

Mesa Elementary School

January 19, 2007



THE MESA MESSENGER

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parent Community,

Recently Mesa teachers have been involved in redefining the essence of our school. As part of a *Professional Learning Community* approach, we have discussed three essential questions: What should students learn? How will we know they have learned it? What will we do when they do not learn? In addition to these questions, we are asking ourselves what values we as a staff collectively have regarding our worthy roles as educators of your children. These discussions will guide us as we rewrite our school mission or purpose. As a staff we will arrive at a common vision of where we want to be as a school. The goals we establish will arise from this foundation. Mesa is an excellent school and has been recognized as such by the governor's office or the past six years.

Mesa teachers are attempting to identify specifically the essential learning skills in each content area. What must students learn at each grade level? How do we go about assessing the learning or establishing common assessments for each grade level at specific points throughout the school year? The challenge is always how we differentiate so we meet the needs of all learners at all proficiency levels. **At Mesa we expect all children to be successful as evidenced by specific indicators or assessments.**

In January all fourth grade students will be involved with The National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP). All students in Grade 4 will be administered either a math or reading test. The results will be reported nationally; one million fourth grade students will be given the tests. The report will indicate how fourth graders across the country are progressing in math and reading. These results will not be recorded for individual students. We are confident our fourth grade students will represent us well. Only two elementary schools in BVSD will be tested. Each year different schools are selected by the United States Department of Education for the assessments and are required to participate.

CSAP testing will begin in February with third grade reading. In March, the third, fourth and fifth grade students will be tested in reading, writing and math. The fifth grade will also take the science assessment. Each teacher will compare how students progress from year to year. We expect each student to demonstrate academic growth equivalent to one year in each assessed content area. The primary grade students, or kindergarten through second grade, are frequently assessed progress in literacy. The process of assessing all this data is time-consuming but essential; it is our guide in preparing instruction. Mesa's School Improvement Team (SIT) identifies goals from these results. This year we are targeting writing as a school-wide goal.

The greatest accomplishment we have achieved as a school is offering an all-around experience by integrating the arts with academics. Children at Mesa are exposed to an outstanding experience as they matriculate from grade to grade. Our neighboring middle school colleagues often comment how well prepared Mesa students are when entering middle school. We believe **we are a leading school**, often exploring the best possible approach to provide the highest quality of academic achievement.

We want to remind you, as a Green Star School Mesa is making an attempt to go paperless. We will make available most of our correspondence in electronic fashion. More information is provided in the letter each student is taking home today in Friday folders. At the same time, as we are exploring efficiency, we are also taking into consideration not cluttering your e-mail capacity.

In Partnership with Community,

Mike Medina
Principal

CICI'S PIZZA: A DELICIOUS WAY TO RAISE MONEY FOR MESA

We missed you at Cici's last Tuesday! Cici's Pizza in the Meadows Shopping Center on Baseline Road donates to Mesa a portion of purchases made by Mesa parents on the third Tuesday of the month. More information can be found on the reverse of the BVSD February lunch menu in your child's insert packet. Please put these dates on your family calendar: February 20; March 20; April 17; and May 15. Come join us!

WILD OATS GROCERY CARDS

Do you shop at Wild Oats or Ideal Market? Buy a grocery card, and Wild Oats will donate 5% of your purchase amount to the Mesa PTO! Order forms can be found in the office and are included in your child's insert package. You may order a card for any amount. You can choose to have a grocery card ordered automatically each month or place a one-time order. Orders are submitted to Wild Oats the first week of every month, and you will be emailed when your card is ready to pick up at the Mesa office.

We did not have enough orders for January (minimum \$500 total), so please consider ordering a Wild Oats card for February as well as the rest of the school year. Contact Brenda Garby at Mesa if you have any questions, 303-494-4704.

SAVE YOUR BASKETS FOR THE AUCTION

The Mesa Silent Auction is coming again this spring, and the auction committee needs your baskets. Please save them so they can be filled with goodies for gift baskets, which will be auctioned at the Mesa Silent Auction in March. If you have any questions, call Peggy Kaufman at 303-499-6806.

2006-2007 YEARBOOKS CAN BE ORDERED NOW—PHOTOS ARE STILL BEING ACCEPTED

If you would like to purchase a yearbook this year, please submit your order no later than Friday, January 26. This year we will be ordering only what is pre-ordered in January. The cost is \$18.00; make your check out to the Mesa PTO. Turn in your order with your check to the Mesa office.

There is still time to submit pictures for the yearbook! Turn in photos on a CD to the office right away. Contact Dian Kiwiet at kiwiet@comcast.net if you have questions.

THANK YOU MESA BAKERS!

