

Buena Vista Elementary School

Tiger Times

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

Mark the Dates!

March

- 2 Jump Rope for Heart
- 5 Skate Night at Skate City – 6 pm – 8 pm
- 7 Read Across America
- 7 Family Fundraiser - Pizza Hut on W. Colo. Ave.
- 9 No Students – Staff Professional Development
- 12 PTA Meeting, 6:00 pm in Lounge
- 16 Movie Night, 6:00 pm in Gym
- 19 BAAC Meeting, 6:00 pm in Gym
- 21 Family Fundraiser - Pizza Hut on W. Colo. Ave.
- 26-30 Spring Break – No Students

April

- 4 Class and Individual Picture Day
- 4 Family Fundraiser - Pizza Hut on W. Colo. Ave.
- 9 PTA Meeting, 6:00 pm in Lounge
- 13 Movie Night in Gym – 6 pm-7:30 pm
- 18 Family Fundraiser - Pizza Hut on W. Colo. Ave.
- 23 BAAC Meeting, 6:00 pm in Gym
- 27 No Students – Assessments
- 27 Kindergarten Registration Begins

Buena Vista Skate Night at Skate City

We are having another Family Skate Night on Monday, March 5 from 6-8 pm at Skate City at 1920 N. Academy Blvd. Cost is \$4 per person and skates are available for \$1 or \$3.50 for in-line. A free Skate City Fun Bus leaves BV at 5:30 pm or you can drive on your own. This evening offers an opportunity for families to spend quality time together doing something active. Buena Vista Elementary receives a portion of the proceeds with a minimum of 50 paid skaters. The funds go toward funding Field Day and recess equipment purchases/repairs. So come join the fun!! Call Carrie Delius at 328-4125 with any questions.

Family "Fun" draiser Night

Family "Fun"draiser Pizza Night at Pizza Hut on Colorado Ave. Wednesday, March 7th 4-8 pm. They will donate 20% of the proceeds to the PTA. All money raised on March 7th will be donated to the Nate Miller fund.

Next Family "Fun"draiser Pizza Night- Wednesday, March 21st, 4-8 pm.

It will continue in April and May on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of the month.

Dear Parents & Guardians,

We are thrilled to be into the third quarter of the year. It is exciting to see how students are focusing on their lessons and excited about learning.

It is cold, flu and CSAP season so we have some recommendations. Have your student wash their hands, frequently. They should be well rested and eat as much protein as possible. Protein builds the brain. We have made it through part of third grade CSAP and we are closing in on the BIG CSAP WEEKS in March. The two weeks prior to spring break (not every day) will be testing days. We can't wait for your children to show off what they know.

We are also excited about the project for our backyard. The children have voted and the research has been done. We are now gearing up for our fundraiser to enhance the "backyard." We have six phases that will include the expansion of the existing playground with more equipment to play on such as a tire swing and "things" that spin. In addition we are looking at creating a small hill, a fort, a labyrinth, and a xeriscaped garden with a greenhouse. The ideas the children came up with are exciting and will truly add to our Westside community. If you would like to help or donate to this project please contact the office at 328-4100. We will need as much help as possible because we are looking at about \$100,000 worth of improvements.

Have a wonderful spring and thank you for your support of the school.

Sincerely,
Brenda Smith Barr, Principal

We are getting a new green flag made for inclement weather. When the wind chill is 15°F or lower, it will be hung from the flag pole. When the flag is out, students may come inside the classroom at 7:40 a.m.



Reflections Art Program

Jensen Delius, Deanna Cooper, Aiden Detlof, Thea Roland, Arielle Bakken and Zoë Novotny participated in the 2006-2007 Reflections Art Program and represented our school at the El Paso PTA Council. Each received a beautiful ribbon and congratulatory letter for participating. Watch for the opportunity to participate in the 2007-2008 program next year!

Volunteer Corner; Grace Blea-Nunez, coordinator

Thanks to volunteers who help every week in their classroom and with special occasions such as holidays. If you have time and willingness to help your child's teacher, let her know so she can find a spot for you in her classroom. Not all the work is done in the classroom or during school hours. The Backyard Project has begun!

