

Buena Vista Elementary School

Tiger Times

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

Mark the Dates!

February

- 5 PTA Meeting, 6pm in Conference Room
- 7 Home Basketball game v. Whittier – 3:15 pm
- 12 Home Basketball game v. Bristol – 3:15 pm
- 12 BAAC Meeting, 6pm in Conference Room
- 15 Movie Night, 6:30 pm in Gym
- 18 President's Day – No School
- 19 Basketball Game at Howbert – 3:15 pm
- 21 Home Basketball game v. Pike – 3:15 pm
- 26 Home Basketball game v Washington – 3:15 pm

March

- 3 Skate Night at Skate City
- 4 PTA Meeting, 6pm in Conference Room
- 5 Picture Day – Class and Individual
- 11 BAAC Meeting, 6pm in Conference Room
- 14 Movie Night, 6:30 pm in Gym
- 24-28 No Students - Spring Break

Choice Permits Required Each Year

If you do not reside in the BV boundary area, a new permit application must be completed each year. It is important that we know if your child will be returning next year. If your child will be returning, please fill out a new choice permit application. Forms are can be downloaded at www.d11.org or stop by the office to pick one up.

If your child will not be returning, please call the office with this information so that we can offer a space for a new applicant in the Montessori Program.



Tiger News from the Principal:

Welcome Parents to a snowy February! I want to wish all of you a loving and happy Valentines Day and hope you have plenty of time to enjoy your loved ones.

Our extra-curricular activities are off to a great start. Both the Space Club and the Spanish Club are full, and the Garden Club will launch the beginning of this month. Please pay attention to your Friday Flyers.

There is a wonderful conference coming up that parents may enjoy. It focuses on how today's society may adversely affect students and what parents can do to protect them. Check the Friday Folder for information.

In order to give the cafeteria a more positive atmosphere, we are adding music and soft lighting, spreading the tables around and generally trying to create a more "restaurant-like" environment.

We also need parental support for our healthy meals program. There are certain rules that I would like for all parents to understand and support:

Breakfast is available in the cafetorium for students who arrive before 8am. Breakfast will no longer be permitted in the classrooms.

Lunch consists of a main course with 5 entree choices and a salad bar. The salad bar has fresh vegetable, fruit and dessert choices. Students will be reminded that they have CHOICES, but having made them, must then eat what they have taken so they will learn to be responsible eaters and decrease waste.

To help students eating hot lunch to take the correct serving size, we will provide different sized serving spoons. Students will need to choose at least one vegetable and fruit, but they must take at least one small portion of each, in order to have a balanced meal. Students will be permitted to have seconds from the salad bar but the entrees are pre-measured by the Food Services Department and are not available for seconds.

All students will be reminded that dessert can only be eaten after they have finished their main course. To help us with our healthy meal program, we ask that you please limit sweets and candies in sack lunches.

To ensure that recess goes smoothly for all students, the 2nd and 3rd lunch groups may leave the cafetorium after they have finished lunch and cleaned up their area. They will need to respect the play space of the students scheduled for the official playground area and stay in the yard area nearest to the lunchroom until the previous classes have gone inside. Until we can arrange for more recess time, they must respect the rights of the earlier lunch students.

During inclement weather, students will need to zip up their winter coat before going outside. For health reasons, they will not be allowed to go outside if they don't have their coat with them. Students are responsible for bringing their coats to the lunchroom.

Thank you for your help with this new program.

Dr. Jade Amick

Music Matters, Ms. Darpino

In Vocal Music we're jumping in the New Year by discovering where our New Year's Song, "Auld Lang Syne" came from and what the lyrics mean and why it's used at New Year's time. Ask your 4th or 5th grader the History behind this song, as well as ask your K-3rd graders about singing about our New Year's Resolutions. They sure came up with a lot of good intentions for 2008!



I must step back for a moment to the month of December, and thank all of the parents, teachers, students and staff who helped with our Winter Program. We could not have done that program without each and every one of you. What fun the Christmas Program was and how special also to have it broadcast via Channel 16!!

If you were unable to watch it or did not have cable, then let me tell you about the deal of the century. DVD's and VCR tapes are available through the D-11, media specialists for the price of \$3.00 each. This was the taping of the afternoon's dress rehearsal. Please contact Channel 16 at 520-2269 to order your copy. I am SO proud of the students in Ms. Natalie, Ms. Carole's, Ms. Clarice's and Ms. Gutierrez's Classes. They did an excellent job!

Please keep in mind for future programs that the students in the program have worked so hard, it's important to keep the younger family members quiet, during the program. If they get restless, feel free to take them out to calm them. It's only fair to all of the students who are in the program. Audience behavior is different in a concert setting from an athletic event where there's cheering and whooping and hollering. It surprised some of the students and covered up other students opportunities to do their parts as well as they'd rehearsed. The kids and I call this concert etiquette. (This also includes turning off all cell phones, no visiting, etc.) Thank you all for your continued support. Please pencil in our next program date which is April 17th, at 6:30 p.m., featuring the 4th and 5th Grade classes. We hope you all can come.

