



# SANCHEZ INTERNATIONAL DRAGON'S TALE

2011/2012

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## November

1/Tues School Name Change Meeting—6:00 p.m.  
 4/Fri Food Bag Pick up—2:00-3:00 p.m.  
 4/Fri Lost and Found Items will be donated to Sister Carmen  
 4/Fri End of 1st Trimester  
 7/Mon Sister Carmen On-Site Case Management—11:30-2:30 p.m.  
 8/Tues PTA Meeting—5:30 p.m.  
 10/Thurs Flu Shot Clinic  
 11/Fri **NO SCHOOL—Veteran's Day**  
 17/Thurs Picture Retakes  
 18/Fri IB Assembly—8:15-9:00 a.m.  
 18/Fri Community Café—9:00 a.m.  
 18/Fri Report Cards go Home  
 21-25 **NO SCHOOL—THANKSGIVING BREAK**  
 28/Mon Vision and Hearing Screening—K,1st,2nd,3rd,5th (Not 4th Grade)  
 28/Mon Open Enrollment Window Begins



## December

2/Fri Food Bag Pick Up—2:00-3:00 p.m.  
 6/Tues School Tour—1:30-2:30 p.m.  
 8/Thurs Coffee with the Principal—9:00 a.m.  
 8/Thurs 1st Block Dragon Discovery Ends  
 12/Mon Sister Carmen On-Site Case Management—11:30-2:30 p.m.  
 13/Tues PTA Meeting—5:30 p.m.  
 15/Thurs 2nd Grade Concert—6:30 p.m.  
 16/Fri IB Assembly—8:15-9:00 a.m.  
 16/Fri Community Cafe—9:00 a.m.  
 Dec. 19-Jan. 2 **WINTER BREAK—NO SCHOOL**  
 Jan. 3/Tues **NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS—Professional Development Day**  
 Jan. 4/Wed School Resumes for Students

Dear Sanchez Families,

It is hard to believe that we are one third of the way into the school year. It seems as though back to school was just a few weeks ago. Well, we have really settled into the school year and hopefully you have too. We have a lot going on here at Sanchez and we are very excited to share our progress and changes with you. This newsletter is packed with information and good news about our school. Enjoy!

This month I want to take the opportunity to discuss school accountability with you. The current status of education in the United States is very much in a state of change and Colorado is taking the lead on these changes. All of the ways we have done school ratings, school improvement planning and goal setting in the past have changed dramatically. Nationally, the current government is re-evaluating the No Child Left Behind Act and proposing a reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act. There is a shift toward student growth, which is good. Students *should* make adequate yearly progress every year in order to continue to improve in their academic achievement. The way that we can measure this progress is through student academic growth measures. The state provides us with data that tells us the Measurable Student Growth (MSG) of every student who takes the Colorado state assessment test (formerly known as the CSAP), grades 3-5. The chart below shows how Sanchez fared compared to the district and the state of Colorado in student growth. School Growth Summary Chart:

	Sanchez	BVSD	Colorado
Math	59	54	50
Writing	57	58	50
Reading	41	53	50

A median growth percentile of 50 means that the students in the school are “growing” or making academic progress at the same pace with all the students in the state of Colorado. A median percentile score of less than 50 means that the school is making progress at a slower rate than the state and above 50 means that the school is making progress at a higher rate than the state. As you can see from the chart, our students are making very good progress in math and writing, but lagging behind in reading.

Each year as part of our requirement to the state of Colorado, we are asked to share our school improvement goals and plans with our school community. Our focus this year is on improving our reading proficiency and growth. We have committed to ensuring that all students are being taught grade level standards first and to monitor their progress towards proficiency more frequently. We have also committed to differentiate our instruction for the students above or below grade level to make sure that their needs are being met as well. Our school is participating in a district supported Comprehensive Literacy Lab where teachers will be able to observe best practices in each other’s classrooms, participate in school embedded professional development and hone their literacy instructional skills.

We are dedicated to improving our reading achievement as a school, but we need your help too. You can ensure that your child is reading every night and reading books that are “just right” to improve fluency and accuracy. You can talk to your child’s teacher for ideas on how to help at home. If your child is below grade level, you can ensure that he/she is enrolled in our extended day Literacy Academy and that he/she comes to every session.

If you would like additional information regarding school accountability and our school goals, please contact the school office. If you would like to be a part of our School Accountability Committee, please contact me. We really do appreciate parent input and want your ideas for how to continue to improve our school.

In Partnership,  
Doris Candelarie, Ph.D.



Remember, PTA meetings are the second Tuesday of every month from 5:30-6:30 in the school library. Free child care and snacks are provided. We would love to see everyone at the meetings. Come and share your ideas and help make our school great!

3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders, keep your eyes out for upcoming information for the school Spelling Bee!! Practice words and information will be coming soon. Start practicing early. The winner of the school contest will move on to the district Spelling Bee and could potentially go all the way to the National Bee. So practice that spelling!! Also, there will be information coming about a Spell-a-thon fundraiser in connection with the Spelling Bee, a fun and easy way to raise money to help pay for field trips, books, and other items for the school.

Thanks to all the parents who work so hard for our school by volunteering, coming to school and helping in the classroom and everything you do. All the little things really add up to make a big difference in our student's lives. If you're looking for a way to get involved, come to a PTA meeting or contact any PTA member, we'll be happy to help you find where you can help!

