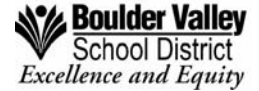




Columbine Connections



Columbine Recognizes Leaders

On November 21st, Columbine held *Bien Educados* assemblies. This month's recipients are being recognized for being leaders. Columbine's leaders set the tone for the classroom and greater community by making safe, respectful and responsible choices. Leaders help others, suggest solutions and lead implementation of those solutions. 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: Chloe Dicks, Amina Gilbert, Louis King, Daniel Hernández, Angel Ruiz, Daniel Curiel, Saul "Junior" Escobar, Karina de la Cruz

Second Grade: Tavian Keatley-Welch, Heidi Flores-Lemus, Alma Vásquez, Ian

McDiarmid-Sterling, Omar Castruita, Lupita Calderón, Masen Lounsbery

Third Grade: Nolan Brunner, Zen McCollum, Eric Esparza, Anahí Arellano, María Arellano, Christopher Gutiérrez, Emily Díaz, Ramiro López, Rubycel Rodríguez, Janeth Longoria, Alejandra Caballero,

Fourth Grade: Carlos García, Haley Larson, Alondra Arellano, Pedro Torres, Melanie Morales, Leidy Guerrero

Fifth Grade: Ana Robles, Denise Bretado, Cristian Ledesma, Brian Castruita, Miguel Alaniz, Diana Ordaz, Alden Burr, Edma Colin, Edith García, Jonathan Vaquera, Andrea Jiménez

Announcements

- We're having two great assemblies this month. Parents and community members are encouraged to come enjoy a play by Imagination Makers on December 9th. On the 12th, the Matachines Dancers will be coming to perform traditional Mexican dance. Both assemblies are at 9AM
- TODOS is offering another opportunity for family fun. On December 10th, we will be having fun with arts and crafts as we make wrapping paper for elderly members of our community who can't leave their homes. Come make a difference for those in need while being creative. Light dinner @5:30 followed by craft time. Childcare for kids under

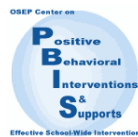
Columbine Elementary
3130 Replier St.
Boulder, CO 80304
303-443-0792
FRS: 303-441-4059
www.bvsd.org/schools/Columbine

December 5, 2008

December Calendar

Lights of Dec Parade	6
10AM float assembly—school	
4:30 pizza/parade—1st pres	
PTA Meeting	8
(6:30 PM—Art room)	
5th Grade Middle School Info Meeting	8
(6PM Library)	
Imagination Makers	9
(all school assembly 9AM)	
TODOS—arts & crafts	10
(5:30 Cafeteria)	
Matachines Assembly	12
(9:00 AM in the gym)	
Visioning Workgroup	17
(6PM—Library)	
Kinder Holiday Musical	18
(1:30)	
Winter Break	12/22-1/7
(No School)	

PBS is Strong at Columbine



Columbine's community has been focusing on being *Safe, Respectful and Responsible* in the **Cafeteria** during the month of November. Here are Columbine's rules in the Cafeteria:

Be Safe

- *use walking feet
- *wait your turn
- *stay in your seat

Be Respectful

- *use a quiet voice
- *use table manners, say please and thank you to others
- *clean up after yourself

Be Responsible

- *compost and recycle properly
- *line up quietly

To help us out at home, you could talk to your child about what good table manners look like to them. Also, how would they feel if they went to a restaurant and had to eat at a dirty table? Thank you for helping students understand why it is important to be safe, respectful, and responsible everyday in our school cafeteria!

Kinder Registration

Enrollment for the 2009-10 kindergarten year has begun. If you have an incoming kindergartener, please complete the registration paperwork as soon as possible. Spread the word to friends/relatives who live in our attendance area. Early registration helps in our planning for staffing levels.

Holiday Time is Family Time

By Dr. Jan Hittelman

The holiday season is supposed to be a time for family get-togethers and celebration. Most families look forward to this special time of the year. A time for renewal of the love and warmth that family represents. Too often, however, it becomes a time of family conflict and struggle. In the counseling industry, there is often a spike in referrals after school holidays. This is usually the result of underlying dysfunctional family dynamics flourishing in an environment of ongoing family interaction. Let's open our "Happy Holiday Family Survival Kit" and consider the following strategies:



Graham Craker House from our November 19th TODOS event

1. The L Word: Generally speaking, we are terrible at expressing our positive feelings for each other. On the other hand, we tend to be masterful at expressing our negative feelings. This is a critical issue within the family. As parents we often feel love, pride, and car-

ing for our children, but rarely do we verbalize it. Our children and others are not mind readers and desperately need to hear it.

2. Quality Time: Consider empowering your children by giving them the opportunity to suggest some family activities. After they brainstorm a list of family activities, pick the ones that sound good to you and make an effort to do them. While all of your time need not be structured, too much boredom and downtime often leads to negative behavior and conflict.

