



SCHOOL INFORMATION

Community Montessori Office	720-561-3700
805 Gillaspie Dr	
Boulder, 80305	
FAX	720-561-3701
Attendance Line	720-561-5408
SAC	720-561-3777
Transportation	720-561-5125 (Boulder)
	720-561-5126 (Lafayette)
Web Site:	http://schools.bvsd.org/communitymontessori/
E-mail addresses:	marlene.skovsted@bvsd.org , Principal
	rosa.invernizze@bvsd.org , Bilingual Liaison
	kathy.kinney@bvsd.org , Principal's Assistant



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

March 16 & 17	-----	Parent/Teacher Conferences – 3:00 – 7:00 PM
March 21 – 29	-----	No School – Spring Break
April 5	-----	Public Forum – Principal Search – 6:00 – 7:30 PM
April 7	-----	Parent Ed – Transition – 6:00 – 7:00 PM
April 14	-----	SAC/PTA Meeting – 5:30 – 7:30 PM
April 16	-----	Sock Hop/Auction – 4:00 – 7:00 PM
April 29	-----	No School – Professional Development Day
May 6	-----	Volunteer Appreciation Tea – 8:00 – 9:00 AM
May 11	-----	Elementary Field Day – 8:45–10:45 AM – rain date 5/18
May 12	-----	SAC/PTA Meeting – 5:30 – 7:30 - PM
May 20	-----	Retirement Celebration for Marlene – 5:00 PM
May 25	-----	5 th Grade Continuation – 9:30 AM
May 25	-----	Report Cards Home
May 26	-----	Last Day of School – End of Year Picnic 11:30 AM

COLLABORATION TIME INITIATIVE IN BVSD

Collaboration Time: A New Initiative in BVSD for 2011-12

As we plan for Collaboration Time in BVSD, it's important to note that many school districts across the nation are implementing a common time for educators to meet beyond the student instructional day to build shared knowledge of

- State standards
- District curriculum
- Assessment results
- Criteria used to communicate the "target" students are expected to reach and measure student progress toward that target
- Monitoring for student progress and responding to learning challenges and learning extensions

The purpose of Collaboration Time is to engage in conversations that improve teaching and learning. All staff commit to improved student achievement and sustaining high-performing schools.

As the most current developers of this practice, Richard DuFour and Rebecca DuFour state on their website <http://www.allthingsplc.info>, that in order to have **effective** collaborative time, teachers

- Are organized into collaborative teams by course or subject area. Members of teams work interdependently to achieve common goals for which they are mutually accountable.
- Are provided with time to collaborate during their contractual day.
- Use their collaborative time to engage in collective inquiry regarding issues directly related to student learning.
- Focus on results by identifying SMART goals that are aligned with one or more school goals, address student learning and require evidence of improved student learning in order to be accomplished.
- Gather evidence of student learning from a variety of sources to inform and improve their individual and collective practice.
- Receive frequent feedback regarding the success of his or her students in achieving standard using agreed-upon assessments in comparison to the other students attempting to achieve the same standard.

Currently in BVSD, two high schools, three middle schools and two elementary schools are engaging in Collaboration Time. Next year, all staffs and communities will design when that time will occur at their school.

We will be publishing information on the BVSD website www.bvsd.org Learning and Equity in BVSD webpage about this important initiative on a regular basis. Stay tuned!

OPENINGS FOR THREE-YEAR-OLDS:

Please help us to get the word out regarding the optimal entry-age at Community Montessori. Every year we have openings for children who will be three by September 30th of the coming year. Application generally happens during the open enrollment period (November through January) of the prior year. This open enrollment timeline is a difficult concept for families to understand as often their child is only two years of age during the OE period! The fact is, if families know to apply before the child's three-year-old school year, there will be little problem getting into the school. **At this time, there are still openings for three-year-olds for the 2011-2012 School Year, and we do not have a waitlist at this level. If a family applies now, they have a VERY GOOD chance of getting in.** Entry at all other ages, however, is much more difficult and more unpredictable as it totally depends on children leaving the school and then those few openings are first filled with siblings. We have so few openings at other ages because children start at age 3 and stay in the school until 5th grade. Thank you for your help in spreading the word.



