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## THE MESA MESSENGER

November 30, 2007

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### PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear Mesa Families,

During the 2006-2007 school year, Mesa Elementary updated and revised its mission statement:

*Mesa is a caring and supportive community that:*

- 1- Fosters a positive learning environment*
- 2- Instills cooperative responsible involvement in a global society*
- 3 – Values the unique potential, background, and cultures of all individuals*
- 4 – Empowers students to become life long learners*

As you would expect, most school mission statements include items similar to #1, #3, and #4. After all, ensuring that all students learn is our business. At the same time, I am very proud to know that Mesa has an emphasis on thinking globally. A few recent events at Mesa illustrate this.

We just received some pictures and follow up from a school in Peru. Earlier this year, our students collected money to provide supplies to this school that had been ravaged by an earthquake. The students in Peru were delighted and grateful. We look forward to the opportunity to share these pictures with our students—they've made a real difference.

In January, our student council will initiate a "Pennies for Patients" drive. This drive will generate awareness and raise money for cancer research.

Currently, we are in the process of installing solar panels on our school roof. The system comes to us through an anonymous donation by a generous Mesa family. Our recycling program has already earned us the distinction of "Green Star School." Now, we'll be a lead school in the use of solar energy, too. The installation includes an LED panel that will display information about energy savings—a learning opportunity for our students.

These are only a few examples. Each day, our teachers challenge students to broaden their perspectives and think about the world beyond their daily routines. It may sound cliché, but we know that today's students are tomorrow's citizens.

Josh Baldner, Principal

## NEWS AND UPDATES

**Tag Talk:** from Betsy Puls

### **Chess League Team Results**

On Thursday, Nov. 8th, the Mesa Chess League Team hosted Eisenhower school for our first

chess match of the season. Turnout was great, with ten players from each school. Each Mesa player paired off, in rank order, with a player from Eisenhower and played two games: one on the white side of the board and another on the

black. Wins are worth one point; draws are worth one-half point. For the final match scoring, only the first four boards (i.e., the top four ranked-pairings) counted in the score, but all of the students got some great "real match" experience.

Everybody played well and worked hard; both of the top two boards played for a total of about 90 minutes without break!

In the end, this match got chalked up as a win for Eisenhower (6-2), but it was also a great experience for all involved. We are looking forward to our next match on Thursday December 6<sup>th</sup> at Flatirons Elementary.

**P.E. News:** from Jacy Bruno

### **Yoga at Mesa**

The after school Yoga program offered for 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> graders at Mesa will be starting on **Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup>**. The Winter session will take place on Mondays and Wednesdays from 3:00-4:00 and run for 6 weeks. The total cost will be only \$40. Information came home in Friday Folders on November 16<sup>th</sup>. If you missed this and are still interested, it's not too late!!! Stop by the office to fill out a form by Monday, Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Questions-jacy.bruno@bvsd.org

### **Fall Program-3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grade December 3, 5, 10, 12, 17, 19**

Note: There will be a Yoga Program offered to K-2<sup>nd</sup> graders that will take place in the Spring.

**Music Notes:** from Sarah Knoebel

The M&M's Winter Concert is on **Thursday, Dec. 6th**. Please note the time change! Our concert will be at **6:00 p.m.** this year because of a conflict with the SHMS winter concert. M&M's, please plan to arrive at 5:45 in your M&M's t-shirt and jeans. As always, family and friends are also invited to the dress rehearsal at 1:00. The M&M pancake breakfast will be at 7:45 on Friday, Dec. 7th.

**Library Update:** from Terry Snyder and Connie Tadehara  
Teacher-Librarian and Library Assistant

### **Bookmark Contest**

The bookmark entries have been turned in and will be displayed in the library, beginning Monday, **Dec. 3rd.** Children will vote for their favorite bookmark, voting only for those in their grade level, from **Dec. 3rd - Dec. 7th.** Winners will be posted **Dec. 17th.** The Library will publish winning bookmarks and make them available at the check-out station in **Jan. 2008.** Each winner will receive a gift card to the Boulder Bookstore.

