

Buena Vista Elementary School

Tiger Times

January, 2005

Parent Survey

Thank you for taking time to participate in our survey by placing your dots! We found out the biggest challenges you face, as parents, are financial (61%). Coming in second was parenting skills at 20%. Last were child care (11%) and supporting your child's education (8%). We were pleased to see that 90% of you thought that the communication between home and school met your needs. Please let us know, if you were in the 10%, how we can make the communication better! Most of your children like to come to school (96% agreed). There were 3% who were unsure and 1% who said they disagreed. Making school a positive learning experience for all is a high priority for us, so if you feel there is something else we can do to make that happen, please contact someone at school. Again, thank you for taking the time to provide your thoughts on these important questions.

Mark the Dates!

January

- 5** Students Return from Winter Break
- 11** PTA meeting in Teacher's Lounge, 6:30 p.m.
- 14** Report Cards
- 17** Schools Closed – Martin Luther King Day
- 21** Movie Night in Gym, 6:00 p.m.

- 4** Staff Training Day – No Students
- 8** PTA meeting in Teacher's Lounge, 6:30 p.m.
- 21** School Closed - President's Day
- 25** Movie Night in Gym, 6:00 p.m.

My Pet Store

Recycling Update

Thanks to each of you that have provided recycle paper in the blue dumpster outside the gym. We had our first pick up in December which matches the amount we raised for the entire year last year. Keep bringing in any paper and placing it in the dumpster. Let's try to triple the amount we received from last year. By continuing this project, we are teaching our children to conserve and respect our environment while raising extra funds for school activities.

We have also received a report from the first semester for our ink cartridge and cell phone recycling program. The ink cartridge program raised \$ and the cell phone recycling program raised \$. Please help us to find businesses in the area that may help by becoming a partner in this program. Any old ink had our first pick-up for a full load! We have had our first load of We are collecting labels from Campbell's products to get free products for Buena Vista. There are a large variety of products that qualify for this program. All Campbell soup products, Franco American, Pepperidge Farm, Prego, V8 and many more. In addition, Campbells is running a promotion with Campbell's Kitchen Classic Soups, Sout at Hand and Select Soups worth 5 labels for every 1 turned in. They are also offering 2 labels for every 64 oz V8 Splash and 46 oz V8 Splash Smoothies labels. A complete list of all eligible items is available at www.labelsforeducation.com. You can place your labels in the boxes that are located in the hallway outside the main office and on the shelf in the hall of the west building.

Please remember that Buena Vista also gets money for old cell phones and printer cartridges that are turned in at the recycle bin in the media center. Each blue dumpster full of recycled paper adds money to our activity fund and Box Tops for Education can also help us get more money for our students.

Yearbooks!

Buena Vista is selling yearbooks this year for only \$12 if paid for before December 17th. Prices will be \$14 each from December 17 through March 1st. Make checks

payable to Buena Vista and the books will be distributed next spring.

Student Council Activities

The Student Council Penny Drive to benefit the Make A Wish Foundation raised \$132.15. Thank you for helping make this a great success!!

P.T.A. activities

November 9, 2004 Minutes

The carnival on Friday, November 5 was a great success. The kids had a great time and the cadets were a great help. We also want to say thank you to all the students, staff and parents that helped coordinate, set-up and tear down for this event. The students are also writing thank you's to the cadets.

Patricia Reitwiesner is working on a student directory to be distributed in the 3rd quarter. She was able to get a quote for \$60 to print 250 of them. If enough people are interested in this, the PTA will provide the initial funds that would be needed.

Food Baskets are being prepared for needy families. Each BV staff member is providing a turkey and each class has been assigned an item to bring to add to the basket. PTA will purchase the baskets. The baskets will be distributed on Tuesday, November 23rd.

The Holiday Gift Shop will be delivered on Monday, December 6. Students will be able to preview the shop on Tuesday, December 7th and shop on Wednesday, December 8th and Thursday, December 9th. Daisy will coordinate volunteers to help inventory, set-up, staff the shop and pack up when done.

Ms. Estrada's class will be choosing the movie for movie night on Friday, November 19th. December movie night is scheduled for Friday, December 10th. There will be a short Christmas movie and a special guest appearance.

