



Bacon Bacon

February 2007

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The #1 News Source of the Bacon Bulldogs

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The Principal Perspective

Dear Parents,

Brrrr! We are certainly in the 'dog days' of winter, and what a winter it has turned out to be. One thing that I have learned along my career path is to always try to find the positive in every bit of difficulty that we face. In this case, the positive is that students tend to be much more settled and will focus a little better when the weather forces them to be inside. Couple that with the fact that January and February have traditionally been the best learning time since there are few interruptions in our schedule and calendar, and we should have some powerful learning taking place.

As we trudge through our bitter winter season, we are approaching our school of choice deadline and all the activities that occur after that date. As a reminder, the actual date to get the applications turned in is Feb. 9. Between Feb. 9 and Feb. 23 a team of administrators at the district level will be sorting through all the applications, as well as studying the enrollment projections for each school in the district, and then will determine capacity sizes for each grade level at every school in the district. Once that is completed, I will know exactly how many spaces I have

available for school of choice applicants at each grade level. If more applications are turned in than I have available spaces, a public lottery will be held on February 26 at 4:00 pm. Our front office will then begin making phone calls to all applicants' to inform them as to whether or not they have been accepted. Applicants will then have three business days to accept or decline their admission. If no answer has been given at the end of the three days, applicants will be considered to have declined. **These policies and procedures are for new applicants to Bacon only. Current students, including those in Paragon Pt., Brittany Knolls, and South Ridge are already accepted at Bacon as per the PSD Boundary Policy adopted in the Spring of 2006.**

Finally, I want to encourage all Bacon parents to stay informed about the grade reconfiguration studies and designs that are occurring in the district. I would also encourage all of you to attend at least one of the public community forums that have been scheduled to give information and get your input about this important initiative. The schedule for those forums are in a separate article in this newsletter.

Stay warm,

494-5301, wills@psdschools.org

Parents—Join the Superintendent for a “Listening Session” February 1

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 noon to 1:00 p.m. on Thursday, February 1, at the PSD Partnership

Center, 1630 South Stover.

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!

PTA News & Notes

PTA Corner

By Kim Johnson

The last PTA meeting was held on January 16th. A large portion of the meeting was spent discussing fundraising. It is hard to decide what direction the Board and the parents want to go with regards to this activity at Bacon. So in the end it was discussed that we might try to develop a small survey. Our hope is to have the Bacon community of parents, teachers and staff complete this so we can gather some thoughts and information about what you feel is the direction we want to explore in this area. We will then share this information at a meeting that is to be held on February 8, 2007 at 6:30. Please mark your calendars for this. It is important that we all come together to hear and share ideas from all of us in the Bacon community.

Another exciting evening to make a note of is February 21. This is a Wednesday night, and we are delighted to have a guest speaker for parents. It is Elizabeth Anderson, who is trained in the Parenting with Love and Logic series. This is a wonderful and helpful parent information series. Elizabeth will be giving a talk on only a few of the wonderful topics this series covers. It should be a very informative evening. So once again leave time on Wednesday, February 21st at 6:30 to come and hear Elizabeth Anderson on Parenting with Love and Logic.

At both of these nights, baby sitting will be provided so we can make it easier to have parents attend. We will send reminders home prior to these times to make it easier for you to remember. See you there!

The Science Fair Is Coming!!

By Jill Wood



Did you ever wonder what makes a good bubble? Does the color of light affect plant growth? What shape of paper airplane flies the farthest?

Students in grades K-6 will have the opportunity to participate in a science fair this spring to discover answers to questions like these. Students are encouraged investigate some aspect of science that interests them. They may present their results to the school on a poster board at the Bacon Science Fair on April 4. Children in grades K-3 may do a project on their own or with a partner; those in 4th -6th grades should do a project on their own.

Three students from the 4th - 6th grades will be eligible to move on to the District Science Fair at the Discovery Science Center Saturday, April 21. District Science Fair categories are: Behavioral Science, Engineering, Botany/Agriculture, Math/Computers, Consumer Science, Physical Science, Earth Science, and Zoology/Medicine.

Everyone is invited to visit the Discovery Science Center free of charge from 10:00-5:00 on Saturday April 21, and 12:00-5:00 on Sunday. The Science Fair will be open to the public for viewing 1:30-5:00 p.m. Saturday and 12:00-5:00 Sunday. The awards ceremony will begin at 3:30 p.m. Saturday April 21, in the Main Exhibit Hall.

Watch for detailed information packets and registration forms to come home in the middle of February and start thinking "Why does . . .?".

Volunteer Connection

By Allyson Smit VanAlstyn

Thank you all so much for the time and energy you devote to Bacon. We now have over 340 registered volunteers averaging 500 hours per month. I would like to encourage you to keep your volunteer profile on the PSD website up to date. Especially your email address. If you have been receiving periodic email messages regarding volunteer requests or announcements, then you are most likely current. If you have not been receiving the emails, and would like to, please log in to your volunteer profile at www.psdschools.org and be sure your email is correct. If

you need help with this, don't hesitate to contact me. Also contact me if you have registered and haven't received a personalized nametag. This identifies you as a registered volunteer, a 'safe person' to our staff and students. Please be sure to sign in and wear your nametag whenever you're in the building.

