

# Buena Vista Elementary School

## Tiger Times

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

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### Mark the Dates!

#### February

- 1-16 Westside Has a Heart Fund Drive
- 2 Movie Night, 6:00 pm in Gym
- 12 PTA Meeting, 6:00 pm in Gym
- 19 No Students – Presidents Day
- 20 Backyard Project Meeting, 2:45 pm in Lounge
- 26 BAAC meeting, 6:30 pm in Gym

#### March

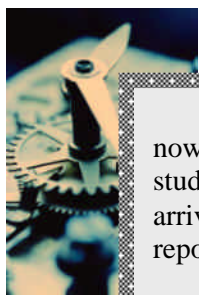
- 2 Jump Rope for Heart
- 9 No Students – Staff Professional Development
- 12 PTA Meeting, 6:00 pm in Gym
- 16 Movie Night, 6:00 pm in Gym
- 26-30 Spring Break – No Students

### Parent Literacy Evenings

The January Health, Bodies & Minds program is being rescheduled. Please watch the marquee on 17<sup>th</sup> Street for the new date. Also mark your calendars for the Art & Pie Night on April 17 which will focus on the Fine Arts Program.

### The Backyard Project

The results of the student survey are back and our top three requested “things” for the playground are things that spin, things to climb, and a fort. Other high scoring requests are benches, big boulders to climb, a trash can, a labyrinth, and a garden area. With this information in hand, we are developing a phased plan for implementation. The school has site based improvement money that can help with the foundation of the improvement and the district will be helping us look for partners. However, it will take much more to make the improvements a reality. We will be looking for grants, donations, partners, and other ways of raising the funds. If you are interested, a meeting will be held February 20 at 2:45pm in the lounge. The grand total is approximately \$70,000 for the full implementation.



Please remember that school hours are now 7:45 am to 3:45 pm and pre-school students begin at 8:00 am. If your child arrives after 7:45 am, he/she will need to report to the office before going to class.

Thank you.

### Dear Parents & Guardians,

Happy New Year! The beginning of the year always brings new opportunities for growth and learning. It is such an exciting time but winter has really hit us this year. I don't know about you but the snow has been beautiful and now I'm ready for it to clear.

Please take the time this month to read through the Tiger Times by the fire on what I can only guess will be a snowy day. There are many articles of interest this time. We are continuing our column with Love and Logic, we are elaborating on the Positive Behavior Support System, new playground ideas, tardy and absence policy revisited and catching you up on classroom happenings.

Thank you for all you do to support the students and teachers at the school. It is only through our combined efforts that positive change occurs.

Sincerely,  
Brenda Smith Barr, Principal

### Positive Behavior Support (PBS) & the ROSES program

Last month in the Tiger Times we caught you up with the history and process that the school has been going through to create a positive behavior/discipline program. Though the process has taken many months, we are excited about the process and implementation. Please click on the PBS/ROSES button on our website at [www.d11.org/buonavista](http://www.d11.org/buonavista) for more information.

On January 17th we held a parent informational meeting at school with about 25 parents involved to review these new procedures. Our new referral is designed to help inform, teach and communicate with all participants invested in the success of the child. We have a copy of the referral on the web so that you may review or drop by the office for a copy. We have started piloting this new form and look forward to continuing to refine our process. Our intent is to teach appropriate behaviors just like we teach reading, writing and math skills.

The faculty will be continuing to work on this process and will be working on a matrix of what great behavior looks like in each environment. We have tentatively discussed using the Monday after spring break to have students learn about this new matrix and work in each environment. We have already begun teaching about the new discipline form and will continue with teaching about ARFF and ROSES.

**Volunteer Corner; Grace Blea-Nunez, coordinator**

Belated thanks to all those who volunteered at the Holiday Giftshop. We appreciate your help. Parents, please remember to check with your child's teacher to see when you can come in and volunteer and/or prepare materials or help outside the classroom. Field trips and holidays are a great time for new parents to plan events with the classes. I am looking for someone comfortable on the computer to input monthly totals of volunteer hours. Thanks to Lisa Gonzales for serving in this capacity for the first 1/2 of the year. We could also use more parents to run Junior Great Book small groups. Please contact me at 630-7953 if you are interested in either of these opportunities.

**PTA Message, Ruth Roland, president**

Are you an artist? Love to do crafts? PTA is looking for parents to volunteer for a short-term commitment to organize an Art Show & Pie Night on April 17th! We have several parents in place to work with our Art Teacher, Jessica Feis, but we need more volunteers to make this event a memorable and fun night for the school! Please call Ruth Roland at 471-1399 if you'd like to be part of the team that makes this happen!

Thanks to everyone who has brought in plastic bags for recycling! PTA would like to give you little bit of advance warning that the last day we may accept plastic bags is **March 30, 2007**, as that is the last day that Wal\*Mart will accept the bags.

