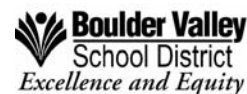




Columbine Connections



Columbine Recognizes Cooperation



Our February *Bien Educados* assemblies recognized students who are cooperative.

These students consistently listen, follow instructions, and help and work with others to make the classroom a better learning environment for all students. They "get it straight and cooperate" without being asked and we're proud of them. Please join us in recognizing the following students and their families:

First Grade: Dylan Tripp, Marissa Rodriguez, Amina Gilbert, Jazlyn Jaquez, Armando Henriquez, Citlali Garcia, Juan Campos Chaparro, Aylin Vaquera, Emily delaCruz, Dalia Monreal, Juan Gonzalez, Mauricio Portillo

Second Grade: Kevin Luong, Heidi Flores-Lemus, Noe Martinez, Dulce Carillo, Camilia Avitia, Diana Martinez, Lupito Rodri-

quez-Vasquez, Lili Sanchez, Max Perez, Marco Millan, Makiko Ogino

Third Grade: Kymora Bennett, Sanskriti Ojha, Nely Arellano, Aylin Alcala, Alejandro Portillo, Edgar Arellano, Juan Fernando Campos, Rubycel Rodriguez, Citlali Vazquez, Nolan Brunner

Fourth Grade: Haley Larson, Patricia Valtierra, Danny Olguin-Guerrero, Orion Dinsmore, Luis Perez, Lupita Vaquera, Alex Jimenez, Angela Castruita, Lisandra Ibarra

Fifth Grade: Perla Romero, Rachael Gragg, Areli Gutierrez, Diana Ordaz, Vanessa Delgado, Alejandra Ordaz, Deysi Longoria, Richard Dinsmore, Jose Luis Corchado, Roberto Belmont, Perla Magdalena

Announcements

- You still have time to return the surveys you recently received in the mail from planning and assessment. We use this information to make school improvements so please take time to complete the survey.
- March is CSAP month. 3rd-5th graders will be taking the tests March 2-17th. Please be certain your child is well rested and has a good breakfast to ensure they are feeling tops on testing days.
- The afterschool classes offered by FRS for the winter session will end March 12th. One more session will be offered after Spring Break.

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

March 6, 2009

March Calendar

PTA Meeting (6:30—Art Room)	9
Parent/Teacher Conf (3:30-6:30)	10
Preschool Story Hour (9:00-9:45 AM Library)	12
Parent/Teacher Conf (3:30-6:30)	12
Family Movie Night ("WALL-E" 5:30)	18
DEAR/Pajama day	20
Spring Break - NO SCHOOL March 23-27th	



PBS News

This month we have been focusing on the new PBS zone, **Off Campus**. Off campus means anytime students are outside the Columbine school buildings including field trips and commuting to and from school whether on the school buses, walking or by bicycle. In homes, students discussed

expectations for appropriate behavior off campus. Please review with your children ways to be Respectful, Responsible, and especially, Safe while riding the school bus and anytime they are off campus. Teachers, staff, and bus drivers can reward students who exhibit these behaviors with a yellow Wildcat Celebration. Students

who receive a yellow celebration are entered in the Friday drawing for lunch at the Wildcat Café with a friend! Spring break is coming up and this will be a good opportunity to practice appropriate off campus behaviors with family and friends. Safe travels whether in your neighborhood or elsewhere!

REMINDER

Playground supervision begins at 8:15 in the morning. Students who arrive before that time are asked to go to the library where they will be supervised by morning homework club teachers. Please help us keep our students safe by directing them to the correct location.



This and That.....

Congrats Ms. Pappageorge

Literacy teacher, Melanie Pappageorge gave birth to a little girl on February 16th. Her name is Tessa Eliana. Mother and baby are doing great. Ms Pappageorge will be on maternity leave for the remainder of the year.



DEAR Day



PTA will host the second annual DEAR (Drop Everything And Read) event on Friday, March 20th. Each student will be receiving a free book from Scholastic that was ordered using funds from a Best Buy donation. Each class will designate some time during the day

to read independently. PTA will provide popcorn and lemonade. Students are welcome to wear their pajamas and bring a favorite stuffed toy to read to during this fun event. Parents are welcome too. Please check with your child's classroom to confirm their DEAR time.

Linda Overholser Recognized

Kids Hope program coordinator, Linda Overholser was chosen as an Impact Award finalist for her volunteer work here at Columbine. Overholser was one of ten finalist in a pool of 73 nominations for the prestigious award. She will be recognized at an awards ceremony on April 16th.



Update on our Visioning

The visioning committee for our instructional program has been formed. Minutes from the 2/26 meeting will be posted on the visioning web page and are available in the office. A meeting schedule will also be posted once it is agreed upon. Meetings are open to the public for observation.



DAT—Design Advisory Team—The group of individuals who will be advising the architects about the design of our school will hold it's first meeting on Monday, March 9th @ 5:30.

District News

BVSD Learning Materials Adoption Preview

The Board of Education of the Boulder Valley Schools invites the public to examine materials being considered for adoption as basic learning materials for K-12 Science and K-5 Music. The materials proposed for adoption will be on display for patron review at the curriculum office at the Ed Center—6500 Arapahoe. Materials will be on display for one month from [March 3 - April 3, 2009](#). Preview hours are Monday - Friday, 7:30a.m - 4:30p.m.

School Calendars Approved



BVSD's school calendars for the next two years were approved by the Board of Education on Jan. 27. Electronic copies of both calendars are available on the website. Schools will be provided with copies of next year's calendar printed on cardstock for all of their student households and staff members in mid-March.

