



# Douglass Elementary

Sept. 9, 2011

*From the principal's desk...*

Dear families,

As I write this week's letter, the fifth grade students are en route to Estes Park for their Outdoor Education. This is an overnight trip, and the kids will have two days of learning adventures in the heart of one of the prettiest areas in Colorado. Thanks to our teachers and parent volunteers for making this a special trip!

This week, we began our small group literacy instruction, where students meet daily with a literacy teacher or tutor for their daily reading and/or writing instruction. I heard a parent this week speak to the joy her son expressed that day - "Mom, we had literacy groups today!" I also appreciate hearing this excitement for learning. Yes, we believe in small group instruction, but not just because of the great results we achieve each year, but primarily because we want to foster the love of reading in every child.

The support of our parents this fall makes small group instruction possible. Your donations to PTO through our Dedication to Education campaign supports literacy instruction for all students at Douglass, and helps us continue our tradition of excellence. Thanks in advance for your support of our PTO!

We had about 70 parents at our parent information night for our Child Abuse Prevention workshops. I know that some parents wanted to attend but had other obligations, so if you would like to pick up one of the adult resource packets, they will be available in the office beginning on Monday. Again, thanks to our PTO for making these safety workshops possible for our students.

A quick construction update - the project continues to be on schedule and the new additions are quickly taking shape. It's exciting to see new walls going up and the footprint clearly outlined. I'd like to thank parents for continuing to help make our pick-up and drop-off process work smoothly and safely before and after school. Parking your car in the overflow area and walking to pick up your child is much appreciated.

Thanks for all of your support of Douglass!

Your principal,  
Jon Wolfer

## **October Count - Please Don't Miss School**

**September 26th - October 7th**

School funding is based on attendance figures during this period. Please try very hard to be at school each and every day during this time.

## School Calendar

|                   |  |
|-------------------|--|
| Tues. Sept. 13th  | 1st Choir - 7:25 am  |
| Thurs. Sept. 15th | Choir - 7:25 am  |
| Fri. Sept. 16th   | Vision & Hearing Screening   |
| Tue. Sept. 20th   | Choir - 7:25 am  |
| Wed. Sept. 21st   | Mrs. Chiu's class to Walker Ranch - 9:00 am<br>SAC Meeting - 2:45 pm         |
| Thurs. Sept. 22nd | Choir - 7:25 am<br>Bennett & Barbeau's classes to Walker Ranch<br>9:00 am    |
| Fri. Sept. 23rd   | All 1st Grades to McIntosh Farm - 9:15 am                                    |
| Tues. Sept. 27th  | Choir - 7:25 am<br>Junior Great Books Leader Training @ Crestview<br>5:30 pm |
| Thurs. Sept. 29th | Choir - 7:25 am  |
| Tues. Oct. 4th    | Choir - 7:25 am  |
| Wed. Oct. 5th     | Pictures Retakes<br>PTO Meeting - 6:00 pm                                    |
| Thurs. Oct. 6th   | Choir - 7:25 am<br>Pictures Retakes for T/Th Kdg.                            |
| Fri. Oct. 7th     | 5th Grade to Denver Zoo - 9:00 am  |
| Tues. Oct. 11th   | Choir - 7:25 am  |
| Wed. Oct. 12th    | Parent/Teacher Conferences   |
| Thurs. Oct. 13th  | Choir - 7:25 am  |
| Fri. Oct. 14th    | Professional Development Day - No School                                     |
| Tues. Oct. 18th   | Choir - 7:25 am<br>Parent/Teacher Conferences                                |
| Thurs. Oct. 20th  | Choir - 7:25 am<br>Parent/Teacher Conferences                                |
| Tues. Oct. 25th   | Choir - 7:25 am  |
| Thurs. Oct. 27th  | Choir - 7:25 am  |
| Fri. Oct. 28th    | Halloween Parties  |
| Tues. Nov. 1st    | Choir - 7:25 am  |
| Wed. Nov. 2nd     | PTO Meeting - 2:45 pm  |
| Thurs. Nov. 3rd   | Choir - 7:25 am  |

