



Bacon Bacon

October 2007

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The #1 News Source of the Bacon Bulldogs

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The Principal Perspective

Dear Parents,

We have recently completed the first of our four collaboration days on Monday, September 17, and want to give you all some feedback regarding the progress that we are making with our school improvement projects. First off, I want to acknowledge that for some of you, these days create a difficult situation as far as the need to find day care for your children. On the other side, these days provide much needed opportunities for our staff to meet together for professional development as it relates to improving your students' learning goals.

We spent much of this past collaboration day analyzing current data on different assessment tools that we use, and setting goals for the year. As a whole school, we have a primary focus on reading achievement. Our broad goal is to have 90% of our students become proficient by third grade and maintain that goal each year thereafter. Each grade level team met to study their own data and develop their own goals; discuss strategies to reach those goals; determine the resources and the types of professional development they will need to reach their goals. Kindergarten through third grade teachers then met to discuss curriculum alignment as did the fourth through sixth grades. In the afternoon, kindergarten,

first and second grade teachers met to calibrate their reading assessment, the DRA II. The third through sixth grade teachers met to discuss best practices in reading instruction.

We will continue our efforts to accomplish these goals on the upcoming collaboration days, and I will continue to bring you updates about our progress. Thank you for your support for these days, as it is impossible to get this kind of work accomplished within the regular school hours.

Sincerely,

Bill Smith

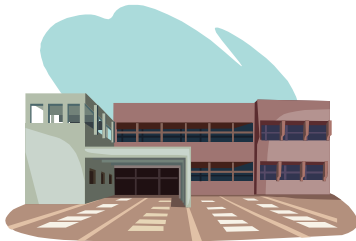
488-5301

wills@psdschools.org

PTA News & Notes

You Belong in PTA! Join Now!!!

Join PTA now for success all year long! Get involved and help your child have a very successful year here at Bacon Elementary. The number one priority for parents is their children's well-being. Research has proven that children do better when their parents are involved both at home and at school. Children's grades and test scores go up, so their self-esteem grows; therefore schools improve tremendously...it's a win/win situation for everyone! Our PTA provides information and resources that strengthens the connections between children, parents, schools and the community. There are many other benefits of a PTA membership such as; parenting resources, including online access to select articles from *Our Children*, exclusive discounts on insurance, copying and printing and banking as well. Leadership training opportunities are also provided to members of the PTA.



Please join by filling out the membership form that when home with your child in their Friday folders and return it to Bacon's PTA. If you would like any more information or have any questions or concerns, you may email Teresa Kopylay at Tkopylay@mesanetworks.net.

PTA Corner

by Marie Krizanovic

It's hard to believe we're already a full month back into the school routine, along with the fall sport schedules, music lessons, etc. By the time this newsletter comes out, we'll have had our first evening PTA meeting. We'll be holding another in April. It is not a requirement that you attend the PTA meetings to be a PTA member. Please consider showing your support of Bacon students and staff by joining PTA. Each household should have received a membership envelope in the Friday folders. Please return those to Bacon as soon as possible along with the \$10 membership dues (made out to Bacon PTA). If you have questions you can contact me at krizanovics@aol.com or Membership Chair, Teresa Kopylay at tkopylay@mesanetworks.net.

McGruff Safe Kid's Total ID Program

by Marie Krizanovic

Just a reminder that the McGruff Safe Kid's Total ID program will begin processing registered students beginning Tuesday, October 2nd. The program is being sponsored by the Bacon PTA and a portion of the package price will come back to Bacon. You should have received a registration form/envelope in your child's Friday folder that came home last week. If you have not sent in the registration, you can still send it in on Monday, Oct. 1st. Students MUST be pre-registered.

Bacon LEGO Robotics is on a Roll

by Todd Gibson

Bacon Elementary PTA is once again sponsoring a LEGO Robotics team composed of nine 5th and 6th graders and led by volunteer parents, Todd Gibson and Jenny Clark. This year's competition challenges the kids not only to build robots but to think about energy resources and how to meet the rising demand for energy. For the next 2 months the kids will be learning how to approach technical problems and create solutions. They will also have to work as a team to utilize everyone's talents for the best outcome. On Saturday, November 17, the team will have fun competing in a FIRST LEGO League State Qualifier Tournament and see the fruits of their hard work. Stay tuned for future progress updates.

Website Development

Update from Kari Anderson, Web Spinner

We have a new website created and maintained by the Bacon Elementary School PTA! Check it out at www.baconpta.org

I'm eager to add content, so if you're a committee chair send me your news! Parents and teachers, if there is something you'd like to see on the

BaconPTA website, email me and I'll do my best to make it happen. You can reach me through the link to the web spinner on the bottom of our homepage.



