

Mesa Elementary School

April 13, 2007



THE MESA MESSENGER

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Mesa Community,

Can you believe we are in April already? This school year is flying by! At this time of year we are in the planning stages for the next school year. On April 20, the Mesa staff will meet and discuss preliminary configuration plans. Based on our enrollment numbers, we are scheduling three kindergarten classes and three first grade classes, two classes in second grade and two in third grade, three classes for fourth grade and two classes for fifth grade.

As this school year comes to an end, Mesa will have two teachers retiring. In addition, some grade levels will need to be reconfigured as they go from three down to two classes or from two up to three classes. Both the retirements and reconfigurations will require some teachers to be placed next year at a grade level different from where they currently teach.

On May 12, teachers will start to place students into next year's classes, with the intent of completing these assignments by May 30. On the morning of June 6, students will have an opportunity to meet their teachers for the next school year. The teachers for all classes, as well as the actual class lists, will be posted in the afternoon of Wednesday, June 6, by 3:00 PM.

Please be reminded we do not accept requests for a specific teacher. Parents are welcome to fill out an optional student information profile form. If you wish to submit a student information form, they will be available at the Mesa main office upon request on May 1. They must be returned to the office no later than Friday, May 11. Input from parents may provide additional information to staff as students are assigned to their classes for next year.

Recently the Boulder Valley School Board approved a new school year calendar for 2007-2008. A copy of the calendar is available on the

BVSD website. And is included as an insert to this newsletter. Teachers will report back from summer vacation on Monday, August 13, 2007. **All students must be assessed in literacy on either August 15 or 16.** In early May, Mesa will publish its schedule for the week of August 13 – 17. By 3:00 PM on June 6, parents will have an opportunity to sign up for an assessment time at the same time class lists are posted. The actual assessment will take approximately 30 to 45 minutes for each student. Families should plan to have their student available for the scheduled assessment time period either August 15 or August 16.

The first full day of school for elementary students is Monday, August 20, 2007, with staggered start for kindergarten students on August 20 and 21. We look forward to seeing everyone rested from Summer Break and ready to go for the new school year.

In Partnership,

Mike Medina

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

****NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS****

Friday, April 20

Friday, May 18

Monday, May 28

Last day of school for students

Thursday, June 7

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

This is a reminder that our annual walking and running club, the Mesa Fitness Club, will begin this year on Monday, April 16. If you are still interested in volunteering but did not feel like you could commit, please contact Mesa parent Diana Tanner at 303-499-0504. She may have a job that will work for you. See you Monday afternoon!

Field Days are quickly approaching. They will take place the week of May 7. Look for more information to come home in your child's Friday folder later this month.

If you have any questions, please send an e-mail to me at jacy.bruno@bvsd.org.

ART SKETCHES**From April Christenson**

Due to health issues, the Art Show has been postponed until May 16 and will take place from 7:00-8:00 PM. All students will have at least one picture, and most should have three in the show. It will be fabulous—we have great artists at Mesa!

In order for this event to take place, we need more helpers than usual this year. The surgeries to my shoulder require a long recovery period which will not allow me to frame or display the artwork. On the day of the show, we need parent helpers throughout the day to hang the art work; it would be great to have two parents from each classroom. If you can help in any capacity—framing, set-up, take-down—either on the day of the show, before or after, please contact the Mesa office right away at 303-494-4704.

COMPOST RETURNING TO MESA APRIL 16 & 17

As a thank you to Mesa for being part of the Green Star Schools Recycling Project, Eco-Cycle will be bringing a load of finished compost to Mesa this Monday and Tuesday, April 16 and 17. It is wonderful earthy material that parents, staff and students will be able to use on school grounds or at home for their house plants or gardens. A large metal box of compost will be delivered before school on April 16 by one of the Eco-Cycle trucks and will be left at school until the end of the next day. Eco-Cycle staff will be on site before and after school on both those days. Compost will be available for “scooping” before, during and after school on those days, but you will need to bring bags or buckets from home as well as your own shovels.

Compost was available last year and is a wonderful material to use. Please come and help yourself! If you need more information, please contact Nancy Dudek, Eco-Cycle Green Star Schools Coordinator, at 303-444-6634 ext. 118.

LIBRARY UPDATE**From Terry Snyder, Librarian
and Connie Tadehara, Librarian Assistant**

Former Mesa mom Claudia Mills will be speaking about and signing her newest book, *Being Teddy Roosevelt*, at the Boulder Barnes & Noble on Friday, April 27, 5:30-7:00 PM. The book is inspired by the Mesa Fifth Grade Biography Tea and is dedicated to our own Devira Chartrand!

While this is not an “official” Mesa book fair, Terry Snyder will be there to help families find books in general or for summer reading. Vouchers will be available at the store if you do come to buy books, and the vouchers will benefit the Mesa Elementary library (we receive 20% of the proceeds if you turn in your voucher when purchasing your books). We hope to see you at Barnes and Noble on April 27!

