

Buena Vista Elementary School

Tiger Times

March, 2005

PTA Fundraiser:

The PTA is holding a Garage Sale on Saturday, March 12 to raise funds for a climbing wall in the gym. Please bring your donation of clothes, toys, books, working appliances and other items in good condition to the Buena Vista gym on Friday, March 11 from 2:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.

Paid parking for the St. Patrick's Day will be available at the same time. Tell all your friends who come from other parts of the city to support BV by parking in our lot and shopping at our garage sale.

Mark the Dates!

March

- 3 Montessori Informational Meeting, 6-7 p.m.
- 8 PTA meeting in Teacher's Lounge, 6:30 p.m.
- 9 Building Accountability Meeting, 5:00 p.m.
- 11 End of 3rd Quarter – Movie Night in Gym, 6:00 p.m.
- 12 PTA Garage Sale and St. Patrick's Day Parking Fundraiser, 9am - ?
- 17 St. Patrick's Day
- 21-25 Spring Break – No School
- 30 Class Pictures

April

- 7 Movie Night in Gym, 6:00 p.m.
- 8 Kindergarten Registration Begins
- 8 No Students – Assessment Day
- 12 PTA meeting in Teacher's Lounge, 6:30 p.m.
- 14 Montessori Open House and Silent Auction
- 21 Art, Pie and Science Night (tentative)
- 28 Assessment Day – Early Dismissal at 12:30 p.m.
- 29 Staff Training Day – No School

FREE Love and Logic Class

If you would like to expand and improve your parenting skills, please join us on Monday, February 28th in the School Library. Julie Krejci will conduct a class from 6:15 – 7:45 pm on Raising Responsible Children. Please call the office at 328-4100 for additional information.

P.T.A. activities

Minutes from February 8

Discussed ideas for fundraisers for the rest of the year. Some ideas were Cookie Dough, World's Finest Chocolate Scratch Cards, Pizza Cards, Papa John's Pizza Flyers, Yard Sale, Read-A-Thon and a Spring Carnival. It was decided to have the spring carnival, the Read-a-thon and sell the pizza cards from Papa John's. Each card sells for \$5.00 and Buena Vista makes a \$4.50 profit. Daisy will prepare a pre-order form. The Carnival will also honor Dr. Rasmussen with a retirement party.

Discussed Movie Night on March 11, coordinating the yard sale, parking spaces for sale, Read-A-Thon goal for kids is \$500 We are going to ask for a volunteer to shave his head if the goal is met. The Pie, Art & Science Night is tentatively set for April 21. Scholastic Book Fair is April 27-May 3. Set up is on April 26. Volunteers are needed to help with set-up and manning the fair. Spring Carnival is tentatively set for May 21. We will work on a teacher appreciation luncheon for May 3rd and track day will be May 4 and 5.

We are going to make a page in Alan's retirement book and to see if we can help pay for some of it. Mrs. George has been nominated for The Crystal Apple Award PTA has been asked to help pay for scrapbook expenses.

Let us help your child's Montessori Education Begin

All interested families are invited to attend an informational meeting on Thursday, March 3, 2005 from 6:00-7:00 pm.. The pre-school and kindergarten years form the basis for future learning in a Montessori classroom. Don't miss out on these valuable years. It is strongly recommended that children start in the Montessori classroom by the age of 3 or 4. The early years help them to develop the self-motivation and strong academic skills that they will need to be successful in the Lower Elementary classroom.

Parents are also encouraged to visit the Pre-School/Kindergarten (ages 3-5). Please call 328-4100 to arrange a visit.

From Dr. Rasmussen's Desk ;

In a few months I will permanently leave Buena Vista Elementary School as I embark on a new endeavor – my retirement. The recent activity surrounding the appointment of my replacement has let me know that some Buena Vista families were unaware of my plans to retire at the end of the school year. I would like to take this opportunity to confirm with you my plans to complete my career in education and let you know how much I have enjoyed my seventeen years as principal.

It is hard to believe that I began my teaching career thirty-one years ago in the children's division of a state hospital in Michigan. That career included graduate study and several other positions as a teacher, special education supervisor, and principal of two schools. Over the course of those thirty-one years, I have met some extraordinary people who have overcome insurmountable obstacles. I admire everyone who has taken the challenge to embrace life, learn along the way, and make steel out of stones. The countless children I have encountered who come to school everyday to learn, play, and grow confirms my faith in humanity and our ever-present ability to regroup and restart.

