

Buena Vista Elementary School

Tiger Times

May, 2005

Solo and Ensemble Success

Congratulations to Ms. Hobein's students, *Malia Siren*, *Gina Webb* and *Dylan Mata-Lovato* for their outstanding performances at the Solo & Ensemble Festival on April 7th at Rogers Elementary School. These students worked very hard to prepare a solo or ensemble to play for professional judges, with overwhelming success! All three students received the highest score for their presentations. Maila and Gina did a clarinet sax duet and Dylan did a trumpet solo. Award medals will be given at the Band and String Concert on May 19th.

Mark the Dates!

May

3	Teacher Appreciation Lunch
3	Track Day – K-2
4	Track Day – 3-5
9-10	Golden Bell – 5 th grade
10	PTA meeting in Teacher's Lounge, 6:30 p.m.
12-13	Assessment Conferences – No Students
19	Band & Strings Concert, 1:50 p.m. and 7 p.m.
19	Dr. Rasmussen's Retirement Open House, 2:30 p.m.
24	Kindergarten & 5 th grade graduation
26	Last Day of School
30	Memorial Day

Retirement Party

Dr. Alan Rasmussen will retire at the end of this school year. The staff has planned an Open House to honor his many years of service to Colorado Springs School District #11. The open house will be held on Thursday, May 19 from 3:00 - 5:00 in the Buena Vista gym. Be sure to plan to join us for cake and punch and to sign his guest book.

Pikes Peak Library District Summer Reading Program

The PPLD will have the 2005 Children's Summer Reading Program from May 28 through August 1. This year's program highlights *Dragons*, *Dreams* and *Daring Deeds*. Children earn prizes and coupons from sponsors for reading. Stop in at your local library branch to register.

From Dr. Rasmussen's Desk:

In just a few days, I will walk out of the doors of Buena Vista Elementary School. When I do, I will not go empty handed. With me will march the accumulated memories of seventeen years as principal – years filled with laughter and with tears; with comfort and with hardships; with pleasure and with pain.

I remember the time when a kindergartner went into the kindergartner boy's restroom and crawled out the window so he could play on the playground instead of staying with his class. When he was 'found' playing outside he had his first experience of coming to the principal's office. When I explained that kindergartners are expected to follow the rules, he courageously shook his pointed forefinger at me and stated that I should change the rules and let him do whatever he wanted.

I also remember the far too many times that I have had to attend the memorials of past and present students, Buena Vista parents, and Buena Vista staff members, and their families. All too often, words are all we have to express those wordless feelings that so fill our minds and hearts. Words are all we have and yet, at times such as this, they are simply not enough.

But most of all I remember the funniest things that children say

- ☛ "The difference between a king and a president is that a king is the son of his father, but a president isn't."
- ☛ "The chief cause of divorce in the United States is marriage."
- ☛ "A corps is a dead gentleman, and a corpse is a dead lady."
- ☛ "The smallest veins in your body are called caterpillars."
- ☛ "The tube that allows urine to drain from the bladder is called the Aretha."
- ☛ "A census taker is a man who goes from house to house increasing the population."

Yes, there have been some troubled times; yes, there have been setbacks and long hours. But more often than not, there has been the joy of opening up new vistas for young minds and the discovery of something new. There has been accomplishment, growth and learning because of the outstanding Buena Vista families who have sent their children to me for so many years. I am extremely proud of the faculty, staff and students of Buena Vista and it has been a pleasure to serve you. Good-bye.

P.T.A. ctivities

Minutes from April 12

Reviewed upcoming events through the end of the year. The money raised from the Read-A-Thon is being verified. Track days are set for May 3rd for K-2 and May 4th for 3-5. Teacher appreciation is being celebrated on May 3rd with salads for the teachers. The March Yard Sale raised over \$700. The next PTA meeting is May 10.

Report Card Change

The state is now mandating that student's CSAP and ACT scores show on the report card. The 2nd Semester report cards will include this information. The most noticeable change will be moving the box containing the students name/ID/teacher that was previously on the right side to the left side and a new box on the right side will contain the test information. There will also be a new legend at the bottom for the CSAP scores.

Student Council

Minutes from April 15

Student Council coordinated a sidewalk art sale for April 21, Boxers and Shades Day for April 27 and helped with the Pie, Art & Science Night on April 21.

Student Council will be giving out fits on May 3, National Teacher Day. They will be honoring the teachers for all they do.

