

Mesa Elementary School
December 15, 2006



THE
MESA MESSENGER

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Mesa Community,

As we approach another holiday season, I wish to extend a sincere Thank You! on behalf of all the Mesa staff for everything you do as a wonderful supporting community. On a more personal level, I have been greatly humbled and saddened with grief this past year. The overwhelming support I have received from this community is truly valued and greatly appreciated. Each and every day I am glad for the opportunity to serve your fantastic children.

The Boulder Valley School District adopted The New Century Graduate Characteristics several years ago. On the Grade 5 report cards in Section Two, teachers respond to these characteristics, which essentially are associated with behaviors of a kind, caring human being. Recently, as I gave out popsicles to our students, a third grade student came up afterwards and mentioned, "Mr. Medina, I just wanted you to know how much we appreciated the popsicles today and I wanted to thank you." This gesture was one of the best moments we can have as human beings—taking the time to thank someone for a kind deed—and is truly very special. The fact that a young child has learned this form of expression is evidence of the type of families who attend Mesa Elementary School.

Our new e-mail capability has been

tremendously successful. The response from parents to receiving timely information has been very positive. In addition, Mesa has become a very successful **Green Star School**, which means we recycle close to 100% of our trash, lunch waste, etc. In conjunction with our recycling efforts, **this will be the last printed copy of the Mesa Messenger newsletter** sent to all Mesa families. From now on, only a few hard copies will be printed. **Beginning in January 2007, you will receive the parent newsletter electronically.** Below you will find a box which you can tear off and return to Mesa if you do not have email and wish to continue receiving a hard copy. Return the tear-off to either the office or your child's teacher. This process will save a great deal of paper and enhance our efforts to recycle. Inserts such as calendars and lunch menus will continue to be sent home via Friday folders.

Best wishes to one and all for a special holiday season and a new year of peace.

In Partnership with Community,

Mike Medina

NOTICE: Mesa is now a Green Star School! We are trying to cut down on our paper usage. Beginning with the next newsletter, we will be publishing it on-line and sending it to parents via their email address. If you need to continue to receive a hard copy, please fill out this form and return it to the main office. Otherwise, look for the next newsletter in your email box. Thank you.

PARENT NAME: _____

STUDENT NAME: _____ GRADE-TEACHER: _____

**DON'T COOK THIS TUESDAY NIGHT 12/19:
EAT AT CICI'S PIZZA AND SUPPORT MESA**

Mesa has a new fundraiser that combines a little socializing with school families and an excuse to forego cooking once a month. Cici's Pizza (Meadows Shopping Center on Baseline) will give Mesa Elementary 10% of the proceeds from meals sold on our day – the third Tuesday of the month – starting this coming Tuesday, December 19. All you have to do to participate is eat at Cici's (lunch, dinner, or take-out) and mention Mesa Elementary when you place your order. Cici's will tally up the Mesa receipts at the end of the day and present a 10% contribution to our school.

Help kick off the holiday break and this new fundraiser for Mesa by eating at Cici's this Tuesday. More information can be found in this newsletter and your child's Friday folder this week.

Questions? Call Lisa Gillespie at 303-494-8820. Hope to see everyone there this Tuesday!

USBORNE BOOK FAIR A BIG SUCCESS!

Thanks to all Mesa families for supporting the Usborne Book Fair with purchases and hours of volunteering. We raised \$2,750 in free books for Mesa! This allowed the PTO to purchase the remaining books on teacher wish lists as well as books for the library and literacy program. We appreciate the many volunteers who helped sell, unpack and pack books in order for this event to be successful.

We hope you enjoyed the selection and quality of books this year. If you have any ideas, concerns or comments, please email Sue Bryant at shbryant@comcast.net.

LOST-AND-FOUND IS LEAVING

Be sure to check for your lost treasures before Winter Break. All items will be donated at the end of the school day on Tuesday.

THE MESA YEARBOOK NEEDS YOUR PICTURES

Please continue to bring in pictures for the Mesa Year Book. This year they need to be submitted in digital form. You can drop them off on a CD in the Mesa office. Thank you!

P.E. NEWS

From Jacy Bruno

Over the past two weeks, students have been working on learning great hockey skills. Grades K and 1 have been focusing on staying under control while dribbling and goal shooting. Grades 2—5 have also been working on those skills and have played different games that incorporate those skills. A favorite game for 3—5 grade students is Endline Hockey. They are all doing a great job!

