

Mesa Elementary School

November 17, 2006



THE MESA MESSENGER

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Mesa Community,

For the past several years many elementary schools have sent home report cards prior to the Thanksgiving break. We were recently reminded of school district timelines associated with specific trimester report card dates. As a result, report cards cannot go home prior to the official end of the trimester, which for Trimester One is today, November 17. The go-home date for report cards will be the Friday after we return from Thanksgiving Break, December 1, 2006. At this time Mesa teachers are compiling all the necessary data to complete this task.

The new standards-based report card is an attempt to correlate the adopted curriculum standards with the actual report cards. A 4-point numerical system was adopted by BVSD teachers. For each content standard, students are assigned a number from 1 to 4 based on their performance related to a specific standard. As time has evolved relative to the new report cards, we are attempting to be consistent across grade levels in respect to the numbers and an individual student's progress. Mesa teachers will utilize the following definition:

Some key words in the performance level descriptions we consider when evaluating a student's performance level for this point in time, for this trimester:

Advanced: consistently, independently, unique, in-depth thinking = 4

Proficient: consistently, minimal assistance, demonstrates thought = 3

Partial: near grade level, emerging concepts, teacher assistance, need refinement = 2

Does Not Meet: not making progress, repeated practice, frequent guidance, inconsistent = 1

We emphasize a performance number on the report card is a **student's performance level for this point in time!**

In the fourth and fifth grade levels, A – F letter grades are assigned as we begin to transition students to secondary or middle schools. We have had many discussions as to the numerical evaluation system on standards, and we have consistently asked ourselves, "Do they correlate to specific letter grades?" Most often advanced students will probably earn an A or B. But there are many factors that contribute to a student's letter grade. Students are able to work and complete assignments with assistance, and many times are provided time to edit and re-work projects etc. Because letter grades include so many different aspects of a "body of evidence" over time, they will not necessarily correlate with the attainment of a numerical standard. What this means is, a student may earn an A and be assigned a 3 on a particular standard, or be assigned a 4 and earn a B grade. I hope this helps parents understand the standards-based report cards going home on Friday, December 1.

It is with great pride I am reporting 6th grade students from Mesa are performing very well at Southern Hills Middle School. The honor roll is heavily weighted with Mesa students. Teachers from Southern Hills often comment how well prepared Mesa students are for middle school.

In Partnership,

Mike Medina

ART SKETCHES

From April Christenson

Thank you to all who purchased KidzArt! The orders are being processed and will be delivered before Winter Break. The money raised will be used to purchase special art supplies for all Mesa art classes.

After having surgery recently, I am not supposed to lift, push or pull anything for three months; after that I should be 100 percent and able to get that wonderful art on Mesa walls. Susan Hallowell (mother of Katy Lawrence 3-M and Liam Lawrence K-A) will be the Art Display Coordinator and literally my right hand to display art in Mesa hallways. She is recruiting volunteers when there is art to hang and already has a few people but could use a few more volunteers. If you could help Susan, please contact her at 303-554-7874 or susan_hallowell@yahoo.com.

DISCOUNT SHOPPING WEEKEND AT 29TH STREET AND FLATIRON CROSSING MALLS TO BENEFIT MESA

The week after Thanksgiving (November 27 – December 1) is the last week to buy a ticket for the Friends and Family Discount Shopping Weekend at the 29th Street Mall and Flatiron Crossing Mall. How this fund-raiser works: buy a ticket for only \$10 at the Mesa front office (Mesa receives 100% of proceeds), go shopping on the weekend of December 2 and 3 and receive exclusive discounts at participating stores and restaurants. To check out the actual discounts (10% to 40%), see the list posted at Mesa or go to www.twentyninth.com/extras/friendsfamily.jsp.

NOTE: If you could give 20 minutes or so at the beginning and/or end of the school day, to help sell tickets and relieve the front office from this additional duty, please sign up on the sheet posted on the office window. Thank you!

MESA BIKE COLLECTION A SUCCESS

Mesa School collected 20 bicycles earlier this month in our annual Bike Drive for Share-A-Gift. The bikes will be distributed to children in need who live in the BVSD attendance area. Thank you for supporting this worthy cause.

