

Buena Vista Elementary School

Tiger Times

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

Mark the Dates!

January	
7	Students return to school
13	PTA Meeting – 6pm; Library
19	Martin Luther King Holiday – No School
20	Family Skate Night at Skate City – 6-8 pm
23	Movie Night – 6:30 pm
February	
10	PTA Meeting – 6pm; Library
16	President’s Day – No School
20	Movie Night – 6:30 pm
23	Family Skate Night at Skate City – 6-8 pm

Notes from Mr. Brilliant:

To begin this month, I’d like to take moment to simply say “Thank you” to the entire Buena Vista community—parents, students, community members, and faculty and staff—for your support and encouragement of our school. It is wonderful to be a part of such a strong, learning-oriented community that cares deeply for all of the people within it.

By the time you read this there will have been several public hearings with the Board of Education regarding school reutilization and the impact this might have on Buena Vista. Again, thank you to all of the parent and community support for our school and for the benefit of our kids. I believe the Board will think very carefully on this topic and will make the right decision in the best interest of our students and the district. I hope that we will have some decision or hint of resolution by the next time I write to you.

As I mentioned in previous messages, we are currently seeking to create an enrollment waiting-list for next fall in an effort to maximize our capacity as a school. We have a capacity to comfortably enroll 250 students and we are currently at about 210, including our 3 and 4 year-olds. We are actively trying to build a third section of our 3-5 year-old primary program, as well as create a 1st-2nd grade combination class and additional classes in Upper Elementary.

So, while parents have placed wonderful ads in the newspapers to promote Buena Vista, oftentimes it’s most effective to work through relationships and word-of-mouth. Please, if you know of families who would be interested in attending Buena Vista or who attended previously but moved to another school but are still interested in us, have them contact the main office at

328-4100 to discuss enrollment options.

For those of you who don’t know, I have a very strong technical background in educational technology. One of the questions I’ve been pondering is this: What should Montessori look like in the 21st Century? One of the recommendations that has been made to the BAAC and Capital Projects Committee is to purchase mobile computer labs so that students can begin working with programs like iPhoto, iMovie, GarageBand, etc., and actually begin doing authentic work with technology tools...creating presentations, videos, and podcasts of projects. This is just one small part of a larger vision for our students at Buena Vista as 21st Century graduates, but it is a significant step for our school. Please continue to share your thoughts and ideas with me along these lines so we can build it into the fabric of our school.

Community Input Meetings for School Utilization

School District #11 has several community meetings scheduled to get input regarding school utilization. Please plan on attending one or more of these meetings to ensure your voice is heard during this process. All meetings are held from 6:30 – 9:00 pm.

- January 6, 2009—Mitchell
- January 8, 2009— Coronado
- January 12, 2009— Hill Side Center
- January 13, 2009— Palmer
- January 15, 2009— Doherty
- January 20, 2009— Wasson

For current 5th grades’

West Middle School offers the SAIL program for parents looking for a middle school providing a challenging curriculum.

Parent information meetings on the Student-Centered Academic Interdisciplinary Lab (SAIL) program will be held during January and February.

SAIL is a full-time magnet program for students in 4th through 9th grades. The purpose of the program is to engage and challenge gifted learners incorporating project based learning, acceleration, inquiry thinking and integration of content. While the program addresses state content standards, the pace is typically faster and the content explored at a deeper level.

An information meeting will be held at West Middle School at 6pm on January 29.

Program News

Gifted and Talented, MaryAnn Davidson

The testing for 4th and 5th graders is complete. Some of you may have already received a letter in the mail in regard to how your child did. I am continuing testing the 3rd graders. This will continue until Christmas break and then the first couple of weeks after Christmas break. All second graders will be screened in the COGAT (the same test which the third graders took in October, only at a second grade level) from February 17 through March 2. Further information will be coming home with your students after Christmas. Have a wonderful and safe holiday season!!

From the Gym, Ms. Delius:

We are taking time to investigate "Brain Fitness"... how we create strong and healthy brains. We are doing a lot of jumping, spinning, and balancing... activities that children seek out instinctively to develop different systems and areas of the brain.

