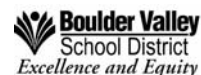




Columbine Connections



Columbine Welcomes New Staff

There are some new faces around the halls this year. Columbine has added five new members to our staff. Below is a little bit of information about each of our new additions.

Jesse Ascunce

joined the 4th grade team this year. He might be a familiar face since he has been around the halls for a couple of years. First as a practicum student and last spring as a student teacher in Ms. Scotti's 4th grade class. When not teaching, Jesse likes to hike, bike and ski.



work on obtaining an endorsement in Talented and Gifted instruction. Carlota was most recently on staff at Angevine Middle School. She will be focusing on TAG and Math and Robotics here at Columbine.

Marcela Delfin



is teaching 3rd grade this year and will be a second biliteracy teacher on the 3rd grade team. She comes to us from Peru via Angevine Middle School.

Jean Franklin

is joining our FRS counseling team, replacing Marilee Snyder. Jean has been an infant, child, adolescent and family therapist since 1999. She spent the early part of her career working with migrant farm workers in Indiana and Wisconsin.



In addition to new staff members we have some veteran staffers in new positions:

Tamar VanVliet—has remained as

a second grade teacher instead of looping down with her team. She's replacing Ali White who recently had a baby

Steve Ollanik—has moved back to the classroom as a 4th/5th looping teacher half-time. The remainder of his day will be spent on TAG.

Susanna Mosqueda—has taken a position on the kindergarten team and will be teaching the Spanish component.

Stephanie Gilchrist—has moved from her position as a math interventionist back into the classroom as a kindergarten teacher.

Melanie Pappageorge—is taking a break from the classroom to focus on secondary literacy (3rd & 4th).

Finally we welcome back Gisela Lujan who took a year off to spend some time in South America. Gisela is returning to her position as a biliteracy instructor.

Be sure to give a warm welcome to all our new staff!

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

September 5, 2008

September Calendar

PTA Meeting (6:30 pm-Art Room)	8
Picture Day	17
TODOS movie night	17
Columbine Carnival (5:30-7:30 Library)	18
No School (Professional Development Day)	19
Preschool Story Hour (10-11am library)	25



REMINDER

Please return the forms your child brought home on the first day of school. Please be sure to complete **all** these papers because they contain important information about contacting you in an emergency and ensure you get involved in our community.

THANKS



Shirene Provenza is our new music teacher, focusing on the primary grades. She comes to us from Sacred Heart school here in Boulder and has a special interest in opera.



Carlota Loya-Hernandez is joining us again after taking a break to

Visioning Process Set to Begin



Lynn Widger met with Jeff Wein, a facilitator the District has selected to lead our visioning process, to discuss and plan details for this important task. The visioning process is a necessary and required step to proceed with our bond issue project. The goal of visioning is to make recommenda-

tions about our future program enhancements and extensions and future growth of our school. Once we have set a vision for our school, recommendations will be made to a design team who will vision a facility that will best meet our goals. It is important that the visioning process be

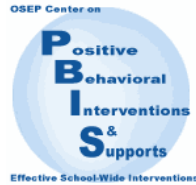
inclusive. Parents, staff and neighbors are encouraged to get involved. Everyone is welcome and translation will be provided. There will be four meetings between the end of September and November. Details about dates, times and locations for meetings will be sent home

Announcing PBS (Positive Behavior Support)

As we welcome each other and ourselves to the new school year, we will be doing so under a new framework for behavioral expectations, consequences, communication and rewards. Perhaps you have heard the term, "PBS" or Positive Behavior Support being mentioned at other schools locally and beyond. This framework for unifying and streamlining behavior at school was initiated in Oregon and now Columbine is ready to adopt our own customized "system".

Goals for adopting the PBS program this year include:

- Enhancement of the feeling of positive school pride, community and belonging for staff and students.



- Increase time on meaningful academic learning vs. reacting to the distraction of negative discipline.
- Streamline a school wide set of expectations, procedures and consequences for student behavior.

- Identifying what is causing negative behaviors and meaningful options for changing that behavior.

At the heart of Columbine's PBS framework are three school rules: Be Safe, Be Responsible, and Be Respectful.

When students are "caught" demonstrating these behaviors, they will be praised and sometimes rewarded. Re-

search states that a child needs to hear *five* positive statements (thank-you for helping that younger student to find his classroom) to counter *one* negative statement (Stop that! You know that you are not supposed to run inside). If this is so, then our job as parent, sibling, teacher, staff member is too "up" the number of positive reminders for Columbine students.