Be on the lookout for Jump Rope Clinic information in the new year. Have a great break!

TAG TALK

From Betsy Puls

Chess Club has started on Tuesday afternoons in the library right after school. Permission forms for your child's participation are available at Chess Club and at the front office. We are asking for \$7.00 to help cover snack costs. We provide a snack at each session – usually something simple like pretzels or graham crackers. If you want your child to bring his or her own snack, that is OK also.

We would especially like to encourage girls to sign up for Chess Club. We will be running a separate girls training/teaching session if there are enough interested players.

Some parents have asked about beginning books for Chess players. One excellent book for beginners is *Starting Chess* (with Internet links) by Harriett Castor, Usborne Publisher.

Questions? Contact parent Laura Spicer (Adam/3-M and Ben/K-A) or leave a message in the office for either me or teacher Jennifer Wagner.

SCIENCE FAIR VOLUNTEER MEETING 1/10/2007

The 2007 Mesa Science Fair will be held again in April, but the project process for students begins in February. There will be a short planning meeting for all interested parent volunteers on Wednesday, January 10, at 3:15 PM in the Mesa library. This is a great event to be a part of, and there are many ways (large and small) to volunteer. If you would like to help but cannot attend this meeting, please contact Julie Gelderloos, 303-554-5814, to let her know you are interested.

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STUDENT NAME: _____ GRADE-TEACHER: _____

NEWS FROM THE LIBRARY

From Terry Snyder

Thanks to all the families who came to Mesa's Barnes & Noble Book Fair on Saturday, December 9. If you were not able to make it last Saturday, all is not lost. The vouchers you have been receiving in Friday folders are good until December 24. We will find out after that date how much of the proceeds the Mesa library will receive. If we raise over \$2,000, we will get up to 20% of the total sales to purchase books (15% if total sales is less than \$2,000). We will be purchasing some of the books the children have recommended for the library. Vouchers are still available across from the office, in the library or on the Mesa web site.

Thank you, too, for the help of Maggie Chasteen, Stephen Topping, Claudia Mills and all families who donated some really lovely books to the Mesa library.

Chris Kauflin, local author of Smiletown's Big Snowday, will be speaking to students in Grades K—3 about his recently published book and the writing process. He will be at Mesa on Friday, January 5, 2007. We are still working on the specific schedule; he will spend approximately 30 minutes with each grade level.

Parents: Thank you for your support in keeping those library materials coming back to school. Have a wonderful holiday break!

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 Club—Laura Spicer (303-358-9371)

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)

LIFELONG LEARNING ART CLASS AT MESA STARTS IN FEBRUARY

“Young Rembrandts: The Power of Drawing,” for students ages 6—12, will be held at Mesa starting Monday, February 12, for five sessions

beginning at 3:15 PM. Young Rembrandts' innovative, step-by-step drawing method can teach any child how to draw, regardless of artistic ability. The class provides all materials and presents brand new subject matter every week, ranging from animals, landscapes, still life and even art history. The class philosophy is to give children a very positive, nurturing environment while fundamental drawing techniques are taught. For more information on this class, contact the Boulder Community School Program at 303-447-5265.

BOULDER VALLEY VOTERS PASS 3A ... NOW WHAT?!

Boulder Valley School District voters overwhelmingly passed BVSD Ballot Measure 3A (57-43 percent) on November 7, 2006. In doing so, voters approved a bond issue that will total \$296.8 million for structural upgrades at all 54 District schools. Principals, teachers, parents and community members are now beginning to ask what are the next steps and when will they see their school's improvements?

First of all, the Board of Education and District administrators value the trust of the voters and are pledged to a project management process that will be efficient, accountable and transparent. Besides binding District officials to the BVSD Educational Facilities Master Plan – available online for review at www.bvbsd.org – the ballot measure also requires the establishment of a citizens' oversight committee to monitor BVSD compliance with the bond plan as well as to oversee each project's costs. This committee will report directly to the Board of Education.

The Board is already at work finalizing the structure of that oversight committee which is currently scheduled for study at the November 28 regular Board meeting with final action scheduled for the December 12 meeting. The Board will announce its process for filling appointments to the committee.

