

ARAPAHOE CAMPUS

THE BUZZ

HIGH SCHOOL



NOVEMBER 2008
 6600 E. ARAPAHOE RD.
 BOULDER 80303

OFFICE LINE 303.447.5220
 ATTENDANCE LINE 303.447.5036
 FAX LINE 303.447.5258

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

Dear Parents, Students and Staff:

We have been in school for nine weeks, where does the time go? We had a wonderfully successful parent/teacher night in October and several of you were also able to visit with both the high school teachers and the Tec teachers. Twice a year the high school and Tec share conference night for the convenience of parents and students. The second time that we will share the night will be in March, *save the date*. In the meantime, the high school will continue to have conferences monthly. Please also note that we have several interpreters available for Spanish speaking families.

I am also pleased to announce that more parents have inquired about becoming involved in the School Improvement Team and district wide committees to represent Arapahoe Campus. This group will be the

main parent group for communications with the architects as we move forward on our bond project. On behalf of our school, I would like to personally thank Walter Melara for volunteering to represent us on the District Accountability Committee. Parents are extremely important to our community!



If you would like to volunteer to serve on a committee where you can give input, we would be happy to hear from you. By volunteering you are truly helping our students and teachers and community.

We will be announcing our senior advisors in our next

month's newsletter. In the near future we will also be contacting families to let you know how you may get involved with this important celebration. I hope you take advantage of this opportunity; the graduation and White Rose Ceremonies are always extremely memorable events.

As always I invite all of you to visit the campus and invite friends too. There will be an Open House for our technical programs, November 1 and December 6 from 8-11:30 A.M. Feel free to stop in to browse around and perhaps even have your student choose early for

next year's Tec registration. Slots fill up quickly, ACT NOW! You may contact me, personally any time 303-447-5245.

Sincerely,

Joan Bludorn
 Principal/Director
 Arapahoe Campus

NEWS

Don't forget
 to set your
 clocks back on
 November 2!



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

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COUNSELING CORNER WITH MR. AKIYAMA

“ANOTHER GREAT RESOURCE FOR PARENTS AND STUDENTS IS: WWW.COLLEGEINCOLORADO.ORG. ON THIS WEB SITE YOU WILL FIND INFORMATION ON BOTH CAREERS AND COLLEGES.”

First Quarter ended October 17, 2008, and students began their second quarter classes October 20. Report cards were mailed home and we ask that you pay particular attention to your student's credits. Students should have earned the full 5 credits for any course satisfactorily completed, if not, he/she will need to repeat the course if more than 2 credits were lost or will have make up the credits (a maximum of 2 credits) in a retrieval course in future quarters. If you did not receive your son/daughter's report card, please contact Martha Romero in the Registrar's Office, 303-447-5268.

Juniors took the PSAT test this week! Parents, thank you for your support with this test and for encouraging the students to take this test. Way to go students!

The PLAN test (pre ACT) will be given to sophomores on the Arapahoe Campus Wednesday, November 12 beginning at 7:50 A.M. in the Career Development Center. The cost

to take the PLAN test is \$12.00. We have a limited number of tests, so the first 20 students who sign-up and pay will have the opportunity to take this beneficial test. Students can sign up to take the PLAN with Mary Parrish in the main office. If you have any questions, please contact Larry Akiyama, counselor, at 303-447-5229.

Note: Sophomore parents, this is one test that will really help your son/daughter prepare to take the State ACT which all juniors have to take in April of their junior year. Please encourage your child to sign up and take the PLAN this year.

Seniors that are considering attending a 4 year college may want to retake the ACT test or take the SAT test. Please contact me for registration deadlines. Also, ACT and SAT have websites with registration and test information.

ACT: www.act.org

SAT: www.collegeboard.com

Another great resource for parents and students is: www.CollegeInColorado.org. On this web site you will find information on both careers and colleges. In addition, there are career inventories/surveys; test preparation; scholarship information; ACT and SAT Practice tests, along with the practice ACCU-PLACER test that most community colleges use for the placement of new students into courses their first semester. Check it out; it is not only for college bound students.

