



MIGHTY IKE

Eisenhower Elementary School
Boulder Valley School District—Excellence and Equity

March 2009

A Note From the Principal

Dear Eisenhower Community Members,

March is CSAP season for third, fourth and fifth graders. This is an important time for us because it gives us an indication if our overall curriculum delivery meets state standards. It is only one measure but it is THE measure that the state and district base their school rankings on. We have worked very hard to have the students prepared for the test. This preparation has focused on doing your best and on giving each question an informed try. We have also stressed not to stress! While the test is important and we want the kids to do well, we do not want them to feel bad if there are some questions they may not know or are hard to answer. We ask that you help us with this process by urging your child to do his or her best, by being at school on the testing days, by having your child well rested and well fed, and by having a "You can do it well!" outlook.

One of my favorite authors is William Least Heat-Moon. I have read his books over the years have always admired his reflections on place. His travels in America are really quite remarkable for their insight and his celebration of where you can end up along the "blue highways" (roads that are not interstates) in America. In his latest book, Roads to Quoz he talks about using a GPS and always being in a hurry. Given our world at this time and thinking about our children's future, a comment he made really resonated with me. He wrote: "And certainly it is evident new technologies require time to learn how to use them wisely. Maybe that's it: the insistence at hand is nothing more than not knowing how to let electronic navigation bring us into a new territory rather than merely directing us through it, because we've not yet significantly distinguished between being told where we are and compre-

hending where we are." p.455

It is my hope that we are bringing our students into new learning and knowledge. It is far more important to learn from the book or lesson plan than it is to just go through it. I hope as adults, we know where we are even if times are complex. I hope our children are learning how to figure out where and who they are and are not merely the subjects of fads, fantasies or privilege. I hope they can use the road signs well and that we have placed the signs appropriately. I hope they see that the curve in the road allows a different vantage point. I hope they understand that it really is about the quality of the journey, not how quickly we get to the end.
Happy trails!

Charles Serns

Important Dates

March 2	Intramurals, 7:45-8:35 CSAP 3rd and 5th-Math Math Olympiad 3:15-3:45 Wok-n-Roll Night
March 3	CSAP 3rd and 5th Math and 4th Reading/Writing ESL Homework Club
March 4	Student Council 8:00-8:30 Jump Rope Club 7:45-8:35 CSAP 4th Reading/Writing and 5th Math PTA Meeting 6:00-8:00 pm
March 5	CSAP 4th and 5th Reading/Writing
March 6	CSAP 4th and 5th Reading/Writing Talent Show Auditions 3:15-6:00 pm Library Mini Personal Art Show 2:50-3:10 pm

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March 9	Intramurals, 7:45-8:35 CSAP 4th and 5th Reading/Writing Denver Zoo comes to 1st grade Math Olympiad, 3:15-3:45
March 10	CSAP 4th and 5th Reading/Writing Parent Teacher Conferences 3:30-7:00
March 11	Student Council, 8:00-8:30 Jump Rope Club, 7:45-8:30 CSAP 4th Math and 5th- Reading/Writing The Magical World of Reading and History: Kdg. thru 2nd- 1:15 pm,
March 12	CSAP 4th Math and 5th- Reading/Writing Parent Teacher Conferences 3:30-7:00 pm
March 13	CSAP 4th Math and 5th- Science Talent Show Rehearsals 3:15-6:00pm
March 16	Last day of Intramurals, 7:45-8:35 CSAP 3rd Writing and 5th Science Math Olympiad, 3:15-3:45 Family Chess Knight 6:30-9:00 pm
March 17	CSAP 3rd Writing and 5th Science ESL Homework Club
March 18	Student Council, 8:00-8:30 Last Day of Jump Rope Club, 7:45-8:30 CSAP Make-ups thru Mar 20 Jump Rope Show 3:10-6:30 pm

March 19	Talent Show 1:30-3:00
March 23-27	Spring Break
March 30	Math Olympiad, 3:15-3:45
March 31	ESL Homework Club



Parents are Encouraged to Complete School Survey

At the beginning of March, the Office of Planning and Assessment will send all parents the Parent Snapshot Survey via U.S. mail. Your participation is very important as the survey questions are aligned to our school's strategic plans and goals. Summarized results help us determine how well our school is performing.

It is important for our school to have a high participation rate so that our survey data will accurately reflect parents' perceptions and opinions. The survey results are reviewed by our school staff to determine what programs and processes are working and which ones need improvement. Consequently, the survey results can have a significant impact on our school operations.