I will miss the children, the teachers and the parents of the Buena Vista community. I am thankful to everyone for the pleasure of being associated with you on both a professional and personal level. May your children grow to become good friends, loving adults, and independent citizens.

Retirement Party

On May 19th, please join us in a retirement celebration for Dr. Rasmussen. It will be held after the Band and Orchestra concert. More details will follow.

More Love and Logic

Julie Krejci will be presenting a seven night series "Becoming a Love and Logic Parent" on Wednesday nights from March 9th through April 27th. Sessions will be held between 6:15 pm and 7:45 pm in the Buena Vista Library. Cost is \$35 per person or \$50 per couple. Childcare for school aged children will be provided.

Read-A-Thon Fundraiser

Soon students will be asked to participate in a fundraiser for the climbing wall and free books. Every student that agrees to participate will need to read or be read to for at least 300 minutes in 2 weeks. Reading in class, at home or for any other program would earn minutes toward their goal.

The funds raised will be split evenly between the new climbing wall for the gym and books for each participant. Watch your Friday folder and upcoming newsletters for more information.

Preparing Your Child for the CSAP tests

The Colorado Student Assessment Program (CSAP) is a standards-based assessment designed to provide a picture of student performance on state academic content standards and to provide a context for improving public education.

Physical Preparation

Make sure that your child gets a good rest the nights before the test. Children who are tired are less able to pay attention in class or to handle the demands of the test.

Feed your child a nourishing breakfast on the mornings of the test. Hunger can detract from good test performance.

Plan ahead to ensure that your child is present and on time for the test. Do not plan any medical or dental appointments on testing days.

Ask Your Child To:

Read the directions carefully when the teacher gives out the test.

Read the questions carefully and all of the answer choices.

Remind Your Child:

If you don't know an answer to a question, skip it and go on to the next question.

If there is time at the end of the test, return to the unanswered question.

It is helpful to eliminate some of the answer choices that you think are wrong.

It is better to tackle each question one-at-a-time, rather than thinking about the whole test at once.

If you finish early, check your answers

Parents can help by:

Monitoring your child's performance during the year. Ask questions if you don't understand the reasons why your child received a certain grade.

Obtain information about the Colorado Model Content Standards. Your child's teacher or guidance counselor can provide you with this information.

Tell your child that you believe that he/she can do well and succeed in school. Stress that students get good grades by hard work and not just because "some students are smart." Offer praise and encouragement for achievement and improvement.

Use television wisely. Limit viewing to 2 hours or less on a school night.

Establishing a daily routine for meals, homework, chores, bedtime, and family talk.

Old Colorado City Library Family Fun Night

On the second Tuesday of every month the Old Colorado City Library holds a Family Fun night at 6:30 p.m. A special guest highlights a topic and suggests additional reading for various ages.

Montessori Teachers:

The Montessori educator recognizes that his or her role is not so much to teach as to inspire, mentor, and facilitate the learning process. The real work of learning belongs to the individual child. Because of this, the Montessori educator remains conscious of his or her role in helping each child to fulfill his or her potential as a human being and therefore knows that the primary educational responsibility is one of creating an environment for learning within which children will feel safe, cherished and empowered.

Montessori educators are trained to identify the best response to the changing interests and needs of each child as a unique individual learner. Because they truly accept that children learn in many different ways and at their own pace, Montessori educators understand that they must "follow the child" adjusting their strategies and timetable to fit the development of each individual child.

Montessori educators organize appropriate social settings and academic programs for children at their own level of development. They do this to a large degree through the design of the learning environment, selection and organization of learning activities, and structure of the day.

Montessori educators are filled with hope in the development of each child's full human potential as a person of learning and virtue.

Continuing Fundraising Efforts

We are still asking for Box Tops for Education, Labels for Education and Paper Recycling. Boxes are placed in the halls for the box tops and labels. Any



recyclable paper can be placed in the blue bin outside the gym. Please remember that cardboard and phone books can not be placed in this bin.