3. Choosing Your Battles: Focus on the big picture; having an enjoyable time as a family and try not to let the smaller discipline issues become the focus of family interaction. You can always provide minimal feedback, make a mental note, and revisit it after the holidays.

4. The L Word: I know I mentioned it

already, but we really are terrible at it. Make an effort to provide your child with genuine positive feedback. When you feel something positive, make sure you verbalize it.

5. The Element of Surprise: Think about some activities that you know your children will enjoy (see #2) and surprise them with it, letting them know that you are doing it because of something positive that they have done in the recent past (see #4).

6. If All Else Fails, Consider the C Word: If despite all of these efforts significant family dysfunction continues then consider benefiting from counseling. In many cases, short-term family therapy with a skilled provider can result in significant outcomes.

The basic elements of love, nurturance, effective communication and empowerment are at the heart of what makes any family system strong. It just takes effort to nourish and maintain them.

Happy Holidays!

Stay connected over winter break.... Have your child access the Columbine Website and play math, spelling or reading games. www.bvsd.org/columbine There are games under "useful links" on the *Parents* page, the Library website or on the *Math* and *SSL* pages .

Columbine Welcomes Imagination Makers

On Dec. 9th, 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 grants from Webroot Inc. and the Boulder County Scientific and Cultural Facilities District (SCFD).

"Fables: Old and New" is an imaginative musical play that first dramatizes children's retellings of Aesop's traditional fables, then shows student-written modern versions of these tales. In addi-



tion to reusing old fables, the entire set for the play, all the props and the musical instruments have been created entirely from recycled materials. Students can see that with little more than "junk" and a good imagination, something incredible can be created. The fable writers were from diverse backgrounds including African-American and Latino (one girl wrote her fable in Spanish), as well as a

boy who was blind and a girl who was homeless. This entertaining and meaningful play promotes recycling in a fun way, and teaches simple but valuable lessons for life.

Imagination Makers is a professional theater company that has been performing for children throughout the Denver metro area for the past 28 years. Find out more at www.imaginationmakers.org

This and That...

Staff Sponsors Holiday Basket

As a thank-you to our community the staff will once again be sponsoring a goodie basket which will be raffled off to one of our families. Staff members will be donating delicious food items such as cheeses, chocolates, nuts and candies. Students will be receiving tickets from their literacy teachers. Each child will receive ONE ticket for a chance at the basket. The drawing will be held on December 17th, just in time to share your basket with friends and family.



Staff Awarded Mini-grants

Columbine teachers Michelle Dubois and Carlota Loya-Hernandez both were awarded classroom mini-grants from Impact on Education. Carlota's grant will be used to purchase math games and Michelle's will go towards the 5th Grade production of the Sound of Music.

Volunteer News

Special thanks to Angela Bowman for coordinating our Election Day bake sale. Thanks to all our bakers and helpers too. We raised over \$500.



We also owe a big thanks to all those who helped with our carnival. We had extra help from Monarch High School students and youth group members from First Pres Church—we couldn't have done it without all our volunteers!

Finally, look for our new volunteer board just past the lobby for opportunities to help out. Our new PTA volunteer coordinators, Francine Alberts and Adrianna Quiceno will be making sure all our bases are covered.

PTA News

We had a full agenda at our November PTA meeting. Beyond finalizing carnival and parade plans parents had an opportunity to discuss many items related to school improvement. Lynn Widger, Principal explained how the Title I funds we receive from the government are used. She also shared details of upcoming classes planned to improve CSAP performance as part of our response to not meeting all our No Child Left Behind

performance targets. Our new SIT (School Improvement Team) discussed their mission and shared a summary of our 2007/08 Climate Survey Results. Parents discussed the results and formed additional questions to guide the SIT team in their next steps. Finally, it was decided that there will not be a Santa shop this year. PTA will discuss the Santa shop concept and the

possibility of a suitable replacement at our next meeting

Next PTA Meeting

Monday, December 8th

6:30 PM in the Art Room

Bring a snack to share

Childcare and translation provided

From the Office



It's that time of year again. As cold and flu season approaches we want to remind you of a few things you can do to help us all keep the bugs away this year. First, remind your child to wash their hands frequently. Help them establish the habit of washing their hands before they do anything else when they get home from school. Next, make certain they are getting proper nutrition, rest and hydration during cold and flu

season. Remember, sugary snacks and drinks depress the immune system making children more susceptible to infections. Finally, if your child does succumb to a cold or flu please be mindful of our sick kid policy. Any child that has had a fever or been vomiting in the previous 24 hours should be kept home. Children with persistent coughs, stomach aches or sore throats will also be more comfortable and less contagious if kept home. Thanks for your cooperation.



Moved? Time to apply for enrollment

If you moved out of our attendance area since the school year began, please speak with Cindy in the office. You will need to complete an open enrollment application if you want your child(ren) to return to Columbine next fall. The District is asking for strict compliance with this rule to avoid the need for administrative transfers.