After school basketball begins in January for 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders. This is "developmental" basketball, not highly competitive, league-type basketball... no score is kept, all students play. Flow of the game and allowing students to play is the priority over calling every violation. Referees may give reminders and teach on the court instead of calling fouls/violations and any unsportsmanlike behavior is unacceptable. The focus will be on building skills, good sportsmanship, and having fun. Permission slips are needed to participate in this activity. We will put our skills into practice by playing several basketball games with some of the other Westside elementary schools.

Cafeteria News, Andrea Hanes

We will be celebrating the Chinese New Year (Year of the OX) in the cafeteria on Monday, January 26th. The featured entrée is Sweet & sour chicken over rice. In December the kids got to try Persimmons which are very good. In January they will try Kumquats.

Have a great winter break. See you next year.

North Band Information Night

There will be a Viking Band Parents meeting for all 5th graders at North Middle school on January 22 at 6:30 PM in the cafeteria. Please come to:

- Gain information about the Band programs.
- Learn which class your student should register for even if they did not do band in 4th or 5th grade.
- Learn where you may get instruments.
- Meet the band director.

You may contact the band director for more information at 328-2477 or crockwd@d11.org.

Music Matters, Ms. Darpino

In all of the music classes we've been busy learning about and celebrating the holiday season in song, in playing instruments, and in taking time and effort to become better listeners, we found that we just don't take enough time to listen everyday. When we do, we usually multi-task with something else. It's such a beautiful season to enjoy traditional songs from every country, listen to their message (the lyrics) and join in singing those songs and learning about these treasured customs from many cultures and countries.

Lower El Classes performed a great Winter Program on Thursday, Dec. 11th, featuring two Elfis' who were thought to be Elf Impersonators. Great performances were held in the afternoon and in the evening and we're proud to announce that they will be shown on Channel 16 at these times if you care to tune in and see the evening performance again.

December 20th and 21st at 12:30 and 3:30

December 23rd at 4:30

December 30th at 4:30

Our Kindergarten Classes have learned quite a few Holiday songs this season, they are "Up on the Housetop," "Jingle Bells," "10 Little Angels in the Band," "We Wish You a Merry Christmas," and "My Dreidl Song" and "Hanukkah is Here." We are currently learning about Kwanzaa.

Have a safe and Music filled holiday season, we'll see you next year (2009). Don't forget to take your families and attend a seasonal Concert, There are many wonderful choices here in Colorado Springs and the malls have wonderful, free entertainment as well. Enjoy!



**North Middle Schools International
Baccalaureate Middle Years Program**

The IBMYP is an honors level program that gives motivated students the chance to become engaged, well-rounded learners, solidly prepared to move on to college preparatory work. The course of study involves English, Foreign Language (French, Mandarin or Spanish), Humanities (Geography and History), Math, Science, PE, Technology and The Arts. Instruction is designed to lead to increased academic involvement and includes an emphasis on higher level thinking.

North's IBMYP is an honors program. Material is presented at an accelerated pace with minimal repetition requiring 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 an academically and socially engaged 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 Middle School, 9th & 10th grades at Palmer High School) distinct from the IB Diploma Programme for 11th and 12th grade. Enrollment in the program is by successful application and a space available basis at each level. Come to an information night on January 8 or February 4 at 7pm at North Middle School or call 328-2427 for more details. Individual elementary in-school presentations vary, so please check with your teacher for times and dates.

There is also an option to shadow an IB student for a day from January 19 through February 13. Call 328-2427 after winter break to schedule a time. Please check first with your 5th grade teacher to avoid CSAPs, tests, projects and field trips!

Immunization Clinic

Does anyone in your family need to update or receive their immunizations? SET Family Medical Clinic is offering immunizations on January 15 from 4:30 – 7:00 pm. at 825 E. Pikes Peak. Call 719-776-8850 for more information or to schedule an appointment.

