
THE MESA MESSENGER

October 26, 2007

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear Mesa Families,

In last month's letter, I described some of the instructional strategies that our teachers are emphasizing in our efforts to improve student writing. One month later, I'm happy to report that I've observed the implementation of these strategies, and I'm excited to witness the noticeable growth of individual student writers.

At the same time, I've been talking with students about our school climate—our Mesa Community. As I said to the students at a recent Monday assembly, it probably seems like the principal spends most his time talking about behavior. I made the point that we all want Mesa students to "be the best that they can be," but we know that students will be their best only when they feel safe and happy. A large part of my role is ensuring that safety and well-being. Parents play a vital role in promoting a positive, safe school climate, too, especially when you're equipped with the same information that we're providing to our students. For the remainder of this letter, you'll read a list of *some* of the information we provide to students.

- Normal peer conflict happens at school. Unfortunately, bullying sometimes happens too. We want students to learn to recognize the difference and respond accordingly.

Normal Peer Conflict

Happens occasionally
Accidental
Remorse—will take responsibility
Effort to solve the problem
Not seeking anything

Bullying

Repeated negative actions
Purposeful
No remorse from bully
No effort to solve the problem
Seeking power or attention

- Students often know about incidents before we do, so we rely on students to tell us. We want students to understand the importance of telling, and we want them to know the difference between tattling and telling.

Tattling Situation

Unimportant
Harmless
Can handle by self
Purpose is to get someone in trouble
Behavior is accidental

Telling Situation

Important
Harmful or dangerous
Need help from an adult
Purpose is to keep people safe
Behavior is purposeful

Even with these guidelines, we know that incidents of conflict or bullying can be complicated and difficult. A positive school climate is much like a plant—it needs regular attention and maintenance. No plant is perfect, but with consistent nurturing, the plant can continue to be healthy and thrive. Here's to a healthy student climate at Mesa.

Go Mustangs!

Josh Baldner, Principal, josh.baldner@bvsd.org

**LIBRARY NEWS From Terry Snyder and Connie Tadehara
Teacher-Librarian and Library Assistant**

We the People Grant

This year, we received a "We the People Bookshelf" grant with the theme "The Pursuit of Happiness" (thanks to Devira Chartrand for writing the grant). We have been involved in a number of activities promoting this idea. The library now has a collection of fifteen books that encourages kids to read and understand great literature while exploring the "Pursuit of Happiness" theme.

Thanks to Jane Printz (Allie and Jake Blank's grandmother) for bringing her diligence and expertise to Mesa this fall. She has talked with several classes about the Constitution, Declaration of Independence, and the important concepts of freedoms and basic rights in our country.

Bookmark Contest

Another way we plan to celebrate this same theme is to make it the topic of our Bookmark Contest, which begins on November 1st. It is optional for your child to participate. Here are the particulars:

1. Open to students in **Grades K through 5.**
2. Entries should be in **black ink** and must fit inside the lines of the box on the entry form. Work done with a Sharpie-type felt pen is acceptable. A pencil may be used, but marks must be erased after using the felt pen.
3. One entry per child.
4. Bookmark idea should be submitted by 3:30 p.m. on **Tuesday, Nov. 27th.**
5. Bookmarks will be screened and candidates will be displayed in the library, beginning **Monday, December 3rd.**
6. Children will vote for their favorite bookmark, voting only on those from their grade level, from **December 3rd through December 7th.**
7. Winners will be posted **December 17th.**
8. The Library will publish winning bookmarks and make them available at the check-out station in **January 2008.** Each winner will receive a gift card to a local bookstore. Only first name of winners and grades will be released.

Book Donations

The Mesa library has received a mini-grant from the Mesa PTO to purchase parent and professional books that may be checked out from the library by both staff and parents. The following is a list of book recommendations we are considering for purchase:

Professional/Parent Book Recommendations

ISBN	Title	Author
0-9629360-6-5	The First Days of School	Wong, Harry
	Transforming the Difficult Child	Glasser, Howard
0-13-118185-8	Children's Literature	Stoodt-Hill, Barabara
0-205-47032-7	Teaching Students with Special Needs in Inclusive Settings	Smith, Tom E.

MUSIC NEWS From Sarah Knoebel

Check out the new M&M's and handbells pictures hanging in the hallway outside of the music room! Dr. Roger Forman has made a donation in the amount of \$550 to the Mesa Elementary Music Program. If you would like to order photographs from this year or previous years, please see Ms. Knoebel for an order form. A huge thank you to Dr. Forman, aka PhotoBrain!!!

