

# 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

- 4 PTA Meeting, 6 pm in Conference Room
- 5 Space Club Information Night, 6:30 pm
- 12 Band/Orchestra Concert, 1:45 pm and 6:30 pm
- 13 Holiday Workshop, 2:45 – 5pm in Gym
- 14 Movie Night, 6:30 pm in Gym
- 20 Music Winter Program with 1, 2 and 3 graders, 1:45 and 6:30 pm in Gym
- 22 No School – Winter Break (through Jan. 6)

### January

- 7 First Day of 2<sup>nd</sup> Semester
- 8 PTA Meeting, 6pm in Conference Room
- 25 Movie Night, 6:30 pm in Gym
- 31 Skate Night at Skate City

## Teachers First

Channels 5/30 hosts this program that recognizes and pays tribute to excellent teaching professionals in southern Colorado. Once a month from September through May, a teacher is chosen by a panel from nominations submitted to Channels 5/30. Nomination forms are available at [www.koaa.com](http://www.koaa.com) or the station's office at 530 Communications Circle, 632-5030.

Award recipients receive \$500 from the sponsors, a plaque and will be featured on News First on the second Wednesday of each month during newscasts.

Qualifying individuals must currently teach in a southern Colorado K-12 accredited public or private school and must not have been recognized by Teachers First previously. Nominations are accepted all year long and must include: an official nomination form, one letter from the nominator, one letter of recommendation from an individual not related to the teacher being nominated, and one letter from the school principal or administrator.

### BV Tiger Apparel

Show your school spirit by wearing school t-shirts, sweatshirts and hoodies. Order forms are available on the round table in the hall of the main building. Once 40 orders are received with payment the order will be submitted.



## Holiday Workshop

The PTA is coordinating a Holiday Workshop with 9 stations with crafts that children can make as a gift. Costs for the crafts will range from 50¢ to \$2.00 each. In addition there will one table set aside for each child that makes a craft to decorate one pair of socks that will be given to 'Shut-in Seniors' who are visited by the Penrose Hospital Visiting Nurses. These socks will be a gift from our students and will be delivered by the nurses the week before Christmas.



The PTA needs frozen turkeys for the Holiday Food Baskets that are given to needy families. Please contact Lynne Casebeer at 442-0874 if you are able to help with this.

## New Format for Skate Night Coming January 31st!

This new format offers an opportunity for parents to choose from:

1. **Family Skate Night:** Families spend quality time together doing something active. Children come to Skate City with a parent. Cost is \$4/person. Families can ride the bus or come on their own.
2. **“Parent’s Night Out”:** Children are supervised by Buena Vista Staff at Skate City. Cost is \$9 (\$4 for entry to Skate City and \$5 for supervised care). Children can ride the bus or be dropped off/picked up at Skate City.

Buena Vista Elementary will continue to receive a portion of the Skate City fee, in addition to the \$5 “Parent’s Night Out” fee. These funds will go toward funding Field Day and recess equipment purchases/repairs. **BV receives \$1.50 from Skate City for every paid skater.** In order to take advantage of this, **we need a minimum of 50 paid skaters** on January 31st. So come join the fun!! Call Carrie Delius (328-4125) with any questions.

**From the Principal,**

What an active month this has been! Students went on wonderful field trips and will continue to do so in December, including the classical winter ballet: The Nutcracker. I know the children will enjoy this. Be sure they dress “for the opera.” It is a great opportunity to have them participate in “highbrow” activities and dress like ladies and gentlemen.

Some new school programs:

Spanish club will commence in January when we return to school. It will be offered by Ashley Knight, a senior at the university majoring in French, Spanish and education. These will not be traditional classes, but a combination of immersion and instruction, within the context of culture and real life settings. One example is that students will learn the “chocolate song” where they not only learn the song, but carry out the steps for making chocolate. In general, the curriculum will be based on the following type of activity, which will expand throughout the year, with these themes: The Market Place; Cooking in the Kitchen; Multicultural Activities & Music; Hispanic Games. Each of these four themes will be offered once a month, and will be activity oriented. Check the Friday folders for additional information soon.

