

Buena Vista Elementary School

Tiger Times

December, 2005

Mark the Dates!

December

- 8 Band/Orchestra Concert, 1:30 & 7:00 pm
16 2 Hour early release – Pick up students 12:30
16 Movie Night – 6pm in Gym
23 Begin Winter Break-No School

January

- 10 Students first day back
16 No School – Martin Luther King Day
27 2 Hour early release – Pick up students 12:30

PTA fundraiser's get Limo Ride

Student's that raised \$200 or more in the fall PTA fundraiser got a ride in a Limo to lunch at Wendy's.



More Money for School Programs and Activities

Short on time but still want to help Buena Vista students? There are several ways Buena Vista has to raise money with parent help, simply bringing in items they already have at home. Did you know that old newspapers, magazines and junk mail can be placed in the blue dumpster by the gym for recycling? Every full dumpster is worth more money in the schools' activity fund.

In addition, your old printer cartridges and cell phones can be placed in a recycle at the media center and the school gets \$1-\$8 each from a recycling company.

We also can get money for a large variety of Campbell's products with the Labels for Education program and General Mills has the Boxtops for Education. Be sure to cut the front label off *Campbells* products and the Boxtops for Education logo on *General Mills* products. Boxes are outside the main office and above the coat rack in the west building to place your labels.

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Winter has arrived and we are closing in on the holiday season. It will be a busy time for all of us. We at Buena Vista want to wish all of you a happy holiday.

I also want to give you a quick update on different "happenings" around the school. First, Gloria Peluso, our school psychologist, has been working on our bully-proofing curriculum with students. It is our goal to have a safe environment for learning. In addition, we are working on an additional program for the school that will be known as the ROSE program. The program will have many components that teach and recognize students for outstanding behavior and effort. **ROSE** stands for **R**espect **O**thers, **S**elf and **E**nvironment. Second, we are making positive improvements in our cafeteria. We are training a group of students to work as "table captains" to help serve as role models and monitors. We have even purchased a "yak-o-meter" to help bring the noise level down and encourage a calm eating environment. Finally, we continue to work on our school improvement goals. Our latest tests, the quarterly assessments, have given us even more direction in helping students achieve. We are on track.

I want to also extend a huge thank you to our community for voting to improve the school facilities. Buena Vista will be looking forward to many building improvement projects that include a security fence and various other projects. In addition, I truly appreciate the response to surveys that we have received. Your guidance and input help us make decisions. I would also like to thank our faculty and staff for the outstanding job they do on behalf of your children. We have a truly dedicated and professional community of educators.

Please let me know whenever you have a comment, suggestion, or question. You may contact me at 328-4100.

Sincerely,

Brenda Smith, Principal

Choice Permits

Any family who is enrolled at BV on permit must fill out a choice permit form every year. If you have not filled one out for the 2006-2007 school year, please come to the office to complete the required form.

The Bully Proofing Program

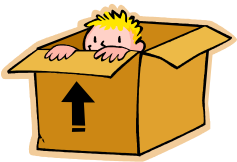
Aggressive behavior in students has long been a disruptive element in the educational arena. At a time when violence is so prevalent in our society, bullies have become a threat to the physical and emotional safety of students. Bullies bring an imbalance of power and fear to schools, especially a fear of helplessness. The Bully proofing curriculum is designed to help victims learn strategies on how to best handle bullying situations in the school and outside of school. It is also designed to help bullies learn how not to be bullies. Many times a bully acts out feelings that are suppressed such as anger, depression, sadness etc. The HA HA SO strategies are a major part of the program that gives ideas on what to do if you become a victim of a bully. They are as follows:

- H-HELP
- A-ASSERT YOURSELF

- H-HUMOR
- A-AVOID

- S-SELF-TALK
- O-OWN IT.

This program is designed to be an early preventative measure against bullying behavior. It is also designed to stop bullying at the elementary level to ensure a safer school environment-one that does not tolerate acts of physical or emotional aggression against children. It is within this type of safe and caring environment that children can learn and be successful.



Please check the lost & found box in the west cottage before holiday break. The box is over flowing!

Did you know:

- ? Our original main building could have a town meeting that would seat 500 people.
- ? We still have an issue with absences and tardiness. Please help us with this.
- ? We have materials for Montessori parents to check out and learn more about the Montessori method of education. Stop by the office for more information.



**2 hour early release this month:
Friday, December 16. Pick up
students at 12:30 p.m.**

Volunteer Corner

Thanks to the many volunteers who brought food and drinks for the staff on the conference days. Also, thanks to those parents and non parent volunteers who made the Fall Carnival run so smoothly and brought donations for the dinner or cakewalk. September Volunteer hours totaled 235 1/2 hours and October hours totaled 424 1/2 hours!!! Keep up the good work. Remember to mark down all volunteer hours you spend at or for Buena Vista in the office. If you did not report hours in previous months just note them on the current month sign up. We need to let the District know how much our parents help and care!