The Colorado PTA 2007 Legislative Conference: is Friday, February 9th from 9:00am – 3:00pm at the State Capitol. BVES PTA will pay the \$50 conference fee for BVES PTA members who would like to attend and bring back advocacy information to share. The event includes light breakfast, lunch, handouts/materials, snacks, and door prizes. Contact Ruth Roland at 471-1399.

**Denny McLoughlin Training**

Denny will be coming back to Buena Vista February 8-11, 2007. The Thursday & Friday classes are from 4-9pm and Saturday & Sunday are 8am-6pm. If you would like to register contact Barbara Brookman at 719-598-0028 or bbrookman@gmail.com

**Westside has a Heart**

Our school and others on the west side will be collecting money to donate to the Twain Elementary PTA that is distributing gift cards to displaced families from the tragic apartment fire. After hearing from the principal at Twain Elementary, the need for families is no longer immediate but spring will bring the need for new clothes, field trip funding, and other things they have not thought of purchasing yet. Monetary donations for the apartment fire victims may be made in the office February 1-16<sup>th</sup>.

**BAAC Flash; Lynn Casebeer, President**

The Building Advisory and Accountability Committee met on January 22 to review achievement data on CSAP, Terra Nova, DIBELs, and to learn more about the West Side Writes program BV is participating in to help our students improve their writing skills. Ask your child or their teacher about this program if you'd like to learn more. Please check the school website at <http://www.d11.org/buenavista/> to read all of the BAAC minutes, as we are in the process of putting them all online.

If you have any questions or concerns about BAAC, please contact Lynne Casebeer at 237-6949 or any of the following members: Grace Nunez, Suzanne Burkle, Tom Gosch, Evelyn McCort and Brenda Barr.

**Basic Love and Logic for Very Young Children**

How early in a child's life can we start using Love and Logic? As soon as they can spit their pureed food, crawl away from you when you are changing their diaper, etc. Fortunately, the basic process is very simple:

Step one: Hope for misbehavior.

Mistakes made early in life have far more affordable consequences than those made later.

Step two: Sing an empathetic, "Uh oh."

The fewer words we use when our kids are acting up, the more successful we will be.

Step three: Provide a loving consequence.

There exist only three basic consequences for small children:

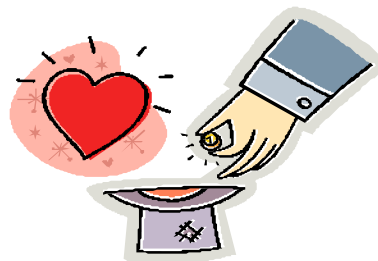
?? Change your location by walking away and paying no attention to them

?? Change the location of the problem object by taking it away

?? Change the child's location by carrying them to their room, buckling them into their stroller, etc.

Step four: Repeat as needed.

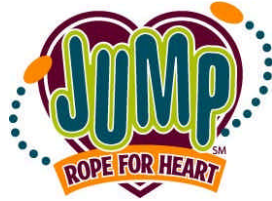
When parents repeat this basic process with great consistency, they find that they only get to the second step most of the time. Quite quickly, their tots learn that "Uh oh" means that it's wise to start acting sweet!



## Program News

### News from the Gym...

Did you know that the average heart beats 100,000 times each day? Did you know that children 2 and older should get at least an hour of physical activity every day? The American Heart Association not only funds many educational programs and cardiovascular disease research, they also co-sponsor **Jump Rope for Heart** (in partnership with the American Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance). Buena Vista students will once again hold a Jump Rope for Heart event during PE classes on March 2nd. Our goal is to have continuous jumping for the entire 45-minute class period while also raising funds for the American Heart Association.



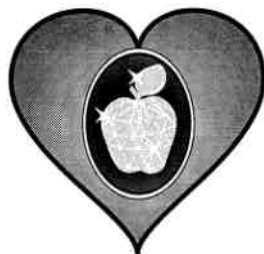
Family and friends are welcome to support your child's participation by coming and jumping with us on March 2nd, as well as making contributions. Students can even raise funds online. (Go to: [www.americanheart.org/jump](http://www.americanheart.org/jump). Click on "I am ready!" to find state and then school name. Complete the sign-up form and enter your fund-raising goal.) However, we ask that children not go door-to-door or ask strangers for donations. Last year, Buena Vista students worked together raising a whopping \$2,403.84. Buena Vista's monetary goal this year is \$3,000. Jump Rope for Heart is a great learning opportunity on many levels: learning about and participating in healthy activities, along with learning about the importance of giving.

### Media Center News

Mr. Jeff's Library has received new tables and display cases. Drop by when you have a chance to see some of the historic finds we have made lately. The favorite so far is the old BV basketball uniforms.

