

Buena Vista Elementary School

Tiger Times

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

Mark the Dates!

October	
10	Movie Night – 6:30 pm
14	PTA Meeting, 6 pm
17	No School (Teacher Work Day)
25	Annual Garage Sale – 7am – 2pm
27-31	Scholastic Book Fair
30-31	No School – Parent Teacher Conferences
November	
4	PTA Meeting, 6 pm
11	No School- Veterans Day
21	Movie Night – 6:30 pm
26-28	No School – Thanksgiving Break

Running Club News

Running, running, and more running! Members of the Fall Running Club at Buena Vista have been working hard to become fabulous long distance runners. We meet Thursdays right after school until 3:00, and then compete in “cross-country” meets on Tuesday afternoons. We currently have 39 members who love to run! Many thanks to all those parents who have driven their kids to the ends of the earth to attend meets, offered to drive other runners to meets, and cheered everyone on!

Did someone say “Pike’s Peak Ascent 2009”?

Donations needed for Garage Sale

The PTA will be holding the second annual garage sale on Saturday, October 25th in the gym. Please bring any gently used items that you would like to donate to the gym on Friday, October 24th. If you have any large items, can volunteer to help or have any questions, please call Kathy New at 719-634-7342.

Spread the news to all your friends to come and support Buena Vista and get that one of a kind item they’ve been looking for.



Notes from Mr. Brilliant:

I would just like to thank everyone for making our Open House so successful this year! Mrs. Darpino did an excellent job in such a short timeframe this year and the students’ performance was terrific. It was wonderful to speak with so many of you, meet your families, and just spend time with you. I sincerely appreciate you and your families attending.

MAP testing is complete for the fall and we will be looking at the results in the next week or so to help adjust instructional and student learning goals to meet student needs more successfully.

Speaking of success, your students are working hard everyday—growing and learning—and the teachers are also working hard to ensure that these learning needs are met everyday with the best instructional practices we can bring to bear. Please be assured that all staff members are also concerned for the safety and security of your students while they are with us.

We have some additional funds that need to be spent as part of our site determined capital projects and are asking for suggestions from our parents. We would like to have all suggestions submitted by October 10. We will be sending home a small form in Friday Folders for parents to respond on paper, as well as information on how to make suggestions through email or phone.

Just a couple of up-coming dates and activities that you and your child need to be aware of:

October 1 was designated as “Crazy Hat” day for Buena Vista staff and students. Students and staff had a great time showing off their hats that were fun and interesting. It was great seeing all the various headwear that people have in their wardrobe.

October 17th is a Teacher Work Day and students will not attend school.

Parent-Teacher conferences are officially scheduled for October 30 and 31. We will be sending additional information to you on conferences in the next couple of weeks. Look for this update in your child’s Friday Folder.

Program News

Lunchroom Links

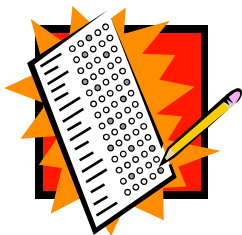
We are having a great time in the kitchen and hope that everyone can join us. Breakfast is served from 7:30am to 7:50 am. Breakfast will not be available after 7:50am. We will be having a Broncos Spirit Day on October 20 so plan on wearing your broncos gear or colors.

If your child has an allergy, please get a form from the kitchen manager for your doctor to sign so we can update our system. These forms are required every year. Please remember that prices for lunch are \$1.90 and breakfast is \$1.05. Price for reduced pay students is \$.40 for lunch and breakfast is free. In addition, students in kindergarten through 2nd grade are eligible for free lunch if they qualify for the reduced lunch program. Eligibility forms are available by contacting the kitchen or front office staff. We also encourage parents to join students for meals. Adult meals are \$2.75 for lunch and \$1.50 for breakfast. Please pack your student snacks if needed as the kitchen will not be able to help with this.



Gifted and Talented, MaryAnn Davidson

Just a reminder to all third graders and their parents – the Cogat (Cognitive Abilities) test for the Gifted and Talented Department will be given during the timeslot of September 29 – October 10. It will be assessing verbal, quantitative, and nonverbal areas. A letter will be coming home prior to the test explaining it further. Each third grader will be screened. Results won't return to the school until December. If you don't want your third grader tested, please inform me with a letter. You can contact me with any questions through your child's school. Thanks for preparing them as best as you can for this test!



