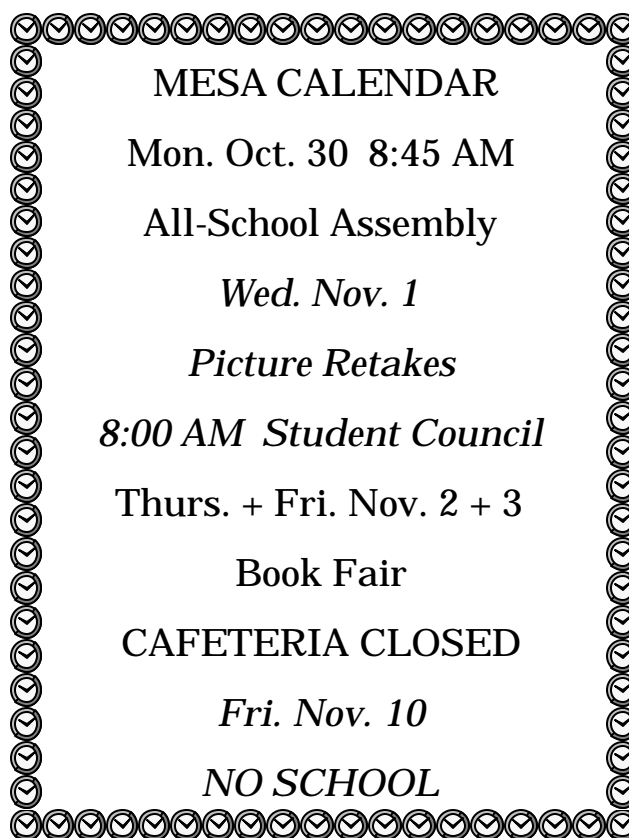
1575 Lehigh Street
Boulder, CO 80305

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/



PTO CORNER

Leaves, pumpkins, snow, and sunshine . . . it's autumn in Boulder! Thanks to all who helped celebrate the season at our successful Fall Festival. Through the participation of parents, teachers, and all who enjoyed the evening, the PTO exceeded its budget for this fundraiser (\$3,000) and raised approximately \$3,400. We extend a special thank you to the enthusiastic co-chairs of this event, **Anne Fedor** and **Sally Hoehstetter**.

Speaking of fund-raisers—sometimes it may seem that they never end. The PTO board each year has debated whether to ask for a one-time contribution from parents or to continue with fund-raisers that have become a tradition at Mesa. As in the past, we decided to maintain the practice of having a few large fund-raisers (King Soopers/Wild Oats grocery programs, escrip.com, cartridges, Silent Auction, and Spring Donation campaign) and a few smaller ones. Of course, participation in these fund-raisers is voluntary, and the PTO welcomes direct contributions (which are tax-deductible) at any time.

To keep track of deadlines for current fund-raisers, here's a brief summary of what's happening now:

Sally Foster Gift Wrap: Friday, 10/27

Orders contributing to classroom prizes are due 10/27; orders can be placed any time on-line at www.SallyFoster.com. 50% of all sale proceeds go to Mesa and directly benefit the wonderful 4th and 5th grade Outdoor Education programs.

First Grade Notepads: Friday, 11/3

Drawings reduced for 4"x5" notepads (\$1.75 each/5 pad minimum order). All proceeds used to buy early reader, decodable books for 1st Grade.

Mesa Mustang T-Shirts and Hooded Sweatshirts:

Friday, 11/10

T-shirts (\$11) and hoodies (\$24). See the colorful samples at the Mesa office. All proceeds benefit the PTO.

Usborne Book Fair: Thursday 11/2, 7:30 AM–

7:00 PM) and Friday, 11/3 (7:30 AM–5:00 PM)

In the Mesa cafeteria (NO LUNCHESES SERVED)

Usborne e-Book Fair: until midnight Monday, 11/6

Online orders at www.ubah.com/BV19429.

Usborne mini-catalogues: Friday, 11/3

Mesa receives 50% of sales in free books!

We hope you'll join us at the next PTO meeting where we will start planning spring fund-raisers and other events.

Finally, thank you to: **Tammy Livingstone** and her volunteers for helping with school pictures; **Lisa Gillespie** and her volunteers for teacher dinners during conferences; **Christy Barth** and her volunteers for Walk-to-School Day; and all the many volunteers who helped with Vision and Hearing Screening Day.

Next PTO Meeting, Tuesday, November 7, 2006*, 6:15 p.m. in the library

(Pizza and childcare available for children under 12 \$4/each child)

* Don't forget to vote and register your opinions on important issues affecting education