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## THE MESA MESSENGER

February 29, 2008

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*Dear Mesa Families,*

*Thank you for your participation in our recent Parent-Teacher Conferences. Our partnership with parents at Mesa is the hallmark of our community. Thank you to all of the parents who provided the meals for teachers. The Mesa staff feels very supported. In addition, thank you to the parents who attended the principal coffee. The opportunity for open discussion was valuable.*

*In March, parents will have another opportunity to communicate with the school and the Boulder Valley School District. Each year at this time, BVSD administers the Parent Snapshot Survey. The survey enables you to assess the performance of Mesa and BVSD. This year, the survey will be delivered to you in your child's Friday Folder on March 7. By using the Friday Folder, we hope for a very high response rate. Please know that your efforts to complete and return the survey are very much appreciated. Feedback is the key to our drive for continuous improvement.*

*Continuous improvement requires careful planning. It's only March, but we are already planning for the 2008-2009 school year. One aspect of planning includes decisions about teaching assignments (specifically, what grade level is assigned to each current teacher and who will fill the anticipated new positions). I am already weighing these decisions carefully, but please know that final decisions will not be announced until May. Another critical aspect of planning is our class placement process. I've provided notes about this process, following this letter. I invite you to review the information.*

*Thank you for your time in reading.  
Go Mustangs!  
Josh Baldner, Principal*

## NEWS AND UPDATES

### MESA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CLASS PLACEMENT PROCESS

Class placement is important to everyone. An effective class placement process results in balanced classes of similar size. A great deal of time and planning by the staff is devoted to the development of the class lists.

- **Parent May Complete Optional Student Information Sheet**  
Available in the office beginning April 7
- **Parents Cannot Request A Particular Teacher**
- **Specialists Make Recommendations**  
Our team of specialists (Art, Music, Library, Physical Education, Literacy, and Special Education) make initial suggestions for student placements and review class lists for the following year. These teachers generally know the majority of students and bring additional perspectives of each student to this process.
- **Current Teacher Teams Build Class List Recommendations**  
Teaching teams meet and determine class lists for the following year. In developing these lists, the present grade level teachers use their knowledge of the students in their classes, the parent information from the placement information sheet, and specialist recommendations.
- **Principal Reviews Class Lists**  
The principal reviews the class lists. In the event of any possible changes, the principal confers with the grade level teachers regarding the ramifications of such change. It is the principal's goal to see that each student, teacher, and class has the greatest potential for a successful school year.
- **Class Lists**  
Our goal is to post class lists on May 28th at the end of the day. On this day, children meet briefly with next year's teacher and their new classmates.
- **New Students Added**  
During August registration, the principal adds new students to class lists keeping in mind the class placement philosophy in order to maintain balanced classes.

## **March CSAP Tests are here**

Each year the State of Colorado determines how well schools are performing using the Colorado State Assessment Program (CSAP) as the measure. Every student in Grades Three through Five is tested in reading, writing, math and science. Mesa's third grade students have been tested in reading last week. Grade 3 testing will continue on March 3, 4, 17 and 18. Grade 4 students will be tested March 4 through March 14; Grade 5 students will test from March 3 through March 18. All CSAP tests are scheduled in the mornings. Students who do not take the tests are counted as a zero in Mesa's final performance assessment. Therefore it is essential all students participate in Mesa's CSAP tests.

Attendance is critical to the testing process. The CSAP guidelines are very specific, and Colorado requires all CSAP assessments to be completed within the specific test window. We are appealing to all parents of third, fourth and fifth grade students to please assist us in having students prepared for the CSAP testing. Please avoid taking vacations or setting appointments during this time. Students are encouraged to go to bed at regular times and be sure to eat their normal breakfast. As is our Mesa Motto, please help our students "*be the best they can be.*"

## **Musical Notes** –from Sarah Knoebel

Mesa M&M's - our musical is next week! It is very important that every 4th and 5th grader be prompt at every rehearsal before our show! The 5th Graders have a full tech/dress rehearsal on **Sunday, March 2nd**. The times for 5-C are from 1:00-3:00 and 5-K from 3:00-5:00. 4th Graders may come on Sunday, but do not have to be at this extra rehearsal. All 4th and 5th graders will be in both performances on March 6th and 7th. There will be a 1:00 dress rehearsal and 7:00 performance on both days and family and friends are welcome to attend either or both performances!

The 2nd grade circus has moved! The performance date is now **Thursday, April 3rd** at 1:00 and 7:00 p.m.

## **P.E. News** – Jacy Bruno

### **Jump Rope For Heart**

Jump Rope for Heart was a huge success this year!!! Thank you for all of your continued support! Mesa was able to raise **over \$6,000** for the American Heart Association!!! Way to go Mesa Community! The kids did a great job at their grade level events and Mesa has some of the best jump ropers around! The students that participated in the after school jump rope clinic also did a great job and were able to demonstrate some of their best skills!

