



Columbine Connections

Columbine Recognizes Cooperation



Our February *Bien Educados* assemblies recognized students who are cooperative.

These students consistently listen, follow instructions, and help and work with others to make the classroom a better learning environment for all students. They "get it straight and cooperate" without being asked and we're proud of them. Please join us in recognizing the following students and their families:

First Grade: Ofelia Valles, Kawai Larson, Jose Moreno, Emmanuel Flores, Dulce Carillo, Hannah Roth, Omar Castruita, Alejandra Martinez, Claudia Sánchez, Tania Sánchez, Angel Ocon, Abraham Olguin

Second Grade: Jenny Thu Truong, Eduardo Arellano-Martinez, August Conway, Li-

zeth Hernandez, Daniela Chaparro-Ledesma, Emily Diaz, Janet Astorga, María Arellano, Cristian Chairez-Ortiz, Edgar Gonzales, Erica Olguin, Luis Arellano

Third Grade: Alondra Arellano, Paige Carmichael, Jennifer Ramirez, Irvin Marroquín, Edgar Carranza

Fourth Grade: Betsy Sánchez, Angy Gutierrez, Alberto López, Diana Ordaz, Alexis Lopez, Diego Zavala, José Hernandez, Detrick Molina, Jesus Ramirez, Heidi Rodríguez, Perla Magdaleno, Janice Contreras

Fifth Grade: Daniel Villalobos, Miriam Olguin, Priscila Pitones, Denise Bugarin, Leydi López del Villar

Announcements

- You still have time to return the surveys you received at conferences. There is a drop box in the lobby or you can return them in the envelope provided. We use this information to make school improvements so please take time to complete the survey.
- March is CSAP month. 3rd-5th graders will be taking the tests March 3-21st. Please be certain your child is well rested and has a good breakfast to ensure they are feeling tops on testing days.
- The afterschool classes offered by FRS for the winter session will end March 13th. One more session will be offered after Spring Break.

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Boulder, CO 80304
303-443-0792
FRS: 303-441-4059
www.bvsd.org/schools/Columbine

March 7, 2008

March Calendar

PTA Meeting (6:30 PM—Art room)	10
Blackjack Pizza Night	10
TODOS Meetings 12th, 19th—6PM	
4th Grade musical/Art show (6:30 PM Cafeteria)	13
Preschool Story Hour (9:30 AM Library)	18
Second Grade Musical (2:00 & 6:30PM)	18
Imagination Makers Performance (1:30-3PM)	20
Spring Break—No School 24-28th	


Imagination Makers Theater Company to Perform

On March 20, our students will have the opportunity to see a play by the Imagination Makers Theater Company. The performance at our school is made possible by grants from the Boulder Arts Commission and the Boulder County Scientific and Cultural Facilities District (SCFD). "The Journal of Abby Munson" chronicles

the trials and tribulations of a ten-year-old girl who has trouble fitting in. The play follows Abby on her journey to discover her talent for writing. As her peers start to appreciate her gifts, Abby finds a sense of belonging and discovers that her ability to be herself is her most valuable quality. "The Journal of Abby-

Munson" promotes honoring the talents and diversity of all kids. It also shows that writing is pretty cool!

Imagination Makers is a professional theater company that has been performing for children throughout the Denver metro area for the past 27 years.



THANK YOU Grand Rabbits toy shop in Boulder donated over \$1,000 in toys, crafts and games to our school through their Bunny Bucks program and a special donation. Please show your gratitude for this unbelievably generous act by letting them know next time you are shopping in their store.

BVSD has added:

Phil's Fresh Foods best-tasting

BURRITOS

to the school lunch program



PHIL'S FRESH FOODS

is a local Colorado company producing all natural and or-

Mural and Garden Projects Enrich Second Graders

Second graders have two fun projects they are working on thanks to some generous grants. Students in Tamar Van Vliet's class have been working on a mural with the theme of "Child Friendly Community." The mural is a joint project with CU and local elder-artists. The students and volunteers are using art as a means to demonstrate the ideas of love, caring, peace and community. They are using a variety of materials including; acrylic paints, canvas, crayons, markers, and even doing some 3-dimensional collage work. The mural is scheduled to be completed in May and will eventually be on display in the Environmental Design Building at CU.

As you may recall, the second grade team was awarded a mini-grant to build raised bed gardens featuring native Colorado plants and vegetables. Work will begin soon on the beds thanks to an additional donation of lumber materials from Sutherlands. If you have input regarding plant/vegetable choice, please let the second grade team know. Hopefully some of the vegetables will end up in our cafeteria this fall so the kids will reap the benefits of their efforts. **A Second grade garden work-day will be happening on a Saturday, March 15th, please look for a flyer and plan on coming to help with this fun project.**

PTA News

PTA would like to thank all the parents who participated in our "Take Your Family to School Week." It was nice to see parents in the classrooms and the teachers appreciated the extra help. We'll be expanding our focus on parent involvement next year with a program called "Three4me." This program, created by national PTA, encourages parents to commit to volunteering for 3 hours/year in their child's school.