## DON'T FORGET



### Fri. Sept. 16th

Vision & Hearing Screening



### Wed. Sept. 21st

Mrs. Chiu's class to Walker  
Ranch - 9:00 am

SAC Meeting - 2:45 pm



### Thurs. Sept. 22nd

Bennett & Barbeau's classes to  
Walker Ranch - 9:00 am



### Fri. Sept. 23rd

All 1st Grades to McIntosh Farm  
9:15 am





### A Big Thank You to the Girl Scouts!!!!

The Douglass Green Team would like to send out a HUGE thanks to the girl scouts of troops 736 (Brownies), 3395 (Juniors) and 537 (Juniors) for helping man the waste station at the Douglass Annual Pizza Party on August 30<sup>th</sup>. Their help was invaluable and the Green Team really appreciated their help in ensuring Douglass had a zero-waste pizza party.

### BVSD Lifelong Learning's Fall Classes and Camps for Kids

BVSD's Lifelong Learning Program offers after school classes for kids in the arts, outdoors and adventure, fencing, digital photography, video production, and science. For our science classes, we partner with Science Matters and for our photography and video classes, we partner with the YWCA. Besides after school classes, we offer fun and creative camps for kids ages 6-12 during school breaks and on no-school days. If you want to get a jump on planning for Thanksgiving Break, Winter Break and the November 11<sup>th</sup> No School Day, look for listings in our BVSD Lifelong Learning Kids catalog, sent home in your child's Friday folder (on August 26<sup>th</sup> or Sept. 2<sup>nd</sup>). You can also see a complete listing of classes and camps by visiting our website, [www.bvsd.org/LLL](http://www.bvsd.org/LLL). For more information, call 720-561-3768.

BVSD Lifelong Learning  
Phone Number: 720-561-3768  
[www.bvsd.org/lll](http://www.bvsd.org/lll)



### Picture Money Due

Just a reminder that picture money is due Mon. Sept 12th. Picture retakes will be Wed. Oct 5th and Thurs. Oct. 7th.

### Junior Great Books

If you are leading a group for Junior Great Books, please add the upcoming training on September 27th, 5:30 pm-9:30 pm at Crestview Elementary to you calendar. If you are interested in leading a group and have not been contacted by Karen Herz, please contact her at [karen.herz@comcast.net](mailto:karen.herz@comcast.net)



### Lost & Found

Due to the limited room currently at the school and the warm temperature lately, the lost and found food container will be disposed of weekly. The lost and found is located right outside of the lunchroom. Please check it when you are in the building.



### Grandrabbit's Toy Shoppe

[www.grtoys.com](http://www.grtoys.com)

Dear Parents and Friends,

Your school is a part of the Grandrabbit's Toy Shoppe Bunny Bucks Program. This program gives you a chance to give back to your school every time you buy a toy. When you shop at Grandrabbit's we contribute 10% of the value of your purchase (excluding sale items) to your school.

When checking out at Grandrabbit's, please be sure to designate which school you'd like your Bunny Bucks to support through your purchase. This is an easy way to stretch school budgets and help our teachers enrich students and classrooms. In January, teachers will be awarded Bunny Bucks to use at Grandrabbit's for books, enrichment materials, supplies, and toys.

Grandrabbit's Toy Shoppe hopes you have a great school year full of learning, enriching experiences and play. We thank you for your valuable and essential contribution to the lives of children and appreciate your continued support.

Sincerely, Lynne Milot  
And the Grandrabbit's Staff

## Volunteering at Douglass Elementary

Volunteering in schools is a wonderful, beneficial experience that rewards not only the students and the teachers, but also the volunteers themselves. It provides an opportunity to create positive relationships and support schools in succeeding in their overall goal of student achievement. Our volunteers at Douglass Elementary are extremely valued and important. There are numerous opportunities throughout the year to participate in your child's education including in the class room; on field trips; in the library, computer lab or art room; to name only a few. Volunteers are one of the reasons Douglass is such a successful school.

