



WHITTIER GREENLEAF

December 2007

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From the Principal's Desk

This is a season to be thankful for all of the things we take for granted every day. Our students are actively engaged in the joy of learning. Teachers are building their learning communities and appreciate all of the parent and CU volunteers. Thanks to all of you for supporting your child at Parent-Teacher conferences. I sat in on a number of student-led conferences and was impressed by the goals that students have set for themselves as well as their progress towards them. Attendance was 96% and your feedback has been very positive. Also, thank you for your volunteer support and attendance at this year's Heritage Night.

DAC Review & Kudos – The District Accountability committee met and reviewed our School Improvement Plan and report. We were received warmly and told that our report was a model for other schools. Thank you to all of the teachers and parents who worked on this report. A complete copy is available through me if you want to read through the 80+ pages.

Traffic/Parking/Safe Routes to School – I have been meeting with parent, John Koval and representatives from the City of Boulder, and the police department to look for solutions to our traffic congestion during pick up and drop off. In the next month or two you will see several changes that we think you will like. We will route all busses to the Spruce Street side of school leaving Pine Street for drop off. We will also change the signs to reflect more parking and an expanded zone for pick-up/drop-off (not parking) along with reminders about “U” turns. Evelyn Masson created flyers encouraging children to take alternate modes of transportation (walk, bike etc.). PTA will be giving out prizes for students who participate and enter for random drawings. We can also apply for a Safe Routes to School grant but we need a committee. Volunteers to date have been John Koval, Cindy Corwin, Ashliegh Hitchcock, Evelyn Masson, Rick Polito, and Lisa Cadigan. Our first meeting was on November 14th from 8:05 – 9:05am. If you are interested in joining this parent group at future meetings, please let me know.

Kids Hope USA is a volunteer organization that pairs churches with schools to provide mentors. We are working with the First United Methodist Church on 15th & Spruce to bring 12-15 adult volunteers into our school. Volunteers will meet weekly with student selected by teachers. The aim of this program is to provide struggling students with academic help given by an adult who is committed to making a personal difference in their lives. Columbine Elementary has been taking advantage of this community collaboration for several years and it has been successful in increasing achievement, self-esteem, and attendance in the students who participated. We are very excited about this community support.

Professional Development Days – On Nov 9th we focused on differentiation (changing instructional methods and materials to meet the needs of individual students) in math instruction. The daylong workshop was led by our first grade teacher, Sherri Luna. Teacher feedback was overwhelmingly positive and the day

ended with a standing ovation for Mrs. Luna. Our next Professional Development Days will be January 7th & 8th and the topics will be IB Planners, Closing the Achievement Gap and Strategies for Reducing Teasing/Bullying.

Lauren Hoyt, Principal

LOST AND FOUND !

IT'S A CHILLY START TO DECEMBER AND THE LOST AND FOUND BOX IS **STILL PACKED** WITH ITEMS OF ALL KINDS!
PLEASE HELP YOUR CHILD LOOK THROUGH THE BOX FOR ANY ITEMS THAT MAY BELONG TO THEM

~
TWICE A YEAR WE PACK UP THESE ITEMS AND SEND THEM OFF TO GOOD WILL ~ PLEASE HELP US BY PICKING UP THE CLOTHES, LUNCHBOXES ETC. AND BY LABELING ALL ITEMS THAT COME TO SCHOOL ! WE WILL BE BAGGING UP ALL ITEMS TO DONATE AT WINTER BREAK ~

HOLIDAY SCHOOL HOURS

Closed December 24 through January 8 RETURN TO SCHOOL ON JANUARY 9TH ~

Office News:

When your child is sick or out of town, please be reminded to BOTH advise the classroom teacher and notify. The Attendance Line is 303-245-5922.

KINDERGARTEN 2008-09 Open House Dates

6:30 – 7:30 PM

Wednesday, Dec. 12th & Tuesday, Jan. 15th

Whittier will have two Open Houses for prospective kindergarten families to learn about our kindergarten program. Parents may register their kindergarten students at that time. If you prefer, you may request a registration packet from the office (and not attend the meeting). Look for signs closer to the dates!