Many thanks to Lisa Beauchamp, Sarah Heilbronner and Rachel Muller, for baking cookies for the open enrollment tour December 6. And a

special big THANK YOU! to all these bakers who brought goodies to sell at the December 7 M&M Concert: Christy Barth, Terri Cook, Marilyn Decalo, Kim Dorvee, Kathy Johnson, Tammy Livingstone, Rachel Muller, Helen Olsson, Kathy Smith, Clare Stocker, Yoko Takahashi, Debra Topping, Sarah Volkman and Katrina Walsh. The help of Diana Fields, Lisa Gillespie, Jan North and Gail Ross, to set up and sell these delicious baked goods, was also greatly appreciated. Thank you one and all!

THE PONY EXPRESS TROTS THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 1, THROUGH VALENTINE'S DAY

The Pony Express is returning to Mesa to deliver all your special Valentines! This is a fundraiser sponsored by the Mesa K-Care and Kindergarten students. Last year we delivered \$200-worth of mail, and the money was donated to the Hats On Foundation for children with cancer; this year we will be giving all money raised to The American Cancer Society. We would love to increase the amount we raise, so plan now on mailing lots of cards! Parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, brothers, sisters, students, friends, staff members and teachers ... any one can send cards for only 5 cents each. What a deal!

The Pony Express Station will be set up outside the K-Care classroom across from the office and is run on the honor system. Just place your money in the muffin tin and your cards in the appropriate classroom bag. The Kindergarten children will deliver the mail each day, starting Thursday, February 1, through Wednesday, February 14.

We CANNOT deliver candy, balloons or stuffed animals. We can deliver only items that fit in the individual envelopes.

Thank you for your support. We look forward to delivering your special valentine mail!

PARENTING CLASS TO BE AT CONVENIENT AT MESA FOR ALL PARENTS

Come find out how Parenting with Love and Logic can help protect your children from the perils of childhood and adolescence ... while creating loving family relationships that will last a lifetime. A free introductory class to this program will be held on Thursday, January 25, 7-8 PM, in the Mesa library. Come check out this free class! More details can be found on the hot pink flyer that went home with Mesa students earlier this week and is posted around the school.

P.E. NEWS**From Jacy Bruno**

Jump Rope for Heart is quickly approaching and takes place the week of Valentine's Day on February 12, 13, 14 and 15. Look for more information to follow in your child's Friday folder.

There will be an after-school Jump Rope Clinic on Mondays and Wednesdays beginning the week of January 22. The specific dates for the clinic will be January 24, 29 and 31 and February 5 and 7; there will be no clinic on Monday, January 22. The clinics will run from 3-4 PM in the gym. Any K-5 student can participate. Students will be able to practice new tricks and work on short and long rope skills.

We will be selling jump ropes again this year so students can practice at home. The jump ropes cost from \$2.00-\$5.00, and proceeds go to the P.E. department. Please e-mail Ms. Bruno at jacy.bruno@bvsd.org if you have any questions.

PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCES TO BE HELD IN FEBRUARY

Parent conferences with teachers will be held 3:30-7:00 PM on Tuesday and Thursday, February 13, 15, 20 and 22. Sign-up sheets for these conferences will be available starting February 6 on the table opposite the Mesa office.

Watch for an email about providing dinners for our hardworking Mesa staff during conferences. If you have any questions, contact Lisa Gillespie at 303-494-8820.

MUSICAL NOTES**From Sarah Knoebel**

The students in Grades 4 and 5 have been working very hard on our production of *Grease!* There are still many opportunities for parents to help. Please sign up on the sheets outside of the Mesa music room. We are in special need of poodle skirts and leather jackets. If you have any costume pieces we can borrow, please contact Mia Jenak at 303-494-4696.

Grease! will be performed at Mesa on Wednesday, February 28 and Thursday, March 1.

FAMILY NIGHT OF BASKETBALL AND ENTERTAINMENT BY THE M&M's ON FEB. 2

Come join the Mesa M&M's at the Broomfield Events Center on Friday, February 2, when they perform at halftime for the Colorado 14ers basketball team. M&M students who wish to perform in this exciting event must purchase a discounted ticket.

All Mesa students and their families are invited to watch the game and see the M&M's perform.

An order form has been sent home, and additional forms are available from Ms. Knoebel or the office. The deadline to order tickets is next Friday, January 26. There are ticket packages which include food. Invite your friends and family to join us for a fun-filled evening!

MESA T-SHIRTS STILL AVAILABLE

All Mesa t-shirts and hoodies were distributed in December. Please contact Lisa Beauchamp at 303-665-3405 if you have any problems with your order.

A few youth small hoodies (gray with pink lettering) remain and can be purchased for \$20. Call Lisa Beauchamp if you want one—perhaps for a special Valentine present?

