

Winter 2009-10 – Bear Tracks



Principal's Pen

December 2009

Happy Holidays Blevins Community!

Wow, I can hardly believe that Thanksgiving Break is behind us, and the end of the first semester and Winter Break are upon us! This is an exciting year in Poudre School District as all three-grade level schools have made the transition to a K-5 elementary school, 6-8 Middle School and 9-12 High School. There remains a sense of excitement in our building as we continue to adjust to meet the needs of students. So far, I must report, that this has been a great change for Poudre School District and Blevins Middle School. I cannot speak for every middle school, but for Blevins, students and parents report that our transition has gone very well! Thank you to everyone who shared their thoughts and ideas with Blevins related to the transition.

Currently, Blevins students and staff are busy with many activities including: Homework Help (available to all students), Science Olympiad is organized and working diligently to prepare for spring competition(s), boy's basketball is beginning its seasons, and the 2009-10 Yearbook Staff is diligently preparing this year's publication. Congratulations to all our Fall/Winter student athletes in the 6th, 7th and 8th grade for their hard work and dedication to being their best. Congratulations also go out to the students and staff of the Blevins Music Department for their outstanding fall performances.

I would also like to congratulate all students who participated in the Blevins Science Fair. It was a great collection of student work and evidence of student engagement and learning. A big "Kudos" goes out to all Blevins science teachers for their investment of time and energy to support our students in their science projects and learning. Thank you to all parents who contributed and supported their child's project and the Blevins Science Fair.

On Friday, January 15th Blevins will be celebrating its 5th annual Blevins Community Fair. The plan includes invitations to our feeder elementary 3rd, 4th and 5th graders, their families and current Blevins' students and families. We are currently collecting prizes, organizing volunteers and planning games and activities for the evening. Come out and support the Blevins Community and enjoy all the fun.

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Mrs. Conyers, Blevins Math Teacher and Math Coach, for being selected as the Blevins Teacher of the Year. Mrs. Conyers will represent Blevins as a candidate for the annual Poudre School District "Excellence in Education" recognition in March, 2010. Kudos also go out to Mrs. Lauterbach for being selected as the Blevins Rotary Teacher of the Month and will represent Blevins in Rotary's annual recognition of a Poudre School District Rotary Teacher of the Year. Good luck to both teachers. Blevins is proud of you.

Reminders: Please support Blevins in keeping our campus safe by **not** using the bus cul-de-sac for pick-up and drop-off from 7:20-8:00 am in the morning and 2:30-3:00 pm in the afternoon. Please use the designated student drop-off and pickup area on the west side of the building (our back parking area). Please also note, for student safety, **U-Turns are not allowed** on or around the Blevins campus.


I hope you and your family have a wonderful and enjoyable holiday season.

Respectfully,
David Linehan

January 2010

Su	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
	NO SCHOOL - WINTER BREAK					¹	²
3	4 NO SCHOOL Teacher Work Day	5 PTO Mtg. 6:30 pm	6	7 Vision and Hearing Screening	8	9	
10	11	12	13 7 Bball @ Wellington 8 Bball @ Blevins	14	15 Blevins Commu- nity Fair 6-8:30 pm 	16	
17	18 NO SCHOOL 	19	20 7 Bball @ Blevins 8 Bball @ Lincoln	21 7th grade Lincoln Center field trip 10:00 am PreAP Information Night 6:30 pm	22	23	
24	25 7 Bball @ Preston 8 Bball @ Blevins	26 5th grade Parent Information Night & Student Instrument Demonstration 6 pm	27 7 Bball @ Leshner 8 Bball @ Blevins	28 7 Bball @ Boltz 8 Bball @ Blevins	29 Secondary School of Choice deadline	30	
31							

