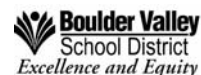




Columbine Connections



Outstanding Wildcats Recognized

Our October 30th *Bien Educados* assembly recognized the problem solvers in our community. These students are first to offer solutions to group and individual challenges, conflicts and difficult situations. Problem solvers are adept at finding solutions that are agreeable to the group and whose outcome best effected everyone. Not only do they offer solutions, but they take a leadership role in implementing those solutions. Problem solvers teach others how to find compromise and ultimately encourage all students to take responsibility for problem solving themselves. Please join us in congratulating the following students and their families:

First Grade: Kenny Jew, Ira Disnmore, Eduardo Jimenez, Angel Felix, Sonia Robles-Lopez, Aylin Vaquera, Madison Larter, Lizbeth Garcia, Blanca Zavala

Second: Stephanie Jimenez,

Dane Ecker, Abraham Olguin, Enrique Moreno, Tony Martinez, Evan Gordillo, Emily Hernandez, Christian Ortega-Munoz, Frida Aguilar-Ximello, Jasmin Barrera, Cody Morris, Hao Nyugen

Third: Erika Olguin, Ivan Arellano, Christina Monreal, Cristian Chairez, Carla Ordaz, Alex Garcia-Sarmiento, Diana Colis, Martin Rodriguez, Janet Colis, Brayan Macias

Fourth: Andres Lopez-Zavala, Gabi Rubino, Melea Diaz, Emily Escobar, Uri Cornelio, Gabriela Lopez, Jose Pech, Juanita Chairez

Fifth: Javier Herrera, Chloe Doherty, Kerry Gutierrez, Steven Bobadilla, Alejandra Lopez, Noah Peterson, Ayla Lieberman, Eric Brunner, Yulissa de la Cruz, Roberto Belmont

Announcements

- You should have received a phone tree for your classroom. Students whose parents did not want their information published in the school directory were not included. If your child was not included and you would like them to be listed, please let us know and we will add them to the phone tree next time we update it.
- COME TO THE CARNIVAL!** Plan on joining us for this great community event on Monday, November 10th @5:30. Classes will have fun activities, they'll be delicious food, a jumpy castle, face painting and more. Take an evening to have fun together...you have no bedtime excuses since we don't have school on Tuesday. Hope to see you there.

Columbine Elementary
3130 Replier St.
Boulder, CO 80304
303-443-0792
FRS: 303-441-4059

November 7, 2008

November Calendar

Carnival (5:30 PM)	10
No School (Veteran's Day)	11
Vision & Hearing Screening	12
School Visioning Workgroup Meeting (6:00-8:30)	12
2nd Grade Musical/ Art show (6:30 PM)	13
Preschool Story Hour (1:15-2:00 PM, library)	19
TODOS-Nutrition Class (5:30-7:30)	19

No School—Conference Exchange days and Thanksgiving
November 24th-30th

TODOS Needs All of Us

Our parent involvement group, TODOS doesn't only stand for its acronym -Together Our Differences Offer Solutions, it also means ALL in Spanish. We need all of you to make this program a success. TODOS was created in direct response to requests by cur-

rent and future parents of Columbine for programs to integrate our community and create connections between families...TODOS is that opportunity. Every meeting offers a time to connect over a light meal. We have one more nutri-



tion class (November 19th) before we'll be working on a community service project (December 10). Look for reminders about TODOS meeting dates and make a commitment to come check us out.



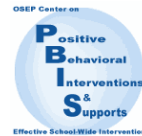
What's New with PBS?

Columbine's entire community has been hard at work learning and practicing Staying Safe and Strategies for Problem Solving. Between October 3-12, every student, most teachers and some parents participated in the "CAP" Program (Child Assault Prevention). Special trainers came and visited all the classes and taught about ways to be assertive to bullies, get help from peers and trusted adults and keep yourself safe around people who "try to take our rights away". Ask your children what are the "Rights" discussed (safe, strong and free) and how parents and guardians can help children protect them at home and in the neighborhood. The kids did a fabulous job "getting it" but practice, reinforcement and review will help the information change each individual decision. Columbine's goal is for all students to feel as though they DO have strategies to combat "bullying behaviors" and that they have a plan and a helpful

adult in mind if and when they encounter bullying. Lisa and Carrie have been working with classes during Community Building group time to build each child's skill base around how to avoid teasing, how to express themselves with others, how to recognize their own level of anger and techniques for self control. Ask your child about what they would do if someone began bullying them. As we all know, better to have more than 1 strategy ready!

Finally, here are some ideas for you to discuss with your student regarding Teasing, which many children do and can easily be misunderstood as bullying :

A few Teasing Do's and Don'ts (from *The Bullying Prevention Handbook* by John Hoover and Ronald Oliver, 1996):



DO:

- Use humor carefully and gently
- Help others when they are being teased.
- Ask whether teasing about a certain topic will hurt someone's feelings
- Do tell someone if their teasing is hurting your feelings.