Because the same survey has been given for several years, our school staff and School Improvement Team are able to study trends and patterns in responses. All of this information helps us to serve you in the best way possible. Because your feedback is important, we hope that you will take a few minutes to complete the survey and return it to the Office of Planning and Assessment in the postage-paid envelope.

If you have any questions, please feel free to call Charles Serns at 303.443.4260.



Hooray for P.T.A.

By, Brie Larsen

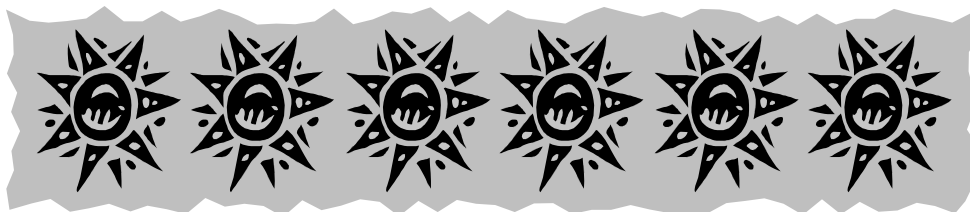
3rd Grade Teacher and P.T.A. Representative

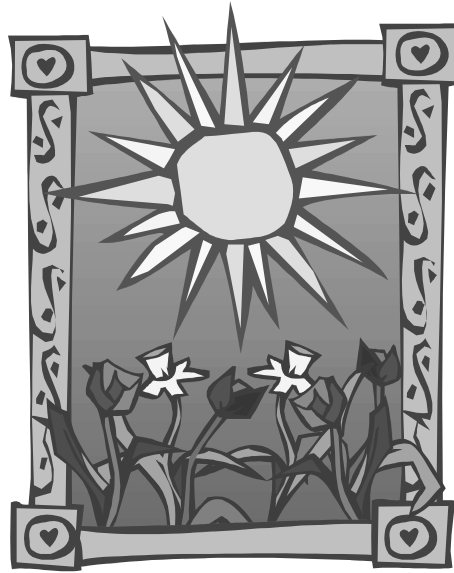
Three cheers for P.T.A.! I feel so lucky to be working at a school that gets so much support from the P.T.A. This support helps our school meet the needs of the students much more effectively and helps our students thrive. P.T.A. is the backbone of many of our really important programs. What is better than a child coming back from a T.A.G. group beaming about the book he is reading and eager to share his thoughts about the characters, or a child who left math class a bit shaky on a concept returning fully able to engage in the conversations with understanding and confidence? I have seen both of these events occur in my classroom this month. I am not alone in these experiences, and they wouldn't be possible without the support from our P.T.A.

Mary Hall supports our students in math and helps learning become alive for the students. In 5th grade Kelly Turnquist explained, "Math intervention makes a big difference. Without Mary Hall, my neediest kids wouldn't get as much practice with skills and concepts that are important for their success as 5th grade learners." Kalan Orobona is also happy about the math support P.T.A. provides saying, "Math intervention is awesome. It would be detrimental to our struggling students not to have it. The T.A.G. and math support make us stand out as a school." The second grade team raved about their math support exclaiming, "Mary Hall is a life saver. We are grateful for her support." The Kindergarten teachers also mentioned how excited they are about the progress of the students who spend time with Mary Hall.

We are also really lucky to have support for our Talented and Gifted students, run by Anne Burkholder. When asked about the T.A.G. program, a fourth grade parent, Amy Biesterfeld, stated, "I have been really happy with the T.A.G. program. I feel like he (Nathan) is being challenged in math, reading, and writing. I am pleased he gets the extra help and it does not feel like too much. The work is at a good level and it is a good fit for him." During conversation about the T.A.G. program, my student Helen claimed, "I think it's cool." Her mother, Alison Orlebeke chuckled, saying, "Cool is not one of the words they are trying to teach them." She also mentioned, "I am happy with the T.A.G. program and I love Anne Burkholder." Overall I think most families agree that it is a real gift to and from our community to have such a special resource to enrich the learning of our T.A.G. students.