### **Book Donations**

The Mesa library will be purchasing parent/professional books from PTO mini-grant money (thank you!) on December 1st. After we receive the books, we will work to process the books for parent check-out and will let you know when they are ready.

We are accepting donations of parent/professional books that you think would be good for our library. If you have some books you'd like to donate, please bring them to the library office during school hours.

### **Another Request for Book Donations**

We are starting a collection of children's books that are written in other languages besides English. If you have books you'd like to donate, please bring them to the library office during school hours. Thanks to **Asnat Macoosh** and family for their lovely donation of French books.

### **UNICEF**

Some classrooms participated in the Trick-or-Treat for UNICEF program this year. We collected \$561.71 to support children across the globe with better nutrition, clean water, medicine and immunizations, education, and emergency relief. Thanks to all the hard work of those that participated.

### **Chris Kauflin, Local Author**

Chris Kauflin, who visited us last spring, will be coming to Mesa on Friday, December 7th to discuss his new book and his new presentation on the writing process. If your child doesn't attend school in the afternoon, and you would like to come back with your child to watch the program, please meet us in the Riser Room, which is located behind Sarah Thompson's fourth grade classroom. Here are the times for his presentation:

10:45-11:35 Grades 3 & 4  
1:00-2:00 Grade 5  
2:00-2:45 Grade K-2 (including K-Care)

If you're interested in purchasing his book(s) before his presentation, please mail this form to the address below. We have a copy of Smiletown's Big Snow Day in the library.



[www.smiletownbooks.com](http://www.smiletownbooks.com)

***Smiletown's Big Snow Day  
&  
Smiletown's Upside Down***

By Chris Kauflin  
Boulder, Colorado

(32 page, hardcover, children's picture books)

Smiletown Books author, Chris Kauflin will present the writing process to the students of Mesa on Friday, December 7th. Smiletown Books is offering a **20% discount** on both *Smiletown's Big Snow Day* and *Smiletown's Upside Down*. All orders will be shipped via USPS (discount expires on December 25th).

1. Go to [www.smiletownbooks.com](http://www.smiletownbooks.com).
  2. Click the "Order Here" button.
  3. If you would like your book(s) personalized please type the name of the person(s) in "Add Comments About Your Order," which is under "Delivery Information."
  4. In "Payment Information," enter coupon code: **Mesa**
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Or you can fill out this form along with a check made out to **Smiletown Books**. Your autographed book(s) will be delivered on the day of Chris' visit. Return form by **Dec 7**.

Students Name \_\_\_\_\_

Teachers Name \_\_\_\_\_

I would like the following book(s) at \$12.00 per book (make sure you check one).

\_\_\_\_\_ Smiletown's Big Snow Day

\_\_\_\_\_ Smiletown's Upside Down

#### Boulder Barnes and Noble Book Fair

We will be having our second annual Barnes and Noble Book fair on Saturday, December 15th from 1:00-4:00 p.m. I would love to have some volunteers during any or all of that time. Please e-mail Terry at [terry.snyder@bvsd.org](mailto:terry.snyder@bvsd.org), sign up outside the library doors, or call at (303) 494-4704 ext. 234 if you can volunteer.

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**ALLERGY, COLD OR FLU? FIGURING OUT WHAT'S AILING YOU**

Each year, millions of schooldays and workdays are missed because of colds and flu, and we're heading into prime cold and flu season now. How to best treat your condition depends on whether it's a cold or flu that's ailing you. Since these diseases share many of the same symptoms, they're sometimes hard to tell apart.

Complicating the problem even further are allergies. Many people suffer from allergies in the fall, when ragweed pollen is at its peak in many areas. And the arrival of winter can also contribute to allergy problems, as people are spending more time indoors around pet dander and dust mites.

When the sniffles, stuffy nose, and coughing begin, use this chart to help figure out how to handle your symptoms.