TAMALES-MAKING FUNDRAISER

On Saturday, February 26, CM Latino parents spent their day making 84 dozen (that's over a thousand!) tamales to raise funds to contribute to our school PGC campaign. 14 families donated ingredients, time, and talent to this effort. **A huge thank you** to: Araceli Gálvez and Manuel Delgado, Erika and Alex Rodriguez and Alicia Ordáz (Grandma), Alicia Gurrola and Jesús Leyva, Marlen Arellano and Josué Delgado, Gustavo and Eliana Gómez, Adriana and Yuri Villavicencio, Norma and Martín Nuñez, Olga Castorena and Roque Meza, Luisa Rentería and Lupe Corchado, Olga Cabrales y Jorge Valenzuela, Olivia Delgado and Francisco Arias, Rosa Invernizze, Nadia and Luis Herrera, Araceli Manzo, Cristina and Guillermo Muñoz, Verónica Olguin, Lilia Ramíres and Santiago Arispe, Silvia Favela, and Gloria Vera and Humberto Rivero. All who had the opportunity to purchase the tamales agree, they are/were delicious!



MUSIC CLASS NEWS



LOWER ELEMENTARY MUSIC PERFORMANCES: An Earth Day Celebration!

The Lower Elementary classes will be performing songs, dances and instrumental pieces in celebration of Earth Day on Tuesday, April 26 during the school day.

Dress for the performance is nicer than everyday clothing with dark pants/skirts for everyone and green shirts for Christina's & Sarah O's classes, yellow shirts for Jenny & Holly's classes, and blue shirts for Sarah C.'s class.

The schedule of performances are as follows:

8:30 Christina, Jenny & Sarah C's classes

9:30 Sarah O. & Holly's classes

Please mark your calendars!!

Thanks so much for the CU Theatre Opera Singers performance for Upper Elementary Classes on January 10, 2011. So many students stated that they thought opera was not something they would like, but now they are wanting to see more of it! The performances were exceptional and we were so grateful that the University of Colorado, School of Music has the time and resources to share their talents with us!

Thanks also to Humberto and Gloria Rivero for sharing their talent for Venezuelan folk music on February 10, 2011. There was beautiful singing, playing of the cuatro (which is a small guitar-like instrument), and wonderful rhythms of the maracas. Humberto and Gloria, the parents of Esteban and Pablo, encouraged students to join in on the rhythms of the maracas and some were brave enough to jump in and play. We are so fortunate to have such talent in our parent community!

Bullying—how can students and adults help stop it?!

What Can Students and Youth Do to “Lend a Hand?”

Bullying happens when someone hurts or scares another person on purpose. The person being bullied has a hard time defending himself or herself. Usually, bullying happens over and over. Sometimes bullying is easy to notice, such as with hitting or name-calling, and other times it’s hard to see, such as with leaving a person out or saying mean things behind someone’s back. Both boys and girls bully, and both boys and girls get bullied. Bullying is not fair, and it hurts.

What do YOU do when you see someone being bullied at school?

• Ask yourself, “Is it my job to help?” Think about how YOU might feel if the bullying was happening to you. You and other kids can lend a hand, even when you aren’t close friends with the kids who are bullied. Your school will be a better place if you help stop bullying. And making your school a better place is EVERYONE’S job!

What can I do?

- Lots of things! Think about what may work for you:
- Don’t just stand there. . . SAY SOMETHING!
- Kids who bully may think they’re being funny or “cool.” If you feel safe, tell the person to STOP the bullying behavior. Say you don’t like it and that it isn’t funny.
- DON’T BULLY BACK! It won’t help if you use mean names or actions, and it could make things worse.

What if I don’t feel safe telling a bully to stop?

- That’s okay.
- No one should put themselves in an unsafe situation. How ELSE can you lend a hand when bullying happens?
- Say kind words to the child who is being bullied, such as “I’m sorry about what happened,” and “I don’t like it!” Help them understand that it’s not his or her fault. Be a friend. Invite that student to do things with you, such as sit together at lunch or work together on a project. EVERYONE NEEDS A FRIEND!
- Tell the student who is being bullied to talk to someone about what happened. Offer to help by going along.
- Pay attention to the other kids who see the bullying. (These people are called “bystanders.”) Are any of them laughing or joining in with the bullying? If yes, these kids are part of the problem. Let those students know that they’re not helping! DON’T be one of them!
- Tell an adult. (This is IMPORTANT!!)
- Chances are, the kid who is being bullied needs help from an adult. The kid who is doing the bullying probably does, too. Often, the bullying does not get reported. But, who should you tell? Think about who you could tell in your school:
- Teacher (which one would you talk to?),
- School counselor,
- Cafeteria or Playground Aid,
- School nurse,
- Principal,
- Bus driver, or
- Other adults you feel comfortable telling. If you need help telling, take a friend along. These and other materials are available online at: www.stopbullyingnow.hrsa.gov

Why don't some kids tell when they see bullying?