Kindergarten teachers Sharon Baird and Tony Estoque are also grateful for the resources the P.T.A. provides. For instance, the money from fundraisers makes it possible to purchase items such as instructional materials, literacy materials, math manipulatives, puzzles, games, and outside materials. My third grade team loves the Interwrite Boards and projectors the P.T.A. funded. We use those tools every day. This technology makes it easier to teach certain concepts, and makes some lessons more engaging. These examples just begin to scratch the surface of how much of an impact P.T.A. makes in our school every day. All I can say is that I am truly grateful and feel lucky to be in a school and a community that values education so much. Thank you Eisenhower families and P.T.A. for making it all happen. We have some lucky students!





What's Happening in Art

Elizabeth Jacobs, Art Teacher. Elizabeth.Jacobs@bvsvd.org

Hello Eisenhower family and friends.

The Eisenhower Art Program will be having an art show at OZO coffee shop, located at 55th and Arapahoe, exhibiting artwork by 12 different Eisenhower students. Please join us at OZO on Friday, March 13th from 3:30 to 4:30 for the art opening. The work will be hanging at OZO from Monday, March 2nd to Monday, March 30th.

Kindergarten

The Kindergarteners will implement their knowledge of bird bodies, beaks, wings, and feathers and create a bird sculpture out of clay. The kindergarteners will next create flying butterflies with a project that emphasize symmetry and design.

First grade

The first graders will be learning about the artist Winslow Homer. We will look at the action he creates in his painting and take this observation and make a wild sea painting. First they will learn to create a painting of the water and sky by layering and blending paint to make it look like it is moving. They will then go on to learn to draw a boat. They can put anyone or thing in the boat and choose to also add fish or sharks to their water painting. We will collage their drawings on the water and sky painting to end with a nice finished project.

Second grade

The second graders will create their own fairytale. The second graders have been learning about fairytales in their class-

room. We are going to take this prior knowledge and apply it to our own little fairy tale book. The students will write the words and we will create torn paper collages and drawings to illustrate their book.

Third Grade

The third graders will begin a drawing unit. First they will practice drawing wooden figures in different positions. They will practice doing contour drawings where they look at the wood figure 50% of the time and their paper 50% of the time. They will choose one of these sketches and turn it into a simple and modern chalk drawing on a larger piece of paper.

Fourth grade

The fourth graders will begin a unit talking about design. We will look at many different types of design then take the idea of branching and create a piece of design artwork. We will look at branching in nature and with this understanding the fourth graders will use compasses and/or rulers to create a design that branches in all directions.

Fifth grade

The fifth graders will begin a unit looking at Frank Lloyd Wright's architecture. We will apply architectural ideas to a 3-D sculpture of a building made of clay that can double as a vase. We will use slabs to create our structures and put them together to create interesting architectural forms.



What's Happening in Music

Linda Chambers, Linda.Chambers@bvsd.org

TALENT SHOW PERFORMANCE DATE CHANGE

MARCH 19, 2009 1-3 P.M.

Forms were due February 27.

Auditions are March 6, 3:30 - whenever we finish.

Rehearsals are March 13, 3:30 P.M. - APPROX 5 P.M. but hopefully earlier.

Each act will be given an audition time ranging from 3:20 to approximately 6:00 p.m. March 2. All participants must audition and attend the dress rehearsal, **NO EXCEPTIONS WILL BE MADE**. If you have another activity on this date, please make sure Mrs. Chambers is aware so your time can best fit your schedule.

This is an audition activity for anyone in the school. Family members are very welcome to participate with their child/children.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE MUSIC ROOM?

5th grade is completing their guitar unit. Each student will be expected to play a line melody and incorporate the three string chords for C, G, G7 and D7.

4th Graders successfully wrote the story/libretto for their opera using the 5 C's;

Context – where

Character – who

Conflict – what

Climax – point of story

Conclusion – Wrap up the story

Thanks so much to Opera Colorado and FUN RUN monies for making this wonderful workshop available to our children. The children had a wonderful time performing their original three Act Opera.

In 3rd grade we are preparing the Colorado Square Dance. Students are learning songs about Colorado. We are focusing on the form in music, melodic lines (the melody), phrasing, and meter.

2nd graders completed their instrumental unit. They are working with phrasing and pitch as they sing many songs.

Kindergarteners are listening to music and developing ways to show the beat. We are focusing a lot on singing a song, memorizing the words, and doing actions to help us remember the lyrics of a song.

Thank you for the opportunity to work with your child as their music teacher.



Muses From The Library

Carol Piirto, • Carol.Piirto@bvsd.org

Could it really be March? Time goes fast when you get to share it with Eisenhower kids.

