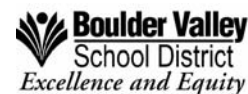




Columbine Connections



Columbine Recognizes Honesty!

On March 21st, Columbine held *Bien Educados* assemblies. March's recipients were being recognized for honesty.

These students consistently tell the truth, even when it is not easy. Honesty is one of the internal assets on the "40 Assets" list that form the building blocks of healthy development. We are proud of these students for helping to make Columbine the best it can be. Please join us in congratulating the following students:

First Grade: Dane Ecker, Lauren Grimberg, Katie Qu-



ezada-Valles, Jacqueline Rivera-Escalante, Lupita Longoria, Asusena Sanchez, José Morales, Enrique Moreno, Emanuel Flores-Reyes, Alex Gallegos, Lupita Vaquera, Antonio Martínez, Angie Santillan, Fabiola Portillo

Second Grade: Michelle de Santiago, Joel Lemus, Adolfo Monreal, Carla Ordaz, Wendy

Gutierrez, Brisa Molina, Cristian Martínez

Third Grade: Luis Vazquez, RYanne Calinawan, Carolyn Cabral, Claudia Sánchez, Tania Sánchez, Angela Castruita

Fourth Grade: Isaac Fraley, Cristian Ledesma-Garrola, Miguel Alaniz-Argumedo, Lorenzo Lujan, Jazmin Navarro, Richard Dinsmore, Jordan Hines, Yulissa de la Cruz

Fifth Grade: Zach Padilla, Angel Enriquez, Maria Jaimes, Bryon Ontiveros, Hector Ordaz, Juan de Dios Arellano, Fermin Alday

Columbine Elementary
3130 Replier St.
Boulder, CO 80304
303-443-0792
FRS: 303-441-4059
www.bvbsd.org/schools/Columbine

April 4, 2008

April Calendar

Preschool Story Hour	7
(9:30-10:30 Library)	
PTA Meeting	14
(6:30 PM—Art room)	
3rd Grade Musical	17
(2PM and 6:30PM)	
Preschool Story Hour	22
(9:30-10:30 Library)	
Cinderella Performance by Opera Colorado	23
9am	
3rd Grade CU Space Lab	23
(1-3 in the gym)	
No School	25,28,28

TODOS Offers More Opportunities to Get Involved

Our new parent involvement group, TODOS, has many exciting plans as we wrap up our inaugural year. The first is a family movie night on Wednesday, April 16th. Bring a blanket and join other Columbine families as we eat popcorn and enjoy a relaxing evening of family entertainment. The next week, April 23rd, TODOS members will be assembling the donations from our

community service drive for families in Juarez. You still have time to help families in Juarez, Mexico by donating bandanas, coloring books, balls, jump ropes, hair accessories, flip-flops, yo-yos or kitchen utensils. Place your donation in the box marked "Juarez" in the lobby. Our final TODOS event will be on May 7th and will be a potluck followed by a FREE viewing of the documen-

tary "An Elementary Education." This movie focuses on the issue of segregation in our schools featuring Columbine parents, students and staff. We're excited about the TODOS schedule and hope to see you at one of our events.

Come check out TODOS today!

Reminder

Your child should received their raffle packet on April 11th. Please be certain to help your child by reading the parent letter and encouraging them to sell at least 5 tickets. The funds raised will help support class materials and activities. You might even be one or our lucky winners!

Look for Information about Adequate Yearly Progress



We will soon be sending home a letter from the Colorado Department of Education informing you that the Boulder Valley School District did not make Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) as defined in *No Child Left Behind*. Though BVSD is very pleased that 133 out of the 148 subgroups of our students reached this achievement target, which equals achieving 90 percent of our goals, we are working with our schools to improve the achievement of the 15 subgroups that did not make AYP in 2006-07. Additionally, this year is the first time that we are reporting on the progress of our English Language

Learners using three Annual Measurable Achievement Objectives (AMAOs) that have been set for the district by the Colorado Department of Education. In 2006-07, we met two of our three objectives: students making adequate progress in acquisition of English and students attaining proficiency in English. The Boulder Valley School District did not make adequate yearly progress for English Language Learners in reading or mathematics.