February 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 7 Bball @ Blevins 8 Bball @ Kinard	2 Skills For Parents Love & Logic Presenta- tion and dinner 6-8 pm	3 SIT Mtg. 7 Bball @ Blevins 8 Bball @ Webber	4	5 School Dance 7 pm	6
7	8 RMHS Counselors at Blevins for 9th gr. registration Bball BYE	9 PTO Mtg. 6:30 pm	10 7 Bball @ Blevins 8 Bball @ CLP	11	12	13
14	15 NO SCHOOL Collaboration Day 	16	17 8th Grade Basketball Tournament	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25 RMHS registra- tion pick-up	26	27
	Volleyball Tryouts					
28						

Schedule of Events

- **Jan. 5** - PTO Meet-
ing 6:30 pm
- **Jan. 15** - 6-8:30 pm
BLEVINS COMMU-
NITY FAIR
- **Jan. 18** - NO
SCHOOL - MLK Day
- **Jan. 21** - PreAP In-
formation Night 6:30
- **Jan. 26** - 5th
Grade Parent Infor-
mation Night 6 pm
- **Jan. 29** - School of
Choice deadline

Schedule of Events

- **Feb. 2** - Blevins Skills
for Parents presenta-
tion and pizza 6 pm
- **Feb. 5** - School Dance
7-9 pm
- **Feb. 8** - RMHS Coun-
selors come to Blevins
for 9th gr. registration
- **Feb. 9** - PTO Meeting
6:30 pm
- **Feb. 15** - No School -
Collaboration Day
- **Feb. 25** - RMHS coun-
selors pick-up 9th gr.
registration

March 2010

Schedule of Events

- **March 4** - Choir/Orchestra Concert 7:00 pm
- **March 9** - PTO Mtg. 7:00 pm
- **March 11** - Band Concert 7:00 pm
- **March 12** - Last day of 3rd quarter
- **March 15-19** - SPRING BREAK - NO SCHOOL
- **March 23-31** - CSAP Testing

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sa	
	1	2	3 SIT Mtg.	4 Choir/Orchestra Concert 7 pm	5	6	
7	8	9 PTO Mtg. 6:30 pm CSAP Science Testing 7 Vball @ Blevins 8 Vball @ CLP	10	11 Band Concert 7 pm 7 Vball @ Preston 8 Vball @ Blevins	12 End of 3rd quarter	13	
14	15	SPRING BREAK - NO SCHOOL					20
21	22	CSAP Testing					27
		23 7 Vball @ Blevins 8 Vball @ Kinard	24	25 7 Vball @ Blevins 8 Vball @ Lincoln	26 Volleyball BYE		
28	29	CSAP Testing					
		30 7 Vball @ Boltz 8 Vball @ Blevins	31				

From the Counselors:

Responsible middle-schoolers exhibit self-reliance, persistence

Of course you want your preteen to become a responsible person. But does he know what that means? To help him understand what "being responsible" looks like, talk about the traits responsible people share. Also, suggest ways he can model those same traits.

For instance, responsible people usually demonstrate:

- **A sense of duty.** They do what they're supposed to do - even if they don't feel like it. For your preteen, that might mean getting to school on time, finishing his homework every night and doing his chores.
- **Self-reliance.** They value self-sufficiency, so they do as much as

they can for themselves. True, your middle schooler is too young to be completely self-reliant. But he can take a big step toward becoming more responsible. Empower him to handle many of his own tasks, such as doing his own laundry.

- **Persistence.** They don't give up, and they don't abandon goals just because they seem out of reach. Your preteen can demonstrate persistence by hanging in there when the going gets tough. If he doesn't earn a spot on the basketball team this year, for example, he can sharpen his skills in the off-season and try again next time.

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Source: Michael S. Josephson, Val J. Peter and Tom Dowd, *Parenting to Build Character in Your Teen*, ISBN: 1-889322-42-3 (Boys Town Press, www.girlsandboystown.org/btpress).

