



Douglass Elementary

Dec. 9, 2011

From the principal's desk...

December is here! That brings cold weather and a cherished celebration at Douglass, which I will elaborate more on below – as well as an update on construction progress.

Cold weather – this week's frigid temperatures were surprising to us all, I think! As students arrived at school on Monday morning, we had them come directly inside to their classrooms so as to avoid the weather that hovered around 0 degrees.

However, as all parents and teachers know, keeping kids cooped up inside all day is counterproductive and challenging at best. At about 10:30, I went outside to check the temperature, playground conditions, wind, and sunshine. The temperature was around 12 degrees, the blacktop was cleared, there was no wind, and the sun shone brightly. I stood out there for several more minutes, and decided that it was safe to send children outside for lunch recess.

Please know that even if it's cold outside, we may decide that outdoor recess is appropriate – so please make sure that your children are prepared for that possibility. It's a shame to have to keep kids inside away from their friends if they don't have sufficient winter weather gear.

All School Sing – this is the favorite event for many teachers and students. This year's Sing will take place at **10:00 a.m. on Friday, December 16 in the gym**. This is a time where kids and their teachers all gather to sing the same songs together – there will not be a choir performance this day as they will be singing earlier in the week for the school and for parents. If parents are able to attend the Sing, we will enjoy hearing your singing voices joining our voices! Most classes' holiday parties will take place later that afternoon, so we realize you may not be able to attend both events.

Construction progress – this week's cold temperatures did not impact our ongoing construction as windows are already installed, along with brick walls and drywall allowing contractors to work inside the new pre-school area and the administrative entrance. Work also continues in the new elevator that is being built to provide full accessibility to the 3rd and 4th grade classrooms.

We have an estimated move in date of January 16 for the new administrative area and the new main entrance to the building. I will let you know as soon as the bus loading and unloading area returns to the south parking lot so that you are aware of the changes to the morning and afternoon routines.

Finally, a special thank you to this generous Douglass Elementary School community for the tremendous support of people in need. Our student council collected well over a ton of food in their annual canned food drive, which will go directly to local food banks. We also saw truckloads of presents be delivered this week to less-fortunate children, and that spirit of giving absolutely warms my heart. Thank you all for lighting the spark of the spirit of the season!

Enjoy the winter vacation! Classes resume Wednesday, January 5, 2012.

Your principal,
Jon Wolfer

School Calendar

Tues. Dec. 13th	Mrs. Barbeau and Mrs. Twietmeyer's class to Boulder Manor -10:00 am
Wed. Dec. 14th	Share a gift Collection Ends Winter Choir Concert -6:00 pm
Thurs. Dec. 15th	Choir-7:25 pm Spelling Bee - 8:30 am Holiday Instrumental Music Program-12:50 pm
Fri. Dec. 16th	<u>New Time</u> <u>*****All School Sing -10:00 am*****</u> Holiday Parties-1:30 pm



Winter Break
December 19th through January 3rd



Tues. Jan. 3rd	No School - Professional Development Day
Wed. Jan 4th	Students Return to School
Thurs. Jan. 5th	<u>Open Enrollment Tour-1:00 pm</u>
Tues. Jan. 10th	Choir-7:25 am <u>Open Enrollment Tour-1:00 pm</u>
Wed. Jan. 11th	Class Pictures PTO Meeting-2:45 pm
Thurs. Jan. 12th	Choir-7:25 am Class Pictures for Tues/Thurs Kdg.
Fri. Jan. 13th	<u>Open Enrollment Window Closes-4:00 pm</u>
Mon. Jan 16th	Martin Luther King Day - No School
Tues. Jan. 17th	Choir-7:25 am
Thurs. Jan. 18th	Choir-7:25 am
Fri. Jan. 20th	Mon./Wed. Kdg. Attends All Day
Tues. Jan. 24th	Choir -7:25 am Acting 1 for 3rd-5th Graders-2:35 pm
Thurs. Jan. 26th	Choir -7:25 am
Tues. Jan. 31st	Choir -7:25 am Acting 1 for 3rd-5th Graders-2:35 pm
Wed. Feb. 1st	PTO Meeting-6:00pm
Thurs. Feb. 2nd	Choir -7:25 am Recognition Pictures
Sat. Feb. 4th	Acting 1 for 3rd-5th Graders-2:35 pm BVSD Regional Spelling Bee (time TBD)

Don't Forget



Wed. Dec. 14th
Winter Choir Concert
6:00 pm



Thurs. Dec. 15th
Spelling Bee -8:30 am
Holiday Instrumental Music
Program-12:50 pm



Fri. Dec. 16th
All School Sing -10:00 am
Holiday Parties-1:30 pm



Wed. Jan 4th
Students Return to School

Thank you!

