

# Buena Vista Elementary School

# Tiger Times

September, 2006

## Mark the Dates!

### September

- 11 PTA 6:00 p.m. and BAAC 6:45 p.m. Meetings
- 12 PTA Open House – 5:30 pm (Gym)
- 14 Health Screening-Vision and Hearing
- 20 Montessori Volunteer Training; 4-5pm Primary;  
5-6 pm Lower & Upper El
- 27 Preschool and Kindergarten Parent Information  
Night, 5:30-6:30 pm

### October

- 2 Art a palooza
- 4 Picture Day
- 3 Skate City “Skate Night”
- 9 PTA 6:00 p.m. and BAAC 6:45 p.m. Meetings
- 11 BV Birthday Party and Re-dedication

## Buena Vista Fundraising

Please remember to bring in your Campbells Labels for Education and General Mills Boxtops for Education. The school will also continue to collect recyclable papers in the blue collection dumpster outside the gym. The media center also has a container for old cell phones and printer cartridges.

Breakfast is being served in the gym from 7:30 am. to 7:55 am. Cost is \$.90 and \$.30 for families that qualify for reduced meals. Please note that only students eating breakfast may be dropped off before 7:50 a.m.

## Dear Parents & Guardians,

I can not believe we are already back in school. Summer just flew by for me. I spent two months in Boulder being trained to become a Montessori administrator. The first phase is complete for me and I love the new knowledge that I have gained. Now I have a year long internship that will include visiting other Montessori schools, public schools, creating materials and observing teachers. I should have my official credentials by the end of next summer.

I hope each of you has noticed the beautiful changes in BV over the summer. We have new windows, a fresh coat of paint, new cabinets, a new marquee, new flooring, new plumbing and one of my favorites a new security fence. Our new building manager, Stephanie Sifford, needs a huge pat on the back from everyone for the enormous amount of work she did this summer. We also welcome her evening counter part Gene Miller.

Besides our new look we also have new faces. Jeff Moser comes to us from Louisiana by way of the School for the Deaf and Blind. He is our new librarian. We have a new special education teacher, Doris Mogen, she came from California. However, the winner for greatest distance traveled is Robin Smith our new music and orchestra teacher who just moved from Vermont. We also have a brand new Art teacher, Jessica Feis, she is a BV graduate. Catherine Gamboa, also a Californian, is our new primary Montessori teacher and Carole Brashear is our new lower elementary Montessori teacher. Kate Myers is our new band teacher, Lisa Hofer is a new face in the front office, and Tangela Cox is a new face in the lunchroom. As a

side note, we are very happy to have Shelly Weakland back teaching second grade this year.

Our first BAAC and PTA meeting will be held September 11 in the gym. I encourage everyone to take part in building a strong community committed to student achievement this year by becoming active in these groups. The first meeting we will be looking at projects for the year, fundraisers, assessment information, and reviewing the mission/vision of the school.

Finally, I have great news. BV made adequate yearly progress in our testing last year on the CSAP. This means we are on track with the No Child Left behind Legislation. We had some set backs in writing but we are ready to tackle those issues with the students this year.

Just a side note, November 1st is choice permit day here at BV and across School District 11. Please make a note to yourself and friends that might be interested in having their children attend our school that we will open the building at 7:00 a.m. to begin our wait list. Also note that next year the kindergarten and preschool will have tuition. Currently, it is expected to be less than \$300.00 a month but this has not been finalized.

Please contact the school if we can answer any questions at 328-4100.

Sincerely,  
Brenda Smith

### **Building Advisory and Accountability Committee (BAAC)**

The BAAC will be meeting again on the second Monday of each month. Our meeting will follow the PTA meeting and will begin at 6:45 p.m. in the gym. Occasionally we will meet right after school to accommodate different schedules. Our first meeting will be Monday, September 11 at 6:45.

Please join us. The BAAC serves in an advisory role to the principal on matters regarding Student Achievement and the Learning Environment, Prioritization of Expenditures and Safety. All interested parents and teachers are encouraged to become involved in this committee. Your input is important, and you will learn much about your school and all that happens here for the sake of your child's learning.

### **Hearing and Vision Screening**

Hearing and Vision screening is on September 14th and re-screening day is September 29th. Please remind your child to wear his or her glasses on the 14th. If you are available to volunteer on the 14<sup>th</sup>, please call Michele Ferrier at 577- 4841. If you can volunteer all day we will give you a lunch coupon so you may eat for free with your child that day. If you can't work all day we can set you up with a morning or afternoon shift. Thanks so much for helping with your kids.

### **Operation School Bell**

Families with significant financial needs and with extremely limited financial resources may be eligible for assistance from several organizations. Operation School Bell provides clothing for students and Holy Apostles coordinates the Giving Tree for Christmas Gifts. If you believe you are eligible for these programs, please provide your student's names, grades and ages along with the parents name and contact information to the Buena Vista office.

