



Bacon Bacon

October 2006

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The #1 News Source of the Bacon Bulldogs

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The Principal Perspective

Dear Parents,

It is always a pleasure for me to take this opportunity to share some of my thoughts with the Bacon parent community about the recent happenings around our school. I'd like to begin by updating you on the work that was started on our very first collaboration day held on Wed. Sept 20. Next, I will provide a little information about the initiatives that our Superintendent is working on, followed by an update on our foreign language classes that will soon be starting up and finally give a few ideas about our new lunch system and how this may be helpful to you.

Collaboration Day

Much of the recent research has suggested that the best staff development needs to be job-embedded and a process of sharing best practices amongst the staff. On Wed. Sept 20, the Bacon staff spent the first half of the day working with colleagues on setting very specific, measurable goals for students in content areas of reading, writing, and math. The goals will be followed by looking at data to see if students are on track, and very specific strategies were brainstormed to help meet the goals. Specials teachers wrote goals in their respective areas, i.e. our PE teacher wrote goals around students' fitness levels, using heart rate monitors as evidence to support their progress. The afternoon was spent working in grade level teams discussing and documenting our writing curriculum. The information was brought back to the greater staff for sharing out from each grade level so that all teachers could hear from each other. Overall, the feedback from teachers was very positive, as teachers just don't get those kinds of opportunities once the school year gets underway.

Superintendent Wilson's Initiatives

As mentioned at the PTA meeting, I attended a forum to look at the grade reconfiguration that our superintendent has proposed. Currently the rationale committee is studying the rationale for possible moves to 9-12 high schools, and 6-8 middle schools. They are also studying other possibilities such as K-8 schools, and the current K-6 with 7-8 Jr. Highs. The rationale team is close to handing over their recommendations to a design team who will then move forward and have a recommendation to Dr. Wilson by our holiday break in December. **At present, no recommendations have come forward, and no decisions have been made.** Dr. Wilson will take his final recommendation to the school board for their approval sometime after the first of the year.

Foreign Language

A couple of our teachers are working on providing after school foreign language instruction to begin sometime in October. We are anticipating offering Spanish and German to interested students. The classes will meet a couple days a week for 10 – 11 weeks, with a tuition involved. They will then be repeated for a second session after the first of the year. Please watch for a flyer to come home in Friday folders the next couple of weeks.

Point of Sale Lunch System

Poudre School District has implemented the Point of Sale system at Bacon and we had our first run through with it this past Tuesday. It is going a little slow at first, but will actually make things run a little smoother as we become more accustomed to it. Each student's ID number is entered into a computer, which brings up that student's account. If you have prepaid for lunches, the amount for that day's lunch is simply subtracted, and on to the next student. The good news for parents is that you can prepay

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PTA News & Notes



Bacon Fundraising Updates

By Teresa Kopylay, Fundraising Chairperson

Our fundraising effort with Gold C Books was a HUGE success!!! I would like to say thank you to all the students at Bacon and to their parents for a job well done! Our school sold over \$10,000 in Gold C Coupon Books. That is a profit of around \$5,000 to be put toward Eco-week and many other PTA funded activities and programs. I would also like to take this opportunity to remind everyone that Sally Foster will be coming home Friday, September 29th and will last for two weeks. All orders will be due on Friday, October 13th. The orders will be ready for pick up on November 16th at *Family Night* at Bacon. All the detailed information about Sally Foster will be inside the packet your child will be bring home. Bacon's PTA would not be able to help support all the extra curricular activities, field trips, choir and many other programs that take place at Bacon, if it were not for your support. Please take the time to go over the information that will be coming home with your child and help them participate in a very worthwhile part of our school. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to call me at 970-482-0152 or email me at Tkopylay@mesanetworks.net.

PTA Corner

By Kim Johnson

We kicked off our first PTA meeting on September 12th and it was very well attended. There were many topics that were discussed. Parents that could not attend should be able to go on line and read the minutes from the meeting. Our fundraising committee is doing great job in the start of the year with the Gold C books. We will anxiously await those final results. Then we move right into the big excitement of Sally Foster. We really appreciate all the hard work that goes into putting on a fundraising event, and all our super families that participate to help our Bacon community be such a great place. Coming up next at Bacon will be our Fall Social Event. This year we are attempting our Second Annual Halloween Carnival. Our first year putting on the carnival was so much fun, we thought we would do it again with added vigor. There are great things in store this year, so mark your calendars for October 27th and plan on having a real ghoulish time!

It was brought to our attention from an attentive parent that Safeway had a school fundraising promotion when you shopped there. If you look at your receipt and it tells you that you have earned an amount of money for your school. Now through October 7 we can get 10% back from these reward certificates. So any families that see this can turn these into the VIPS mailbox in the front office. Our treasurer, Staci Miller, will submit them by the due date of October 17th and we can earn a little extra for our school. Thanks for looking for these when you shop. Also stay tuned for our first count of our box top contest. The kids are doing great turning in the sheets for the Sky is the Limit contest and a pizza party is in store for the winning class. Keep clipping those box tops!

