

Foothill Flyer

Foothill Elementary 1001 Hawthorn Ave. Boulder, CO 80304 Tel. 720-561-2600 Fax 720-561-2601
Website: <http://bvsd.org/schools/foothill>

August 31, 2009

AUGUST 2009 DATES TO REMEMBER

9/1	6:00-7:30 Back to School Night
9/7	NO SCHOOL Labor Day
9/8	6:00-7:30, Library School Improvement Team (SIT) Community Meeting
9/9	7:00-8:30 1st Grade Meet & Greet Night
9/10- 9/11	Picture Day
9/10	7:00-8:30 Kindergarten Meet & Greet Night
9/14	7:00-8:30 2nd Grade Meet & Greet Night
9/14	Fall Fun Days!
9/15	6:00-7:30 PTO Meeting
9/15	Fall Fun Days!
9/16	Fall Fun Days!
9/18	NO SCHOOL Staff Prof. Development
9/22	7:00-8:30 4th Grade Meet & Greet Night
9/23	7:00-8:30 3rd Grade Meet & Greet Night
9/24	October Count begins
9/24	7:00-8:30 5th Grade Meet & Greet Night
10/2	5:30-7:30 4th Grade Bingo Night

A Note from the Principal...

Dear Foothill Families,

I am so excited to open another year at Foothill Elementary! This year we are celebrating the end of construction and our beautiful new building. In addition to the many changes to our building and playground, we have also made some changes at Foothill to support our students' academic success and the safety of our students, families, and staff.

The controversy last spring over the proposed traffic loop and parking lot resulted in the creation of a stakeholder's group. This group consists of district and school staff, city personnel, neighbors, and parents who bike, walk, and drive. They have come together in the best interest of all stakeholders involved. The purpose of this stakeholder group is to study the current traffic and parking situation around Foothill, implement strategies for improvement, and at the end of the year, make recommendations to the BVSD Bond Team. So far this work group has focused on the re-naming and enforcement of the pick-up/drop-off lane (now called the Hug & Go Lane) and the training of the crossing guards. These changes include massive communication efforts and education for the parents and neighbors. So far we have seen positive changes and are very thankful for all of the volunteers who have helped us roll this out. We are still in need of volunteers for the school year on a regular basis. Please contact Heidi Sherk at hsherk@tnc.org.

Another change this year at Foothill is the implementation of the Positive Behavior Support (PBS) System. As a result of our Climate Survey results in 2008, we created a school wide system of consistent expectations, a plan for teaching the expectations, and multiple opportunities for adults to give students positive reinforcement for following the expectations. The foundation of this work is in four core values which we will reinforce consistently – Respect, Responsibility, Kindness, and Safety. The PBS committee will work throughout this year to communicate and refine the expectations and recognition plan. You will find a copy of the matrix of expectations and locations on the back of your child's Friday Folder.

Finally, it is clear that students are more successful when the school and parents work together as partners. One of the most important things you can do to support your child's education is to ensure that s/he is at school and on time. In elementary school we are instilling the value that education is important, as is arriving at school promptly. Even more importantly, we can not teach students who are not here. A large concern is the number of students who are absent due to family vacations, grandparent visits, and long ski weekends. The average for the last 2 years has been over 750 days of school missed for these reasons during the school year. I have often heard parents say, "We need to pull them out of school now while they are in elementary school because after they are in middle school and high school we can not do this vacation." I ask you, if you are building a house, does it make any sense to skip over a handful of the building blocks in the foundation? We might be able to give students a worksheet or book to read while they are absent, but we can never recreate the learning opportunity they missed. As of this year we have stopped the practice of excusing absences for reasons other than those listed in the board policy JED-R such as illness, doctor appointment, court appearance, funeral, or religious observation. Parents are still required to notify the school of a student's absence. However, long ski weekends and vacations during the school year will be unexcused absences. These absences can add up to a truancy situation, which is really secondary to the education your child misses. Thank you for your support in having your child/ren at school and on time.

