

From the principal's desk...

It feels like we just started the year 2010, but here we are approaching the end of February. There are a lot of important

events coming up soon in the lives of our students to plan and prepare for:

First, please note that there is **No School for students on Friday, February 26** – teachers will be completing the 2nd trimester

report cards on that day and preparing for parent-teacher conferences in March.

Have you signed up for those conferences? If not, please visit our web site – www.bvsd.org/schools/douglass - and look for

the link to PTO Manager. That will enable you to schedule conferences for all of your students. Visit that site today for the

best chance for the most convenient time.

Earlier this week, our third grade students completed the Reading portion of the Colorado Student

Assessment Program

(CSAP). I'd like to thank our third grade families for setting our students up for success with their prompt attendance each

day.

CSAPs resume on March 1 for grades 3, 4, and 5. Assessments will be given in the morning from March 1 through March 17.

Parents, we know that sometimes appointments need to be scheduled during school, but if you can avoid mornings in

March, that will minimize disruptions to the routine that our kids need and help them achieve their best.

Also – help ensure a good night's sleep and take advantage of breakfast on the days of testing! Well-rested, well-fed students

are more apt to do their absolute best each day.

Finally, a recap of our budget discussion, much of which I addressed in an e-mail to families last week:

Douglass needs to

make plans for three likely scenarios of cuts to our budget – a 2.25% cut, a 5.25% cut, and a 8.25% cut – or approximately a

\$36,000 cut, an \$88,000 cut, and a \$138,000 cut. Some of those cuts could come from our school supply budget, but the larger

the actual reduction we will need to make, the more likely it is that personnel will be reduced at our school.

My top priority guiding my decision, with input from teachers and parents, is to ensure that this pending cut impacts the

overall operations of the school in as limited a way as possible. For example, it is important to me to keep cuts away from

the general classrooms – preserving three classrooms per grade level while avoiding multi-age classrooms (such as a grade

2-3 combined class).

The School Accountability Committee, or SAC, is charged with making recommendations for our 2010-2011 school year

budget. I will review those recommendations and make a final submission of the three budget scenarios to the district no

later than March 12, 2010.

One of the benefits of this dynamic community of teachers and families is the tremendous financial support that we receive

from our PTO. This year, for example, our PTO supports over 60 hours of paraprofessional time. The PTO's budget this year

is approximately \$70,000.

You are also likely aware of additional funds that PTO has in reserve. The original intent of that reserve was to plan for a

capital project. However, due to this year's challenging fiscal environment, we may ask PTO to allocate some of those funds

toward non-capital expenses, such as those cuts forced upon schools this year.

This is where your feedback is needed. Please be on the lookout for a survey from PTO seeking your input on using the PTO reserve funds for new purposes, your ideas for generating additional dollars to support our school, and ideas to tackle this challenging situation.

No matter what amount of budget cuts we are faced with, I would like to assure you that the education of your children will

remain excellent – and that is because of the top-notch teachers and staff that work with our kids every day.

We may be

leaner next year, but we will continue to provide our children at Douglass Elementary with excellent teaching and learning.

Many thanks for all you do for the kids and teachers at Douglass!

Your principal,

Jon Wolfer