



# Columbine Connections

## Columbine Recognizes Thinkers

Since we stress "Thinking Made Visible" across our curriculum at Columbine, the February 15th *bien educados* recognition ceremony awarded "thinkers". Columbine staff chose students who consistently stretch, challenge and share their thinking in class.

**First Grade:** Silvia Ontiveros, Carolina Lechuga, Brayan Macias, Brenda Rosales, Juan Carlos Ortiz, Emily Diaz, Carla Ordaz, Alecsis Ortiz, Lizeth Hernandez, Rubisel Rodriguez, Fernando Campos, Janet Longoria-Rodriguez, Luciano Pitones, Janet Colis

**Second Grade:** Estefania Ordaz, Alex Jimenez, Orion Dinsmore, Joe Arney, Alondra Arellano, Andrew Martinez, Edwin Sanchez, Antonio Martinez

**Third Grade:** Angy Gutierrez, Denise Bretado, Ayla Lieberman, Alexis Almeda-Lopez, Edma Colin, Blanca Castaneda, Jonathan Vaquera, Courtney Peck, Davey Zalberg, Nancy Hernandez

**Fourth Grade:** Tania Davila, Leydi Lopez, Luis Rivera-Ordaz, Vicki Burciaga, Melissa Vasquez

**Fifth Grade:** Omar Sanchez, Gerardo Enriquez,

Cassandra Perez, David Cabral, Ramon Puentes, Shanika Ingram, Raul Rivera-Ordaz, Juan Manuel Jaimes, Leslie Vaquera

Congratulations to our thinkers and their families.



Third Grade thinkers smile big with their wildcats!

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[www.bvsd.org/schools/Columbine](http://www.bvsd.org/schools/Columbine)

March 1, 2007

### March Calendar

No School- (Professional development)	2
PTA Meeting (6:30 pm - Art Room)	5
Preschool story hour (10:00—11:00 am in library)	13
Parent-Teacher Conf. (3:30—6:30)	13
Parent-Teacher Conf. (3:30—6:30)	15
Parent-Teacher Conf. (3:30—6:30)	19
Parent-Teacher Conf. (3:30—6:30)	21

Spring Break—no school  
March 26th –April 3

## Columbine Reaches out.....

Columbine has been the recipient of humbling support from the community in the form of donations, countless volunteer hours and gifts for the kids. Now it's our turn to give back to our community. On Valentines Day our Fifth graders hosted some local senior citizens for a little party. Each attendee also received a special hand-made

Valentine. It was a simple way to express our thanks and let others feel special on what can be a lonely day.

This week also marked the completion of our book drive for the Dibert School in New Orleans, LA. . Coordinated by Linda Overholser of Kids Hope,

this project taught our kids how the devastating physical and emotional effects of hurricane Katrina have been long lasting. It also gave students an opportunity to make a difference by brightening another child's day by donating a book or creating "heart attack" card with an encouraging sentiment.

### Reminder

Parent teacher conferences are a good chance to connect with your child's teacher and find out what they are learning and how they are progressing. Conferences will take place on **March 13th, 15th, 19th and 21st**. Show how much you care by attending your scheduled conference.

## From the Principal



It's been a busy start to the new year. Students and staff have been working hard, and you can see the results of their good thinking all over the school.

Next time you're at the school, take some time to enjoy our work.

I have one news item to share with you. At the beginning of March, the Office of Planning and Assessment will send all parents the Parent *Snapshot Survey* via U.S. mail. Your participation is very important as the survey questions are aligned to our school's strategic plans and

goals. Summarized results help us determine how well our school is performing.

It is important for our school to have a high participation rate so that our survey data will accurately reflect parents' perceptions and opinions. The survey results are reviewed by our school staff to determine what programs and processes are working and which ones need improvement. Consequently, the survey results can have a significant impact on our school operations.

Because the same survey has been given for several years, our school staff and School Improvement Team are able to study trends and patterns in responses. All of this information helps us to serve you in the best way possible. Because

your feedback is important, we hope that you will take a few minutes to complete the survey and return it to the Office of Planning and Assessment in the postage-paid envelope.

If you have any questions, please feel free to call or email me.

### Help us raise funds!

Help raise funds for the school by participating in one of our ongoing fundraising programs. Target, Grand Rabbits Toy Shop and Play-fair Toys will all donate a portion of their sales to our school. Ask them how to designate Columbine as your recipient. Also, don't forget Blackjack Pizza Nights

## Columbine Teacher Receives Impact Award

Monica Olguin, a CLIP (Collaborative Literacy Intervention Project)/ Biliteracy teacher here at Columbine is one of the 2007 recipients of the prestigious *Impact Award*. This award, funded by Impact on Education, is in its 15th year and recognizes educational excellence by providing awards to individuals who make "extra-ordinary contributions to public education."

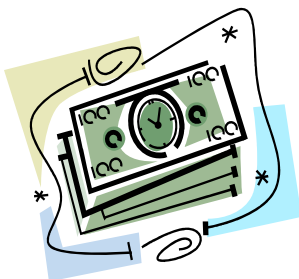
Monica was nominated for the award because "she has dedicated her life to the children she serves and has done it with fervor and joy."

