

Buena Vista Elementary School

Tiger Times

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

Mark the Dates!

March	
10	PTA Meeting – 6pm, Library
13	Spring Dance – 5-8pm, Gym
13	No Students, Professional Development Day
20	Movie Night – 6:30 pm
23-27	No Students, Spring Break
31	Family Skate Night at Skate City – 6-8 pm
April	
6	Class & Individual Picture Day
14	PTA Meeting – 6pm, Library
17	Movie Night – 6:30 pm
21	Art & Pie Night – 6:30-8 pm
24	No School – Kindergarten Registration Day
29-5/1	5 th grade at Golden Bell

Shopping for a Middle School?

Mann Middle School is proud of our tradition of providing the highest quality instruction in a student-centered environment. Our creative and innovative staff share a common goal of helping students realize their potential in classrooms where academic rigor is achieved through a variety of engaging delivery methods. We offer a balanced program of academics, education in the arts and participation in physical education and athletics.

Students are also encouraged to explore their personal interests through our extensive extra-curricular and intramural offerings. Mann boasts clubs as diverse as art, Battle-of-the-Books, weight-lifting, dance, cycling, cyber-café, foreign travel and languages, magic tricks and creative writing.

We are a community-based school and encourage the parents and families of our students to be an active part of their education. We offer shadowing opportunities throughout the school year and encourage prospective students to spend a day experiencing our school for themselves. Visit our website at www.d11.org/mann or call 328-2300 for more information.

Lost and Found:

We have a few sets of keys and car key items. Check with the office if you have lost some of these smaller items.



Notes from Mr. Brilliant:

We have all but completed the 3rd Grade Reading CSAPs and I anticipate that our results will be very good based on the hard work students have put in during the year, as well as the efforts of teachers and parents/guardians. The next CSAP window will be March 9-March 20 for 3rd-10th grades. Thank you for your continued support during these assessments.

As I said last month, this is oftentimes a very intense part of the year for everyone, so please make sure your child gets plenty of rest at night and on the weekends, eats healthy meals and snacks, and drinks plenty of healthy beverages like milk and water. Please remember that the Spring time change will occur the weekend right before students begin the next round of testing, so it will be important to help them get the rest they need in order to do their best work.

In order to work toward a 21st Century Montessori program, a recommendation was made to the BAAC and Capital Projects Committee to purchase mobile computer labs so that students can work with programs like iPhoto and iMovie. This will give them an opportunity to actually begin doing authentic work with technology tools...creating presentations, videos, and podcasts of projects. I have been informed that these labs have been purchased, are at the district's distribution center for processing, and should arrive in the building soon. I'm not sure what that timeframe is exactly, but it will be exciting to embark on the next phase of our journey and enhancing our students' learning with these tools.

This is a significant step forward for our school, and we will be learning, too, but please continue to share your thoughts and ideas with me along these lines so we can build it into the fabric of our school. It is also part of our goal to expand the program for our students and to reach ahead into their future.

Speaking of journeys, by the time you read this the District 11 Board of Education will have met on February 25th and have made a decision or several decisions about the school reutilization plan. Again, I appreciate the thoughtfulness of everyone in our community in addressing the board and advocating for a well-reasoned decision. Regardless of what the final decision is, it is my sincere hope that you continue the journey with us and help your children continue their exploration and learning.

Program News

Music Matters, Ms. Darpino

We've been really working hard on Music Standards #2 (reading and writing Musical notation) and beginning to create our own music as well. We've also been talking about the History of Music in America, specifically Rock and Roll, so that our upcoming dance unit, our PTA dance night and our Spring Musical will all make more sense and be a lot more fun! So, please put these important dates on your calendars at home: Beginning next week, all classes will be combining in the gym for our "Dancing through the Eras" dance unit. Remind your children to dress for P.E. and wear appropriate clothing and shoes to help them be successful. This will last through our PTA Dance Night on Friday, March 13th here at school. More information will be going out about this event down the road. Following the dance unit, the 4th and 5th grades will be jumping into the Spring Musical "Rock!" a fun and funny, shortened history of Rock and Roll! This musical will include, Ms. Garsoe's 5th grade., Mrs. Carpenter's 3rd and 4th graders and Ms. Leigh's 4th and 5th Upper El. Class. Scripts will go out before Spring Break and memorization will be assigned over break as well. Really, it should be lots of fun!

Our Primary and Lower El classes have been doing well with singing and writing music notation as well. They will also be dancing in combined classes starting next week. (Please have the female students wear pants, so sitting on the gym floor at times is not a problem).

We could sure use help decorating and getting some costumes together for the program. If you could help, I'd be most appreciative. Students may dress in any era of time for the dance night, so check your closets, Goodwill. "Let's go to the Hop" on the 13th! Call Mrs. Darpino at 328-4162 with questions or if you can volunteer to help. Thank you!

