



# RYAN READER

Ryan Elementary School, BVSD, 1405 Centaur Village Drive, Lafayette, CO. 80026  
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 Jim Armitage – Principal March 14, 2008 Volume Thirteen



### March

3-18 CSAP-3rd,4th & 5th grades  
 24-28 Spring Break  
**No School For Students**

### April

3 Thursday New Principal Selection Meeting 6:30pm Gym  
 3 Friday Animal Lunch Bunch  
 8 Tuesday PTA Meeting 6pm  
 11 Friday KNEX Lunch Bunch  
 17 Thursday Civil War Camp  
 18 Friday Lobby Learning Lab  
 Volunteer Tea 3pm Library  
 25-29 **No School For Students**

### May

2 Friday Animal Lunch Bunch  
 Trivia Night 6pm  
 St. Ambrose Church  
 9 Friday KNEX Lunch Bunch  
 13 Tuesday PTA Meeting 6pm  
 13-15 5th Grade Outdoor Ed  
 16 Friday Lobby Learning Lab  
 22 Thursday 25th Anniversary Celebration 2:45pm  
 26 Monday Memorial Day  
**No School For Students**  
 29 Thursday Last Day Of School  
 5th Grade Celebration

The Ryan Reader is published twice a month. Items for the Reader may be submitted to the Reader mailbox in the school office or emailed to [ryanelementary@yahoo.com](mailto:ryanelementary@yahoo.com).

~Debbie Quinn, Reader Editor  
 ~Barbara Gstalder, Reader Editor

## FROM THE HEAD LEARNER

Dear Families,

### New Principal information

Sandy Ripplinger, Assistant Superintendent of Elementary Education, will meet with interested Ryan families on April 3, 2008 at 6:30 p.m. in the Ryan Elementary gym. The purpose of the meeting is to collect input from parents about desired characteristics for the new Ryan Principal. The meeting will be one hour in length. All parents are invited to attend.

The School District anticipates the hiring of a new Principal in early May. Your input into this process is welcomed and appreciated. Please consider taking the time to attend this input gathering meeting as the school district works to hire the best possible principal candidate for our school.

School Improvement Team members Bret Elliot, Jason Rupe and Jim Armitage attended the district sponsored budget forum for school improvement teams this past week. In February, the Superintendent of Schools spent an hour with the Ryan staff to hear input about the budget process. Both the staff and the School Improvement Team voiced opinions about the need for small group, direct instruction resources, increasing resources for math and gifted instruction and the need for counselors at our school. We also made a pitch for an increased level of differentiation in resource allocation from school to school, thus ensuring better coverage of student needs. Thank you to Bret and Jason for their ongoing work to improve our school.

On another note, dealing with fitness, the Ryan Fitness Challenge is this Saturday from 9:00 am-11:30 am. We will be running, jumping, and doing push ups, sit ups and pull ups, and comparing our efforts to those of American children and adults in our age categories. Please join us for this fun activity. You can enter as many of the seven events as you would like. The CU football team is sending three student athletes to help us organize and judge the competition, and several parent volunteers will be there as well.

I am excited to see if I can match my own personal performance numbers from last year. The mile run is my nemesis! I hope to see students and family members this Saturday.

On a personal note, I want to thank parents and families for the kind words of encouragement I have received about my retirement. I realize that change can be a challenge. The Armitage family is excited about the changes we are making, and know that we have another wonderful four months in our great City of Lafayette and here at this fantastic school.

Jim Armitage, Principal



### Geography Bee

Congratulations to Ale Caballero for winning the Ryan Elementary Geography Bee.

She answered this winning question: To sample a dish of traditional paella and see flamenco dancers in Madrid, you would travel to which European country? Answer: Spain.

Over 35 students competed in the challenging competition. Way to go, Ale!!

### Ryan Reader Co-Editor

The Ryan Reader is looking for a co-editor for next year. If you have Microsoft Publisher and Adobe Acrobat to convert files, we need you. Please contact Debbie Quinn at 720-839-1248 for more information.



Susan Metz, Physical Education

The physical education theme for the next few weeks is "Striking with equipment." This includes: tennis, batting and golf (weather permitting). Students are working on tennis for the next couple of weeks. Proper grip, ball skills, forehand and backhand will be the main focus. The fourth graders will be assessed on proper grip and technique for both tennis and batting.

