

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	Family Skate Night at Skate City – 6-8pm
8	Band/Orchestra Concert – 1:30pm & 6:30pm
9	Holiday Workshop – 2:30 pm – 4:30 pm
11	Winter Program (1 st -3 rd) – 1:30pm & 6:30pm
11	IB Program Info. – Library 2:30 pm (4 th -5 th)
16	PTA Meeting – 6pm; Library
19	Movie Night – 6:30 pm
22	Winter Break begins – No School
January	
6	PTA Meeting – 6pm; Library
7	Student's return to school
19	Martin Luther King Holiday – No School
20	Family Skate Night at Skate City – 6-8 pm
23	Movie Night – 6:30 pm

Free immunizations offered

SET Family Medical Clinics is offering free clinics on January 15 and March 19, from 4:30 – 7:00 pm at 825 E. Pikes Peak Ave. Immunizations are for qualified children (MCD, no insurance, Am. Indian/Native Alaskan). Children must bring copies of their shot records and be accompanied by a parent or guardian. Call for an appointment at 719-776-8850.

Cold weather days

A green flag is hung at the bottom of the flag pole in front of the main building when the temperature outdoors is 15 degrees or less (including wind chill factor). Students will be allowed into the building at 7:50 on those days. So, when you drop your child off, and the green flag is out, your child may go directly into their classrooms beginning at 7:50 a.m.

You can check for delays/closures on the D-11 Web site at www.d11.org and/or Comcast Channel 16 and/or call 520-2300 for a recorded message.

You can also sign up to receive an e-mail notification about delays and/or closures! Go to the District 11 home page at www.d11.org and click on D-11 Answers. When you get into D-11 Answers, click on "My Account." If you already have an account, log in; if not, create a new account. Once logged in, you will see your "User Details." Under "Notification Groups," click "EDIT." Enter your contact information and select which notifications you would like to receive. Click "Submit" to save your changes.

Notes from Mr. Brilliant:

As you may have heard, a consultant presented a report on how District 11 schools are used and made recommendations to the Board of Education for re-purposing several schools. Buena Vista was named as one those schools. Several parents attended the board meeting on Nov 12 and made excellent comments about our school and staff, as well as our strong Montessori focus here at Buena Vista.

While the Board will make the final decision on what happens to Buena Vista, the staff is dedicated to being a Montessori-focused school that will also offer traditional classrooms. The idea is to be one school with two approaches to teaching and learning. This model will allow Buena Vista to serve all of our students in ways that best meet their needs.

As I said in last month's newsletter, we will add an additional primary classroom for 3, 4, 5 year-olds in 2009-2010. We will also be creating a classroom for 1st and 2nd graders who are currently in our Kindergarten-1st grade classroom. We would love the opportunity to explain the expansion of our program options to new families and/or prior families. Our goal is to better serve the Buena Vista community. If you know of friends or neighbors who would be interested in these options, have them contact the school at 328-4100. We are actively seeking students to enroll and/or get on the wait list for the primary program for next year.

The bottom line is that we have a good thing going here at Buena Vista and want to keep it going. We need your help and connections to do it.

On another note, North Middle School's International Baccalaureate Program Coordinator, Ron Hamilton, wants to establish a closer partnership for our students interested in the IB program. He has set up an information session for interested parents of our 4th and 5th graders on December 11th from 2:30-3:30 in our school library. If you would like additional information on this session or on the IB program at North, please call the North IB Office at 328-2427.

One last thing: we are seeking information on a purple and blue Mongoose, 5-speed bicycle that was on the property and appears to be lost. If you have information regarding this bicycle, please contact me.

Program News

PTA News, Natasha Walker, President

We are excited to announce the date for the Winter Workshop on Tuesday, December 9. As many of may remember we had an awesome turn out last year. The children had such a great time creating beautiful crafts for Christmas presents. This was truly a fun and successful fundraiser! Please look for future reminders with all the details in upcoming Friday folders.

I also want to extend a personal "Thank You!" to everyone who rallied together in support of our incredible school at the District Eleven Board meeting held on November 12. There were over 30 parents and educators representing Buena Vista, and 5 parents that spoke during citizen's comments. WOW! There also were several letters written to our Board in lieu of those who could not make the meeting. Thank you to everyone who has sent me a copy of both your letters and Board responses. If anyone is interested in seeing any of the Board responses I will be happy to forward them on. There has been talk of a committee forming to "save our school." As soon as more details develop, your PTA will keep everyone updated both through the Tiger Times, Friday Folders and the website established by Maida Scott at

www.westsideshops.com/buenavistapta .

