
THE MESA MESSENGER

April 24, 2008

Dear Mesa Families,

My news for this month falls into two distinct categories.

Teacher Assignments for 2008-2009

As many of you learned in last month's newsletter, Terry Snyder, current librarian/former special education teacher and long-time contributor to our Mesa community, is retiring. Terry has worked hard to set a high standard for the important role of school librarian. In our efforts to maintain this high standard, I am pleased to announce that Stan Converse, current 3rd grade teacher, will fill her position. Stan has experience working at various grade levels, a strong technology background, and a great ability to collaborate with colleagues. Simultaneously, Juli Aderman-Haggerty, current 4th grade teacher, will join Marti Manning on the 3rd grade teaching team for next year. Juli has taught 3rd grade at Mesa previously, and her primary experience and strong literacy background make her a fabulous fit for this position.

As of the time of this newsletter, I do not anticipate that any other members of the current staff will be leaving nor re-assigned. However, we will interview for an additional 2nd grade teacher to join Ms. Schoolmaster and Ms. Swearingen and an additional 5th grade teacher Ms. Chartrand and Mr. Kellogg.

Phone Messages For Student Pick-Up Arrangements

In an effort to ensure that we are appropriately responding to phone calls from parents (in particular, those calls regarding after-school pick-up arrangements), the office team and the teachers have met and discussed a protocol.

Parents- when you call the office to relay a message to your child, please give the message directly to the office personnel (do not rely on email or voicemail). The office staff will make sure that the teacher receives the information. We ask that you relay these messages before 2:45 pm. If you have to deliver a message after 2:45, the office staff will do their best to personally relay the information.

In all cases, we want to remind parents to pick up students promptly at 3:00 pm. Also, if you pull into a parking space for drop off, you must walk your child across the lot. This includes the drop off for M&M's. Thank you for your collaboration in ensuring the students are accounted for and safe.

Please check out the other information in this newsletter.

Go Mustangs!
Josh Baldner

NEWS AND UPDATES

P.E. News: from Jacy Bruno

Fitness Club is running smoothly. Please remember to turn in home logs each Monday to your child's 5th grade coach at Fitness Club.

Field Days are next week. They will take place April 30th, May 1st and May 2nd. Information came home in your child's Friday folder on April 18th.

Field Day Schedule

K and 1st grade-Friday, May 2nd 12:30-2:30

2nd and 3rd grade-Wednesday, April 30th 9:00-11:00

4th and 5th grade-Thursday, May 1st 9:45-11:45

If you have any questions, send an e-mail my way to jacy.bruno@bvsd.org

Music Notes: from Sarah Knoebel

The M&M's spring show, "Surfing Safari" will be on Thursday, May 1st

There will be no M&M's after our last performance!

The 3rd grade CO Show is on Thursday, May 8th.

The Kindergarten Spring Sing is on May 23rd at 10:30 a.m.

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

Mesa Book Swap-Wednesday, May 28th

Parent volunteers and the Mesa library will be sponsoring the spring book swap, which will be held on Wednesday, May 28th in the gym from 3:00-4:00 p.m. Students are asked to bring in books they would like to trade. Boxes will be located in each classroom, and collected from May 12th through May 23rd.

Please make sure to put a rubber band around the books your child brings, with his/her name and class code clearly marked. Bring books that are appropriate for kindergarten through sixth grade level in good condition. Your child will be able to swap one book for one book.

Adults may participate in swapping books, too. Please make sure to put your name and bundle your books with a rubber band and put in Terry Snyder's box or bring them to the library. A special section will be created for your contribution.

All books leftover will be donated or used to build an account to purchase used books for the library at the Bookworm.

If you could help by bringing in boxes before May 12th and/or setting up books on May 28th, please e-mail Terry at terry.snyder@bvsd.org, stop by, or call at (303) 494-4704. Thanks for your support!

Mesa Summer Reading Program

The literacy and library would like to sponsor another summer reading program. We really need parent volunteers to help support our events. Please e-mail Terry at terry.snyder@bvsd.org or

call (303) 494-4704 ext. 234 if you could help with organizing and/or coming to help one, two or three times this summer (one event per month).