Finally, if your volunteer hours have been spent by doing things at home or away from the school, please don't forget to log those in as well. All of our hours are tallied and used for promotional materials, grant requests and other various things by our school district. So, thank you again for all your efforts, Bacon Volunteers. My email address is Withoutpaddle@upsmitcreek.com.



February 2007



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 PSD Listening Session 1pm	2	3
4	5	6	7	8 Kindergarten Registration PTA Fundraising Meeting - 6:30pm	9 School of Choice Deadline	10
11	12	13 9:00am PTA Meeting	14	15 Newsletter Article Deadline	16	17
18	19	20	21 PTA Night Speaker 6:30pm	22	23	24
25	26	27 5th and 6th Grade Musical 6:30pm	28			



March 2007



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2 OD's Skate Event	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12 Spring Break	13 Spring Break	14 Spring Break	15 Spring Break	16 Spring Break	17
18	19	20 9:00am PTA Meeting	21	22 Newsletter Article Deadline	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

From the District

PSD to Present Grade Level Options for Public Review

For several years, Poudre School District has been exploring options to help address enrollment, school efficiency, and student transition challenges facing PSD schools. Committees and teams have been studying a complex set of factors to help balance school enrollments and provide equitable educational opportunities, given limited funding.

To address student transition and enrollment needs, teams of parents, community members, and PSD staff have developed grade level configuration models or designs for public and staff review in February and March. The public is invited to attend one of these community forums:

- February 15, 7:00 – 8:30 pm, in the theater at Fossil Ridge High School, 5400 Ziegler Road
- February 22, 7:30 – 9:00 pm, in the theater at Fort Collins High School, 3400 Lambkin Way
- March 1, 7:00 – 8:30 pm, in the theater at Rocky Mountain High School, 1300 West Swallow Road
- March 7, 7:00 – 8:30 pm, in the theater at Poudre High School, 201 Impala Drive

At the public input meetings, options for PSD grade level configurations will be presented for review and feedback. A recommendation to the Board of Education is expected to be made by late spring.

If approved, no grade level changes would take place until fall 2008.

Goal to provide equitable education to all students

“The goal for considering these options is to provide an equitable education to all students district-wide, taking into consideration enrollment, budget, school efficiency, and student transition challenges,” says Jerry Wilson, Ph.D., Superintendent of Schools.

“We are asking parents, staff, and the community to look at a broader vision—what’s best for students 5, 10, and 15 years down the road. We must suspend our current reality and make decisions based on what makes sense for the future of Poudre School District students. We know it is difficult to make changes, and we’ll work very hard to make sure transitions are successful for all involved.”

Team sets criteria for grade level decision

While designing grade level options for review, the

team established the following selection criteria for the decision: equity of educational opportunities for all students, cost efficiency, curriculum alignment, successful transitions between grade levels, student age span/maturity concerns, competitiveness with alternative choices, and improving the dropout/graduation rate.

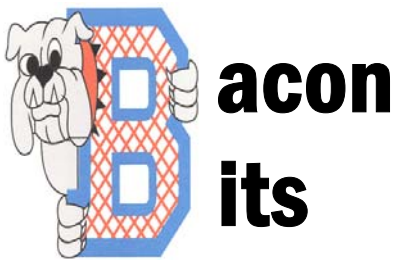
Designs being studied place a priority on 9th-grade students receiving the most beneficial 4-year experience possible and on assuring positive learning environments for students in kindergarten through 8th grade.

Study process explores implications of changes

In June 2006, Rationale Teams leading the grade level studies began holding extensive input sessions with hundreds of stakeholders—parents, students, teachers, and principals—exploring hundreds of implications of the following grade level options: K-5, 6-8, K-6, 7-8, K-8, and 9-12. The implications provided information about the benefits or positive outcomes of each grade configuration, as well as helping anticipate potentially negative outcomes which can be avoided.

Teams are using the data, along with extensive research on grade configurations, to develop the grade level options to be presented in February and March. For additional information, call 482-7420 or send e-mail to info@psdschools.org.





Box Tops for Education

By David Johnson

Music Notes

By Dr. Allison Pietras



Hello Parents! It's great to be back in the full swing of things in the music department at Bacon. Here are a few dates for you to put on your calendars:

4th Grade Parents: We will begin our recorder unit on February 1st. All students were given a pink note in their Friday folders requesting \$5.00 for a recorder and \$5.00 for a book. If you haven't already paid for your recorder and book, send a check made out to Bacon in the amount of \$10.00. Make sure your child's name is on the check. Students will be keeping their recorders and books after we're finished with our unit.

