

# Colter News

April 21<sup>st</sup>., 2009



○We hope everyone had a wonderful spring vacation and that you are refreshed and ready to finish the school year with energy!! It certainly was a relief to finish our PAWS school-wide assessments and send them off for scoring. Our kids worked hard on the tests, and attendance was good. Thanks for your parental support.

○Thanks to parents who supported the Rendezvous P.T.A Art Night on April 16<sup>th</sup>. !! It was a huge success again, especially because of the efforts of Gena Robinson from JES and our P.T.A president, Kyra Knapp!! Thanks for a great evening! Remember, there is still time to join the PTA. We have enrollment forms here at CES, and our next meeting is here at the CES cafeteria at 6:30 p.m. on May 12<sup>th</sup>.

○We have several activities related to Earth Day this week and next. On Wednesday afternoon the kids will be treated to a presentation by the “Bag to Differ” group, who will then give the kids shopping bags for family use in the hopes of cutting down on plastic use. On Thursday, the kids will view an environmental film about frogs at the JHHS auditorium. Later in May, we hope to take the kids to the Wildlife Museum for a viewing of the Lorax!

○We have some Colter kids attending a district Chess tournament to be held this year at Wilson Elementary this Friday.

○This year there were eleven students who entered the Young Authors contest and received honors from first place finishers to honorable mention. Our kids are working hard with the leadership of our teaching staff and the district writing coordinator, Wendy Hultman. Congratulations to all of you!!

○Next Wednesday, April 29<sup>th</sup>., is a “late entry” day for kids as a drill for the district to rehearse the possibility of bad weather forcing us to start school later than usual. All buses will run two hours later, and schools will start two hours later than usual. All dismissal times are the same. Colter staff will be using the morning time to work on School Improvement efforts in preparation for next year’s accreditation visit.

○Our English as a Second Language staff will be testing our English Language Learners with a state instrument known as “W.E.L.L.A.” for the next two weeks. Results are available late Spring for staff to plan programs for those students the following year.

○The swim program begins May 4<sup>th</sup>. and runs through May 22<sup>nd</sup>. at the Recreation Center pool. Both Jackson and Colter will be participating. We feel this is a very important part of every student’s experience. We provide five lessons for the kids, and are able to assess their skills and, hopefully, help them to be safe in water exposure.

○We have a playground committee at CES that is planning a new playground area on the East field for next year. We will soon have a parent meeting for you to see their work. As we see the need for expansion very soon at Colter, we may lose the current area for playground use, and are making plans for an expanded area.

○We will soon begin to build our schedule for next year and begin loading classes of students per teacher. Early in May you will have the opportunity to give us your input with a “Parent Input Form” as to your child’s best learning style, academic standing and behavioral insights that will help us match your child with his or her teacher. We don’t honor specific teacher requests in the district at the elementary level, but want your input to make the best match possible. You can follow up the “Parent Input Form” with a conversation with me if you so choose.

○You will be receiving dates for our end of year musical concerts soon. Also, for the refrigerator calendar, please mark June 10<sup>th</sup>. as our Field Day and Talent Show day.

○Thanks for all you do for the well-being of your child or children. Parenting is perhaps the most challenging and rewarding profession that exists. We all appreciate your efforts to make our children successful at Colter!!