DON'T:

- Tease someone you don't know well
- Tease about a person's body
- Tease about a person's family members
- Tease someone who looks like they are agitated or having a bad day.

PTA News

PTA participants worked on cutting out cards for math games while discussing the business at hand. The majority of the meeting was spent reviewing and discussing two monetary requests from our new Community Action Request Fund. The group set standards for determining whether to fund projects partially or fully. In general parents want to see other sources of funding tapped in addition to PTA for special projects. The

tendency is towards funding projects that impact a larger number of students. Finally, where possible, parents like creating student ownership in the projects from which they will benefit. Our SIT reported that they were still working on their climate/academic goals review. Since then, a report has been submitted and will undergo review in early November. The SIT group will give an overview of the report findings and goals and

share feedback with the group at the next PTA meeting. The PTA is still looking to fill two officer's positions ; one for Vice President and the other for Membership. David Sterling, our president, is heading up **both** the SIT and PTA which is a daunting task. He desperately could use the support of a vice-president. If you have any interest in filling one of these positions, please contact one of the PTA officers or Wanda in the FRS office.



Thanks to our Community



BOOK FAIR A HUGE SUCCESS

A big thank you to all of those who helped us to raise \$1217 at the Book Fair. All of this money will be used to purchase new books for the library. We want to thank all of you who did your shopping here and to those who donated books for the used book table. Many thanks to all of the volunteers who made this possible: Sara King, Efren Aguila, Maria Colis, Nell Box, Trish Wood, Rebecca Brunner, Sue Hines, Francine Alberts, Imelda Pech, Deb Fraley, Kristen Elder-Rubino, Joni Burr, Liesl Freudenstein, Kory Jew, Olga

Enriquez, Ginny Strange, Jenn Cleary, Carrie Wheelon, Tina Larter, Lisa Thompson, Patrick Hopewell, and Tonnie Creath.

OTHER THANKS

- A special thanks to Clif for providing Fruit Twists and ClifKids Bars for our bike or walk to school day. Students enjoyed starting their day with a healthy snack.
- Thanks to Deni Morris for all her hard work on putting together the school directory—she made a big task much easier

- Thanks to Best Buy for making a generous donation of \$1,000 to our school as they celebrate the grand opening of their new store in Boulder on November 14th.
- Finally, thanks to Francine Alberts, Tonnie Creath and Kids Hope mentors for providing and coordinating the delicious food for parent-teacher conferences.

We appreciate all our volunteers and couldn't do it without you!

Eco-Cycle News

This fall, Mesa, Columbine, Creekside and Niwot elementary schools were each awarded Eco-Cycle's Green Star Schools Grant. Eleven schools applied for the grant, but only four were awarded the funds. This grant provides each school with \$250 worth of compostable cups and plates for the all-school classroom parties that will be held in each building during the 2008-2009 school year. Many of our classes used these items at Halloween parties.

The compostable paper plates provided through this grant are made from recycled paper fibers. The compostable cups are made with Nature Works PLA polymer, a renewable and biodegradable resource from corn. The cups are marked with a green stripe so students

know they are made from corn and not petroleum-based plastic. Eco-Cycle introduced these compostables at assemblies to help students distinguish them from service ware that must be discarded. Through the use of these compostable materials, Columbine students will be keeping a significant amount of material out of the landfill.

In further support of our Green Star efforts, Nutrition Services is providing all Green Star Schools with silverware to reduce the waste of disposable plastic "sporks" in the cafeteria. These utensils are to be used only by students purchasing school lunches.

Occasionally these utensils are inadvertently thrown into the cafeteria trash

or taken home. Because missing utensils need to be replaced by the school, we are asking the following to help Columbine retain its tableware supply:

- students take extra care to deposit tableware into the appropriate container when going through the cafeteria waste station after lunch
- cold lunch carriers supply their **own** reusable utensils from home rather than use the cafeteria's
- students return any tableware items to the cafeteria that may be found at home or elsewhere

By taking these steps, Columbine students will be able to enjoy the use of these utensils **and** reduce waste by keeping disposable "sporks" from being deposited in the landfill.

BVSD Clarifies Rules for Acceptance of Personal Gifts by Employees

For several years, the Boulder Valley School District has had a policy limiting the gifts that BVSD employees can accept as a result of their administration, teaching, coaching, club sponsorship, etc. from parents, community sponsors, or vendors seeking to do business with a school or the district. Because the superintendent's regulation supporting this policy was found to be unclear, Superintendent Chris King issued a rewritten regulation this summer).