Parents of Seniors: I have met with most of the seniors this past month. If your son or daughter has not talked with me, it is still not too late. Please contact Mary Parrish to make an appointment. Graduation time will be here before you know! If you are concerned about whether or not your son or daughter will be graduating, please call and set up a time for us to meet. My number is: 303-447-5229.

ARHS SOCCER AFICIONADOS PLAY FOR ARAPAHOE CUP



Arapahoe Campus has entered its second year of Fall Intramural Soccer games. Organized by social studies teacher Mr. Ryan, the soccer intramurals encourage activity and fun for both students and teachers. This year, there are six teams playing:

- The Benitas Players
- Together V.M.L.E
- The Kids Stars
- Pink Panthers
- Examinators F.C.
- And, the Faculty Team

The championship game is scheduled for November 14; students who are interested in watching can cheer on their favorite team on the ARHS soccer field during lunch.

PARENT ENGAGEMENT NETWORK PRESENTS: THRIVING DURING THE TEENAGE YEARS CAN TEENS BE TRUSTED?

By Dr. Jan Hittelman

As concerns rise regarding teen substance abuse, Internet activity, text messaging, etc., many parents out of fear are “clamping down” and policing their own children. Many “experts” are recommending parents periodically search rooms, monitor cell phone use, text messaging, computer use, and Internet sites visited. Under certain circumstances, if your teen has repeatedly violated your trust, has a known substance abuse problem, or has a psychiatric disorder that requires a high level of monitoring, I would agree with this approach. I most certainly would not recommend that every parent start policing and checking up on his or her teenage child. The real challenge for parents of teens is trying to balance developing a trusting relationship with looking out for your child’s well being.

I would encourage parents to remember that most teens are not abusing substances, engaging in dangerous Internet use, text messaging, cell phone, or computer activity.

I would encourage parents to remember that most teens are not abusing substances, engaging in dangerous Internet, text messaging, cell phone, or computer activity. Most of our children deserve to be trusted. If we have difficulty calming our fears, there are far more effective and respectful ways to help ensure that our children

avoid a wide range of risk behaviors:

Engage in frequent, mutually respectful, discussions regarding these behaviors. Try and listen more than lecture. Encourage your child to share his/her point of view. There is a wealth of evidence that when parents effectively communicate their concerns regarding risk behaviors, children engage in them far less often. Based on local YRBS data, high school students are 18 times more likely to think it's wrong for someone their age to drink if they believe their parents think it's wrong.

Encourage your child to participate in the discipline plan regarding risk behaviors and consequences. This will increase the likelihood that they will take responsibility for their behavior and truly learn from their mistakes.

Give fair warning. When/if you are considering monitoring your child’s behavior, let them know the reasons that you are doing so and be honest with them about what you are going to do. Losing the element of surprise is far outweighed by losing their respect.

If your trust is violated, provide your child with opportunities, guidance and encouragement to regain your trust. As stated in last month’s Parent Corps News: “It is important to give your teen a chance to try again after a mistake. Mistakes are how we learn”.

Trying to find the right balance between trust and oversight will help ensure that we develop healthy, respectful, and lasting relationships with our children.

Dr. Michael Bradley Alert!

Dr. Michael Bradley acclaimed national speaker and author of several books, including Yes, Your Teen is Crazy!, will be in Boulder on February 27th & 28th. He will be presenting a PEN-sponsored talk as well as a parent workshop to help raise funds for September School and the Boulder Counseling Cooperative. For more information, please call (303) 443-9933.

In the months to come we will be interviewing Dr. Bradley for this column. Have a question for Dr. Mike? Please send your questions to: jan.hittelman@gmail.com.

Learn more about PEN by visiting their website at: www.parentengagementnetwork.org or by contacting Betsy Fox with the Boulder County Healthy Youth Alliance at 303-441-3981.

Dr. Jan Hittelman is a licensed psychologist and Director of Boulder Psychological Services, LLC. What's your opinion? Questions or comments for this monthly column can be sent to: 1527 Pine Street, Suite B, Boulder, CO 80302, via email to: jan.hittelman@gmail.com, or by phone: 720-217-3270.

