

From the principal's desk...

Dear families,

The Colorado Department of Education released School Performance Framework reports for all public schools in the state, and I'm delighted to share how our school performed. The report is quite detailed, and you can access it at www.schoolview.org – but one of the highlights is our percentile rank in each content area assessed.

In our three-year report, our school ranks in the 99th percentile in science performance; in the 98th percentile in math; and in the 97th percentile in reading and writing! Congratulations to our students and teachers for their amazing achievement!

Schools statewide use that report to develop goals, and Douglass is no exception. Each year, the Boulder Valley School District and the Colorado Department of Education expect all schools to review student assessment and survey information, evaluate our progress towards our goals, and create new goals to best meet the needs of our students. Last year, we created a two-year plan, and I'd like to update you on our progress, and remind you of our goals for 2012.

Before I get to the actual goals, I'd like to explain why they are written the way they are. The Reading goal may be the most confusing. On last year's CSAP Reading Assessment, we had seven students that were not proficient. But the more intriguing data was that group of students' growth. Five out of those seven students showed low growth – which, according to CDE, is a growth score of under 35. We would like to see academic growth for all students, whether or not they are proficient in any given year. The Reading goal wants to see all kids demonstrate growth.

We continue to see our boys achieve a lower rate of proficiency and growth than girls, and this is particularly true in writing. Therefore, we have a goal for our boys to increase their growth over the next two years in writing.

Here are the three goals for Douglass' 2012 Performance Plan:

Reading: In the group of non-proficient readers at Douglass Elementary in 2011, the median student's growth percentile score was 34.5. In the group of non-proficient readers at Douglass Elementary in 2012, the median student's growth percentile score will be 50.

Writing: Boys at Douglass Elementary will increase their median growth percentile in writing from 60 in 2011 to 64 in 2012.

Climate: Survey results in 2012 will meet or exceed the district favorable response rate on the following questions: 5 (My teachers like me); 12 (I have not been called hurtful names or made fun of); 17 (Adults help if they see someone being bullied); 19 (I have not been bullied at school this year); and 42 (I feel safe riding the bus to and from school); and 35 Other people help if they see someone being bullied.

In upcoming newsletters, I will update you on the strategies we will employ to meet these goals, as well as our progress towards meeting and exceeding them. Working together as a community of caring teachers and parents, we will see all of our students learning at high levels in a caring school. I look forward to this journey with you all.

I'd also like to highlight a few items for parents this month: first, I'd like you to take advantage of an exciting presentation called "Raising the Heart of Boys", by Boulder's own Michael Vladeck. This is a special opportunity to help us connect and communicate with our sons in a deeper way, and the workshop will be Monday, October 24, at 6 p.m.

Next, note that our Halloween activities will take place on Friday, October 28. The costume parade begins at 1:15 p.m., with parties concluding the day. Please, make sure to keep costume-related weapons at home, and the gore to a minimum.

Finally, I'd like to thank each family for participating in our Dedication to Education fundraiser and for the phenomenal success this year. Your donations will keep our school's support

for kids strong! Would you please take a few minutes and complete this survey - <http://www.surveymzmo.com/s/660963/douglass-dedication-to-education-survey>. Thanks as well to Stephanie Hein for her leadership in the campaign this year!

Your principal,
Jon Wolfer