We need ongoing volunteers for the planning and fundraising of our new playground. Art & Pie Night is coming up soon as well as a spring musical. I am also still looking for a volunteer coordinator to input monthly volunteer hours into the D-11 system. Please let me know if you can help with any of these events. I can be reached at 630-7953.

PTA Message, Ruth Roland, president

The school's Backyard Project will add garden space and outdoor equipment for students and neighborhood kids of all ages to spin, climb and play on for hours on end. PTA is supporting this school project with volunteers and fundraising. When you see an opportunity to help with this neighborhood project, please get involved!

The Adopt a Block Campaign (ABC) is going strong with students and families keeping their neighborhoods free of trash. Call Ruth at 471-1399 for more information..

April 17th Art and Pie Night plans are underway - please attend with your family to buy a slice or buy a pie (which just might contain a sweet cash surprise!), and to view student art pieces displayed throughout the buildings.

Congratulations to Vicki Robertson and Grace Blea-Nunez, our 2006-2007 nominees for PTA Volunteers of the Year. Vicki, Grace and their husbands attended the annual El Paso Council PTA Founders Day Banquet on February 23rd as our guests.

Golden Bell Fundraisers

The PTA is sponsoring several fundraisers to help raise money for students going to Golden Bell this spring. Bring your aluminum cans each morning to the large trash cans in front of the school. These are taken to the recycling center.

We also have a Beautiful Baby Contest in the cafeteria. Baby pictures of the 5th graders can be voted on by putting money in the appropriate slot. The top three "vote-getters" will be published in the April Tiger Times. So, don't forget to vote! Starting March 2nd, the 5th grade is sponsoring a Flea Market. A table will be outside with items made by the students. Come see and buy.

In April, the BV cafeteria will be opened for a collection display. A small fee will pay for a table for you to display your collection and the community will be invited to pay an entrance fee to view the collectibles. As always, monetary contributions to Golden Bell are gratefully accepted. See the office if you wish to contribute.

BAAC flash, Lynne Casebeer

The February meeting was held on Monday, 2/26. Items on the agenda included a review of assessment data and academic interventions for at-risk students to assess progress on the School Improvement Plan. A review of Staff Development and student permit numbers was provided and a report of Parent Involvement (Volunteer hours) and student discipline office referrals was given.

Is "I'm Sorry" Enough? (Love and Logic Notes)

I'm asked quite often, "When my child misbehaves or causes a problem for someone, he's quick to say, 'I'm sorry.' Is that enough, or should he have a consequence?"

Common sense tells us that actions speak louder than words. That's why it's important that our kids do more than just apologize. Let's take a look at an example:

Parent: *This is so sad. You rode your bike right through Mrs. Wilson's flowers. What are you going to do?*

Child: *Uh...say 'I'm sorry'?*

Parent: *That's a great start! What can you do to show her that you are sorry?*

Child: *I don't know.*

Parent: *Would you like to hear some ideas?*

Child: *What?*

Parent: *Some kids decide to buy some new flowers and plant them for her. How would that work?*

Child: *I don't have any money.*

Parent: *Other kids ask their parents to buy some new flowers, then pay their parents back by doing extra chores. Let me know what you decide. Good luck.*

High Energy Breakfast Ideas

CSAP tests will be given this month. In order to ensure everyone is ready each day, please remember to start your child off with a good breakfast that includes protein and complex carbs. Here are some ideas::

- ?? eggs with whole wheat toast and orange juice
- ?? French toast, waffles, or pancakes (try wheat or whole-grain varieties) with berries and milk
- ?? hot cereal, such as oatmeal or cream of wheat (try some dried fruit or nuts on top)
- ?? whole-grain toast, bagel, or English muffin with cheese
- ?? yogurt with fruit or nuts
- ?? fruit smoothie, such as strawberry – add yogurt
- ?? vegetable omelet, whole grain muffin and yogurt
- ?? banana dog (peanut butter, a banana, and raisins in a long whole-grain bun)
- ?? breakfast taco (shredded cheese on a tortilla, folded in half and microwaved; top with salsa)
- ?? country cottage cheese (apple butter mixed with cottage cheese)
- ?? fruit and cream cheese sandwich (use strawberries or other fresh fruit)
- ?? sandwich - grilled cheese, peanut butter and jelly,
- ?? leftovers (they're not just for dinner anymore!)

