

---

## THE MESA MESSENGER

March 21, 2008

---

Dear Mesa Families,

It has been a short turn-around since the last edition of the Mesa Messenger (hence, the reduced length of this edition). Yet, there is much to celebrate.

We are so pleased with the effort and determination of our 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> grade students during CSAP administration. At Mesa, we ask students to “be the best that you can be,” and our students displayed that attitude during testing.

At the same time, learning doesn’t stop during CSAP. Here is a sampling of the activity at Mesa: In the classrooms, students have been engaged in significant project learning at each grade level. Outside the classroom, I recently learned that 120 students have submitted proposals to participate in Mesa’s annual Science Fair (over 1/3 of our students). Nearly 100 students participated in our Chess program. We currently have 7 Mesa Destination Imagination teams. Jump Rope for Heart was a huge success. We’ve enjoyed the Jungle Book musical, and we had great attendance at our recent Art Show.

For our parents, we’ve seen great support for our Garden to Table program. PTO has organized a fabulous Spring Fling for April 5. Our School Improvement Team is ready to administer a climate survey to our students. I am also excited about the continued offerings from the Parent Engagement Network.

In all these events, I particularly enjoy the ways in which I see our community come together. Building community is one of the most important things we do. For the remainder of the 2007-2008 school year, I will make this a theme of my newsletter articles. We need to celebrate Mesa’s sense of community and consider ways in which we can continue to strengthen our community.

Go Mustangs!  
Josh

## NEWS AND UPDATES

### Music Notes: from Sarah Knoebel

There are a lot of performances coming soon at Mesa School:

- The 2nd Grade "Circus" is April 3rd
- The 1st Grade "Dinosaur Show" is on April 17th
- The M&M's Spring Show "Surfing' Safari" will be on May 1st
- The 3rd Grade "Colorado History Show" is on May 8th
- The Kindergarten "Spring Sing" is on May 23rd at 10:30 a.m.

### P.E. News – from Jacy Bruno

#### **The Mesa Fitness Club is Coming!**

Our annual walking and running club will begin this year on Monday, April 14th. If your child shows an interest, they will receive a registration packet during P.E. so be on the lookout for these packets in their backpack between Wednesday, April 2nd and Friday, April 4th.

Registration materials will be due back the following **Tuesday morning, April 8th!**

#### **Other P.E. News**

A final total for donations for **Jump Rope For Heart** was **\$6,478.05!!!** Way to go Mesa!!! Thanks for your continued support of this worth while cause!

**Field Days** are also quickly approaching. They will take place April 30, May 1 and May 2. Be looking for more information to come home in your child's Friday folder in April. If you have any questions, send an e-mail my way to [jacy.bruno@bvsd.org](mailto:jacy.bruno@bvsd.org)

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

**Save this date: Wednesday, May 28th  
for the Mesa Book Swap**

**Start cleaning out those bookshelves and closets so that you can trade old books for new reading material this summer!**

**Where:** Mesa Gym

We can't start collecting books until May, but we wanted to let you know ahead of time about the book swap. Be sure to clearly bundle, box or bag books and include your child's name, class code, and number of books for trade on a piece of paper or the bag.

Parents-this year we'll add an adult section for swapping books, too!

#### **Mesa Summer Reading Program**

**When:** Wednesday, May 28th from 3:00-4:00

The literacy and library would like to sponsor another summer reading program. If you are interested in volunteering, would you please e-mail Terry at [terry.snyder@bvsd.org](mailto:terry.snyder@bvsd.org) or call (303) 494-4704 ext. 234.

## **Reading to End Racism**

On Friday, April 18th, students will be participating in Reading to End Racism (RER), a district-wide anti-racism education program. Using literacy strategies and engaging presentations, trained volunteers will visit individual classrooms to facilitate discussions to help understand racism and help end it. Reading to End Racism supports both BVSD and Colorado state standards of promoting and valuing diversity. Books which depict a variety of cultures and races will be on display in the library all week and in the main hall on the day of the event. You are invited to stop by the RER table on Friday, April 18th to meet RER program coordinators, look over useful literature, and learn more about the program.

If you or someone you know is interested in becoming a volunteer "Reader" please contact Wendy Underhill (home 303-443-0936, cell 303-818-2996) or e-mail her at [wendy@u-hill.net](mailto:wendy@u-hill.net) for more information. Training is required before becoming a reader. Your participation will be a valuable experience for you and your child.

## **Retirement**

After teaching for more than thirty years, I've decided to make this my last year at Mesa. I have so enjoyed working with all Mesa staff, families and kids, and will truly miss you all next year. I do look forward to spending more time with my family and pursuing many projects and hobbies. Thanks to everyone for their support over the thirteen years I've been at Mesa.

## **FAMILY COMPOSTING WORKSHOP**

Saturday, April 19  
Boulder County Recycling Center  
1901 63rd St., Boulder  
10:30 a.m. - Noon

Turn your banana peels, coffee grounds and yard waste into black gold - compost! Children (ages 6 and up) and adults are invited to learn simple backyard and worm composting methods in a hands-on program **10:30 a.m.- Noon Saturday, April 19** at the Boulder County Recycling Center, 1901 63rd St., Boulder. Admission is free.

You'll hear about easy and simple techniques to turn our Colorado clay soils into the perfect medium for growing a garden. Learn about different types of compost bins, what to feed your compost critters and explore the possibilities of composting with red wiggler worms. See the bugs! Hold the worms! It's fun for everyone.

Please RSVP to Stacey Lambright: [slambright@bouldercounty.org](mailto:slambright@bouldercounty.org) or 720-564-2242.

