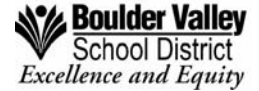




# Columbine Connections



## Columbine Recognizes Peacemakers

Since January is the time when we remember Martin Luther King, the January *Bien Educados* recognition ceremony (held today), awarded peacemakers. Columbine staff chose students who emulate Martin Luther's message of peace in their behavior. Please join us in congratulating the following students and their families:

**First Grade:** Lauren Grimberg, Cody Morris, Poppy Lightfoot, Baruc Martinez, Angel Gallegos, Lani Bulcacz, Marco Millan, Noe Martinez, Max Perez

**Second Grade:** Jacqueline Jimenez, Michael Kaiser, Kyky Bennett, Sandra Romero, Luz Gordillo, Edgar Arellano, Karina Davila, Alejandro Enriquez, Alejandro Portillo

**Third Grade:** Lizette Rodriguez, Christian Wood, Pedro Torres, Alfredo Campos, Luis Perez, Uri Cornelio, Jose Pech

**Fourth Grade:** Jaime Astorga, Jakob Harrison, Denise Bretado, Cynthia Puentes, Stephen Bobadilla, Helen Berhane, Daniel Macias, Eric Brunner, Melisa Castruita, Roberto Belmont, Jose Manuel Ibarra, Lupita Martinez

**Fifth Grade:** Alejandro Pitones, Crystal Malfavon, Tania Davila, Jesus Granados



## District Focuses on Achievement Gap

On Monday, Feb 4 at 3:30, our Deputy Superintendent, Ellen Miller-Brown, will be conducting focus groups at Columbine for staff and parents. Staff and parents throughout the district have been invited to attend one of the four similar events planned

throughout BVSD. The purpose of the groups will be to gather opinions about what is needed to close the achievement gap. The achievement gap is when differences in achievement exist among different socio-economic, racial or ability groups. Closing the achieve-

## Announcements

- The end of this month you will be receiving a parent survey in the mail about our school. We use this information to make school improvements so please take time to complete the survey. Answers remain anonymous. Students and staff will be completing similar surveys.
- Casey Middle School has announced start and dismissal times once they make the temporary move to the Platt campus in January of '09. Casey will start at 8:30 and dismiss at 3:20. Casey students will be bussed with optional "express" busses from Columbine, Whittier and Foothill.
- Casey is also looking for parents to work on transition and building committees. If you are interested, contact Casey @303-442-5235

### Columbine Elementary

3130 Replier St.  
Boulder, CO 80304

303-443-0792

FRS: 303-441-4059

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

### February 1, 2008

### February Calendar

Achievement Gap Focus Groups 3:30-4:30	4
TODOS Nutrition Classes 6th,13th, 20th, & 27th—6PM	6
Mobile Art Show (5-7PM Casey)	7
Parents Coffee Hour (8:30 AM Lobby)	11
Blackjack Pizza Night	11
PTA Meeting (6:30 PM—Art room)	11
Preschool Story Hour (9:30-10:30 Library)	12
No School (Pres day)	18-19
4th Grade Musical (6:30 PM Cafeteria)	21
P/T Conferences (3:30-6:30 PM)	25
P/T Conferences (3:30-6:30 PM)	27

#### Parent/Teacher Conferences

Notes will be going home soon regarding parent/teacher conferences. These meetings are important times to connect with teachers about your child's learning and progress. Please be prompt and come prepared with questions and concerns. Remember, involved parents make the difference!



# The Myth of the Perfect Parent By Jan Hittelman (article contributed by PEN)

Parenting is tough. Think about it. Parenting requires an adult to “control” and “correct” a child’s natural impulses and desires, for at least eighteen years! “Don’t do what you want to, do what I say because I know best.” Good luck! This dynamic inevitability results in conflict, frustration and strained relations. In contrast with the very real challenges of parenting are the idealized images that culture imposes upon our collective psyche. Images of super-nurturers, unfailingly patient and wise, always understanding and never losing their cool; always knowing what to say or do. Sound familiar? This is embedded in art, advertising, music, books, movies, and television. We internalize the myths of the perfect parent, developing unrealistic expectations of our parenting experience and ourselves as parents. As a result, parenthood not only

supplies us with immense challenge, frustration and failure, but offers tremendous guilt as well! What a deal! This brings us to the first step towards becoming a more effective parent:

**Go easy on yourself! Parenting is an impossible job to always do well.**

As parents, the best we can do is try to screw-up less and enhance our emotional survival while enduring the challenges of parenthood. This is a very important point. The “goal” of being a good parent is to try and screw up less. It’s impossible not to make mistakes because no one can always be successful at parenting. What’s really crucial is being more realistic about the rigors of parenthood and open to more effective parenting techniques.

I’ve never met anyone, child or adult, who gave their parents “straight A’s” on their

parenting report cards. That’s why we all strive to be better parents than ours were. Of course, it’s not long before we find ourselves saying the very things to our children that we hated hearing our parents say to us!