<b>SYMPTOMS</b>	<b>Airborne Allergy</b>	<b>COLD</b>	<b>Flu</b>
Fever	Never	Rare	Usual, high (100-102°F), can be higher, especially in young children; lasts 3-4 days
Headache	Rare	Rare	Common
General Aches, Pains	Never	Slight	Usual, often severe
Fatigue, Weakness	Sometimes	Sometimes	Usual, can last up to 3 weeks
Extreme Exhaustion	Never	Never	Usual, at the beginning of the illness
Stuffy, Runny Nose	Common	Common	Sometimes
Sneezing	Usual	Usual	Sometimes
Sore Throat	Sometimes	Common	Sometimes
Cough	Sometimes	Common, hacking	Common, can become severe
Chest Discomfort	Rare	Mild to moderate	Common
<b>Treatment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Antihistamines</li> <li>❖ Nasal steroids (prescription only)</li> <li>❖ Decongestants</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Antihistamines</li> <li>❖ Decongestants</li> <li>❖ Aspirin, acetaminophen (e.g. Tylenol), or ibuprofen (e.g. Advil) for aches and pains</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Aspirin, acetaminophen, or ibuprofen for aches, pains, and fever</li> <li>❖ Antiviral medicines (see your doctor)</li> </ul>
<b>Prevention</b>	Avoid those things that you are allergic to, such as: pollen, dust mites, mold, pet dander, cockroaches.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Wash your hands often</li> <li>❖ Avoid close contact with anyone with a cold</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Wash your hands often</li> <li>❖ Avoid close contact with anyone with the flu</li> <li>❖ <b>Get an annual vaccination</b></li> </ul>
<b>Complications</b>	Sinus infection, asthma	Sinus congestion, middle ear infection, asthma	Bronchitis, pneumonia; can be life-threatening

Flu is by far the most severe illness of the three listed in the table above. To avoid the flu, make sure you and your children receive a flu vaccination each year. Parents with children under 6 months of age should get vaccinated since their newborn is too young to receive a flu shot. Pregnant women and children ages 6 months to 5 years are considered to be at higher risk of complications from the flu, along with people 50 or older. Flu vaccine is now available. Children younger than 9 years receiving the vaccine for the first time will need two doses.

**To find a where to get a flu vaccine call the Colorado Flu Hotline: 1-877-462-2911  
or visit the website at [www.immunizecolorado.com](http://www.immunizecolorado.com)**

## **PICTURES PICTURES PICTURES**

The Yearbook committee is starting to collect pictures of your kids participating in Mesa activities. We will be collecting the pictures and CD's in the office. Pictures of the mile run, Halloween, field trips, anything that has Mesa Kids in them are all welcome. If there is an event going on with your class, the Teacher can sign out a camera from the library if needed.

## **Looking for something for your kids to do after school?**

BVSD's LIFELONG LEARNING Offers Classes for Children Ages 6 -12

Join us for plenty of Winter Fun! We offer a variety of classes for children. (starting January 31-April 26 for the Winter catalog)

### **Literacy...publish your own newspaper article!**

Art...paint a masterpiece or explore Anime cartooning!

Languages...learn Spanish or French!

Act in a play!

Horseplay...play with horses!

Create digital diaries!

Exercise...try rock climbing!

Check out our website at [www.bvsd.org/III](http://www.bvsd.org/III)

Or Call 303-499-1125x222 to register. Scholarships available  
Classes run in various BVSD schools and other locations.

## **Share-A-Gift Toy and Book Collection**

Share-a-Gift and Share-a-Book are annual, all-volunteer collection and distribution holiday projects encompassing the Boulder Valley School area.

Last year 718 families came for help to provide gifts for their children, up from 604 families in 2005. Over 2,155 children, birth to age 14, received these community donations.

Share-a-Gift and Share-a-Book allow children to participate in gift giving by sharing their own used or new toys and books with other children who will appreciate getting them.

Unwrapped toys and books may be dropped off until Tuesday Dec. 11 (the boxes will be removed on Wed. Dec. 12). The toys will be given away on Dec. 15 in cooperation with the Boulder Valley Rotary Share-a-Coat program.

