

Foothill Flyer

Foothill Elementary 1001 Hawthorn Ave. Boulder, CO 80304 Tel. 303.443.1847 Fax 303.443.1848
Website: <http://www.bvsd.org/schools/foothill/foothill.shtml>

March 17, 2006

DATES TO REMEMBER

3/17-3/21	CSAP Testing
3/17	5:30-8:00pm, Bingo Sponsored by Foothill Kids Care
3/21	6:00-7:30pm, Parent Bully Proofing Night Library
3/22	CSAP Testing Make-up's, Library
3/23-4/7	Talent Show Sign Up's, by Music Room
3/27-4/4	NO SCHOOL, Spring Break
4/6&4/7	On Site Accreditation Review (Info. in Flyer)
4/11	8:00am, Student Government Meeting Small Gym 2:45pm, Talent Show Auditions, K-2nd grade, Big Gym 3:00-4:00pm, 5th Grade Parent's Outdoor Ed Meeting Library
4/12	2:45pm, Talent Show Auditions, 3rd-5th Grade, Big Gym
4/14	5:30p-8:00pm, Bingo Sponsored by 5th Grade, Small Gym
4/18	6:00-7:30pm, Kids and Breakfast, Parent Nutrition Workshop

A Note from the Principal...

Dear Foothill Families,

I have recently become aware of an error in our past Foothill Flyers. Usually we put a correction in the following Flyer; however, this is significant enough that I am compelled to address it in my letter. The article titled "Facility Improvements in BVSD" ran January 20th and March 2nd. This article was to encourage parents to attend the charette held by the district for capital needs planning in preparation for a possible bond request. In the article the information that was given was that BVSD already received funds last fall from a bond and can now make the needed repairs and improvements. That was not correct. The article should have read that with the passing of the 3A mill levy override in 2005, BVSD was able to move forward on a district wide four-year computer replacement plan. The current information gathering charette process is to plan for a possible future bond because the district does not have the necessary funds for much needed long-term facility repairs and improvements in addition to continuing to support all current instructional programs. We apologize for the error, but I wanted to be sure that we clear up any misunderstanding about the district already having the needed money. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call me.

I would like to take this opportunity to give a huge thank you to Kim Richter who with the help of several volunteers put together a fabulous Spaghetti dinner. It was a sold out event. She obtained donations from Costco, Safeway, King Soopers, Eco-Cycle, Vic's Coffee as well as all food from Mimi's Café.

While it was not the first Spaghetti Dinner ever, it is the first in a while and perhaps it could be a yearly tradition we can embrace again. I would also like to thank Steve Richter and Rio Grande Mexican Restaurant for all of their behind the scenes work keeping the food hot and ready. Many parents shared that they expected Spaghetti dinner to be like Bingo, with spaghetti. Instead we had a great ambiance with music and checkered tablecloths that really set the atmosphere for families and friends to have a great meal and spend time together. In addition we had a short presentation from Eco-cycle on how our school is recycling nearly everything. Our spaghetti dinner was nearly a waste free event.

Many parents have expressed an interest in the process for classroom placement for next year. Class lists are created through a detailed multi-step process involving classroom teachers, specialists, administration and parent input. The goal of this process is to provide balanced classes that allow for optimum learning for each individual student. We trust this process and value the hard work that teachers put into it with the input from parents. After spring break a form will be available to give parents an opportunity for input into the process. However, specific teachers may not be requested.

Have a great, much needed, spring break!

Warm Regards,

Melisa Zahn

Flyer Deadline

The deadline for articles for the next Foothill Flyer is Friday, March 24. Please email all articles to Lucia.catalano@bvsd.org by that date.

Character Matters

The character trait for the month of April is Responsibility. The 2nd and 3rd grade students will be responsible for decorating the main hall bulletin board.

Enrollment Forms

Parents, please complete and send in the 2006-2007 enrollment forms that were sent home in your child(s) Friday Folder two weeks ago as soon as possible. Your prompt cooperation in this matter will be greatly appreciated.