Another new project to be launched in January is the Space Club, or The Federation of Galaxy Explorers. This is a national initiative to teach students about space exploration so they can consider this as a future career. But in the meantime, they will have lots of fun putting on child-sized space suits when that is the topic, or making rockets. This club will meet once a month, or more often if we can get enough volunteers to be leaders of our BV Mission Team. **PARENTS & COMMUNITY MEMBERS, YOU DO NOT HAVE TO BE A TEACHER TO LEAD.** The national program, an affiliate of NASA, has complete lesson plans and materials available for all grades. Volunteers merely download the lesson plans and order the materials they will need for the lesson a few weeks in advance. **PLEASE CONSIDER THIS!** Now, in general, the program centers around four major directions (besides up!): Engineering, Rocketry; Space Citizenship; Earth Science & Satellites. Keep in mind that the US is committed to having a moon base set up by year 2020, about the time your children are graduating from college! So, get them involved now in this exciting and fun club. Except for a small membership fee that pays for the curriculum, kids’ T-Shirts, a monthly magazine to their home and the cost of shipping the materials on loan to the school, like space suits, helmets, shoes, kits, etc., there is **NO TUITION.** The time and days are not set up as this depends on the parents who are willing to volunteer to offer their leadership. There will be a Informational Meeting (and rocket launching) on Dec. 5 at 6:30 PM at the school. Please come, make some rockets, and learn more about the program.

Starting in December, the school is launching a community wide reading initiative, READ-A-LOT. We will be offering fun games, some competitions in reading, and all kinds of support to get kids to read more. This is not a focus on specific skills, but more a push to get kids excited with reading and to get into the habit of reading a lot. We also need volunteer parents who are willing to come to school and read to small groups of kids or simply listen to kids reading to you. Your participation will make a world of difference and it will certainly encourage your own children as well as provide support for parents who cannot do so in their own homes. **PLEASE VOLUNTEER TO COME AND READ OR BE READ TO!** Send in a note to let me know if you are available. This is not just for your child’s own classroom, but a support for all students. You have no idea what just a few minutes of your time can make in a child’s life!

Excitement is picking up over the Backyard Project, and especially the Garden Project. Please respond to the survey and talk to the parents who are offering information tables from time to time in front of school.

The Holiday period is soon upon us, and this year the PTA has organized a very different kind of gift giving. This year, students will make gifts from kits for their families and one thing for a donation to a non-profit organization. This is more representative of what we want children to learn about the holidays: give of yourself, your labor and love, as well as things.

By the time you all read this, you will be full of turkey and stuffing. Keep those spirits high as we swing into the other winter holidays and school break. Have a very, very happy family celebration and sharing of good times.

**AND PEACE BE WITH YOU ALL!**

Dr. Jade Amick-Fulgenzi



**D-11 Choice Permits**

From Nov 1 – Feb 1, District 11 accepts permits for school choice. If your child is on permit to BV, please fill out another permit form. These must be turned in every year. You may stop by the office or download the form on the district website at [www.d11.org](http://www.d11.org) . Please have this form in as soon as possible. Thank you.

## **Program News**

### **News from the Gym – Mrs. D....**

Most classes have wrapped up fitness testing... we've checked to see if our scores fall in the "HFZ". Does that stand for "hyper freaky zebra" or "healthy fitness zone"? Ask your student! We have also set a goal for improving areas that fell in the "needs improvement zone". Once scores are entered into our Fitness Gram software, reports will be printed and sent home.

