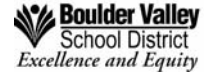




Columbine Connections



Outstanding Wildcats Recognized

Columbine held its first *Bien Educados* assemblies last Friday, September 26th. *Bien Educados* awards are unique to Columbine. As part of our commitment to educate the whole child, these awards are a way to recognize traits that contribute to being a good student and community member. Each month different students will be singled out to receive an award and flower during a recognition ceremony. Parents and other family members are invited to ensure each child has a chance to shine. September's awards were given to students who are respectful, responsible community members. These students consistently display two of our three school rules. Please join us in congratulating the following students:

First Grade: Akriti Poudel, Jazlyn Jaquez, Eduardo Jimenez-Silva, Jared Ordaz, Ellison Rivera, Emily de la Cruz, Christian Lopez, Emely Pech, Catherine Ibarra

Second: Katie Quezada-Valles, Poppy Lightfoot, Eric Morales, Marisa Ramirez, Dulce Carrillo, Diana Martinez, Camila Avitia, Sofia Barcenas, Lupito Rodriguez-Vasquez, Lili Sanchez-Mauricio, Reyna Espinoza, Lupita Corchado

Third: Ezekiel Ah, Aquantis Comer, Citlalli Vasquez, Marcela Barron, Luis Arellano, Brisa Molina, Janet Astorga, Alejandro Enriquez, Briana Covarrubias

Fourth: Aly Martinez, Jorge Jimenez, Claudia Ibarra-Arellano, Ira Ah, Alfredo Campos, Lupita Vaquera,

Fifth: Jaime Astorga, Jakob Harrison, Celia Rodriguez, Edgar Chavarria, Jordan Hines, Melisa Castruita, Alex Morales, Perla Magdaleno, Diego Zavala-Cerna, Betsy Sanchez, Janice Contreras

Announcements

- **MEETING DATE CHANGE:** Due to a scheduled visioning meeting, the **October PTA meeting was moved to Monday, October 6th.** The meeting will be at 6:30 in the art room. Childcare and translation will be provided. PTA will alternate between providing snacks and having a pot luck. **October is a POT LUCK month, so bring a snack to share.**
- During October, you will receive two items that will help with parental communications. The first is our school directory. The second is our phone tree. The phone tree is a calling list for each class that is used to disseminate important messages. It is crucial that you keep your contact information updated with us so the phone tree is effective.

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

October 3, 2008

October Calendar

PTA Meeting (6:30 pm-Art Room)	6
Preschool Story Hour (1:15—2:00 PM, library)	8
Book Fair	13-15
P/T Conferences 13,15,21 &23—3:30-6:30	
Preschool Story Hour (9-9:45 AM, library)	23
TODD—Nutrition Class (5:45-7:15)	22
School Visioning Meeting (6:30-8:30)	29
No School (professional development)	31

Ride or Walk October 8th

Columbine is excited to be participating in International Walk and Bike to School Day on October 8th. We'll have special activities, snacks and a support crew to encourage our riders. Students who take the bus will also have an opportunity to participate.

Busses will drop students off a couple of blocks from school and they will all walk en masse to the school on that morning. So, plan on getting to school on wheels or foot on the



8th. Let's fill the bike rack and beyond with bikes, scooters and other rolling devices. It's good for your heart, gives your brain oxygen for better learning and helps keep the earth green!



The Book Fair is coming....

Our annual book fair will be taking place in the Columbine library October 13th-15th. This event gives children and parents a wonderful selection of best-selling titles to purchase for the holidays or your home library. Each class will have a preview visit and a purchasing visit during the school day. Our preview day will be Monday, October 15th from 8:30 to 3. Students will be filling out a wish list on Monday. Book sales will begin on Monday after school, (parent-teacher conference night), from 3-6:30 p.m. On Tuesday, October 14th, the book fair will be open from 8:00 AM to 3:30. On Wednesday, October 15th, (parent-teacher confer-



ence night) the book fair will be open from 8:00 AM to 7:00 PM. Families are invited to browse and buy books on these days after school.

Book Fair Hours

Oct. 13—8:30-3 (preview only)

3-6:30 Book sales begin

Oct. 16—8:00AM—3:30 PM Sales day

Oct. 17—8:00AM—7:00 PM Sales day

The book fair also provides you with the opportunity to go through your children's books at home and donate to the library those books in good condition that you no longer wish to keep. They will be placed on a 10 cent table for all children to buy. Please bring your donated books to the Columbine library.

We need volunteers to help with the book fair. If you can help us, please sign up in the library or call Melissa at 303-443-0792.



PTA News

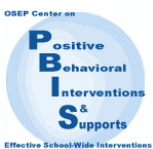
PTA was delighted to have a large turnout for our first meeting. This monthly column will inform our community members who can't attend meetings about action and decisions made at our monthly meetings. The principal shared celebrations, information about visioning and progress towards our climate goals. It was also reported that Columbine did not make AYP (adequate yearly progress) as defined by No Child Left Behind. As a



result, the Colorado Department of Education will conduct an audit of our school and share ideas on how to improve achievement. We will receive \$10K for planning and additional funding to support achievement. We discussed a new mini-grant program to formalize requests for action or money from PTA. Columbine staff can submit applications requesting funds or assistance. Applications will be reviewed by the PTA offi-

cers and voted on by the group. Other decisions included moving the carnival, approving the budget and a commitment to make home-made treats for our election day bake sale. Finally, PTA will formalize a SIT (School Improvement Team). Parent volunteers for this group will work closely with the Lynn and focus on our progress towards school academic and climate goals. SIT will meet frequently until our accreditation in October and then taper off.