BOOK FAIR COMING IN FEBRUARY—NO HOT LUNCHES SERVED FEBRUARY 13 AND 14

There will be a Scholastic Book Fair on Tuesday and Wednesday, February 13 and 14. Support Mesa and check out the books, which will be set up in the cafeteria during teacher conferences and on Valentine's Day. NOTE: THE CAFETERIA WILL BE CLOSED ON BOTH THOSE DAYS.

If you can help coordinate this event, please email Dian Kiwiet at kiwiet@comcast.net.

CHESS TEAM VICTORIOUS

The Mesa Chess Team successfully played and won against the Bixby Chess Team last Thursday, January 11. Awesome!

SHARE-A-COAT PROGRAM A SUCCESS

Thank you for your participation in this year's Share-A-Coat program. With your help, over 4,000 coats and many other winter garments such as sweaters, snowsuits, hats, gloves, scarves and boots were collected from Boulder and Broomfield County schools and businesses.

On Saturday, December 16, many of these garments were given to the less fortunate people of Boulder County as part of the Holiday Giving Program. Other garments were given to various charitable organizations for distribution throughout the winter. Storybooks were also collected and distributed by Share-A-Gift as part of the Holiday Giving Program. Approximately 1,000 books were collected and distributed.

The Boulder Valley Rotary Club extends a heartfelt THANK YOU! Without your help, it would not have been possible. Look for the list of contest winners and collection numbers in your newsletter insert packet.



Mesa Elementary School January 19, 2007

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, Colorado 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 New Year! We try to use this PTO corner as a means of communicating what kind of support the PTO provides to the school (aside from fund-raising) and to ask for your help with volunteering, and, of course, with fund-raising.

Kudos to all for the following:

~ **Grand Rabbits Bunny Bucks:** Thanks to all parents who shop at Grand Rabbits Toy Shoppe (Boulder and Superior) and designate Mesa to receive Bunny Bucks (10% of sale). The Mesa PTO received \$1,217 in Bunny Bucks this year, which were distributed to 15 Mesa teachers/professionals to spend for classroom materials (books, games, puzzles, etc.). Be sure to thank the Grand Rabbits store for its support of the schools.

~ **Parent Engagement Network:** Mesa is fortunate to have three Mesa parents involved with bringing PEN activities to Mesa: **Leisha Connors Bauer**, **Laura Spicer**, and **Debbie Gould**. The PTO is pleased to be partnering with the Mesa PEN team to bring a series of topical workshops and classes to Mesa. Coming soon is "What Kids Need to Succeed," with Corey Jones, Assets for Colorado Youth. Other topics to look for this spring include presentations on internet safety—what you need to know and what you can do, navigating the transitions to middle school, and Reading to End Racism. The PTO and Mesa PEN also are co-sponsoring the Love and Logic parenting classes for parents with students in K-2, starting on January 29. Please look for upcoming information on these important programs.

We need your help:

~ **Scholastic Book Fair:** The PTO needs a coordinator to organize volunteers for a spring Book Fair. Scholastic organizes and runs the fair. Please contact Dian Kiwiet, Diana Fields or any PTO officer if you are interested in chairing this event.

MESA CALENDAR

Mon. Jan. 22—NO SCHOOL

Mon. Jan. 29—8:45 AM

All-School Assembly

Tues. Feb. 6—6:15 PM

PTO Meeting

Mon. Feb. 12—8:45 AM

All-School Assembly

Tues. Feb. 13—3:30 PM

SIT Meeting

~ **Silent Auction** (tentative date 3/10/07): We still are looking for an off-site location in Boulder for this event (preferably, free of charge). Let us know if your office, conference center, or church is available. Also, the success of our Silent Auction depends on the quality of its donated items. Please consider whether you, your business or any business contacts have valuable items to donate (certificates, lodging, merchandise, etc). Please contact Gina Kelman or Jan North with any donations.

~ **King Soopers/Wild Oats grocery certificates:** Based upon prior year budgets, the PTO hoped to earn approximately \$7,500 in income from sales of King Soopers certificates and Wild Oats cards this school year. At year-end, we were behind budget in this important income category. This is the easiest way for the PTO to earn income because Mesa receives 5% of certificates purchased for cash and 2.5% of certificates purchased by credit card. Please sign up for regular, monthly grocery certificate/card purchases with the forms going home today. Also, remember King Soopers grocery certificates are always on sale in the office every day.

~ **eScrip:** Register your credit card at escrip.com (Group: Mesa Elementary; ID: 6536652) to provide up to 5% of sales to Mesa when you use your credit card. Look for an updated list of national merchants and restaurants participating in the program.

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