We will use the remainder of November to incorporate our newfound fitness knowledge into movement. Fundamental movement skills become the foundation for the specialized sport skills needed to perform successfully in a wide variety of games, sports, dance, and recreational activities. These movement skills are generally divided into three categories:

- ❖ Locomotor movement skills (walking, running, jumping, hopping, skipping, sliding, leaping, climbing)
- ❖ Manipulative movement skills (throwing, catching, kicking, trapping, striking, volleying, bouncing, ball rolling)
- ❖ Stability movement skills (bending, stretching, twisting, turning, landing, stopping, dodging, balancing)

Movement activities play an important roll in overall development... the elementary years are recognized as the critical time for mastering these fundamental movement skills. Younger children focus on mastering these movements with control, efficiency, and coordination. Older children refine their skills and develop mature movement patterns... eventually combining and applying these skills in games, sports, dance, etc.

### **Gifted and Talented, MaryAnn Davidson**

The Cogat testing is going well and on schedule. Thanks to all parents that returned the permission forms and parent surveys! Testing will be completed on November 28, due to Thanksgiving break. For students who score in the 95-97 percentile range, I will be visiting with my supervisor to discuss formally identifying your child as a Gifted and Talented student. For students scoring in the high 80s and low 90s, I will be giving a supplemental test, called the KBIT or Naglieri. These are supplemental tests for verbal and non-verbal only. There is no supplemental test for the quantitative portion at this time. As soon as a decision is made concerning your child, you will receive a letter in the mail. Please don't misunderstand the wording of the letter. If you receive a "No" letter, this only means that your child didn't score high enough to be formally identified at this time. They will still be in the Gifted and Talented class at their school. If you have any questions about the testing or the letter sent at a later time, please don't hesitate to contact me.

### **Music Matters, Mrs. Darpino**

The students have been busy in their General Music Class working hard in class, going on field trips and preparing for the upcoming Winter Program. Currently Ms. Garsoe's, Ms. Leigh's and Ms. Carpenter's classes studied the orchestra and the instruments within, culminating their studies with a visit from the Philharmonic docent, Ms. Pat Cole, then took a trip to hear the Philharmonic live at the Pikes Peak Center. All students looked and behaved wonderfully and enjoyed the fine playing of the Philharmonic. What a great opportunity! Thank you to Dr. Rasmussen, Dr. Amick, teachers and classroom aides and to all of the volunteers who helped, and to you, parents, for your support for the money for tickets and the bus ride. We learned SO much! We will be working on our Holiday songs and pieces to play on our instruments next.

1st, 2nd, and 3rd grades are working hard learning the Winter Musical, "'Twas the Night Before Christmas." Parents, please look for and help with the scripts coming home, so songs can be learned and memorized ASAP! We're all having fun learning this favorite poem from literature in the 1800's, but with Music from 2007. Wow! What a contrast! More information will go home, but the performance is on Dec. 20th at 1:45 p.m. and at 6:30 p.m. We hope you can come and enjoy our performances. Everyone is welcome. If you'd like to volunteer to help with the program, please contact Mrs. Darpino at 328-4162. We could really use your help! (We're looking for a cardboard fireplace with a lit-up pretend fire, a red wagon or sleigh, and donations of red and green paper streamers, or small candy canes, just to name a few things).

Kindergarten is progressing more and more daily, singing well and working on steady beat, reading our rhythms, following directions, playing games, playing instruments and learning many songs about Fall, bears hibernating, and Thanksgiving. They have come so far and are growing daily. What fun!

Happy Holidays to all in the days ahead!

### **Art, Ms. Feis**

Many Buena Vista students will be doing projects this spring involving commonly-used household objects. Instead of putting these items in recycling or trash cans, please start saving the items listed below to donate to BV art classes. We will need:

- ☛ Old CDs (AOL mailers or bad CDRs would work) ~ 40 needed
- ☛ Wrapping paper tubes ~ 40 needed
- ☛ Jewelry boxes any size ~ 40 needed
- ☛ Fabric scraps (at least 1' square size pieces)

Please bring these items to the art room on Wednesdays, Thursdays, or Fridays. Thank you in advance!