The key is to focus less on your parental imperfections and mistakes, while putting more emphasis on your efforts to improve your parenting skills thereby increasing the positive experiences of parenthood. Unfortunately, it’s natural for all of us to emphasize the negative and minimize the positive. It is very important, however, that you make a conscious effort to shift this pattern as it relates to your self-perceptions as a parent. Revel in your accomplishments and try to learn from your mistakes. Go easy on yourself. It is

*(Continued on page 3)*

## Join us for “Take Your Family to School Week” Feb. 11-15

Mark your calendars now for the week of February 11th. PTA and FRS are joining forces to offer several opportunities for you to participate in children’s education during that week. Take Your Family to School Week is a nationwide effort by PTA as a whole to increase parent involvement in schools, which is one of the greatest factors in ensuring that a child receives a quality education. Margaret Spelling, U.S. Secretary of Education remarked “By par-

ticipating in your school’s activities, you demonstrate your commitment to raise children of achievement, character and conviction who will help to build the future of our Nation.” We’ll start the week with a parent coffee Monday morning, February 11th at 8:30 in the lobby. Monday night will be our normal PTA meeting at 6:30—we would love to see some new faces to compliment our “regulars.” Wednesday, we’ll be having a TODOS nutrition class at 6PM titled

“What’s in that bag/can?”. Thursday, there will be school-wide class parties for Valentines Day which is a nice social time to get to know your child’s classmates and parents. In addition, each grade level will be developing a list of classroom activities in which parents can participate. We encourage you to pick a couple of events and “come back to school” for a day. Look for a detailed schedule in February 8th Friday folders.

## PTA News

The PTA meeting was spent discussing school improvement issues. Lynn reported that planning for full-day kindergarten is underway including considerations about extra materials for multiple classrooms and the possibility of changing our looping format. The staff is reviewing language arts materials — particularly to support spelling. Staff will identify needs in guided reading and content areas and supplemental materials will be purchased. This process occurs every 7 years to ensure materials

are up-to-date. In addition, each grade level will have \$4,000 in extra Title I funds to purchase classroom materials. **Fundraising reported that we raised \$900 from the Chipotle and Noodles fundraisers. Thanks to Linda Cohen for organizing and our parents for eating out!** On a sad note, Rebekah Hartman’s resigned her position as PTA President since her family has moved to a new neighborhood. We thank her for her time and leadership.

### Art Alliance Project Event

Activities related to our Alliance Project grant with Casey are continuing. Families are invited to attend an exhibit of original works of the Mobile Art collection from the Cherry Creek Arts Festival. The event is on Thursday, February 7th from 5-7 PM. The art will be on display at Casey from January 30th- February 12th.

**We need a new PTA President, if you're interested, come to the 2/11 meeting**

## Announcing TODOS (Together Our Differences Offer Solutions)

(Continued from page 2)

also important to take care of yourself as a parent. This is especially true for at-home parents. Being at home all day, everyday with your children can be a very stressful, tedious and draining experience. As a parent, you need to make time for yourself and relax by doing something that you enjoy, even if it's just a couple of hours a week. Otherwise you're not going to have the endurance to handle all of the ongoing stresses of parenting. If not for yourself do it for your child. Taking better care of yourself will help you to take better care of your children.



Here at Columbine we're continually working on integrating our community, empowering parents to get involved and reaching out to our greater neighborhood. To that end FRS, PTA and PEN (Parent Engagement Network) have teamed up to bring you a new program. Titled TODOS, it stands for Together Our Differences Offer Solutions. The goals of the program are to integrate our school community, offer tangible parenting techniques and make a difference in our community at large. Our first four sessions will be a nutrition series brought to us by the CSU Extension Office. These sessions will be delivered in Spanish with translation to English. Continuing with health, we're

hoping to host a session from Dental Aid in early March. Just before Spring break, we'll be holding two PEN sessions on "The Spirit of Culture and "40 Assets Kids Need." We'll conclude our TODOS activities for the year with a school-wide community service project putting together "care packages" for families in Juarez, Mexico. **TODOS will meet weekly throughout the spring on Wednesday Nights from 6-7:30. Childcare will be provided.** A complete detailed schedule will be coming home next week with updates regularly. You don't need to attend all the sessions, come when you can and bring a friend .

## District Appoints New Director of Equity

The School board recently approved- Eldorado K-8 Principal André Lanier as the Boulder Valley School District's new executive director of institutional equity. Dr. Lanier will assume his new superintendent's cabinet level position at the end of this school year when BVSD's current district equity director, Pam Duran, retires on June

30. Superintendent Chris King, in commenting on his nomination of Dr. Lanier, stated that he is confident in the insight, leadership and compassion that Dr. Lanier brings to this position and the promise that it holds for BVSD equity-based efforts to close the achievement gap. Among his accomplishments in the area of equity while at Eldorado, Dr.



Lanier cited the institution of English as a Second Language Math Nights, service as an equity leader during district leadership equity retreats, providing Spanish translators for Eldorado K-8 after-school activities and his hiring and retention of high quality staff of color. We look forward to working with Dr. Lanier.

## Staff & Student News

### Alden Burr advances in *Reflections*

Fourth grade student Alden Burr won the local PTA Reflections contest and will advance to the State competition in late February. Alden submitted a poster with the theme "I Can Make A Difference." Congratulations to Alden and thanks for representing Columbine. Once the competition is completed, his piece will be displayed at school.

### Edgar Chavarria wins coloring contest

Fourth grader, Edgar Chavarria won 2nd place in the Denver Botanic Gardens coloring contest. His drawing of columbine flowers earned him a t-shirt and magnet printed with his drawing and a gift certificate for books about wildflowers. Congratulations to Edgar.



### Welcome Marcos Aguirre

Kindergarten teacher Rosie Aguirre gave birth to a son, Marcos on January 12th. Marcos weighed 6lbs 9 oz. Rosie and Marcos are both doing well and enjoying time at home getting acquainted until her return to the classroom after Spring Break.