More News & Notes

\$\$\$ Safeway Shoppers \$\$\$

If you shopped at Safeway between July 18 and September 4 and used a Safeway Club Card, you have probably earned a credit that can be donated to Bacon Elementary. Check the bottom of your Safeway receipt for a section that says "Thank you for participating in this year's 10% Back-To-School program." Please send this section, including the redemption code, to the front office by October 5 and the PTA will submit the receipts for a check to help support Bacon programs. There is only one redemption code per card but you may get the message on multiple receipts in September, only one per family needs to be turned in. Thank you for your support, every little bit helps!!

Gold C Books

Thank you for helping with our Gold C book fundraiser. Because of your generous support, we have achieved our fundraising goals to earn money for Eco Week. It was a HUGE success! Bacon Elementary earned over \$3,500 for Eco Week.

We would like to say a very special thank you to The Egg and I and to Safeway on Harmony for allowing our students to sell in front of their establishments.

And to all the students that participated in the group sells, thank you for a job well done! You guys all did a great job selling the Gold C books.

We even had many under classman helping out like Jack and Alex Wood, Mia Thompson, Chloe Cochran, Courtney Kopyay and very special thanks to Kaitlyn Carson who sold over 20 books by herself.

But we could not have done this without the tremendous support from our 5th and 6th grade PARENTS! Last but definitely not least, a very big thank you to the 5th and 6th grade teachers and to all the front desk staff for all their help and support making this fundraiser such a success!



Dear Bacon Parents,

Welcome to another great year at Bacon Elementary! My name is David Johnson and I'm the volunteer coordinator for Box Tops for Education. This year, our goal is to raise \$1,200 for our school.

Our first collection contest is underway. Help your child collect boxtops and attach them to the provided collection sheets. The class with the most boxtops submitted by October 26th wins a pizza party and is the envy of the school for a day.

Another way to make a difference is to sign up for the **Box Tops website** at boxtops4education.com. Parents, it's easy, free and you'll learn about new ways to help our school earn the extra cash it needs.

Exclusive online benefits:

- 1 Track our school's Box Tops earnings.
- 2 Print money-saving coupons for your favorite Box Tops brands.
- 3 Enter to win Bonus Box Tops for our school.
- 4 Make mealtime easier with family-pleasing recipes.

Plus, you can sign up for regular email updates on our school's progress!

Box Tops offers easy ways to earn cash for our school through everyday activities like buying groceries and shopping online – **all at no additional cost to you.**

Clip - Clip Box Tops from hundreds of participating products. Box Tops are worth 10¢ each when our school redeems them from Box Tops for Education.

Shop - Shop your favorite online stores at the Box Tops Marketplace. Up to 8% of each qualifying purchase is donated to our school.

To learn more, visit boxtops4education.com. Thanks for choosing to make a difference for our school with Box Tops!

Sincerely,

David Johnson

District Notes & More

Legislation & Public Voice

Update by Kari Anderson, Legislative Representative

The biennial **PSD School Board Election** is coming up on Tuesday, November 6, 2007. It is an all mail ballot election and directors from districts A & F (which include the Bacon neighborhoods) are among those up for re-election. For information about the school board election, see the school board Election 2007 page on the PSD website: <http://www.psdschools.org/psdinfo/boardofeducation/election2007.aspx>

Poudre School District Partners and Volunteers

By Allyson Smit

The Partnership Center (formerly known as VIPs) builds relationships between Poudre School district and the community that are mutually beneficial to our students and our partners.

Here at Bacon, we have an active volunteer program that works in conjunction with the Partnership center and our own P.T.A. The volunteer program organizes the in-classroom volunteers, home room parents, and helps with field trips and classroom parties. Other P.T.A. supported volunteer activities in the school include the media center, work room, after school programs, teacher appreciation activities, community service, and all-school events.

For the safety of our children, all volunteers at Bacon are required to register with the District. If this is your first time registering, a background check will be conducted. For your convenience, online registration is available at www.psdschools.org.

If you have questions about volunteering at Bacon, please contact our building volunteer coordinator, Allyson Smit at 232-9653 or BaconVIPsCoordinator@VolunteerAssist.com

Literacy Link

Nicole Murphy (article found by Melissa Hartman)

"Why Can't I Skip My Twenty Minutes of Reading Tonight?"

When your child asks this question, help them figure it out -- mathematically!

- Student A reads 20 minutes five nights of every week.
- Student B reads only 4 minutes a night...or not at all!

Step 1: Multiply minutes a night x 5 times each week.