Program News

News from the Gym...

Today, March 2nd, we held our Jump Rope for Heart event. Students came together to accomplish two goals:

- ☞ Non-stop jumping for 45 minutes
- ☞ Raising \$3,000 for the American Heart Association

Many thanks to everyone... a fantastic team effort that achieved more than individuals alone could do! Students had a terrific time showing off their new jump rope tricks and skills as well. We had great fun trying to get as many people as we could jumping in a long rope!

March will find older students continuing to work on striking skills... refining their racquet skills as well as using a bat. Younger students have been using parachute challenges to work on movement skills and teamwork.

Additionally, all students will have the opportunity to work on cup stacking.

Science Club News

Science Club will begin March 7th. Buena Vista is in a partnership with Agilent Technologies. All third graders are welcome but space is limited to 12. Watch your Friday Folders for more information or contact Ms. Gutierrez.

Band and Orchestra

This year's 4th- and 5th-grade musical will be "Phantom of the Music Room." The music and scripts have been ordered and will be in this week, and rehearsals will begin right away. Auditions for speaking and solo parts will be held shortly. The performance date will be selected and announced on April 26th.

Our string students will be involved in the District 11 Elementary Orchestra Festival Concert on Saturday, March 10th, in the Doherty High School Gymnasium. The concert will be at 2:00 pm for parents and the community. Dr. Mary Thurman and Dr. Terry Bishop will be co-conducting the last musical selection on the program. Students will be video taped for later playback on the Comcast-District Eleven Channel 16. Playback times will be announced after the concert to the students and will be posted in the April newsletters. All thirty six District Eleven Elementary schools will be involved. It's estimated that between six hundred and nine hundred string students will be participating.

FREE DANCE CLASSES

2 Left Feet Dance studios' grand opening on March 3rd from 9am – 9pm includes a full day of free dance classes including Ballroom/Latin-Bellydance, Brazillian Samba and Yoga.

525 E. Fountain(left at Wahsatch and Fountain) See schedules at www.2leftfeet.net

Call 660-9129 to register.

Instructors include 3 B.V moms.

McCort's Musings:

A few weekends ago, I spent some time at a reading conference in Denver. It's always inspiring listening to the people I consider gurus in the education business. Some of their insights were worth sharing!

Regie Routman, great teacher and writer, shared with us the power of our modeling. When we do things, children watch and mimic. We need to be aware (sometimes painfully aware) of what kinds of models we are. Our words, our looks, our actions at some point will become the child's. Haven't you ever said, "Oh my gosh, those are my mother's/father's words coming out of my mouth?" I have!

The other person whose wisdom I'd like to share with you is Shelley Harwayne. Shelley was the one of the superintendents of New York schools (Manhattan) at the time of 9/11. Her words of wisdom were to bring JOY back to childhood. It's time to share the joys of life; reading for fun, watching the clouds change shapes, hiking alongside a flowing stream or whatever you and your family do to light the fire of joy in your lives.

Do that this weekend—let your child see you filling your ARFF (hopefully you've heard that term—Achievement, Respect, Fun, & Freedom) and in turn helping them see that their ARFF is filled!

Gifted and Talented, Mary Ann Davidson

Maureen Neihart, internationally recognized expert in gifted education, will be presenting at Tesla on March 14 from 6:30 – 8:00. "When a child is gifted, is that a cause for concern or reason to celebrate? A common concern of parents and teachers is that children's giftedness will predispose them to emotional or social difficulties. What do we know about this? Growing up gifted is a qualitatively different experience, but when is a child's giftedness a liability and under what conditions is it an asset? We will be discussing common social and emotional characteristics of gifted children, organization strategies, their peer relationships and family dynamics. Our focus will be on things we can do to support and promote the optimal development of our gifted children."