In December 2007, the District submitted a Program Improvement Plan to the Colorado Department of Education outlining numerous strategies and actions that would be taken to improve the achievement of the 15 subgroups that did not make AYP or AMAOs. This

plan can be located on our website at <http://bvsd.org/pdfs/districtImprovementPlanFall07.pdf>.

The district has previously released information about specific schools that did not make AYP. However, please remember that our district and its schools operate under two additional accountability and accreditation systems, the State Accountability Report (SAR) and the District Accreditation Contract with the department of education. The district received the highest praise in its most recent accreditation report from the State of Colorado, with all of the district's schools fully accredited and 78 percent of our schools rated Excellent or High.

D.E.A.R (Drop Everything and Read) Day April 11th

PTA is promoting literacy this year through D.E.A.R (Drop Everything and Read) Day. Columbine students will be celebrating reading and literacy by dedicating an hour on Friday, April 11th to "fun" reading time. Other students nationwide will also be participating in activities that encourage independent reading. Students can wear their pajamas and

bring their favorite stuffed toy as part of our popcorn reading celebration. During their "popcorn" reading time students will be reading stories to their stuffed toys and eating popcorn. PTA will provide the popcorn and beverages. Parents are encouraged to come read with their child—you don't even have to wear pajamas. Please check with your



child's classroom teacher to find out what time they will be dropping everything to read. Each classroom will be fitting this time into their schedules. We hope to see you at this fun and educational event.



Join us for clean-up day

Springtime is here and that means its time to get our campus looking beautiful again. Thanks to the generous help of First Presbyterian Church, on Saturday, May 10th volunteers will descend upon the school to clean the grounds, paint, clean and organize classrooms and do other main-



tenance. We will also be continuing courtyard improvements we began from the Lowe's grant we received in 2006. Now that the sprinkler system is installed, we'll be adding plants and grass seed to our work in the courtyard. More work will also be completed

on the second grade garden. We'll be using compost provided by Eco-cycle to Greenstar schools to improve the soil throughout the schoolyard. We hope your family can join in this effort and lend a hand. We'll get started at 8:30 and finish just after noon. A few hours of your time will go a long way towards making our school better.

PTA Offers New Meeting Format

Our PTA meeting this month focused on district budget input, the mile marathon, raffle preparations and progress towards our school-wide academic goals. Although tedious and somewhat boring, these are important matters to discuss. However, it was decided that a select group of PTA members will be discussing these types of issues outside the meeting and bring suggestions/decisions to the meeting for approval. This will free up more time for hands-on activities that will engage more families. We're also hoping this will make the meet-

ings more efficient and thus shorter...something everyone would like! We'll be trying this new format at the last two meetings of this year. Please check out our new format and see what it's all about.

**Next PTA Meeting:
Monday, April 14th
6:30 PM in the Art Room
Childcare/translation provided
Everyone Welcome!**

Mile Marathon on Tap



Plans are under way for the 31st Annual Mile Marathon race here at Columbine. This year's race will take place on Friday, May 23rd. We need over 75 volunteers to help us make this event a success. Look for a sign-up sheet in the lobby in early May and come to the May 12th PTA meeting to help assemble ribbons. Deb Anderson, the event coordinator, only has two more years before her son moves on to middle school. PTA is looking for one or two parent volunteers who want to shadow her planning the race so they can inherit the position when Deb moves on.

Community Building Update

Our Community building theme for the month of March was Honesty. All the grades have had time with Lisa Hassin, counselor or Carrie Evans, social worker during which kids have read, talked or written about Honesty, including being honest at school, in your neighborhood, how to be an honest friend, and how to apologize if you made a mistake. Look for the new posters all around the building in which students model the

Honesty behaviors:

1. Telling the truth
2. Doing the right thing and doing your own work
3. Keeping your promise so that you build trust
4. Apologizing if you need to.

Students and staff are expected to increase their awareness about promot-

ing and practicing these behaviors throughout the month. Each month focuses on

a different theme. Ask your child what the theme is for April. Kids who have demonstrated these behaviors in outstanding ways were honored at the March "Bien Educados" assembly on Friday, March 21.