## COUNSELOR'S CORNER

The staff here at Alicia Sanchez Elementary care about the safety and happiness of all children. We are currently



transitioning away from the Bully-proofing strategies into a more IB focus on building a Caring Community in our school. One of our goals this year is to teach skills that involve treating others kindly. All staff members will be promoting, teaching and reinforcing the skills throughout the school day.

Our goal with this program is to create a caring and supportive community of children and adults, where students want to be "on time, safe and ready to learn."

We want to focus on four key themes throughout the year:  
 Knowing and Liking Myself  
 Understanding and Managing Feelings  
 Making and Keeping Friends  
 Participating in and Contributing to a Caring Community

Currently, your children are learning how to *Understand and Manage Feelings*. Early childhood is a time when children start to identify their own feelings and the feelings of others. It takes time and practice, but the effort is well worth it. Below are some of the ideas and skills we are teaching your child about feelings and about managing them in a safe way. Please help us continue the learning at home.

### What Are Feelings?

- Everyone has feelings.
- Some feelings: happy, sad, angry, frustrated, scared, excited, stressed, and relaxed.

### All feelings are okay and are important.

- How Do People Express Feelings?
- Say, "I feel \_\_\_\_\_."
- Show it on your face.

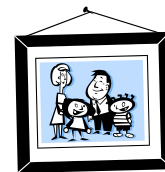
### How Can I Manage My Feelings?

- When you are feeling frustrated STOP and CALM your body.
- Take three *deep* breaths – at Sanchez, we ask students to take soup bowl breaths – ask them to show this to you.
- Walk away and find something else to do
- Countdown in your head

### How You Can Help at Home?

1. Model these skills by using them yourself.
2. Encourage your child to label his or her feelings. Ask, "How do you feel?" In the beginning, you may need to offer, "You look (angry); is that how you feel?" Thank your child for telling you how he or she feels.
3. When reading books to your children ask them how they think a character in the book feels. Talk with your child about the character's feelings ("Why do you think he feels that way?").

Our Caring Community will be most effective if everyone involved in the life of your child shares the belief that caring and kindness are important. Please join us by talking to your child about the importance of friendship, caring for one another, and that feelings (good or bad) are normal. By working together we will be able to create the best opportunity for the future well-being of all children.



## Community Café

Would you like to get to know other Sanchez International families? Are you interested in chatting with parents and school staff in a more social setting? Then please join us for our second monthly Community Café! The Community Café is a relaxed social get-together where parents can meet and mingle with Sanchez staff over coffee and pastries. No need to register, just drop by the library and check it out on November 18 at 9:00 a.m. after the IB assembly. Little ones are welcome and translators are available ☺

## Students Win Awards and Prizes for being at School, On-time, Ready to Learn!!!

Your student can be a Golden Dragon for perfect attendance and no office discipline referrals!!! If they are sick or have an appointment, call the attendance line at 720-561-7302, and have your student excused so they can be a Silver Dragon!!! Students who are on-time can win a coveted lottery seat at the On-Time Table, a restaurant style table with all the fixings!

## Sister Carmen @Sanchez

Did you know that Sister Carmen Community Center and Sanchez have a special partnership that stems back to the friendship between our two namesakes. Both women were amazing leaders in social justice long before either the school or the nonprofit were founded. We have two amazing projects to support our families as they work to help their students be the best they can be!

**Sister Carmen provides on-site case management at Sanchez** for new or current families who would like assistance in solving issues they are challenged with, such as utilities, food, medical, housing, etc. Please contact Ashley at 720-561-7347 or return the flyer in your child's Friday Folder to reserve an appointment slot. The next intake days are November 7, 11:30-2:30 and December 12, 11:30-2:30.

## **Sister Carmen Food Outreach Project**

Have you found it hard to get to the new location to get your food? Are you finding that more food to feed your family would be a positive service? Our new program encourages families to come to the Sanchez Family Resource Center to pick up food orders of additional nonperishable items. It's easy to sign up, just complete the Food Bag Friday Folder Flyer and return it to the school. Every family that returns their bag every month will be eligible for food. All bags are labeled with a number, not a name, for confidentiality and alternative locations for pick up can be arranged. This month, food pick up is November 4th., 2:00-3:00 p.m.

Volunteers who would like to help these and other partnership programs are strongly encouraged to talk to the front office. As a community we are always better together!

## Flu Shot Clinic @ Sanchez

The Boulder County Health Department has teamed up with us to offer a flu shot clinic on November 10<sup>th</sup>. Please complete the Friday Folder paperwork ASAP for you, your student or ANY family member (grandparents and babies included) to receive a free, low cost or Medicaid covered flu shot to help keep from getting sick this season.

## SAVE THE DATE/ Share-a-Gift and Holiday Bike Give-Away

Are you wondering how to help make the holidays happy for the little ones in your life? The Share-A-Gift program will be held at a soon to be disclosed location on Saturday, December 17. Either visit their website [www.shareagift.org](http://www.shareagift.org) or watch for the flyer coming home soon. Also, Community Cycles is having a holiday Bike Give-Away at Boulder Indoor Cycling, 3550 Frontier in Boulder on December 18 from 9-11:00 a.m. Stop by their office at 2805 Wilderness Place, Suite 1000 from 12-6:00 p.m. Monday-Sunday, closed Wednesday, with any questions.

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