For overall questions about this program, including opportunities to volunteer, please visit our web site @ <http://www.shareagift.org>

## **THANK YOU**

Thank you! So far this year we have collected more than 500 coats and other winter garments from participating Boulder County schools and businesses. On behalf of the Boulder Valley Rotary Club thank you for all you are doing to help the less fortunate in our area. It is only with broad based community support that we can achieve our goal of having not one single person in our community go cold this winter for lack of a coat.

Thanks again,  
Bob Harberg

Thank you to **Nan Rosenbloom** and **Asnat Macoosh** for donating to the school two much needed paper shredders. Now all we need is someone to volunteer to help shred two full boxes of paper.

## **SHMS Open Enrollment Information for the 2008-09 School Year**

Day Tours are for potential Students w/Adult\*

Tuesday, December 4, 2007

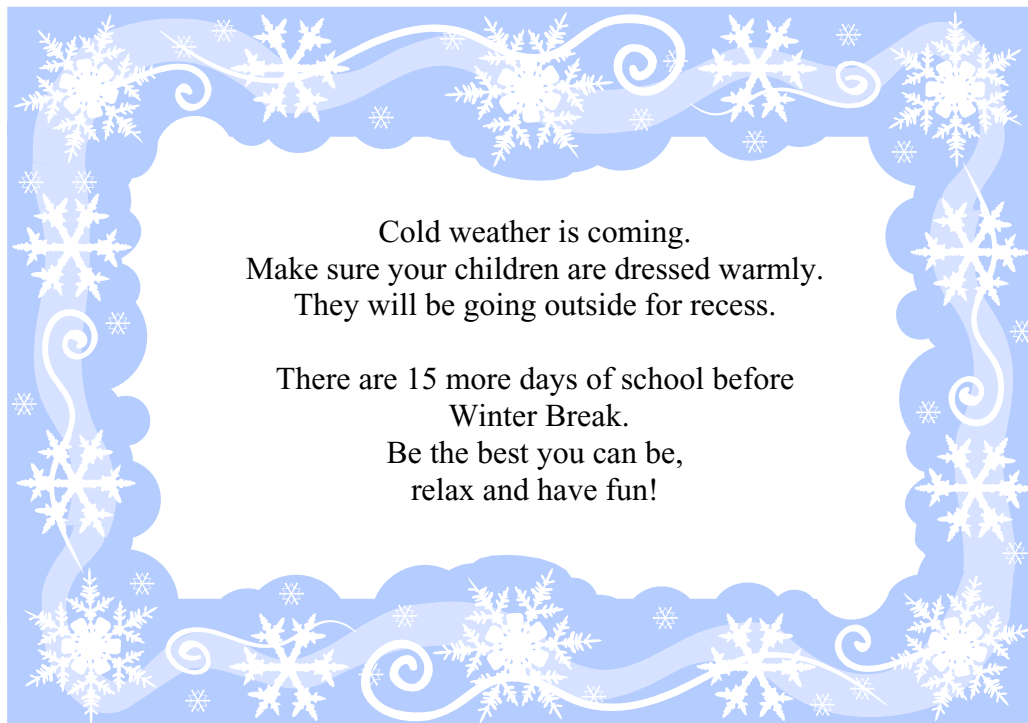
Wednesday, December 12, 2007

Monday, December 17, 2007

Thursday, January 10, 2008

Wednesday, January 16, 2008

TOURS START AT 9:00 A.M. AND END AT 11:00 A.M. \*CALL 303-494-7116 TO RESERVE



## PTO CORNER

### IN THE NEWS... / THANK YOU...

**M2A Fund:** At the last PTO meeting, we had a special visit from former Mesa principal, Mike Medina, who personally thanked Mesa families for helping with the Angevine Middle School Fall Clean-Up Day and for the donations from Mesa families last year for students at Angevine. Mr. Medina reported that the approximately \$1,500 he received from Mesa families will be used for a new Angevine I.S.S.E. program (International School to School Exchange, which used to be a program at Mesa) with students going to/coming from Peru. Some of the funds also will be used to defray costs for students to attend a Friday Harbor trip, a new program Mr. Medina has started at Angevine, which also has roots at Mesa.

