



Bacon Bacon

November 2006

Inside this issue:

- Page 1 - Principal's Letter
- Page 2 - PTA Corner
- Page 3 - Bacon Calendar
- Page 4 - PSD News
- Page 5 - Holiday Smiles
- Page 6 - More from PSD

The #1 News Source of the Bacon Bulldogs

**Bacon Elementary School . 5844 S. Timberline Road
Ft. Collins, CO 80528**

Office: 488.5300

Attendance Line: 488.5310

Fax: 488.5306

www.psdschools.com/schools/Bacon

The Principal Perspective

Dear Parents,

As I promised in an earlier newsletter this year, I wish to share with all of you my thoughts about where I would like to see Bacon Elementary go in the next three to five years related to student learning. I have shared this 'vision' with members of the PTA Board, and with the staff at Bacon, and have received input from all of those shareholders. After reading through the following five points, please feel free to give me any additional thoughts that you might have to help me establish this as a shared, community vision for Bacon Elementary.

Strong Foundation in Basic Skills

It is of utmost importance that all students who leave Bacon have a strong sense of literacy and numeracy, so that they can be successful at the next level of their education as well as in life. Our goal for every student is that they make at least one year's growth toward the Poudre School District Standards related to these basic skills.

Critical Thinking

Students must be able to go beyond simple recall and recognition of previously learned information, and stretch their thinking to the higher levels of analysis, synthesis, and evaluation of information.

Passion for Life-long Learning

Current research indicates that jobs that our students will one day hold do not even exist right now, in many cases. Our students are going to have to be ready to learn new skills, and those with enthusiasm for new learning will be most attractive to employers and institutions of higher education.

Strong Character

We have developed some solid traditions at Bacon regarding the education of character traits in our students. It is our belief that character traits must be directly taught and are therefore infused in all aspects of our curriculum, as well as discussed at recess, in the lunchroom, on morning announcements and at monthly recognition assemblies.

Happy, Healthy, and Rich in Culture

Successful students are those who feel a connection, or a sense of belonging to the school community. This happens when adults at the school establish relationships with students, by getting to know them and their families, as well as allowing students to know them as people. Physical, social and emotional wellness is also important in the development and success that students realize during their elementary experience. We offer a wide variety of services to students including music, art, physical education, and counseling services in order to enhance the 'whole child' developmental process. Immersing students in literature and technology skills is also important to give them access to our rich culture and the world around them.

If you have feedback for me as it relates to these five areas, please write them down and return to school with your child, or email me.

Sincerely,

494-5301, wills@psdschools.org

PTA News & Notes

PTA Corner

By Kim Johnson

The PTA held another meeting on October 10th. It was well attended, and we sure do like seeing new faces and hearing new ideas! One of the things we are going to try and accomplish is getting our own PTA Web Site. Kari Anderson, our Legislative Representative, brought to our attention the ease and availability of trying to use this as a great way to share our information and let parents know what is happening at all levels of the PTA. She is working on this for us and setting up a domain for us. We will let everyone know where we are with this as more information develops.

We will be hosting some night sessions that will be more in the line of parenting information sessions. Our first one is tentatively scheduled for November 16. We still have a few details such as the exact time, but it will be put on by Team Fort Collins and a guest speaker. Look for more information very soon about this so you can plan to attend. We also have scheduled a session in February with a theme from the Parenting with Love and Logic series. So this too will be a great informative meeting.

We are still trying to get the SCRIP program off the ground and Lori McWhinney is doing a great job with trying new ways to reach out and let everyone know how easy and beneficial SCRIP is to Bacon. We simply buy the card, that is like a gift card, and Bacon gets a percentage back on every card purchased. We now have the ability to print the order form on line. These make great gift ideas for many different people in your life, especially with the holidays soon approaching. If you would like more information about this, please do not hesitate to contact Lori or any PTA Board member. We are getting information ready to send home about Learning Express Holiday Shopping as well. We participated in this last year and it was a great way to get a few early Christmas gifts and give a little back to Bacon. Some of our best fundraising happens in these small ways where we can raise money while buying things we normally would have to buy anyway.

Finally, be on the look out for the Bacon Merchandise order form coming home soon. This is not a fundraiser; we sell the merchandise for spirit and to show pride in our school. We have a few new items this year. Look in the cafeteria for the items to be displayed while the sale is going on. An order form will be sent home with more information soon. That is about all from PTA this month. Happy Halloween!! Happy Thanksgiving!!