I would like to congratulate each of the following students on their formal identification as Gifted students. They deserve a HUGE "high five" for their accomplishments, so when you see them in the halls or in the classroom, be sure to tell them how proud you are!!

Buena Vista – Finn Wilman, Julia Winstead, Brinley Broomfield, and Ernest Morris. These students join Nicholas Ferrier, J.P. Lewis, Sam Pieler, Joseph Nunez, and Bryce Stevens who identified last year.

Classroom News

Ms Paula, Ms Carolyn and Ms Catherine's Primary:

Our primary classes had a wonderful and informative visit from the Humane Society. Ms Linda brought along her friends, Carmel the gerbil and Moonlight the rabbit. She discussed respect for the animals and how animals need a warm and loving home. It was very appropriate since it was on Valentine's Day. She invited us to come for a field trip which we might do!

We want to thank all the parents for participating in our parent night, Tuesday, 20th. We discussed the areas of math and language. It was informative and the parents' enjoyed experiencing what their children do in the classroom.

We will be planning our field trips soon. As always we will be going to Fountain Creek and the Farm Day at Union Printers.

The children continue to grow both academically and socially. Thank-you for your continued support!

Ms. Clarice's Lower El:

Our class is making progress toward our goal of "working as quiet as microscopic animals". We have been able to have a lot of fun lessons. Next week we will be having final auditions and casting our class play, "Blame It On the Wolf". Our rock studies continue. The children have learned about the formation of igneous, metamorphic and sedimentary rocks. Soon they will be researching various rocks and minerals. Ms. Nikki ,our assistant, has a degree in art history. She has put together our art history materials and is giving lessons. After the lesson, the children may choose a masterpiece to copy. We have also been reading and writing poetry. On March 22 we have a field trip scheduled for Muller State Park. We will be looking at the geology and investigating animal tracks.

**Final Day for ABC fundraiser
plastic bags drop-off
March 30, 2007**

Ms. Gutierrez's third grade

We finished the Reading part of CSAP. All students were present for the test and were treated to a breakfast in the teacher's lounge prepared by Ms. G. and Ms. McCort. The kids helped out by making juice and toast and even the principal cooked. In the classroom, the students have been doing Chemical tests for Science. The kids look so cute in their goggles and safety garments. They are becoming true Scientists. (Nothing is harmful in any way! Tests are being done on things such as baby powder and cornmeal) Ms. G. is also running three clubs; Reading Club, Science Club and Math Club. Please watch for permission slips for all third graders for the part II Science club beginning March 7th.

Mrs. Neuharth's Fourth Grade:

I am so proud of how hard all of our fourth graders have been working!! Soon, they will get the chance to show off how bright and wonderful they are! Beginning March 13th through the 19th we will take our reading, writing and math CSAPs. I will send date information and include some tips on how you can get them ready the morning of each test. Most importantly, sleep!! After spring break, we will begin a great science kit on the human body, it's one of my favorites!!! Please continue to check their planners each evening and also continue reading each night.

Ms. Garsoe's 5th grade

The Science Fair is always so much fun. Experiments fail and succeed, bean plants grow and die, carpet stains are removed or set in permanently, Body Mass Index didn't tell us what we thought it would. That's what is so great about making hypotheses. Our guesses aren't always right, but our understanding of the Scientific Process gets better and better.

March means two weeks of taking CSAP tests, and that's fun too. It's another way of showing off what we know. Remember: a good breakfast with protein and complex carbs will give your child a boost. Spring Break begins March 23, and we will all take a well-deserved break. Your students have been learning so much, and have created a positive, exciting learning community.

Student Work

Outside

I hear birds
In the wind,
And squirrels
In the trees
The sidewalk is gray
There are pigeons
Flying around,
And teachers
Wandering around.
By Steven -- Ms.Garsoe's class

I Just

I just knocked my dad off the roof into
a truck.
I just called the dump truck to dump
off the trash.
I just noticed, my dad smells.
by Sean and Sam -- Ms. Hastings'
class

Hear

I hear a bird.
I hear a plane.
I hear a song
I hear a friend.
I hear peace
By Grace -- Ms. Hastings' class