

Buena Vista Elementary School

iger Times

September, 2007

Mark the Dates!

September

4	PTA Meeting, 6pm in Gym
7	Health Screening Day
14	No Students – Teacher Work Day
20	Open House and PTA Festival -- 5:30 to 7:30
24	Health Re-Screening Day and Preschoolers
28	Movie Night – 6:30 pm in Gym

October

1	Official Count Day – Arts A Palooza
2	PTA Meeting, 6pm in Gym
12	No Students – Teacher Work Day
19	Movie Night – 6:30 pm in Gym
25-26	No Students – Parent Teacher Conferences

Annual Fundraiser

This year students will be selling flower bulbs from Dutch Mill Bulbs. We will help our family, friends and neighbors beautify their backyards while they help to improve ours here at BV. Your child should have brought home the sales brochure in their Friday folder. Please help them sell this terrific product for the benefit of our school. The order forms and checks will be due back in to your child's teacher Friday, September 14.

We are also collecting General Mills Boxtops for Education and Campbells Labels for Education. Campbell's is now only accepting product UPC codes so please trim away the label and keep the UPC intact. A drop off box is located outside the office.

Open House and PTA Dinner

Please join us at the Open House on Thursday, September 20 at 5:30 p.m. After the Back-to-School portion of the event, PTA will sponsor its annual Open House dinner where you can buy dinner for your entire family for \$10. This will include your PTA membership and a kick-start for the BackYard Project fundraising.

Movie Nights

We will continue to host Family Movie Night each month with one class choosing the feature presentation by voting on a pre-screened selection of family rated movies. Please bring a chair or blanket and join us for popcorn and drinks along with other snacks. This is a great opportunity to kick back and enjoy a favorite movie on the big screen.

From Dr. Rasmussen's Desk

Now that it's September school is really up and running. I'm glad to report that I have already seen hard working students and teachers attacking all of the subject areas with enthusiasm, energy and a dedication to quality teaching and learning. Your children deserve a pat on the back for their hard efforts to master the curriculum we put before them.

It seems I have lots of odds and ends to address in my column this month so here we go:

Principal. As you know, I am the interim principal and will be at Buena Vista until a well-qualified replacement is found. The D-11 Administration Representatives interviewed the staff and parents to obtain their input regarding the principal. Then, first round interviews took place on Friday, August 31. Second and third rounds will happen in the near future. Finally, the Board of Education has the responsibility to hire the permanent principal.

There have been lots of little thefts and sticky fingers at school already this year. An expensive hoodie and backpack have been taken as well as books and some personal property belonging to a staff member. Please be sure that your child's name is clearly affixed to clothing and other valuable items. Toys and other highly desirable objects are discouraged at school because of the temptations they bring.

Pedestrians and cars are a dangerous mix. Be sure to find an agreed-upon meeting place for your child. Park on the school's side of the curb and never tell your child to cross mid-street to meet you.

Speaking of safety, children are allowed at school at 7:30 only if they are here to eat breakfast and will be released to the playground when supervision begins at 7:45. Everyone else is expected to remain off school grounds until 7:45. Help us keep your children safe. The same is expected after school. Please plan to pick your children up promptly at 2:30. Playground supervision is provided only until 2:45.

Finally and very importantly, **NO NUTS ALLOWED!!!** There are several children at school this year with severe nut allergies. And, it's not just ingesting nuts that can cause a reaction. They little guys are so sensitive that skin contact is enough to cause major problems. Please be respectful of these children and do not send nut products to school.

Parents, Come Meet Dr. Bishop!

Dr. Terry Bishop is continuing the Parent Sounding Boards beginning on October 11th. Meetings are held on the second Thursday of each month from 5 to 6:30 p.m. at Tesla Educational Opportunity Center, 2560 International Circle. All District 11 parents are welcome to bring issues, general concerns, questions and good things happening and Dr. Bishop will share the latest information about programs and projects in D-11.