Bacon Fundraising

By Teresa Kopllyay

Another successful fundraiser happened here at Bacon Elementary! The Sally Foster Fundraiser was well received by all and our school was able to make a profit of about \$10,000.00! Our Bacon students did a great job getting out there and selling all those items to help raise money for Bacon Elementary. Bacon's PTA wants to say thank you to all Bacon's families who participated in making it so successful. And a very special thank you to the volunteers, who stuffed the packets, checked the order forms and counted the monies for all our students. I would like to say thank you to Nancy Tafoya, Susan Butters, Staci Miller, Elizabeth Oppenheimer, Jill Wood, Jackie Wiggins, Lynn Bodnar, Sue Laughlin, Maud Monnet, Sharon Baeverstad, Carolyn Kramer, Denise Harvey, Jenny McCulloch, Jody Lockwood, Jamie Pfau, Cat Reynolds, and Marjorie Gibson. All Sally Foster orders will be ready for pick up at Bacon's Family Night on November 16th at 6:00 PM. If you have any questions or concerns in regards to Sally Foster orders, please call Teresa Kopllyay at (970) 482-0152 or email me at Tkopllyay@mesanetworks.net.

Reading Rain Forest Book Fair

By Alison Pulsipher



Mark your calendars now for the Scholastic Book Fair to be held Nov. 13 - Nov. 17. We are excited to bring you this Book Fair because it gives you and your children the opportunity to buy carefully selected, quality books at affordable prices. Plus, proceeds from this event will benefit our Media Center. A flyer will be coming home in a Friday folder that details the Book Fair hours. Keep an eye out for this flyer.

Book Fair Family Night will be Nov. 16 at 7pm. Parents are encouraged to attend with their children. A pizza party will be awarded to the class who has the highest attendance of parents with their student(s) at Family Night.

Volunteers are appreciated to help with Book Fair decorations, setting up, teacher preview, working the open hours, or taking down. If you can volunteer, contact Wendi Cleverly at 377-1835.

From the District

School Choice Application Period October 2 - February 9

Poudre School District offers a wide variety of instructional options to meet the educational needs of students. Through School Choice, parents may register their child to attend a school outside their neighborhood attendance.

Families may submit School Choice applications beginning October 2, 2006 through February 9, 2007 for the 2007-2008 school year. The order in which School Choice applications are received prior to the deadline does not affect the chance of the student being accepted at the requested school. If the number of applicants exceeds the number of available slots for a particular school and grade level, students will be selected by public lottery.

Please complete one School Choice application form per child per school and submit to each school the student is applying to attend.

Among the areas of the policy are commitment – state law and PSD’s policy presume a family that exercises School Choice plans to keep their student (s) in that school for at least the full school year and also through all grades served by that school. Those wanting to transfer back to a previous school must complete a School Choice application and ask to be transferred back.

Once a student has been accepted into a school, there is no need for parents to resubmit a School Choice application each year. Families exercising School Choice will no longer receive a renewal letter or notice in the future. However, if a child is on a waiting list for a school and wants to remain there, parents must notify the school in writing each year of their desire to remain on the waiting list.

Eighth grade student athletes who plan to participate in high school athletics at a high school outside of their attendance area must submit a School Choice application to that high school by Friday, February 9, 2007. Once athletes begin practice at the high school as 9th graders, they must remain at the high school in order to maintain full varsity eligibility. If sometime during their high school career student athletes choose to return to their neighborhood high school, they will not be eligible to participate in 50% of varsity competition for the first year they return to their neighborhood school.

For complete details about PSD’s School Choice policy, visit the PSD web site at www.psdschools.org and click on “School Registration.”

Volunteers Needed to Review School Improvement Plans

PSD is in need of volunteers to review School Improvement Plans. Each year, as part of our district accreditation, we review each site’s School Improvement Plan.

Review teams are comprised of teachers, staff members, administrators, parents, and community members. This year’s reviews will take place Tuesday, November 7, Wednesday, November 8, and Thursday, November 9, from 4:00–8:00 p.m. in the Conference Center at the Johannsen Support Services Center, 2407 LaPorte Avenue. Participants need to be able to attend all three nights. Dinner and training are provided.

This is a great opportunity to get involved in a very important process. If you are interested in participating or would like more information, please call PSD’s Assessment and Accreditation Office at (970) 490-3664 or (970) 490-3217.

Parents—Join the Superintendent for a “Listening Session” November 9



Parents—Superintendent of Schools Jerry Wilson wants to hear what you have to say! Dr. Wilson is hosting a “brown bag” lunch “listening session” from 12:00 noon–1:00 p.m. on Thursday, November 9, at The Group, 401 West Mulberry. (Please park across the street in the Lincoln Center’s parking lot; no parking is available in The Group’s parking lot.)

