
THE MESA MESSENGER

December 21, 2007

PRINICIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear Mesa Families,

I wish everyone a safe and enjoyable winter break. As we've all noted, this school calendar year was unique with four full weeks of school between Thanksgiving break and winter break. I was pleased to see great effort from our students and staff during this time.

Attendance

At this time of year, too, it can be difficult as families battle with illnesses—cold, flu, etc. We understand when students have to stay home due to illness, even while we know that attendance is very important to school success. At Mesa, we've traditionally given small awards at the end of the year to recognize perfect or exemplary attendance. At the same time, I check attendance records periodically to see if students have a high number of absences and/or tardies. I will call parents if I see a concern. However, we know that kids get sick sometimes, and we always want parents to make the decision that is best for the health of children.

Kindergarten Registration for 2008-2009

As the sign on the front of the school building indicates, we're strongly encouraging neighborhood families to register now for 2008-2009 kindergarten. If you have a soon-to-be kindergartener or know a neighbor who has, please spread the word. See Judy in the main office with questions. If we can get a fairly accurate count of neighborhood kindergarteners, we can make better decisions through the open enrollment process.

Parking/Traffic/Cross Walk

Just a reminder (especially on snowy days)-- parents need to park in the parking lot and neighboring streets only. If you stop your car or vacate your car in another area (e.g. in the parking lot, not in a parking space), traffic becomes clogged and dangerous. Also, we've noticed a number of students/families that have been crossing Lehigh in spots other than the crosswalk. Please be sure to use the designated cross walk. Thank you for your courtesy.

Go Mustangs!

Josh

NEWS AND UPDATES

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

Happy Holidays!

Bookmark Contest

Everyone who participated did a fabulous job on their bookmarks. Kids from each grade level voted to select these bookmarks to win the \$10 gift certificate from the Boulder Bookstore.

Kindergarten: Sarah Katers	First: Hannah DeAngelo
Second: Kovolum Herdic	Third: Jade Groobman
Fourth: Logan Garby	Fifth: John Hale

Congratulations!

Parent/Professional Library Collection

The parent/professional collection is now up and running! Thanks to the PTO for their generous donation for purchase of these books. In order to check out a book, please fill out the library card application, included in this newsletter, and available on the web and in the library. A card will be made for you and kept on the shelf with the books (located at the front on the library next to the main door).

New World Language Books

We now have designated shelves (on the right as you enter the library) for books written in different languages. Books are ready for check-out. Japanese, Russian, Arabic, Hindi, Hebrew, Vietnamese, French, Spanish, Navajo, Swahili, Korean, and Chinese are available in this collection.

Book Donations

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.

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.

Barnes and Noble Book Fair

Thanks to everyone who came to the Barnes and Noble book fair on Saturday, December 15th. The Mesa Library appreciates your support! Please don't forget that you can use the vouchers one more day if you shop at the Boulder Barnes and Noble. They are available on the Mesa website and must be turned into the cashier, with your purchase, to give credit to the library

Parent Library Card Application
Mesa Elementary Library

Please put this application in Terry Snyder's box in the office, and a card will be made available on the parent shelf.

Please renew each year.

Name: _____

E-Mail: _____

Phone #: _____

Child(ren)'s Names: _____

Teacher: _____

The Parent Library section is ready for check-out!
Books may be checked out for three weeks and renewed once.
If a book is lost or damaged, a fee will be charged to replace it.
Please check out at the main circulation desk and return books in the book return.

Tag Talk: from Betsy Puls

CHESS is booming around Mesa! Chess Club has had huge turnouts at each session on Tuesday afternoons, and at this point, most of the students understand the importance of dominating the center of the board. Ask your child about the "Bull's Head". We are teaching lessons each week, by computer and human reinforcement, and students have a chance to play several games. Having snacks and registering our "attendance sticks," which qualify students for "Royal Court," also fills our busy afternoons. Ask your student about "Royal Court" as well.

CHESS team, which meets after school in the TAG-Math Lab area, has had several away-matches with other schools. On December 13th, the team played at Flatirons. It is really impressive to watch the kids buckle down and really focus on their match games. Everyone plays two games: one as "black", the other as "white"; all wins are worth one point, draws worth one-half point. We were able to count our first six boards into the final score. (Usually, we only count four boards.) The match ended up being fairly close, with six wins for Mesa, four wins for Flatirons, and two draws. However, the results go into the books as a "win" for Mesa. Everybody did a great job! Our next match is January 10th, with High Peaks at Mesa.

P.E. News: from Jacy Bruno jacy.bruno@bvsd.org

Over the past few weeks, all students have been working on great hockey skills. Grades K and 1st have been focusing on staying under control while dribbling and goal shooting and grades 2nd-5th have also been working on those skills and have done a few different games to incorporate those skills. A favorite game is Endline Hockey. They are doing a great job! Have a great holiday break and be on the lookout for Jump Rope information in the New Year.