Music Matters, Ms. Darpino

We're off to a great start in General and Vocal Music this Fall. We've been working our Patriotic Music Unit, proudly learning the "Star Spangled Banner" with all 4th and 5th graders. We are in our second year of being a part of the National Anthem Project "All Star" Schools where our special project (Open House Performance) in our school helps students to be aware of the history while promoting the singing of our National Anthem. (Do you know that only one out of four adults know the words to the "The Star Spangled Banner"?) We're working hard at BV to change that statistic and hope you'll join us in proudly singing our National Anthem, "The Star Spangled Banner," whenever you get the chance. Let's hear it for the USA! Younger grades, you did a great job on "America," – another patriotic favorite. Students, you did an outstanding job! Special thanks to Mrs. Roland for accompanying us. Thanks to all teachers and parents for their help and support. It was great to have all of you here.

Our next units of Musical study will be on instrumental music, culminating with a trip for 4th and 5th gd. students to hear the Colorado Springs Philharmonic on, Thursday, Nov. 6th at 9:30 a.m. We'll be offering a bargain to our students at the price of only \$5.00 for this trip. The ticket cost is \$4.00, and the bus ride is another dollar.

Information and field trip slips will be coming home next week (Sept. 22 26th). All monies are due by September 30th. Please let me know if that's not possible for you. The number to reach me at is 328-4162.

Our lower El students – 1st, 2nd, and 3rd graders, will soon begin preparing for our Winter Program which is scheduled for Thursday, Dec. 11th at 6:30 p.m. Please put this date on your calendars. More information will go home at a later date. We could really use help with decorations, costuming, choreography, set up and clean up for the program. If you feel you could help us in anyway. Wonderful! I'd love it! Please fill in the information below and I'll be contacting you.

A special kudos to the kindergarten classes for doing such a nice job in singing for the program when they'd never been in a performance before! Wow! I am impressed! Please keep singing with your child – they're doing great. A program for kindergarten classes will be scheduled at the end of the school year in May.

Happy Fall!



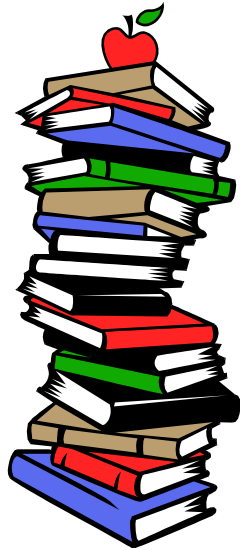
Library News:

Hello Buena Vista families! We have some exciting news in the library this month. First of all I would like to congratulate our large group of students who joined and completed the Summer Reading Program at the Pikes Peak public libraries. You guys did an awesome job, and I can tell you are all better readers this year. Great job keeping your brain well oiled with good books this summer! Keep up that reading!!!

Secondly, I would like to brag about the beautiful new books we have this year. PTA graced us with a set of the nominees for the 2009 Colorado Children's Book Award. Thank you all! Students are already checking them out and reading them so they can vote for their favorites in February. We will have parties and prizes for those who complete those goals. We also received the wonderful, mostly non-fiction, books that I ordered last spring. They are fabulous! We will encourage all students to focus a little more on non-fiction reading this year. We will be doing many research projects to facilitate our learning and these books should help a lot! Come see them when you get a chance.

Last but not least, I would like to announce our fall 2008 Scholastic Book Fair. It will begin Monday October 27th and run through Friday October 31st. Because you all supported our library so much last year (thank you) and bought so many good books, this year Scholastic is sending the big rolling cases of books. Those are much too big to get up the stairs to the library or the stage, so we will host the book fair in the middle room of the East cottage. It should be bigger and better than ever! I hope to see you ALL there. Parents, I could use some volunteers on Monday and Tuesday of that week if you have some time to give! Call me at 328-4124 or stop by and let me know if you can help.

I also want to say congratulations to all the students who participated in the Pikes Peak Library District's "Catch the Reading Bug" Summer Reading Program.



News from the gym...

Physical Education classes are off to a great start! We've already learned how to "warm-up" our bodies and get them ready to do physical activity. Our first focus has been on "Team Challenges". Students are working together to successfully complete challenges like "Stick With Me", "Beat The Clock", and "Stepping Stones". All these challenges require students to use a variety of teamwork skills to complete the challenge!