Upcoming PEN Event:

Spirit of Culture
Interweaving
Cultural
Competency &
Assets to
Develop Thriving
Youth

Corey Jones, in
partnership with
Assets for
Colorado Youth

www.buildassets.org

November 13th,
9:00am –
12:00pm;
BVSD
Conference
Center(6500
Arapahoe,
Boulder)

November 13th,
6:30pm –
9:30pm;
New Vista High
School(700 20th
Street, Boulder)

FOCUS ON THE STUDENTS: THE BEAT GOES ON AT ARAPAHOE CAMPUS!

By Dave Pence

Who was it that said “necessity is the mother of invention”? Students in the Foundations of Art classes have learned that lesson well this past quarter using cast-off construction two by fours, discarded lumber strapping, rawhide and limited art supplies to create amazing pieces of functional art in the form of sweet-sounding wooden drums.

The project was well received by students...here’s what a few students said about the project:

“The drums are awesome! I’ve really enjoyed making something that is a work of art and something I will be able to use.” “It was hands-on and that is a good

way to learn.” “...it really got me engaged in the class.” I’m somewhat of a musician myself, so I think it’s cool being able to make drums in school.”

The project also included a great collaboration with teacher Gerome Sarasin and the TEC Construction Trades

drums from recycled materials. Art students from Arapahoe Ridge switched classes with TEC students and both learned how geometry (thanks for the help, Mr. Pulley!) can be used to create blueprints and determine blade angles as well as reinforcing safety awareness using power tools.



The local community pitched in too with Boulder Lumber Co., County Line Lumber Co., and Sutherlands Lumber Co. donating the needed materials for the project. Thank you!

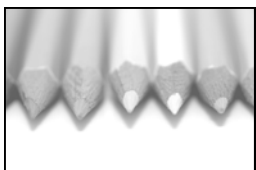
Job well done everyone!

Thanks for all your hard work and collaboration!

students who incorporated their artistic craftsmanship and problem solving skills by building their own versions of

“THE PROJECT ALSO INCLUDED A GREAT COLLABORATION WITH TEACHER GEROME SARASIN AND THE TEC CONSTRUCTION TRADES STUDENTS WHO INCORPORATED THEIR ARTISTIC CRAFTSMANSHIP AND PROBLEM SOLVING SKILLS BY BUILDING THEIR OWN VERSIONS OF DRUMS FROM RECYCLED MATERIALS.”

ART SUPPLY DRIVE AT ARHS IN FULL SWING!



Due to lack of funding, the Arapahoe Ridge HS is in need to of the following supplies:

- Small art brushes
- Pastels
- Mat board
- Colored pencils
- Drawing pencils
- Picture frames
- Mat cutter
- Adjustable easels
- Large paper cutter
- Acrylic paints
- Watercolor paper

- Drawing paper
- Charcoal pencils

Please contact Dave Pence at 303-447-5066 if you have materials and supplies to donate. Remember it’s all tax deductible!

IMPACT ON EDUCATION LAUNCHES ANIMATION CONTEST

Impact on Education launches an exciting cutting-edge animation contest.

From October 27th, 2008 through January 6, 2009 all BVSD students will have the opportunity to enter an online contest to create a multimedia animated video.

The contest has been designed by Kerpoof, a local company that produces educational software for kids, with extensive input from BVSD educators. The technology students will use to create the animations not only reinforce Impact on Education's technology focus, but meet multimedia education standards. The contest will also conform with child privacy regulations.

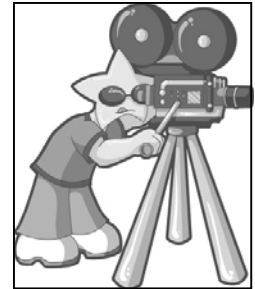
In order to engage and encourage participation in the contest from all BVSD students, Impact on Education will sponsor after-school contest clubs at schools where many students may not have computers at home. Prizes will also be awarded to schools with the highest percentage

of students participating in the contest. To access the contest site on October 27th go to ImpactonEducation.org and click on the "starhead."