5th and 6th Grade Parents: The cast has been posted for our musical, "*Dig It!!!!*" All students were given large packets of information in their Friday folders on January 19th. Please make sure you received this information regarding our musical. Inside the packet is information requesting VOLUNTEERS to help with black lights, fog machines, props, backdrops, etc.; and information about costume suggestions, scene rehearsals, and performance dates. The show is about an archeological dig and we will perform it twice in February! Here are some dates for you:

February 23rd: 3:30 p.m. Set up the gym after school. Any help is appreciated!!!! All props need to be in the music room by this date.

February 26th: 10:40-11:40 a.m. Dress Rehearsal. Make sure your child brings his/her labeled costume to school.

February 27th: 2:30 p.m. School Performance in the Gym. Students will wear their costumes home.

February 27th: 6:30 p.m. Parents' Performance in the Gym. Students will wear their costumes back to school and check in by 6:15 p.m. with their homeroom teachers. We will line up to leave for the gym at exactly 6:25 p.m.

5th and 6th Grade Choir Parents: We have started choir rehearsals again! Make sure your child arrives on time to rehearsals every Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 8:15-8:50 a.m.

I can't wait to see you all again!

Boxtops for Education is gearing up for our next contest. Starting February 1st through March 9th each student who turns in a completed "*Snow Days Worksheet*" is entered in the drawing. When you return from Spring Break, prizes will be awarded to the three students who submit the most "*Snow Days Worksheets*." In addition, there will be a random prize drawing for all students who turn in a completed worksheet.

This is a fun easy way for Bacon Elementary to raise money for its students. So start clipping those Boxtop coupons. Your first worksheet will be in your Friday Folder on January 26th. We will collect the completed worksheets in the tub under the 4th Grade staircase. Extra worksheets will be there, when you need them. Good luck Bulldog Students.

Media News

By Jean Brodahl

We had lively discussions and read the excellent, MARTIN'S BIG WORDS by Doreen Rappaport, in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King's birthday. We were moved by the empathy and compassion your children showed. You should be very proud!

The Bacon Media Center would like to remind all students that books are checked out for a two week period. If students need the books for longer than two weeks, they need to let us know. Come to the media center and tell the person at the desk your name and the title of the book that you'd like to renew. That's it, it's easy!

It's also that time of year when we are not only noticing the number of books overdue but the number of books that are missing. The month of February is going to be our "Find Those Library Books" month. We are going to ask students, teachers, and families to scour their rooms, desks, and homes for wayward library books and turn them in. Happily, we usually find most of our missing books.

Read Across America day is coming up soon. We will be having week long activities, culminating on Friday, March 2nd, the birthday of Dr. Seuss. Do you know someone that would like to read out loud to kids at Bacon? Have them give us a call here in the Media Center, 488-5304, and ask for Kim or Jean. We will sign them up!

Thanks for your help! Keep Reading!

End Notes

Bacon Warms Those Hearts!

By Nancy Tafoya and Sue Laughlin,
Bacon Community Service Committee

Look at you, Bacon, you did it again! There's times the generosity within this school is astounding, and that was sure evident this past November and December.

The Bacon Community Service Committee sponsored a food drive for several families within our own community in November. Some years we gather enough food to provide a fabulous Thanksgiving meal. This year, however, we collected enough food to last for several weeks! The Bacon community opened their hearts and their pocketbooks and brought in more food than we knew what to do with! Five Bacon families received several large boxes of food, and we thank you all for helping out so generously!

When December rolled around, however, Bacon's kindness was just getting warmed up. We sponsored three Project Self Sufficiency families this holiday season. Close to 100 gifts and gift cards were purchased to help these single parent families provide a fantastic Christmas for their children. From Care Bears and race cars to bed sheets and gloves. You put a lot of smiles on a lot of faces last month! One mother wrote a very touching letter about being homeless the weeks before Christmas. She was so delighted to finally secure a little apartment, and was able to purchase a small bed for her 15 month old son with all the WalMart gift cards we gave her. Along with that, her son has new toys, books, warm clothes, a coat and boots to make this winter much happier. For herself, this mother was ecstatic to receive a gift card for a hair cut.

Thank you to all the families and staff who helped us tuck all those treats under the tree this holiday season! We couldn't have made a difference without your warm hearts!

PTA Legislative Conference

By Kari Anderson,
Bacon Elementary Legislative Liaison

Do you want to

- learn more about legislation affecting kids and education in our state?
- hear from state legislators about their work on behalf of kids and education?
- be better informed about strategies for affecting political change?

Then register for the Colorado PTA 2007 Legislative Conference! The conference will be held Friday, February 9, 2007 from 9:00am-3:00pm at the state capitol in Denver. Kari Anderson, Bacon Elementary PTA's Legislative Representative, will be attending and would love to have you come along. Advance registration is required and there is a fee which covers food and conference materials. For more information and to access the registration form see

<http://www.copta.org/leginfo.htm>. If you are interested in carpooling to Denver, email Kari at karrin.anderson@colostate.edu.

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

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