- They may not want others to think they are “tattling.”
- They may be afraid that the kids who bully will pick on them next.
- They may think that their friends will make fun of them for trying to help. Telling is very important! Reporting that someone is getting bullied or hurt in some other way is NOT “tattling.” Adults at school can help. Ask them to help keep you safe after telling. Explain to your friends that bullying is NOT fair and encourage them to join in helping!

What if the bullying doesn't happen at school?

- If there is an adult around, report the bullying to an adult (your youth group leader, minister, or sports coach).
- No matter where the bullying happens, you should talk to your parents about bullying that you see or know about. Ask them for their ideas about how to help.

We ALL must do our part! Kids who are bullied deserve to feel safe and welcome at school and in their neighborhoods. All kids do! TAKE A STAND. LEND A HAND. STOP BULLYING NOW! Check out other activities at www.stopbullyingnow.hrsa.gov for more ideas about how you can “lend a hand” to stop bullying.

References Olweus, D. (1993). *Bullying At School: What We Know and What We Can Do*. Cambridge, MA: Blackwell Publishers, Inc.

UPDATES



👉 Attached be sure to find **Childcare Forms** for both the **Principal Forum on Tuesday, April 5th** and for the **Parent Ed Transition on Thursday, April 7th**.

👉 Reminder – **Transition Parent input forms are due by April 11th**. (Current K's & 3rds)

👉 **St. Balderick's is coming! Mark your calendars!**

Saturday, March 12th—Celestial Seasonings Campus—10:00am

Thursday, March 17th—Centennial Middle School—5:30pm

The St. Balderick's foundation funds cancer research for curing childhood cancers. Feel free to contact: Tracy Heiman at: tintheiman@midairdesign.com, 303-415-9895 for further information or questions.

👉 To nominate a teacher for the 2011 Jared Polis Foundation Teacher Recognition Award, go to <http://www.jaredpolisfoundation.org/TR>

👉 **Did you know?** Many uninsured children qualify for free or low cost health insurance. Boulder County is part of an initiative to make sure all children who qualify for Medicaid or Child Health Plan *Plus* (CHP+) are enrolled. If you have children who are not insured and would like them to call you about getting your children enrolled please sign here and they'll give you a call. You can also email them at BCHK@bouldercounty.org.

Name _____

Phone Number _____



👉 What's going on during Spring Break and on No-School Days? BVSD's Lifelong Learning Program has many fun and creative opportunities. Space is limited, so please register early.

Spring Break Camps and No School Day Camps:

Intro to Bouldering Spring Break Climbing Camp

Time: 9:30am – noon or 1:00 – 3:30pm

Date: March 21- 25 Location: The Spot Bouldering Gym

Techno Explorers for Girls and Boys Ages 8-12

Time: 8:00am – 3:30pm

Date: March 21 – 25 Location: YWCA, Boulder

Spring Break Art Camp

Time: 9:00am – noon ages 6-8 and 1:30 – 4:30 ages 9-12

Date: March 21- 24 Location: Community Montessori

Video Genius for Boys and Girls

Time: 8:00am – 3:30pm

Date: March 28 & 29 Location: YWCA, Boulder

Digital Wizardry

Time: 8:30am – 3:30pm

Date: April 29 Location: YWCA, Boulder

And Horseplay begins on April 16 and 17! For more information about classes and locations, visit our Web site at www.bvsd.org/lll or call the Lifelong Learning Registrar 720-561-3768.

Community Montessori

CHILDREN FIRST TRAFFIC SAFETY TIP

Always drive Slowly and Be Patient.

Allow plenty of time for drop-off and
pick-up.

WE ARE ALL RESPONSIBLE FOR KEEPING EVERY CMS CHILD SAFE.

THANKS FOR YOUR COOPERATION.

If you use primary curbside drop-off & pick-up

Please follow these additional safety procedures:

- **Drive slowly and be patient.**
- **Pull as far forward as possible.**
- **While in line stay in your car and inch forward as the line moves along.**
 - Do not leave your car to go get your child.
 - Do not leave your car to walk your child into the building or for any reason.
- **Please park your car in a designated spot if you need to leave it.**
- **We prefer that you do not pass. But if you must, proceed slowly and come to a complete stop at the cross walk.**
- **Children should always enter and exit vehicle on the sidewalk side.**
- **After being dismissed to you, your child MUST be physically with you at all times.**
- **PLEASE take your conversations out of the parking lots.**

Thank You.

