

Buena Vista Elementary School

Tiger Times

Vision: We will create a community where each child is safe to explore and learn.

Mark the Dates!

December

- 1 Movie Night, 6pm in Gym
- 4 Band/Orchestra Concert, 1:30pm & 6pm
- 8 Meadow Muffins Family Night fundraiser
- 11 Holiday Gift Shop
- 12 Family Literacy Night, 6 pm
- 19 Holiday Sing along in the gym
- 20 Afternoon School Assembly
- 22 No Students - Begin Winter Break

January

- 8 First day of 2nd Semester – Students Return
- 15 No Students - Martin Luther King Day
- 22 BAAC meeting, 6:30 pm in Gym

Parent Literacy Evenings

Mark your calendars for our parent literacy evenings. Please make plans to attend if you want to learn how to help your children pick out a book, what is new in children's literature, learn about internet safety, hear a story teller, eat some great chili, and much, much more. Childcare for school aged children and an evening meal will be available at each event. Please contact the office and let us know how many children will be coming so we can plan for childcare-Thank you!

* December 12: Family Literacy (Reading, Writing, & Social Studies)

?January 23: Healthy Bodies & Minds (Science, Math & PE)

?April 17: Art & Pie Night (Fine Arts programs)

'07 Pre School

Please note that there will be a cost for preschool next year. The details are still being worked out at this time. However, the amount is approximately \$269.00 a month. We will be sending notes home to you as soon as we have definite answers.

March Montessori Presentation

Angeline Lillard, the author of "Montessori: The Science Behind the Genius," will be speaking Saturday March 17, 2007 from 9:15 am to 4:15 pm in Denver at the Auraria Campus. If you are interested in registration, please check the Buena Vista web site at www.d11.org/buenavista.

Dear Parents & Guardians,

Who can believe that it is already time for the holiday season? No matter what your festival or holiday celebration or choice not to celebrate, this is a wonderful time at school. Students have settled into the rhythm of school and we can truly see how they are progressing. It truly is a fantastic time of the year!

Please note all of the amazing opportunities for learning that we have for in the next few months. We will be hosting a family literacy night, further education on Montessori philosophy, and our Angeline Lillard opportunity. In addition, the PTA is hosting many marvelous opportunities to help raise funds for the school. We are still collecting plastic bags, box tops and there is even an opportunity to shop at Target or Office Depot (mention Buena Vista) and the school receives a percentage of your purchase.

In February and later in the spring we will be hosting informational evenings about primary Montessori, the transitions between classes and other parent literacy evenings. We are hoping these opportunities will continue to help us focus on communication and community building.

We are gearing up to begin working on our backyard project again. We will hold a meeting on January 10, 2006 at 2:45 in the teacher's lounge. Currently, we are compiling our survey to students. They seem very interested in more "things" to do in the backyard. I know this focus on new opportunities for children to play and grow will bring about positive attitudinal changes on the playground.

Finally, I want to thank our volunteers. The Jr. Great Books program is off and running and we appreciate the parental support. I also want to thank Lynne Casebeer, the primary teachers, and teacher assistants for all of their hard work on the parent literacy nights for our primary Montessori parents. A thank you also goes to the lower elementary Montessori teachers for their work on parent education nights. I also want to thank ALL of the students and parents for their kindness and generosity in the Care and Share Food drive. At print, we are not sure if we won against Washington in pounds gathered but we did win in generosity to our fellow man.

Sincerely,
Brenda Smith, Principal

Volunteer Corner, Grace Blea-Nunez

Thanks to volunteers who helped with the Fall Carnival. Please contact PTA, via their box, if you want to help with the upcoming Holiday Giftshop. If you checked that on your Volunteer Form for this year, they should be contacting you to help.

This month's focus on volunteers is on that all important Publicity Committee. We need parents/relatives with marketing experience to help us get the word out about Colorado Spring's first public Montessori school and a great neighborhood school. To continue to receive adequate funding for our growth, the school needs to have presentations prepared for the School Board, neighborhood groups as well as general Montessori seminars such as the one being held in Denver in March. Please contact Brenda Smith in the office immediately if you can volunteer in this arena.

PTA Message, Ruth Roland, president

PTA is all about building stronger families and communities, and providing programs that benefit our students. We hope your student(s) and family will be able to enjoy some of these upcoming PTA-sponsored events. For more information or to volunteer, please call Ruth Roland at 471-1399. Thank you!

- ✍️ ~~ABC~~: Adopt a Block Campaign, an ongoing community service project in our neighborhoods.
- ✍️ ~~Wal*^oMart~~ Kid's Recycling Challenge, an ongoing plastic bag recycling program
- ✍️ ~~Movie~~ Night, December 1st at 6:00pm in the gym
- ✍️ ~~Holiday~~ Gift Basket Program. Watch the Friday Folder for flyer.
- ✍️ ~~BVES~~ Family Night Out, December 8th from 4:00 – 8:00pm at Meadow Muffins, downtown Old Colorado City. Meadow Muffins will donate 25% of your tab to the PTA for its activities! Meet other families, enjoy the food and have some fun!
- ✍️ ~~Holiday~~ Gift Shop, week of December 11th. Watch the Friday Folder for flyers.
- ✍️ ~~PTA~~ will be sponsoring student enrichment assemblies featuring Birds of Prey and a performance of the classic fairytale "The Emperor's New Clothes" by the Manitou Arts Theatre.

