



Columbine Connections

April 3, 2009

Columbine Recognizes *Honesty!*

On March 19th, Columbine held *Bien Educados* assemblies. March's recipients were being recognized for honesty.

These students consistently tell the truth, even when it is not easy. Honesty is one of the internal assets on the "40 Assets" list that form the building blocks of healthy development. We are proud of these students for helping to make Columbine the best it can be. Please join us in congratulating the following students:

First Grade: Shrish Sharma, Emanuel Arellano, Louis King,



Briseyda Magdaleno, Eduardo Silva-Jimenez, Alexis Perez, Cristal Cornelio, Leslie Castillo, Christian Lopez, Valeria Zavala, Sergio Cardona

Second Grade: Benji Avitia, Baruc Martinez, Jose Morales, Shreya Sharma, Hao Nuygen, Alma Vasquez, Lauren Granados, Christian Ortega-Munoz, Freida Ximello, Lupita Corchado, Dane Ecker

Third Grade: Al Ario, Silvia Ontiveros, Luis Perez, Eileen Longoria, Emily Diaz, Angelita Ramierz, Luz Gordillo, Malachai Stenflo, Alyssa Cartwright, Zen McCollum

Fourth Grade: Andrew Martinez, Prakash Gurung, Mateo Nystrom, Abraham Perez, Jesus Olguin, Alfredo Campos, Elizabeth Quezada, Jose Bautista

Fifth Grade: Emily Kwiat, Aria Carl, Sebastian Costa, Edgar Chavarria, Kerry Gutierrez, Celia Rodriguez, Detrick Molina, Jose Hernandez, Jose Luis Corchado, Heidi Rodriguez

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April Calendar

PTA Meeting (6:30 PM—Art room)	13
TODOS—Parks & Recreation (5:30 light dinner 6PM start)	15
3rd Grade Musical (9:30 AM and 6:30PM)	16
Preschool Story Hour (9:00-9:45 Library)	16
TODOS—Father/kid bowling (5:30 light dinner)	23
No School	24 & 27
Preschool Story Hour (9-9:45—Library)	30
5th Grade Musical (2PM and 6:30 PM)	30

COLUMBINE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT GOALS

2008-09 MID YEAR REPORT

Prepared by Lynn Widger, Principal

EQUITY GOAL— READING

Our action plan to address the English reading achievement of children receiving biliteracy instruction is progressing well.

- All teachers incorporated English vocabulary, language structures and functions found in CSAP into their instruction.
- Mid-year literacy assessments were administered in January and February. Based upon the results of the as-

sessments, teachers targeted and planned their instruction.

- Through our participation in the CU Literacy Squared Project, biliteracy teachers continue to build their knowledge about the interplay of Spanish and English in the development of biliteracy and about instructional strategies that support that development.

ACHIEVEMENT GOAL—MATH

Our math goal is centered upon a transformational change in our

math program. Such a significant change typically does not produce results in a short term. Thus, our 2008 CSAP math scores continued to decline. We are hopeful that our initiative that began in 2007 will produce increased CSAP math scores this year. An indicator of our progress in math instruction is ten of our current fifth graders entering seventh grade advanced math next year in middle school. Specific actions that are underway are:

- Continued focus on the development of number sense supported by ongoing and varied professional development for teachers.
- Grade level teacher meetings with our math coach every six weeks to analyze AVMR (our number sense assessment) results and plan instruction.
- Small math group sizes.

(Continued on page 2)

Mid-Year SIT Report *(con't from page 1)*

- An accelerated path in second through fifth grade.

CLIMATE GOAL

Our efforts in improving school climate have been varied and comprehensive.

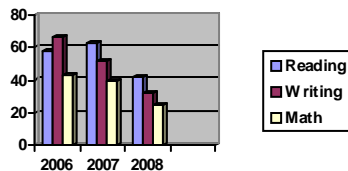
- Our PBS (Positive Behavior Support) school-wide system is producing great results. Office referrals are down from past years. We are now in the process of purchasing a data collection system that will enable us to monitor individual student behavior incidents as well as identify group behavior trends.
- Weekly community building meetings are held in every classroom. The meetings focus on the expectations of our PBS system and themes of conflict resolution, anti-bullying, etc.
- Our counselor and social worker have

been conducting interviews with fourth and fifth graders to gain better understanding of bullying at Columbine as well as students' perceptions of other climate factors.

ACHIEVEMENT TREND DATA

Last month at a BVSD Board meeting, a presentation about the complexity of second language learning and instruction was made. The presenters also spoke to the importance of a body of evidence that looks at trends over time and data from multiple sources. I

CSAP Growth Model Median ELL's
Columbine Elementary



have attached a graph about achievement of ELL's at Columbine which provides information about trends over time.

2006-08 CSAP Growth Median

As you can see

- for 2006 and 2007, reading and writing were above the 50 percentile. Our decline in 2008 came as a surprise, especially because other assessment data provided much different results.
- math performance shows a significant decline over 3 years. We are confident that the transformational changes we have made will produce increased test performance.

The body of evidence for writing and reading is not as clear cut as math and does not constitute a trend upon which to easily base decisions.

This and that....

Reminder

Your child should have received their raffle packet today. Please be certain to help your child by reading the parent letter and encouraging them to sell at least 5 tickets. Please note that the date for the raffle drawing has been moved to May 8th.

their daughter, Eva. She was born March 2nd and is bringing joy to their household.

Visioning Update

Program Visioning has not begun in earnest yet due to delays related to the negotiations between the Office of Civil Rights and BVSD. Individual committee reps have been meeting to gather input and feedback to bring to the group once

the meetings begin again. The DAT held their first meeting in March and will meet again on April 14th & 28th this month.

Clean-Up Day

Our annual spring clean-up day with First Presbyterian church will be on Saturday, May 2nd. Mark your calendars, grab your gloves and rakes and join us while we beautify the school.

Congrats to Mr. Lamere

PE teacher Jason Lamere and his wife, Jessica are celebrating the birth of

PTA News



Once again, discussion at the PTA meeting centered around the future of our instructional program, staff and building. Parents learned that the program visioning for our school is on hold until the mediation between the school district and the Office of Civil Rights (OCR) is resolved. The OCR received complaints about the handling of the future of our school from several individuals. The federal agency informed the district that they were being investigated on 5 counts for violating civil rights law. The district was asked to address 28 points but opted to

move to mediation instead of continuing with the investigation. The original goal of visioning was to give staff a picture of what the new program would look like by April 1st so they could make decisions for next year. However, with budget constraints, normal staff allocations will not be known until after April 17th. Parents continue to be concerned that changes that parents believe are important to our environment won't be considered for inclusion in the new program. Reps committed to bringing these concerns forward and asked that parents stay involved and vocal.



Mile Marathon on Tap

Plans are under way for the 32nd Annual Mile Marathon race here at Columbine. This year's race will take place on Friday, May 22nd. We need over 75 volunteers to help us make this event a success. Look for a sign-up sheet in the lobby in early May and come to the May 11th PTA meeting to help assemble ribbons. Deb Anderson, the event coordinator for the past several years will be handing over the planning reigns to Jen McDiarmid, Kori Jew and Tina Larter. Thanks to Deb for all her years of making this a special event.