No TV week celebration: All kids who participated in No TV Week for 5 days between Feb. 10th and 25th, get a prize, a free dinner at Applebee's, and thanks to Naomi and Sarah Richman's mom, owner of BLUE MOON CAKE DESIGN, we will have a scrumptious and gorgeous no TV cake on Friday, March 6th in the afternoon. Thank Leslie if you see her!

Scholastic Book Fair: Thanks to you, Eisenhower made \$1,700. Extra donated change amounted to \$29.34 so I sent a check to E.F.A.A. for \$30. Immense thanks to all the moms and dad who came and cashiered and who filled in with whatever was needed.

Lunch Clubs have been great fun. The kids each week have experienced different themes and in many cases, checked out books on whatever lunch club there was that week. Lunch clubs end March 1st.

Thanks to Ingrid Fisher, a neighborhood mom, who volunteered her time in January and February to teach knitting and crocheting as part of the threefold Lunch Clubs (the theme: knitting and chess).

Used Book Swap: We love your gently used books. We'll be having a book swap on the parent teacher conference days: Tuesday, March 10, 8:00 am to 7:00 pm and Thursday, March 12, 8:00 am to 6:00 pm. Bring a book and get a book. What if you would rather pay than swap? No problem. Books are \$1 each. There are also a few knick knacks for \$1 each as well. You're welcome to donate/bring books ahead of time and I will record your name and number of books. As it is a used book swap, I cannot guarantee availability of books. If you have any books you'd like to donate or swap, email Carol at carol.piirto@bvsd.org or drop them off at the library with your name. Many thanks!!

Ugly Book Check-Out Week: Kids are rewarded for not judging a book by its cover and checking out books that have ugly and old-fashioned covers-perhaps even the classics! Who knows what treasures they'll find? All people who read the WHOLE ugly book, get a library bookbuck.

Friday Spirit Days: The Diversity Committee has grade level spirit ribbon in the library if your child has forgotten to wear their grade level color. Just come on in kids and get 'prettied up'.

Lemony Snicket is at the Boulder bookstore Friday, March 13th. Just a FYI.

Library Costumes: the costumes are looking a little sad. Is there anyone who could take a book home, gently wash the costumes and stitch any torn fabric? Thanks once again! Carol.piirto@bvsd.org

April Typing Idol and One Book: Like a reading contest, we are going to compete in our typing expertise in April. Typing idols of the future, begin your practicing! Let's see who wins! One Book is an April Boulder event featuring Bridge to Terabithia by K Paterson. Much more info to come.





Physical Education News

Terry Neitenbach, Physical Education Teacher

This past month students have been working really hard on their jump rope skills, assessments, and yo-yo skills. It is amazing to see the growth students have made in these different units. The biggest thing for students to remember is, if they are having trouble with a skill, the more they practice the better they will become.

In March, during our volleyball unit second through fifth grades will also be participating in the PACER test (Progressive Aerobic Cardiovascular Endurance Run). This test helps to measure a student's aerobic capacity. I like to include the PACER test during Volleyball to give students some aerobic activity. This is also a good lead up to the President's Challenge (a youth physical fitness test), that third through fifth grades will be participating in after Spring Break.

Please mark your calendars! The last day for Eisenhower morning Intramural program is Monday, March 16th. The last day for Eisenhower Jump Rope Club is Wednesday, March 18th.

If you ever have any questions regarding Physical Education, please feel free to come in and visit.

Emily Hill
Terry Neitenbach

A Huge Thank You to All Who Contributed to the Eisenhower Science Fair!

Thank you to all the students and teachers who came to see the projects!

Thank you to all the parents who came to the Open House!

Thank you to Lori, Connie, Michele, and Richard who did the office support for the Science Fair!

Thank you to the PTA and the parent volunteers, queens of the database, tables, and stars in their own right!

Thank you to the paras of the ILC who helped with copying and anything kids needed!

Thank you to Ms. Piirto for the library for the help sessions and your kind support!

Thank you to all of the Science Fair judges who donated their service to guide our future scientists!

Thank you to Melody and the folks in the cafeteria who adjusted lunches and the harvest bar and to the teachers who supervised lunch in the classrooms!

Thank you to Mr. Neitenbach for the use of the gym!

Thank you to Neil and the Y for table help and for relocating!

Thank you to Anne Burkholder and her great ability to fill in the gaps!

Thank you to all the parents who supported the scientists at work!