Directions: At the intersection of 63rd St. and Arapahoe Rd. in Boulder, head north on 63rd St. for ¼ mile to the Boulder County Recycling Center. Turn left into facility and follow signs for Visitors to administration building at the back of the property.

## Reminders

The final deadline to sign up for the last Science Matters class featuring "Outback Expedition" is **March 25<sup>th</sup>**. Forms are in a pocket near the community board. Classes start **April 11** until **May 23<sup>rd</sup>**.

**Teacher Conference Dinner Contributors** - We still have plates, bowls and Tupperware in our lounge back by the windows from parents who have been so kind to bring dinners and desserts for the teacher conferences. Please come collect your items as we have quite a number of them. Thank you.

**Lost and found** is overflowing already and I'm sure you will need such items over Spring Break.

## PTO CORNER

### IN THE NEWS...



### **Mesa Spring Fundraising Campaign 2008**

**Mesa Spring Fling-April 5, 2008**—Help us kick off the **Spring Fundraising Campaign** by attending our **Spring Fling, Saturday, April 5, 2008, 6-9 p.m.** at the Community United Church (Table Mesa and Lehigh). Join us for a special evening for Mesa parents and staff to relax, enjoy, and indulge their senses with live music, wine and beer tasting, hors d'oeuvres, and select Silent Auction items. Come as a couple, come alone, or grab some friends! **There is no admission charge for the evening, but please consider making an additional donation to the PTO during the event.** *Look for the invitation that came home in last week's Friday folders.*

**Spring Donation**—If you are unable to attend the Spring Fling, we encourage you to make a donation to the PTO to support the programs that distinguish Mesa as a great school. To date, the PTO has raised approximately **\$26,000** through other fundraising efforts (Fall Fest, gift wrap, etc.). The PTO is looking to raise an additional **\$17,000** through its **Spring Fundraising Campaign** to make its total PTO budget of **\$47,000** this year. *Look for the letter and donation form sent in last week's Friday folders.*



## CALLING ALL GARDENERS!

[+FOOD LOVERS, GREENIES, AND ORGANIC-LEANERS]

In keeping with our tradition of a *lean to green*, Mesa Elementary is teaming up with *Garden to the Table* to create an onsite organic vegetable garden. Our goal is to install a garden at Mesa within the next few weeks — in hopes of having our first harvest before the school year ends!

**DIG DAY: APRIL 6<sup>th</sup> - 9 a.m. until we're done**

(Rain date: April 13<sup>th</sup>)

Children welcomed!

\*Plan to come with shovels, hoes, rototillers, trowels, etc.

If you have a truck/trailer for hauling compost or can provide snacks for the worker bees, please contact Cassy as soon as possible.

*Three parents have already stepped up to dig in:*

**Garden Co-Leads:**

Kenny Matthews - kenny.matthews@avnet.com or 303.596.6211

and

Joanne Greene - jgreene@frii.com or 303.277.0691

**Volunteer/Communications Lead:**

Cassy Matthews - cassymatthews@comcast.net or 303.246.8863

Please contact Cassy if you can provide any of the above items or tasks! There are also many other opportunities for volunteering for this great program (Summer Garden Patrol, Education Liaisons, Sustainability Lead, Feast Day Coordinators, etc.), *please contact us for details!*

For full details on the program — including a chance to see the program in action at Creekside Elementary — check out [www.ourluv.org](http://www.ourluv.org). (Click on *School Programs* in the top bar.) You can also view the full program DVD on YouTube @ <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eZmqIPH6zp4>

## THANK YOU S . . .

Thank you to Mesa bakers, Polly Dawkins, Kate Kupferer, Adrian VanNice, Adrienne Lee, Aline Christianian, Alison Smits, Anita Shuman, Carol Haggans, Cassie Kolb, Cheryl McCutchan, Christina Schinzel-Drescher, Christy Barth, Clare Stocker, Debbie Gould, Denise Bedoya, Gina Kelman, Julie Hynes, Karen Jones, Katherine Yeaple, Kathy Gebhardt, Katrina Walsh, Kim Dorvee, Lara Robinson, Laura Deal, Leisha Connors Bauer, Leslie Hartten, Lisa Finnigan, Maggie Janssen, Mary Maxwell, Michelle Megerle, Nan Rosenbloom, Nancy Helmig, Patricia Felt, Peggy Kaufman, Rachel Muller, Richele Mein, Sarah Heilbronner, Shari Katers, Sheryl Voth, Sue Melville, Susan Leonard, Susan McVicker, Tammy Livingstone, Tasha Given, Terri Cook, Vicki McPherson, Yoko Takahashi, and all who donated money for treats at the Jungle Book programs for helping the PTO earn \$447 from both performances.

Thank you to **Lara Robinson, Bill Robinson, Tammy Livingstone, Richele Mein, and Susan Leonard** for supplying all our budding artists and patrons of the art with popcorn at the Art Show. The PTO earned \$54.00 from this event.

#### OPPORTUNITIES . . .

New PTO Board members will be elected at the final meeting of the year, May 6, 2008. Please consider holding one of the positions by yourself or with another. Contact any current Board member (Co-Presidents: Dian Kiwiet and Diana Fields; Vice President: Gail Ross; Co-Treasurers: Jan North and Jeff Mason; and Co-Secretaries: Jennifer O'Brien and Linda Garby) with questions or if you are interested in these important positions.

We are still planning on holding the Mesa Shoelace Frenzy Fun Run May 18<sup>th</sup>. If your interested in chairing the event or volunteering please contact Diana Fields @ [dcfields@qwest.net](mailto:dcfields@qwest.net).

**Next PTO Meeting: Tuesday, April 1, 2008 at 6:15 p.m. (pizza and childcare \$4/child).**

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