Budget Meetings

Given the effects of the economic downturn on education funding, BVSD seeks input from a variety of sources regarding its annual budget. Part of the district's input gathering process is its annual open forums about the district's budget deliberations. Anyone is welcome to attend these discussion sessions. The last two forums are:

March 10 · 10:00 - 11:30 a.m.

Lafayette Public Library, 775 W. Baseline Rd.,

March 11 · 6:00 - 7:30 p.m.

PTA News

Our February meeting focused on keeping things steady during these challenging times. We spent time coordinating programs that enrich learning and support our community such as the raffle, teacher appreciation, conferences and drop everything and read day. The SIT had requested additional information about specific questions on the 2007/8 climate survey that were of concern. Focus groups of select students in the low response category were held. Digging deeper revealed that responses were



actually "childlike" answers to complex questions. In general the deeper investigation has indicated a more positive picture than some of the initial responses indicated. Parents asked that teachers and staff keep a pulse on how students are feeling about the changes and stress at our school. Many students have expressed anxiety. Parents were advised to remind kids that everything will be okay and do our best to shield them from the controversy. Sara King gave a candid statement about the handling of our

school at the January DPC (District Parent Council) meeting. The district has responded by opening a dialogue with parent leaders at our school. Finally, there was a discussion about continuing the positive work started by the Colorado Parent Coalition in December. Parents found the training sessions they led informative and empowering.

Next Meeting—Monday, March 9th 6:30 PM in the art room, childcare, snacks and translation provided

Identifying Learning Problems Early

By Dr. Jan Hittelman

We all learn differently and we all have strengths and weaknesses in terms of our learning processes. There are also many different explanations for why students do not achieve at a level that is expected. For some students it's about motivation. In last month's column we discussed using behavioral contracts to increase children's motivation to complete tasks at home and in school. For other students it can also be a function of difficulties with speech, language processing, auditory and visual processing, written expression, emotional/behavioral factors, as well as overall intelligence. The earlier that these learning challenges are identified, the sooner children can receive help to improve and/or compensate for these difficulties. When early identification does not occur, these problems tend to

get worse as does the child's attitude towards school. In some cases, these challenges are identified in preschool and, through proper remediation, addressed. In many cases these challenges become more apparent in elementary school. For the child's academic success as well as positive sense of self, it is important to identify and attempt remediate these difficulties as early as possible. Children spend most of their waking hours in school and if they experience a high degree of failure, the damage to their self-esteem can be significant. This is why early intervention is key. If you suspect that your child is having difficulties in school, the right place to start is with their classroom teacher. Request an opportunity to meet with the teacher and discuss your concerns and get their feed-

back as well. In addition, the teacher may recommend additional services within the school. In some cases additional evaluations by school specialists may be necessary. Through the use of psychological, academic, speech/language and learning processing testing, it is possible to get a more detailed and clear picture of a child's strengths and weakness relative to other children of the same age. Depending on the severity of the areas of weakness additional services at the school may be available. If your gut tells you that your child is not learning as he or she should be, seek out the guidance of school staff and make your concerns known. The longer you wait the more difficult it will be for your child to get back on track.

Columbine Welcomes New Assistant Principal

An assistant principal has been selected to join our school community for the next school year. Margo Chavez, currently a Spanish/English Literacy Specialist at Northridge Elementary in Longmont, was named the 2009/10 Columbine Assistant principal in February. Ms. Chavez is bilingual and comes to us with a passion for teaching students with second language needs. She was educated here in Colorado, receiving her undergraduate degree in Spanish secondary education and her masters in ESL/Bilingual Ed at UNC in Greeley. Ms. Chavez received her Education Specialists degree in Adminis-

trative Leadership from the University of Colorado, Denver. She has two daughters; Alex a Freshman at Longmont High School, and Jessica, a 5th grader at Northridge Elementary in Longmont. Here's a "few of her favorite things." She's a fan of the movie *The Wizard of Oz*, loves white daisies and all different types of music. Her favorite book is *Esperanza Rising* and her preferred color is yellow. In her free time, Ms. Chavez enjoys spending time with her family and taking long walks. She is very excited about coming to Columbine to work with the staff, parents and the students.

TODOS
Together Our Differences Offer Solutions



With all the visioning meetings and parent/teacher conferences, TODOS has a light schedule in March. We'll be hosting one event on Wednesday, March 18th. Get a jump start on spring break by joining other Columbine families for a movie night. We'll be showing the popular film WALL-E in the cafeteria. TODOS will provide popcorn, drinks and other snacks to keep you busy while you enjoy this fun film with an important message. Bring a blanket to sit on. We'll get started around 5:30.

Get Ready to Raffle!



Students should be receiving their raffle materials on the Friday after spring break, April 3rd. The drawing will be held at 2:45 on Friday, May 1st. Since it is our largest fundraiser of the year, each student is encouraged to participate by selling at least 5 tickets. Each ticket is \$3. The money raised is used to pay for field trips, classroom projects and guest speakers. Volunteer parents have been working hard to

gather some fun prizes for our annual raffle. Here's a preliminary list of our prizes:

- \$150 Gift Card to Frasca
- \$100 Gift Card to Jax Fish House
- Gift cards to Island Grill, Murphy's, The Hungry Toad and Sol Azteca,
- \$75 Gift Card to University Bikes
- Massage Gift Certificate

- 1 Nights Stay at the Alps Inn
- Costume rental at Candy's
- Butterfly Pavilion and Zoo tickets
- Gateway Gift Card
- Amante Gift Card

As in the past, we'll also offer cash prizes. Be sure to thank all our generous donors and get ready to help our school by selling tickets!