Gifted and Talented, Mary Ann Davidson

As the GT testing finally comes to a conclusion (except for a few stragglers!), I wanted to let you know the good news! The following students have been formally identified this year:

Jacob McAlhany, Marissa Quesada, Isaac King, Isabel Nunez, Kyle Kight (pending), Gabriel Finley, Elanor Phillips, Ryan Kight, Marshall Casebeer, Grant Spengler, James Bartlett, and Erin Arnold. These students join Joe Nunez, Manuel Martinez, Bryce Stevens (Bryce is now identified in two areas, instead of just one) Brinley Broomfield (who is now being home-schooled), and Ernest Morris, who was identified last year.

CONGRATULATIONS to all these students. You represent your school well!! Give yourselves a pat on the back and keep up the good work!

Volunteer Corner

In April, the school will be having Art, Pie & Silent Auction night. This is a wonderful opportunity to see your student's artwork, have pie and, new this year, bid on wonderful donated items from local merchants and parents. We will need many volunteers to make this a wonderful success. If you have items to donate (re-gift) or businesses that you frequent that would be great for the auction, please let me know at bleanunez@comcast.net. We will be requesting pies and set up help closer to the event. We would also like to have entertainment so if you are a performer, please also let me know.

If you are interested, I am also still looking for a Volunteer Coordinator and a Volunteer Chair.

BAAC Re-Cap, Suzanne Burkle

The Buena Vista Building Assessment and Accountability Committee (BAAC) is meeting the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 6pm, all are welcome.

In January we looked at the overall Montessori experience students have and if any trends could be seen relating to their test scores. We utilized the scores from Dibbles Map reading and Map Math to analyze the data.

We discussed the urgent need to better market the school, especially the preschool. Dr. Amick is looking for a group of parents to spearhead this critical undertaking.

The BAAC also discussed aspects of the possible magnet proposal. This topic will be our focus for the February 12th meeting.

PTA, Lynne Casebeer

Happy New Year! The PTA has done much for Buena Vista this school year. Please look for the PTA newsletter, arriving soon in your child's Friday Folder to read about the many successful activities we sponsored in 2007. Now, for 2008! Two new pieces of playground equipment have been ordered!! Based on the voting the kids did with Ms. D. in PE, we have purchased 2 SynchroPods. These spinning toys were earned by the students through their sales of flower bulbs this fall, and, weather permitting, we hope to have them installed before Spring Break. Also coming this year will be two school-wide assemblies sponsored by the PTA. The first will be storyteller John Stansfield, a great local entertainer with a really great message. The second assembly will be in the spring, and will likely be a live theater performance. In April we will sponsor Art & Pie Night, along with a Silent Auction to support the art programs at BV. PTA will also be supporting the new reading program - please help us do that by taking time to read with your own student every day, and if possible, to volunteer at the school to read with a student who could use a little extra support.

Thank you for supporting Buena Vista and the PTA as we all work together to improve our students's school.

Middle School SAIL and Program Information Nights

This is a reminder of upcoming information nights for current 5th grade students.

- SAIL Irving Parent Information Night –February 12 from 6:30 – 7:30 in the Irving auditorium.
- SAIL West Parent Information Night –February 13 from 6:30 – 7:30 in the West Middle School auditorium

North Middle School International Baccalaurete Program

North's IBMYP is an honors program with the material presented at an accelerated pace with minimal repetition which requires students to regularly work beyond grade level. It has been developed specifically for the middle school age child and learning skills such as organization, time management, note taking and stress management are covered. The aim is to develop a well-rounded individual, so participation in music, art and sports are encouraged. A community service component helps the student begin to appreciate the interconnectedness of our complex modern society.

The IBMYP is a five-year program (6th, 7th and 8th grades at North, 9th & 10th grades at Palmer High School; parents must provide transportation), distinct from the IB Diploma Programme for 11th and 12th grade students. Enrollment in the program is by successful application, and applicants are accepted on a space available basis at each level.

If you are interested, please come to our next Information Night on February 11th or call 328-2427! There is also an opportunity to shadow an IB student for a day from February 1 through February 29. Call 328-2427 to schedule a time. Please check first with your 5th grade teacher to make sure you avoid CSAPs, other tests, projects and field trips!

BV Club Schedules

- ✍ Spanish Club – Meets every Thursday. Check with the office or the instructor for location.
- ✍ Space Club – Meets monthly on the third Wednesday in the gym.

ON SALE – BV Tigers Printed Shirts

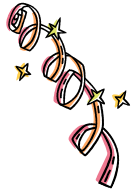
Order forms for BV Tiger Shirts are available on the table in the foyer of the Main Building.

All orders will be processed immediately. Please submit order forms, along with full payment, to the office in an envelope marked PTA -Shirt Order.