Next meeting is Tuesday, December 14th at 6:30 p.m. in the Teacher's Lounge.

Buena Vista awarded grant to purchase books on tape.

Joey Pigza, Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs, Charlottes Web. Do these book titles interest you and your child? Buena Vista will soon have these books and many more on tape for our students to check out. This is a great way to increase vocabulary and improve comprehension while listening to an entertaining book. Thanks to **Ms. Ruminski**, Speech Pathologist, and **Ms. Jones**, Special Ed, for applying for and receiving a \$1,400 grant from Title VI funds to purchase books, tapes and recorders. Take advantage of this opportunity for your child to experience the joy of "reading" award winning books.

Jump Rope for Heart a Success

On Monday, November 22nd and Tuesday, November 23rd, students jumped all over heart disease and stroke by participating in Jump Rope for Heart. The students raised several hundred dollars for the American Heart Association.

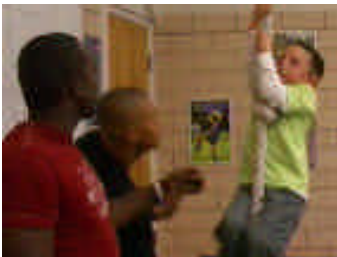
Donations raised for Jump rope for Heart help fund research, fight heart disease and stroke and support the American Heart Association's public and professional education program. Heart disease is the No. 1 killer in America and stroke is No. 3.

"This year's event was a huge success," said **Mr. Lopez**, Jump Rope for Heart coordinator. "We're very proud of all the jumpers and we had a lot of fun.

Jump rope for Heart is a program that promotes physical fitness and heart health through the fun activity of jumping rope. It is co-sponsored by the American Heart Association and the American Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance.

Fall Carnival

The annual Fall Carnival was a great success this year. Families had a great time playing games like Rope Climbing, Cosmic Bowling, Hoop Shots, Beanbag Toss, Cake Walk and Ring Toss. A jail was set up on the stage and many students, parents and staff were thrown in jail and had to raise bail to get out. We want to give a big thanks to the Air Force Academy cadets that manned the booths during the event so parents could spend the evening with their kids.



From Dr. Rasmussen's Desk

Good News about Public Schools in Colorado

?? Math scores are among the Nation's BEST: Colorado ranks 10th in the nation for having the highest proportion of public school 8th graders scoring at the highest two levels in math in the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP).

?? Reading scores are among the Nation's BEST: Colorado 4th graders rank 6th in the nation in reading in the NAEP.

?? Reading scores are among the Nation's BEST: Colorado 8th graders rank 7th in the nation in reading in the NAEP.

?? Reading scores are up: The proportion of Colorado public school 4th graders who scored at the highest two levels in reading in the NAEP increased by 48% between 1998 and 2003.

?? Reading scores are up: The proportion of Colorado public school 8th graders who scored at the highest two levels in reading in the NAEP increased by 20% between 1998 and 2003.

?? SAT scores are rising: More Colorado students are getting high scores on their SAT college entrance examinations. The proportion of graduating seniors getting high scores has increased by 11% on the Verbal SAT and 24% on the Math SAT since 1994. (A high score is defined as 600 or above).

?? SAT scores are rising: Since 1989, Colorado Math SAT college entrance examination scores have risen faster than the national average, and, since 1994, Colorado's Verbal SAT college entrance examination scores have risen twice as fast as the national average.

?? College entrance exams are among the Nation's BEST: Colorado is one of the two states in the proportion of high school graduates with scores in the top 20% nationally on either ACT or SAT college entrance examinations.

?? More public schools than private schools offer AP: While 56% of Colorado's public high schools offer Advanced Placement (AP) courses through which high school students can earn college credit, just 44% of Colorado's private schools offer these advanced courses.

?? More public schools offer AP courses. Since 2000, the proportion of Colorado public schools offering AP courses has increased by 16%.

?? More teachers nationally certified: The number of Colorado teachers being honored with certification from the prestigious National Board of Professional Teaching Standards has doubled since 2000.

?? Computers highly available: There is one computer available for instruction for every 3.9 public school students in Colorado.

?? Schools are safe: No school in Colorado was identified as "persistently dangerous" under the No Child Left Behind law.