Thank you to everyone who generously participated in the Mitten Drive, Share a Gift and the Food Drive. A special thank you to Coordinator Megan Boyle and Stephanie and Trent Hein for all of their work for a successful mitten drive.



You are Invited to
our



“All School Sing”

Dec. 16th at 10:00 am in the Gym



Green Notes

For the record, our students, teachers, and school community as a whole are doing a fabulous job of re-using and re-cycling. As of November 2011 we have collected 342 pounds of paper (cardboard, newspapers, magazines, catalogs, office paper) and have saved 2.91 trees. The total trees saved this school year is 15. We have collected 258 pounds of comingled containers (glass, plastic, aluminum) and 190 pounds of compostables.

Thank you for your concerted efforts in keeping our planet clean, safe, and cool. Living for today and planning for the future is the way to go.

Douglass Elementary School Tours

January 5th and January 10th

All tours will begin at 1:00 pm

Reservations are not required.

All tours will begin in the Library and will include an introduction and overview from Principal, Jon Wolfer, PTO members, School Age Care personnel and a tour of the classrooms.

For more information please call the school office at

720-561-5541



Fairview High School Choral Department Presents Holiday Concerts 7 p.m. Wednesday, December 14 & Thursday, December 15

BOULDER, Colo. (November 18, 2011) – Fairview High School presents the Holiday Concerts in the school’s auditorium featuring all 8 choirs, split into two evenings:

Dec 14: Voices of the Knight (men and women), Enchantment, Chivalry, Age of Guinevere, Excalibur

Dec 15: Festival, Troubadours, Madrigal Singers, Age of Guinevere, Excalibur

Each concert features a variety of choirs and styles, from pop to jazz and Holiday classics. The evening also features the traditional mass choir at the end of each concert. The concerts will be held in the Fairview High School Auditorium at 1515 Greenbriar Blvd., Boulder, CO 80305.

Fairview High School has had a long history of high-quality extensive choral music programs with eight separate groups covering a variety of musical styles and eras. Fairview choirs are renowned throughout the region and various groups are invited annually to perform at the prestigious Colorado Music Educator’s Conference, held at the Broadmoor in Colorado Springs. Excalibur and Festival Choirs for being selected to perform at the 2012 conference.

Public Ticket Sales Available

Tickets are \$7 for reserved seating in the auditorium. Checks can be made out to FHS. The box office for will be open for ticket sales and will call ticket pick up as follows:

Tues 12/13 10:30-3:00

Wed 12/14 10:30-1:30 & 6:00-6:55

Thurs 12/15 10:30-1:30 & 6:00-6:55

Online ticket sales will also be available beginning in early December. For more information and tickets visit:
<http://www.fairviewhs.org/sites/choir>.

***** JUNIOR GREAT BOOK SIGN UP *****

It's time to sign up for Junior Great Books!

Junior Great Books is an elective literature program for grades 1-5. Students practice using critical thinking skills to search for meaning in specially chosen stories during sessions lead by trained parent volunteers. (This training is provided by the Great Books Foundation and funded by the PTO.) **Your child does not need to be a fluent or advanced reader to participate.** During each session, the volunteer will read a story, and then students will discuss it using a "shared inquiry" interpretive method. Depending on grade level, discussion may be followed by another activity, such as creating a group poem or song, or individual drawings or acting out a part of the story. Before attending the session, students should be read or **(for fluent readers only)** read the story two times. It takes about 15 minutes to read the story. No other preparation is necessary.

Grade level groups will meet at the school from 2:30-3:30 once a week for 8 weeks, starting after Winter Break. See below for weekday options for each grade. Your child's group leader will contact you in early January with detailed information for their session.

To enroll your child, fill out the information below, including choice of meeting day (if more than one day will work for your child, please indicate that on the form and we will place your child in the session that allows us to even out the group size), return to your child's teacher, with a **\$35 check** to Douglass PTO by January 5, 2012. Your payment covers the cost of textbooks, instructor training, manuals and snacks. If you would like your child to participate but need financial assistance, please contact Paula Miller in the Douglass office for a confidential scholarship.

