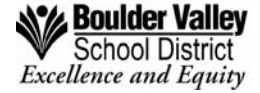




# Columbine Connections



## Columbine Recognizes *Students with Self-Control*

On November 30th, Columbine held *Bien Educados* assemblies. This month's recipients are being recognized for consistently having positive interactions with their peers, even in potentially negative situations, and for modeling good self-control in the classroom. Both of these traits are part of our community-building curriculum for the year. Self-control and positive interactions are important for school success and help to create a supportive classroom environment for other students. 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:** Poppy Lightfoot, Makiko Ogino, Eric Morales, Katie Quesada-Valles, Jennifer Rodas-Mejia, Maria Cor-

chado, Camila Avitia, Vicenta DeSantiago, José Pablo Lopez, Christian Ortega, Ian McDiarmid, Abril Samaniego



**1st grade recipients**

**Second Grade:** Joshua Torres, Ezekiel Ah, Lesley Charvarria, Paloma Robles-Lopez, Ramiro Lopez-Gutierrez, Alecsis Ortiz-Delgado, Diana Colis, Wendy Ibarra, Janet Colis

**Third Grade:** Gabriella Rubino, Rohini Krishnadas, Alex Jimenez, Ira Ah, Aly Martinez, Jesus Monreal, Jose Bautista, Melanie Morales, Juanita Chairez

**Fourth Grade:** Vanessa Delgado, Stephanie Bautista, Isabel Hinojza, Alyssa Taylor, Alden Burr, Lupita Martinez, Perla Magdaleno, Jorge Zavala, Jakob Harrison

**Fifth Grade:** Vicki Burciaga, Ashley Hernandez, Wendy Belmont-Ramirez, Antonio Alvarez, Kelly Castañeda, Juan Romero

## Columbine Welcomes New Assistant Principal

We are pleased to welcome to our staff Sandra Mendez, former principal of Pioneer Bilingual Elementary in Lafayette. Ms. Mendez will be splitting her time between Columbine and Uni-Hill working as a principal on special assignment. Specifically at Columbine, Ms. Mendez will be assisting our principal, Lynn

Widger, to maintain our program focus and continue on our path for improvement. Sandra will be a welcome hand with Lynn's increasing duties related to the planned bond improvements for our building and the change in our kindergarten day. Sandra received her Journalism degree from the University of Texas at El

Paso. She obtained her Bilingual Teaching License from California Lutheran University. After moving to Colorado, she received her Masters of Arts in Bilingual Education from the University of Colorado-Denver and her Administrative License from Denver University. We look forward to working with her.

**Columbine Elementary**  
3130 Repplier St.  
Boulder, CO 80304  
303-443-0792  
FRS: 303-441-4059  
[www.bvsd.org/schools/Columbine](http://www.bvsd.org/schools/Columbine)

**December 7, 2007**

### December Calendar

PTA Meeting (6:30 PM—Art room)	10
Preschool Story Hour (9:30-10:30 Library)	10
Noodles fundraiser (5-9pm @ Noodles restaurant)	11
Matachines Assembly (8:45 in the gym)	12
Santa Shop	17-19
Kinder Holiday Program (10:30-11:30)	21
Winter Break (No School )	12/24-1/8

### Kinder Registration

Enrollment for the 2008-09 kindergarten year has begun. With our move to full-day kindergarten (see page 2), we're expecting a big demand. If you have an incoming kindergartener, please complete the registration paperwork as soon as possible. It will help in our planning for staffing levels.

## From the Principal



Dear Parents

Last fall we refined our school improvement goals and our plan to reach those multi-year goals. I'd like to

share with you some of the progress we have made.

