

Dear Families,

I'd like to keep you informed of how Douglass Elementary is planning to address the impending budget cuts necessitated by state-wide reductions in funding for public education for 2010-2011. As we have discussed, this crisis impacts all school districts in the state of Colorado and all schools in Boulder Valley School District. In Boulder, all schools are asked to submit budget planning for a 2.25% budget cut, a 5.25% reduction, and an 8.25% reduction.

It has been my priority to minimize the impact of cuts on the classroom, but the deeper the cuts actually become, the harder it is to not see a direct impact on our classroom teachers. I also believe that our current classroom configuration with three classes per grade level is critical to maintain. Finally, I have tried to minimize cuts to the overall operation of the school.

After several meetings with parents and teachers, I will present budget scenarios that could see reductions in the following areas:

- Supplies funded through the district's School Resource Allocation account (up to \$45,000), including library books, paper and copying expenses, classroom supplies, professional development, and curriculum materials
- Literacy support, including teachers and tutors
- Office staff hours
- Library support

As the possible cuts go deeper, we could see further reductions in personnel and extra activities. I will need to prepare budget scenarios that plan for that possibility, but I hope that it does not come to pass that we see a nearly \$140,000 cut to our school budget – the 8.25% reduction.

This has been a challenging process, particularly for those whose positions could be eliminated by these cuts. All of our teachers and staff have exemplified professionalism as we discussed potential reductions and the changes that will result; for that, I express my gratitude.

Our School Accountability Committee meets this Wednesday afternoon to make recommendations on our budget, which will be submitted to the district on Friday, March 12. That meeting begins at 2:45 p.m. in the library.

I'd also like to express my appreciation for the parents who attended the community meeting on Wednesday night to hear how our PTO is considering supporting our efforts to keep the impact of this budget situation as far away from the classrooms as possible. To that end, please be on the lookout for an email from PTO, which will contain a digest of Wednesday's meeting, plus a link to a survey to gauge parents' opinion on how to minimize the impact of the cuts.

On a larger scale, Boulder Valley School District will continue to host community forums on the budget crisis. Next week, two forums are scheduled - Monday, March 8 from 6:30-8:00 p.m. at the Boulder High School Library (1604 Arapahoe Ave.), and Wednesday, March 10 from 9:00-10:30 a.m. at the Nederland Community Center, 750 Highway 72. The schedule for other forums is available at the district's web site, <http://bvvsd.org/budgetcrisis>.

Finally, please know that our kids will continue to receive a top-notch education at Douglass Elementary. Because our classroom teachers are dedicated to children and to excellent instruction, the foundation for their continued success remains strong. A great school starts with great teachers,

and is enhanced with the amazing support of our parent community. Thank you for all you have done and continue to do to make Douglass one of the best schools in Boulder, in Colorado, and in the nation.

Your principal,

Jon Wolfer