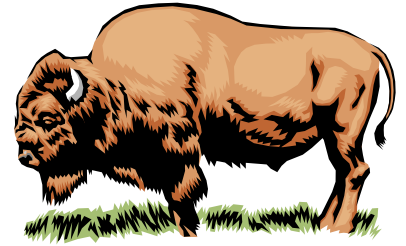


BELLEVIEW BULLETIN



January 4th, 2012

Amanda Waleski, Principal
Jan Dzengelewski, Office Manager
Sharon Egan, Secretary
Belleview Elementary
4851 South Dayton Street
Greenwood Village, CO 80111

Main Office: 720-554-3100
Attendance: 720.554.3120
Camp Belleview: 720.554.3135
Snow Delay & Closure Line: 720-554-4701
Fax: 720.554.3109
Website: www.bel.ccsd.k12.co.us

Message from the Principal

Dear Belleview Families,

Happy New Year! I hope you enjoyed moments of rest, relaxation, and joy during winter break. We are energized and excited to begin a successful second half of the 2011-2012 school year.

Our staff remains dedicated to excellence and are engaged in multiple forms of learning such as:

- *Utilization of thinking maps with an emphasis on the “frame of reference”
- *Implementation and refining of our reading alignment work through CAFÉ and Daily 5
- *Examining new common core state standards (coming in 2 years) through Professional Learning Communities (committees K-5 and across departments) in preparation for their arrival
- *Engaging in relevant conversation around student learning and monitoring growth through data and refining instructional practice in all subject areas
- *Increasing our understanding and utilization of best practice in culturally responsive instruction
- *Working in science committee to prepare for FOSS science program (school year 2012-13)

Professional development and providing engaging learning experiences with students directly align with our District’s goals of high growth and achievement.

Across the country, the state of Colorado, and in the Cherry Creek School District, we celebrate Board of Education Recognition Month to acknowledge the hard work and volunteerism of our board members. They are valuable partners in the education of our students. We are grateful for our Cherry Creek Board of Education members- Jennifer Churchfield-President, Randy Perlis– Vice President, Claudine McDonald– Secretary, Jim O’Brien– Treasurer, and Dave Willman - Assistant Secretary/Treasurer. As citizen leaders, they face complex and demanding challenges, as well as volunteer an innumerable amount of hours. We appreciate their continued dedication and hard work to promote academic excellence, equity, and a safe learning environment for all students in Cherry Creek School District.

Your volunteerism is a tremendous gift to our school and we remain a high growth school, in part, because of the time our families offer to our school each day. Each year, the Cherry Creek Schools Foundation sponsors the Wendy DeBell Exceptional Volunteer of the Year Award. This award recognizes volunteers of the Cherry Creek School District for their dedication to our students, staff, and community. As you know, we have an incredible number of fantastic volunteers at Belleview Elementary School, and it will be a challenging task to recognize just one outstanding individual. Nomination forms will be available in the front office January 18th and will be e-blasted on the 19th of January.

Please call the attendance to report an absence or tardy. 720-554-3120

Continued message from the principal.....

Our students will soon be entering testing season, with grades 2-5 participating in mid-year MAPS (Measure of Academic Progress) in January, and grades 3-5 participating in TCAP (Transitional Colorado Assessment Program) testing in late February and March. We use these data as a few items in a body of evidence as indicators for next steps in instruction, the monitoring of student growth, and in guidance of continual school improvement. General MAP and TCAP windows are attached, and grade levels will share specific schedule information for MAPS. A formal TCAP schedule will be available and shared in early February. For more information on MAPS, please see the parent letter attached.

Thank you for all you do to make Belleview Elementary a wonderful place for students to learn and grow. We are grateful for your abundance of support in our partnership for student success.

Together in Education,

Amanda Waleski

Principal

Calendar of Events

January

9th - Student Council - Media - 7:45am

11th - Geography Bee - Media - 3:40pm

12th - Vision & Hearing Screening for 3rd - 5th grade

12th - BAAC - Media - 6:30pm Guests are welcome to attend!

13th - Kindergarten Field Trip - Stock Show & Rodeo - 9:15am - 1:00pm

16th - Martin Luther King Jr. Day - NO SCHOOL!