Remember, your PTA is what it is in part of all our wonderful volunteers! A special "Thank You!" goes out to Sandy Richardson and Kellie Finley for all your hard work getting my letter and all other information out to the masses. If you did not receive the email that went out on the night of November 11th inviting our school community to attend the District Eleven Board meeting on November 12th, please go to the office and request a volunteer application. This will ensure you will receive emails, and will also provide you with various opportunities to help out in your child's school.

Gifted and Talented, MaryAnn Davidson

I have been testing select fourth and fifth graders using the Cogat (Cognitive Abilities) test for the GT department. Some of your students have scored at a high enough level to qualify for more testing, which is being done November. After visiting with my supervisor, you will be receiving a letter stating how your child performed. For your information, the second graders will be screened during the months of February and March. Thanks for returning the permission forms and the parent survey, which are needed to make the final determination.

Music Matters, Ms. Darpino

We're so busy getting ready for the upcoming holidays and Winter Programs! Don't forget that on December 11th at 1:30 p.m. and at 6:30 p.m. , we will be featuring Ms. Natalie's, Ms. Carole's and Ms. Clarice's classes in our Winter Program, "The Elves' Impersonator." You are all invited and welcome to come. We look forward to seeing you all there. I could really use help from parents with decorating and costume finding. Please call if you can help!

Our Kindergarten classes are having fun while learning Fall and Winter Songs, as well as some holiday favorites, seasonal songs and poems. They are learning to play the Orff Instruments and are doing a very nice job of keeping a steady beat on the instruments as they sing some of their songs. We've learned that some instruments are pitched and some are unpitched. Some play high sounds and some play low sounds. The students have been delightful to work with.

The upper El classes are also working on holiday and seasonal songs, and studying the History behind various songs and customs of different countries at this special time of year. If they ask you what nationality your families are it's because they want to know which customs your heritages have contributed to the melting pot of seasonal traditions and music at hand.

We are also beginning to play the Orff Instruments as featured instruments and as we sing, and hope to incorporate some movement with the songs as well.

Our trip to hear the Philharmonic was a wonderful success! Our students made us proud with their nice clothing, wonderful manners and attentive listening at the Philharmonic Concert. We enjoyed hearing all of the instruments we'd studied in this beautiful performance. We'd like to give a special thank you to our docent from the Philharmonic, Mr. Paul Dickard, who did a great, fun job of preparing us for our trip. We culminated our instrumental unit in Music class with our fieldtrip, and in their regular classrooms did some wonderful drawings and follow-up listing of instruments after they saw and heard the Philharmonic perform. What awesome work! Thank you, parents, and teachers for helping them have this wonderful, aesthetic, live, musical learning experience. We appreciate your support. Now it's time for us to make our own music in the weeks to come.

Cafeteria News, Andrea Hanes

On November 4th all Buena Vista students voted for their favorite meals. The top 5 were: 1st Pizza, 2nd pancake bar, 3rd Cheese sticks, 4th corn dogs and 5th place was a tie between chunky turkey gravy and nachos. During the week of December 8-12 we will be recognizing National Hand Washing Week. Please help us to remind students that they should always wash their hands before eating.

Library News, Ms. Dohrmann:

I want to remind everyone that our friend and parent, Natasha Walker, will be taking my place for the month of December, while I am away helping my daughter with her new baby. I am sure that she will do a wonderful job with maintaining the library and computer lab in my absence. Since our students already know and love her as our PTA president and a regular substitute at our school, I know the kids will welcome her to this position. If you have any questions or concerns feel free to contact her in the library (328-4124).

Boxtops for Education Winner Announced

Congratulations to Ms. Catherine's class for winning our first BOX TOP\$ contest this year! Her kiddos collected close to 350 labels...WOW! We will have another contest after the winter break. So start clipping! We will be sending home some fun collection worksheets for you put on the refrigerator to help remind you to look for and save your labels.

Just a refresher on how this fundraiser works: BoxTops4Education offers an easy ways to earn cash for our school through everyday activities such as buying groceries and shopping online. Labels are found on participating product list we sent out in Friday Folders last month. You can also earn our school money buy purchasing participating products online...up to 8%! Look for specific details in an upcoming Friday Folder or visit www.btf.com/marketplace

IMPORTANT REMINDER!!!!!! It is very important that the labels are properly trimmed before submitting them to the classroom drop box. This will help our volunteers considerably in preparing the labels for submission. Thank you so much and **START CLIPPING!!!**

Natasha Walker BOX TOP\$ Coordinator

Skate Night at Skate City

This evening offers an opportunity for families to spend quality time together doing something active. Buena Vista Elementary receives a portion of the proceeds, in addition to the \$5 "Parent's Night Out" fee. All these funds go toward funding Field Day and recess equipment purchases/repairs. BV receives \$1.50 for every paid skater. In order to take advantage of this we need a minimum of 50 paid skaters on December 4th. So come join the fun!! Call Carrie Delius (328-4125) with any questions.