Parents are Encouraged to Complete School Survey

At the beginning of March, parents received the Parent *Snapshot Survey* via the U.S. mail. Your participation is very important as the survey questions are aligned to the District's strategic plan so that we can determine how well our school and the District are performing. It is important for our school to have a high participation rate so that our survey data will accurately reflect parents' perceptions and opinions. The survey results are reviewed by our school staff and the District to determine what programs and processes are working and which ones need improvement. Consequently, the survey results can have a significant impact on our school operations. As this same survey has been given for several years, our school staff and District staff members are able to study trends and patterns in responses. All of this information helps us to serve you in the best

way possible. Because your feedback is important, we hope that you will take a few minutes to complete the survey when you receive it in the mail and return it in the postage-paid envelope. If you have any questions, please feel free to call Melisa Zahn at 303-443-1847.

Adequate Yearly Progress Report

We will soon be sending home a letter from the Colorado Department of Education informing you that the Boulder Valley School District did not make Adequate Yearly Progress as defined in No Child Left Behind. Though BVSD is very pleased that 132 out of the 145 subgroups of our students reached this achievement target, which equals achieving 91% of our goals, we are working with our schools to improve the achievement of the thirteen subgroups that did not make AYP in 2004-2005. We are submitting a Program Improvement Plan to CDE that reflects this work. Because our Program Improvement Plan will reflect the work that our schools have already done with the input from their parent communities, we are not planning any separate district-level activities regarding parent involvement. Please feel free to contact any of our schools to ask what they are doing. The district has previously released information about specific schools that did not make AYP. However, please remember that our district and its schools operate under two additional accountability and accreditation systems, the State Accountability Report (SAR) and the District Accreditation Contract with the department of education. The district received the highest praise in its most recent accreditation report from the State of Colorado, all of the district's schools are fully accredited, and 75% of our schools rated Excellent

or High on the SAR. The letter that is being sent home continues to reinforce this excellent level of performance of the school district.

Kindergarten Registration

We are continuing to register kindergartners for the 2006-2007 school year. Please encourage your neighbors with kindergarten age children to register as soon as possible. Thanks for your help!

Foothill's Green Star Program

Starting in February, Foothill joined Eco-Cycle's Green Star School program, to become one of the first schools in America to move toward zero waste. Foothill is one of eight BVSD schools involved in the project. This includes increased recycling opportunities for composting (food waste, non-recyclable paper), and co-mingled containers, (aluminum cans, clear food plastic, plastic and glass bottles, and metal). Parent volunteers, please note that there are now different trash receptacles placed throughout the school and each one is for specific waste products. Each receptacle is clearly marked on the front to assist you in placing the waste in the correct container. We appreciate all your efforts in helping to make Foothill a Green Star school!

On-Site Accreditation Visit

Foothill Elementary will be participating in an On-Site Accreditation visit on April 6th and 7th.

The Accreditation process must be completed every five years. A team of district administrators, parents and teachers will be visiting our site and reviewing our progress towards our school goals. A report on recommendations and commendations will be given on Friday, April 7th from 3:15-4:00pm in the library. Please feel free to join us.

"Bully Proofing" Parent Night

The staff at Foothill has been trained in the Bully Proofing Your Schools curriculum and continues to implement it each year. Parents are invited to attend a workshop on "Bully Proofing" to become familiar with the curriculum and lessons that students are receiving. Please join us from 6:00 – 7:30pm on March 21st in the library. Please note that this workshop is a repeat of the workshop that was held in December. Children who report being the target of bullying are more likely to experience loneliness, depression, poor academic performance, and difficulty making friends. Adults *must* intervene in bully/victim conflicts. Once children realize that reporting bullying to an adult will result in immediate intervention and action, they feel more secure in ending bullying themselves.

Heartfelt Thanks!

The office staff would like to thank Lynn Buhlig, Angela Fulcher, Mary Lynda Frommer, Erik Park, Robin Spitz, Julene Thom, Jenni Tierney, and Kris Winn for all your wonderful support during Linda's well deserved vacation. Please feel free to stop by anytime!

Community Board

Information on the following activities is posted on the bulletin board next to the front office directly inside the front doors:

Acting/Dance Camps
Girl Scouts
Rocky Mountain Theatre for Kids
Tutoring Programs
Chess Club
Piano Lessons
Skiing Activities
Martial Arts Programs
Science and Math Programs
Spring Break Activities
Various After School Programs

Kids & Breakfast: A Mini-Workshop for Parents

On Tuesday, April 18th, Mary Collette Rogers & Dr. Debby Hamilton, (MD- pediatrician specializing in nutrition) will be presenting a workshop for parents from 6:00 to 7:30pm in the small gym. The workshop will offer ideas on wholesome breakfast ideas and how to get your child to eat a healthy breakfast. Details will follow in the next flyer. (sorry, no childcare will be provided). For questions call Sue Brittenham.