20th - Go, Slow, Whoa assembly - Gym - 2:45pm

20th - Boys Night Out! - Café & Gym - 6:30—8:30pm

25th - H.A.N.D.S. meeting - 3:45pm

26th - Science Fair - All day

31st - Spelling Bee Assembly - Gym - 9:15am

Looking ahead.....

February

8th - PTCO General Meeting - Café - 9:05am

9th - Open forum meeting with principal - Café - 9:30am

16th - Joint PTCO west area meeting - Campus Middle School - 7:00 - 8:00pm, Guest speakers: Jane Miller - Principal at CMS and Ryan Silva - Principal at CCHS

20th - Presidents Day - NO SCHOOL

24th - Report cards go home

27th - 3rd of March - Conference Week

March

7th - Belleview Literacy Night - Media - 6:30pm

Shakespeare Club Volunteers!

We will be having our initial planning meeting on

January 26th at 8am in Mr. Daubert's classroom

and we look forward to seeing you there.

If you can not make it to the meeting but still wish to help please contact Ms. Nelson (7. 554-3148) or Mr. Daubert (7. 554-3128) and we will make sure your services are put to good use!

Thank you again for your help.

The Shakespeare Club Dinner Theatre is an amazing event that can only happen with the help of wonderful parents like you!



Please call the attendance to report an absence or tardy. 720-554-3120

CCSD Food & Nutrition Services News.....

Change in Orange Juice Offering

Cherry Creek Food and Nutrition Services is dedicated to offering our students the healthiest choices possible. Each day, we offer a wide variety of fruit and vegetable options, knowing how important these foods are to a healthy diet. Until now, we have offered a 4 oz. cup of orange juice as one of these options each day at both breakfast and lunch. While juice provides some of the same essential nutrients that whole fruits do, it does not offer the fiber that whole fruit does and is more calorie-dense. In the small quantity that 100% fruit juice is offered, it is a healthy option; however, we also feel it is important to encourage students to eat a wide variety of whole fruits and vegetables most often to ensure that they are receiving the essential nutrients that these choices offer. To achieve this, we will gradually decrease how often orange juice is offered as a fruit option at lunch. Orange juice will continue to be offered as part of breakfast each day.

In addition to encouraging students to choose and try a wider variety of fruits and vegetables, decreasing how often juice is offered as a fruit option aligns our offerings with the new guidelines outlined in the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act. These guidelines are aimed at ensuring the healthiest school meals possible are offered to students.

We believe this is the best choice for students and would like to make the transition gradually. The following stages will be followed in decreasing juice offerings:

- Starting in January 2012, orange juice will be offered as a fruit option three times per week, during lunch on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. An alternate juice may be available to purchase a la carte as a beverage option.
- In August 2012, orange juice will be offered as a fruit option two times per week, during lunch, on Tuesday and Thursday. An alternate juice may be available to purchase a la carte as a beverage option.
- Starting in January 2013, orange juice will only be offered a la carte as a beverage option.

If a student does not drink milk and takes the juice as a beverage, please know that drinking water is available each day in each cafeteria. In addition as stated above, an alternate juice is available for a la carte purchase if a student or family chooses. Again, orange juice will continue to be offered each day at breakfast. Please feel free to contact Food and Nutrition Services at 720-886-7169 if you have any questions.

Fifth Grade Parent Night

CAMPUS MIDDLE SCHOOL

invites you to

Fifth Grade Parent Night

Thursday, February 9, 2012

from 6:30 - 7:45 P.M.

Jazz Band will perform at 6:15 p.m.

Please join us for a get-acquainted evening to
learn about our programs and activities for
your soon-to-be sixth grade student.

We look forward to seeing you!

Please call the attendance to report an absence or tardy. 720-554-3120



An Evening With Dr. Donna Ford

March 8, 2012

6:00 – 8:00

Overland High School

Dr. Ford will share her expertise on educating and parenting children who are gifted and advanced learners.

Her presentation will also focus on how to recognize characteristics of giftedness in populations of under-represented populations.

Breakout sessions pertaining to meeting the needs of gifted students and their parents will occur directly after

Dr. Ford's keynote address.

