



Columbine Connections

Columbine Welcomes New Teachers!

There's some new faces around the halls this year. Columbine has added seven new members to our staff. Below is a little bit of information about each of our new additions.

Silvia Latimer is teaching Spanish literacy to 3rd and 5th graders here at Columbine. She comes to us from Angevine Middle School but has also taught at Uni-Hill and Washington and has extensive experience in bilingual education.



Caitlin Kline is teaching 4th grade this year as part of the 4/5th looping team. She came to us from the St. Vrain School District. She graduated from Stanford with a Masters in Bilingual Education.



Ali White is teaching 1st grade this year as part of the 1st/2nd

looping team. For the past three years she has been teaching in a dual-language setting at Harris Bilingual School in Ft. Collins.



Tamar Van Vliet is teaching 2nd grade this year as part of the 1st/2nd looping team. She has previously taught both a first/second grade combination class and a first grade class in the St. Vrain School District. She's a Boulder native and Fairview High School grad.



Jen Sfalcin is teaching Art this year after being a 4th grade teacher in the Adams 12 District. Jen attended Univer-



sity in Canada and is working on her Masters in Integrated Teaching through the Arts.

Amy Brokering is sharing the music instruction with Ms. Dubois this year. This is her first year teaching after graduating from the University of Colorado with a degree in Music Education with an emphasis on voice.



Carrie De Furio is teaching 1st grade literacy. She comes to us from Whittier where she also worked with 1st graders. Carrie spent two years in Chicago as a Americorps volunteer. She's working on her Masters in Curriculum with an emphasis on literacy.



Be sure to give a warm welcome to all our new staff!

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3130 Replier St.
Boulder, CO 80304
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FRS: 303-441-4059

September 7, 2007

September Calendar

PTA Meeting (6:30 pm-Art Room)	10
Picture Day	17
Preschool Story Hour (9:30-10:30 Library)	18
No School (Professional Development Day)	21



Picture Date Change!

The date for individual pictures has changed. Please have your child dressed and prepared for pictures on **Monday, September 17th**. Look for picture order forms and information packets in your child's Friday folder. The information will be going home on Friday, September 7th.

Columbine Wins Dual Grant With Casey

Columbine has been chosen as a Scientific and Cultural Facilities District (SCFD) Alliance Project School. The Alliance project partners with SCFD arts, cultural and science organizations in creating curriculum applications and learn-



ing opportunities for students. Seven middle schools were selected to receive a \$10,000 grant in tandem with a partner school. Casey was the primary school and Columbine will be their elementary partner. In conjunction with Casey, Columbine students will be attending performances, workshops, and field trips geared to-

wards enriching their arts and sciences education. Casey and Columbine teachers will be working together to also plan hosting guest artists and scientist and other diverse activities based on the specific needs of our schools. This is an exciting opportunity for our students. Thank you SCFD!

Welcome Back!...

Dear Parents

It is so good to see you and your children again. I hope you were able to relax and enjoy time with your children during the past few summer months.



We have the promise of an exciting year ahead of us! The decision to renovate our current building or build an entirely new building has not been made yet. Last spring after reviewing our school's needs, architects recommended that the district explore building a new school rather than re-

model and expand our current building. To build a new school would require supplementing the \$8.2 million allocated to Columbine through the 2006 bond election. Currently two efforts are underway.

- Bennett Wagner and Grody Architects are developing basic options to estimate costs for a new building.
- BVSD officials are investigating sources for funding to supplement the \$8.2 million.

We hope to know the decision in a few weeks. Regardless of the ultimate decision, Columbine parents and staff will be involved in developing specific plans.

This year we will continue our academic improvement focus on math. We will be focusing on utilizing the Add+Vantage Math assessment. The assessment provides valuable information about children's mathematical thinking and problem solving strategies. We will be able to use the information to target instruction for specific children.

The strength of our school community comes from the understanding and support of our school's parents. Thank you so very much.

Here's to another great year for Columbine children! -Lynn Widger

PTA Has Big Plans

The PTA has already started making plans for the new year. Thanks to all those who attended the *Taste of the Season* at Whole Foods. We made close to \$600 and enjoyed some delicious food. This year, we will be participating in the nationwide Reflections program as part of PTA. Reflections is a program which encourages the arts through a contest. This year's theme is "I can make a difference." Look for

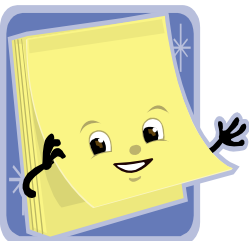
more information on this program coming home soon. The PTA will also be hosting the carnival in October, a book-fair in December and the popular Santa Shop, raffle and Mile Marathon. When we're not organizing these events we're planning extra-curricular activities, hosting workshops and keeping informed about what is happening in our school, our district and our community. Come check us out!

Mark Your Calendars!

Plan to attend our first PTA meeting of the year on Monday, September 10th @ 6:30 in the Art Room. We need to start making plans and organizing committees for the October 11th carnival. Childcare and transportation provided.



From the Office



The office would like to welcome you back to a new school year. As we begin anew we would like to remind you of a few items that will

help us make the office run smoothly. First, we often find ourselves unable to contact parents in urgent situations

because we have incorrect phone numbers. If you move or change primary phone numbers, please let the office know as soon as possible. If your emergency contacts change we need to know that too. Also, if you want to make different arrangements for after-school transportation, you need to contact the office BEFORE 2PM otherwise we may not be able to get the message to your child. Finally, our days are of-

ten busy and chaotic. We use the time after dismissal to get important projects done that demand our attention. Children that are not picked up by 3:15 cause a distraction and often require us to stay beyond our normal hours. If you can't be here by 3:15 to pick up your child please be considerate of our needs and make alternate childcare arrangements. Thanks for your cooperation, we look forward to a great year!