Warm regards,

Melisa Potes

SCHOOL INFO

Flyer News

The deadline to submit articles for the October 2 Foothill Flyer is Wednesday, September 23rd at 3:00 p.m. Please email your articles to kathryn.martinez@bvsd.org by this date and time to be included.

School Communication

In support of our Green Star School commitment, the newsletter and most other school communications are distributed via email. The newsletter is also available on the Foothill website. This is the only newsletter that will be sent home in paper form this year. If you are unable to receive the receive communications via email and would like to continue receiving paper copies, please fill out the form at the end of the newsletter and return it to the Foothill Office.

Thank You!

The Foothill Office would like to thank parents for the delicious edible arrangement. YUM!

What is PBS?

With another school year upon us, Foothill has implemented a new initiative as part of our continuing efforts to develop consistent expectations for behavior and foster a positive climate at our school. Positive Behavior Support (PBS) is a framework applied school-wide to create safe and effective learning environments for all students. It is based on Foothill's four values: respect, responsibility, kindness and safety. The PBS matrix outlines expectations for each of these values at various locations in and around our school (see the matrix attached). Success of PBS relies on the explicit and repeated teachings of the matrix at school coincided with a wealth of positive recognition for students demonstrating these behaviors. Foothill's positive recognition plan includes verbal praise, distribution of "Paw-sitive Prints" to be used in drawings, Friday announcements, and bulletin board displays in acknowledgement of role-model behavior. To launch PBS, the matrix was introduced at our Welcome Back Assembly. Each classroom then participated in a tour of our school that included a discussion of the specific values and expectations as it related to each location on the matrix. Staff members will continue to provide instruction of the matrix throughout the year. Families are encouraged to discuss the matrix with their children and reinforce the values at home.

Student Government News

Student government is looking for representatives this school year. If you are interested in participating this year, please stop by the library to pick up an informational flyer.

Community Liaison Corner

Welcome back! It is fun to see many familiar faces!

- If your student needs assistance with a school backpack and has not gotten one yet, let the front office, the teacher, or me know and one of us will bring him/her by my office to choose one. They have been provided to Foothill by our generous community through the Crayons to Calculators program.
- These very cool evenings remind us that snow can fly as early as September. If you need assistance with warm clothes for your Foothill student, let Sally know as soon as possible. If you have outgrown winter clothes in good condition you wish to donate, drop them by my office. Thank you to all who have made donations of one kind and another over the years. They are so appreciated!
- School photos are coming right up. There is scholarship money available for the basic package. Contact me for further information.

Questions? Contact Sally at 720-561-2600 or sally.lasater@bvsd.org

Gym Shorts

Be active—One job you have as a kid — and it's a fun one — is that you get to figure out which activities you like best. Not everyone loves baseball or soccer. Maybe your passion is karate, or kickball, or dancing. Ask your parents to help you do your favorite activities regularly. Find ways to **be active** every day. Speaking of parents, they can be a big help if you want to be a fit kid. For instance, they can stock the house with healthy foods and plan physical activities for the family.

The challenge for the month of September is to go for a 15 minute walk or jog with your family at least 3 days a week. Don't forget to wear tennis shoes to PE class and remember Fall Fun Days is coming September 14th, 15th and 16th so come and enjoy watching your children participate in a variety of activities.—Mr. B & Mrs. Clary

Fall Fun Day Schedule

Date	Grade Level	Time
Monday, Sept. 14	4 th 1 st	9:00-11:00 am 1:00 pm-2:15 pm
Tuesday, Sept. 15	5 th 2 nd	9:00 -11:00 am 1:00 -2:15 pm
Wednesday, Sept. 16	3 rd K	9:00 - 11:00 am 1:00-2:00 pm

PTO INFO

Meet and Greet to Raise Funds for Each Grade

Please join other parents from your child(ren)'s grade for an informal Meet and Greet fundraiser, featuring appetizers, dessert, wine and great company. A mom from each grade will open her home for the evening event. A suggested \$20 donation will be collected for unfunded needs identified by the grade-level teachers. Please mark your calendars and watch for e-mailed invitations.

