

Mesa Elementary School

May 11, 2007



THE MESA MESSENGER

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Mesa Community,

Wow! Mesa has experienced one of our overall best years since I have been Principal. We've had our share of adversity but despite the challenges our staff and parent community have risen to each occasion for the benefit of Mesa students. The net results are happy children and a satisfied school community.

School results of the CSAP for third grade reading were released last week. Third graders were assessed on how well they understood **Colorado Reading Standard #1: Students read and understand a variety of reading materials.** This CSAP test included a variety of multiple-choice questions and short-constructed response questions that required written answers. Parents of third graders received their child's individual reading scores as well. Results from other CSAP tests will be mailed to the home address of third through fifth graders in late August, after they have been received by the district.

Congratulations to our students and staff because this year, 94% of Mesa Elementary School third graders scored at proficient, or above, as compared to the state's average of 71% proficient and above. The Boulder Valley School District's average is 84% proficient and above.

Later this month, our teachers will complete placement for next year's classes. Rachel Anderson will continue as a kindergarten teacher along with a new hire for the additional class. Heidi Orr will join Gretchen Jimenez and Michel Nankervis as the first grade teachers. Clare Schoolmaster and Melinda Platte will both move to second grade. Marti Manning and Stan

will continue at the third grade. We are in the process of hiring for a new fourth grade teacher. We have more than one hundred applicants for the position. The PTO has provided us with two parents to represent the parent community during the interviews scheduled for Friday. Julie Aderman-Hagerty and Sarah Thompson will be the other fourth grade teachers. Devira Chartrand and Rico Kellogg will teach in the fifth grade.

As previously mentioned, on May 12th teachers will start to place students into next year's classes with the intent of completing the assignments by May 30, 2007. The teachers for these classes and the actual class lists will be posted on the afternoon of June 6th at 3 PM. On the morning of June 6th the students will have an opportunity to meet their teacher for the 2007 – 2008 school year. **Please be reminded we do not accept requests for a specific teacher.**

In Partnership with our terrific Parent Community,

Mike Medina

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

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

**Friday, May 18
Monday, May 28**

**Last day of school for students
Thursday, June 7**

LIBRARY NEWS- From Terry Snyder and Connie Librarian and Library Assistant Book Swap

Parent Volunteers and the Mesa library will be sponsoring the spring book swap, which will be held on Thursday, May 24th in the gym from 3:00-4:00 p.m. If your child would like to participate, please have him/her bring books to school between the dates of Monday, May 14th through Wednesday, May 23rd.

Please make sure to put books in a bag, or with a rubber band around the books your child brings, with his/her name, number of books and class code clearly marked. Bring books that are appropriate for kindergarten through eighth grade level, and in good condition.

We need parent volunteers to help with the swap from 1:30-3:00 on Thursday, May 24th. We also need sheets, table cloths, etc. for book displays. Please come by, call or e-mail Terry at terry.snyder@bvsd.org if you can either contribute time, sheets or blankets (which can be returned) by Weds. May 16th.

Come Join the Fun at the "Mesa Magic" Summer Reading Program

Thurs., June 28th, Thurs., July 26th, and Thurs. Aug. 16th from 7:00-8:00 p.m.

Reading magic will be happening this June through August with our own Mesa Summer Reading Program. To promote summer reading and have a good time, parents, and kids in grades kindergarten through five, are invited to attend any or all of our three programs. We will be meeting on the south playground from 7:00-8:00 p.m. Activities include eating ice cream, drawing names for raffles, trading books and having fun on the playground. Look for forms in your child's Friday folder on May 25th.

Graphic Novel Classes

Thanks to Ray Geier, our visiting artist, for helping out with the Graphic Novel class. We will share our novels on Tuesday, May 22nd from 3:00-4:00 in the library. Please make sure to turn your project in by Tuesday, May 15th, so that we can prepare them for sharing. We hope to offer more classes next year to those who were unable to attend this spring.

End-of-the-Year Library Schedule

The last week of library classes is May 14-18. All magazines are due by May 17th. All books are due by May 25th. Classes with all materials turned in by May 25th will receive an ice cream party on June 1st!

TAG TALK - From Betsy Puls

Testing for identification and evaluation for TAG will take place in May. If you want your child to be evaluated, please fill out a parent inventory and

nomination form and put it in Betsy Puls' mailbox. Forms can be picked up at the main office. If you have already filled out such a form and want to confirm anything with Betsy, just send an email to betsy.puls@bvsd.org.