A team of staff members worked over the summer to draft the many components the PBS program will rely on including a list of Consequences for major and minor infractions, a "Time-out" tracker, used to help students rethink

(Continued on page 3)

PTA Focuses on Parent Involvement



The PTA has already started making plans for the new year. Our focus this year will be on parent involvement. Whether you are interested in school improvement, planning fun events or simply want to connect with other parents, PTA has a spot for you. As you can guess, we have plenty to do! Some of the activities we have planned for this year; our fall carnival, providing teachers with micro-grants for special

projects, working on the visioning for the bond issue project at our school, book fairs, raffle and the mile marathon. We will be continuing with the streamlined meeting process we began last spring. We'll have brief committee reports (including news from the principal), discuss new business and then set to our hands-on task for the evening. As an added bonus to attendees, PTA will provide snacks for each meeting.

Mark Your Calendars!

Plan to attend our first PTA meeting of the year on Monday, **September 8th @ 6:30 in the Art Room**. We need to start making plans and organizing committees for the September 18th carnival. **Child-care, snacks and translation provided.**



From the Office

The office would like to welcome you back to a new school year. As we begin anew we would like to remind you of a few items that will help us make the office run smoothly. First, we often find ourselves unable to contact parents in urgent situations because we have incorrect phone numbers. If you move or change primary phone numbers, please let the office know as soon as possible. If your emergency contacts change we need to know that too. Also, if you want to make different arrange-



ments for after-school transportation, you need to contact the office **BEFORE 2PM** otherwise we may not be able to get the message to your child. Our days in the office are often busy and chaotic. We use the time after dismissal to get important projects done that demand our attention. Children that are not picked up by 3:15 cause a distraction and often require us to stay beyond our normal hours. If you can't be here by 3:15 to pick up your child please be considerate

of our needs and make alternate child-care arrangements.



Finally, you may notice a colored tie on your child's backpack. These ties indicate which bus route they ride. **Please leave these ties on their bag all year to help make dismissal easier and help us avoid bus mix-ups.** Thanks for your cooperation, we look forward to a great year!

This and That...

Calling for a Soccer Coach

We're looking for a soccer lover who is interested in coaching a second grade after-school soccer club. The class would be about an hour a week. Besides having fun with the kids, the coach will receive a small stipend. The class would start mid-September and end in early November. Let us know if you are interested.



Bike Rack Coming

Great job Wildcats for riding your bike to school! We love seeing the full bike rack. Don't let the tight quarters discourage you from riding. We applied for a grant last year and will be receiving an additional rack in September.



TODOS (Together Our Differences Offer Solutions), our parent involvement group has a full slate of activities planned for the year. Highlights include family movie nights, a nutrition series, classes on recognizing sexual abuse as well as other parenting classes

and community service projects. Look for a complete schedule in your child's folder next week.

On Tap This Year

We have a few other exciting new programs/activities planned for this year.

- Our TAG/Math team will be introducing a robotics program to our 4th/5th graders
- Ms. Provenza will be starting an after school choir
- More exciting experiences in the arts as part of our alliance grant including opera and performances at the Arvada Center



Congratulations Jorge Rodriguez

Columbine Biliteracy instructor and Literacy Coach Jorge Rodriguez placed 3rd in The VineMan Long Distance Triathlon in California August 2nd. He completed this impressive performance in 95 degree heat.



Columbine Named Top Denver School in 5280

Columbine is proud to be recognized as one of Denver's Top Schools! 5280, a popular Denver magazine featuring local news and information has named 44 schools to its prestigious list of top Denver schools. Public, charter and private schools were all considered for inclusion. The top schools were selected in May by a panel of experts in the field who went beyond test scores to measure school quality. The article

explains the methodology for selecting the schools and has a legend indicating which factors contributed to a top rating. Columbine was selected for having seven strong indicators of character and quality. Some of the indicators recognized about Columbine were our diversity, our upward trending academic



performance, our leadership and community/parent engagement. A portion of the article is available online and can be accessed from the Columbine homepage. The complete article can be found in the September issue of 5280. We're also hoping to have copies available soon for all our families. Please join us in celebrating this great news by spreading the word!

Announcing PBS (cont from pg. 2)

(Continued from page 2)

their behaviors and a complete list of Expectations (all written in the positive: Do... vs. Don't...) for each zone in our school. This program is all-inclusive, from bathrooms to classrooms to field trips. The same expectations and procedures will be taught and followed by all adults in the building. Teachers and students will continue to have weekly

Community building sessions with our school counselor and social worker to learn and practice behaviors that contribute to building a positive class environment. Teachers are expected to have class meetings to engage class members in ongoing reflection and dialogue about "school climate."

Your student may be coming home with a new Wildcat Celebration sticker signi-

fying that s/he was appreciated for being safe, responsible or respectful in some distinct way. Ask for details. Praise your child. Feel free to adopt a similar Positive Behavior System at home too. TODOS will be offering a brief review of PBS at one of their meetings. In the meantime, for more info check out <http://www.pbis.org>