Get in the Foothill Spirit!

Buy Foothill Fox T-shirts and Hoodies

Children and adult T-shirts and hoodies will be for sale at Back to School Night on September 1st. Choices include; light blue or navy t-shirts and navy zip or overhead hoodies. Items run small so it's recommended you buy a size larger. T-shirts ONLY \$7 Hoodies ONLY \$15. You may also place your order by emailing Susan Linde at s.linde@comcast.net. A final order will be placed September 8th.

PTO Newsletter 2009/2010 Publication Schedule

Distribution date	Deadline for submissions
September 18, 2009	September 9, 2009
October 16, 2009	October 7, 2009
November 20, 2009	November 11, 2009
December 18, 2009	December 9, 2009
January 15, 2010	January 6, 2010
<i>No PTO Newsletter in February, 2010 – use Foothill Flyer!</i>	
March 12, 2010	March 3, 2010
April 16, 2010	April 7, 2010
May 14, 2010	May 5, 2010

Please submit all information to Annie Weber at annie.weber@yahoo.com

PayBack and GoldC Coupon Books

The Foothill PTO is happy to once again offer BOTH the Payback and GoldC coupon books for sale as a family benefit/PTO fundraiser. These coupon books offer discounts including \$5 off purchases, 20% off specials, and BOGO specials at many local and Denver stores, restaurants, museums, businesses, and ski resorts. Funds raised from the sale of these coupon books (\$5-\$10 per book in profits for Foothill!) come directly to the PTO, while you and your family will enjoy savings at merchants like Safeway, Glacier Ice Cream, Grand Rabbit's Toy Shoppe, Sunflower Farmer's Market, Denver museums and attractions, as well as several Colorado ski areas.

These coupon books will be available throughout the fall at upcoming Bingo Nights, or other Foothill events, or by contacting our coupon book sales coordinator, Annie Weber, at annie.weber@yahoo.com. We can send books directly home with your child/ren and accept payment through your child/ren's teacher/classroom. Thank you for your generous support!

Box Tops for Education Start Clipping!

Thanks so much to our Foothill families who have been clipping and saving BOX TOPS labels from participating products and dropping them off in the big silver box near the front office. We're excited to start working toward our goal of \$500 for Foothill by the end of the school year, and every single 10-cent BOX TOP helps us out. This is a great time to look for products (like Kleenex tissues, Ziploc baggies, Cheerios and Wheaties cereals, Gogurt yogurt, and Huggies diapers) that offer single or *BONUS* BOX TOPS! Keep an eye out during your back-to-school and lunchbox shopping and baking adventures for opportunities to buy BOX TOPS products and help support Foothill Elementary. To find out more about the program and participating products, you can always log on to <http://www.boxtops4education.com> [<http://www.boxtops4education.com/>](http://www.boxtops4education.com/), or email the Foothill Box Tops coordinator, Annie Weber, at annie.weber@yahoo.com with any questions. Also, please watch upcoming newsletters and/or your child's Friday Folder for more information on the program, including classroom collection drives and fun Box Tops collection forms, so your kids can be more involved. Happy clipping!

Fox Tracks Update

The FOX TRACKS program (TRansportation Alternatives to Cars for Kids) will officially start on September 2 this year. Look for an email on August 31st, information at the Back to School night September 1 and a visit to your child's classroom to explain this year's program. We will also be handing out backpack tags to new participants, or anyone who needs a replacement, before and after school starting August 26th. We will be by the Freiker meter at the west side of school.

All walking and wheeling participants **must re-register this year** to participate. Make your ring count-register at Freiker.org!!

Bus participants will receive their forms in the September 4 Friday Folder.

We are planning to organize more carpools and add bike/walk pools this year. Anyone interested in this please contact Blair Norman, Fox Tracks chair at 303-884-2794 Blair-norman@mac.com.