Families are invited to learn about our school from the Principal, the kindergarten teachers and others and kids may check out the kindergarten classrooms. Cookies provided! Also, interested families please call the office to reserve. 303-442-2282.

Tour Dates and Times as follows:

12/10, 1/14/08 and 1/17/08 @ 9:30am

12/6, 12/14 and 1/14/08 @ 1:30pm

MATH SQUAD!

Several teachers are preparing math games for a volunteer Math Squad to support our school goal to improve math achievement. Teachers are really looking forward to having volunteers in their rooms during math time to help with small groups. Sherri Luna and Maurie Marcil will also help train volunteers.

We need your help. The teachers making the math games came up with the following list of things that parents may be willing to donate:

- 1) Large Ziploc Baggies
- 2) 35 mm film canisters.
- 3) shelving
- 4) index cards (3" x 5")
- 5) Dixie cups (small - bathroom size)
- 6) Pint size cream or milk containers (made of waxed cardboard)

Thanks for your help. We are excited about this extra and the very needed support for the students at Whittier.
Sherri Luna, Math Leader

~ FIRST GRADE MARKET ~

DECEMBER 3RD FROM 4:00 – 7:00 PM

In conjunction with our next IB unit of inquiry we will set up an actual market for the first graders to experience. We will also be renting spaces for \$10.00 so you can set up a table to sell your goods or services. You get to keep all of the profits that you make. Each first grade class will make items they will be selling and they may also offer a service. Anyone in your family that has an item or service to sell may sign up for the market. If you make or provide jewelry, pottery, paintings, cards, hair braiding, baked goods, manicures, face painting, etc. bring it to the market to sell or trade and remember, you keep your profits!

This will be a great time to get some gift shopping done or possibly stock up on some great eatable goodies. Let your family and friends know that they can come and shop too. Please support in any way you can. All proceeds for table space will go to help support our first grade field trips.

Can't wait to see you there!
First Grade Team

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Whittier is seeking volunteers for the lunchroom! We would love to have some extra hands to help with serving trays, the salad bar and condiments, and light supervision. Lunches start at 10:50am and end at 11:50pm. If you are available during these hours, please contact LouAnn Babicz ~ Thank you!

CONGRATULATIONS!!!

Leslie Cumming, our fifth grade teacher has just passed her National Board for Teaching Standards Certification! There are only a small number of these awards granted annually. Currently, Sally Hofmockel, our 3/4th grade teacher holds the same certification. Also Marcia Jordan and Lise Blumenthal are working on their Board Certification.

Coffee with the Principal

December 13, 2007

Lauren Hoyt will be hosting a "Welcome" in the Library at 8:00 right after school begins. Join Lauren and other parents for a time to socialize or ask any specific questions you may have regarding Whittier and our IB program.

BOOK FAIR!!

Mark your calendars – the Book Fair will be start on JANUARY 22 – 25 FROM 8AM TO 3:30PM ~ Come on and all to support our library!

Looking for something for your kids to do after school?

BVSD's LIFELONG LEARNING

Offers Classes for Children

Ages 6 -12

Join us for plenty of Winter Fun!

We offer a variety of classes for children.

(starting January 31-April 26 for the Winter catalog)

Literacy...publish your own newspaper article!

Art...paint a masterpiece or explore Anime cartooning!

Languages...learn Spanish or French!

Act in a play!

Horseplay...play with horses!

Create digital diaries!

Exercise...try rock climbing!

Check out our website at www.bvsd.org/III

or

Call 303-499-1125x222 to register.

Scholarships available

Classes run in various BVSD schools and other locations.

CUP STACKING!

Cup Stacking starts in December!

- We will Stack on Tuesday & Thursday mornings at 7:15 - 8:00.
- It will be in the Library & is free to all participants: Whittier kids from 1st through 5th grades. Look for a permission slip after the holidays!
- Amy Hancock

Imagination Makers Theater Company Coming Soon

On December 6th, from 1:15-2:15 pm, our students will have the opportunity to see a play by the Imagination Makers Theater Company. The performance at our school is made possible by a grant from The Boulder Scientific and Cultural Facilities District (SCFD).

