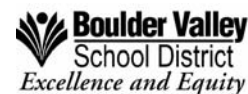




Columbine Connections



Columbine Recognizes Peacemakers

Since January is the time when we remember Martin Luther King, the January *Bien Educados* recognition ceremony awarded peacemakers. Columbine staff chose students who emulate Martin Luther's message of peace in their behavior. Please join us in congratulating the following students and their families:

First Grade: Adie Crawford, Sam Malkinson, Ira Dinsmore, Jacob Traum, Fabiola Longoria, Liza Lopez, David Bautista, Perla Ordaz, Madison Larter, Leslie Castillo, Jovanni Galindo, Juan Gonzales, Alvina Longoria, Dalia Monreal

Second Grade: Jacqueline Rivera-Escalante, Eric Morales, Jennifer Rodas-Mejia, Pepito Moreno Renteria, Alma Vasquez, Camila Avi-

tia, Emily Hernandez, Emanuel Flores, Fabiola Portillo, Esteban Quezada, Alejandra Martinez



Third Grade: Michelle De-Santiago, Kimberly Macias, Juan Carlos, Lesley Chavarria, Priscila Garza, Alecsis Ortiz, Miguel Martinez

Fourth Grade: Zachary Ziolkowski, Carlos Garcia, Lizette Rodriguez, Jesus Monreal, Lupita Vaquera, Alez Jimenez, Katherine

Gutierrez, Luis Portillo

Fifth Grade: Chloe Doherty, Jaime Astorga, Ana Robles, Edgar Chavarria, Kerry Gutierrez, Isabel Hinojoza, Jordan Hines, Ayla Lieberman, Edith Garcia, José Manuel Ibarra, Alex Morales

Announcements

- We still need volunteers to be room parents. If you would like to be the coordinator for your child's class, please tell their teacher.
- Our yearly raffle will be on May 1st. We need non-cash items such as gift certificates to add to our prize list. If you are willing to solicit prizes, please see Wanda.

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

February 6, 2009

February Calendar

PTA Meeting (6:30—Art Room)	9
Preschool Story Hour (1:15-2PM Library)	11
No School - (Presidents' Day)	16
TODOS -Gift Jars (5:30 light dinner 6PM start)	18
No School - (Teacher work day)	23
TODOS Get Moving Night! (6:00 -cafeteria)	25
Preschool Story Hour (9:00-9:45 AM Library)	26



PBS News

Happy New Year!!!! With the New Year comes a reenergizing of PBS and its zones. We have been revisiting our 6 zones which include: the hallways, the cafeteria, the playground, the classrooms, and last month's zone: the bathrooms. We are revisiting, re-teaching, and recommitting to being responsible, respectful, and safe in our Columbine com-

munity. To recap our PBS commitments, we had a PBS assembly on Jan. 16th. In this assembly we reviewed the zones, and agreements as well as the "Stop and Think" forms and the "Time Out Trackers". The students made resolutions for the zones and have been put to the task of finding "respect" that has disappeared. Hopefully, respect will return from vacation and join us

back at Columbine. There is also a new addition to our PBS family: The "Wildcat ROAR." The ROAR is awarded to an entire class when they are caught being, safe, respectful, and/or responsible. After multiple ROARS have been awarded to a particular class, that class chooses a reward. We are excited for this new addition!!!!



We still have some students who are **missing complete** immunization records. Notifications were sent home in December and phone reminders will be made this month. **Updated records are due by February 27th. Students missing records after February 27th will not be allowed to attend school until the information is provided.**

The Magic of Structured Activity Rewards

By Dr. Jan Hittelman

Over the course of many years working with elementary-age children, it became clear to me that the common denominator for the vast majority of my "behavior problem" clients was parental attention. All of this led me to discover the magic of Structured Activity Rewards.

When I would suggest this approach to parents, many would initially respond: "We've tried behavioral contracts, what else have you got?" What they didn't realize was that these behavioral strategies sound easy (i.e. reward the good, punish the bad), but common pitfalls tend to sabotage the system. These pitfalls typically include: using an overly complicated system (usually including grids and charts), choosing unmotivating "rewards", not including the child in the creation of the plan, no plan for phasing out the system, lack of clarity regarding the behaviors themselves, expecting perfection,

bribing versus reinforcing and poor parental follow through.

The purpose of the Activity Rewards Contract is to ensure initial practice of the behavior(s) that we are encouraging the child to learn. Motivation and practice are essential ingredients towards learning new skills and behaviors. For children needing to improve their behavior, however, there is often an initial lack of motivation and subsequent practice of the skills required. Using structured activity rewards solves this problem. In addition, using parental time and attention as the primary incentive serves to enhance the parent-child relationship and improves the parent's overall discipline technique. The system, then, attempts to retrain both child and parent.

By precisely following the steps outlined below, the results are often immediate and dramatic:

1. Decide on the specific behavior.
2. Brainstorm fun activities with your child.
3. Discuss the specific behavior with your child.
4. Negotiate the terms of the contract together and write it out.
5. Review the contract together and make corrections where needed.
6. Read and sign the contract.
7. Encourage success; be the "good coach".
8. Monitor progress.
9. Follow-up as soon as possible with earned activity rewards.
10. Revise the contract as needed.
11. When appropriate, phase out the contract.

PTA News



Our January PTA meeting was lengthy due to all the proposed changes at our school. The group discussed business including Fiesta Night, the raffle and other upcoming events. Second graders presented the PTA with a special thanks for sponsoring their trip to see Desperaux. Lynn Widger updated us on the latest plans related to our building, new principal, the results of the Colorado Department of Education Audit, and proposed programming changes. The group talked about many of the options and de-

isions that have affected our school. After extensive sharing of concerns, a consensus was reached that the best way to address those concerns and fears is to get involved in the planning process for our new educational program and school. The PTA will take a leadership role in building solidarity and reaching out to all our stakeholder groups in a positive manner to ensure all our voices are heard. **Next Meeting—Monday, February 9th 6:30 PM in the art room, childcare, and translation provided. Please bring a snack to share.**



Our family involvement group, TODOS has a couple of fun evenings planned for February. On Wednesday the 18th we will be making gift jars of soup, cornbread and snack mix to keep or give away. We'll have light dinner before so letting us know we can expect you is important. Then on Wednesday the 25th we'll have a "Get Moving Night." Fun stations like hula hoop, twister and jumpy ball races will be set up to get your blood pumping. TODOS will provide healthy snacks and drinks. Our get moving night will start at 6PM so bring your energy and dress comfortably.

Program and Building Visioning Update

Cindy Kaier, our current planning principal started work January 20th. Until she assumes the role of Columbine principal in the fall, she will be working to understand our staff, program and students. She will also be planning with the Visioning Committee for our program and the DAT (Design Advisory Team) for the new building. Mrs. Kaier will work with two representative groups in developing the vision for our new school. The first is the DAT, Design Advisory Team, and will be responsible for decisions regarding

the physical design of our building. The second group will be the Visioning Committee who will be developing overall vision for our school. Meetings for these two important planning groups will take place separately and concurrently. Both the design of our new school and the visioning require a thoughtful, inclusive process. Therefore, Mrs. Kaier and district administrators have



been meeting with our SIT (School Improvement Team) to discuss the best approach for embarking on this journey. A note went home last week explaining how visioning committee members will be selected. The most important way to help our staff and school during this time of transition is to stay informed, remain involved and make certain you clearly express what you would like to see in our new school. Thank you for your patience.. Together we will create an even better Columbine.