

Mesa Elementary School

February 9, 2007



THE MESA MESSENGER

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Mesa Community,

Each year the State of Colorado determines how well schools are performing using the Colorado State Assessment Program (CSAP) as the measure. Every student in Grades Three through Five is tested in reading, writing, math and science. Mesa's third grade students will be tested in reading beginning in February. Grade 3 testing will continue on March 5, 6, 19 and 20. Grade 4 students will be tested March 6 through March 16; Grade 5 students will test from March 5 through March 20. All CSAP tests are scheduled in the mornings. Students who do not take the tests are counted as a zero in Mesa's final performance assessment. Therefore it is essential all students participate in Mesa's CSAP tests.

Attendance is critical to the testing process. The CSAP guidelines are very specific, and Colorado requires all CSAP assessments to be completed within the specific test window. We are appealing to all parents of third, fourth and fifth grade students to please assist us in having students prepared for the CSAP testing. Please avoid taking vacations or setting appointments during this time. Students are encouraged to go to bed at regular times and be sure to eat their normal breakfast. As is our Mesa Motto, please help our students "*be the best they can be.*"

At this time we are also scheduling teacher conferences with parents. These conferences are a time when parents can discuss their child's progress with the teacher. Mesa has established a goal of 100% parent/teacher conference participation. This goal requires all teachers to conference with each and every family. Please support this effort by scheduling and attending your conference. Conferences are scheduled over the next two weeks during four evenings from 3:30—7:00 PM. The appointment schedules are located in the office area and available for sign-up any time school is open, or you can call the Mesa office for help.

Recently the Impact on Education Committee of the Boulder Valley School District selected five teachers as this year's Impact Teacher who makes a

difference. Clare Schoolmaster from Mesa was a finalist, and she will be honored at the recognition dinner sponsored by the Impact on Education Committee. We are proud of Ms. Schoolmaster's recognition. Mesa parents coordinated the nomination effort, and it is a great tribute to a teacher "who has certainly made a difference for children!"

In Partnership with Community,

Mike Medina
Principal

CSAP SPECIFIC TEST DATES

Monday 2/12	Grade 3 Reading 1
Tuesday 2/13	Grade 3 Reading 2
Monday 3/5	Grade 3 Math 1
	Grade 5 Reading/Writing 1
Tuesday 3/6	Grade 3 Math 2
	Grade 4 Reading/Writing 1
	Grade 5 Reading/Writing 2
Wednesday 3/7	Grade 4 Reading/Writing 2
	Grade 5 Reading/Writing 3
Thursday 3/8	Grade 4 Reading/Writing 3
	Grade 5 Reading/Writing 4
Friday 3/9	Grade 4 Reading/Writing 4
	Grade 5 Reading/Writing 5
Monday 3/12	Grade 4 Reading/Writing 5
	Grade 5 Reading/Writing 6
Tuesday 3/13	Grade 4 Reading/Writing 6
	Grade 5 Math 1
Wednesday 3/14	Grade 4 Math 1
	Grade 5 Math 2
Thursday 3/15	Grade 4 Math 2
	Grade 5 Math 3
Friday 3/16	Grade 4 Math 3
	Grade 5 Science 1
Monday 3/19	Grade 3 Writing 1
	Grade 5 Science 2
Tuesday 3/20	Grade 3 Writing 2
	Grade 5 Science 3

MESA IS COUNTING SPACES — LET US KNOW YOUR PLANS FOR NEXT YEAR

As you know, Mesa is an awesome school, and many families would like to enroll their children here. We need to know how many of our current students will be returning for the 2007-2008 school year. Please fill out the yellow form in your child's Friday folder and return it your child's teacher before this Thursday, February 15, so we can accurately plan our numbers for the next school year. Thank you!

MESA LIBRARY OPEN FOR HELP WITH SCIENCE FAIR PROJECTS FEBRUARY 21

The Mesa library will be hosting two Science Fair research events during the month of February. One event occurred on February 7. If your child would like help in selecting a project, and/or support with writing out information on the research project for the Science Fair, please have him/her attend the next event on Wednesday, February 21, from 3:00—4:00 PM in the library. There will be a number of resources available, and you may come with your child as well.

If you could volunteer to help on February 21, please email Terry Snyder at terry.snyder@bvsvd.org or call her at 303-494-4704, ext. 234.

KNOWLEDGE MASTER OPEN TEAM # 1!

On Wednesday afternoon, January 24, representatives from our fifth grade classes competed in a national and state level contest called Knowledge Master Open. It is a fast-paced, multi-level, computer-based competition in all subject areas of the fifth grade curriculum. The Mesa team scored 18th in the United States out of 244 teams, and the team placed 1st in the State of Colorado. Congratulations! Way to go Team Mesa!