### Math Goal

Our math goal focuses on number sense, a deep understanding of numbers, relationships and operations. To address this goal, all content teachers have participated in training to identify students' developmental levels of mathematical understandings and the strategies that students employ to solve prob-

lems. Teachers are using this information to personalize and target instruction. As a part of the personalized, targeted instruction we have small groups for our struggling and advanced learners

### Reading Goal

Our reading goal focuses on students who are receiving bi-literacy instruction. Our goal is to have them proficient in both English and Spanish by the end of fifth grade. Our school is part of a ground breaking research project through the University of Colorado which is identifying ways to directly link reading and writing between Spanish and English. We are seeing remarkable results thus far.

### Climate Goal

Our climate goal focuses on conflict resolution and bullying. This is the first year for this goal. Our school counselor and social worker are teaming with each teacher to create strong classroom communities. Additionally, we are researching various published programs that address bullying and provide discipline frameworks.

Our goals are keeping us focused and very busy. Be sure to ask you children about math, reading and community building.

Enjoy your winter break with you children, we'll see you in 2008.

## Columbine Pilots Full-Day Kindergarten

We are excited to announce that we are one of five schools in the district selected to pilot full-day kindergarten next fall. BVSD is implementing the full-day program at several schools in advance of the predicted state-wide change to full-day kindergarten in a couple of years. Full-day kindergarten at Columbine will be 5 days a week and

will eliminate the need for parents to arrange and pay for after-care. When asked how she feels about this change, kindergarten lead teacher Kristen Elder-Rubino responded, "I'm just thrilled! Now we'll have time to actually explore and go in-depth in all our content areas.." Purposeful planning will be needed to make a smooth transition

to this new arrangement but the staff is prepared for the challenge and excited about the prospect.

"This is an amazing opportunity both academically and socially for our school," concluded Elder-Rubino.



## Eat out and earn money for Columbine

Take a break from the kitchen the week of December 10<sup>th</sup>. Monday, December 10<sup>th</sup> is our monthly Blackjack pizza night - be sure to fill out the form at the bottom of the Blackjack flyer and hand it to the driver so we get credit for the sale. **The next night, Tuesday, December 11<sup>th</sup>, Noodles and**



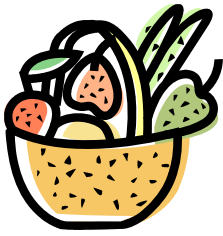
**Company at 1245 Alpine at Broadway (near Ideal Market) will donate 20% of all sales between 5-8 PM to our school. Come visit with other families and enjoy some great pasta, Asian**



noodle bowls and classics like mac-n-cheese. So take a night off from cooking, choose pizza, noodles or both and earn money for our school. It's a good meal and a good deed at the same time!

## Staff Sponsors Holiday Basket

As a thank-you to our community the staff will once again be sponsoring a goodie basket which will be



raffled off to one of our families. Staff members will be donating delicious food items such as cheeses, chocolates, nuts and

candies. Students will be receiving tickets from their literacy teachers. Each child will receive ONE ticket for a chance at the basket. The drawing will be held on Decem-

ber 18<sup>th</sup>, just in time to share your basket with friends and family.

### Other Staff News

Second grade teacher Tamar Van Vliet was awarded a Classroom Mini-Grant award from Impact on Education. The grant is for \$600 and is titled "Cultivating Learning in a Natural Environment." The funds will be used to build a community garden which will feature plants that grow well in Colorado and possibly some vegetables our students can eat. Cultivating the garden will

be tied to 1st/2nd grade science curriculum.



Congrats to literacy teacher Jessica Cirelli and her family after the birth of her second son, Giancarlo.

Special thanks to bi-literacy teacher Yolanda Perez-Ruiz for her help with the Ofrenda display last month and for coordinating the holiday basket from the staff.