PTA is starting to plan for an April Art Show! Please let me know if you would be interested in serving on an ad-hoc committee to plan for what promises to be a memorable evening featuring original art work of our students.

Permits

All students that are on permit should renew their permit as soon as possible. A choice permit is only good for one year and must be renewed.

McCort's Musings:

December brings lots of fun times for all parents, students and yes, even teachers. Before the break begins, we will be having a Family Literacy night on Tuesday, December 12 at 6PM. Come enjoy an evening of good food, fun and learning! More details to come in your local Friday folders! We hope we see you there!

Break time and what to do? Do you remember the olden days? Okay, so maybe I'm the only one who remembers the real "olden" days. In those days gone by we used to memorize nursery rhymes, poems or fun songs. Poems for the season abound in the library, local book store or maybe on a shelf in your home. See if you and your child can memorize one poem, one song, or one fun story. Long and short term memory are tools used to support all learning—memorization helps build those areas. I remember days when my father, my mother and I sat around trying to piece together the portions of a famous poem---without looking at the text. We hooted and howled when we all stumbled over the same stanzas. Give it a whirl, but **WHATEVER** you do, enjoy the time with your child(ren), read, share that poetry and find something humorous so that laughter rings throughout the break and into the New Year.

Have a wonderful Winter Break filled with all good things. Look forward to seeing you in the New Year!

Meal On-Line Payment Available

Pay Online for school meals with your credit card! You may use Visa or MasterCard by go to the following website www.d11.org/fns/payonline.htm.

You will need your child's student ID number, which may be found on their Student ID card or by calling the kitchen. Kitchen phone numbers may be found at www.d11.org/fns/phone_list.htm.

Notes from Food Srevices

Harvest of the Month:

Did you know that sweet potatoes are not really potatoes? They are tropical tubers from the morning glory family. A native of Central and South America, sweet potatoes were a dietary staple of the Aztecs in Mexico and the Incas of Peru. Sweet potatoes were the main source of nourishment for early homesteaders and for soldiers during the Revolutionary War. These tuberous roots are among the most nutritious foods in the vegetable kingdom. They are an excellent source of vitamins A and C. This is why one colonial physician called them the "vegetable indispensable."

After the Civil War, candied sweet potatoes were part of the first Thanksgiving meal after it was declared a National Holiday by Abraham Lincoln. The dish contained sweet potatoes from the South and maple syrup from the North. It was a healing food for a nation that needed healing.

Arts-a-Palooza presenters

The following companies helped with the Arts-a-Palooza activities on October 3rd.

Art Images, Tim Davis

It was a pleasure to teach the artful and enthusiastic BV students at the recent Arts-A-Palooza Day. In my classes they learned to design and construct their own rubber stamps. Watching them concentrate, use their imaginations, and carry out their designs, I was reminded how important art had been in my own student life. The imagination nurturing and skills I received in art class allowed me to be a creative problem solver, often using drawings to develop and explain my concepts in other classes.

Now, after a career teaching mathematics, I am a full time artist. My photographs can be seen at Rico's Cafe and Wine Bar in the Poor Richards complex downtown on Tejon Street, at the Pikes Peak Center on October 21 from 10 AM until 2 PM, and at Gunter-Wolff Gallery in Old Colorado City.

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Dancing Hearts Studio, Pat Gulya

Pat Gulya from Dancing Hearts Studio volunteered for the Arts-a-Palooza. The studio is a warm friendly space dedicated to yoga. It has hardwood floors and soft lighting. Classical Hatha yoga classes are offered on a drop-in or continuous basis. Call 685-1100 or get a brochure of current classes from the back door.

Gifted and Talented Information, Mary Ann Davidson, Gifted Resource Teacher

At last, the 4th and 5th grade descriptive essays have begun. The Heirloom essays will also begin for 3rd grade students. Cogat testing will begin for select 4th and 5th grade students next week. Since I am in each school only a limited amount of time, this testing will take three weeks. As soon as I score them, I will evaluate them with my GT supervisor, and letters will then be sent out to parents. Thanks for returning the permission forms and the parent surveys in a timely fashion since I need all this information to evaluate each student. For those of you who have children who are already identified and who are interested in pursuing SAIL or the International Baccalaureate program for your student, please let me know and I will help in obtaining those applications. As usual, any questions or comments, please don't hesitate to ask.