## **Classroom and PTA News**

### **Ms. Carole – Lower EI Class**

Ms. Carole and Ms. Garianne's first and second grade class is studying the science of air and weather and "superfoods" this semester. "We learned how air works," explained 2nd grader, Deanna Cooper. Hands-on lessons were taught by teachers and class parent, David Petersen, about the nature of air as an "invisible mixture of gases." They also are learning about the nature of both solids and liquids through this process.

Students also focused on health and nutrition as they learned about the 14 "superfoods" that are super-healthy for our bodies: beans, blueberries, broccoli, oats, oranges, pumpkin, wild salmon, soy, spinach, tea, tomatoes, turkey breast, walnuts and yogurt. In class, they voted on which foods were their most favorite; then they graphed the results. Graphing is a math requirement for 1st and 2nd grade. The students also discussed how a graph can give information without many words such as using a color to represent each food. Later, each attended a cooking class led by class parents. The tasting menu included marinated pinto beans, spinach and broccoli salad, pumpkin muffins, yogurt with granola, and soy milk... Yum!

### **PTA Message; Lynne Casebeer, President**

The PTA has accomplished a lot these first 3 1/2 months of school! The most recent PTA activity was the Fall Carnival. Many thanks to Jen Estes and Suzanne Burkle for coordinating this annual tradition and all the parents who helped make it happen - great fun was had by all who attended! Our next activity will be a Holiday Workshop. This will be a bit different from the Holiday gift giving opportunity PTA has sponsored in past years. On December 13th after school in the gym, students will have the opportunity to make gifts for friends and family members. Craft kits will be available for purchase from 50 cents - \$2.00 and students will have the chance to make and wrap them that afternoon. This will also be an opportunity for BV students to give to those less fortunate than themselves. There will be a craft table for children to decorate "Socks for Shut-Ins" - a service project coordinated by the PTA in conjunction with Penrose Hospital. Snacks and festive music will be provided! Thank you to Beth Roalstad who has volunteered to coordinate this exciting new event. We hope it will become a new tradition at Buena Vista. Finally, Michelle Moore has agreed to coordinate our annual Holiday Food Baskets. Please be looking for announcements about bringing non-perishable food to contribute to this project that helps families who are in need around the holidays.

Thank you for your generous support of all we do to make Buena Vista a great school for all the children and families in our community.

### **Ms. Carpenter's 4th grade**

Our fourth grade class has been very busy as readers, scientist, writers and mathematicians!!

We are reading biographies, studying the properties of water, writing acrostic poems and our own versions of, *There Was an Old Lady Who Swallowed A\_\_\_\_\_!* Understanding grouping numbers and their properties has been a high priority in math. Did you know that every multiple makes its own picture? A highlight was our trip to Wasson High School to see, "Seussical the Musical", a grand tribute to Dr. Seuss.

These 4th graders are an amazing group of people that seek to understand and work hard to produce their best. The next time you see a 4th grader, thank them for all of their hard work. I know I will.

### **Ms. Garsoe's 5th grade**

I can't even believe that it's December. We are in the midst of our favorite Science Kit, "Ecosystems" complete with terraria and aquaria.....plants, snails, crickets, fish. It's a wild and wonderful little world in there. We are working our way through the history of the United States, with Paul Revere's ride, the stories of people who came here for freedom, and celebrating our own. We borrowed the idea of "Stones From the River" from Mrs. Carpenter, and are writing beautiful personal narratives. As always, we are poets, continuing to read and write our way through 2007 with poetry. Our wish for our family, friends and school is for a peaceful world in the new year.

### **Student Work**

*Miss Garsoe's 5th grade studied desegregation, especially Ruby Bridges who desegregated a white school when she was six.*

*Poem by Genevieve*

Not right to treat  
Ruby Bridges  
so bad  
just because of her color  
all kids left  
not Ruby  
all teachers left  
except one  
the one teacher  
that stayed  
is a best friend  
of Ruby  
both heroes  
to me and  
more.