I would like to take this opportunity to talk about Crocs. Safety is by far one of the most important factors in physical education class. My class is unique in that it is a moving environment that often involves equipment. I have noticed when students fall, frequently they are wearing Crocs. Some students' Crocs are without a heel strap or have a very worn out bottom. Even with these issues, children still trip when we are running or moving quickly. I have two pairs myself but I do not wear Crocs when I know I am going to be active. I tend to stumble in them and as a physical educator I do not feel they are supportive enough for moderate to vigorous activity for active children. Please have your child in proper shoe attire for their physical education class to assist me in keeping them safe. I have students take their Crocs off if they wear them to PE class.

Spring is here and activity levels tend to increase with the temperature, which is a good thing. Have a healthy and active spring break and play some tennis with your child. My son's favorite pastime was hitting against the garage or any wall with me when he was little. I would suggest using a high density (softball size) foam ball for K-2nd. The bigger the target the more successful your child can be. Have your child demonstrate bump ups, dribble and bump-bounce skills they have been learning in class.

Stay Healthy  
Suzan Metz-Physical Educator

## NEWS FROM THE RYAN PTA

PTA meetings are the second Tuesday of the month, 6-7:30pm. Everyone is encouraged to attend. Childcare is provided and dinner is served for adults and children.

The next meeting is April 8th. The Playground DAT Committee will spend the first 45 minutes with a presentation of the proposed playground and answer any questions.

We will be holding elections for the 08-09 PTA Board. We are still looking for interested parents who would like to become a part of the Board for next year. If interested, please contact Marla Leonard at 720-352-5970.

At the March meeting, the PTA approved some purchases to be made with the excess spendable budget. One of the approved items is to update and refresh the library. For a complete list of approved spending, please come to the April meeting.



## BVSD Notices

We will soon be sending home a letter from the Colorado Department of Education informing you that the Boulder Valley School District did not make Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) as defined in *No Child Left Behind*. Though BVSD is very pleased that 133 out of the 148 subgroups of our students reached this achievement target, which equals achieving 90 percent of our goals, we are working with our schools to improve the achievement of the 15 subgroups that did not make AYP in 2006-07. Additionally, this year is the first time that we are reporting on the progress of our English Language Learners using three Annual Measurable Achievement Objectives (AMAOs) that have been set for the district by the Colorado Department of Education. In 2006-07, we met two of our three objectives: students making adequate progress in acquisition of English and students attaining proficiency in English. The Boulder Valley School District did not make adequate yearly progress for English Language Learners in reading or mathematics.

In December 2007, the District submitted a Program Improvement Plan to the Colorado Department of Education outlining numerous strategies and actions that would be taken to improve the achievement of the 15 subgroups that did not make AYP or AMAOs. This plan can be located on our website at <http://bvsd.org/pdfs/districtImprovementPlanFall07.pdf>.

The district has previously released information about specific schools that did not make AYP. However, please remember that our district and its schools operate under two additional accountability and accreditation systems, the State Accountability Report (SAR) and the District Accreditation Contract with the department of education. The district received the highest praise in its most recent accreditation report from the State of Colorado, with all of the district's schools fully accredited and 78 percent of our schools rated Excellent or High.

The Internet is a wonderful resource with an infinite amount of information. But just as in the real world, some people in the cyber world will take advantage of this tool to commit crimes. There are schemes designed to defraud browsers and to steal identity, but the largest danger from the Internet is to children. Before the Internet, child sex offenders could not easily share their proclivities without fear of detection. Many didn't even realize others felt the same way. Today, child sex offenders are just a click away to affirm each other's beliefs, pool resources, and share ideas about how to commit such crimes. The ability to network seems to embolden such offenders. Before the Internet, offenders had to spend time "grooming" children and parents alike in order to gain access to a child. Today they simply log on and need only "groom" the child. "Grooming" is a term used to explain the process by which offenders gradually ingratiate themselves with children, breaking down the barriers they have built up to resist sexual advances and ensuring that children will not report them. This process took time, but today, with millions of children online, offenders can quickly target potential victims. Some 95 percent of children

in grades six through eight use computers, and half of them are regular Internet users. Children ages 12 to 17 spend an average of 5.5 hours a day online! (Pew Internet & American Life Project, 2005) That is particularly disturbing considering that 90 percent of Internet-initiated cases of child sexual abuse involved children ages 13 to 17. The greatest barrier to abuse is education. It is not feasible to keep kids offline, so parents and children alike must be taught that there are dangers on the Internet and learn ways to use the Internet safely. To report an Internet-related crime committed against a child, please contact the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children at [www.cybertipline.com](http://www.cybertipline.com) or your local law enforcement agency.