Reading to End Racism

The Reading to End Racism program was presented Friday, April 18th. We had a wide variety of readers from the community to promote awareness and understanding of racism at every grade level. Please see the library window display for great book ideas to address this issue. Thanks to the PTO for purchasing snacks for our volunteers.

Spring is in the air!!! Mesa mom and author, Erin Moran, will be visiting with all of the kindergarten through second grade classes to share her picture book – Colorful Spring.

Tag Talk: from Betsy Puls

The end of the year is rapidly approaching, and we will be evaluating those children for TAG who have been nominated and whose paperwork has been turned into me. Testing will be in May. **All nominations and paperwork should be in my mailbox by Monday May 5th.** Nomination forms can be picked up either from me or from the main office. Just ask Lori or Judy for a form. Problems or Questions? Leave a message on my voicemail, and I will get back with you as soon as I can after return from the 5th grade trip which is May 6th - 9th.

Destination Imagination

Mesa school was represented by seven fabulous teams on Saturday, April 12th at the BVSD Destination Imagination (D.I.) Competition held at Monarch High School. D.I. is a creative problem-solving type of competition where imagination and teamwork are intertwined, demanding the very best functional and inspirational creativity from a group of students. More a "Process" than a "Program," D.I. presents both a team challenge, upon which students work for months to create a solution, and an instant challenge, which they see for the first time on competition day. One important feature of D.I. is that adults are neither allowed to create solutions for the students nor make suggestions as to what should be done. D.I. means student work, from start to finish, and it is amazing what the students dream up and develop while creating their own props, costumes, sounds, scenery, skits, ideas, and dialogue.

Results: Mesa students achieved great overall results, and the following teams addressed the accompanying problems:

Our youngest performers the **"Rising Stars"** had three separate teams of second graders, and each team had to create a theatrical performance to meet the challenge of choosing something that happened in the past and then changing it. The teams had to create a song and a magical prop which would help them change history.

Managers: **Diana Fields and Marcia Rehn**

Team Members: **Allison Fisher, Allie Blank, Rachel Heilbronner, Riley Fedor, Lance Adams, Tom Melville, Adam Rehn**

Managers: **Bernadette Gimpel and Tammy Livingstone**

Team Members: **Bailey Gimpel, Sol Bloomfield, Gabi Meyer, Sophie Robinson, Aimee Mein, Kate Boyd, Sage Livingstone**

Managers: **Gina Kelman and Julia Hoilien**

Team Members: **Marcella Mason, Katharine Kaufman, Jaden Hoechstetter, Eva Rosenbloom-Bol, Wren Kelman, Kovalum Herdic, Sidney Laham**

Addressing a different type of challenge in the **Obstacles, Of Course!** problem were two teams who had to create a vehicle that would move over, under, around and through obstacles that the vehicle encountered. Of course, the teams also had to create the obstacles as well as an original, non-verbal story about overcoming obstacles.

Managers: **Mari Gambotto and Wendy Lembeck** – with a 4th/5th grade team

Team Members: **Madison Wolf, Jake Blank, Henry Lembeck, Katy Lawrence, Kate Hartten, Kaleigh Mora and Sam Alipour-Fard** who, while he contributed a lot to the engineering design of the vehicle, did not participate in the competition. This team won a **Third Place** in the Obstacles category.

Managers: **Anne and Adam Fedor and Bruce Flynn**

Team Members: **Bridger Fedor, Connor Flynn, Kirsten Walters, Wylie Mein, Maya Frost-Belansky, Shayla Griggs, Cooper Ross**

This team won **Second Place** in the Obstacles category and qualified to go on to the State competition April 26th in the Denver Metro area. They also won the **Renaissance Award** -- a special skill award for Outstanding Engineering Design and Performance. The competition judges had the following to say about their reasons for giving the award to this team: "They built it from scratch, and they made it to last; this hand-built car travelled around the course fast! For great engineering of a very maneuverable car that overcame obstacles with ease, we give the Renaissance Award to the "Surfin' Sharks" from Mesa Elementary."