Colorado College's
"Tiger" Mascot

Student Work

Daffy at Night

By Rebecca Bush

(2nd Grade, Miss Gutierrez)

One night a bunny named Daffy pretended to sleep. When the light went out she stretched and rolled around. She wanted to call Tulip, but not yet. She wanted to plan a party for Daisy. It was her birthday. After she planned the party she wanted to call some more friends. So she did. Tulip and the other bunnies helped set up for the party. They put up the "Pin the Tail on the Bunny." Daffy baked a beautiful, big cake with frosting flowers. Finally, Daffy called Daisy for the party. Daffy put a blind fold on Daisy so all the bunnies could hide. They said, "Surprise!" They played "Pin the Tail on the Bunny" and ate the cake. When the party ended, all the bunnies left except Daisy. She said, "thank you for the party." "Your welcome," said Daffy, hopping into her bed in her cage. With a big yawn she said, "This day will last in my dream forever." With another big yawn, Daffy settled into her nice, warm, big bed and she dreamed of that day as she slept.



Daffy

Daffy at Night

By Harley Whitefield

(2nd Grade, Miss Gutierrez)

One night, Daffy pretended to sleep because the teacher was there. When she was gone, Daffy had to call her friends. Daffy hopped out of her cage and hopped to the phone. She called her friends and they came over. She put on the Disco music and started to Disco. Then the teacher came in. They were so loud that they did not hear her come in. Ms. G. just smiled and said, "You're so funny."

School Closure and Delay Information

A new service has started with current information on school closures and delays. Parents can call in at **520-2300** and select General Information to get this information. School closure and delay information is updated by 5:30 a.m.

Classroom News

Miss Gutierrez's second grade class recently had a visitor. Mrs. Brunn, a parent from Ms. Hastings class brought her Flemish Giant rabbit, Daffy, to stay for the day. The children fed Daffy apples from their snack. Miss G. also used this opportunity to have her children write stories. They were to write about Daffy at night. See "Student Work" for two of the stories. One is from Rebecca Bush and the other is from Harley Whitefield. Thank you Mrs. Brunn for allowing Daffy to visit!



March is the month for CSAP's and Ms. Garsoe's 4th grade class is ready. We have learned how to read directions, think of the best answer, and do our best. Parents, you can support us by making sure that your child has good rest, a good breakfast, and your enthusiasm. Our students know that it's a time to show off all that they know.

Buena Vista's fourth grade is involved in a wonderful program with Colorado College. Each member of the women's basketball team there adopts a class in D-11. Our Tiger Pal's name is Ashley Steichen, and she is a sophomore from Seattle, Washington. She writes us once a month, sends a newsletter from the team, and we write her back. Ashley has visited us twice here at Buena Vista. On Saturday, February 12, our class was invited to a special "Tiger Pal's Day" at CC. (Colorado College's mascot is also a tiger.) There was a basketball game against UCCS, and then autograph signing and treats afterward. Eleven members of our class were able to attend:

Alex Allen, Morgan Banfield, Tristan Breaker, Marcus Cable, Anthony Lemalu, Justin Mayo, Torin McCormick, Heratio Porter, Cole Shelton, Nicole Thomsen and Bernice Ula. Thanks to all the parents who drove and supported us.

Last month, the writer of this column made a mistake and put two names together for the Math Clubs. She wrote "Marcus Allen" instead of Alex Allen and Marcus Cable. Congratulations to those two boys.

5th graders in Mrs. George's classroom are diligently preparing for CSAP testing which begins the week of March 14th and goes through the week of April 4th. Students will be tested in reading, writing and math. We will also be taking quarterly assessments sometime in March. It is so important that students are well rested and have eaten a substantial breakfast on testing days. Good attendance is essential for success during this time.

On a personal note, my family is expanding. My son was married on February 16th to a very sweet girl from Latvia. They are beginning the process of American citizenship for her. My daughter is expecting a baby any day. This will be our first grandchild, and of course I must be there to help! Hopefully the baby will cooperate and not arrive in the middle of CSAP!! I wish all of you a restful and fun Spring break!

Ms. Bodmer and Mr. Lopez coordinated an International Dance Day on January 26. Students learned several dances that they performed for parents and other classes. Students were encouraged to wear clothing that represented other countries for the day. Some of the dances were the Bunny Hop and the Irish Stew. Parents were also encouraged to participate in the Chicken Polka.