For those that collected money for Jump Rope for Heart, we will be having our assembly for duct taping on Monday, March 17<sup>th</sup>. This will be an AFTERNOON assembly starting at 2:30. Those that donated money will get duct tape to tape me to a wall.

I'm also attaching a flyer for the Skip-Its program on March 8<sup>th</sup> for anyone interested.

## International Spring Fling Workshop

Hosted by the Boulder Valley "SKIP-ITS"

The Spring Fling Workshop will be a day of fun for jumping enthusiasts! Skippers who are just beginning to those who are advanced will be sure to learn new skills. Experienced coaches and world class skippers will be there to instruct the participants. You will have the chance to learn new skipping styles, make friends from other areas, and share your ideas about this great sport! Teams from Puerto Rico, Canada, and England will be joining us. Sessions in Single Rope, Team dance routine, Double Dutch and Chinese Wheel will be taught to beginner through advanced jumpers. Anyone six years of age and older is welcome. Adults welcome also.

### **Athletic shoes are required!!**

**DATE: SATURDAY, MARCH 8, 2008**

**LOCATION: MONARCH HIGH SCHOOL GYMNASIUM  
329 CAMPUS DRIVE  
(NEAR 88TH AND DILLON)**

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LOUISVILLE, CO

**TIME: REGISTRATION 9:00-9:30 AM, starts 9:30 AM  
Staff show at 2:30, ends at 3:00**

**COST: \$30.00 (ADMISSION & ROPE) OR  
\$40.00 (ADMISSIONS, ROPE, + PRE-ORDERED T-  
SHIRT)**

**Walk-ins welcome.**

Concessions and Jump rope merchandise will be available for sale at the workshop. Lunches can be bought, or bring a sack lunch.

T-shirt info: Shirts are white, short-sleeved, 100% cotton with a multi-colored design on the chest. Please pre-order a shirt, if you want one. Extras may be available at the door, for \$12.00, but we can't guarantee availability. Pre-ordered, they are \$10.00. Include payment for shirt with your registration check. **Make sure you circle the size on the registration form.** T-shirts orders must be received by March 1. See design below.



**REGISTRATION FORM**  
**ONE FORM PER PARTICIPANT**  
(Please print clearly)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Team/School: \_\_\_\_\_ Coach:  
\_\_\_\_\_

General admission and rope = \$30.00 (Required!)  
General admission/rope + optional t-shirt = \$40.00.

**Please circle T-shirt sizes:** Youth Medium, Youth Large, Adult Small, Adult Medium, Adult Large, Adult XLarge

Please mail completed forms and checks asap. If you order a t-shirt, please be sure checks are received by March 1, to guarantee that we will have a shirt for you.

MAKE ALL CHECKS PAYABLE TO:            **BVSD-SKIP ITS**  
MAIL COMPLETED REGISTRATION TO:

**SKIP-ITS**  
**909 ST. ANDREWS**  
**LOUISVILLE, CO 80027**

**PARTICIPANT RELEASE AND INDEMNITY AGREEMENT**

This must be signed by a parent or legal guardian if participant is under 18 years of age.

We (or I) hereby request that you accept for registration in the 2008 International Spring Fling Workshop of

\_\_\_\_\_  
(participant's name)

and in consideration of your acceptance of the application, we (or I) hereby release the "Skip-Its", the Boulder Valley School District, all persons associated with the International Spring Fling Workshop for 2008 of and from all claims or causes of action arising from injury to the participant resulting from participation in the 2008 Workshop, whether such injury is the result of negligence or some other cause. If medical attention is required for injury or illness while at the International Spring Fling Workshop, I give my permission for such medical care and I will be financially responsible. We (or I) also give permission for the "Skip-It Team" and/or Boulder Valley Schools to use any film, videos, and photographs of the participant for publicity, advertising, or other commercial purposes. I have read and understand the participant release and indemnity agreement and hereby agree to its' stipulations.

SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Parent or legal guardian signature if participant is under 18 years of age)

For questions, contact:     Cathy Douglas, 303-926-5588, [bcjdoug7@aol.com](mailto:bcjdoug7@aol.com) or  
   Joyce Mina, 303-494-7040, [molokai1@earthlink.net](mailto:molokai1@earthlink.net)

E-Mail address-to learn about future workshops: \_\_\_\_\_

## **MESA CHESS CLUB**

In our last newsletter we mentioned how excited we were at the high level of participation in The **MESA CHESS CLUB** but failed to mention some additional participants. Here is the list of those participants:

**Adam Lang, Haley Rogers, Jesse Beven, John Austin, Kaden Tucker, Kalan Gabriel, Liam Lawrence, Lili Hugerich, Logan Garby, Matthew Erickson, Mikey Austin, Nick Rogers, Peter Woodham, Quinlan Cauger, Quinn Olsson, Riley Baer, and Sebastian Aramendia.**

## **Parking Reminder**

We have a number of school events in March that will fill the parking lot. Please do not park in the handicapped spaces, unless you have the proper identification.