Moving to yet another type of challenge, in **Hit or Myth** this team had to create and present a theatrical performance with an original story about a myth, urban legend, or folk tale. They chose to create a story which embodied the idea that "Telling the Truth Always Pays, but Lying Never Does." The students had to set the scene in a country other than our own (they used China) and had to build a "myth-ecol" replica of something from their chosen nation using recyclable materials. As a "Green-Star" school, Mesa should be very proud of their replica of a Chinese temple, constructed entirely of trashed cardboard and used soda cans. Per requirements of their problem, the students created two "side-trips" from their main challenge, by incorporating harp music into their skit during transitions of scene and by delivering the "moral of the story" in three languages: English, Spanish, and Japanese. This team gave a great performance for Mesa school at the Monday morning assembly, April 14, 2008.

Managers: **Laura and Scott Spicer and Polly Dawkins**

Team Members: **Adam Spicer, Ben Brooks, Lina Takahashi, Corinne Cooper, Zetta Mason, Brendan Bauer**

Mesa's seventh team to compete in D.I. entered the category **"I've Got a Secret!"** and came away with a **First Place** award which qualified them to advance to State competition. Their challenges were to create a theatrical story and performance about a secret, to develop a "masquerade character" that appeared to be of one nature until its true identity was revealed, and to integrate a team-created Optical Illusion into the story. They also had to design three separate set pieces that would be connected to form a new set piece during the performance and which would help to reveal their secret. Suspense and an unexpected twist played a huge part in the development of this surprising secret.

For their efforts this team won the highest honor that D.I. awards for creativity: the **Da Vinci Award**. The judges wrote about the following particular aspects which earned the award. "The appraisers were amazed by the team's constant creativity as a cruise ship sailed -- in front of a

beautifully-painted, scrolling backdrop -- from a Caribbean country, through a storm, past a shark and a floating rubber duck, into New York harbor complete with a skyline and Statue of Liberty. While tourists on board enjoyed a wonderful Irish stepdance on an upper deck of the ship complete with paper-towel-roll bumpers and a dowel and rope steering wheel, below decks there were child slaves, in an unforgettable cage, part of a human trafficking scheme run by the ship's captain. The team named its ship 'Fredenburg' for a slave trader vessel found during the team's historical research."

WOW !!!!! Way to go D.I. participants! Congratulations to everyone who participated in Destination Imagination 2008!

Spellathon

A Fun event – The Spellathon – is coming soon to Mesa. Your student will be bringing home information this week – Thursday, April 24, 2008. The Spellathon really is a contest whereby a student competes only against herself/himself to see if s/he can spell every word on a list that s/he has taken home to study in advance. The difference between the Spellathon and an old-fashioned spelling test is that students collect pledges/per word from people – neighbors, grandparents, siblings, whomever; and for each word that the student spells correctly, the sponsor should pay the amount pledged. The student also pledges to study a series of words from either List A (the standard grade-level list) or List B (a slightly harder grade-level list), and the student pledges to be tested on them sometime during the week of May 12th-16th. The time is set by the grade-level teacher.

So – if the sponsor has pledged to pay 10 cents per word, and if “Johnny spells 15 words correctly off his list, then the sponsor would end up paying \$1.50 for Johnny’s success, and Johnny would know that there was a direct correlation between his efforts and a reward. In a way, the sponsor’s payment can be seen as a bonus wage for a job well done, no matter whether it is for spelling List a or List B. For whichever teacher’s class has the greatest number of participants with the highest number of correctly spelled words, then those participants will earn a collective reward.

Participation in Spellathon is totally voluntary, and the pledges raised and paid will go directly to fund Mesa student programs, primarily grade-level field trip activities and student scholarships, as needed and per written request from a parent or teacher.

Timelines:

Information packet sent home Thurs., April 24, 2008

Time to line up verbal pledges: Thurs. April 24 – Thurs. May 8

Return of participation pledge, signed by both parent & student, by Thurs. May 8

Week for testing on the Lists, per each teacher’s own schedule, May 12 – May 16

Student collection & return of pledge monies to classroom teacher: May 16 – May 23

All monies must be returned to the classroom teacher by Fri. May 23.

Reminder: All returns of forms and monies go directly to the classroom teachers, themselves, or to their mailboxes in the main office. Thanks for participating in Spellathon. Any questions or problems? Email betsy.puls@bvsd.org.