Monica and the other recipients will be honored at the Impact Awards Dinner on April 19th, 2007. In addition, Columbine will receive a \$1,500 cash gift in her honor. Thank you and congratulations Monica!



Monica celebrates her award with some of her students

## Spring Raffle Coming Soon



*Help raise funds for our school to support class materials and activities...buy and sell raffle tickets. You might even be one of our lucky winners!*

Spring marks the time for our yearly raffle. This is our most profitable fundraiser, generating \$4,000 for our school. These funds provide valuable classroom materials for our teach-

ers as well as fun enrichment activities for our kids such as field trips, assemblies and outdoor education. Raffle packets are scheduled to be sent home Friday, April 6th. Please help us by encouraging your child to participate. The drawing will be held on **Friday, May 4th at 2:45** in the school lobby. Three of last years' big prize winners were families from our school...who knows, this could be YOUR lucky year! **Interested in helping? Come assemble raffle packets on Thursday April 5th @ 4:30 or Friday April 6th @ 8:30 am. Meet in the lobby.**

### Current Prize List:

- 1st—\$850
- 2nd—\$500
- 3rd—\$300
- \$280 gift card to Frasca restaurant
- \$100 gift card to Target
- Gift cards to Aji, Murphy's , Pasta Jays and The Hungry Toad
- Foosball table (used)
- Plus tickets to the museum, zoo and other fun family prizes.

## PTA News

The PTA met February 12th and discussed and planned upcoming events. In addition, parents expressed concern over the school's performance results on the recently released "State Report Card." Lynn Widger, our principal, pointed out that while the results are demoralizing, they don't present the real picture. Parents were assured their children are making as much or more progress than children at other schools.

Complete minutes of the meeting can be found on the PTA bulletin board just past the front office.

### 2007/08 Officers

Interested in getting more involved? The PTA will be nominating and electing officers for the 2007/08 school year at our

next few meetings. Please consider becoming an officer. Contact Debra Anderson to find out more: [bdmi.af@comcast.net](mailto:bdmi.af@comcast.net)

**Next meeting: March 5th—6:30 pm in the Art Room. Childcare and translation provided.**

### PTA Seeks DAC representative

Each BVSD school has representation on the District Accountability Council (DAC). Columbine is in need of a new representative. The DAC is responsible for accreditation (school improvement and performance) reviews and provides budget input. The group meets the 1st Tuesday of each month from 6-8:30 at the Ed Center. The DAC rep serves a two-year term. Contact Lynn Widger, the principal if you're interested.

## Volunteer Corner:

**Mile Marathon—May 25th.** We need around 60-75 volunteers to pull off this fun event. A few hours of time the morning of the event will make a big difference.

**Library—**still needs help with shelving and book check-out.

**Field Day—**Ms. O'Neill, our PE Teacher, is organizing a day of races and other fun PE games. She needs 16 volunteers on Tuesday June 5th to run the stations.

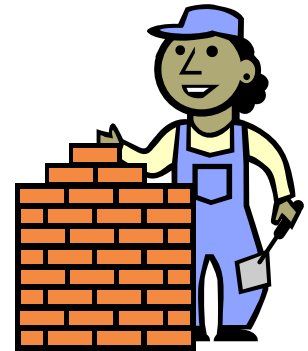
Contact the school if can help with one of these positions.

## Schools seek help with bond issue implementation

Plans are in the works for school improvements district-wide as implementation of the recently passed bond issue begins. Columbine has one of the larger projects on the list so we need to start formalizing our wish list and provide input on the proposed changes. This is an opportunity to create our ideal learning environment. A committee is being formed to oversee this project at Columbine. Lynn Widger, our principal, will head-up the committee. If

you are interested in participating, please contact her by stopping by the office or emailing her at [lynn.widger@bvsd.org](mailto:lynn.widger@bvsd.org).

Casey Middle School is also seeking members for their rebuilding committee. Casey is especially interested in including parents from their feeder schools like Columbine. If you're interested, contact the principal, Alison Boggs: [alison.boggs@bvsd.org](mailto:alison.boggs@bvsd.org)



## From the Office

March is CSAP month, the time when our 3-5th graders are being assessed by the state standardized test. It is important during this time that we have the full cooperation of our students and their families. Students in 3rd-5th grades will be taking the tests the weeks of March 5th, 12th and 19th. **Atten-**



*Make the most of your child's education by ensuring they are prepared for school*

**dance, prompt arrival at school and proper rest and nutrition are crucial during this time.** If you have children in the primary grades, remind them to be quiet when walking through the school. Thanks in advance for your support.

### Columbine Welcomes New Students:

We're excited to have some new students this month. Please join us in welcoming:

Dennis Gordillo—1st—Mr. Mullins  
Joanna Gordillo—4th— Ms. Hutman

A special welcome back to fifth grade teacher Ms. Courtney who is returning following the birth of her son Milo!