



RYAN READER

Ryan Elementary School, BVSD, 1405 Centaur Village Drive, Lafayette, CO. 80026

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Cyrus Weinberger - Principal

December 12, 2008 Volume Seven



FROM THE PRINCIPAL

It's not too late to sign up for the Science Expo on February 5, 2009. All Ryan students are strongly encouraged to participate in this unique experience. Children have four categories to choose from, each geared toward a different developmental stage or interest. Please contact your classroom teacher or Holly Saltz (holly.saltz@bvsd.org) if you have any questions, would like further information, or are interested in being a judge.

Math Night is also coming up on January 15, 2009. This will be a wonderful opportunity to learn how to better support your child's math development at home. The night will start with a brief overview of why math instruction seems so different than when we were in school. From here, you will make your way through a variety of stations each featuring a different game focused on a specific skill. All participants will receive a free set of cards and dice to use at home. Please bring your child to this event so you can practice these new techniques together. There will be childcare available for younger students. We look forward to seeing you there.

As a staff, we continue to discuss which options best suit our needs surrounding the new language arts adoption slated for this year. Across the district, schools have been adopting new materials for spelling, handwriting, reading, and writing. All schools are required to adopt K-5 programs to insure continuity school-wide. We have spent time identifying our needs and are in the process of previewing programs to determine which ones are best matched to Ryan. A decision is scheduled to be reached by February 26.

In an effort to improve school climate and further develop relationships in the community, we are beginning to explore using a Restorative Justice model of discipline. The Restorative Justice model focuses on how to repair damage by attending to the needs of those who were hurt and how to involve children in giving back to the community in a way that strengthens their relationships within it. This approach is meant to get away from simply punishing a student for wrong doing (breaking policy), and instead involving them in the healing process in such a way that the child, along with the community, grows with the experience. A good example of this kind of approach would be as follows: A few students are sent to the office because they were pushing other children during football at recess. Instead of having those students miss recess for a week, it was decided they would help develop clearer rules (during recess) and then act as referees for a week. This kind of response is more likely to reduce issues during football, than simply keeping those students in the office where they are inactive and resent missing recess.

See page 3 of this Reader for a summary of the Restorative Justice tenets.

—Continued on page 2

December

- 15 Monday Dental Screenings
Instrumental Music Concert
for Band Parents 11:55am
- 17 Wednesday String Concert for Orchestra
Parents 12:05pm
Holiday & Ryan Ringers
Handbell Choirs,
1:45pm and 7pm
- 22-January 6 WINTER BREAK
NO SCHOOL

January

- 5 & 6 January Professional
Development Days
NO SCHOOL for students
- 6 Tuesday Incoming 2009-2010
Kindergarten Fun Night 6pm
- 15 Thursday Math Night 5-7pm
- 19 Monday Martin Luther King, Jr.
Observation, NO SCHOOL

The Ryan Reader is published twice a month.
Email articles and photos for the Ryan Reader to
ryanelementary@yahoo.com.

~ Barbara Gstalder, Co-editor
~ Michelle Licata, Co-editor

—Continued from page 1

Seven qualified contractors met with district representatives last week for a mandatory playground pre-bid walk through. After the bids are completed, the Board has approved, and the paperwork completed, there will be a preconstruction meeting on February 3, 2009 to introduce the successful contractor and the architects. In this meeting, we will review the procedures, protocols, construction schedule, safety measures, staging, and general logistics. Once construction is underway, we will be having Owner-Architect-Contractor (OAC) meetings approximately every three weeks. The purpose of these meetings is to provide progress updates, discuss scheduling issues, and answer any questions.

It's wonderful to have everyone back at school. During this holiday season, if you or someone you know is worried about providing a gift for their child, please let me know (cyrus.weinberger@bvsd.org or call 303-665-3345) so we can connect you with a local gift program. Additionally, we are collecting new or gently used toys and winter coats in the lobby. As always, if you have any questions, suggestions, or concerns do not hesitate to let us know.

Best wishes,
Cyrus Weinberger

Before and After-School Safety



In an effort to keep all our students and parents safe at the beginning and end of each school day, we would like to remind all families to use the sidewalks when walking to or from school. Please do not walk through either parking lot and when walking in the streets, please use the crosswalks. Also, for the health of our grass, please refrain from walking across the grass. Making use of the sidewalks around and throughout our school will keep everyone safe and our grass green! As an additional reminder, dogs are not allowed on BVSD property unless prior arrangements have been made with the Office. This includes bringing the pet pooch to drop off or pick up your little pumpkin(s)! Thanks, in advance, for you assistance with these matters!

FROM THE HEALTH ROOM



On Monday, December 15 there will be a dental screening for 1st and 3rd grade students only. Permission slips for this screening went home the Friday before Thanksgiving. We will not be able to screen students without signed consent from parents. If you do want your 1st or 3rd grade student screened, please return your signed consent to your child's teacher as soon as possible. If you cannot find the form (or have any other questions about this screening) please call Julie in the Health Room for a replacement.



Target's Take Charge of Education Program

If you have a Target credit card, be sure to sign up for the Take Charge of Education option. When you sign up, choose Ryan Elementary school. Each time you make a purchase with your Target card at Target or Target.com, 1% of your purchases at will be donated to our school.

It would be great to take advantage of this option while you're doing your holiday shopping.

Music Notes



You are invited to a Celebration of Holiday Music

featuring the

“Holiday Choir” and the

“Ryan Ringers” Handbell Choirs

Wednesday, December 17, 2008

7:00 p.m. in the Ryan gym

Participating students should arrive and meet in the music room no earlier than 6:45 that evening.

Students are invited to dress up for the performance.

Restorative Justice

Summary of Principles

Key Goals of Restorative Justice

- ◆ To understand the harm and develop empathy for both the harmed and the harmer.
- ◆ To listen and respond to the needs of the person harmed and the person who harmed
- ◆ To encourage accountability and responsibility through personal reflection within a collaborative process
- ◆ To reintegrate the harmer into the community as a valuable, contributing member
- ◆ To create caring climates to support healthy communities
- ◆ To change the system when it contributes to the harm

Guiding Questions for the Adults

- ◆ Who has been hurt?
- ◆ What are their needs?
- ◆ Whose obligations are they?
- ◆ What are the causes?
- ◆ Who has a “stake” in this?
- ◆ What is the appropriate process to involve stakeholders in an effort to put things right?

Restorative Discipline

- ◆ Recognizes the purposes of misbehavior
- ◆ Addresses the needs of those harmed
- ◆ Works to put right the harm
- ◆ Aims to improve the future
- ◆ Seeks to heal
- ◆ Uses collaborative processes

Discipline Goal #1: Stop bad behavior; teach what’s appropriate

Discipline Goal #2: Help them take responsibility for behavior

Discipline Continuum

Punishment

Consequences

Solutions

Restoration





Math Night

January 15th

5-7 PM



Parent volunteers are needed to help families play math games. "Training" will be provided on Monday, January 12th (day time and/or evening) so that you are familiar with the games.

___ I would love to play games from 5-7 PM

The 1 hour training I would like to attend on Monday, January 12th would be:

___ during the day from _____

___ during the evening from 6-7 PM

___ I can help set up for Math Night, January 15th from 4-5 PM

___ I can help clean up after Math Night, January 15th from 7-7:30 PM

Parent Name _____

Student name and grade _____

E-mail address _____

Phone Number _____

*****please return this form to the office*****