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!



Media News

By Jean Brodahl



It happened again. Paper and cardboard became magic. Alex saw that I had ESPERANZA RISING by Pam Munoz Ryan in my hand. "Oh, Mrs. Brodahl, have you read that?" "No, I haven't. Is it good?" "Oh my gosh, Mrs. Holliday is reading it to us and it is SO good." "That's what I've heard from others. I need to read it." "You will LOVE it!"

That happened last year. I finally picked it up and finished it. Now, instead of it being on the shelf, just a book with a picture of a raven-haired girl rising up into the clouds, it has transformed. It has become a beloved treasure. Now when I see that girl, I will feel the love she has for her Mama and Abuelita, her mother and grandmother. I will feel the joy, and sometimes the heartbreak, that she and her family felt. But always, always, I will smile and think how a book transported me to a time and place that I did not know of. And now I do, and I am so grateful that I have made another friend. The raven-haired girl named Esperanza. Magic!

Keep Reading!

Office Notes

By Jana Parker

- Picture Make-up/Retake Day has been scheduled for Thursday, Nov. 2nd in the morning.
- The Office is happy to take checks for several days payment of lunch money. We are providing a sheet for you to list your child(rens) name, teacher and grade. This form is designed to help with the problem of one check coming in for more than one student in the same family and not getting the money disbursed correctly. The lunch payment form is located in the basket on Mrs. Lanter's desk for your use. Please take advantage of this option to fill out the form in order to make the lunch line run more efficiently.

Holiday Smiles

By Nancy Tafoya

Get ready to put some holiday smiles on some very deserving faces! As you may recall, Bacon's Community Service committee adopted two Project Self Sufficiency families for the holidays last December. The Bacon parents, students and staff purchased 120 gifts for these families in what amounted to the most amazing, heartfelt Christmas morning for two special families. From clothing, coats and shoes to wagons, books and craft supplies, we supplied these children and their single mothers with a miracle! Here is a little quip from each of the mothers we supported last year:

"When I went to pick up the gifts you so thoughtfully chose for us, I could hardly believe my eyes! In all their years, my children had never had such a wonderful Christmas! I was unable to provide any luxury beyond their basic needs. I could never thank you enough. Because of you, Bacon Elementary, my children still have a strong belief in Santa Claus, and if I had ever lost faith, I see that he does exist."

"I wanted to tell you thank you so much for everything you did for my family this Christmas. The joy and surprise on their faces was the greatest thing I've ever seen. My kids would not have had a Christmas without your help!"

Bacon will be adopting three new families this year. A Giving Tree will be set up in the library on 11/16 during the Book Fair and Family Night. You may select as many gift tags as you like to help us sponsor these families. Gifts will be due back early December. Questions? Call Sue Laughlin at 282-8039 or Nancy Tafoya at 226-4678.



End Notes

PSD Administering Online “Climate Survey” October 23–November 3

PSD has asked the Research & Development Center for the Advancement of Student Learning to develop and conduct a **climate survey** to assist with continuous improvement opportunities.

From October 23–November 3, PSD will be surveying parents, students, staff, community members, and businesses to gain information about the following topics:

- School and district climate
- School and district safety
- Student effort
- Parent/guardian involvement
- Attitudes
- District and school leadership
- School and district facilities
- School Choice

Parents are encouraged to click on the Climate Survey “star” on the PSD web page at www.psdschools.org to take the survey. Results of the survey will be available in January 2007.

For more information, contact Ellyn Dickmann, Ph.D., Director of Research & Development Center, at (970) 491-4062 or ellynd@psdschools.org.



PSD Seeks Input on Effective Use of Collaborative Meeting Time

PSD has asked the Research & Development Center for the Advancement of Student Learning to conduct a study to determine the impact that different models of collaborative meeting time have on several key areas such as communication, connections and relationships between disciplines, climate and culture of the school, student learning, connections with community and families, and whether the needs of school staff are met during collaborative time meetings.

From November 6–17, PSD will be surveying parents to gain insight about the effectiveness of PSD’s collaborative meeting time. Parents are encouraged to click on the Collaborative Time “star” on the PSD web page at www.psdschools.org to take the survey.

For more information, contact Ellyn Dickmann, Ph.D., Director of Research & Development Center, at (970) 491-4062 or ellynd@psdschools.org.



205 North College Avenue

482-1481

800-446-0590

www.fortcollinsfloral.com

Large Selection of Fresh Flowers and Plants,
Weddings, Balloons, Gift Baskets
Same Day Worldwide Delivery!



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 & Mike Viola,
Toni McConnell, Denise Johnson