## Support our Holiday Shop

After a successful start last year, the PTA is once again sponsoring a holiday shop. The shop, while raising a small amount of funds, is primarily a chance for students to purchase small gifts for friends and family in a safe environment. It is also a great opportunity to encourage your child(ren) to save their own money and talk about sorting

and counting money. If you get a chance, stop by the display outside the library to see a sampling of



gifts that we will have for sale. Items range in price from .75 to \$15. The shop will be held in

the library on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, Dec. 17-19th. Monday will be a preview day with no sales. Tuesday and Wednesday will be sales days from 8-4. **We still need volunteers for the shop, please sign up for a time slot on the sign-up sheet in the lobby.**

## Book Fair a Huge Success

Many thanks to all of those who helped us to raise \$1200.00

at the book fair in October. All of this money will be used to purchase new books for the library. We want to thank all of you who did your shopping here. A big thank you to all of the volunteers who made this possible: San Juana De La Cruz, Hilda del Rio, Liesl Freudenstein, Sara King, Fran Brown, Cybil No-

reika, Kazuko Ogino, Imelda Pech, Edith Herrera, Sue Hines, Jennifer Taylor, and Jeanette Bartells, Jennifer Cleary, Deb Anderson, Manuela Ordaz, Joni Burr, Nell Box, Imelda Cruz, Nancy Peterson, Maria Macias, Erika Sifuentes, Gloria Ledesma, Kori Jew and Trish Wood. We couldn't have done it without you!

# Making the Most of the Holidays 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. A calendar of 2008 PEN events will be sent home in Jan.

The holiday season is supposed to be a time for family get-togethers and celebration. Most families look forward to this special time of the year. A time for renewal of the love and warmth that family represents. Too often, however, it becomes a time of family conflict and struggle. In the counseling industry, there is often a spike in referrals after school holidays.



This is usually the result of underlying dysfunctional family dynamics flourishing in an environment of ongoing family interaction. Let's open our "Happy Holiday Family Survival Kit" and consider the following strategies:

**1. The L Word:** Generally speaking, we are terrible at expressing our positive feelings for each other.

On the other hand, we tend to be masterful at expressing our negative feelings. This is a critical issue within the family. As parents we often feel love, pride, and caring for our children, but rarely do we verbalize it. Our children and others are not mind readers and desperately need to hear it.



**2. Quality Time:** Consider empowering your children by giving them the opportunity to suggest some family activities. After they brainstorm a list of family activities, pick the ones that sound good to you and make an effort to do them. While all of your time need not be structured, too much boredom and down time often leads to negative behavior and conflict.

**3. Choosing Your Battles:** Focus on the big picture; having an enjoyable time as a family and try not to let the smaller discipline issues become the focus of family interaction. You can always provide minimal feedback, make a mental note, and revisit it after the holidays.

**4. The L Word:** I know I mentioned it already, but we really are

terrible at it. Make an effort to provide your child with genuine positive feedback. When you feel something positive, make sure you verbalize it.

**5. The Element of Surprise:** Think about some activities that you know your children will enjoy (see #2) and surprise them with it, letting them know that you are doing it because of something positive that they have done in the recent past (see #4).

**6. If All Else Fails, Consider the C Word:** If despite all of these efforts significant family dysfunction continues then consider benefiting from counseling. In many cases, short-term family therapy with a skilled provider can result in significant outcomes.



The basic elements of love, nurturance, effective communication and empowerment are at the heart of what makes any family system strong. It just takes effort to nourish and maintain them. Happy Holidays!

## From the Office

Winter has FINALLY arrived with our first couple of dustings of snow. This is a good time to remind everyone about school closure information. If the weather is poor (excessive snow, wind, ice) and you suspect school might be closed, there are several places to check for school closure information.

Please keep in mind that except under the most extreme conditions, school officials must keep schools open.



Also, if school is closed, please make childcare arrangements for your kids if you must work since the school will not be staffed. Whenever it is necessary to close schools, the District immediately contacts the T.V. Channels 4,7, and 9, and the following radio stations:

KBCO (97.3 FM)	KGNU (88.5 FM)	KISS (95.7 FM)
KOA (850 AM)	KOSI (101.1 FM)	KHOW (630 AM)
KBPI (106.7 FM)	KTLK (760 AM)	KBNO (1280 AM)
KJMN (92.5 FM)	FOX (103.5 FM)	ALICE (105.9 FM)