Yet Challenges Remain

?? Class sizes are among the largest in the nation: With an average of 23 students per class, Colorado has the 5th largest average elementary school class size in the nation.

?? Public school spending is among the worst in the nation: Colorado ranks 4th worst in the country in the total taxable resources spent on public education. Education spending by the State of Colorado and its localities amounts to just 2.9% of its gross state product.

?? Student/Teacher ration is among the highest in the nation: Colorado ranks near the bottom (40 of 50) in the number of students for each teacher.

?? Schools need major repairs: Colorado school buildings need major improvements. Thirty-two percent (32%) of Colorado schools have buildings that need extensive repair or should be replaced – 26% of the schools have crumbling roofs, 28% have bad plumbing, 37% have poor ventilation, and 63% have an unsatisfactory environmental condition. Thirty-three percent (33%) of Colorado schools lack power outlets and wiring to accommodate computers and multimedia equipment in classrooms.

Classroom News

Ms. Waltman's preschool class had a "STONE SOUP" Feast for all 27 families on the 23rd of November. It was their 7th Annual feast. The students took a fieldtrip to Safeway using the city bus on November 18th to select the foods necessary to prepare the soup. Safeway generously donated most of the food and "extras" for the feast again this year!! A huge praise to them! The children dramatized the Stone Soup story and ALL families shared a "potluck" dish of their liking and they celebrated "Harvest" time once again!

Ms. Gibbs' Title I 1st grade students are working with Kindergarten and 1st grade Title students to set up a Parent Literacy Night on writing skills on December 7th.

Ms. Strobl's pre-school/kindergarten Montessori class had a Thanksgiving Feast on November 22rd. The students helped make butter and prepared soup and fruit salad for everyone to share.

Ms. Corbett's full-day Kindergarten will be working on an exploratory unit on Native Americans and will be examining native contributions to our way of life, what contemporary native people look like and do today and breaking down stereotypes of the outdated idea of native people. All this will be done through the use of children's literature that is written by native people and expresses an updated look into contemporary Native Americans.

Mrs. Weakland's 1st grade class went on a Field Trip on November 23rd to West Middle school to learn about volcanoes. They are also working very hard on subtraction facts and finalizing their classroom Mission Statement. The following students have Birthdays in December: Faith Bogans, Tryonna Crowell & Rebecca Martin.

Miss Gutierrez' 2nd grade class is working on poetry. **Ms. McCort** has been coming in to work with the students on a shape poem. Some students will be chosen to share their poems with readers in next month's Tiger Times. Miss G.'s second graders are also working on learning to count money in Math. Problem solving skills are also being worked on.

Ms. Garsoe's fourth grade class just finished learning about electric circuits. The final project was designing wiring for a house, and then wiring it, complete with switches and lights. We decorated the rooms with rugs and wallpaper and pictures. Fun! Now, we are starting our study of Colorado History. We kicked off in style at City Hall on Tuesday, November 16 to help celebration its 100th Birthday. The Buena Vista fourth grade was invited because our school was built in the same era as City Hall and fourth grade studies Colorado History. We sat on the beautiful steps in the foyer and listened to General Palmer and Winfield Scott Stratton (back from the great beyond!) give us an idea of life here when Colorado Springs was founded. Balloons, cake and old-fashioned lemonade rounded out the morning. We are also a singing class. We have six songs in our repertoire and are learning two more before Winter Break. Come hear us sing anytime!

Mrs. George's 5th graders will continue mastering their multiplication facts. Our goal is 100% accuracy in 3 minutes. In social studies we will be identifying the importance of individual early explorers, while building an ecosystem in plastic bottles for science. Please keep 2 liter soda bottles for this project! 5th graders continue to be awesome test takers!! Don't forget to remind your student to sell those last "E" books to make our trip to Golden Bell possible.

Ms. Sell in the Library/Media Center has asked students to read 20 books through January that have been nominated for the Colorado Book Award for 2005. Students will vote for their favorite book and help to choose which book wins the award. Some of the titles include My Lucky Day, Widdermaker, Pictures of Hollis Woods, Ruby Holler, and Three Pebbles and a Song. Signs are posted around the school indicating how each class has voted.