Drum Academy

The Drum Academy has a mission to serve Colorado Springs and the out-lying regions of Pikes Peak. The instructor, Paul Johnson, with 50+ years of music experience in a variety of music agenda, has a burning desire and compassion to be a role-model. He is committed to being engaged in the responsibility to inspire, to encourage, to advise and to design a structured program for each student that would enhance their future in music. Therefore, it's our goal, desire and purpose that each student would have a musical and educational experience in the art of drumming. The Drum Academy was featured in August at the Bicycle Art Show at the Smoke Brush Theater and in September at the Colorado Springs first beauty and Talent Search at the Antler's Hotel.

For more information about our programs, call 634-1905 Monday, Tuesday and Thursday from 3:00 pm to 9:00 pm and Saturday from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm. Information is also available on the internet at <http://users.adelphia.net/~drumacademyusa/>

Please do not park between the signs in front the building that say passenger loading and unloading. This area is reserved for the daycare vans. We have had several near misses and requests for parents not to pick up children in the faculty parking lot. Thank you so much for your consideration in these areas.

Program News

News from the Gym...

We are finally wrapping up our fitness testing... it's taken a while to get it all done! Look for your child's Fitness Gram Report to be coming home in Friday folders in early December. Feel free to call me at 328-4125 with any questions you may have about this report.

We will continue to work on our movement skills through December. Younger students have already been working with movement challenges using their bodies, scarves and beanbags. Older students are using a variety of movement skills working with something large and pink!

On Monday, December 4, the Buena Vista Elementary School Band and Orchestra will be playing a concert for parents and friends in the gym at 1:30 and 6:00 p.m. Please come!

Classroom News

Primary Classroom News (Miss Paula, Miss Catherine, Miss Carolyn)

Our three primary classrooms celebrated their Thanksgiving feast on Tuesday the 21st. The children made Thanksgiving placemats and napkin ring holders!!

We want to welcome Ms Lourdes back from Venice and all the wonderful gifts you brought back to share!! Congratulations Ms Catherine on your marriage last month!!

A special thank-you to all the parents that attended our Nov.8th parent meeting. We had a wonderful turn out! We continue to encourage all our parents to sign up to volunteer or observe. Wishing all our families Happy Holidays!!

Lower Elementary had a marvelous Soup Fest the Tuesday prior to the Thanksgiving Day break.

Poem by Nic Ferrier, Ms. Garsoe's 5th grade

I open my eyes for the
First time and my very
First breath
I see all these people
Staring at me
Wondering where I am
I realize I have life
And I will never feel
The same.

How the Butterfly Got Its Colors, by Finn

Once upon a time, Butterflies' wings were as plain and ordinary as a fly's. Nothing at all compared to snakes' fine skin. But one day, as butterfly was flying through a sunny glade full of flowers and a mountain creek, a storm started to blow! It blew her into the creek and she was carried away helpless on the leaving waters. When she found herself on good solid ground again she was stuck fast to a big sappy wet flower. She pulled and to her amazement they came away with the most colorful parts of the flower stuck to them. She had color!

My Trip to the Colorado Springs Philharmonic

When I went to the Colorado Springs Philharmonic we sat there for a while and then the lights dimmed and it started! At the introduction when the Brass played it made me feel strong, then I felt a loud laughter inside of me. Then the Woodwinds played, and since I play the Flute and the Flute is in the Woodwind family I felt excited, small, and quiet. The evil music they played at the middle/end made me feel excited and warm it also made me feel like I could fly! I thought it sounded like the instruments were alive. When the Violin, Trombone, and the Clarinet all played together at the contest it made me feel excited and alarmed, I thought it was elegant and beautiful.

Ms. Garsoe's 5th Grade trip to Fountain Creek Nature Center was a wonderful one, and we saw so many wonderful sights: a great blue heron, white-tailed deer, a swimming muskrat, tons of turtles, and amazing wiggling life in the pond water. Back in class, we are studying pollution and seeing what happens when we upset the balance.

In December, we will be writing stories based on Chris Van Allsburg's *The Mysteries of Harrison Burdick*, and continuing our mad poetry extravaganza. As always, we thank our families for their support.



Student Work

How Butterflies Got Their Wings, By Julia

A long, long, extremely long time ago, there were no butterflies. There were only birds, bugs, and butterworms. The butterworms were called butterworms because they made butter just like bees make honey. The butterworms lived in caves and hollow logs although nowadays they live in flowers. One day they got jealous because they could not fly. The mayor of the butterworms decided to have their inventor (Tiara Lacy Fly known as Tiara) make them wings. She asked a few birds some questions and before long she made some wings. The wings were see through but the butterworms could fly! They decided to call themselves butterflies instead of butterworms. If you want to know how they got their color, well don't ask me, see Finns's story.

Winter by Zoe Gean Novotny, Ms. Ruth's Lower El

Winter is a person
a very special person
with an icicle of hair
with eyes white as puffy clouds
a robe made of snow,
she comes out when it gets cold
to give the trees a shiver
to make clouds gray
to make snow fall down
she makes the days shorter
and the nights longer
she is a remarkable person
every one waits for her every year