Impact on Education is an independent, non-profit organization that exists to increase support for public education in Boulder Valley Public Schools (BVSD). Since 1983, the organization has raised over \$10 million to make measurable contributions to programs that create opportunities for "at-risk" students, increase student interest and learning in science, technology and math, and motivate and reward teacher excellence. To learn more, visit www.impactoneducation.org

For further information about the animation contest do not hesitate to contact

Laurie Hanson at
laurie@impactoneducation.org.



STUDENT POET'S CORNER: "OUR SAVIOR"

By Alex Dance

This poem is based on an experience that I had on my family's annual road-trip last summer.

There in the middle of nowhere,

At midnight one night

A blowout

There in the middle of nowhere

No lights in sight

No one out that night

Incorrect tools

There in the middle of nowhere

Slashed tires,

No cars on the road

Imagination running wild

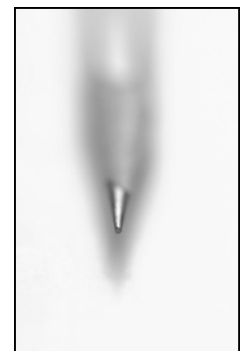
There in the middle of nowhere

Finally... someone stops

There she was...our savior

With all the tools we needed

There in the middle of nowhere



BVSD CLARIFIES RULES FOR ACCEPTANCE OF PERSONAL GIFTS BY EMPLOYEES



“CONCERNS WERE RAISED LAST YEAR THAT SOME BVSD STAFF MEMBERS DID NOT KNOW ABOUT THE DISTRICT POLICY REGARDING ACCEPTANCE OF PERSONAL GIFTS RELATED TO THEIR EMPLOYMENT.”

For several years, the Boulder Valley School District has had a policy limiting the gifts that BVSD employees can accept as a result of their administration, teaching, coaching, club sponsorship, etc. from parents, community sponsors, or vendors seeking to do business with a school or the district. Because the superintendent’s regulation supporting this policy was found to be unclear, Superintendent Chris King issued a rewritten regulation this summer (GBI-R or <http://bvsd.org/policies/Policies/GBI-R.pdf>).

Concerns were raised last year that some BVSD staff members did not know about the district policy regarding acceptance of personal gifts related to their employment. A review of existing practices in the spring of 2008 throughout BVSD found inconsistent practices and a general lack of awareness of district limitations for acceptance of personal gifts by BVSD staff.

Three major concerns underpin the new gift acceptance regulation. They are: 1) the potential for impropriety or the appearance of impropriety, 2) the creation of inequities among BVSD’s schools and departments, and 3) the lack of clarity as to tax implications given the high financial value of some of the gifts discovered.

This revised regulation *does not* ban all gifts. It *does* spell out more clearly than in the past what are acceptable gifts

to receive.

Some Examples of a gift that IS ACCEPTABLE within BVSD policy and regulation:

- Accepting clothing that qualifies as “spirit wear” e.g. sweatshirts and other clothing supporting a BVSD-affiliated activity, event or team.
- Accepting perishable items such as food or flowers e.g. a bouquet of flowers presented to a drama teacher on the closing night of a school play.
- Accepting a group gift for a major life event e.g. a wedding, the birth or adoption of a child, major illness or a death in the family, retirement, etc. In these circumstances, while the total gift may exceed \$25.00, no individual contribution may exceed that amount.
- Accepting a gift to a school or a program e.g. new music stands for a middle school jazz band, a new tree to plant to replace a tree that had to be removed, new athletic team equipment, school gardens and school cafeteria salad bars, etc.
- Accepting a ticket or tickets with a face value of more than \$25.00 if the ticket is to a BVSD-affiliated event.

Accepting tickets for travel, housing, admission or food when an employee is acting as a chaperone of a BVSD-

sponsored event or attending a professional event.