Parent Engagement Network presents:
Thriving During the Elementary Years
Reading and School Success
By Dr. Jan Hittelman

Everyone has strengths and weaknesses. Whether it's intellectual abilities, visual and auditory processing skills, or physical abilities, we all have areas of strength and areas of challenge. For elementary-age children, this is also the case in terms of academic skills. While some children excel in mathematics, others may exhibit strengths in writing. The most important academic skill, however, is reading. Reading is central to all subjects and by third grade reading level has been shown to correlate with a variety of outcomes including academic success, vocational opportunities, and college attendance. It is always sad to see a young child with reading problems who enjoys and excels in math, be robbed of that success with the introduction of math word problems that require reading ability.

We also know that parental involvement correlates with school success. A meta-analysis of 77 studies found that parents who were highly involved in their child's education, positively impacted overall education outcomes, grades, and academic achievement (Harvard Family Research Project, 2005). Furthermore, when they looked at specific components of parental involvement, reading with your child emerged as one of the most important factors. Given that parents are usually not trained in reading instruction, what is the best approach in helping your child to learn how to be a strong reader, particularly if they are already having reading challenges?

To learn more about effective parenting strategies to help your child become a strong reader, bring your elementary-age child, a fun book, and participate in the next Pathways to Parenting Success workshop:

What: Strengthening Reading Confidence and Skills

When: Monday, March 14, 7:00-8:30pm

Where: Meadows Branch Library (4800 Baseline Road, Boulder)

Facilitator: Iris Lee, Director, Dreamcatcher Direct Instruction Centers

Cost: FREE

More info: www.BPSBoulder.com

Learn more about PEN by visiting their website: www.parentengagementnetwork.org or by contacting Paula Nelson, PEN chair (pjn6225@yahoo.com, 303-880-6030) or Betsy Fox, PEN Lead Coach, (foxbetsy123@msn.com, 720-563-7007).

Dr. Jan Hittelman, a licensed psychologist, is Director of Boulder Psychological Services and the Founder of the Boulder Counseling Cooperative. Questions or comments for this monthly column can be sent via email to: jan.hittelman@gmail.com, or by phone: 720-217-3270

Do you want to be involved in choosing your new Principal?

*Please attend the Community Forum on **Tuesday, April 5th from 5:45 - 7:30 PM.***

The three final candidates will be at the forum to answer your questions. From 5:45 - 6 PM you will have a chance to review resumes of the 3 candidates. Translation will be available.

At 6 PM, you will be allowed to write your questions down on note cards. Your questions must be addressed to all three candidates, or they will not be chosen. Von Sheppard, Assistant Superintendent, will moderate and ask the questions from our note cards. Each candidate will give their answers to the entire audience. There is limited time so not all questions will be addressed.

At 7:30 the forum will end and you will be given a Feedback Form. On this form, you will rank each candidate in order of preference and also write your comments for each of them. The district takes your input very seriously!

Childcare will be provided from 5:45 - 7:45 PM. Children will not be allowed to run around in the gym during the forum

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Sarah Lee at sarah-beth@comcast.net or (303) 618-3786.

Thank you for your participation!

Childcare will be provided during the meeting.

Childcare Registration for Tuesday April 5, 2011

For staffing reasons all children must pre-register
Childcare will be available from 5:45-7:45

Child 1: _____ age _____

Child 2: _____ age _____

Child 3: _____ age _____

Please return this form to school office by Monday April 4th, 2011



Parent Information: Transition Meeting

Attention parents of Kindergartners and Third-Grade Students:

You are invited to a meeting led by Community Montessori teachers, Sarah Christian (Room 189) and Patti Bleil (Room 193), to explain classroom transition from primary to lower elementary and lower elementary to upper elementary.

**April 7, 2011
6 pm to 7 pm
Will start on time.**

Childcare will be provided during the meeting.

Meeting Childcare Registration

For staffing reasons all children must pre-register

Childcare will be available from 5:45 – 7:00 PM

Child 1: _____ age _____

Child 2: _____ age _____

Child 3: _____ age _____

Please return this form to school office by Monday April 4, 2011