Concerns were raised last year that some BVSD staff members did not know about the district policy regarding acceptance of personal gifts related to their employment. A review of existing practices in the spring of 2008 throughout BVSD found inconsistent practices and a general lack of awareness of district limitations for acceptance of personal gifts by BVSD staff.

Three major concerns underpin the new gift acceptance regulation. They are: 1) the potential for impropriety or the

appearance of impropriety, 2) the creation of inequities among BVSD's schools and departments, and 3) the lack of clarity as to tax implications given the high financial value of some of the gifts discovered.

This revised regulation **does not** ban all gifts. It **does** spell out more clearly than in the past what are acceptable gifts to receive.

Some Examples of a gift that IS ACCEPTABLE within BVSD policy and regulation:

- Accepting clothing that qualifies as "spirit wear" e.g. sweatshirts and other clothing supporting a BVSD-affiliated activity, event or team.
- Accepting perishable items such as food or flowers e.g. a bouquet of flowers presented to a drama teacher on the closing night of a school play.
- Accepting a group gift for a major life event e.g. a wedding, the birth or adoption of a child, major illness or a

death in the family, retirement, etc. In these circumstances, while the total gift may exceed \$25.00, no individual contribution may exceed that amount.

- Accepting a gift to a school or a program e.g. new music stands for a middle school jazz band, a new tree to plant to replace a tree that had to be removed, new athletic team equipment, school gardens and school cafeteria salad bars, etc.
- Accepting a ticket or tickets with a face value of more than \$25.00 if the ticket is to a BVSD-affiliated event.

Accepting tickets for travel, housing, admission or food when an employee is acting as a chaperone of a BVSD-sponsored event or attending a professional event.

Examples of a gift that IS NOT ACCEPTABLE within BVSD policy and regulation:

- Accepting group gifts from team

(Continued on page 4)

Kindergarteners take their teacher home

Stephanie Gilchrist's kindergarteners just can't get enough of her. So, for the last four weeks, they take her home every night....her voice that is. Last spring Stephanie learned of an opportunity through the BVSD Information Technology department for kindergarten teachers to integrate technology and literacy by loading recorded lessons onto an iPod for students to listen to at home. By extending the day for new or struggling readers, students have a chance to practice skills being formed in the classroom at their own pace.

Stephanie applied to be part of the project and was accepted into the program



this fall. There are six specific components that students complete each week. They start with a letter formation activity. The letter of the week is followed by a poem. Then they listen to a song. After that, students practice a list of vocabulary words. There is also a fluency strip which is just a line of letters. Students may either practice reciting the letter name or the letter sound depending on how Stephanie is directing the lesson. Students always end each week with the story of the week. While Stephanie is reading the story to children, she may ask students to predict what might happen next or explain words that may be unfamiliar to them.

Students listen to the recordings four times a week. They have a special bag that they carry home each night, filled with the different activity sheets, the book, headphones and an iShuffle. Six students are currently participating in the project. They are excited to share their thoughts on the week's activities and parents think it's great! The Take My Teacher Home project BVSD project was based on an award-winning project from the Eugene, Oregon school district and has posted some impressive results in the district with 11 out of 12 student participants exiting the program at or above grade level in reading. Thanks Stephanie for bringing this exciting project to Columbine.

....BVSD Clarifies Rules for Gifts

(Continued from page 3)

parents and or classroom parents that exceed a combined value of more than \$25.00 and do not fall within the specific exceptions of the regulation.

- Accepting ongoing gifts e.g. "flower of the month," with a one-time or cumulative value of more than \$25.00.
- Accepting gifts of more than

\$25.00 from an employee by a supervisor that could be misunderstood as attempting to gain preferential treatment.

Accepting a gift or cumulative gifts with a value of more than \$25.00 from a vendor currently doing business with or seeking to do business with BVSD.

BVSD leadership at both the district

and school levels realizes that the desire of parents to appreciate the dedication, skill and hard work of teachers and coaches with gifts comes from a genuine spirit of generosity and appreciation. However, for the three reasons cited above, that generosity and support shown above the \$25.00 level is best expressed in support of schools and programs for the direct benefit of students.

Join the Parade

PTA and Kids Hope have joined forces in planning for Downtown Boulder's annual Lights of December Parade on Saturday, December 6th. The Lights of December parade is a local event featuring floats and groups in costumes and lights. Columbine's entry will be an lit antique fire engine. Kids and their families will walk behind the float



carrying electronic tealights and some will wear fireman's hats. The theme of our float is; "Columbine Elementary, Igniting the Love of Learning and Kids Hope—Fanning the Flames of Learning." Families will gather at 4:30 First Presbyterian

Church before the event for pizza. The parade starts at 6PM and will be followed by cookies and hot cocoa also at the church. Dress warmly and plan on marching with us. To help us plan, please let us know if you're going to join us. There will be a sign up poster in the lobby after the carnival. Let's show the community our Wildcat spirit by having a big turnout!