- Student A reads 20 min. x 5 times a week = 100 min. / week.
- Student B reads 4 minutes x 5 times a week = 20 minutes.

Step 2: Multiply minutes a week x 4 weeks each month.

- Student A reads 400 minutes a month.
- Student B reads 80 minutes a month.

Step 3: Multiply minutes a month x 9 months/school year.

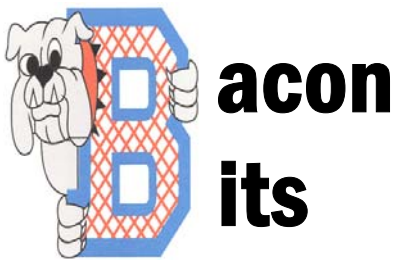
- Student A reads 3600 min. in a school year.
- Student B reads 720 min. in a school year.
- Student A practices reading the equivalent of 10 whole school days a year.
- Student B gets the equivalent of only 2 school days of reading practice.

By the end of 6th grade if Student A and Student B maintain these same reading habits, Student A will have read the equivalent of 60 days and Student B will have read the equivalent of only 12 days. One would expect the gap of information retained will have widened considerably and so, undoubtedly, will school performance. How do you think Student B will feel about him/herself as a student?

Ask your child to answer these questions:

- Which student would you expect to read better?
- Which student would you expect to know more?
- Which student would you expect to write better?
- Which student would you expect to have a better vocabulary?
- Which student would you expect to be more successful in school....and in life?

Then help your child pick out a good book and enjoy his/her 20 minutes of reading!



Calling All Talented Bacon Bulldogs!

It's Reflections time, and we can't wait to showcase your talents! The theme for this year is "I Can Make a Difference by...."

Put your creative thinking caps on and pull out your paintbrush and create a masterpiece! Or write a poem or story! How about snapping a magnificent photo? You could make up a dance and videotape it with your friends! Or write that song that's had your toe tapping!

Signup sheets will be sent home in Friday folders 9/28. Turn in your sign up sheet by Monday, 10/8. The project due date is 10/29. Projects will be judged and the winners sent on to the state competition! Questions? Sonya Thompson 226-0898 or Nancy Tafoya 226-4678

Reading Recommendations.

Mrs. Brodahl recommends: the author Mo Willems. Some of his books are DON'T LET THE PIGEON DRIVE THE BUS, PIGEON FINDS A HOT DOG, KNUFFLE BUNNY, and LEONARDO THE TERRIBLE MONSTER.

International Walk & Bike to School Day

Join in the fun as we celebrate International Walk and Bike to School Day on Wednesday, October 3rd, 2007. We'll be raffling off prizes, giving away stickers and snacks, and hosting free bike maintenance for the whole family. We will also have an activity station so that everyone may participate.



Questions? Contact Kristin at the City of Fort Collins' Safe Routes to School program - 970.416.2081

Kudos

Thank you to the parents, grandparents, and friends who are volunteering in the library this year. We don't know what we'd do without all of you. Library is like housework, it's never done and every little bit helps. Thank you so much for your time!

Bacon News Crew

We have a great turn out for the Bacon News Crew this year. If your child is on the crew, they will work for one week at a time. We are in the process of training for the first few weeks. That means that we have the more experienced students training our first year students. After training, we will set up permanent groups.



Tech Tip of the Month

In addition to the more well-known spell check feature, Microsoft Office also provides a thesaurus. In a Word document, highlight the word you want a synonym for, then click Tools>Thesaurus.

Bacon Family Math Game Night

The Family Game Night that we were hoping to schedule for early October is being postponed at this time. We hope to be able to reschedule for the springtime. More information will be provided once final plans/decisions have been made.

Scholastic Book Fair

We want to remind you of the upcoming Bacon Scholastic Book Fair in November! It's always a great event with tons of excellent book selections. We hope to see you there.

Bacon Fall Carnival

By Jeanie Weber

Fall is here and the Bacon Fall Carnival is fast approaching! The Carnival will be held Friday, October 26 from 6:00 to 8:30 P.M. Your children will have lots of fun in their costumes playing age appropriate games and going through the popular Haunted House. LOTS of volunteers are needed to make this a success. If you can help with set up, games, the Haunted House or clean up please email or call me. Shifts are kept to 1/2 hour so that you can still have lots of fun with your kids. Thanks in advance for all your help! JAT2n5@msn.com 204-0857



The Bacon Beacon Newsletter is published by the Bacon PTA and is distributed the last week of each month. The deadline for article submission is listed on the Bacon Bulldog Calendar.

We appreciate copies of articles emailed to Denise Johnson at denisefromfc@comcast.net.



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