Speaking of volunteering, PTA has two major activities coming up that will require many hands on deck. The first is our annual Raffle which will take place in early May. The raffle takes many volunteer hours to write out tickets and count money. The raffle is the perfect job for parents who have time to commit from home. Later in May we'll hold our 31st Mile Marathon race which requires around 75 volunteers. Plan on

attending our next PTA meeting to find out more about these and other ways to get involved.

Next Meeting: Monday, March 10th, 6:30 pm in the Art Room

Childcare and Translation Provided

Join us for TODOS!

The first 4 sessions of TODOS are over and we're now shifting gears from nutrition to general parenting. We have two very important sessions coming up in March. These sessions are being presented in conjunction with PEN (Parent Engagement Network) and will have bilingual presenters. One session will be on their most popular program- the 40 developmental assets every child needs to succeed. These assets, developed by The Search Institute, are the basic life skills and attributes that are the criti-

cal building blocks for successful growth and development of young people. The 40 assets are divided into eight categories: four are external and four are internal. Come find out more and receive a handout listing the 40 Assets to keep as reference. PEN will also present a lecture on "The Spirit of Culture. Both of these presentations are great opportunities for personal growth and are free. Depending on interest, after these sessions TODOS may host a family movie night. We will close the sea-

son with a community service project collecting gifts for families in Juarez, Mexico. **Please come check out TODOS at 6:00 on Wednesday nights.** You'll meet some new parents, have fun, and contribute to the strength of our community. Childcare, translation and light dinner provided at all sessions.

From the Principal



Dear Columbine Parents,

Attendance at our recent parent/teacher conferences was great! Teachers truly appreciate their time with you to celebrate your children's progress. Please remember, do not hesitate to drop by to talk to teachers at any time if you have questions or concerns. Don't wait for conferences.

Just as you recently received a progress report for your children, I'm writing this to provide you with a report about our school's progress in meeting our School Improvement Goals. We have three goals, two for academics and one for school climate.

School Climate Goal

This goal addresses bullying and harassment. We are targeting an increase on eight questions that address bullying on our student climate survey that is administered each spring. Bullying/harassment were identified as our main issue through last year's survey.

Steps that we have taken to reach our goal are:

- Student focus groups were held for 3rd, 4th and 5th graders to gain a deeper understanding of the issue. Students report that it is more difficult to deal with bullies in third through fifth grade, bullying happens most frequently on the playground and busses and that many don't feel confident in dealing with bullies.
- Teachers have examined the student information and are investigating means to provide a more consistent and comprehensive school wide approach.
- Our new BVSD school counselor and our social worker along with teachers are meeting with each class on a weekly basis to build strong class-

room communities, to teach conflict resolution skills and to teach anti-bullying strategies.

Math Achievement Goal

Our achievement goal focuses on the development of number sense, the foundation of all mathematical learning and operations. This is the second year of our work on this goal.

Steps that we have taken to reach our achievement goal are:

- All classroom teachers have participated in AVMR training. AVMR is an assessment system that identifies children's developmental levels in mathematical thinking and the strategies that they use to solve problems. Teachers gain invaluable information from these assessments.
- Periodically teachers gather together or with one of our math coaches to analyze the AVMR results and to plan instruction targeted to students' needs and strengths.
- Teachers have participated in a variety of professional development activities to learn about and share activities and strategies for teaching number sense.
- Our kindergarten through second grade bilingual teachers are working with Dr. Nancy Commins to develop a process to bridge mathematical concepts learned in Spanish to functioning with these concepts in English.

Reading Equity Goal

This goal targets children in our biliteracy program. Our target is to increase the number of 5th graders who were proficient on the 3rd grade Spanish CSAP and who score as proficient on the 5th grade English Reading CSAP.

Steps that we have taken to reach this goal are:

- We have joined in special research project, Literacy Squared, with the University of Colorado/Boulder to learn how to effectively transfer literacy concepts and skills learned in Spanish to English. Twenty Columbine teachers have participated in the project's training.
- Almost all bilingual and ESL literacy teachers are applying the principles and strategies learned in the Literacy Squared training.
- This spring and next fall we will be closely examining our efforts, CSAP results and children's literacy and math progress. From our discussions and deliberations, we will modify our School Improvement Goals for the 2008-09 school year. I will be sharing our school wide information with you and teachers will be sharing similar information with you about your individual children. Exciting things are happening at Columbine! Stay tuned.

Best regards,

Lynn Widger, Principal



First Presbyterian Church has rented the school grounds and will be hosting a community-wide Easter egg hunt on Sunday, March 16th from 1pm-3pm. The egg hunt will start at 1:20. There will also be games, crafts and light refreshments. This is a free event and is open to the public. If you come, bring a can of food to donate to their food drive.