NEW VACCINE REQUIREMENTS (08-09)

2nd dose Varicella (chickenpox) REQUIRED FOR ALL KINDERGARTNERS AND 1ST GRADERS

Varicella (chickenpox) is a disease that is very contagious, and there continue to be outbreaks of the disease in Colorado as well as other states around the country. As a result of continued outbreaks, even in children who have had one injection of Varicella vaccine, next year the state of Colorado requires a second dose of Varicella vaccine beginning at kindergarten as well as 1st grade entry. It is the responsibility of the parents to provide an updated record of immunization to the school.

It continues to be a rule, that if a child has had chickenpox disease, a laboratory test showing immunity or a documented disease history from a **health care provider** is acceptable. In Colorado, children will need to have the appropriate documentation of two doses of Varicella vaccine at entry into Kindergarten and 1st grade as well as the other vaccine requirements.

If you do not wish your child to have this vaccine for personal or religious reasons, please sign a waiver that is available in the Health Room. A medical exemption must be signed by a physician.



From the Garden...

The garden is in and the 5th graders planted a wide variety of lettuce on Monday, April 14th. It went very well and was a great learning opportunity for all of the participants. Our goal is to provide greens for all kids during the day of the harvest, as well as for the salads for the Pasta Pig Out on May 24th.

If the plants cooperate, Harvest Day is scheduled for the morning of May 24th. We are currently working out the details and Sarah Volkman has stepped up to spearhead this fun and fruitful event! The kids will participate in harvesting, chopping, washing and packing the greens and will also enjoy some time in the cafeteria where we hope to have them making dressing and learning more about fresh food prep. It'll be celebration day!

NOTE: The garden's Summer Patrol schedule is coming soon. (Very soon! Promise!)

HELP WANTED: WELLNESS LEAD! We are in dire need of someone who is willing to coordinate the wellness component of *Garden to Table* for Mesa. This person would serve as a liaison between the organization behind the program, the Mesa wellness person and Lara Robinson, the Education Liaison. There are many ways for this role to evolve, so please contact Cassy Matthews if you're interested at cassymatthews@comcast.net. You don't have to be a gardener to participate in this wonderful effort!

If you'd like to be included in the regular Garden to Table communications including various volunteer opportunities and upcoming events, send me an e-mail and I'll add you to the alias!

Mesa's Scientists Shine!

The 2008 Mesa Science Fair was a BIG success last week with 125 students participating. Each scientist was able to present his or her project to adult evaluators, and then received comment sheets and a participation ribbon. The evaluators were very impressed with the quality of the projects and knowledge of our Mesa students! Many friends and family members also attended the Open House Friday night and learned about the many projects from the scientists themselves. The events concluded Tuesday with an exciting Science Show of "Cool and Creative Chemistry," presented by Anitta Frant with the Science from CU program (thanks to the Mesa Activity Fund for sponsoring this show). It was wonderful to see, hear, and feel so much scientific enthusiasm throughout the school!

Special THANKS go out to all the volunteers that made Mesa's Science Fair happen:
Julie Gelderloos (Chair), Sue Bryant, Judy Bullert, Terry Cook, Peter Curtiss, Peter Foltz, Carl Gelderloos, Degan Hambacher, Leslie Hartten, Nance Helmig, Cheryl Jakub, Maggie Janssen, Tammy Livingston, Adrienne Lee, Laurie Madden, Mary Maxwell, Cheryl McCutchan, Karen Meyer- Arendt, Andy Neuman, Debbie Pentz, Betsy Puls, Sandy Ramsey, Nan Rosenbloom, Terry Snyder, Laura Spicer, Scott Spicer, Clare Stocker, John Whitney... And ALL the Mesa Teachers and Staff - THANK YOU!!!

You are each invited to attend the **Mesa Volunteer Tea, on May 15 at 3:00, in the Library** - hope to see you there!

Sincerely,
Julie Gelderloos and Betsy Puls

School Improvement Team Update

Students in grades one through five recently completed a student survey that is created by the School Improvement Team and administered by classroom teachers. The survey is used to assess the climate at school. Survey questions include items such as: I like Mesa. I can identify bullying behavior. I know what to do about bullying behavior.

We are very pleased to report the students at Mesa are happy at school and generally understand how to treat one another with respect. The playground is an area that requires constant monitoring, but overall the results were very high. Teachers will be provided with the details of the survey results at their staff meeting on May 1st.

PTO CORNER

IN THE NEWS. . .