A concession stand will be set up for the Track Days on May 4 and 5. Water, fruit snacks and other treats will be available. Proceeds from the Primary track day on May 4 will be donated to the Sebastiani family.

Thank you to everyone who helped us sell out of the Livestrong bracelets and helped support cancer research and the Sebastiani family.

Please look for upcoming information on a Cinco de Mayo Assembly on May 5.

Thank you to all student council members for this year.

Montessori Update

School Planning & Management Team Established

The School Planning & Management Team (SPMT) began meeting in January 2005. This group was provided for in the original proposal approved by the Board of Education. The role of the SPMT is to meet regularly to discuss issues related to the school, make decisions regarding the school, and make sure those decisions are implemented and evaluated. The group is comprised of the many stakeholders at Buena Vista, including the principal, both Montessori & traditional staff members, and parents from both the Montessori & traditional programs.

Current members include:

Staff

Dr. Alan Rasmussen, Principal
Ruth Gibbs, Traditional 1st grade teacher
Clarice Hastings, Montessori Lower Elem. Teacher
Evelyn McCort, Literacy Resource Teacher
Paula Strobl, Montessori PreK/Kdg Teacher

Parents

Angie Carlson, Lower Elem. Parent
Lynne Casebeer, Original Steering Committee Member, Montessori PreK/Kdg Parent
Pam Dech, Parent of Traditional & Montessori Students, PTA Officer
Jen Estes, Original Steering Committee Member, Montessori PreK/Kdg Parent
Patricia Reitwiesner, BAAC Representative & Lower Elem. Parent
Vicki Robertson, Parent of Traditional & Montessori Students, PTA Officer

Montessori Expansion Status

Σ The district has approved funding for materials for the new PreK/ Kindergarten, Lower Elementary & Upper Elementary Classrooms. Purchase orders are currently being placed for the Montessori materials and classroom furnishings.

Σ Funds for training current BV teachers interested in becoming Montessori-certified have also been identified and Ruth Gibbs, currently a traditional 1st Grade teacher, is applying to the certification program in Boulder.

Σ Hiring for the new PreK/Kindergarten teacher will proceed in the next few weeks.

Σ The feasibility of the Upper Elementary class for next year is currently under discussion.

Σ Notification letters will be mailed this week to students currently enrolled in the Montessori program, as well as applicants who've been admitted to the expanded program for next fall.

Fundraising Update

The Silent Auction held in conjunction with the Community Open House on April 14 was very successful. Thanks to the efforts of so many volunteers who solicited donations, we were able to raise over \$2,500 for the Montessori Preschool Scholarship Fund. Many thanks to Grace Nunez, Royann Killoran, Joy Stockton, Jen Estes, & Suzanne Burkle for organizing such a fantastic event!

An update on the Family Fundraising Campaign held last fall. Families of BV Montessori students pledged a total of \$9,105. To date we have received \$6,820 of these pledges to the enhancement and scholarship funds. Please send or bring in your check to the office if you have not yet fulfilled your original pledge. A big Thank You to Doug Bannick & Cindy Funk for heading up this fundraising effort!

Orchestra and Band Concert

The band and orchestra students will be presenting their Spring Concert on May 19 at 1:30 and 7:00 p.m. Students have been giving up class time or recess time to learn to play an instrument with Mrs. Bodmer. They have been very committed to learning and their parents have provided the instruments and have encouraged them to practice. This will be a delightful performance.



Teacher Appreciation

Volunteers are needed to provide salads on May 3rd for the teachers. This is an opportunity to show your appreciation for the hard work and encouragement your child receives each day they come to school. Please call Michelle Ferrier at 577-4841 if you are able to help.

Free Pizza from Louie's Pizza

Students can receive one free pizza from Louie's Pizza in one of two ways on their next report card. If a student receives all 4's in the area of the Skills and Behaviors that Support Learning or if they receive all P's for Proficient and 2 or more in the Advanced ratings they may receive a free pizza from Louie's Pizza. Check your phone book for Louie's Pizza locations. Thank you to Louie's Pizza for this special offer.



More Pizza Specials

Papa John's coupon sheets are still available from the Buena Vista PTA for \$5. Each coupon sheet includes a special offer for a *free* pizza and many other great deals. Coupons will be sold after school at the front entrance or contact Vickie Robertson.

Read-A-Thon

Students read over 10,000 minutes for the Read-A-Thon in April and raised over \$1,400 for the new climbing wall. Be sure to join us during the track meet to see Mr. Lopez get his head shaved. Great job to everyone for reading and raising such a large amount of money.