This event is co-sponsored by:

The Offices of Gifted Education & Advanced Learning, and Excellence & Equity

No registration is required for this free event.



*Having A Positive and Productive Year
Through Teamwork!*

Happy New Year! We hope you all had a restful and enjoyable Winter Break spending time with your families. The 2011-2012 school year started off with a bang and we look forward to continuing that momentum for the remainder of the year. We couldn't ask for a more supportive community than Belleview Elementary families.

The remainder of the year promises to be full of exciting activities for all to enjoy. We have Boy's Night Out, SpellBound, the Spring Family Event and various family Dine Outs to look forward to. We appreciate any and all help we have received and continue to receive in order to help ensure our school's success.

Parent involvement has been a big part of the high achievement Belleview has experienced – along with our awesome staff! Thank you for all of your time and devotion to our kids. And, please remember to sign up to help in any area convenient to you during the last half of the school year.

Every helping hand counts.

Cheers to each and every one of you!

Veronica Hansen and Donna Buchotlz

PTCO Co Presidents

“I said ‘Somebody should do something about that.’ Then I realized I was somebody.” Lily Tomlin

Thank you for purchasing scrips!

Thank you Belleview Families!

Our Belleview families, staff members and teachers helped raise \$990 for our children's classrooms last month. All they did was buy gift cards, contribute towards Holiday gifts for the staff, and contribute towards teachers gifts purchased through Scrips. Our children, staff members and teachers thank you!

Coffee Talk

Come join us for the next "Coffee Talk" Wednesday, January 25th at 9:15am at Einstein Bagels located at Yosemite and Belleview. "Coffee Talk" is an opportunity for parents to connect with other parents and learn more about Belleview while grabbing coffee and something to eat. ANY PARENT IS WELCOME - NEW OR EXPERIENCED. We hope you'll join us! Any questions feel free to contact: Susan Barker gsbarker@hotmail.com 303-889-9088, Libby Barnacle beezneezbowz@hotmail.com 720-493-0771, Joann Cantor joanncantor@me.com 720-320-6006 or Teri Castledine teri@getyourcastle.com 303-827-1666

Box Top and Soup Labels:

Thank you to all families who linked their shopper cards to the Label For Education (LFE) program. We have accumulated more than 600 points electronically since the start of the school year, and these points are in addition to all the soup label UPC codes that have been submitted. For families who haven't already linked their shopper cards to the LFE program, please follow the instructions in the **Labels For Education** flyer on our PTCO website at <http://www.belleviewptco.org/forms.html>.

Please continue to clip box tops and soup labels and send them in to school. They accumulate to big money and points for the school!

Yearbook Pictures Drop Off Reminder

Hello Classroom Photographers and fellow parent photographers - Let's see those field trip and Holiday Party pics!! Pictures may be dropped off at the front desk with Sharon Egan on **Wednesday, Jan 18th**. Please provide your pictures on either disk, SD/memory card, or Flashdrive, labeled with the classroom name and your name. Your media will be available for return within 24 hours. We will have a drop off date every month so don't worry if you miss this one. Thank you for your help! Please contact Kathy Hepola at heykath10@gmail.com with questions.

Belleview PTCO Afterschool Clubs

It's not too late! Sign your child up for a fun afterschool experience to make the winter months more exciting!

Yoga: Tuesdays, starting January 3rd

Spanish: Tuesdays, starting January 3rd

Chess Classes: Thursdays, starting January 5th

Golf Classes: Wednesdays starting January 11th

Young Rembrandts: Thursdays starting January 19th

Artful Journey: Mondays starting February 6th

Taekwondo: Fridays starting February 10th

See the Belleview PTCO website for each club's flyer with complete information about the club's activities and details of cost. <http://www.belleviewptco.org/clubs.html> Flyers are also available in the front lobby of the school. For further information on any program feel free to contact Cindy Finigan at 720-287-4490.

ATTENTION ALL BELLEVIEW BOYS!

GET READY FOR THE BOYS BARNYARD BASH!

Friday, January 20th from 6:30 to 8:30

Boys, bring your Dad's and come on over and have a rip and roarin' good ol' time.