What's New with PBS?



We have now had our "Positive Behavior Support" system in place for 1 whole month! Teachers were asked to comment on how they thought the program was doing and comments were overwhelmingly positive. We have focused on the specific rules of the hallway and the change has been substantial. Students have been working on earning an "extra recess" by exhibiting quiet, safe and responsible behavior as they move from class to class. Next,

teachers will be implementing the use of the "Stop and Think" form and the "Time Out Tracker". These two forms help kids consider the impact of their negative behavior on their school community and document frequency of incidents. This information helps staff respond more fairly and appropriately to negative behaviors. We learned that it takes 8 positive comments to counter the impact of 1 negative, so the challenge is on to continue to build our positive and supportive language. This is something families can prac-

tice at home too. In Carrie and Lisa's Community Building groups, kids have been practicing setting personal goals, discussing what behaviors make a respectful community and friend and recognizing and respecting each other's different strengths. Finally, at the Bien Educados Assembly held on September 26, certain kids were honored for their dedication towards creating a respectful community. Congratulations to the awardees! We're happy with the PBS results thus far and look forward to continued success.

This and That...

Check out our website



This is a reminder to use our website as an information resource. You can find the school calendar, newsletters

and other information on our site. The library site has many links and resources to help students with homework. We've even uploaded the FRS calendar of after school classes. Check it out next time you have a minute. www.bvsd.org/schools/columbine

Planning Days

Every Monday grade level teachers meet for intense math, content and literacy planning. Planning days are on a rotating schedule with each grade level meeting every **third** Monday. This planning is a directed effort to help us reach our academic goals. On planning days, students spend **either** their morning **or** afternoon in concentrated time in "specials" (Art, Music, PE) and participate in other activities. The extra time students

spend in specials is integrated into the overall yearly schedule so students are not spending beyond the district allotted time in specials.



Bike Rack Delayed

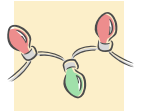
We have some disappointing news about our bike rack. Some of you may have seen an article in the paper regarding parental opposition at other schools to certain bike rack styles. Due to these complaints, the district has delayed the purchase of new bike racks until the spring so they can research other options. Sorry, don't let this keep you from riding!



TODOS (Together Our Differences Offer Solutions), will be taking a short break to allow for our visioning meetings. Our next scheduled event will be October 22nd when

we will host our first of three nutrition classes. We'll also be introducing a bingo card you can fill by attending meetings, conferences and community events. Once your card is full, you will have a chance to win a gift card. Details coming soon.

Lights of December Parade



Linda Overholser, the volunteer coordinator of the KIDS HOPE program has generously offered to plan Columbine's participation in the annual Lights of December Parade. The parade will take place on Saturday, December 6th in downtown Boulder. There is an antique fire engine and possibly a flatbed available for our use as a float. Children and their families are welcome to march along in the parade. A planning committee has been formed—if you're interested in helping plan, let someone in the office know.

Teaching Responsibility by Jan Hittleman

This is a monthly article submitted by PEN (Parent Engagement Network)—PEN works to help parents build relationships and connect with their kids so they have the skills to succeed.

During the elementary years it is important for children to develop a sense of responsibility. In terms of school, children need to gradually learn to manage their academic responsibilities in preparation for middle school. Each year teachers are very purposeful in increasing the level of independence that they expect from their students. Parents also need to see this as a developmental task for their children and make adjustments accordingly. Depending on a variety of student attributes, which include: intelligence, organizational skills, achievement motivation, learning difficulties, this may prove to be a challenging task. In addition to academic responsibilities, elementary age children need to gradually assume more responsibility outside of school as well.

Too often well-intentioned parents continue to be overly involved in monitoring their child's academic and other responsi-

bilities. This inadvertently results in their children developing a dependency on their parents to remind and often fulfill their children's responsibilities themselves. If this pattern continues into middle and high school, the results are often very problematic and the child may experience difficulties meeting age expected responsibilities.

Ideally by the time a child begins middle school he/she is able to complete homework and household responsibilities independently, with at most a reminder. If they need further parental assistance, it is their responsibility to ask for it.

There are several strategies that can be useful in helping your child develop the necessary skills they need to assume more responsibility. These include:

- **Ongoing Communication:** Instead of springing expectations regarding taking more responsibility, it is important to have open discussions about the importance of learning to be more responsible.
- **Empowerment:** When discussing increased responsibility, make sure that you provide frequent opportunities for your

child to share his/her opinion and offer their ideas regarding an effective game plan.

- **Be Supportive:** Instead of being the enforcer, try to be the "good coach". The good coach praises success and provides encouragement and assistance when additional skill training is needed.
- **Catch Your Child Being Responsible:** Instead of just expecting your child to be responsible, provide positive feedback when you see your child putting effort into taking responsibility.

Have Realistic Expectations: Every child is different in terms of their level of development as well as their unique strengths and weaknesses. Instead of setting expectations that are too high, try and create a sequence of easily obtainable goals that increase at a pace that your child can most likely achieve.

By using effective strategies to teach responsibility during the elementary school years, parents can help enable their children to thrive not just in secondary school but also in life.

Important Notice

The visioning meeting to plan our new school that was scheduled for Wednesday, October 8th has been cancelled.

The meetings scheduled for October 29th and November 12th will proceed as scheduled.

Plan on attending our next meeting on Wednesday October 29th, from 6:30-8:30 PM

Childcare and translation provided at all meetings