TO THE PARENTS AND STUDENTS AT MESA ELEMENTARY-

At the end of this school year, I am planning to retire after a teaching career of thirty-one years. The last day of school will bring many mixed emotions. As I look back over the years, I feel very fortunate indeed to have worked at a school such as Mesa. I started here in 1982 as a half-time teacher when Gordon Ellis was the principal. I have taught kindergarten, first and second graders during my tenure at Mesa. Each grade level has had its own special and unique qualities. I was always amazed and I still am at the dedication and diligence of our parents who so faithfully support the school in so many ways. I want to express my gratitude to you all for your interest and your caring spirit in helping your children to be the best they can be in all their school projects, assignments and activities. I would also like to recognize Mike Medina and the teachers and staff at Mesa who work many long hours and are willing to do whatever it takes for your children to be successful lifelong learners. And last, but certainly not least, I want to thank the Mesa students for being the great kids that you are and for your willingness to work hard and invest in yourself. I will miss you all but I will be back to volunteer or help out whenever I can. My love and affection to everyone at Mesa Elementary School! Thanks for the memories.

Barbara Knox

BADGES— We are missing several badges which we cannot trace. If you have accidentally taken a badge home, please return it to the front office. Thank you.

ART SKETCHES - From April Christenson

The Mesa Art Show will be held May 16th at 7:00 to 8:00 PM. Be sure not to miss this creative event. We still need volunteers to hang artwork the day of the show from 8:30 to 1:00. We're hoping for at least two parents from each grade so this should help hanging go fast. Thank you.

SUMMER ACTIVITIES

Please come in and check the table located across from the office for flyers on various activities. In addition to the flyers, if you're interested in the following classes, please call: **Sports Camps — Dean 303-441-4427 or www.boulderparks-rec.org**,

DESTINATION IMAGINATION -

Congratulations to this year's Destination Imagination teams for the outstanding job they did representing Mesa at this year's regional tournament at Monarch High School on April 14th. This year Mesa had a 2nd grade, 3rd grade and a 5th grade team.

This year's 5th and 3rd grade teams deserve special recognition for placing 1st and 2nd in their challenges. The 3rd grade team placed 2nd in the CSI:DI challenge as well as winning DI's highest award the DaVinci award, for outstanding imagination, creativity and originality. The members of the 3rd grade team are **Abby Bloomfield, Zaven Christianian, Logan Garby, Will Kaufman, Sydney Keenan, Nathan Rosenbloom-Bol** and **Matthieu Tapolsky**, and their Team Manager is **Aline Christianian**. The 5th grade team placed 1st in the Switching Traditions challenge. The members of the 5th grade team are **Emma Berdanier, Ellis Burgin, Lena Christianian, Sara Lemberg, Abby North** and **Alana Schoenhals**, and their Team Manager is **Pam Berdanier**. Both teams represented the Boulder region in the state DI tournament at the University of Denver on April 28th.

LUNCHROOM NEWS– From Amy Shanahan

It's that time of year again when lunch charges will no longer be allowed. Any negative balances must be paid ASAP! Check your child's backpack for any past due notices. If you're unsure of your child's balance you can call, write a note, or have your child ask. There are only 15 days left for hot lunches so plan accordingly. Any balances at the end of the year will be rolled over to the next year, including 5th graders moving on to the District. Anyone moving out of district will get a refund. Please let me know ASAP.

I've really enjoyed working with your children and thank you in advance for making the end of the year run smoothly.

Prices for next year will stay the same. Payforit.net is the district's new online payment system that will be available through the Infinite Campus Parent Portal. Pre-payment of meal costs is highly encouraged as it increases the speed of the lines and provides parents with information on student spending.

A BIG THANK YOU MESA VOLUNTEERS

The Mesa PTO would like to thank all the volunteers who graciously contributed to the April 20 Teacher Appreciation Luncheon so that our teachers and staff could feel how truly special they are!

Thank you to **Susan Wortman** for making sure the teachers and staff got the message that they are better than good, they are "GREAT!" Thank you to **Brenda Garby** and **Dian Kiwiet** for the personalized "Caught Being Great" cards that said something wonderful about each teacher. A huge thank you to **Sheryl Voth** for staying up until 2:00 am to complete her beautifully decorated "Caught Being Great" cookies. Thank you to **Lisa Bell** and her kids for wrapping the gift mugs.

Thank you to **Paula Dhillon, Clare Stocker, and Mia Jenak** for the grocery shopping expedition. Thank you to **Jan North, Debbie Gould, Anita Schumann, Diana Fields, and Kate Kupferer** for orchestrating the morning coffee and breakfast treats. They were backed by an incredible team of bakers starring **Yoko Takahashi, Christy Barth, Leslie Allen, Sarah Heilbronner, Maggie Janssen, Kim Hansen, Adrienne Lee, Adrian Van Nice** and **Karen Jones**. Thank you **Pat Felt** for the fruit platter, and thank you **El Dorado Springs** for the water.