The *Create Your Own Graphic Novel* class is full; we apologize if we could not add your child to our list this time. Those students who have received confirmation will need to come to the library right after school on two Tuesdays, April 17 and 24. We will have a snack outside and then begin the class by 3:15 PM. Do not forget to bring a few of your favorite graphic novels or comics and have an idea in mind so we can begin the project right away. Thanks to Ray Geier, our visiting artist, for contributing his time and skills. You may look at Ray's work on his website, www.raymancreative.com. His work is impressive, and we look forward to having his support.

A special thanks to the Louisville Sam's Club, for donating \$250 toward new book ends. Our books are staying up quite nicely now, thanks to their help.

The students are excited about the 70 beautiful new books from Usbourne Books we recently received, thanks to your purchases last fall at the Usbourne Book Fair. Soon we will be adding 60 new science books ordered through our library budget. We have also spent \$600 from our Barnes & Noble Book Fair last December, many of them from student requests. Thanks for helping your child remember his/her library books each week, so s/he can check out these new books!

The Graduating Class of 2005-06 has donated funds to purchase a Canon Powershot A530, which is housed in the library and available for the school use. The camera is very much appreciated!

SUMMER PROGRAM INFORMATION AT MESA

Mesa is receiving many brochures and flyers about summer programs, camps and classes. They can be found in the Community Board area and on the desk opposite the main office.

THANK YOU TO MESA AUCTION CHEFS

What an awesome auction was held to support Mesa last month! We especially want to thank the wonderful chefs who baked all those incredible desserts: Kim Dorvee, Tasha Given, Kim Hansen, Sarah Heilbronner, Cassy Kolb, Ann Lamson, Cheryl McCutchan, Susan McVicker, Erin Moran, Rachel Muller, Nan Rosenbloom, Anita Schuman, Clare Stocker and Katrina Walsh. The desserts were delicious and very much appreciated by all!

TAG TALK

By Betsy Puls

The act of correct *SPELLING* seems to be front and center at Mesa during the winter and spring trimesters this year with two events: Spelling Bee and Spellathon.

Before Spring Break, interested students competed in several rounds of a SPELLING BEE in order to determine who would represent Mesa at the Regional Spelling Bee, sponsored by the Daily Camera, on March 10. Fifth grade student Raine Kennedy edged her way to being the school champion and Mesa's representative. In the *Daily Camera* after the contest, a picture of another girl spelling a word was mistakenly identified as Raine. Raine represented Mesa with good grace and humor, both during the contest and after the case of mistaken identity. Thank you Raine!

Just before Spring Break, students at all grade levels received SPELLATHON packets to take home in order to gather pledges to support correct spelling knowledge, which will be tested this Thursday, April 19. Spellathon is a fund-raiser for Mesa; monies collected are used to support student scholarships for many events and field trips taking place next year. Participation in Spellathon is totally optional, but we are pleased many students are choosing to challenge themselves by testing their spelling voluntarily. They have a choice of spelling from either an easier list (A) or a harder list (B) at each grade level. The parent organizer of this event is Portia Hinshaw. If you have any questions, you can leave a message for either Portia or Betsy at the main office.

Mesa's Grade 5 KNOWLEDGE BOWLTEAM competed again in a nationwide, computer-based event on March 21. The team was successful in maintaining their position of first place in Colorado. Congratulations to all the team members Ben Beauchamp, Seth Blum, Ellis Burgin, Lena Christianian, Alex Curtiss, Jhamal Fanning, Jake Hansen, Raine Kennedy, Emma Koltun-Baker, Markus Prostko, Peter Rudman and Sam Rudman.

For two days last week, SCIENCE FAIR exhibits decorated the bookshelves and counters of the Mesa library. Students did experiments on amazing topics ranging from creating batteries by using

lemons to re-hydrating a naked egg through osmosis. Thanks to parent Julie Gelderloos and her wonderful team of helpers and science judges, an incredible learning experience was had by all. Families were able to view the experiments during an open house Thursday evening, April 12. A big THANK YOU to all those involved in the Science Fair: students, parents, teachers, Terry Snyder for the library accommodations, the judge-evaluators, the organizers, and especially to Julie Gelderloos!

STUDENT DESIGN PROJECTS AT NCAR

If you have a chance, head up to NCAR to see some great building designs, bridges and structures made out of newspaper that can hold up to 120 pounds of weight. Each project design has a purpose, and the design is drawn to scale. They will be on display until next Thursday in the lobby and education center of NCAR, which is open until 5:00 PM.

MUSICAL NOTES

From Sarah Knoebel

A reminder that M&M's will continue to have rehearsals on Tuesday and Friday mornings. The M&M's spring concert, "Music from the Movies," will be on Thursday, May 17.