Check out the books: We have copies of the books for all grades available in the Douglass library. They can be checked out and kept for the duration of Junior Great Books. Your child may check out his/her applicable books as soon as he/she is registered.

If you have any questions about the JGB program, please call or email Julie Hedlund at 303-523-9944 or jhedlund33@yahoo.com

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CHILD'S NAME: _____ PARENT'S NAME: _____

EMAIL AND PHONE NUMBER: _____

TEACHER: _____

Preferred Day for Session:

Monday 1/9 – 3/12: () 1st grade; () 3rd grade; () 4th grade (make ups for Mon. holidays)

Tuesday 1/10 – 2/28: () 1st grade; () 2nd grade

Wednesday 1/11 – 2/29: () 3rd grade; () 5th grade

Thursday 1/12 - 3/1: () 2nd grade; () 4th grade

Attach \$35 check to Douglass PTO

*******PLEASE RETURN TO YOUR CHILD'S TEACHER BY January 5, 2012*******

Douglass PTO Meeting Highlights 12/7/11

Hello Douglass Parents,

Below are some of the highlights from our PTO meeting this week. Please let me know if you have any questions on any of these topics!

Upcoming Events:

- Bruce Messinger, Superintendent of BVSD will attend our next PTO meeting. Wednesday, January 11, 2012 at 2:45 p.m. in the Douglass library. This will be a great opportunity for parents to meet Bruce and hear his thoughts and plans about the future of BVSD. We will send a separate meeting announcement with RSVP prior to the January meeting. All parents are welcome to attend!
- Douglass Book Club: Mrs. Chynoweth will be leading the Douglass book club in January. The first selection will be Savvy, by Ingrid Law. The first meeting will be Wednesday, January 25th at 7:30 a.m. in the library. Kids and parents should have completely read the book by that meeting. Refreshments will be served. The book selection will be most appropriate for 4th and 5th grade students.
- All School Holiday Sing: Friday, December 16th at 10:00 a.m. in the Douglass gym. No individual student or grade level performances this year. This will be a wonderful opportunity for our students to meet as a large group and enjoy singing the songs of the holidays together. The Douglass Staff will do a short performance for the students.

Principal's Update:

- Principal Wolfer expressed his appreciation for the generosity of the Douglass community. The response for the food drive and mitten tree gifts has been tremendous over this holiday season.
- Construction update: All is going as planned. He expects the front office to open in mid-January. The preschool will continue on schedule. The elevator is taking a bit longer, but it will be complete to move all 4th grade classrooms inside the building for the 2012-13 school year as planned.
- Open Enrollment Tour was 12/6. 50+ people attended. People are very interested in attending Douglass, but our openings for next year are extremely limited. Approximately 12 Kindergarteners, and possibly a few others in upper grades. Very Important: Please tell any incoming Kindergarten families that you know to register their student as soon as possible, so we have an accurate count prior to open enrollment deadlines.

General Items:

- Treasurer's Report: Budget vs. Actuals are on target for the month. The new expense form is now online at douglass-elementarypto.org. If you have expenses associated with an event, please complete the form and send it with your expense documentation to Suzanne Lingold via the PTO mailbox.
- Enrichment Programs: The Douglass PTO funds Enrichment Programs for the students at Douglass for \$3600 each year. Funds are divided by grade level. Karen Herz, chair, has developed a detailed plan for these funds by grade level. The programs support curriculum taught at each grade level, as well as the annual Imagination Makers program. A copy of the detailed plan will be posted to the Douglass website, as well as further information in this week's newsletter.
- Mitten Tree: Thank you to Douglass Families for your generosity during our annual Mitten Tree event. We received many gifts and donations for less- advantaged families. Next year, we will try to create a register of mittens to have a better tracking system—to help alleviate lost mittens! Thank you to all for your generous support!
- King Soopers Cards: Thank you to Scott Fincher, dad to Paige and Bryce, for volunteering to chair our King Soopers program. Just prior to the Thanksgiving holiday week, we gave away over 60 cards to Douglass families! Please use your King Soopers cards for your holiday shopping, gas and gift card purchases! King Soopers cards have tremendous potential to help fund next year's budget cuts at Douglass!
- School Lunch Committee: Douglass is doing a great job with students eating school lunch regularly! Watch for some fun contests starting in January to encourage students to eat school lunch!