Examples of a gift that IS NOT ACCEPTABLE within BVSD policy and regulation:

- Accepting group gifts from team parents and or classroom parents that exceed a combined value of more than \$25.00 and do not fall within the specific exceptions of the regulation.
- Accepting ongoing gifts e.g. “flower of the month,” with a one-time or cumulative value of more than \$25.00.
- Accepting gifts of more than \$25.00 from an employee by a supervisor that could be misunderstood as attempting to gain preferential treatment.

Accepting a gift or cumulative gifts with a value of more than \$25.00 from a vendor currently doing business with or seeking to do business with BVSD.

BVSD leadership at both the district and school levels realizes that the desire of parents to appreciate the dedication, skill and hard work of teachers and coaches with gifts comes from a genuine spirit of generosity and appreciation. However, for the three reasons cited above, that generosity and support shown above the \$25.00 level is best expressed in support of schools and programs for the direct benefit of students.

NOTE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT: THRIVE HANDBOOKS IN HOMES

Dear Parents ~

I am pleased to tell you the new parent handbooks have gone out in the mail this week.

- If you have not received it by now, please contact our Communications Division at 303-245-5824 or communications@bvsd.org and we will mail a copy to you.

- If you receive an English copy and would prefer the Spanish version, or if you get a Spanish one and prefer it in English, please take the handbook into your school office and trade it for one in the other language. Make sure to tell the school office staff that the wrong correspondence language might be tagged on your data file in Infinite Campus.

A recent issue of Parent Corps News is attached to this newsletter. These are also available on our website at <http://bvsd.org/parents/Pages/Parent.aspx>.

We hope these resources help you to support your students as they thrive.

Many thanks,
Chris King, Superintendent



Arapahoe Campus

Boulder TEC

Open House

and

Arapahoe Ridge High

Open Enrollment Opportunity

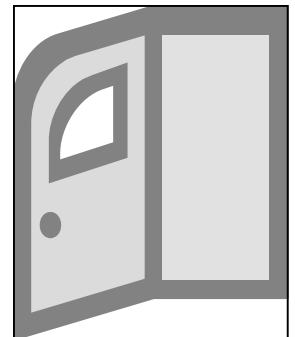
Join us for an Exciting and Hands-on look at
Career Focused Education

November 1, 2008

December 6, 2008

8:30 – 11:30 am

Education with a Difference



SPECIAL NOTICE TO PARENTS: TEACHER QUALIFICATIONS AT ALL PUBLIC SCHOOLS

To request information about a teacher's qualifications, please fill out a Teacher Qualification Request Form. These are available in your school's main office.

Whether the Colorado Department of Education has licensed or qualified the teacher for the grades and subjects s/he teaches. □ Whether the Colorado Department of Education has waived licensing requirements for the teachers because they have determined that special circumstances apply. □ The teacher's college major; whether the teacher has any advanced degrees, and if so, the subject of the degrees. □ Whether any teacher's aides or other paraprofessionals provide services to your child and, if so, their qualifications.

Under new federal law, all parents of children attending US public school districts receiving certain types of federal aid (Title I funding) have the right to know the professional qualifications of the classroom teachers who instruct their children. You are allowed to ask for certain information about your child's classroom teacher(s), and the school is required to provide this information in a timely manner if you ask for it. Specifically, you have the right to ask for the following information about each of your child's classroom teachers:

Boulder Valley School District's staff already largely meets and exceeds the new requirements. We have an exceptionally well-qualified

cadre of teachers, who on average have over 12 years of teaching experience. Over half our teachers hold advanced degrees. Our paraprofessionals are also a highly experienced group, with educational credentials generally exceeding the standard, and many possessing other special skills as well.

Newly enacted federal laws have created higher standards for teacher qualifications in public schools across the United States. The US Department of Education now defines



minimum standards for the education and licensing of teachers, and requires that local school districts work with their staff to insure that all teachers of core subjects meet the federal definition of "highly qualified" by 2005-2006.

(Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), reauthorized January, 2002 as "No Child Left Behind")

Requirements Under Federal Law

Please do not contact teachers, the principal or other school staff to request information about teacher qualifications, as they do not have immediate access to personnel records. To insure that fair and uniform information is provided, all requests for information about teacher qualifications will be processed by the Boulder Valley School District's Department of Human Resources. They will provide written information by mail within 30 days of receiving a request. The HR Department cannot provide this information over

the telephone, nor will they respond to anonymous requests. The teacher in question and the principal of his/her school will be notified that information regarding qualifications has been requested and given to a parent, and provided with the same information supplied to the parent; however, the teacher and principal

will NOT be given the name of the parent requesting information.

For further information on these new federal policies, the websites listed below may be helpful: <http://www.ed.gov/offices/OESE/esea/progrsum> http://www.nsb.org/cosa/Hot_topics/nclba.htm

"BOULDER VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT'S STAFF ALREADY LARGELY MEETS AND EXCEEDS THE NEW REQUIREMENTS . WE HAVE AN EXCEPTIONALLY WELL-QUALIFIED CADRE OF TEACHERS, WHO ON AVERAGE HAVE OVER 12 YEARS OF TEACHING EXPERIENCE.."

BPS COMMUNITY PARTNERS PRESENT:
PATHWAYS TO PARENTING SUCCESS
A FREE LECTURE SERIES

Mondays from 7:00 to 8:30pm

Meadows Branch Library 4800 Baseline Road (Behind Safeway)

11/03/08 – Surviving and Thriving after Divorce

Jamie Lau / Dr. Paula Schild / Wendy Conquest, LPC

11/10/08 - HOPE Event: Successfully Navigating Depression

Panelists: HOPE Coalition of Boulder County (HopeCoalitionBoulder.org)

11/17/08 – Understanding Stress and How to Manage It Effectively

Ann Kloos, LCSW / Elizabeth Matthews, LPC / Dr. Jan Hittelman

12/01/08 - Substance Abuse: What You Need to Know

Ann Kloos, LCSW / Linda Cain, MEd / Wendy Conquest, LPC

12/08/08 - Understanding & Dealing with Depression/Bipolar Disorder

Ann Kloos, LCSW / Dr. Leland Johnston / Dr. Teresa Mayer / Wendy Conquest, LPC

12/15/08 - Communicating Effectively with Your Teen

Harmony Barrett-Isaacs, MA / Karen Wilding, LCSW / Marcela Ot' alora, LPC / Stuart Marshall, LPC

For more in-
formation,
please visit:
BoulderP-



formation,



ARAPAHOE CAMPUS HIGH SCHOOL

6600 E. Arapahoe Rd
Boulder, CO 80301
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Fax: 303.447.5258
Attendance Line 303.447.5036

“The Best Alternative”

WE'RE ON THE WEB AT:
HTTP://
WWW.BVSD.ORG/
SCHOOLS/ARAPAHOE/

Newsletter Editor: Jenifer Farrell
jenifer.farrell@bvsd.org

IMPORTANT CALENDAR DATES NOVEMBER 2008

November 2

Daylight Savings Ends—Set Clocks
Back

November 11

Veterans Day —
No School for Staff or Students

November 13

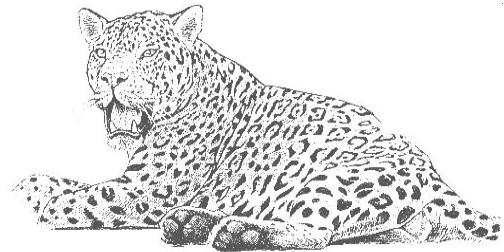
Teacher Conferences
3:15-6:30

November 17

Response to Intervention (RtI) Parent
Forum, BVSD Ed Center
6:30

November 24—28

Thanksgiving Break—
No School for Students



A REMINDER FROM THE ARAPAHOE CAMPUS ATTENDANCE OFFICE:

Students will not be excused for tardies in the morning or throughout the day. Tardies due to physician appointments will be excused only with a note from that physician. The date must match the date of the tardy or absence.

Absences due to illness are excused, however, after 3 days of illness; a physician's note must be presented to the attendance office. Please feel free to contact the attendance office if you have any questions at 303.447.5036. Please press 1 for Boulder TEC and ARHS attendance.