Skate Night at Skate City

We'll try again on Tuesday, January 20th from 6-8pm!! 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

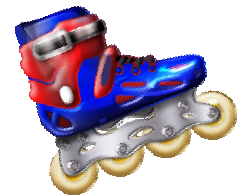


for every paid skater. In order to take advantage of this, we need a minimum of 50 paid skaters so come join the fun!! Call Ms. Delius at 328-4125 with any questions.

Families can choose to participate as a family and 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.

Another option is "Parent's Night Out" 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 Friday, January 16th.

Plan on joining us at Skate City, 1920 N Academy Blvd (Just north of Constitution). Cost is \$5/person (Family Skate Night) or \$10/child ("Parent's Night Out"). Skates are can be rented for \$1 for regular skates and \$3.50 for inline skates. A free shuttle provided by Skate City leaves Buena Vista at 5:30pm sharp!



Classroom News

Ms. Carpenter's 3rd and 4th grade

Greetings from 3rd and 4th Grade! As the year comes to a close so does the first half of our time together! Time certainly flies when you are having fun and have lots to do!!! Not a day goes by that a student doesn't mention how fast the day has gone! We know more about reading, writing and math than we did when we began. More importantly, we are all developing strong skills to work together to support our learning and each other.

I am looking forward to the New Year and all of the opportunities it will give to us! Please consider sending new pencils, colored and scissors if your child doesn't have them. We use these supplies almost daily and some are running very low.

Have a wonderful break and enjoy this gift of time together with your child.

Ms. Garsoe's 5th grade

Just think: our fifth graders are half way through their last year in elementary school. What a fun ride it is so far. We are good writers and thinkers, and lyrical poets. Several times a week, we spend 10 – 15 minutes writing "The Morning Pages." This is freeform writing, and we just keep the pencil on the page, keep it moving for the whole time. At the end of December, we spent a chunk of time rereading our Morning Pages, and underlining "themes" that appeared. Someone wrote obsessively about his trombone, some said they couldn't believe the number of times they said they were tired, some wrote about dreams. We took all these ideas and reactions to our Morning Pages and wrote poems. Zoe wrote the following based on all the times she wondered in her Morning Pages.

I wonder where this poem is read,
or if it's not read at all.
But if it isn't read at all,
Then you must be at the beginning.

Lead in Toys FAQ's

Q: I have heard that some toys are being recalled because they contain lead, is this true?

A: Yes, this is true. Toy manufacturers and the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission have issued recalls for several types of children's toys and other products because their surface paint contained levels of lead that were more than U.S. safety standards.

Q: How can my child be exposed to lead in toys?

A: Children may be exposed to lead as they often place toys, fingers, and other objects in their mouth, exposing themselves to lead paint or dust. Be aware that some items not meant to be toys, like jewelry, charms, and key chains may also contain lead. These items can lead to acute lead poisoning or even death if they are mouthed or swallowed.

Q: What should I do if I think my child has been playing with toys that have been recalled or may be contaminated with lead?

A: If you think that your child has been exposed to a toy containing lead, take away the toy, immediately. Most children with elevated blood lead levels have no symptoms. The only way to tell if your child has been exposed to lead is to have a blood lead test. Your health care provider can help you decide whether a test is needed, and can recommend next steps, if your child has been exposed.

Q: Why is it important for my child to be tested?

A: If your health care provider recommends testing, it is important to get the test. If your child has an elevated blood lead level, you need to remove the source of lead and watch your child's health.

Q: If my child does not have health insurance that will pay for a lead test, where can I get my child tested at little cost?

A: In Colorado Springs contact Peak Vista Community Health Centers, (719) 632-5700, www.peakvista.org.

Q: Can I test my child's toys for lead?

A: Only a certified laboratory can truly test a toy for lead. Although do-it-yourself kits are available, the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment does not currently recommend their use to test toys for lead. These kits were meant to detect high levels of lead in paint, and their ability to detect low levels of lead may be unreliable.

For more information about lead in toys, please contact Shannon Rossiter, health educator at 303-692-2167, or toll free at 1 (888) 569-1831, extension 2617.