There will be:

Bobbing for Apples, three-legged and sack races, fishing games, sling shot game, fishing game, make your own (edible) cow pie, toy pig races, a real live TOP HOG show and MORE!

We'll also have hot dogs and other good fixin's for all you hungry partners!

Come and see us at lunch time from Tuesday to Friday, (Jan 17th to the 20th) and you can enter your Dad in a drawing for a ROOT BEER BURPING CONTEST!!!

Also during lunch, we will also be selling:

Toy Pigs for the pig races (\$8.00)

Farm Yard Animal Visors and Suckers (\$1.00 a piece)

Advanced tickets will be \$15 for one dad and one boy, and \$5 for each additional boy.

Buy early because at the door, the cost will be:

\$20 for one dad and one boy, plus \$5 for each additional boy.

This price will include all games, food, and entertainment. The only additional cost will be if you wish to purchase a toy pig at lunch time for the pig races to be held during the BASH!

Flyers will be sent home with more information and advance purchase orders forms.

FRIDAY WILL BE DRESS UP DAY FOR THE BOYS! COME IN YOUR BEST FARM YARD, OR COWBOY WEAR!

Questions?

Contact:

Shirley Crites shirleycrites@comcast.net

Amy Hand dhand01@comcast.net

AND WE NEED VOLUNTEERS FOR BOYS NIGHT OUT

Calling all Volunteers for Boys Night Out!

Shirley Crites, Amy Hand, Sonia Bryant, and Cindy Wells need a helping hand to make the BOYS BARNYARD BASH a success.

We are looking for you creative types :-)) to help us with decorations. We also need parents to help at lunch times Tuesday through Friday, January 17th to the 20th. And of course, if you are able to help set-up, clean-up, or work during the party doing various things including taking tickets and collecting money, we could sure use you.

Please contact Shirley Crites at shirleycrites@comcast.net and let her know what you would like to do to help.



Prepare to be
SPELLBOUND!

The annual Spelling Challenge is coming to
Bellevue!

Look for information in your Wednesday
Folder on January 18th!

It's going to be
SPELL-TACULAR!

Questions?

Lara Litvin laramlitvin@aol.com

Kristy Petrocco petrocco6@q.com

Please call the attendance to report an absence or tardy. 720-554-3120

Bellevue is Spellbound!

HOW DOES SPELLBOUND WORK?

Spellbound is a fundraiser designed to provide a positive learning experience for our students, while raising money for our classrooms.

Pledges can be obtained from family members, close neighbors and friends. Pledges are collected for the number of words spelled correctly. For example, if a parent pledges \$1 per word and the student spells 15 out of 20 words correctly, then the pledge total would be \$15.

The success of Spellbound depends on participation and the goal is to have a sponsor for every student. All of the money raised will be used to support the classrooms.

Students will have 6 days to collect pledges and 10 days to study for the Spelling test.

PTCO volunteers will grade the tests and the pledge envelopes will be returned to the students with the total amount of pledges due.

Collected packets and monies are due **Monday, February 6th**

Thank you for supporting your child as he/she prepares for the Spelling Challenge!

Questions:

Lara Litvin laramlitvin@aol.com

Kristy Petrocco Petrocco6@q.com

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Wednesday, January 18th

Pledge envelopes and spelling lists go home with students.

Monday, January 23rd

Pledge envelopes are due back.

NO MONEY IS DUE AT THIS TIME ONLY PLEDGES ARE DUE!

Friday, January 27th

Test Day!!!

Wednesday, February 1st

Corrected tests and pledge envelopes go home with students to collect pledge money.

Monday, February 6th

Pledge money is due.

Friday, February 10th

Prizes awarded!

STUDENT INCENTIVES

Classroom Reward:

The classroom that scores the highest percentage of correct words will win extra time in gym for a game!

The student who scores higher than 80% on the test and raises the most pledge money will win a Nook!!

Please call the attendance to report an absence or tardy. 720-554-3120

Parent Toolkit:
A guide to NWEA assessments
August 2007

Modified by Cherry Creek Schools staff for consistency with district testing

About NWEA

Northwest Evaluation Association is a not-for-profit organization committed to helping school districts throughout the nation improve learning for all students. NWEA partners with more than 2,500 school districts representing more than three million students. As a result of NWEA tests, educators can make informed decisions to promote your child's academic growth.