If you were unable to drop off a child's bike or helmet on collection day, you can still drop them off any time until Friday, December 8. Bring your donation to the literacy room for Cathy Conery, who coordinates Share-A-Gift's bike and toy collections.

WILD OATS GROCERY CARDS

Do you shop at Wild Oats? Then consider buying a Wild Oats grocery card! When you do, you get a grocery card for the full value of your purchase, and Wild Oats donates 5 percent of that value to Mesa.

Order forms can be found in the Mesa front 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. You will be emailed when your card is ready to be picked up at the Mesa office.

NOTE: We need December orders! Mesa must have a minimum of \$500 to place an order, and we currently do not have enough for December. Please consider ordering a Wild Oats grocery card. Thank you for your support.

EMERGENCY INFORMATION BEING UPDATED

We are updating family information from the emergency cards submitted earlier this fall. In a few weeks you will be getting a print-out of the information we have for your family. Please review this information carefully because emergency contacts and telephone numbers may have changed.

NOTE: In order for your child to be picked up by someone, the name of that person must be on your emergency contact card. Also, few phones at Mesa can call long distance. If your contact has a long distance telephone number, that person will not be able to be called from any classroom. Please be sure to provide a local telephone number for any emergency contact.

UNICEF DONATIONS FROM MESA

Mesa students collected \$663.49 for UNICEF! That is a lot of pennies, nickels, dimes and quarters. Thank you for your support and encouragement if your child participated. The money will help buy school supplies and immunizations for children and clean water for villages around the world.

USE OF THE COPY MACHINE AND LAMINATOR CLARIFIED

Because of recent problems with volunteers using the laminator, it is now for staff use only. Boxes for work to be laminated are in the library and para work room. Items will be laminated on Mondays and Wednesdays only.

Use of the copier is also limited to staff use only. If you are a volunteer or visitor and need to use the copier, you will need to check with a paraeducator for proper instruction before using the machine. These hard-working people are available 9:00 AM-2:00 PM each school day.

NEWS FROM THE LIBRARY

From Terry Snyder

Students in Grades 4 and 5 have “adopted” shelves to help keep books in order. They learn a lot about our book collection, how they are ordered on the shelf and how important it is to keep the shelves neat for easy use by all. We really appreciate their help!

By now you have probably heard about the Bookmark Contest in the library. Participation in the contest is optional. The deadline to turn in bookmarks is Thursday, November 30. There are boxes of blank and completed forms located at the entrance to the library. Please encourage your child to practice before s/he puts the final copy on the form. The art work should be original and done with a thin black marker. Additional instructions are included on the blank form. These instructions should be cut off the form before turning in the final entry at the library.

The Mesa Library is hosting a Book Fair in the children’s section of the Barnes & Noble Boulder store on Saturday, December 9, from 1:00-4:00 PM. Claudia Mills, former Mesa parent and author of over 40 books, will be signing copies and reading from some of her published books. Mesa vouchers must be turned in at the cash register when purchasing books. The amount of the purchase will be recorded on the voucher, and 10-15 percent of the proceeds will be given to Mesa. Mesa vouchers will be available at the front desk and in the library and will be good December 9-24. We also hope to make them available online. Proceeds from this Book Fair will go toward purchasing more books and improving technology in the library. Additional details about the fair will follow.

Special thanks to the Student Council students who have been making beautiful signs to help advertise the Book Fair. They can finish their work in the library on Wednesday, November 29, at 8:00 AM.

We need help decorating the six-foot table at Barnes & Noble with pictures of Mesa students, a banner and other materials. We also need volunteers for one-hour to three-hour shifts, to greet people and help them find books. Please contact me in the Mesa library, 303-494-4704 ext. 234, or email me at terry.snyder@bvsd.org, or stop by the library. I am here just about every day, before and after school. Feel free to drop by if you need help or information.

SHARE-A-GIFT COLLECTION AT MESA NOW THROUGH DECEMBER 13

Mesa will be participating in Share-A-Gift again this year. Share-A-Gift is an annual, all-volunteer toy collection and distribution holiday project en-

compassing the BVSD area. Each year over 700 households (2,000 boys and girls, ages birth to 14) receive these community donations. To be successful, Share-A-Gift needs thousands of high quality, new and gently used toys, games, books and puzzles. Share-A-Gift allows children to participate meaningfully in gift-giving by sharing their own gently used or new toys with less fortunate children in Boulder County.