ALL BV READS: A Joyful Journey

Buena Vista is beginning a two part reading initiative to nurture and inspire readers! We need your collaboration in making BV a community of readers. Read on to learn how you can support and become a part of ALL BV READS: A Joyful Journey



The first part is a surprise Book of the Month. Like the All Pikes Peak Reads promotion by the Pikes Peak Library, the goal of the surprise book of the month is to create a reading community through anticipating, sharing and talking about a common book. Monthly a surprise title will be announced and a copy of the book will be donated to each classroom for their permanent collection. Best of all, over the course of the month every child in class will have the opportunity to take the special book home for the evening to share with their family!

Please watch for the book to come home in its special tote. Share and enjoy the book with your child and family and respond in some way in the journal provided. Help your child in caring for the book while it's at home and be sure to return the book the next school day. We want to thank the BV PTA for generously purchasing this month's books for the school!

We are asking students and parents to participate in the 2nd part by telling us about books they have read. Share information on how do you choose a book to read, what you liked or didn't like and other comments. We want the BV Community: students, staff and family members to start talking about the books they are reading. SO, what are you reading? "TELL US ABOUT IT!"

We will share what we are reading by filling out book-sharing forms in the shape of shoes. These "shoes" will then be hung in a line, beginning by the cafeteria. Our hope is that by the end of the year we will have taken a joyful journey throughout all three buildings. Wouldn't it be great if we shared 5,280 books—our own BV Mile?

Please support your child by reading/listening to good literature with your child. Book sharing "shoes" will be available in classrooms to take home. Help your child to fill out the "shoe" when they've read a book they are inspired to share and return the "shoe" to school to the "shoe" box. Model for your child by joining the journey and filling out your own "shoe."

Thank you in advance for your support of ALL BV READS: A Joyful Journey! Together we help students become lifelong readers. Please don't hesitate to call Ms. McCort at 328-4138 if you have any questions.

Classroom News

Ms. Cathy, Ms. Catherine and Ms. Paula – Primary Classes:

The three primary classes continue to be busy places of learning and growth. This is the time of year when many children are able to make the connections between the phonemic and phonic skills we have worked so hard on in order to grow leaps and bounds in their reading and writing development. The kindergartners are also preparing to put on a party for Valentine's Day. Our 100th day activities will begin around Valentine's Day as well. Among many activities, we will be estimating and counting. As you can see, the foundational balance of learning continues while having fun.

Ms. Garsoe's 5th Grade

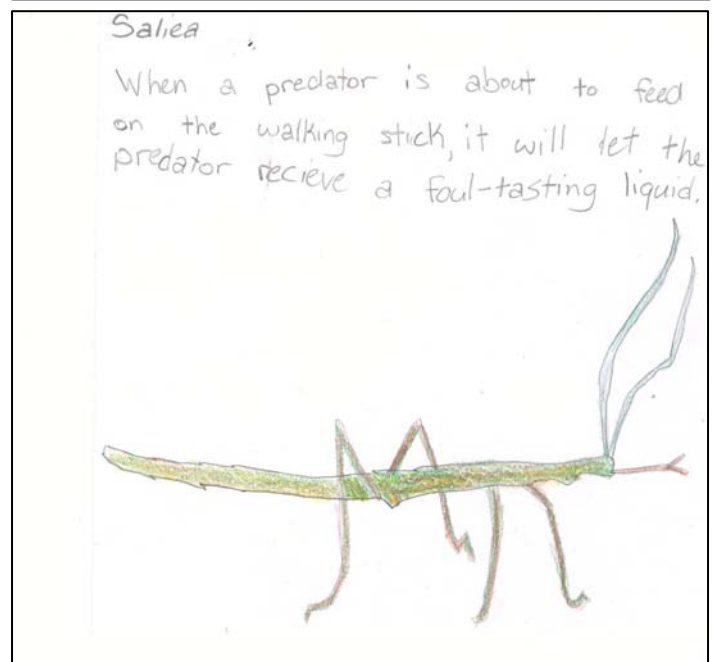
Well, we reported flourishing ecosystems last time. As is Nature's way, some of them are flourishing, and some are hobbling along. We have had a few floating fish, and some very still snails. Nevertheless, we are honing our observation skills, and every day something new happens in our little eco-worlds. Science Fair is Thursday, February 28. Watch the Friday Folders for further information. Our writing project this past month was a persuasive letter to Dr. Amick regarding the length of the school day. Some students had to support lengthening the school day, others making it shorter, and finally, keeping it just as it is. What do you think?

Healthy Eating Resources

Before you head out to your favorite restaurant, check out www.healthydiningfinder.com to find out of the choices you are making are healthy! This website details nutrition information including calories, fat, saturated fat, cholesterol, sodium, carbohydrates, fiber, sugars, protein and fruit/vegetable for featured menu items at popular restaurants nationwide.

Another great website is www.yummystuffinc.com. This is a site designed to help students and their families develop everyday habits of healthy eating. Yummy Stuff™ strives to nourish student's bodies while feeding their minds and creating healthy habits that last a lifetime. Join the club to learn all about healthy choices and have fun while doing it!

Student Work, Ms. Garsoe's Class



Student Food Services Account Information on-line

Pay on-line for school meals with your credit card! You may use Visa or MasterCard by following the link at 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.