K-Kids Club

The Foothill Elementary K-Kids Club is involved in community service projects as directed by the students involved, with support from faculty, staff, and parent volunteers. K-Kids is the largest international elementary school age service group.

The K-Kids' motto is "We Build" and its objectives are:

- Provide opportunities for working together in service to school and community
- Develop leadership potential
- Foster the development of a strong moral character
- Encourage loyalty to school, community and nation

During the previous school year, K-Kids completed projects for Community Food Share, Share-a-Gift, Colorado Children's Day, and other charitable activities. K-Kids are looking for any students that are interested in volunteer work for projects for the local community as well as other parts of the nation or world. We also need 5th graders who will serve as officers for the organization during this school year. If this is of interest please provide your contact information via email to foothill.k.kids@gmail.com or mail a postcard to PO Box 3037, Boulder, CO 80307-3037 or simply attend the organizational meeting during the combined 5th grade lunch and mid-day recess on Tuesday September 1st in the library conference room. Our website is <http://sites.google.com/site/foothillkids/>.

Foothill Mission and Vision

To promote, support and reinforce healthy development, quality education, social competence and responsible world citizenship in lifelong learners through a true partnership among students, parents, staff and community.

**Does your child love math?
Would you like to help with an after school math program at Foothill?**

If so, please consider Continental Mathematics League. We will be continuing an after school Continental Mathematics League program at Foothill this year for 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th graders.

Continental Mathematics League (CML) involves 3 contests (6 questions per contest) per year for 2nd and 3rd grade and 5 contests (also 6 questions per contest) per year at the 4th and 5th grade level. The size of the "team" for each grade should be between 6 and 10 kids (we can have more than one team per grade if additional kids/parents are interested). If you'd like more information on CML (including sample questions by grade level), the CML website is: www.continentalmathematicsleague.com/cml.html

To run the program we will need parent volunteers at the grade levels where kids want to participate. The parent volunteers select an after school weekly time/place (at their homes or at Foothill, if space is available) for their preparations sessions and would need to take turns managing/coordinating the preparation sessions (giving out sample questions and reviewing solutions with the kids). Each preparation session should be one half hour to one hour long. The sessions should begin approximately one month before the first contest and end after the last contest.

The yearly CML fee is \$75 per team for 2nd and 3rd grade and \$85/team for 4th and 5th grade. The program will cost each child \$10 to participate. This will cover the cost of CML annual fee plus sample question books from CML. Full scholarships are available if needed.

The contest dates for 2nd and 3rd grade are one in January, one in February and one in March. The contest dates for 4th and 5th grade are one in November, one in December, one in January, one in February and one in March. For the contest, kids work independently on the test within a prescribed time period. The tests are scored by the parent volunteers and the top 6 scores per grade are submitted to CML (to be collated and distributed to member schools). The focus of our sessions is challenging and fun mathematics – not competition between the children (we only share test scores with each child's parent/s.)

The following parents will act as grade level coordinator parents for CML.

2nd Grade – Anne-Marie Reader 303 443-1719 amreader@msn.com

3rd Grade – Lisa Bennett 303 546-6466 lisa_bennett@comcast.net

Last year we had more children interested in CML at this grade level than there were spaces for children so we will need an additional grade level coordinator for 3rd grade, if more than 10 3rd graders want to participate.

4th Grade – NEED A GRADE LEVEL PARENT – contact Lisa Bennett until we have a 4th grade parent

5th Grade – Susie Youn 303 641-9035 boothyoun@comcast.net

If you and your child are interesting in participating, please contact the appropriate grade level coordinator parent by October 7th. If you have any additional questions about the program or would like to volunteer for the 4th grade coordinator parent role (or the additional 3rd grade coordinator parent role), please call Lisa Bennett at 303 546-6466.

What is PayFort?

PayFort (PFI) is a Secure Online Payment system which simplifies payment, collection and balancing of funds for School Districts.

PFI is a web-based portal system that is part of the QSP suite of products used in throughout the BVSD today. PFI was developed and is supported with the ongoing QSP philosophy of *quick, simple and practical*.