World Premiere of 'An Elementary Education' set for 4/26



Several Columbine parents have been working for over a year on an insightful feature length documentary about our school. This documentary includes, candid interviews with parents, teachers, students and school officials. It illuminates issues that not only affect Columbine Elementary, but our country. The film asks the questions "How far have we come on the subject

of segregation?" and "Is our need for choice greater than our need for community?".

Filmmakers Ali Lightfoot, Alexis Phillips and Jennifer McDaniel are Columbine parents and their film tackles the issues of racism, open-enrollment, and standardized testing, among others.

This film will be shown for the first time to the public on Saturday, April 26th, 7pm at the Nomad Theater 1410

Quince Ave. Boulder. Tickets are \$10 and can be purchased at school. This is an adult only event but kids can see the film at the school premiere (see below).

The entire Columbine Community is invited to a special showing just for our school as part of our TODOS program on Wednesday, May 7th. We'll have a potluck before the movie at 5:30 followed by the show @ 6PM. This is a free event and all are encouraged to attend.

Parenting and Anger

by Jan Hittleman

Note: This article is contributed by PEN, the Boulder Valley Parent Engagement Network. PEN sponsors lecture and discussions aimed at improving parent/child relations and reducing at-risk behaviors in our kids.

Anger and parenting go together so well, don't they? Let's face it; it's impossible to parent and not get angry. At best, you can strive towards getting angry less frequently and less intensely. Particularly because your parental anger also functions as powerful negative attention and thus may reinforce the very behavior you're angry about. Consider the following techniques:

Mutual Time-Out. The first thing to always do with parental anger is to calm down! This is also a good idea prior to determining negative consequences. Otherwise, you'll find yourself saying things like: "You're grounded for life!" or "No TV for a year!". After you calm down and realize you cannot enforce what you have just said, you'll commute the sentence to something more realistic. OOPS! Parents often think that they must make immediate decisions regarding consequences. There's great wisdom, however, to briefly postponing your decision and giving yourself a chance to think about it. You then have the opportunity to calm down and choose an appropriate and realistic con-

sequence that you can enforce. It also gives you a chance to discuss it with your spouse. This allows you to avoid the other problem of rushing to disciplinary judgment; arguing with your spouse about the haphazard consequence you spontaneously determined, which makes both of you even angrier!

Asking vs. Telling. Most parents encourage their children to speak in a polite respectful manner. One way that we try to do this is by our example. We call this modeling. Toward this end, we




try to model appropriate language like using the word, "please". So when it's bedtime, we might say to our child, "Would you please get ready for bed now?" Sounds great doesn't it? The problem here is that we have unintentionally given our child a choice. We have asked our child, "Would you get ready for bed? It would follow then that our child could respond with something like, "Not right now, I'm busy." Technically speaking, this is a fair response to the question or request as it was worded, even though most parents would be, to say the least, dissatisfied

with this response. Consider the significantly different meaning to this slightly altered statement, "Please get ready for bed now."

Nagging. Another common complaint is having to repeat requests an inordinate number of times before the child complies. What makes it even more frustrating is that not only are you frustrated with having to repeat yourself over and over, but you're also viewed as a nag! Believe it or not, this is another example of a child discipline problem that we parents actually create ourselves! Children are smart. If we teach them that we are willing to repeat our requests ten times, why would they respond after the first or second request? It's as if your child is playing with a friend and you tell them it's time to clean up. As the friend begins to comply, your child might as well say, "We don't have to clean up yet; she's going to ask another 7 or 8 times. We still have plenty of time to play!" We accidentally train our children to ignore our initial requests! The solution to changing your child's behavior is to first change your own behavior of repeating requests over and over again. Minimize your repetition of requests and be clear with your child that their compliance is expected in a timely fashion.

From the Office

Even though the end of the year is approaching, it's still important you keep your household information updated in the office. If you have a new home phone, please notify us. We recently created a school directory. Due to the lateness in the year, we won't be sending a copy home with every student. Instead, we are making copies available in the office. If you are interested, call or stop by and we'll get one to your child. Thanks



Eco-Cycle Offers Family Composting Workshop

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.