Mesa Spring Fundraising Campaign 2008

Mesa Spring Fling-April 5, 2008-

Thank you to all who supported Mesa at this wonderful spring event. As one parent noted afterwards, *"If the purpose was to host an elegant and stimulating social event, accompanied by outstanding entertainment, then I'd say the night was a smashing success!"* The PTO also was successful in nearly reaching its fundraising goal of \$17,000 in combined earnings from the Spring Fling and the Spring Donations.

The event could not have been possible without the generosity, efforts in planning, and hard work of many, many in the Mesa community. Thanks especially to:

Corporate sponsors: Incredible Smiles, The Leading Edge Project, Broadway Animal Hospital and Pet Center, Mock Realty, Pettyjohn's Liquor and Wine, Avery Brewery, Bob Maynard--Wright Kingdom, Creative Markings, LLC, Ras Kassas, and Hardy Boy Flowers;

Musical directors: **Krista Rogers and Eileen Henry;**

Musical performers: **Jasmine Jacobs, Tracy Warren, Sarah Knoebel, Lisa Bell** (with Bob Story), **Eileen Henry** (with Ted Bright), **Linda and Doug Moldawsky**, and The Jenn McCleary Band (featuring **Linda and Doug Moldawsky**);

Wine Sommelier: **Jennifer O'Brien** Beer Meister: **Chris Keenan**

Food: **Julia Hoilien, Katrina Walsh, and Mesa bakers**

Organization/corporate solicitations/bartenders/door greeters/everything else: **Gail Ross, Catie McDowell, Renae Foxhoven, Jan North, Linda Garby, Karen Nielsen, Dian Kiwiet, Brenda Garby, Anne Hedlund, Sarah Heilbronner, Eve Rose, Gina Kelman, Jeff Mason, Peggy Kaufman, Debbie Gould, Lisa Gillespie, Stephen Topping, Bob Kershner, Maryanne Mattson, Tom Felt**, and others whose names we've forgotten (please know, however, that your help was appreciated).

Teachers/staff: **April Swearingen** (jewelry); Mesa staff and teachers for the popular teacher outings, lunch with the principal, and principal for the $\frac{1}{2}$ day;

Auction items: K-5 room parents for creating class gifts and all families who donated luxury getaways and specialty items or who solicited donations for services or items.

Finally, thank you to all who purchased items at the Spring Fling and all who donated to the Mesa PTO.

Spring Donation— If you were unable to attend the Spring Fling, and you still intend to make a donation to the PTO to support the programs that distinguish Mesa as a great school, it's not too late. To date, approximately 60 families and corporate sponsors have contributed to the Spring Fundraising Campaign. Because all Mesa students benefit from programs supported by the PTO, we'd love to have close to 100% participation from all Mesa families (no matter how large the contribution). To participate, please send a check (payable to the "Mesa PTO") to the office or look for the "Fundraising Garden" set up in the school by the office to get a donation form that can be used for checks or credit cards.

MORE THANK YOUS. . .

Thank you to volunteers who helped Classroom School Picture Day run smoothly: **Polly Dawkins, Julie Okada, Cece Bloomfield, and Vicki Edgington.**

Thank you science fair coordinator, **Julie Gelderloos**, bake sale coordinator, **Polly Dawkins**, and all the talented **Mesa bakers** who baked for the Science Fair (raising approximately \$95 for Mesa).

And, thank you to **Pat Felt** for single-handedly baking and running a bake sale for the Second Grade Circus Musical (earning approximately \$60 for Mesa).

SAVE THE DATE . . .

Shoelace Frenzy Fun Run/All-School Picnic, Sunday, May 18, 2008 (8:30 a.m.-approx. noon):

Planning is underway for our 4th annual Shoelace Frenzy Fun Run/Hike/Walk (3 or 5-mile routes) on the South Shanahan Ridge trails or (2-mile loop) around Viele Lake (small registration fee with giveaways for this event). Mesa students can celebrate their hard training and earn miles for Fitness Club. Also, **NEW** this year, we will combine the Fun Run with an all-school picnic at the school after the run featuring fun family events, like: bicycle maintenance and safety activities, sports demonstrations and games on the upper deck, jumping castle, live bands, drawings, and much more! There will be no charge for the post-run events and family picnic (BYO picnic). Please look

for information coming home soon with a schedule of events so you can plan to join us for all or even part of the day's activities.