Team members included:

Ben Beauchamp
Seth Blum
Ellis Burgin
Lena Christianian
Alex Curtiss
Jhamal Fanning
Jake Hansen
Raine Kennedy
Emma Koltun-Baker
Marcus Prostko
Peter Rudman
Sam Rudman

There will be another competition for the Mesa Knowledge Master Open Team on March 21.

DO NOT STOP AND BLOCK DRIVEWAY

It has come to our attention that several parents drop off children in the parking lot by the entrances to school and then stay in their cars to chat with students and other parents. This causes a problem with the Mesa bus, which cannot pull up and unload children safely at the school entrances. We ask you please to pull away from the doorway entrances on the north side of the parking lot as soon as your children have left your car and clear the area so the bus students can be dropped off safely. Thank you!

ART SKETCHES

From April Christenson

There are some exciting exhibits coming to the Denver Art Museum, and you might consider joining DAM this year. One exhibit is "Treasures from The Louvre"; another is an impressionist exhibit. Both are a chance to see incredible art without traveling across an ocean! By joining DAM, you are able to go to members' previews. Combine the previews with a delicious dinner at the Palettes Restaurant in the original museum building for a great evening.

By going yourself without children and then taking them later, you can preview the museum and select places to go that fit your child's interests and age. Some recommendations are: the Chair Collection and Northwest Coast Indian Art, both on the 3rd floor of the north building; the Textile Art on the 6th floor of the north building; and the African Collection on the 4th floor of the Hamilton building.

Last Saturday I participated in a class for teachers which focused on the architecture of the new building. We had a chance to hear a presentation and from two members of the architectural firms and ask questions. It is an amazing building, a giant sculpture! We took the tour our Grade 5 students will take on their art museum field trip in April. It was a great preview, and I will tailor our lessons to fit the students before we go. Grade 4 students will also be going at a separate time in April. Look for details after Spring Break.

SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR TO BE AT MESA FEBRUARY 13 AND 14

The Mesa cafeteria will be filled with books instead of food on Tuesday and Wednesday this next week. Please plan to stop by to check out the fabulous selections, starting at 8:00 AM both days. The book fair will be open until 6:30 PM on Tuesday, February 13, and until 5:00 PM on Wednesday, February 14. REMEMBER: NO LUNCHESES will be served on these two days! **PARENTS:** *Remember the cafeteria will be closed*

MESA SILENT AUCTION—SATURDAY MARCH 17

Mark your calendars for the Mesa Silent Auction! This annual event will take place this year on Saturday, March 17, at Community United Church of Christ from 6:00 PM—9:00 PM.

The generosity of Mesa families and local businesses make this a successful event. If you or a business you frequent can donate an item or service, please fill out a donation form and return it to the Mesa office as soon as possible. This is a great way to advertise your business, and all donations are tax deductible. Donations turned in by March 9 will be listed in the auction brochure. If your business would like to sponsor the event, please contact Jan North or Gina Kelman.

The Auction Committee meets on Thursdays from 2:00—3:00 PM in the library. Everyone is welcome to attend. Please look for more information in your child’s Friday folder.

ADEQUATE YEARLY PROGRESS REPORT TO COME HOME WITH STUDENTS

This information comes to us from Judy Skupa, Assistant Superintendent of Learning Services, 303-447-5088 and judy.skupa@bvsd.org.

Dear Parents,

We are sending home a blue sheet in today’s Friday folder from the Colorado Department of Education, informing you that the Boulder Valley School District did not make Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) as defined in No Child Left Behind. Though BVSD is very pleased that 138 out of the 150 subgroups of our students reached this achievement target, which equals achieving 92% of our goals, we are working with our schools to improve the achievement of the twelve subgroups that did not make AYP in 2005-06. We are submitting a Program Improvement Plan to CDE that reflects this work. Because our Program Improvement Plan will reflect the work that our schools have already done with the input from their parent communities, we are not planning any separate district-level activities regarding parent involvement. Please feel free to contact any of our schools to ask what they are doing.

The district has previously released information about specific schools that did not make AYP. However, please remember that our district and its schools operate under two additional accountability and accreditation systems, the State Accountability Report (SAR) and the District Accreditation Contract with the Department of Education. The district received the highest praise in its most recent accreditation report from the State of Colorado; all of the district’s schools are fully accredited, and 81% of our schools rated Excellent or High on the SAR. The information sheet being sent home continues to

reinforce this excellent level of performance of the Boulder Valley School District.

SHARE-A-GIFT TOY DISTRIBUTION A SUCCESS

Thanks for your participation in this past holiday season’s Share-A-Gift program. With your help, the toy distribution for 2006 was another great success. During the week of December 10, thousands of toys were collected, organized and cleaned by hundreds of volunteers, primarily from BVSD schools. On December 16, 728 families in need came to the distribution location and selected toys for 2,155 kids!