This *Parent Toolkit* was created by NWEA as a resource and guide for parents (and adapted by Cherry Creek). It includes Frequently Asked Questions, Tips for Parents, a list of web sites for parents and kids, and information on Lexile—a tool for measuring text difficulty. NWEA hopes you find this toolkit helpful and invites you to have conversations with your school district personnel about NWEA's assessment tools.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the NWEA Assessment?

The NWEA assessment is:

MAP— NWEA's computerized adaptive tests are called Measures of Academic Progress, or MAP. When taking a MAP test, the difficulty of each question is based on how well a student answers all the previous questions. As the student answers correctly, questions become more difficult. If the student answers incorrectly, the questions become easier. In an optimal test, a student answers approximately half the items correctly and half incorrectly. The final score is an estimate of the student's achievement level.

What subjects does MAP assess?

MAP is available in mathematics, reading, language usage, and science assessments.

How long does it take to complete a test?

Although the tests are not timed, it usually takes students about one hour to complete each test.

When will my student be tested and how often?

Districts have the option of testing their students up to four times a year. Districts typically test students at the beginning of the school year in fall and at the end of the school year in spring. Some districts may also choose to test students in winter and summer.

Do all students in the same grade take the same test?

No. NWEA assessments are designed to target a student's academic performance in mathematics, reading, language usage, and science. These tests are tailored to an individual's current achievement level. This gives each student a fair opportunity to show what he or she knows and can do. Using MAP, the computer adjusts the difficulty of the questions so that each student takes a unique test.

What are NWEA assessments used for?

NWEA assessments are used to measure your student's progress or growth in school. You may have a chart in your home on which you mark your child's height at certain times, such as on his or her birthday. This is a growth chart. It shows how much he or she has grown from one year to the next. NWEA assessments do the same sort of thing, except they measure your student's growth in mathematics, reading, language usage, and science skills. The scale used to measure your child's progress is called the RIT scale (Rasch uNIT). The RIT scale is an equal-interval scale much like feet and inches on a yardstick. It is used to chart your student's academic growth from year to year.

How do teachers use the test scores?

NWEA tests are important to teachers because they keep track of progress and growth in basic skills. They let teachers know where a student's strengths are and if help is needed in any specific areas. Teachers use this information to help them guide instruction in the classroom.

Can parents discuss assessment data directly with NWEA?

Unfortunately, due to privacy laws regarding student information (specifically stemming from the Federal Educational Rights and Privacy Act, FERPA), NWEA is unable to discuss any student information, test results, or district assessment programs directly with parents.

In addition, each district implementation of any NWEA assessment is unique based on decisions made by the district, such as which test to administer, when students will be tested, and so on. Because each district's implementation is unique, parents will need to direct specific questions and concerns to their local school district resources.

Tips for Parents

Ways to help your student prepare for testing

- Meet with your child's teacher as often as needed to discuss his or her progress. Ask the teacher to suggest activities for you and your child to do at home to help prepare for tests and improve your child's understanding of schoolwork. Parents and teachers working together benefits students.
- Provide a quiet, comfortable place for studying at home.
- Make sure that your child is well rested on school days and especially the day of a test. Children who are tired are less able to pay attention in class or to handle the demands of a test.
- Give your child a well-rounded diet. A healthy body leads to a healthy, active mind.
- Provide books and magazines for your child to read at home. By reading new materials, a child learns new words that might appear on a test. Ask your child's school about a suggested outside reading list or get suggestions from the public library.

Three kinds of parental involvement at home are consistently associated with higher student achievement:
Actively organizing and monitoring a child's time.
Helping with homework.
Discussing school matters.

Ways to help your child with language

- Talk to your child and encourage him or her to engage in conversation during family activities.
- Give a journal or diary as a gift.
- Help your child write a letter to a friend or family member. Offer assistance with correct grammar usage and content.
- Have a "word of the week" that is defined every Monday. Encourage your child to use the new word throughout the week.
- Plan a special snack or meal and have your child write the menu.
- After finishing a chapter in a book or a magazine article, have your child explain his or her favorite event in the book or article.