Thank you to all the students who did such amazing and great projects! You are well on your way to becoming the scientists of the future! You make our Science Fair so GREAT!!!!!!!!!!!!

Sincerely, Ms. Moore, Science Fair Coordinator



Parent Engagement Network presents: Thriving During the Elementary Years—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 feedback 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.

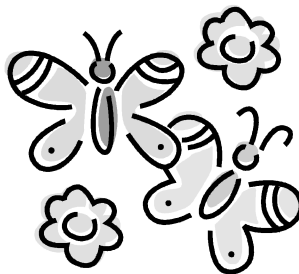
If your gut tells you that your child is not learning as he or she should be, seek out the guidance of school staff and make your concerns known. The longer you wait the more difficult it will be for your child to get back on track.

Upcoming PEN Event:

Building Bridges
Effective Ways to Communicate &
Connect with Your Kids
Presenter: Michael Vladek, Personal Coach
March 11 9 – 11am
Lafayette Library (775 W. Baseline Rd., Lafayette)

Learn more about PEN by visiting their website at: www.parentengagementnetwork.org or by contacting Betsy Fox with the Boulder County Healthy Youth Alliance at 303-441-3981.

Dr. Jan Hittelman is a licensed psychologist and Director of Boulder Psychological Services, LLC. What's your opinion? Questions or comments for this monthly column can be sent to: 1527 Pine Street, Suite B, Boulder, CO 80302, via email to: jan.hittelman@gmail.com, or by phone: 720-217-3270.





English as a Second Language Joy Brook

Each Tuesday after school, Mrs. Graves and Ms. Brook help ESL students with their homework. Parents or their designated adult pick students up at or before 4:15. It is a great opportunity to get help with homework! If transportation is difficult, consider carpooling with your neighbors. Completing homework on a daily basis is important for progress in school. Tuesday March 10th there will be no homework club, due to parent teacher conferences.

Tuesday March 10th and Thursday 12th are Eisenhower parent teacher conferences from 3:30 – 7pm. Many of our students' conferences have been set up with the translator, ESL teacher, and classroom teacher. Please plan to arrive early so we can start promptly. Conferences change every twenty minutes, so a late start causes the conference time to be shorter.

Because there are more ESL students than time on Tuesday and Thursday pm, we will need some parents to come either before or after school to meet with teachers. Thank you for taking the time to work with us on your child's education!

In January, ESL students completed CELA testing in speaking, listening, reading, and writing to determine English proficiency levels. We also used the DRA-2 test for the first time. This helps us determine the independent reading level of each student and find teaching points for instruction. It is important that students are able to not only fluently and accurately read aloud, but to also be able to connect with what they are reading, make predictions, ask questions, tell their favorite part and why, tell the most important part, name characters, setting, problem and solution, summarize, and tell the author's purpose.

February is the beginning of CSAP tests for third grade. March will bring three weeks of CSAP testing and then spring break. Daily reading and writing at home is great practice. Happy Spring!!

Cub Scout News

Upcoming activities include:

- 1st Grade den (Tiger) – Wednesday's - 6-7 p.m.
- 2nd Grade den (Wolf) – Wednesday's - 6-7 p.m.
- 3rd Grade den (Bear) – Wednesday's – 3 /4 and 3/18
3:45 – 5:15 p.m. Stage
- 4th Grade den (1st Yr Webelos) – Tuesday's – 3/3, 3/17,
3/31 6-7:30 p.m. cafeteria
- 3/14 – Build Catapult
- 5th Grade den (2nd Yr Webelos) – Tuesday's - 6-7:30
p.m. stage
- Pack Meeting – 3/11 7-8 p.m. Cafeteria
- Pack Pinewood Derby - 2/28 10:00 – 1:00 p.m.
Everyone welcome! St. Andrews Presbyterian
Church, 3700 Baseline Road

Winners compete at the District Scout Show!!

- 10:00 Eisenhower First Grade Races
- 10:30 Douglas First Grade Races
- 11:00 Second Grade Races
- 11:30 Third Grade Races
- 12:00 Fourth Grade Races
- 12:30 Fifth Grade Races
- 1:00 Open Class (siblings, parents, leaders)

• District Scout Show – 4/18 7:00 – 3:00, B o u l d e r
County Fairgrounds, 9595 Nelson Road, Longmont

We have active dens for 1st through 5th grade boys. If interested in joining, please contact Cub master Kim Peoria at bucky.bassoon@comcast.net or 303-665-2852.