### **Volunteer Corner**

Parents, grandparents and other interested community members wishing to volunteer at Buena Vista this year need to have completed a District volunteer form before volunteering. These are available from Diane and Lisa in the school office. If you completed one last year, a new one is not needed. We would like everyone, however, to complete a school Volunteer Form so we know where you are interested in volunteering. These are provided to your child's teacher and those parents organizing school wide events throughout the year. These forms are also available in the school office.

### **Student Pick-up Procedures**

We have started a new pickup procedure after school with students picked up on Platte Avenue between 16th and 17th Streets, or on 16th between Platte and Bijou. This will ensure a safe arrival and departure. Please do not pick up students in the emergency zones, in front, or at a place where they have to jaywalk. Parking is also not allowed in the designated bus parking area on 16<sup>th</sup> Street. Wait in an area so that it is not necessary for students to cross a street unescorted and they are not tempted to cross where there is no cross walk (i.e. in front of the building).

Please pick up:

- 3 & 4 year olds - MUST be signed out and picked up at designated door
- Kindergarten – in front of school on Bijou
- 2nd and 3rd traditional – Corner of Bijou and 17th
- 4th and 5th traditional , and Upper Elementary Montessori – on Platte (behind school)
- Lower Elementary Montessori – Corner of 16th and Bijou

Families with more than one student, please pick up your child at the youngest students' designated pick-up site. Our hope is that if we spread out the students, the traffic will also spread out.

### **Cub Scout Information**

Come one come all. Cub Scout Pack 24 is meeting every Wednesday at 7pm at Washington Elementary. We always have a great time with many activities and special opportunities throughout the year. You must be in 1st grade on up. We look forward to seeing you there. Contact Michele Ferrier at 577-4841 for more information.

### **Parent Education Opportunity**

Buena Vista has received a grant from the Temple Hoyne Buell Foundation to be used in the Early Childhood Program for classroom materials and Parent Education. Our first Parent Education meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 27th from 5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. in the Buena Vista gym. **Childcare will be available and snacks will be provided.** The first topic will be "An Introduction to the Montessori Philosophy and Classroom; Supporting Montessori at Home". Preschool and Kindergarten parents are invited to join us to learn more about your child's learning experiences at Buena Vista and how you can help support that at home!

### **Nate Miller Memorial Fund**

We are still collecting donations for students that are facing financial burdens that impact their academic achievement. This fund was created in honor of a special student who passed away last year. Please help by contributing to this memorial fund. Please call the office at 328-04100 for more information.

## **Program News**

### **Band and Orchestra News**

I am the new general music and orchestra teacher at Buena Vista Elementary. I am delighted to be here; I am really enjoying all the students and I think the staff is wonderful and very supportive.

I will be starting Orchestra classes soon. Any student in 4th or 5th grade may sign up to learn to play violin, viola, cello or bass. I would love to have as many students sign up as possible! Classes will be held during school time. You may sign your child up for Orchestra by filling out the form which was sent home a few days ago, or you may contact me at 328-4162.

### **Gifted and Talented**

Welcome back to a great new year of learning and exploration! I am eager to see your kiddos again and can't wait to help them SOAR! I will hopefully be having a 2<sup>nd</sup> grade class this year along with my traditional 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade classes and will be offering the Inventions! class to 5th graders during the first semester. Just seeing familiar faces after the summer break was exciting and motivating for the year to begin. MaryAnn Davidson

### **News from the gym...**

Physical Education classes are off to a great start! We've been learning and reviewing our procedures, creating a mission statement, and getting our bodies moving!

We've also been talking about appropriate clothing for physical activity. Please help your child choose clothing that allows full, and safe, participation. Flip-flops, clogs (including Crocs), fancy dress shoes, and boots are all examples of footwear that keep children from running and moving freely and sometimes safely! (Twisted ankles and falls happen, as well as shoes slipping off and becoming dangerous flying objects.). Students are learning the importance of wearing clothing that allows freedom of movement for Physical Education classes. For example, dresses and skirts worn without shorts underneath can inhibit participation.

We will be having Buena Vista Skate Nights at Skate City this year which offer an opportunity for families to spend quality time together doing something active. Buena Vista receives a portion of the proceeds that will go used for Field Day and recess equipment purchases and repairs. More details will come home later in September in your child's "Friday folder".

Many thanks go out to all the folks who helped with our Tiger Island Field Day last May. Your support and participation were an integral part of its success! What a fun day! I feel so fortunate to be working with such a wonderful community school. I can't imagine a better group of students, families, and staff members!

### **McCort's Musings**

It's been a wonderful start to a great new school year. I count myself among the many here at Buena Vista who look forward to working with the children and embracing learning with renewed vigor.