Other performances coming up include: the annual First Grade Music Program, "Dino-Mite," on Thursday, April 19; the Third Grade Music Program, "Interplanetary Jammin'," on Tuesday, April 24; and the Second Grade program, "Goin' Buggy," scheduled for Thursday, May 3. All performances have a dress rehearsal at 1:00 PM and an evening concert at 7:00 PM. Be sure to return your t-shirt orders to your classroom teacher or to Ms. Knoebel right away.

WANTED: LIBRARY VOLUNTEERS

We will be losing at least two of our beloved library volunteers at the end of this year and would love to start recruiting some new people to replace them. We know this fall seems to be a long way off, but if you think you might be interested, please stop by the library or e-mail Terry Snyder, Mesa's librarian, at terry.snyder@bvsd.org. On-the-job training is available with some very knowledgeable people!

NEW VACCINES REQUIRED FOR NEXT SCHOOL YEAR

For the next school year, the BVSD Health Services department is requiring some additional vaccines for incoming kindergarten students, grade 6 and Grade 10 students. Be sure to check the flyer in this newsletter for specifics.



Mesa Elementary School April 13, 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

THANK YOU, THANK YOU! By all accounts, our Silent Auction was a resounding success! Over 150 parents, teachers and Mesa staff came out on a warm spring evening to enjoy each other's company and to raise funds for our Mesa students. Mesa parents, teachers and staff, together with area businesses, generously donated over 230 individual items for the Auction and goodies to fill more than 25 themed baskets. In case you missed the Auction, here's an idea of just some of the valuable items that families will enjoy for days/years to come: classroom pottery; outings with teachers and Mr. Medina; catered Italian, Peruvian, Thai, sushi, lobster, gourmet, and pizza dinners by Mesa parents; original artwork, jewelry, and crafts by teachers and parents; personal services; books; backpacks; clothing; wine; restaurant certificates; lessons; memberships; tours; vacation homes; and so much more. Everyone enjoyed the delicious donated food (from Global Chili Company, BD's Mongolian BBQ, SoBo, Whole Foods, Walnut Café, and King Soopers) and fancy desserts from Mesa bakers (**Erin Moran, Cassy Kolb, Nan Rosenbloom, Tasha Given, Sarah Heilbronner, Cheryl McCutchan, Clare Stocker, Kim Dorvee, Kim Hansen, Susan McVicker, Rachel Muller, Ann Lamson, Anita Schuman and Katrina Walsh**), with beverages donated by Eldorado Springs Water, Avery Brewing, and Starbuck's coffee. We thank everyone who donated to, and participated in, the Auction for helping the PTO raise approximately \$12,000 at this event! Special thanks go to **Gina Kelman** and **Jan North**, who spent countless hours organizing the event, with substantial planning help from **Julia Hoilien, Brenda Garby, Peggy Kaufman, Debbie Gould, Sally Hoechstetter, Katrina Walsh, Pam Berdanier, Lisa Beauchamp, and Gail Ross**, and help with set-up, bartending,

MESA CALENDAR

Mon. & Tues. 4/16 & 17

Compost Available @ Mesa

Tues. 4/17

Pizza Fundraiser @ CiCi's

Mon. 4/23 8:45 AM

All-School Assembly

Tues. 4/24 3:30 PM

Joint SIT/Coordinating Council

Fri. 4/27 Class Pictures

Tues. 5/1 6:15 PM—SIT

ticket sales, check out, clean-up, and other tasks from **Erin Moran, Catie McDowell, Anne Fedor, Clare Stocker, Karen Nielsen, Anita Shuman, Mia Jenak, Maggie Janssen, Stephen Topping, Karen Jones, John Jones, Dan Kelman, Renae Foxhoven, Degan Hambacher, Tony Walsh, Jeff Mason, Lara Robinson, Bill Robinson, Nancy Oncley, Kate Kupferer, Dian Kiwiet, Juli Aderman-Hagerty, Judy Bullert** and **Emily Robbie** (please forgive us if we missed naming you, but know that you are appreciated).

It doesn't seem possible, but there will only be one more PTO business meeting this year on May 1, 2007. At that meeting, we will vote on PTO officers and begin our planning for the next school year. Please plan to attend and give us your valuable input. We especially would love to see the Kindergarten parents! Final planning also will take place at that meeting for the Mesa fun run, the **Shoelace Frenzy/ Mustang Stampede (May 20)**. Finally, please look for letters coming home soon about our PTO Spring Donation Campaign. The goal for this campaign is to raise funds to pay for academic tutors (math, literacy, and technology support), who help reduce class size, a budgeted expense this year of \$32,000.

Next PTO Meeting, May 1, 2007, 6:15 p.m.

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

DON'T FORGET TO BUY KING SOOPERS AND WILD

OATS GROCERY CARDS

ON SALE IN THE OFFICE TODAY