A Nut Free School

Peanut butter can be deadly for those children who are allergic to nuts and nut products. There are students at Buena Vista who have severe nut allergies (peanuts and/or tree nuts which include cashews, walnuts, pecans, coconuts, etc.). If these students are exposed to nuts, they could have a life-threatening reaction called anaphylaxis. Anaphylaxis is a sudden, severe allergic response that could result in difficulty breathing, collapse and death. For some students, just the contact with peanut and/or tree nut residues (oils, dust) left behind on desks, tabletops or hands can cause a reaction.

This is the reason Buena Vista Elementary is a **PEANUT- and NUT-FREE SCHOOL**. Our staff and the parents of allergic students are working hard to ensure a safe and healthy environment here. We are asking every parent/guardian to be aware of what is in your child's lunch and how it is handled. If you're not sure whether a product contains nuts or nut oil, please check the label. When content is not known, the item should be placed in a sealed container in a lunch bag or box.

Please provide classroom snacks that are nut-free. We also ask that you talk to your child about the importance of not sharing their food with anyone else at school.

Studies show that handwashing removes peanut and tree nut residue. The staff will help students remember to wash their hands before and after eating snacks and lunch. This helps get rid of any nut residue AND helps prevent the spread of germs and illness. Thank you for helping to keep Buena Vista a safe and healthy school.

2nd Annual Arts a Palooza Back on October 1st

What is Arts a Palooza!?? We want every child available to be at school and have a fun ½ day full of art, music, dance and drama stations to visit. Count Day is important to our school to determine our official student population and sets our monetary funds from the district.

Ms. Feis and Ms. Darpino, our art and music teachers, are planning this event in conjunction with parents. We need donations of art supplies and volunteers who are gifted in art, music, drama and dance to run stations. Please contact Ms. Jessica Feis if you have supplies to donate, a visiting artist in mind or would like to help out.

P.T.A. Message

Welcome Back! The PTA board for the 2007-08 school year is looking forward to a great year of supporting the students and teachers at Buena Vista, and we are excited to involve many new and returning parents in our activities this year. Our regular PTA meetings will be held **on the first Tuesday of each month from 6-7 p.m. in the school library. Please, join us!!!**

The first PTA activity you will be hearing about is our annual fundraiser. The money raised from this activity will fund various programs to support our school, including student enrichment opportunities such as all-school assemblies, and the Back Yard Project. The Back Yard Project will be a long-term undertaking to improve the playground and other areas of the school grounds for the benefit of the students and the entire neighborhood.

Thank you for supporting your children and the entire school through your participation in PTA!

Your PTA Board - Ruth Roland, Lynne Casebeer, Sue Spengler, Kathy New.

Gifted and Talented

Super Saturday for Gifted Children is October 6 through November 10 from 10:00 am to 12:00 noon. Super Saturday at the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs is a program of classes for gifted/high achieving students in the Pikes Peak region. Classes meet on the campus, and the class sizes range in size from 12 – 16 students. The goal is to challenge the student's intellectual and creative abilities. Registration begins immediately and closes September 12. It is up to the parent to provide the transportation. Enrollment is on a "first-come, first-serve" basis. Please remember that there are scholarships available on a first come, first serve basis.

If you are interested in any of these programs, forms are available from the classroom teacher or me. Parents and students who are considering Super Saturday need to be aware that students must have high motivation and task commitment, standardized test scores of 95% or above or outstanding school performance and high standards of classroom behavior.

MaryAnn Davidson

Garage Sale

Buena Vista is again holding a garage sale to raise funds for our "Backyard Project." We will be collecting items on Friday, October 12 in the gym from 2pm to 6pm with the garage sale on Saturday, October 13 from 8am to 2pm. Donated items are needed to make this a success and volunteers are needed to help sort and price items on Friday and help with customers on Saturday. Please call Kathy New at 634-7342 or e-mail at newkl@d11.org if you are able to help with donations, as a volunteer or have any questions.