P.E. NEWS From Jacy Bruno

Magnificent Mile Runs

I wanted to thank everyone involved in the Magnificent Mile Runs that took place October 2-5 at Fairview High School! It would not have been successful without great parent support, teacher support, and our wonderful 1st-5th grade runners! The kids did an amazing job and I am very proud of them! Thanks again to all involved with this wonderful event!

Yoga at Mesa

I know that some of you have been inquiring about the after school Yoga program that will be offered at Mesa so I have a few details for you. There will be a Fall and Spring program offered. Both programs will take place on Mondays and Wednesdays after school from 3:00-4:00 and will be \$40 for each program. Each program will run for 6 weeks. The Fall program will be for 3rd-5th graders and the Spring program will be for K-2nd graders. Look for information coming home soon in your child's Friday Folder or get a flier from the community board by the office. Questions-jacy.bruno@bvdsd.org

Fall Program-3rd-5th grade

Tuesday, December 3, 10 and 17

Thursday, December 5, 12 and 19

Spring Program-K-2nd grade

Tuesday, March 3, 10 and 17

Thursday, March 5, 12 and 19

ART SKETCHES from April Christenson

Art Department Annual "Kidz Art" Fundraiser

You will find a note card that has a print of your child's art on it in their Friday folder today. This note card is just a sample of what you can buy, as well as, a mug, computer pad or a t-shirt. Please return the order form to your child's classroom teacher. **PLEASE NOTE: If you do not order, consider checking the box at the bottom of the order form that gives permission for your child's art work to be included in the class note card assortment that the staff can purchase.** Even if you do not order anything you may keep the note card. The orders will be filled before the Holidays as they make great gifts for all. The quality of inks used is more permanent than our art supplies and will hold the true color of the original art work longer. This fund raiser is used to buy special art supplies for each grade level during the 2007-2008- school year. Thanks for your support of the arts!

Needed ASAP – Boxes and Tubes Etc...

We need cereal boxes, frozen food boxes, Kleenex boxes, paper towel tubes etc. for the Discovery center in the art room. We need them ALL year for use when students have finished their assignment in art for the day. This gives them a great chance to be creative on their own and get in on a 3-dimensional experience. They are really disappointed when the Discovery Center is bare. Thanks!

The fifth grade traveled to the Denver Art Museum this month. The students took a tour of architecture, focusing on the new modern building. They also visited the Native American floor in the old building. They did activities and sketching that Mrs. Christenson directed. We then ate lunch in the Civic Center Park and happen to see some artists outside painting (plein air painting). Everyone had a great time and many students have things they want to go back to see. Consider taking your family on the free day that occurs on one Saturday a month! Special thanks to all our chaperones for coming!

PTO CORNER

IN THE NEWS...

Scholastic Book Fair – The PTO earned approximately \$1,800 from the book fair; teacher wish lists were fulfilled; and many books were donated to children in Peru.

Mini-grants: 21 grant requests were received from teachers. The PTO approved 12 grants completely; 6 grants partially; and 3 grants were denied (low priority or to be funded elsewhere). Total grants approved: \$7,035.50 (budget of \$8,000).

Payback Books: This first-time fundraiser was generally well received; the PTO earned \$3,700.

Annual Donations: The PTO has received \$2,650 in annual donations to date (donations are welcome any time; remember year-end charitable contributions and matching funds). Two Mesa students even donated money to the PTO!

Fall Fest: The PTO Fall Fest was a resounding success! This Mesa tradition is not only fun for all, but also a great way to generate school spirit. The PTO earned approximately \$3,600.

Directories: Mesa telephone directories are complete and are for sale in the office; the PTO has earned \$1,200 to date.

T-shirts and sweatshirts: Mesa t-shirts and sweatshirts are on sale; get yours by 10/29.

Sally Foster Gift Wrap: All sales benefit 4th and 5th grade Outdoor Education programs. Be sure to turn in orders by 10/26.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

- ✓ Mesa Magazine (contact Stephen Topping)
- ✓ Grant writers (contact Linda Garby)
- ✓ Silent Auction or other event (contact Gail Ross)

THANK YOU

Teacher Conference Meals

The Mesa teachers were grateful for the home-cooked meals available during conference nights, as they typically don't have time to get out to eat. A huge THANK YOU to the following cooks who provided food for our hard-working staff:

Leslie Allen, Christy Barth, Denise Bedoya, Cece Bloomfield, Terri Cook, Laura Deal, Corina Eckl, Vicki Edgington, Pat Felt, Renae Foxhoven, Lisa Gillespie, Tasha Given, Debbie Gould, Stephanie Griffin, Julia Hoillen, Steph Keller, Susan Leonard, Tammy Livingston, Catie McDowell, Vicki McPherson, Dawn McSavaney, Susan McVicker, Michelle Megerle, Alexandra Prizemin, Lara Robinson, Krista Rogers, Christine Rubin, Andrea Runkel, Anita Schumann, Julie Smith, Mary Smith, Mindy Sooter, and Cathy Tallerico And, of course, another Big THANKS to our office managers, **Judy Bullert and Lori Madden** for the day-of meal coordination and clean-up!