### Crystal Apple Valentines

You can honor a District 11 staff member with a Crystal Apple Valentine for only a \$5 donation to the El Paso Council PTA Crystal Apple Awards program honoring teaching excellence. Your donation provides a valentine card and special button to wear and is listed in the Crystal apple Banquet program. Please contact Jan Tanner at 531-6641 for more information.



### McCort's Musings:

About fourteen years ago, I lost my Mother. Though losing her was difficult, she left something that I would like to share with you. She was never a writer, never one to share her personal thoughts and feelings, or so I thought. While going through some of her personal papers, I found calendars. Now, my Mother was also a pack rat so I didn't find the stack of calendars too unusual. As I looked through the calendars, I was amazed to find her journey through the past years. Her journal style writings brought back some warm memories. Writing speaks to us!

How do we help our children grow to be writers, regardless of what that writing is for--an application, a letter, or a state of the union address? We help them most by modeling our thought processes as we write the grocery list, think through the beginnings of letter, email or piece that we might need for work. Sharing with students how we prepare to communicate our thoughts in written form allows them to see the importance of writing.

At school, classes are writing all the time. Buena Vista has joined with four other schools to help develop our assessment of writing while talking with others about instructing our students in the writing process. Three times during the past school year, students have written to a prompt, it has been scored by teachers other than the classroom teacher according to a rubric and then given back to the classroom teacher. Sometimes it's a very painful process to grade a piece of writing that you know a child has put their very heart into, but this way of assessing has allowed us to help develop our writers even further!

So...be an author, write something TODAY! As always, if you have questions, concerns or would just like to discuss this, please stop by or call 328-4138.

### Campbell's Labels Fundraising

Campbell's Labels for Education has changed the way we collect points for the school. They now are accepting the UPC code from all qualifying products and the caps from the V8 Splash beverages. No more labels! Please make sure the UPC codes are intact when you submit them. Also, for a limited time look for the UPC's worth 5 points each. They're a great way to collect points fast! If you need an update about what products can be used in general, visit [www.labelsforeducation.com](http://www.labelsforeducation.com) or call Gail Mayne at 473-0120.

## Classroom News

**Ms. Clarice's Lower El** class is studying some of Beethoven's compositions and learning about the challenges he faced when he became deaf. We are also looking at the art work of many European artists. In January we began working on a class play, called "Blame It On the Wolf" by Douglas Love. Characters from several different fairy tales take part in this courtroom drama. We will present the play to parents when we are prepared.

Our current science kit is "Pebbles, Sand and Silt". We are using the kit and the Montessori geology materials to learn about rocks as earth materials and natural resources.

### Anakan...the Buena Vista watch cat

Many of you have seen our furry friend Anakan watching over the students. He is a Siamese cat that lives in the neighborhood and generally likes to greet and say good bye to the students every day. A few of the children wanted to let parents that are driving cars remember to be careful because they do not want Anakan injured.



### Welcome New Staff

You might notice a few new faces around the BV campus! Welcome Eve Stapleton as Staff Assistant in the office! Jennifer Truocchio is Leigh Slimp-Virgo's educational assistant, and Mark Davidson is our new night Building Technician



Oh my gosh! It's February. Time for the Science Fair. As of this writing, we are holding it on Tuesday, February 27 in the **Ms. Garsoe's Fifth Grade** room. Everyone is invited. We can't wait to show off our great scientific thinking. Division is in the air. Make sure that your student stays on top of the multiplication facts, because you can't divide if you can't multiply! The fifth grade is learning to write persuasive essays and short constructed responses to math questions. Good writers make good mathematicians. Finally, we are building up excitement for Golden Bell, which is three months away. All students are responsible for raising \$120 for her/his camp tuition, and we are working hard at school to raise money for extras.

### Absences and Tardies

According to District 11 policy, the only excused student absences and tardies are those for illness or attendance to funerals.

When a child is absent 4 or more days, please bring in a note from the Doctor excusing your child from school. A student will be allowed to make up missed assignments only for fully excused absences. The Principal can excuse absences for education-related activities and/or severe needs.

## Student Work

### *Cardinals*, by Cassie Ruggaber

Black face  
Red body  
Orange beak.  
People gather around to  
See the gorgeous cardinals.

What a sight to see -  
All the cardinals  
Flying around  
Just to have fun.



### *My Friends*, by MeMe Hope

I'll always love my very best friends,  
The fun we have it never ends,  
Ruby is a gymnast,  
Her body really bends,  
Sydney wants to be a doctor,  
All of my cuts she mends,  
Adielia's really fashionable,  
She knows all the latest trends,  
My pen pal's name is Emma,  
The letters from France she sends,  
And when I really need one,  
A helping hand Finn lends,  
I hope your lucky just like me  
To have such awesome friends!