This was a big increase from our distribution in 2005, when 604 families with 1,519 kids were served. Without your generous support and the help of volunteers of all ages throughout Boulder Valley, this program could not exist. Mesa’s participation was important and appreciated. Thank you!

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

Jump Rope for Heart will take place next week. Thanks to those of you who have already turned in your child’s permission slip and money. It goes to a wonderful cause and would not be a successful event without your continued support. If you have not already done so, please return the permission slip and money by the day of your child’s event. If you are planning to be a volunteer, please come to the gym a few minutes early so that we are ready when the children arrive.

<u>Monday 2/12</u>	<u>Wednesday 2/14</u>
10-11:30 AM—Grade 3	9:00—9:30 AM—Kam
1:15-2:45 PM—Grade 2	12:15-1:30 PM—Grade 1
<u>Tuesday 2/13</u>	<u>Thursday 2/15</u>
1:15-2:45 PM—Grade 4	9-10:30 AM—Grade 5
	12:40-1:10 PM—Kpm

Another event that concluded this week was the jump rope clinic held after school . It was a huge success, with lots of kids and lots of jumping. Thanks to those parents who helped out and for encouraging your students to participate.

After the week of Valentine’s Day and all jump rope events conclude, students will start working on basketball skills during P.E.

Yoga for students in Grades K-2 will be starting March 7. The class will run for three weeks on Wednesdays and Fridays from 3:00-4:00 PM in the Mesa gym. Look for the bright pink registration form in your child’s Friday folder.

If you have any questions, please email me at jacy.bruno@bvsd.org.



Mesa Elementary School February 9, 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, 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

100 DAYS! Your children have celebrated the 100th day of school this week; about 73 days of the school year remain! If it seems like time has passed too quickly and you haven't had the chance to participate in PTO activities, there still is plenty of time to become involved and help get ready for the busy spring. For families new to Mesa who are now comfortably settled into the Mesa community, now is the perfect time to think about how you might take a more active role in Mesa activities.

Have you attended a PTO meeting? Meetings are held in the school library on the first Tuesday of every month at 6:15 p.m. (pizza and childcare are available for \$4/child under 12). Come hear Mike Medina share inside information about the school, like class configurations, Open Enrollment numbers, teacher goals and training, and district-wide issues that affect Mesa. Offer your input on where the PTO budget is spent, how money is raised, how volunteer time is best utilized, and what programs are valuable to students and parents. Meetings also are a great way to socialize with parents in all grade levels whose shared interest is in making Mesa the best school for our children.

Can you volunteer for a PTO event? Volunteers are welcome for projects both big and small. Your help is needed with any of the following:

- Scholastic Book Fair (2/13/07 and 2/14/07) -

The book fair is a large PTO fund raiser, which also helps build your child's love of reading. Additional volunteers are needed to help with setup/breakdown of the fair and with

MESA CALENDAR

Tues. & Wed. 2/13 & 2/14

Scholastic Book Fair

NO LUNCHESES SERVED

Tues. & Thurs. 2/13 & 2/15

Tues. & Thurs. 2/20 & 2/22

3:30 PM—7:00 PM

Parent/Teacher Conferences

Thurs. 2/15—11:45 AM

Pizza with Principal

Fri. & Mon. 2/16 & 2/19

NO SCHOOL

working during the fair hours. Look for a sign up sheet near the Mesa office or contact Dian Kiwiet.

- Silent Auction (NEW DATE: 3/17/07***) -**

Planning for this fun, adult-only event off-site is already underway thanks to **Gina Kelman, Jan North, Julia Hoilien, Debbie Gould, Mia Jenak, Lisa Beauchamp, Pam Berdanier, Katrina Walsh, Maggie Janssen, Peggy Kaufman, Anne Fedor, and Gail Ross**. Additional help is needed in soliciting donations and helping on event day. Please contact Gina Kelman or Jan North to volunteer.

- Shoelace Frenzy/Mustang Stampede (5/20/07)

- Get in on the early planning stages for this Mesa Fun Run/Walk, which is held toward the end of the Fitness Club program and the week before the Bolder Boulder. Volunteers are needed to help organize the event, solicit sponsors, and help on race day as race marshals or with post-race activities. Please contact Elizabeth Reed or Diana Fields to volunteer.

Will you commit to coming to these PTO events? All PTO events are designed to be both spirit events (building school community) and fund-raisers. The success of these events is measured by the number of families we have participating and how much money is raised. Please mark these dates on your calendars and plan to participate.

Next PTO Meeting, March 6th, 2007, 6:15 p.m.

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