



Douglass Elementary

January 20, 2012

From the principal's desk...

Dear families,

The safety of our students is the most important part of our job, from the moment that they arrive at their bus stop to the time they arrive at your home each day. One of our school-wide goals is to improve the climate of our school buses, and I'd like to share with you today the work that our staff and parent leadership have undertaken to this end.

Beginning in February, each bus driver will meet with their group of students at school, along with me and other staff members. The goals of these "bus community meetings" will be to establish an improved atmosphere among the students, to problem-solve recurring issues on the ride to or from school, foster student leadership, and involve all the students on the bus in setting goals for all riders. Those goals will be determined by the students, approved by me, and if accomplished, rewarded at the end of that goal-setting period.

These meetings will be held every four to six weeks for the remainder of this school year, most likely taking place in the last 30 to 45 minutes of the school day. While I realize that some classroom instruction may be interrupted with these meetings, research is clear that the steps schools take to ensure a positive environment in all aspects of a student's education will improve both climate and achievement.

We are also working closely with the district's transportation department in this initiative, as it is my hope that we can be a model for other schools to follow in improving the student behavior on their buses. School buses transport over 300 of our students to school and back home each day, so it's pretty clear why we need to emphasize safety on the buses.

I'd also like to remind parents of pick-up and drop-off locations – please remember that the main parking lot outside the new entrance to the school is reserved for school buses before and after school. We ask parents to use the north parking lot if you are using your car to bring kids to and from school. The north parking lot will be re-striped later this spring (once the weather warms and the likelihood of snow lessens), and that will modify the pick-up and drop-off zones.

In the meantime, the safest way to pick up and drop of your kids by car is to park in the north parking lot, meet your kids at the Dolphin seat wall area, and walk them through either the crosswalk or along the sidewalk.

Finally, a quick construction update – we are moving up the work on the elevator in the 3rd and 4th grade wing of the building; we expect work to be completed by January 31 on this phase of the construction project. Workers will be in the building during the school day, but I've asked them to keep construction noise as low as possible so as to not disrupt teaching and learning at school. The remaining phases are classroom and bathroom improvements and the completion of the preschool.

Thank you!

Your principal,

Jon Wolfer

School Calendar

Mon. Jan. 23rd	Choir-2:35 pm Kindergarten Registration and Information Night 6:30 pm in the Library
Tues. Jan. 24th Thurs. Jan. 26th	Acting 1 for 3rd-5th Graders-2:35 pm Acting 1 for 1st-2nd Graders-2:35 pm
Mon. Jan. 30th	Choir-2:35 pm "The North Wind and The Sun" 5th Grade Performances Mullineaux-8:30 am Nova-9:15am Brandt-Fink-10:00am
Tues. Jan. 31st Wed. Feb. 1st Thurs. Feb. 2nd	Acting 1 for 3rd-5th Graders-2:35 pm PTO Meeting-6:00 pm Recognition Pictures Acting 1 for 1st-2nd Graders-2:35 pm BVSD Regional Spelling Bee (time TBD)
Sat. Feb. 4th	
Mon. Feb. 6th	Science Fair Project Due Today Choir-2:35 pm
Tues. Feb. 7th	Tues/Thurs Kdg. Science Fair Projects Due Today Acting 1 for 3rd-5th Graders-2:35 pm
Thurs. Feb. 9th	Acting 1 for 1st-2nd Graders-2:35 pm Science Fair 6:30 pm
Fri. Feb. 10th	Family Fun Night-6:00 pm

Don't Forget



Mon. Jan. 23rd

Kindergarten Registration
and Information Night
6:30 pm in the Library



Wed. Feb. 1st

PTO Meeting-6:00pm



Thurs. Feb. 2nd

Recognition Pictures

TCAP Testing Dates

Parents, it is that time of year again when we request that you check our TCAP testing schedule carefully before you schedule appointments or vacations for your children.

Please keep the following schedule handy and make every effort to have students here for all TCAP tests!