If you have a suggestion for meal themes or ways to improve our efforts for spring conferences, please feel free to e-mail me at lisamgillespie@msn.com.

Again, thanks! Your meals were very much appreciated.

Lisa Gillespie (Avery's mom)
Conference Meal Coordinator

PTO Thanks you

Thank you to chairs, **Dolores Young** and **Julie Schmutz**, for organizing the Scholastic Book Fair and to all who helped: **Terry Snyder, Debbie Gould, Tasha Given, Susan Melville, Laura Deal, Paula Dhillon, Vicki Edgington, Julie Gelderloos, Julie Hynes, Tammi Livingstone, Eve Rose, Christina Schinzel-Drescher, and Tammi Willmarth.**

~The Fall Fest committee of **Sally Hoechstetter, Karen Nielsen, Polly Dawkins, Jan North, Gina Kelman, Cece Bloomfield** and **Vicki Edgington** worked hard to make things run smoothly. Thanks to all Room Parents for soliciting volunteers, all parent volunteers who ran booths, and all who baked for the bake sale and Cake Walk. Special thanks to the booth coordinators: **Alison Smits, Krista Rogers, Eileen Henry, Lisa Ahlerich, Catie McDowell, Gail Ross, Jennifer O'Brien, Tasha Given, Julia Holien, Chris Herdic, Joanne Greene, Tara Neuman, Julie Gelderloos, Annette Woodham, Gaylen Howard, Regina Kershner, Brenda Garby, Peggy Kaufman, Maryanne Mattson, Polly Dawkins, Gary Strand, Debbie Gould, and Jan North.** Also, thanks to **Amy Shanahan**, the teachers, David Spriggs, and Emilio Cordova for help with the food and clean up. Finally, thanks to **Baked in Boulder** (pizza) and **Premier Members Credit Union** (bouncy house).

~**Kate Kupferer** and her husband, **Jud Smith**, with assistance from **Aline Christianian** and **Brenda Garby**, are to thank for the Mesa directories.

~Thank you to **Helen Devereux** and **Eun Cho** for creating the beautiful Mesa t-shirts and sweatshirts and for organizing this fundraiser.

~Walk to School Day was a success thanks to chair, **Christy Barth**, and her volunteers: **Gail Ross, Sue Erickson, Clare Stocker, Lisa Gillespie, Nancy Helmig, Gina Kelman, Susan Leonard, and Nan Rosenbloom.**

~Thank you again to **Lisa Gillespie** for organizing the teacher conference dinners and to all Mesa chefs.

~ Thank you to **Debbie Pentz** and **Linda Garby** for organizing the teacher mini-grants and to **Gail Ross** for compiling the PTO volunteer lists.

WEB LINKS

Register your credit card with eScrip <http://www.escrip.com/> (group id: Mesa: #6536652). A percentage of sales will be donated to Mesa PTO.



Buy King Soopers Certificates or Whole Foods cards and 5% is donated to Mesa PTO. On sale in the office.



Open an account; mention Mesa PTO, and we will receive \$100.



<https://www.premiermembers.org/home/>

EXTRAS

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

- ✓ Mesa Magazine (contact Stephen Topping)

- ✓ Grant writers (contact Linda Garby)

- ✓ Silent Auction or other event (contact Gail Ross)

WISH LIST

- Needed: used CD player for 5th grade (Chartrand)

- The office is in desperate need of a shredder. The current one has expired.

IMPORTANT DATES

- Oct. 26 – Gift Wrap orders due
- Oct. 29 – T-shirt Orders due
- Nov. 5 – All School Assembly
- Nov. 6 – Next PTO meeting @6:15
Pizza and childcare available
- Nov. 7 - Picture Retakes
- Nov. 8 Plant Sale Orders go home
- Nov. 9 - NO SCHOOL (PDD)
- Nov. 12 – NO SCHOOL
Veterans Day
- Nov. 16 – Report Cards go home
Plant Sale orders due
- Nov. 26 - All School Assembly
- Nov. 26 & 28 – Sally Foster Delivery
- Nov. 29 – Plant Sale Delivery