Campbells' Labels, Box Tops and Recycling Paper

Please be sure to bring in your Campbells Labels for Education and Box Tops for Education before the end of school. Also, any paper you may have is still being accepted for the recycling program. Please use the big blue bin outside the gym. Old cell phones and printer cartridge's also earn Buena Vista money. Please place them in the recycle bin in the Media Center.

Student Work

HAIKU (Susan Garsoe's 4th grade students)

*Fountain Creek's nature
The wonderful animals
The beautiful sounds.*

- Tristan Breaker

*Soft soft breeze blowing
Oh look! A red-winged blackbird
Sitting on cattails.
And the Canada geese
Look so strong and grey.
Plus the great blue
Heron too. And the
Lovely pond and river.
And.....don't forget
The ducks.*

-Kennedy Gillette



About Fountain Creek

*The sound of
the water moving
makes it peaceful with
the geese talking
and the turtles
swimming!
Then we sat down
And listened to
the sweet
bird sounds.*

- Alex Allen

Classroom News

Ms. Paula's Pre-school and Kindergarten Montessori class went to the Fountain Nature Center on April 15th. They have also received caterpillars and will be watching all the stages until they hatch into butterflies. Students observed different types of beans sprouting, which was really fun for the children. Our classroom is filled with wonderful spring happenings. We will be going to the zoo on May 18th. We will also be releasing our butterflies the 3rd week of May on the school grounds!



Ms. Corbett's kindergarten class just finished two weeks of studying about seeds and plants. The next two weeks was focused on butterflies, especially about the life-cycle

of larvae to butterflies. We currently have 5 larvae, or painted lady caterpillars, and are hoping to have 5 healthy butterflies in the coming weeks.

The kindergarteners have three upcoming field trips, one to Fountain Creek Nature Center, one to the Firehouse on Colorado Ave, and one to the Cheyenne Mountain Zoo.



Alia Bob watching the larvae

Miss Guterrez's second grade class has been working on the country of Kenya. They are comparing/contrasting Kenya with Colorado Springs. They have worked on learning some words in Swahili and have put together an English/Swahili dictionary. They also have painted Kenyan flags for Pie and Art Night. Some future activities will include a report on an African animal and this will be ended with a visit to the Cheyenne Mountain Zoo at the African Rift Valley.

In addition to that report, the class is currently working on a report on an animal of their choice. They are learning a lot about research in the computer lab. In math, the students have begun to learn their multiplication facts. Right now they are working on their ones, twos, fives, tens and zeros.

We are eagerly waiting for Summer break but have worked very hard this year!

April was Poetry Month in **Ms. Garsoe's** fourth grade class, and we celebrated with writing poems and memorizing favorite poems. The whole class has memorized "Stopping By Woods on a Snowy Evening" by Robert Frost. Each child has memorized several poems of her or his choosing as well, and so our repertoire grows. On April 14, we had a guest speaker, Mrs. Eva McGeehan. Her mother was a poet, and she read her mother's poetry, and told of her life as a child. One of our favorites was a poem about the tides of life.

Tuesday, April 12, was the day of our field trip to Fountain Creek Nature Center. It was a great day, especially since we had had a snow day the day before. The fourth and fifth grades spent the day at the Nature Center, and saw great blue herons, red-wing blackbirds, turtles, coots, boat-tail grackles, mallards. We also studied pond water and saw the most amazing living world in the water: leeches, bloodworms, damselfly nymphs, snails, and things we didn't know! The day ended with a picnic and play time on the playground, enjoying the sun and fabulous views of the Front Range.

Students and Parents, please remember that part of the fourth grade homework is to read 25 minutes, five nights a week. Some of my students have confessed that they are not reading every night. Reading every day is the key to a happy life, and the key to being a good student. I ask the support of every adult in the children's lives to make sure that they read.

Wishing you all a wonderful end to the year and May flowers.

Mrs. George has several important dates coming in the month of May for 5th graders. Please put Tuesday, May 24th, at 6:30p.m. on your calendar. We will have 5th grade graduation in the gym that evening to celebrate your child's completion of elementary school and award each child for all they have accomplished. Please continue to supervise the science fair projects that will be displayed on Friday, May 6th in my classroom. The last day of school, May 27th, we will have an egg drop competition from the top story of our building. Be thinking of a way to keep an egg from breaking!

Thanks again for all your support this year. I'm so sad to see this class move on, but I'm proud of all their progress!

Have A Great Summer and Keep Learning!!