Skate Night at Skate City

Join us on Tuesday, March 31 from 6-8pm for our monthly skating party at Skate City, 1920 N. Academy Blvd. This evening offers an opportunity for families to spend quality time together doing something active. Buena Vista Elementary receives \$1.50 per paid skater if at least 50 skaters participate and we will again offer "Parent's Night Out" for only \$5. Funds raised go toward funding Field Day and recess equipment purchases/repairs. Call Ms. Delius at 328-4125 with any questions.

Library News, Laura Dohrmann

February was a big month for events in the library! Thank you all for supporting the Computers in Education fund raiser. The library received some money, and a gift card. Many of our teachers and students received prizes as well! We all had a nice time at the celebration for our Colorado Children's Book Award voting ceremonies, and the 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade students enjoyed Free Trade chocolate bars for doing excellent work on research that started out from the subject of chocolate production. It was fun!

You may have seen our big yellow box just inside the front door of the school. Our library is helping some students from West Middle School with the L.O.G.O. project. These students are trying to gather gently used books from various D-11 schools to donate to less fortunate students in our community who may not have many books to read. If you have any books around the house that you can donate, please make an effort to do that this month.

As we near the end of another school year, please help your child find any outstanding library books that they may have had out for a while, or pay for any books that you can not find to return to the library. We will have a busy time at the end of the year, with inventory, and maybe packing. It would be nice to have as many student library records straight as possible, so we can get on with other necessary tasks to keep our library collection in top shape! Thank you for all that you do to help us!

March will bring a few surprises in the library...we may even see some little leprechauns...or signs of their visits to our library. Stay tuned!

School Dance

Students will be showing the dancing skills they learned during a school dance on Friday, March 13 from 5-8pm. Throughout this fun filled evening, classes will demonstrate various dance moves they have learned in this dance unit jointly taught by Ms. Vicki and Ms. Delius. In addition, the Bunny Hop, the Limbo, Disco, and more will be on your dance card during our celebration. PTA will be selling pizza by the slice from 5-6:30pm and beverages and popcorn will be available throughout the dance. Face painting will also be available. Please come and watch, participate and support PTA during this special event. If you are interested in helping, please contact Kathy New at 634-7342 or Kathy.new@comcast.net.

PTA News, Ruth Roland

Plans are underway for two big events designed for the entire Buena Vista family – please plan to attend! Attend the next PTA meeting on Tuesday, March 10th at 6:00pm in the library to learn more about how you can get involved – a study hall / child care service is provided by Coronado High School students.

A school dance will be from 5-8 pm on Friday, March 13th in the gym and the Spring Art & Pie Night is now scheduled for 6:30 – 8:00pm on Tuesday, April 21st. Pie will be served for \$1 per slice in the gym and student artwork will be displayed throughout the buildings. Please contact Ruth Roland at 471-1399 or ruth@fcucc.org to volunteer to make pies, serve slices, or to help Ms. Jessica with artwork preparation.

An important financial note: PTA members attending the February meeting approved a motion to borrow \$1,000 from the association's saving account which contains funds raised for the school's BackYard Project. Due to less than expected fall fundraising revenue, this decision was necessary in order to fund student programs budgeted for 2008-09. In light of the probable decision by the school board to close the BV school, the PTA will introduce a motion at the March meeting to approve a permanent release of the donor restriction on the use of funds in the savings account. If you have any questions about this pending motion, please contact Ruth Roland.

Congratulations Ryan Kight

Ryan Kight from Ms. Leigh's class received an invitation to attend the National Testing for the Jump Start Program of the USA Gymnastics representing Artsports. Jump Start is the talent identification program used to identify future elite athletes at a young age and provide education for their coaches as they prepare for the eventual move to the highest level. After participating in national testing in Broken Arrow, OK, Ryan was selected for the 2009 National Jump Start Team in both Trampoline and Tumbling. He also attended the JumpStart National Team Camp February 19-22 in Huntsville, Alabama. Good Luck, Ryan, in all your future meets!

Scout Show – April 18

Pikes Peak Council, Boy Scouts of America and Girl Scouts of Colorado will be holding a Scout Show on Saturday, April 18 at the Phil Long Expo Center from 10am – 5pm. Hands-on demonstrations will be offered with local Troops hosting various activities throughout the day. Community organizations such as Hawk Quest, Science Matters, American Red Cross and the Rocky Mountain Dinosaur Resource Center will also be there. Admission is free! Donations to Care & Share and Good Will are welcomed. Come join the fun.

Immunization Clinic:

SET Family Medical Clinic is offering free immunizations for qualified children on March 19 from 4:30 – 7:00 pm. Please call 776-8850 for an appointment at 825 E. Pikes Peak Ave.

A Rainbow of Produce

The colors of fruits and vegetables hint at their nutrients. Paint yourself a wide palette, and get the vitamins and minerals you need.