BVSD offers PFI to our parents to fund student lunch accounts & pay student fees online.

Benefits

- ✓ The lunch payment process is automated for both the parents and the district so errors are minimized and the process is standardized.
- ✓ Using PFI, cashiers spend less time taking cash at the serving lines so students have more time to eat. Additionally, there is not a chance of lost lunch money from home to the serving lines!
- ✓ Payments can be made by credit card 24 hours a day, 7 days a week at the parents' convenience.
- ✓ Parents can review what their students are actually purchasing along with account balance information.
- ✓ PFI supports increased communication between the school & the parents.

Features

- ✓ Account lunch balance information is readily available to the parents, the district and the school lunch staff.
- ✓ Parents can opt to receive an email when a student balance dips to certain threshold (set by the parent).
- ✓ Parents can opt to use an automatic payment feature which replenishes their student account(s) when a balance dips to a specific level (specified by the parent).
- ✓ School messages are automatically emailed to parents.
- ✓ A continuous online survey is provided to monitor parent feedback and ideas.
- ✓ Student information is automatically transferred from year-to-year and from school-to-school.
- ✓ Parents can manage more than one student account.
- ✓ PFI is PCI compliant and maintains industry standard SSL certificates. This ensures all data is safe & secure as defined by the industry.

How to sign up

Log on to www.payfortit.net.

Select the "Sign Up" option from the menu. The screens will guide you through the process to establish your account:

1. The internet convenience fee is explained, it is \$2 per transaction;
2. You will be prompted to enter your contact data, password, payment information, etc.;
3. You will need to indicate which student(s) to attach to your account. Students are already loaded in the PFI system. PFI utilizes the same student ID number already used throughout BVSD functions. If you are unsure of your student's ID number, please contact your individual schools' registrar.

Once all information is entered, PFI will email a validation code for you to confirm the registration. Once confirmed you can begin using PFI as often as you'd like.

How to get help

How Do I ... Each major function used in PFI, has online help available under the menu option of "How Do I ...". The "How Do I" provides step by step instructions as well as screen examples.

FAQ : When starting to use PFI, it is a good idea to review the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) available within the Help menu option.

Contact Us: You are also able to send an email to the PFI Help Support Staff. This function is also within the Help menu option.



It's Back to School and Bunny Bucks Reminder Time!

August, 2009

Summer is nearly over and it's Back to School time once again! It's the perfect time for you to remind your parents about Grandrabbit's Toy Shoppe popular **Bunny Buck for Schools Program**. **Customers can designate 10% of the value of their purchases at Grandrabbit's to the school of their choice.** Bunny Bucks are accrued through out the year and can be **redeemed by teachers in January for toys, books and enrichment materials for their classrooms.**

Because many of you have requested that Bunny Bucks be available online with website purchases (www.grtoys.com), we have recently added this feature. Now even out-of-state family and friends can support the children in their lives by contributing to their school. Just select "Bunny Bucks" at check out and designate the school of your choice.

Bunny Bucks has been a very popular and successful program for over 22 years. **Grandrabbit's donated over \$29,000 to participating private and public schools just last year.** This program is dear to our hearts and allows us to fulfill our mission statement of taking a step closer to making all children, for all times, a global priority.

We are happy to send you a Bunny Bucks Poster that you can post to remind your parents about our program, as well as a sample letter you can copy and send home with kids. Please email office@grtoys.com or call 303-443-0780 to request them.

Grandrabbit's wishes you smooth sailing into the opening of the school year. We appreciate your continued support of Grandrabbit's Toy Shoppe and would like to thank you for the valuable and essential contribution you make in the lives of our children.

Sincerely,
Lynne Milot
& the Grandrabbit's Staff

Request for Paper Copies of School Communications

Please continue to send home paper copies of school related information as it becomes available.

Please indicate the name of the child you would prefer to bring home the paper copies.

Student Name:

Grade: _____ Teacher: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature:

_____ Fecha: _____

Please return to the Foothill Office by September 11. Thanks!