P.T.A. Message

- *The PTA Fall Carnival was a success this year.
- *Members of the PTA voted to give \$100 of the earnings to Ms. Garsoe's students who did face painting for the carnival. This money is set into account and will help those 5th graders go to Golden Bell this Spring.
- * PTA bylaws were sent to the national PTA this week.
- *The climbing wall will be going up in the gym soon and should be done shortly.
- *Please fill out the survey that went home so that the PTA can decide what kind of activities are wanted and PTA can support. For example Kidpower may come to our school if enough people are interested.
- *Upcoming events include the Holiday Gift Shop- December 5-9. The purpose of the gift shopping is so that students may purchase gifts for friends and family. See Toni Fleming if you have any questions or want to volunteer.

BAAC Flash

At the November meeting, information was discussed regarding volunteer hours, the District Accountability Advisory Committee (DAAC) and the DAAC Budget committee

Ms. Smith updated the committee on Mill Levy Expenditures & Timelines. Several improvements will be worked on over the next 3 years through this program. She is working with student council to improve the lunchroom environment through positive reinforcement utilizing table captains & a yak-o-meter (a traffic light that measures noise level in the cafeteria).

The Montessori program is expected to grow next year to 3 full-day primary classes, 3 Lower Elementary classes and 1 Upper Elementary Class.

Ms. Smith will present a budget at our January meeting outlining the needs at the lower & upper elementary levels so enhancement funds can be used to meet them.

A Before and After School Care program is still being reviewed for next year. We hope to have a provider chosen and facilities available for this program next year.

Program News

Band and Choir

The Buena Vista Elementary Band, Choir and Orchestra will present their Holiday Concert on Thursday, December 8, 2005 at 1:30 p. m. and 7:00 p. m. We will have a short all school Holiday-Sing-Along on the 22nd of December at 1:00 in the afternoon. Everyone's invited.

Ms. Hobein has 12 5th graders in the band who meet twice a week. Students are always reminded that the more you practice, the better you'll be! Don't forget to write down the number of minutes you practice each day.

Mrs. Bodmer has one 5th grader in advanced orchestra and 14 4th graders in beginning orchestra who also meet twice a week. Thirty choir members from 3rd, 4th and 5th grade who meet on Wednesday's after school, led by Mrs Bodmer and Ms. Hastings. We are proud of all these students who are willing to add these music activities to their schedule and commit to practice, too!

Gifted and Talented:

The "Inventions Club" is proceeding nicely and I am amazed at their creativity and looking forward to what they create for the final project in December. Be sure to check your schedule for dates. I will also be reminding the inventors when I see them at school. I will be testing select students on the CoGat test, which is the test for the Gifted and Talented Department during the month of December. This will take three weeks, barring any absences. If you haven't already done so, please send in the parent permission slips and parent surveys as soon as you can. I wish you all a wonderful holiday season.

News from the gym...

Students will be completing our fitness testing the first part of December and results will be in the Friday Folders. For more fitness related fun and information, check out: <http://kidshealth.org>. It has information on a variety of health related topics: Be a fit kid, Getting muscles, How the body works, etc. Sites specifically for "Parents" and "Teens" are also available.

We will use the remainder of December to incorporate our newfound fitness knowledge into movement. Fundamental movement skills become the foundation for the specialized sport skills needed to perform successfully in a wide variety of games, sports, dance, and recreational activities. These movement skills are generally divided into three categories:

- Locomotor movement skills (walking, running, jumping, skipping, sliding, leaping, climbing)
- Manipulative movement skills (throwing, catching, kicking, trapping, striking, volleying, bouncing)
- Stability movement skills (stretching, twisting, turning, landing, stopping, dodging, balancing)

Movement activities play an important roll in overall development. The elementary years are recognized as the critical time for mastering these fundamental movement skills. Younger children focus on mastering these movements with control, efficiency, and coordination. Older children refine their skills and develop mature movement patterns. Eventually combining and applying these skills in games, sports, dance, etc.

Student Work

Rain Forest; By Brianna Larreau

A
Girl
Is a
Rain forest.
Her hair is
The nice soft
Branches of piney
Smell. Her hands
Move quietly through



Playground; By Erica Martinez

I live on the playground.
On Monday it is hot.
On Wednesday it is cold.
On Tuesday it is raining.
Sometimes on Thursday
It is snowy.
I sit with my friends
On the swings.

Faith; By Katie Keighan

Faith is a girl,
Pretty as can be.
Faith and I so happily,
So freely as can be.
So I ask all of you,
Is she nice?
Yes she is.
With 1005 names on the list,
Faith is the one with the F.
Not my fault,
Not at all.