Parent Engagement Network presents:

Thriving During the Elementary Years

Early Identification of Depression

By Dr. Jan Hittelman

It is not well known, but one of the fastest growing age groups for suicide are children 10-14 years of age. Given that Colorado ranks first among all states for teen depression, it is important for parents of elementary-age youth to be more aware of the warning signs in order to identify these concerns as early as possible.

Nationally suicide is the third leading cause of death among youth ages 15-24, while in Colorado it is the second leading cause of death. As disturbing as these statistics are, it is widely believed that they are underestimated since many suicides and attempts go unreported. Fortunately for most, depression is a very treatable disorder. Depending on the particular individual, talk therapy, medication, or a combination of the two, has been shown to be highly effective in treating depression. Unfortunately, it is estimated nationally that only 30% of adolescents with depression receive treatment. Surprisingly, research shows that many of these youth are from families with good communication. The challenge is that, in addition to the general signs of depression in adults (i.e. feelings of sadness, changes in eating and sleeping patterns, loss of interest in once enjoyed activities, loss of energy, feelings of worthlessness or guilt, difficulty concentrating), the more subtle warning signs unique to children and adolescents are often missed. These include:

- Irritability, anger, hostility
- Frequent absences from school or poor school performance
- Lack of interest in spending time with friends or family
- Talk of or efforts to run away from home
- Social isolation, poor communication
- Extreme sensitivity to rejection or failure
- Reckless behavior
- Neglect of clothes and appearance

The good news is depression can be identified and treated, if the right resources and information are in place. Learn more by participating in the following FREE community events:

TV Presentation: Teen Depression: The Good News**When:** Monday, January 9, 7:00-8:30pm**Where:** Boulder Valley School District Board Room (6500 Arapahoe, Boulder) or watch live on Channel 22**Submit questions:** www.BoulderPsychologicalServices.com/channel-22**More info:** www.BPSBoulder.com**Workshop:** Understanding Self-Harm in Teens**When:** Monday, January 30th, 6:30-8:00pm**Where:** Meadows Branch Library (4800 Baseline Road, Boulder)**Facilitators:** Susan Denison & Jeffrey Kuhn, LCSW, LPC**More info:** www.BPSBoulder.com-----
UPCOMING PEN EVENT:**HOPE**

Providing hope & inspiration in the area of suicide prevention and depression

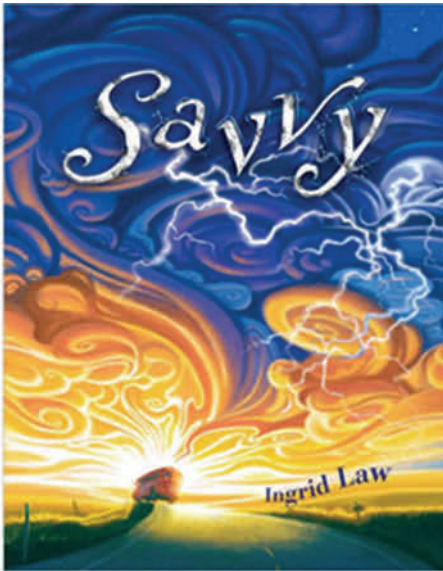
Presenters: HOPE Coalition & Colie's Closet**Thursday, January 26, 6:30-8:30pm**First Presbyterian Church (1820 15th Street, Boulder)

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

Book and a Bagel Club

Title: Savvy
Author: Ingrid Law
Publisher: Puffin, 2008



Mibs Beaumont is about to become a teenager. As if that weren't scary enough, thirteen is when a Beaumont's savvy strikes--and with one brother who causes hurricanes and another who creates electricity, it promises to be outrageous... and positively thrilling. But just before her big day, Poppa is in a terrible accident. Suddenly, Mibs's dreams of X-ray vision disappear like a flash of her brother's lightning: All she wants now is a savvy that will save Poppa. In fact, Mibs is so sure she'll get that powerful savvy that she sneaks a ride to the hospital on a rickety bus, with her siblings and the preacher's kids in tow. But when the bus starts heading in the wrong direction only one thing is certain: After this extraordinary adventure, not a soul on board will ever be the same.

Who?

Douglass Parents and Students, 3rd Grade and up.

When? **Wednesday, January 25, 7:15-8:00 A.M.**

Where? **Douglass Library**

What to expect...

Read the novel by January 25. Copies are available in the library. Attend the club and discuss your reaction. Snacks and discussion will be served.

RVSP to Mrs. Chynoweth by January 20, 2012