Walking and Wheeling Spring Program

Congratulations to Ms. Ramus' class for winning the March 1st Walking and Wheeling Wednesday challenge! 91% of Ms. Ramus' students arrived at school by walking, bicycling, scootering, or by riding the bus, earning a Fudg-cicle party for their efforts. Ms. Lawton's afternoon kindergarten came in a close second with 89%

of their class participating. Ms. Ramus' class will display the new Walking and Wheeling class trophy for the next month. Remember that while winning a party for your class is cool, the real benefits are the exercise, increased safety, reduced air pollution, and especially the life-long healthy habits the children are learning. Spring will bring another four week challenge, with punch cards and a raffle and prizes at the end. The spring challenge will begin on April 19, and continue every Wednesday until the grand finale on May 10. Make your plans now to join the fun!

Help Save the Rainforest

Once again Student Government is sponsoring the Earth Foundation Fundraiser. This fundraiser helps one specific rainforest each year, and the rainforest chosen for this year is the Atlantic Rainforest in Brazil. For every 10 shirts/items that we order we are saving one acre of rainforest. We recently sent home a packet that contained information about this Brazilian rainforest as well as an order form in your child's Friday folder. The packet contained pictures of each item that can be purchased for just \$14. Please have all order forms completed and back in the office or your student's classroom by April 6th. Let's see how many acres Foothill can save! Thank you for all of your support. If you have any questions, please contact Nikki Zubiante or Jonathan Warshaw.

<h3 style="text-align: center;">Foothill Mission and Vision</h3> <p>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.</p>	<h3 style="text-align: center;">Sun-Safe Kids in Winter</h3> <p>No matter the temperature you've got to LOVE that Colorado sunshine! Loving our kids demands a little extra work keeping them safe in Colorado's high altitude/high desert climate, even in winter. When kids are skiing or snowboarding, or anytime they are playing outdoors in any season, their skin is particularly prone to UV sun exposure. Just 1-2 blistering sunburns before the age of 18 may double the risk of melanoma later in life (Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, 2005). Keep your kids sun safe and sun smart. Wear sunscreen and lip balm with an SPF 15 or higher:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apply sunscreen 30 minutes before going out in the sun. • Dress for changing weather conditions – covered skin doesn't burn easily • Hat and sunglasses protect UV exposure to growing eyes • Encourage water hydration! Be sure to carry water bottles in the car and backpacks <p>Visit www.sunsafecolorado.com to learn more. We can work together to keep kids safe at school and at play! If you are interested in being a part of our Foothill Coordinated School Health team of parents and staff members that meet monthly after school in the Foothill library, please contact Sue Brittenham for more information.</p>
<h3 style="text-align: center;">Student Pick -Up</h3> <p>Parents, please be sure to discuss with your child all of the relatives, friends, etc. who are allowed to pick them up from school. This will ensure that your child/children are comfortable and familiar with the people you have chosen as additional emergency contacts.</p>	

Impact on Education

Impact on Education, formerly the Foundation for Boulder Valley Schools, knows that Boulder Valley educators demonstrate teaching excellence every day in the classroom. That's why the organization is proud to publicize the Jared Polis Foundation's 2006 Teacher Recognition Award to the BVSD community. This spring, the Jared Polis Foundation will honor 15 teachers throughout the Denver Metro area who demonstrate commitment to their students, innovative and effective teaching, and the ability to work collaboratively with colleagues to create a focused and positive school environment. Each of the 15 teacher honorees will receive a \$1,000 award, and their schools will receive a \$1000 grant. The teachers and their school will be honored during the Teacher Recognition Awards Ceremony at the Butterfly Pavilion in Westminster on May 2nd.

If you know of a BVSD teacher who should be considered for this award, please write a brief essay, (no more than one-page, double-spaced), describing how the teacher meets the three qualifications listed above. Please submit this essay to the Jared Polis Foundation Program Director, Gina Nocera at: gina@jaredpolisfoundation.org, by April 3rd. In your submission, please include your full name, email address, and phone number. Also include the nominee's full name, e-mail address or phone number, and the name and address of the nominee's school. All submitted essays will be reviewed by an external review committee consisting of representatives from community and educational non-profit organizations. The teacher honorees and their school will be notified by April 17th.