Lunchroom; By Jimmy Bader

I eat in the lunchroom
The food is good and hot.
So hot it's like a summer day.
I sit by my friends.
We're always quiet.
We sometimes talk.
I like the lunchroom

Classroom News

Parents of the students in **Ms. Carolyn's ½ day Montessori Kindergarten** class have asked how they can continue the Montessori "theme" at home. Here are a few ideas.

When appropriate, let your child help with household chores like sweeping, wiping/dusting tables and chairs, washing dishes, setting the table and easy food preparation (with child safe utensils). Encourage independence by having them dress themselves and putting their toys away. There's no limit to what children as young as 3 can do.

Ms. Jean's Primary class has had a busy November. The week of Thanksgiving, we had a Thanksgiving vegetable soup feast with cornbread, fruit salad, and dessert. Our class has been busy making outline drawings of ourselves and decorating them. We have also been busy working on the bead chains, the forty-five layout, teen and ten boards. We have been doing a lot of pouring, spooning, sorting and art in practical life. In sensorial there has been a lot of pink tower, brown stair building, triangle making, farm animal matching, and maze building. In language we have been busy with opposites, rhyming, sandpaper letters, the movable alphabet and finally reading the Bob Books.

Thanks to all the parent support in the classroom.

Ms. Paula's Primary class was busy painting their cornucopias and making Thanksgiving placemats for the feast. We had Cookie the rabbit visit and the amaryllises are almost blooming and the Christmas cactuses are budding. Thank-you Maddie for bringing in the flowers. Thank-you Ms Smith for the wheelbarrows, gardening gloves and tools and for your continued special goodies!

I would like to continue to thank all the parents who volunteer their time in the classroom. Thank-you also for filling our care and share basket. Ms McCort is also coming in and introducing the children to writing and they each have their own writing book!! It is very exciting! Let us know if you have any special talents you would like to share with the students.

In November **Mrs. Lindenberger's First Grade Class** celebrated the autumn season with Mrs. Leigh's fourth grade class by having a Fall Feast together. Students and parents had a wonderful time sharing thoughts about what we are thankful for and eating tasty food. We also created a special art project together which can be viewed in the hall by our classroom! Please come by and take a look! Other exciting news is that in the first quarter we successfully fulfilled our class mission of being prepared for school everyday! We are also already underway to meet our personal and class goals again in the second quarter! We are making great gains in first grade and are looking forward to meeting future challenges and celebrating our successes!

In November, **Ms. Ruth's Lower Elementary** class worked on an art project called "tree study". We drew a tree with pencil and then we used our pre-drawing to draw our tree with crayons and a colorful background in the classroom. Then we learned how to paint a background with water colors and the tree in the foreground. We also celebrated Thanksgiving with a fabulous soup feast at Cheyenne Canyon. Everyone helped to prepare the soup and many parents joined us on a warm, sunny day.

Mrs. Neuharth's 3rd Graders are working very hard right now, already getting ready for CSAP's. We have written several narratives and we are working on descriptives now. Last week we brought in family pictures to represent a photo album page to use with our descriptive writing for one of our favorite family events. By winter break we will begin multiplication and we are excited. Also, we have begun cursive and I am very impressed with their handwriting. We will have more testing this month, both reading and quarterly assessments. We also have a new member to our classroom; Miss Sunshine is her name. Come on by if you would like to meet her!!

Mrs. George's 4th grade is studying the geography of Colorado and learning about our gorgeous state all year long. Ask your children about the interesting things they're learning about their state. We're working on good word choice in writing and trying to include vivid verbs and descriptive adjectives. We will be taking assessment tests the 2nd week of December. Please make sure your child has adequate sleep, a good breakfast and is in school that week! Several students have mastered their multiplication and division facts through 9 and are working on completing 100 multiplication facts in three minutes. Communicate with your child about their progress in mastering the math facts. I hope you and your family have a wonderful holiday season!

Last spring Chris Bachelder, who came to share his life as a writer and teach **Ms. Garsoe's 5th Grade** about writing stories, treated our class to a visit. Last month, we had another local author, Nancy Bently, visit. She writes books about Nick Anderson, Nature Investigator and is writing a book for kids. She did a "test read" to our class. Ask your child what she/he thought of the book.

We have already started raising money for our trip to Golden Bell. Each 5th grader has a bank account at school and they will be responsible for raising \$100 each. We are going for three days this year, so that we enjoy all that Golden Bell offers. There are many opportunities for earning money. The students ran the Face Painting booth at the Carnival and are also selling refreshments at Movie Night. Thanks to Vicki Robertson for her support through PTA and to Yvonne Shelton who organized and chaperoned the Face Painting. In December, we will be selling candy canes and having a bake sale to raise money for our trip.