Bacon Carnival Update

By Cathy Karlicek



The Bacon Halloween Carnival is coming up on Friday, October 27. We will be pre-selling tickets for the carnival. You will be able to buy additional tickets during the carnival. Please help us out by buying tickets ahead of time. There will be no refunds for unused tickets. Tickets are 25¢ each at the door. If you buy ahead of time, they are 5 for \$1.00! If you don't buy enough tickets ahead of time, you can always get more the night of the carnival. You will need tickets for the Haunted House - one ticket

per person. The first picture for each family at the photo booth is free (thanks to the Peter Anderson family) and the second picture is 8 tickets (\$2.00). There will be a charge for food; details will be sent home at a later date. All games can be played for free, compliments of the Bacon PTA. The costume contest is also free to all costumed kids who attend Bacon as well as their younger siblings.

We need donations for the silent auction. If you own a company and would like to donate a gift certificate for services or products, please call Cathy Karlicek @ 225-2312. Each grade level will be donating a themed basket. Look for information coming home from your child's room mother. See you October 27!

From the District

Watch for Kids, School Buses!

PSD's Transportation Services reminds parents to watch for kids and school buses now that school is back in session.

- **Obey the stop arm law!** Always bring your vehicle to a complete stop when you see a school bus stopped with the lights flashing and the stop arm extended.
- **Be alert!** When a school bus stop arm is extended, children are boarding or exiting the bus.
- **Be aware!** Children in groups often forget to look for oncoming traffic.
- **Be careful!** Do not proceed until the bus stop arm is withdrawn and children are safely away from traffic.
- **Be a good citizen!** Report violators to law enforcement officials.

Running a school bus stop arm is a violation of state and local laws. The Fort Collins Police Department, the Larimer County Sheriff's Department, and the Colorado State Patrol all issue immediate tickets for school bus stop arm violations. Violators can be fined up to \$250 plus court costs and automatically receive a 6-point penalty to their license.

For more information, call Transportation Services at (970) 490-3232.

Community Invited to Celebrate the Civic Mission of PSD Schools

Parents and community members – join PSD teachers and community members as we *Celebrate the Civic Mission of PSD Schools* from 6:30-8:30 p.m., Tuesday, October 24, at Boltz Junior High School, 720 Boltz Drive.

“This is your opportunity to learn about and celebrate the many ways PSD students and schools currently participate in civic learning,” says **Mike Liggett**, co-facilitator of the PSD Community Think Tank, which is sponsoring the event.

Civic learning includes instruction in government, law, history, and democracy. You will have the opportunity to take part in a community forum to gather information on local needs and resources available to **expand** civic learning partnerships with community agencies.

For more information, please call the PSD/CSU Research & Development Center for the Advancement of Student Learning at 491-3179.

Your Input Valued for PSD Climate Survey

Poudre School District wants to hear from you! From **October 23-November 6**, parents, students grades 4-12, community members and staff are encouraged to **take an online Climate Survey**. This survey will help PSD gain valuable insights into the overall “climate” or perceptions about PSD’s physical, social, and learning environments.

In just a few minutes, you can express your level of satisfaction with our district and schools, provide input on important issues, and tell us how we can improve. Responses will be completely anonymous.

The PSD/CSU Research & Development Center for the Advancement of Student Learning will analyze the survey responses. Results will be shared in January.

To access the survey, visit the PSD website at www.psdschools.org and click on the Climate Survey star. If you'd like a printed copy, call 482-7420 to request one.

Join the Superintendent for a “Listening Session” on October 18

Parents—Superintendent of Schools Jerry Wilson wants to hear what you have to say! Plan to attend a “listening session” Dr. Wilson will be hosting from 7:00–8:00 p.m. on October 18, in the Food Court at Fort Collins High School, 3400 Lambkin Way.

This informal “listening session” is your opportunity to talk with Dr. Wilson about issues and concerns, ways to enhance student achievement, and ask questions about PSD's 7 initiatives to address enrollment, budget, and school efficiency challenges.

No registration is necessary. For information, call 490-3607 or e-mail info@psdschools.org. We look forward to seeing you there!

PSD Board of Education Adopts Policy Governance

For several years, the PSD Board of Education has been considering Policy Governance as a means for governing the district. Over the past 7 months, the Board received training and on September 11 formally adopted the Policy Governance model.

For more information about Policy Governance, log on to www.psdschools.org and click on the Board of Education “star.”



Bacon Bits

Student Council

By Katie Haywood

B.L.A.S.T (Bacon Leadership And Student Teams) is getting off to a strong start! At our preliminary meeting, Tuesday, September 12, we were greeted with many returning members and were excited to see many new faces as well! This year, Bacon Student Council will be meeting every first and third Wednesday of the month, at 8:15am. Donuts and juice will be served every first Wednesday of the month.

