

From the principal's desk...

Dear families,

Thanks for checking out our bi-monthly newsletter, and taking the time to read all the important information inside. In addition to this newsletter, which we send electronically to all families, you can also stay connected via Twitter for updates such as school-wide events and weather closures. Click on <http://twitter.com/DouglassElem> to connect!

I'd like to welcome our new staff members to Douglass Elementary:

- Carole Brandt-Fink will teach 5th grade.
- Josh McCormick teaches vocal music.
- Tim Eubank leads physical education.
- Erin Manzanares teaches 1st grade.
- Stephanie Mitchell is our school psychologist.
- Chris Henson is our social worker.

A few calendar reminders and a special request.

- There is no school for students on Friday, September 2, or Monday, September 5.
- Classes are also not scheduled on Thursday, September 1, but this is an assessment day where teachers schedule individual reading and math assessment appointments. Before you make long weekend plans, please check in with your teacher to ensure that you do not have an appointment scheduled on that Thursday.

The special request is to carefully consider the school calendar when making vacation plans. Last year, a couple of students received no score on their spring CSAP assessments – when they likely would have scored Advanced – because they missed school when the CSAP assessments were scheduled. As a result, we did not receive credit for their tests, nor did the students have the satisfaction of reviewing their high achievement. Every day counts in the education of our kids, so if you can take care when planning vacations, our teachers and I will be grateful. Check the school calendar at <http://bvsd.org/schools/douglass>.

Next month, our PTO launches our Dedication to Education campaign, our largest fundraising event. This support from our parent community is an important element of our excellent school, as we are able to provide daily instructional support to all classrooms thanks to parent generosity. And as a parent myself, I appreciate the fact that our direct-giving campaign doesn't ask our kids to go door-to-door and sell items; this is a parent-led effort that takes pressure off kids. There's information in this month's newsletter, and I encourage you to take the time to review that and support our excellent school!

Thanks for all of your support of Douglass!

Your principal,
Jon Wolfer