Let me begin by introducing myself. My name is Evelyn McCort and my job title is Literacy Resource Teacher (LRT). I live in the garden level (okay, it's a nicer word than basement) of the main building and I support students, staff, and parents to help our students grow academically each day. During the Fall, teachers assess students several ways to provide information that will help your child seek the best education. September 1st is not a school day for students so teachers can begin to assess students. Some teachers may ask you to bring students to school at a specified time.

Testing gives us one more way to help us determine supports and goals for each student. Please help us make this a positive experience for your child by doing the following:

- ★ Make sure your child has a good night's sleep.
- ★ Make sure your child has a nutritious breakfast and is ready for school on time.
- ★ Speak in a positive way about all assessments. If we all have a positive attitude, it makes the child less apprehensive and more willing to do their best.

Thank you for taking the time to read this and support your child's education. Please feel free to contact me if you have a question or concern about how to help your child, I'd be more than happy to speak with you. My phone number is 328-4138.

### **Fall Assessments and Tests**

The first of the more formal assessments is DIBELS (Dynamic Indicators of Early Literacy Skills). It is given individually, is quick, but thorough, and is usually given by the child's teacher. Teachers may ask for you to bring students at appointed times so that they might have a quiet, uninterrupted time to work with your child. DIBELS helps us determine where a student's strengths and needs are within specific areas of literacy. Teachers will be happy to provide information from this testing at Parent/Teacher conferences in October.

One other assessment that will be given during the weeks of September 5-14 is the Terra Nova. It is given to classroom in 2<sup>nd</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup> grades. This assessment is given in 3-5 sessions of approximately one hour. Terra Nova is a standardized test that provides information in reading, language, and math (science and social studies for 5th graders). We give this test in the Fall and again in the Spring to look at growth over the school year. Again, teachers will be able to provide information about this assessment at conference time.

## Classroom News

The primary teachers are working together this year to send out a "Primary News" letter. **Ms. Paula, Ms. Catherine and Ms. Carolyn** all are working with the students to learn to help themselves to their own snacks. The younger students will be starting within the next couple weeks and the classes will have all students by the middle of September.

**Ms. Ruth's** lower elementary class has moved to a new room in the East cottage. The student's are getting used to each other and the new setting. Mr. Moser has started to work with some of the student's on Wednesday's with research and computer skills. We are very excited and look forward to a great year.

At this time **Mrs. Weakland's** 2<sup>nd</sup> grade class is enjoying their new science kit that focuses on air and weather. They are also having a great time with the new reading series. There are just so many wonderful stories and activities within it. When it comes to math, they are pushing to memorize those basic math facts. Most of all they are excited to be a part of Buena Vista.

Special  
Cooperative  
Happy  
Organized  
Opportunities  
Learning

**Ms. Gutierrez's** 3rd grade has moved to a new classroom and to a new grade; but the children remain the same. In addition to the twelve students from last year, she now has Mrs. Weakland's former class. The class is working on a Space Unit this quarter. The class will hold a Space Expo later on this quarter. The class has made a human model of the solar system put on the playground. Ms. G. would like to take her class to a planetarium before the semester in finished. In addition to Science, the students are working on their writing. They start their day of with a writing prompt. All of Buena Vista has a new reading series. Ms. Gutierrez really likes the series. It has reading components for all levels of abilities. This is already started off to be a great year. I am thrilled to have my students for another year! This is going to be a wonderful year full of science, writing, Colorado history and laughter. This quarter we are studying water in science and what an amazing thing it is to us and we will participate in many writing adventures. Please feel free to email with any questions or concerns. I look forward to meeting with all of you at Open House (date for Open House has not been set yet).

What a wonderful start to the year. **Ms Garsoe's** 5<sup>th</sup> grade class is full of wonderful writers, great poets, and just fun to be around. We have already written a poem in our beautiful blank books, and are looking forward to writing more poems through the year. The students are studying geometric shapes, and are adept at using protractors to make beautiful angles. Thanks to parents for their diligence in signing planners each day, and to the students who have completed their homework every night. It's a pleasure to be their teacher. Coming up is the Science Unit on Ecosystems, where we make aquarium/terrarium units, and watch fish and snails and crickets up close and personal. Gary, the snail in our classroom aquarium, has been full of antics. It's a good thing. We thought he had headed to the great snail heap in the sky. Here's to a great year.

Buena Vista Elementary has a new on-site childcare program for before and after school. **The Adventure Club** has initiated a fun-filled educational experience for children providing social activities, learning projects, and recreation with guidance by caring, trained staff. Enrollment is now open for pre-schoolers and K-5 students but slots are limited.

Bring your child and visit the preschool activities in the West building under the direction of Ms. Deborah Harris or the K-5 program, with Ms. Debby Jennings as director near the school office. For additional information, call Ms. Harris at 719/328-4155 or Ms. Jennings at 719/640-8221.



Shawn Mayo has agreed to coordinate a car pool for students going to the Boys and Girls Club after school. Anyone interested in this opportunity can reach Shawn at 632-2050.