We are anticipating a great year, with many events such as the Homecoming Parade, Cans Around the Oval, Movie Nights, and much more! Thank you for your support as we work to encourage student leadership within our school and community.

Art News

By Sally Thomas and Jen Dixon



The Art program at Bacon will be something special this year! The Music, PE, Media and Art Programs are all on a four day rotating schedule this year. What's unique about Art is the fact that we have two art teachers at Bacon. Mrs. Dixon teaches Art on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday and also teaches at Werner Elementary. Miss Thomas teaches Art on Wednesday and Friday at Bacon and Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday at Bauder Elementary. Your child will have instruction with both art teachers depending on which day of the week Art is scheduled for in the rotation. One week may be Art class with Mrs. Dixon followed by two Art classes with Miss Thomas. Students will be working on different projects with different teachers and so it may take longer to see work coming home. Each student still receives the same amount of Art instruction, but on different days with different teachers. If you have questions, please call us at 488-5329 (art room) or email Mrs. Dixon at jdixon@psdschools.org and Miss Thomas at sallyt@psdschools.org.

Bacon Media

By Mrs. Brodahl and Mrs. Sterkel



The start of the school year has gone swimmingly. We are still looking for a few more volunteers in the media center, especially for Thursday and Friday. Give us a call, 488-5304, or email us at jbrodahl@psdschools.org if you are interested.

I would like to get a Bacon Book Buddy Book Club set up. The idea would be for two friends to read one book together. We would meet once a month to discuss our books and have a treat. I'd like to do this during lunch hour. If anyone can help one day a month, let me know. Encourage your children to join this club. We should have lots of fun!

Please keep reading out loud to your children. Make it a fun time, not a stressful time. We want kids to become life long readers who LOVE to read!

PSD School Calendar Planning

By Marie Krizanovic, Parent/Community Representative

The Planning Committee had their first meeting on Tuesday, Sept. 19th, to discuss the school calendar for the 2007-2008 school year. There will be three community focus group sessions scheduled for October. Notification of these sessions will be publicized in the Coloradoan. This is your opportunity to make any concerns known or have questions answered. There is a list of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) on the PSD website. Just go to www.psdschools.org. Click on PSD Info, then click on Calendars & Schedules. About halfway down the page is the link to the FAQs. This is a good tool to educate yourself before attending one of the focus group sessions. The school district generally plans out two years in advance for the school calendars. Our next scheduled meeting is Tuesday, Oct. 3rd. The committee will begin to plan out the 2008-09 school calendar at this meeting. As a reminder, October 1st is a very important date. The official student count is made that day and it determines school funding for each school. If Oct. 1st falls on a Sunday, which it does this year, then the count is taken on Monday, the 2nd. If a student is absent that day, the school does not receive credit for any state funding for that child. Please try to have your child(ren) attend school on that day.

End Notes

School Closures Due to Weather



If there is a question as to whether schools will be closed due to extreme weather conditions, parents should tune in to local radio, television stations, or go online to PSD's website to find out about school closures the morning of the day in question. Media outlets are only informed if schools are closed; no announcements by the media means schools are open, as usual.

A decision about weather related closures is made by approximately 6:00am and media outlets are notified immediately. Parents should not call schools, district offices, or broadcast media.

On severe weather days when school is held as scheduled, parents are reminded to expect delays in school bus service and to help dress children appropriately for potential longer waits at the bus stop.

The following radio and television stations and the PSD website will provide information about PSD school closures.

Television:

Channels 2, 4, 7, 9.

Radio:

107.9 FM, 91.5 FM, 600 AM,
1450 AM (Spanish), 102.5 FM,
1410 AM, 99 FM, 90.5 FM,
1170 AM (Spanish)

PSD Website:

www.psdschools.org



Principal Perspective

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as much as you want to, which may be much less hassle for you. As always, if you have questions about this or any of the information in this article, please feel free to call or email, and I'll be happy to visit with you.

Sincerely,

Bill Smith

494-5301, wills@psdschools.org

Math Club

By Anita Kopyay



Challenge yourself to a stimulating and mathematically successful year by having fun looking for and finding the magical patterns of mathematics. The secret to being a genius at math is to use short-cuts. Learn some tricks by looking for patterns and work complicated problems in your head. Learn to love math and all things mathematical

Math Club is held:

Wednesday: 3rd & 4th Grade

8:00 a.m. - meet in the Media Center

Lunch time - meet in Mrs. Teska's room

Thursday: 5th & 6th Grade

8:00 a.m. - meet in the Media Center

Lunch time - meet in the Media Center

Please bring your lunch to allow more time for activities.



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 electronic copies of articles emailed to Susan French at 2sfrench@comcast.net.

Contact Susan by phone at 282-8600 if you need to submit a paper copy of your article.

Newsletter Committee: Susan French, Krista Viola,
Toni McConnell, Denise Johnson