If you are interested in volunteer opportunities with the PTO please contact the PTO's volunteer coordinators: **Suzanne Lingold**: [suzanne.lingold@gmail.com](mailto:suzanne.lingold@gmail.com) or **Nichole Foos**: [NicholeFoos@yahoo.com](mailto:NicholeFoos@yahoo.com)

## Background Checks for Volunteers

**Regular volunteers** required to complete the annual background screening program include, but are not limited to, those who help in the following activities:

- Volunteers with a regular schedule in the school (classroom, health room, playground, cafeteria, library, greeters)
- Activity/Club mentor, volunteer or chaperone
- TAG (Talented and Gifted) mentor, volunteer or chaperone
- Overnight trip chaperone
- At-Home (Student Contact) (ex. host of team dinner, building parade float)
- Volunteer attending field trip

**Occasional volunteers** will not be required to complete the online background screening program, but all parents and guardians will be required to fill out the [Volunteer Agreement](#) and the school staff will conduct a minimal background screening for all of our volunteers. This category includes, but is not limited to, those who help in the following activities:

- Occasional volunteer (ex. classroom party, school/community event)
- School-sponsored events (ex. career fairs, book fairs, after-prom, science fairs, school dances, guest speakers, field day, registrations)
- Projects w/little or only incidental contact w/students (ex. fundraisers, boosters, concession stands, scorekeepers)
- School Accountability Committees/School Improvement Teams, the District Accountability Committee, District Parent Council, PTOs, PTAs, and PEN participants.

## Guidelines for Keeping Your Student Home

The beginning of any infectious illness is usually the time it is most likely to spread to others. This is also the time your student is probably feeling unable to participate in class. In order to keep everyone healthy, we ask that you observe the following guidelines and keep your student home if s/he exhibits any of the following:

- \* **Fever, vomiting, or diarrhea:** Your student should remain home for **24 hours** after symptoms end.
- \* **Colds / respiratory viruses:** Keep your student home at the beginning of a cold. This is also the time when one is most infectious and least likely to feel well enough to participate in class. When s/he feels better and no longer has frequent sneezing and cough, it is permissible to return to school.
- \* **Strep throat:** Your student may return to school **after taking the antibiotic for 24 hours**, and feeling better.
- \* **Chicken pox:** Your student should stay home until there are no new lesions and all existing lesions have scabbed over.
- \* **Eye:** Bacterial and some viral eye infections must be treated by a health care provider before the student returns to school. If antibiotic therapy is prescribed, the student must remain home for **at least 24 hours after treatment has begun**.
- \* **Open sores on skin:** All skin lesions must be covered by a bandage or clothing during the school day. This may include impetigo, ring worm, scabies, and other fungal, bacterial or viral skin infections.
- \* **Generalized skin rash:** Any student with an undiagnosed skin rash must consult a health care provider for diagnosis and/or treatment before returning to school with a note from the health care provider.
- \* **Head lice:** Your student may return to school only after treatment with lice treatment.

***A student will be sent home from school if s/he has any of the above conditions and/or has a temperature of 101°F or more taken orally or 100° if taken under arm, forehead or temple.***



## King Sooper Reloadable Cards

Remember to use and reload your King Soopers gift cards! Douglass receives 5% cash back every month. Reloadable cards are available at the front office for \$5.

**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, October 24<sup>th</sup>, 6:30-8:00pm

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

**Facilitator:** Iris Lee, Director, Dreamcatcher Direct Instruction Centers

**Cost:** FREE

**More info:** [www.BPSBoulder.com](http://www.BPSBoulder.com)

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**UPCOMING PEN EVENT:**

The Bully, the Bullied, & the Bystander

Breaking the Cycles of Violence and Creating Circles of Caring

Barbara Coloroso, Nat'l Speaker/Author

[www.kidsareworthit.com](http://www.kidsareworthit.com)

Wednesday, October 19<sup>th</sup>, 6:30-8:30pm

Monarch High School (263 Campus Drive, Louisville)

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Learn more about PEN by visiting their website: [www.parentengagementnetwork.org](http://www.parentengagementnetwork.org) or by contacting Paula Nelson, PEN chair ([pjn6225@yahoo.com](mailto:pjn6225@yahoo.com), 303-880-6030) or Betsy Fox, PEN Lead Coach, ([foxbetsy123@msn.com](mailto: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](mailto:jan.hittelman@gmail.com), or by phone: 720-217-3270