Here's a little info now on a clinic that will start in January at the Rec Center:

'Skip Its' Jump Rope Ages 7-18

Do you have a Jumper in your family? Bring them to this exciting Jump Rope class taught by 5-time World Champion Skipper. The energetic class will get your kids hearts pumping with a fun and challenging environment.

Focusing on the basic fundamentals of learning the ropes, covering single ropes skills, double dutch and Chinese wheel. This class will make you believe that Jump Rope isn't just a playground sport anymore, that in fact it is working towards a future inclusion to the 2012 Olympic Games. With over 10,000 tricks your kids are guaranteed never a dull moment. It is also the most effective cross training sport available, covering coordination, balance and speed. Sign up today!

Classes start January 10th, 2008

Held at the North Boulder Recreation Center, Thursdays from 4:00-5:00

To register please visit www.bouldercolorado.gov/

Class code (s): 103095 and 103096

For more information or questions contact MollyMetz@att.net or www.MollyMetz.com

Music Notes: from Sarah Knoebel

We will begin rehearsals for "The Jungle Book" after winter break. Cast 1 (5C) will have their first rehearsal on **Wednesday, January 9** and Cast 2 (5K) will have their first rehearsal on **Thursday, January 10**. All 4th and 5th graders - we will continue to have M&M's rehearsals every Tuesday and Friday morning while we work on this production!

Arts Sketches: by April Christenson

A big thanks to all that helped support Mesa's Art Program by participating in the Kidz Art.

I am in need of some 3rd Grade parent volunteers to help string the looms for weaving in January. Any help would be appreciated. Thank you.

Thanks You's

A sincere thank you to the marvelous crew of bakers who brought goodies to sell at the M&M Winter Concert on Dec 6. We raised \$160 for our PTO! Thank you to **Adrienne Lee, Susan McVicker, Gina Kelman, Adrian Van Nice, Cheryl McCutchan, Tammy Livingstone, Leisha Bauer, Anita Schumann, Nan Rosenbloom, Yoko Takahashi, Rachel Muller, Katrina Walsh, Karen Jones and Pat Felt**. And a special thanks to Catie McDowell and Yoko Takahashi for pitching in unexpectedly to help sell the baked goods.

From Polly Dawkins, Bake Sale Coordinator

Many thanks to bakers **Adrienne Lee and Mary Maxwell** for baking cookies for our Dec 4th Open Enrollment Tour. A record 24 families attended the tour and appreciated those home-baked goodies.

From Kate Kupferer

Successful Bike Collection

Thanks to the generosity of students and parents at Mesa, Share-a-Gift was able to collect numerous bikes at our fall bike collection at your school. These bikes will be distributed this month at our annual toy distribution to families in need within the Boulder Valley School District. Bikes are always the most popular toy, so your donations are much appreciated. Bike helmets are donated by the Boulder police, so every child who receives a bike also gets a helmet.

Cathy Conery

Share-a-Gift Board Member

Reminders

The winter weather is upon us and occasionally it may be difficult to get to school on time. We encourage you to leave early, however in the event your child arrives late, we ask that you sign your child in the student check-in book and have them receive a "pick slip" to give to their teacher. The following website is available to give you current weather information. <http://www.windowsmedia.com/Mediaguide/Radio>. Please see your student handbook page 7 for TV/Radio school closure information

PTO CORNER

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

Happy holidays from the PTO! We celebrated the end of a successful 2007 at the last PTO meeting with many Mesa room parents in attendance. We shared many ideas for spring events and fund-raisers that will help support Mesa financially and build school community. Look for information about spring events soon.

Thank you to **Margaret and Neil Blank** for their generous donation of Chocolove bars, which we used to thank many at Mesa for all the "sweet" things they do for the school and our children. Thanks to **Diana Tanner** for organizing the winter plant sales to benefit Outdoor Education. And, finally, thanks to all who participated in the Usborne on-line book fair, which helped benefit the Spanish shelf in the school library.

Don't forget to buy King Soopers gift certificates for your holiday meals. We now have King Soopers gift cards, instead of paper certificates, which can be purchased from the office in \$100 increments. We only get credit if these are purchased at Mesa and not refilled at King Soopers.

YEAR-END CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTION REMINDER*

Please remember the Mesa PTO when you make your charitable contributions this year. **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.*

OTHER 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; 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.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Next PTO Meeting: Tuesday, 1/15/08, 6:15 p.m., in the Library (pizza and childcare \$4/child).

WISH LIST

- Now that the weather is nice and wet, the Health Room is in desperate need for lots of socks, underwear, pants, and tops that can be donated. Thank you, the children will really appreciate it.

IMPORTANT DATES

- January 9, Wednesday School resumes for students
- January 9, Wednesday 1:00-2:30 Mesa Open Enrollment Tour
- January 12, Saturday 10:00-11:00 am Mesa Kindergarten Orientation
- January 21, Monday No School due to Martin Luther King Holiday



Happy Holiday

To: The Mesa Families

**Isn't it amazing how a blanket of
stars can light up a night sky?**

Side-by-side they twinkle together

to create a beautiful

work of art.

When we shine together

we light up the world to make

The Mesa Staff