**Sally Foster Gift Wrap:** Thank you to **Julia Hoilien, Katrina Walsh, and Gina Kelman** for stepping up to organize the gift-wrap fund-raiser. Thanks to their efforts and all who purchased products, the Mesa PTO earned approximately \$3,400 (on budget), which will help reduce costs to parents for the wonderful 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade Outdoor Education programs.

**Notepads:** Thank you to **Wendy Bigelow, Joanne Greene, Polly Dawkins, and Gina Kelman** for helping with notepads and to all who ordered notepads with the delightful artwork of their children. A special thanks to the room parents for helping collect student art for staff notepads!

**Usborne Books On-line:** Shop for holiday books on-line through midnight 12/7: [www.ubah.com/BF23455](http://www.ubah.com/BF23455) (50% of sales will go toward free books for the Spanish Shelves in the Mesa Library).

### WAYS TO SUPPORT THE MESA PTO WITHOUT SPENDING AN EXTRA PENNY:

- **Buy King Soopers Grocery Certificates:** (5% of cash sales goes to the PTO; certificates are on sale in the office)
- **E-scrip:** Register your credit card and participating merchants (Eddie Bauer, OfficeMax, Safeway, Macy's and more) donate to the Mesa PTO (sign up at [www.escrip.com](http://www.escrip.com); Group: Mesa Elementary; ID: 6536652)
- **Shop at Boulder toy stores, Grand Rabbits and Play Fair Toys,** and accumulate store credits for Mesa when you specify Mesa Elementary during checkout.
- **Use store cards that give a rebate to the Mesa PTO:** Target, KMart and Walmart will donate cash to the Mesa PTO when you use their cards and designate the Mesa PTO as the recipient of the rebate.
- **Open an account at Premiere Members Credit Union:** \$100 will be donated to the PTO.
- **Tear off General Mills Boxtops for Education:** The PTO receives cash for boxtops collected in the box by the office.
- **Recycle printer cartridges and cell phones:** A Boulder company, B2B Direct, pays the Mesa PTO for used printer (inkjet and laser) cartridges and cell phones. Please drop them off in the collection box by the front office.

## **YEAR-END CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTION REMINDER\***

As the 2007 tax year draws to a close, we all make annual donations to worthy causes. Please remember the Mesa PTO when you make your charitable contributions this year.

Parent donations, which contribute to the PTO's approximately \$47,000 annual budget, make many critical Mesa programs possible. The PTO funds a \$30,000 academic tutor program, which provides salaries for 2 literacy teachers, a math teacher, and the instructor for the computer lab. The PTO donations also provide teacher mini-grants for classrooms, offset costs for Outdoor Education programs, and support the *Mesa Magazine*, the student literary magazine.

Please consider carefully how your family benefits from these programs and give generously to the Mesa PTO. Also consider creative ways of leveraging your contribution, such as:

- spreading contributions over several months;
- donating securities;
- increasing your contribution based on a windfall, such as a bonus;
- acquiring matching funds from your employer;
- establishing corporate contributions; and
- requesting donations from extended family members.

*\* The Mesa PTO is exempt from federal income taxation under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, and also is classified as a public charity under section 509(a)(2) of the Code. Contributions to the PTO are deductible under section 170 of the Code. The Mesa PTO's Federal Identification number is 74-2230898.*

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

### **Next PTO Meeting:**

**Tuesday, 12/11/07, 6:15 p.m., in the Library (pizza and childcare \$4/child).** Please come for a special holiday thank-you celebration and to help plan a spring spirit/fundraiser event. Also, any parent attending the meeting is eligible for a drawing to use the "Reserved Parking" space for the month.

**Don't forget about the bake sale during the M&M's Winter Concert on Dec. 6<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM.**