Thank you to the sandwich makers. . . **Anita Schumann** on tuna, **Anne Hedlund** on vegetarian, and **Bernadette Gimpel** on turkey. Thank you to **Gina Kelman** who was instrumental in delivering the goods by lunch time. We also want to thank third graders, **Abby Bloomfield** and **Helena Schumann**, for helping assemble the lunch bags. Thank you to first graders, **Bailey Gimpel, Wren Kelman, Eva Rosenbloom-Bol, and Grace Hedlund** for helping babysit Baby Ella Jimenez.

A big thank you to everyone else who volunteered their time, including **Betty Tobias, Catie McDowell, and Kathy Cornelius Smith**. **Julia Hoilien** and I (**Cece Bloomfield**) couldn't have done it without you all!

P.E. NEWS - From Jacy Bruno-

Mesa Field Days were a huge success this week! The kids did an amazing job! I want to send a special thank you to the 5th graders that helped with the K/1 and 2/3 Field Days and also a huge thank you to the parents that helped with the 4/5 Field Day. Everyone had a great time!

FALL ACTIVITES–

Elementary Spanish Program (ESP)- 303-440-7196 or www.kidsspeakspanish.org.



Mesa Elementary School

May 11, 2007

A Triple 'A' School
Academics
Arts
Athletics

Winner of the:

**John J. Irwin Excellence Award 2000-2006
and the
Kennedy Center Schools of Distinction Award
for Arts Education**

Principal: Mike Medina

Secretaries: Judy Bullert and Lori Madden

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We're on the web

www.bvsd.k12.co.us/schools/mesa/

PTO CORNER

The PTO wrapped up a successful school year by holding its last business meeting of the year on May 1, 2007. Our packed agenda included many items, as follows:

* **Spring Donation Campaign (5/4-6/1)** – We hope all parents/guardians will consider making tax-deductible donations to the Mesa PTO so we can continue to support Mesa teachers and staff with important programs, like the academic tutor program (PTO's annual budget for this expense is \$32,000). We would love to receive all donations by **June 1, 2007** (please route them through the teachers or send by mail).

* **Shoelace Frenzy "Fund" Run (Sunday, 5/20 8:30-11 a.m.)** – Help your kids celebrate the Fitness Club training and enjoy a beautiful spring day with other Mesa families and Staff on this "fund" run/walk/hike on Open Space and Mountain Parks trails or around Viele Lake. The race begins and ends at Mesa, with a morning of activities (drawings, games, bouncy castle, etc.) and post-race refreshments. All registrants will receive a nylon drawstring backpack filled with goodies and be entered into a drawing for valuable prizes thanks to our generous sponsors (some examples of sponsors with Mesa ties: **IMG Interlocken Mortgage Grp, Lori Kemmet, D.D.S., Incredible Smiles, Mike's Camera, Eldorado Springs Water, Premiere Members Federal Credit Union.** Look for race brochures and registration forms that will go home this Friday. **Please note:** Our OSMP permit to use the Shanahan Ridge trails limits our participation to 100 people. Be sure to register early to be in that group. They're the only ones allowed on OSMP trails on race day; others will enjoy the route around Viele Lake.

MESA CALENDAR

Tues 5/15- - Pizza Fundraiser @
CiCi's

Wed 5/16—Student Council
Mesa's Art Show

Thurs 5/17—M&M's Oldies Show

Sun 5/20—Showlace Frenzy Fun

Mon 5/21—All School Assembly

Wed 5/23—Last School Store

Fri 5/25—Pasta Pig-Out

Mon 5/28—Bolder Boulder

Wed 5/30—Last Student Council

* **New PTO Officers (2007-2008)** – Familiar faces will again help direct PTO programs, but some are "term-limited" so we need new recruits for the future! Thank you to these officers who were elected (two volunteered after the meeting so will be confirmed at the first meeting next year and we're looking for another co-secretary):

Co-PTO Presidents: Dian Kiwiet and Diana Fields

Vice President: Gail Ross

Co-Treasurers: Jan North and Jeff Mason (to be confirmed)

Co-Secretaries: Linda Garby (to be confirmed) and (need a volunteer)

* **Bake Sale/Art Show (5/16) and Popcorn/M&M Music from the Movies (5/17)** – Please support the PTO bake sale table and popcorn booth at these events!

* **PEN Program/Co-Sponsored by PTO—Transitions to Middle School: Understanding and Navigating Adolescence (5/21, 6-8 p.m.)**. The Mesa PTO will host this program for Mesa and Bear Creek parents to be conducted by Dr. Jan Hittelman (co-founder of Compass House), who will share strategies for parents to use in guiding children from elementary to middle school.

* **King Soopers and Wild Oats Grocery Certificates (July and August)** – Please continue to support the Mesa PTO over the summer by stocking up on King Soopers grocery certificates and Wild Oats cards. Place your summer orders in the office or contact Brenda Garby (howelgarby@comcast.net).

Year-end Celebration – Look for details soon about a final PTO get-together off-site.