Ways to help your child with reading

- Provide many opportunities for your child to read books or other materials. Children learn to read best when they have books and other reading materials at home and plenty of chances to read.
- Read aloud to your child. Research shows that this is the most important activity that parents can do to increase their child's chance of reading success. Keep reading aloud even when your child can read independently.
- Make time for the library.
- Play games like Scrabble, Spill and Spell, Scattergories, and Balderdash together.
- Follow your child's interest—find fiction and nonfiction books that tie into this interest.
- Work crossword puzzles with your child.
- Give a magazine subscription for a gift.

Ways to help your child with math

- Spend time with kids on simple board games, puzzles, and activities that encourage better attitudes and stronger math skills. Even everyday activities such as playing with toys in a sandbox or in a tub at bath time can teach children math concepts such as weight, density, and volume. Check your television listings for shows that can reinforce math skills in a practical and fun way.
- Encourage children to solve problems. Provide assistance, but let them figure it out themselves. Problem solving is a lifetime skill.
- The kitchen is filled with tasty opportunities to teach fractional measurements, such as doubling and dividing cookie recipes.
- Point out ways that people use math every day to pay bills, balance their checkbooks, figure out their net earnings, make change, and how to tip at restaurants. Involve older children in projects that incorporate geometric and algebraic concepts such as planting a garden, building a bookshelf, or figuring how long it will take to drive to your family vacation destination.
- Children should learn to read and interpret charts and graphs such as those found in daily newspapers. Collecting and analyzing data will help your child draw conclusions and become discriminating readers of numerical information.

Did you know?

Parents cannot assume that schoolwork makes up for too much TV. Children of all ages watch as much TV in one day as they read for fun in an entire week. Overall, children under age 13 spend 90 minutes a day in front of the TV—one-quarter of their free time.

– U.S. Department of Education

Web sites for Kids and Parents

Math

www.aaamath.com

www.coolmath.com

www.funbrain.com

www.aplusmath.com

<http://mathforum.org/dr.math/>

www.gomath.com

www.mathleague.com/help/help.htm

www.edhelper.com

Math practice and activities

Interactive math games

Great site for kids

A+ Math

Ask Dr. Math

On line math help

Math League help topics

Help for all subjects

Language Arts/Reading

www.funbrain.com

www.m-w.com/game/

www.vocabulary.com

www.superkids.com/aweb/tools/words

<http://helponenglish.homestead.com>

www.writesite.org

www.kidsreads.com

Language Arts games and more

Merriam Webster Word Game of the Day

Vocabulary activities

Vocabulary builders

English help

Interactive Language Arts and Journalism

Book reviews, games, authors, and more

Commonly Used Terms

District Average—The average RIT score for all students in the school district in the same grade who were tested at the same time as this student.

MAP— Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) are a series of computerized adaptive tests that measure a student's general knowledge in reading, language usage, mathematics and science.

Norm Group Average—The average score observed for students in the norm group.

Percentile Range—Percentiles are used to compare one student's performance to that of the norm group. Percentile means the student scored as well as or better than that percent of students taking the test in his/her grade. There is about a 68% chance that a student's percentile ranking would fall within this range if the student tested again relatively soon.

Percentile Rank—The percentile rank is a normative statistic that indicates how well a student performed in comparison to the students in the norm group. The most recent norm sample was a group of over 2.3 million students from across the United States. A student's percentile rank indicates that the student scored as well as, or better than, the percent of students in the norm group. In other words, a student with a percentile rank of 72 scored as well as, or better than 72% of the students in the norm group.

RIT—Tests developed by NWEA use a scale called RIT to measure student achievement and growth. RIT stands for Rasch UnIT, which is a measurement scale developed to simplify the interpretation of test scores. The RIT score relates directly to the curriculum scale in each subject area. It is an equal-interval scale, like feet and inches, so scores can be added together to calculate accurate class or school averages. RIT scores range from about 140 to 300. Students typically start at the 140 to 190 level in the third grade and progress to the 240 to 300 level by high school. RIT scores make it possible to follow a student's educational growth from year to year.

Standards— Standards are statements, developed by states or districts, of what students should know and be able to do, related to specific academic areas.