3rd Grade

Reading-Feb. 13th & 14th

Math-March 5th & 6th

Writing-March 19th & 20th

4th Grade

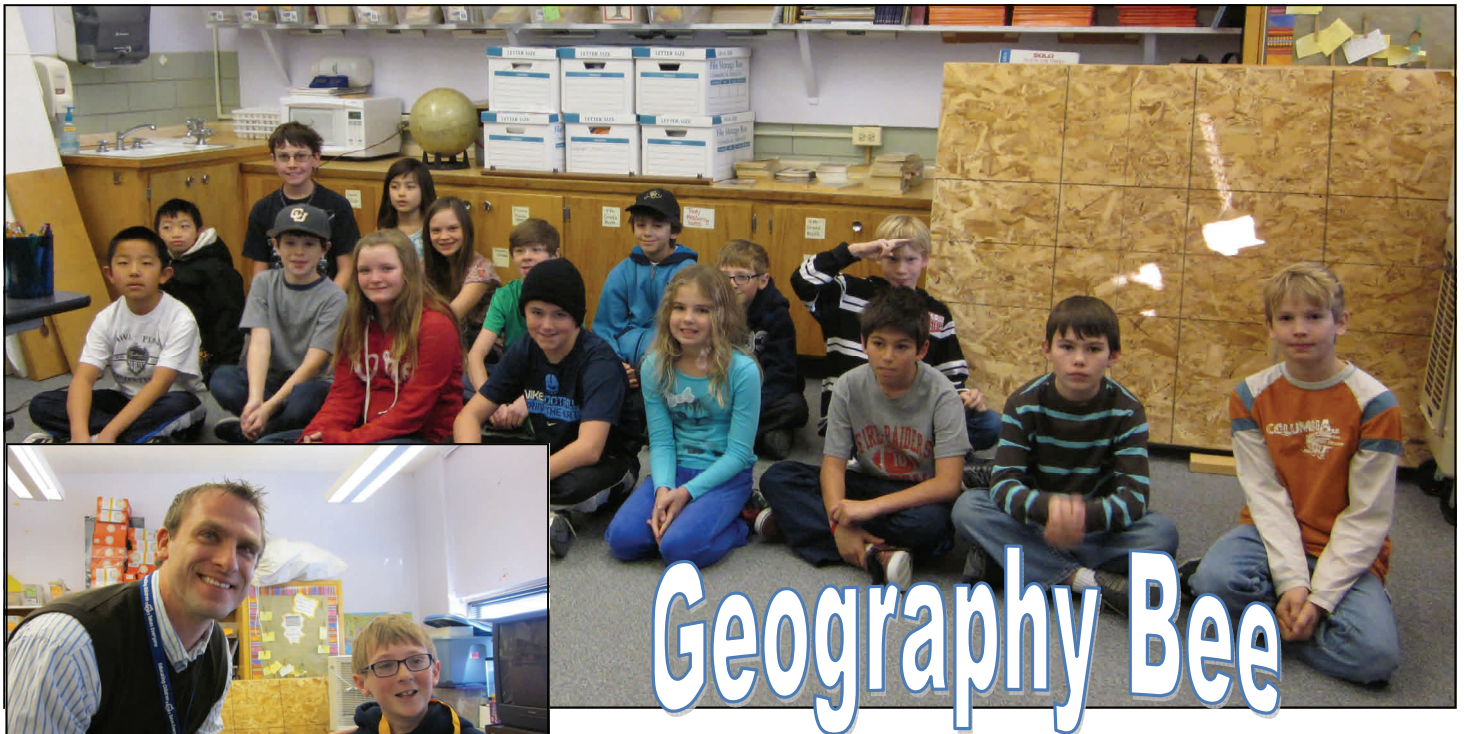
Reading/Writing-March 6th-13th

Math-March 14th-16th

5th Grade

Math-March 5th-7th

Reading/Writing- March 8th-15th



Douglass Elementary hosted the National Geographic Bee on January 12th. Matthew Januszewski, a 5th Grader in Mrs. Brant-Fink's class, took the top honors. Matthew will take a test in order to qualify for the state competition. The first place national champion wins \$25,000! All of our participants did a fantastic job and we congratulate them on their hard work.

4th Grade

Brad Bolles, Cadence Taht, Cam Cramer, Daniel Rui, Elise Beaupre, Jared Smith and Payton Rosenfels.

5th Grade

Aaron Yang, Aiden Haughey, Autumn Davidson, Carson Wille, Cooper Zurn, David Fish, Isabelle Dever, Jackson Hammond and Matthew Januszewski.

Student Directory

We are currently working on the mid-year update for our Douglass Student Directory. If you are not currently included in the directory and would like to be, please complete the attached form. (In order for your children to be included in the directory, we must receive your **SIGNED** form.) If you are already included in the directory and your contact information has changed, please update your information in PTO Manager or complete the attached form. All completed, **SIGNED** forms must be returned to Jenn Varra at jvarra@gmail.com or dropped off in the school office by January 27, 2012. All updates to PTO Manager must also be made by January 27, 2012. Please contact Jenn Varra at jvarra@gmail.com if you have any questions.

King Soopers

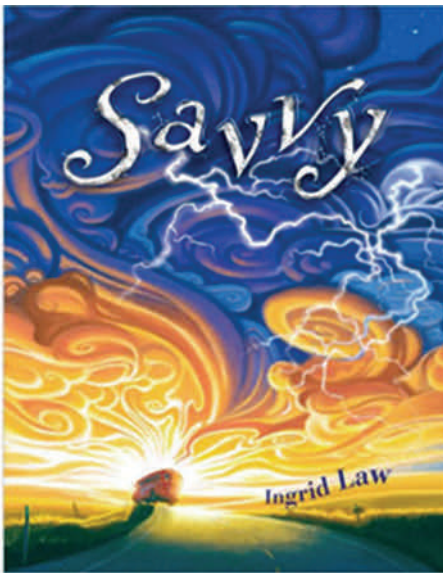
Thanks to all of you who took advantage of the free King Soopers Card offer. Because of your support, December was our best month ever, with a **total earned of \$1,646**. Remember to keep those cards loaded and use them for groceries and gas. With this success, we've decided to keep free cards on hand at the office. If you don't have yours yet, pick one up next time you're in. And please contact Scott Fincher, skeoch.s@gmail.com or 303-886-0566 with any questions.

Please Remember to Return Your Badges

Please look around your houses, cars, purses and jackets to see if you can find any badges. Many badges were mistakenly not returned to the office and we are now running very low on badges. All visitors at Douglass are required to wear a badge. Thank-you for your help.

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