Families can choose to participate as a family where they can spend quality time together doing something active. Cost is \$5/person (\$4 if you bring your own skates.) Families can ride the bus or come on their own.

A "Parent's Night Out" is also available where children are supervised by a Buena Vista parent at Skate City. Cost is \$10 (\$5 for entry to Skate City/skate rental, and \$5 for supervised care). Children can ride the bus or be dropped off/picked up at Skate City. Permission slip and fee must be turned in by Wednesday, December 3rd.

Time: 6pm – 8 pm

Where: Skate City, 1920 N Academy Blvd
(Just north of Constitution)

Cost: \$5/person (Family Skate Night) or \$10/child ("Parent's Night Out")

Skates: Bring your own or rent them. Cost is \$1 for regular skates and \$3.50 for inline skates.

Transportation: Ride the free Skate City Fun Bus (Leaves BV at 5:30 sharp!) or you can drive or carpool on your own.

Volunteer Corner, Sandy Richardson & Kellie Finley

This is a friendly reminder to please sign in and out at the school office when volunteering or visiting. Please complete the entire form so that your hours can be accurately recorded. If the form is not completed, one hour volunteer time will be recorded. Also, we have many people signing the sheet as a volunteer, but have not turned in a Volunteer Registration Form. Please obtain one at the office. If you have any questions, please contact Sandy Richardson or Kellie Finley at QuiteNice@q.com or call 636-5181. Thank you to all our volunteers. It is greatly appreciated!

Classroom News

Lower El Classes

All Lower Elementary classes went on a Native American field trip. They went to Cheyenne Canyon and did Native American dances and ate soup prepared by the students.



The week before the Soup Feast, Ms. Clarice had a guest named Roche Lindsey come to school. He demonstrated how to make a spear point and how the Ancient Puebloans used atlatls to throw things farther and harder.

Ms. Clarice had Isaac Ross, one of her students, start a marble behavior jar. When they fill it they will have a Pizza Party!

Ms. Natalie's class is learning about Antarctica and the animals that live there. They baked pumpkin pies and are having a good time learning!

Ms. Carpenter's 3rd and 4th grade

In our combo class, we select one book per month, for each of us to share with our families. Each evening a member of our community takes the book home, shares it, and writes or illustrates what they enjoyed or learned from the book. Our October-November read, Pumpkins by Mary Lynn Ray, is a soft spoken and beautifully illustrated book that speaks to selfless goals and satisfaction. We highly recommend this read!!!!

Ms. Garsoe's 5th grade

We spent November being thankful and grateful for all that we have and all that we are given. We think that it's a good idea to always feel that way. Thank you, families, for the loving support that you give to your children. December brings Landforms and a big wonderful mess of deltas and rivers and plains. We make these with clay, sand and lots of water. We are also delving into poetry, reading others' poems and writing our own.

Student Work

A Tall Tale

"The Good, the Bad, and the Just Plain Moldy"
Hunter Sanders, Ms. Leigh's class

The Super Apple is superior to the other fruit because he wins over the Super Villain Pear who wants to spread mold to them. He viciously bites Evil Pear to find out who will be the ruler. Super Villain Pear has moldy clones who help him try to win against Super Apple. The bananas scream in horror as they watch their brave friend get hit in the eye with mold. The grapes shiver in fright as a pear clone forces them out of their home. Who is going to put an end to this evil grueling battle? Super Apple of course! He swoops down and continues to battle the evil pear and his crusty clones. Evil Pear blasts Super Apple with bursts of putrid mold. Super Apple replies with splashes of Veggie Spray. The strawberry shouts, "Yeh! You show him whose boss!" Evil Pear yells, "Surrender or decompose." "Never" replies Super Apple zooming at him with his fists outstretched. As the orange twins watch Evil Pear shrivel up from the Veggie Spray they couldn't help thinking about two words: roll away. It took a lot of work and bursts of Veggie Spray, but his rotten clones are cornered with the help of the Fruity Town police. Once again Super Apple has stopped unnecessary mold. Tune in next week for "King Candy Bar".



Haikus from students' October Moon Journal's in Ms. Garsoe's class:

The moon is shining
Above the colored tree leaves
A beautiful sight.
-Kyle



Dark night
Scary darkness
Frozen days.
- Calvin

The lights in the city
Become thousands of
Stars that sparkle.
- Tanashiya