If you would like to volunteer to help with this worthwhile project, please call 303-494-4258. Share-A-Gift is coordinated with other holiday giving programs, including Share-A-Coat, which is sponsored by local area Rotary Clubs.

Toys may be dropped off in the Share-A-Gift box beginning the Monday after Thanksgiving through Wednesday, December 13. Thank you for sharing with your community.

LITERACY NIGHTS

Thank you to the many parents who attended Mesa Literacy Nights. This year Mesa’s two Literacy Nights focused on providing information to parents of students currently receiving literacy support and to parents of kindergarten students.

Mesa is fortunate to have a parent community that is eager to learn more about how their children learn, that actively seeks out information on how they can help support their children and that provides a strong home-school connection.

If you were unable to attend one of the Literacy Nights but would like to check out a video of the presentation, please contact Cathy Conery in the literacy room, 303-494-4704 ext. 258.

LAST WEEK TO DONATE COATS AND BOOKS

A Boulder Valley Rotary Club representative should be picking up all donated coats and books from Mesa either Thursday or Friday, November 30 or December 1. Please remember to drop off any donations before then. Thank you.

P.E. NEWS

From Jacy Bruno

The after-school Yoga Program will be starting soon! To clarify some miscommunication, the session offered in November and December will be only for 3rd-5th grade students. Grades K-2 will have their own program in the Spring.

NOTE The yoga class will run for three weeks (for a total of 6 sessions) and not six weeks as originally scheduled. It will be held Wednesdays and Fridays, 3:00 PM—4:00 PM. Fliers and registration forms are available on the Mesa community board; completed forms should be returned to the Mesa office. The Fall Yoga Program begins Wednesday, November 29. The Spring Program will begin Wednesday, March 7



Mesa Elementary School November 17, 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.org

We're on the web
www.bvsd.org/mesa/

MESA CALENDAR	
Mon. Nov. 27	5:30 PM Worm Compost Clinic
<i>Fri. Dec. 1 Report Cards Go Home</i>	
Mon. Dec. 4	8:45 AM All-School Assembly
<i>Tues. Dec. 5 6:15 PM PTO Meeting</i>	
Thurs. Dec. 7	1 PM + 7 PM—M&M Winter Concert

PTO CORNER

As we approach the Thanksgiving holiday, we are reminded of everything for which we are thankful. We are thankful for our children who challenge, inspire, and delight us. We are thankful for teachers at Mesa who guide our children with compassion and creativity. We are thankful for Mesa administrators and staff who genuinely respond to the needs of our children and community. And, finally, we are thankful for parents whose constant support of Mesa distinguishes our school from all others.

Special thanks go to parents who have been busy since the last newsletter. Thanks to **Kate Kupferer**, bake sale coordinator, and her generous bakers who (on short notice) provided goodies for hungry electors on Election Day, raising approximately \$150 for the Mesa PTO. Thank you to **Sue Bryant**, book fair coordinator, who organized a new book fair this year (Usborne Books), which earned the PTO \$2,750 in book credits to fulfill the wish lists of all teachers, the library, and literacy. Thank you to **Lisa Beauchamp** for leading the sales of Mesa

t-shirts and hoodies, which generated approximately \$1,850 for the PTO. Thanks to **Gina Kelman** for chairing the Sally Foster gift wrap sales, which raised approximately \$3,500 for 4th and 5th Grade Outdoor Education. Thank you to **Monica Papas**, mini-grant coordinator, who completed the challenging exercise of stretching PTO dollars to meet teacher needs. Thank you to **Cece Bloomfield, Julia Hoilien** and all their helpers for raising \$72 at the last Popcorn Friday. Finally, thank you to **Diana Tanner** (who won't have a 4th grader again for two years!) who initiated the annual holiday plant sale to raise money for Outdoor Education.

Enjoy your holiday week! Look for additional PTO fundraisers coming soon. And, please don't forget to purchase your King Soopers and Wild Oats grocery certificates.

**Next PTO Meeting, December 5th, 2006,
6:15 p.m.**

(Childcare and pizza available
for children under 12-- \$4/child)