Now that 3A has been approved, BVSD Administrations and Operations has begun the preliminary work of organizing a district construction management team that will, with input from BVSD Learning Services, build a master project schedule during the coming months. A request for proposal will soon be developed and put out for a program management team to be hired to oversee and direct what will be a very ambitious six-year construction timetable beginning in the late winter/early spring of 2007.

There will be regular 3A implementation updates to the BVSD web site as well as periodic articles sent to schools for inclusion in their newsletters. If you have specific questions, please contact BVSD Communications Director Briggs Gamblin at either briggs.gamblin@bvbsd.org or 303-245-5823.



Mesa Elementary School December 15, 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

Email: mike.medina@bvsd.org

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

PTO CORNER

Happy holidays from the PTO! We can all share in the satisfaction that we have laid the foundation for a successful school year as we celebrate the end of 2006 and hope for an even more productive 2007. Our fall/winter fundraisers were successful: directories (\$1,850 total; \$850 over budget); Fall Festival (\$3,400 total; \$400 over budget); First Grade notepads (\$1,700 total; new to the PTO budget); school pictures (\$1,000 total; \$250 over budget); t-shirts (\$1,800 total; slightly over budget); and gift wrap (\$3,400 total; under budget by \$600, which was made up in plant sales of \$600 for Outdoor Ed). Thank you to all who organized these fundraisers and to all whose participation in these fundraisers made them a success. Thanks, again, to our faithful volunteers: **Kate Kupferer** and her bakers for the bake sale at the Winter M&M's concert (\$177 earned); **Cece Bloomfield** and **Julia Hoilien** and their volunteers for the recent Popcorn Friday (\$60 earned); **Sally Hoehstetter** for her help with the notepads; and **Catie McDowell**, **Sue Erickson**, **Jennifer O'Brien**, **Jan North**, and Mesa bakers for organizing, conducting, and making treats for the Open Enrollment school tours.

The majority of the PTO's income is earned over the course of the school year or in the spring. We hope you will participate in the following upcoming fundraisers and spend some time now thinking of ways you might help with them:

- **Silent Auction** (tentative date 3/10/07)—this fun evening is an adults-only event off site, at which we hope to meet or exceed our \$10,000 budget. Your help is needed with suggestions for a location for the event, with ideas for food/drink donations, and with soliciting or donating items for the auction. Please contact

Gina Kelman or Jan North if you haven't already volunteered for this event.

- **Shoelace Frenzy/Mustang Stampede** (tentative date 5/20/07)—we hope to hold this "fun run/walk" again this year and to earn \$3,700 for the PTO. It's never too late to volunteer to help organize the event, solicit sponsors, or help on race day, so please contact Elizabeth Reed or Diana Fields.

- **Spring Donations** (this spring)—the PTO requests a one-time donation from families, which is tax deductible (the PTO is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization). If you (or any grandparents or other relatives) want to make a year-end donation for the 2006 taxable year, donations are welcome at any time! Also, don't forget to take advantage of any corporate matching programs. The PTO's budget is \$11,500 for this fundraiser.

- **King Soopers/Wild Oats grocery certificates** (ongoing)—please don't forget to stock up on grocery certificates for those extra holiday purchases (remember King Soopers certificates can be used for ski lift tickets and pharmacy items). Certificates are on sale in the Mesa office every day.

- **eScrip, Grand Rabbits/Play Fair Toys, Schoolcash.com** (ongoing)—benefit Mesa with your holiday shopping. Register your credit card at escrip.com (Group: Mesa Elementary; ID: 6536652); designate Mesa for store credits at Grand Rabbits and Play Fair Toys; shop on-line at Schoolcash.com and give credit to Mesa; finally, use store credit cards that give a rebate to Mesa PTO.

Next PTO Meeting, January 9th, 2007, 6:15 p.m.
**(Childcare and pizza available for children under 12--
\$4/child)**

MESA CALENDAR

Wed. Dec. 20—Tues. Jan. 19

NO SCHOOL/Winter Break

Mon. Jan. 8 8:45 AM

All-School Assembly

Tues. Jan. 9 6:15 PM

PTO Meeting

Mon. Jan. 15 NO SCHOOL

Tues. Jan. 16 3:30 PM

SIT Meeting

Pizza Fundraiser @ Cici's

Mon. Jan. 22 NO SCHOOL