Thanks!  
Josh

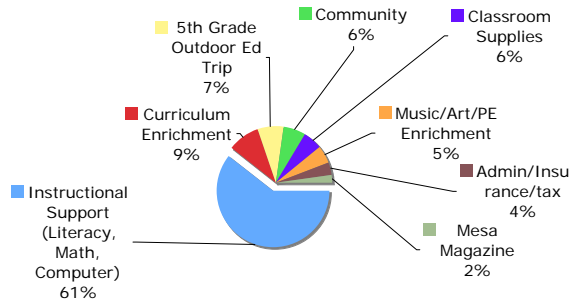
## **PTO CORNER**

**Garden to the Table Program**—Many interested parents came to the last PTO meeting (or at a later meeting at Bear Creek) to hear about how we might bring the **Garden to the Table** wellness intervention program to Mesa. Parents heard how Mesa might implement a whole school approach to sustainability education by 1) teaching students to grow food in a school garden, 2) promoting healthy, fresh, hot lunch choices at school, 3) continuing the school's EcoCycle recycling/composting program, and 4) educating students about wellness and environmental stewardship. Many parents have already volunteered to help get this program running at Mesa, and many more will be needed in the future. If you missed the presentations about the **Garden to the Table** program, an informative DVD about the **Garden to the Table** program at Creekside Elementary can be found on the BVSD's District Parent Council website: <http://districtparentcouncil.org> and stories about the program can be found at: [http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdecomm/com\\_scholvisit111307.htm](http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdecomm/com_scholvisit111307.htm) and <http://www.dailycamera.com/news/2007/oct/06/renegade-lunch-lady-visits/>

**\* SAVE THE DATE \* (4/5/08) Spring Fund Raising Campaign:** Please mark your calendars for **Saturday, April 5, 2008**, for an adults-only evening, off-site, where Mesa parents can enjoy the company of each other and the Mesa staff, while benefiting their children's education. This event will be a kick off event for a Spring Fundraising Campaign, combining our traditional Silent Auction and the Spring Donation Campaign. More details will be coming soon, but think about enjoying an evening with wine tasting, beer tasting, hors d'oeuvres, and live music (sorry, not the M&Ms). The auction items will be greatly scaled back, but we'll still keep some time-honored favorites. We hope all will plan to attend or contribute to the Fundraising Campaign so that we can continue all the wonderful programs we have come to expect at Mesa.

## PTO Budget: Speaking of fund-raising, this is how the PTO supports Mesa .

How Does the PTO Money Get Spent?



To make our budget of \$47,000 we hope to raise an additional \$17,000 in our Spring Fundraising Campaign

### **THANK YOU** . . .

Thank you to **Lisa Gillespie** and her generous parent volunteers for supplying dinners for teachers during the long parent/teacher conference days. Thank you to **Julie Okada, Gina Kelman, Linda Moldawsky, Dolores Young, Peggy Kaufman, Laura Spicer, Erin Moran and Jan North** for all your hours to produce the Mesa Year Book!  
**Next PTO Meeting: Tuesday, April 1, 2008 at 6:15 p.m. (pizza and childcare \$4/child).**

A BIG thanks to all the wonderful folks who provided meals to our hard-working staff during the teacher conference nights:

**Christy Barth, Denise Bedoya, Cece Bloomfield, Jen Bravo, Terri Cook, Laura Deal, Heather Dorn, Pat Felt, Renee Foxhoven, Lisa Gillespie, Stephanie Griffin, Leslie Hartten, Julia Hortien, Karen Jones, Peggy Kaufman, Gina Kelman, Adrienne Lee, Susan Leonard, Tammy Livingston, Cheryl McCutchan, Catie McDowell, Vicki McPherson, Susan McVicker, Erin Moran, Tara Newman, Monica Papas, Jill Pierce, Sandy Ramsey, Krista Rogers, Amy Shanahan, Julie Smith, The Toppings, Andrian Van Nice, Katrina Walsh, and Sue Young**

And, of course, none of this would have been fully coordinated without the help of our faithful office staff, Judy and Lori. We couldn't have done it without you, ladies!

We're always looking for feedback and suggestions, so if you have any ideas for next year, please let me know.

Thanks again

***Please don't forget to buy your King Soopers Grocery cards (on sale in the office).***