Our focus has just shifted to Physical Fitness... the second state standard for Physical Education (in "kid language") is "working toward a strong and healthy body". We've begun by learning about Cardiovascular Fitness... what it is and how to make it stronger. Ask your student to tell you about it! We will soon begin measuring our own fitness levels with the "Fitness Gram". All students will measure their cardiovascular fitness level (the ability to keep moving for a period of time). Additionally, older students will be measuring their flexibility, along with their muscular strength and endurance. Students will bring home a printed report of their results. We'll be learning:

- about the different components of physical fitness
- how the ability to do these things leads to a healthy life, a longer life, and a better quality of life
- about setting goals to maintain and/or improve fitness levels
- how to incorporate fitness into everyday life (Here's an area where we, as adults, should follow our kid's lead... get outside and play more!!)

We will continue to devote a portion of our class to a fitness routine throughout the school year.

We've also been talking about **appropriate clothing for physical activity**. Please help your child choose the kind of clothing that allows full, and safe, participation. Flip-flops, clogs (including Crocs), fancy dress shoes, and cowboy boots are all examples of footwear that keep children from running and moving freely... and sometimes safely! (Twisted ankles and falls happen, as well as flip-flops slipping off easily and becoming dangerous flying objects.). In PE classes, shoes that are worn loosely laced that slop off the heels becomes a safety issue for the person wearing them, as well as for those who may be hit by a flying shoe. Students are encouraged to be responsible for tying shoelaces in a way that keep these shoes tightly on their feet during PE. Just like children begin learning there are appropriate times and places for both "play clothes" and "fancy, dress outfits", school-age students learn the importance of wearing clothing that allows freedom of movement for Physical Education classes. For example, dresses and skirts worn without shorts underneath can inhibit participation. Thanks for your support.

Classroom News

Ms. Natalie's Lower El

We have had a wonderful start to the school year; it has been great to see so many returning families. As a class we are studying North American and Native Americans, history and family timelines. Look for the first big homework project to be coming home in Friday folders soon.

We would like to start taking care of our small piece of garden in front of the cottages, clearing the weeds, planting bulbs for spring etc. If your student wishes to help with this please send in a pair of gardening gloves with their name on them, we also need a parent volunteer to help with this project during school hours.

If you would like to volunteer for this or to help in the classroom please e-mail me at sardinm@d11.org

Ms. Leigh's Upper El

Our classroom is Montessori. We have 4th and 5th grade combined. Ms. Leigh is our teacher and Mr. Frank is the helper. He signs our work when we are done. In the morning we do cursive for ten minutes. After cursive we go to circle and the student facilitators take over the circle. We have to declare three major works. If we had homework the night before we would do homework trackers. Then we would get to work. Mondays and Wednesdays we have band. Mondays and Thursdays we have Orchestra. All summer long Miss Leigh and Mr. Frank were cleaning, dusting and reorganizing to make our classroom ready for the students. We are very proud of them.

Sincerely,
Hunter & Erin

Ms. Garsoe's 5th grade

I just reread my musings for the last three years. What a wonderful thing it is to be a teacher. Every day, I get to spend time with your children, who are funny and smart and bring joy into my life. So far this year, we have built terraria and aquaria (Latin plurals ☺,) observed crickets and isopods, written poems, sharpened our multiplication skills, written about how we solve math problems, and read many books. On the horizon: a field trip to Fountain Creek and at the end of the month, Parent/Teacher Conferences. I will love sitting down with you and your child to sing their praises.

Ms. Carpenter's 4th grade

How Much is One Million?



We know how much 10 is and we know how much 100 and even 100 are but 1,000,000? We decided to count and estimate our way to 1,000,000 newspaper words! First we counted and highlighted 100 words. We did this 10 times so that we had 10 groups of 100 or 1000. Quite an impressive amount but not close to 1,000,000! Using 1000 words we estimated and cut out sheets of newspaper that looked about the same as 1000. Ten of these sheets gave us 10,000 words, 10 of these groups gave us 100,000 words AND 10 groups of 100,000 gave us 1,000,000 words!! We hung our strips of paper around the room and were amazed that it took all the wall space in our room to hang-up 1,000,000 words!!!! We were really glad that we learned how to estimate otherwise we would still be counting!!!!