The play, "Dreams", presents a world in which kids imagine pet tigers, and vending machines that dispense food for the homeless. This dynamic production dramatizes the stories of kids', dreams for themselves, their families and friends, and the world. These sometimes moving, sometimes funny, stories were written by kids ages 6-12, living in Colorado but from various countries including Chile, Tanzania, Russia, China, Yugoslavia, Poland, Kuwait, India, Japan, and Brazil. There are also stories from kids who are homeless and one from a wheelchair-bound girl. Three actors and a live musician present all the writing in a way that is sensitive and fun, from the invention of a chemical that brings rain forest trees back to life, to a silly poem about having the power to turn everything into chocolate. This play empowers kids as writers and as dreamers!

Imagination Makers is a professional theater company that has been performing for children throughout the Denver metro area for the past 27 years. Parents are welcome to join us for this assembly.

CONGRATULATIONS to our Energizer Bunnies! First PLACE! WOW!

On Nov. 10th, The Whittier Lego Robotics team participated in a tournament at Monarch High School that involved building and programming a robot to accomplish various challenges representing ways to utilize alternative energy sources. Whittier was presented with a HUGE trophy for coming in *first place* in robot design and programming. (There were 28 teams involved, ranging from K-8.) The judges were particularly impressed with our team's use of sensors and the knowledge of the students. Another aspect of the tournament involved presenting ways to save energy at our school. Our team had a very creative presentation that included many practical ideas and a schematic of how heat flows through our building. They also designed their own shirts, donned bunny ears, painted pink noses and whiskers on their faces, and concluded the presentation with a cute poem about the various "climates" in our school!

The team consisted of the following students: Stephanie Wong, Caroline Goussetis, Tristain Cain, Andrew Pettit, Max Ryan, Dylan Haldeman, Claire Butler, Ghael Fobes and Mahayla Rose. This would not have been possible without the numerous hours and gentle guidance provided by Felicity Wong and Steve Waltman (Stephanie's parents) and Nick Gerstle, a very caring and dedicated Sr. at Boulder High School. Thanks and congratulations to everyone involved!



International Baccalaureate News

Grade-Level Updates on Whittier's IB Program

First Grade

First graders are learning about goods and services, wants and needs, resources, jobs, saving and spending, and markets around the world. We are making products to sell at the First Grade Market on Monday, December 3rd from 4:00-7:00. The first graders are excited to be a part of a real market and look forward to seeing you all shopping on the 3rd. They have found it interesting to learn that some people do not have cash, credit cards or checks to use at markets. They have learned about trading and bartering for goods. Thanks for helping make this unit real for the students.

Third Grade

3rd grade has just completed their 2nd IB unit, Making Our Voices Heard. Children studied Colorado Government, state symbols, voting and the difference between rights and responsibilities. There was a component of the many methods that citizens can change the world by making their voices heard in a variety of ways. Students also became familiar with some economic realities of scarcity, and wants versus needs. We took a field trip to the state capital, joined the 2nd graders to hear the mayor speak and enjoyed the stories of Stuart Mann, Remy's dad, who is an attorney. It was extremely apparent that many of the 3rd graders had learned a great deal when they came to school with culminating projects that ranged from a flow chart about the judicial system to a research report and model of an electronic ballot system. As the week ends, 3rd graders will be contemplating their actions. Watch out for protest signs!

Fourth Grade

4th Grade is right in the middle of their third IB unit of the year: "Taking a Stand". Our Central Idea is: People sometimes choose to protest when they don't agree with a situation. Our inquiries are: 1) Historical and literature-based examples of protest; 2) Using the Reflect-Choose-Act cycle when selecting a course of action; and 3) a Case Study: The U.S. Revolution. This year we will be analyzing (and performing) The Wizard of Oz, finding examples of characters who took a stand.