



Please call us with your questions:
720-561-2500

Wildcat Journal

BVSD

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A Note from Mr. Medina

Dear Columbine Families and Friends,

I hope that this newsletter finds you well. This week we celebrated Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day. This holiday always inspires me to reflect on all the work that still needs to be done so that all our children can feel safe and welcomed in the Boulder community. At Columbine, as our vision states, we want all our students to be culturally proficient so that they can thrive in a future which will be even more diverse than what it already is. A good example that I can give you is the picture from our English spelling bee. Students from various grade levels, cultural and socio-economic backgrounds, abilities, and language volunteered to participate in the bee. Throughout the event our students supported, encouraged, and cherished each other. I strongly believe that experiences such as these will serve them well in the future. Thanks to Tina Larter for organizing the event, guest pronouncers, judges, and record keepers, and teachers for promoting the event. The Bilingual Spelling bee is schedule for February 17.

-Columbine receives a B from Colorado School Grades (CSG). CSG is a coalition of 18 community organizations that use school data to assign grade levels to school in order to make rating schools more accessible to parents. While I don't endorse this practice, not because I don't feel that parents deserve the information, but because I feel that comparing schools is akin to comparing apples and oranges, right? That is not to say that every student doesn't deserve the best school experience! In fact I have dedicated much of my life to that end. My concern is that when you give a school a low grade, just as if you would to any student that does little to improve learning at the school or student level. In fact, in some ways it works in the opposite way. The good news is that Columbine met the qualifications to be endorsed with a B, and what is most important is that our staff is committed to continuing to provide the best education possible for all of our students. CSG's website is www.ColoradoSchoolGrades.com. Within it there are many recommendations, school comparisons, and resources that are worth looking at.

-Assessment season begins at Columbine- Currently we are in the process of assessing our students who are learning English as a second Language using the Colorado English Language Assessment (CELA) test. In February, we start with our Third Graders testing them using the Colorado Assessment Program (CSAP) and finish with 4th, and 5th later in the winter and early spring. We are also doing our mid-year benchmarks which will allow us to make instructional decisions for the rest of the year. In an article called *What Kind of Parent Involvement Helps Children the Most?* by Patte-Barth in the American School Board Journal states that the following parent actions are highly correlated with student achievement:

- Monitoring Homework
- Making sure children get to school
- Rewarding their efforts
- Taking up the idea of going to college

School Accountability Committee

NEW mailbox located in the office!

EMAIL: ColumbineSAC@gmail.com



English Spelling Bee Participants did an amazing job. We celebrate these students for taking a risk and for their extra effort.



Our 5th graders demonstrated their growth as performers during the 5th grade instrumental concert.

Columbine's Vision: Columbine's vision is to provide a bilingual learning community that nurtures academic excellence for all students and encourages each of them to achieve their full potential as emerging responsible citizens with the strength of character to take on the challenges of the 21st century.



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