THE GREENS

This assortment of vegetables runs the gamut from artichokes, asparagus and broccoli to leafy greens, such as spinach and kale. Asparagus and artichokes are good sources of rutin, which maintains a healthy circulatory system. Leafy greens contain lutein, shown to be beneficial to eye health. And broccoli and cabbage are rich in cancer-fighting compounds.



THE YELLOWS & ORANGES

Beta-carotene is the source of the sunny color of carrots, yellow bell peppers, oranges and sweet potatoes. The body converts beta-carotene to vitamin A, an antioxidant that strengthens the immune system.



THE REDS

Red bell peppers, tomatoes, watermelon, and pink grapefruit contain lycopene, a carotenoid known to help prevent heart disease and certain cancers. Red bell peppers have more than twice the vitamin C of their green counterparts.



THE PURPLES & BLUES

Members of this group, such as beets, purple grapes, plums, blackberries, and purple eggplant, owe their color to anthocyanins, powerful antioxidants that may help ward off short-term memory loss and some age-related diseases.



Source: *Everyday Food Magazine*

Classroom News

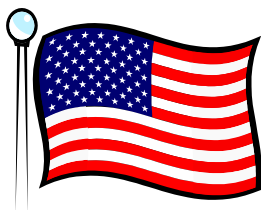
What's Up with the School Store?

Ms. Leigh Slimp-Virgo, Upper El

You may have seen children selling snacks, school supplies, and miscellaneous items outside the building in the afternoon or at the basketball games....the Upper Elementary children have been working on a unit on economics where they were required to run a school store. It has been a friendly competition amongst five different groups. Dr. Montessori said to 'start with what is real'. Micro economies are often found in Montessori schools.

Running the school store is somewhat analogous to use of Montessori's materials and methods in that it supports the child in 'constructing their own knowledge' and 'making their own meaning'. A modern educational term for this type of lesson or activity is "constructivism." The teacher lays out criteria to be met and has set goals for the children yet the children learn much more than one could ever plan because of the unexpected. Managing the school stores teaches the children many different skills, both academic and social. They learn decimal math in a meaningful way through dealing with money. The children had to price their merchandise and make sure they were making a profit—that was a difficult concept for many. They could purchase merchandise to sell with the money they earned. They develop strong skills in leadership, teamwork, multi-tasking, and critical thinking. The children are allowed to learn from natural consequences, what does and does not work. They are having a blast doing it, too. "It is challenging and it is fun to deal with money and we get to count it," said Autumn. Ellie said, "It is exciting to feel like I am running a real store." "It is fun once you get the hang of it but it is also challenging if you have a lot of customers at once," said P.J.

Thank you for your patronage of the children's school stores. They are raising money for field trips, the fifth grade field trip to Goldenbell, and will contribute 10% of what they raise to a charity they choose.



Ms. Garsoe's 5th Grade

Our class is just now finishing up the Landforms science kit, which is wild and wonderful. We looked at slides of the volcano at Hawai'i's Volcanoes National Park when the vent at Pu'u 'O'o erupted, watched a video of the same event, and pondered the strange and amazing forces that shape our earth. Two lovely events of our winter: Dr. Mary Thurman came on Martin Luther King's birthday to read The Other Side to us, and told us of her childhood in Alabama. Segregation was the way of life for her as a child, and she remembers wondering why it was so. Her story was moving and compelling, and we will never forget her visit. Our other visitor was Kirsten Gosch, Mrs. Diane Gosch's daughter, who is a junior at Colorado College. She spent two fun weeks with us as part of her studies. Kirsten is a geology major and she contributed so much to our study of Landforms. As we read this, she is in Hawai'i, walking on the very volcanoes we studied. We will not forget her either.

It's hard to believe that we are here, three months until graduation. Life is fun and busy. We have been reading poetry, writing poetry, eating poetry. Mrs. Eva McGeehan came and read her mother's poetry to us. Her mother was Julia Gould, born in 1891, and wrote poetry all her life. We are anticipating a visit from Jane Hilberry, a professor at Colorado College and a published poet. She will be here on March 3 to read for us and help us craft our poems. We continue to slosh around in mud and clay, and manipulate deltas and rivers to see what happens when we try to fool Mother Nature. Next month: Golden Bell!

Student Work

Valentines Day by Ivey Rose Wohl Muckinhaupt, Ms. Clarice's Lower El

Ms. Clarice is having a great celebration for Valentine's Day. Ms. Clarice's class is studying Africa so it's sort of a Valentine's/African Party. We are having African foods, games and videos. The Valentine's thing is that we are passing out cards, but we will still get our work done. Did I mention about the food that we are having? African cookies.

President's Day was Monday and we aren't celebrating that but I wish we could. Oh and if you are thinking why I put the lizard there, well I did



that for fun cause I like it. Oh and the grapes are blue. I love blue and black. It was very fun!!!!