Important Grading and Registration Dates for 2nd Semester

- **Jan. 5** 3rd quarter begins
- **Jan. 15** Report cards distributed during 9th period
- **Jan. 29** School of Choice deadline
- **Feb. 5** Mid-quarter grades handed out to students during 9th period
- **Feb. 8** RMHS Counselors visit Blevins to hand out registration packets
- **Feb. 25** RMHS Counselors visit Blevins to collect registration packets
- **March 12** 3rd quarter ends/6th grade schedules handed out during 9th period.
- **March 22** 4th quarter begins
- **March 26** 3rd quarter report cards distributed during 9th period
- **April 23** Mid-quarter Grade Reports distributed during 9th period
- **Week of June 1** Final Report Cards will be mailed home



Please join us for a night of family fun at our 5th Annual Blevins Community Fair. This is a great opportunity for 3rd-5th graders to see what Blevins is all about. Join us for food, games, fun, and prizes!

- **Free Admission**
- **Game tickets .25 each**
- **25 Game Booths for all ages**
- **Little Shop of Physics**
- **Face Painting**
- **Hovercraft rides**
- **Cake Walk**
- **Just For Kicks Professional Jazz Band Performance**
- **Pizza & Drinks available to purchase for dinner**

Donations needed: prizes for Bingo, 2-liter bottles of pop, and cakes for the cake walk (can be dropped off at Blevins the morning of the Fair). Contact Gina Zachman to volunteer - 377-1870.

Blevins Science & Engineering Fair 2009

Congratulations to all 149 students who participated in the 2009 Blevins Science & Engineering Fair this past Friday. Projects were of high quality. Here are the results of the competition.

6th Grade: (2nd place medals)

Kelton Hevelone, Daphne Williams, Nick Zachman, Xandria Amash, Jessika Hoyberg-Nielsen, Sean Papile

6th Grade: (1st place medals)

Jack Barrier, Joshua Gilbert, Alec Krausse, Michala Kriewall, Rica Ramirez, Piper Nunn

7th Grade: (2nd place medals)

Sydney Dickens, Daniel Dideriksen, Laura Lenczycki, Katherine Neff, Skyler Bowden, Ben Young

7th Grade: (1st place medals)

Nikolay Anishchenko, Elise Niedringhaus, Fiona Nunn, Josh Rhead, Madison Crosson, Colleen Goodwin, Adam Olbrys, Tyler Haskett

8th Grade: (2nd place medals)

Sierra Bloomer, Yesica Garcia, Kailarae Lilly, Clara McGowen, Daniela Pineda, Natalie Graves, Evan Hummel, Laurel Langfield, Mary Muffly, Caleb Sexton, Breann Watterson

8th Grade: (1st place medals)

Alex Barrett, Kaia Heer, Amanda James, Rylee Thomas, Grant Wray, Michael Zeidler, Gena Archuleta, Max Dielman, Sarah Goodwin, Kaitlyn Nagel, Hannah Powers, Jacqueline Vance

All medal winners have won the right to compete for prizes in the Longs Peak Regional Science & Engineering Fair in March. Great job guys, and good luck!

School Closures Due to Weather

If schools are closed due to extreme weather or other situations:

Parents should tune in to local radio, television stations, or go online to PSD's Web site to find out about school closures the morning of the day in question. Media outlets are only informed if schools are closed; no announcements by the media means schools are open, as usual.

A decision about weather-related school closures is made by approximately **6:00 a.m.** and media outlets are notified immediately. **Parents should not call schools, district offices, or broadcast media.**

The following radio and television stations and PSD Web site will provide information about PSD school closures:

TELEVISION STATIONS:

Channel 2	WB2News-KWGN
Channel 4	NEWS4-KCNC
Channel 5	CBS 5
Channel 7	7News-KMGH
Channel 9	9NEWS-KUSA
Channel 13	Fox 31

PSD WEB SITE:

www.psdschools.org

LOCAL RADIO STATIONS:

KCOL 600 AM
KCSU 90.5 FM
KFKA 1310 AM
KGRE 1450 AM (SPANISH)
KIIX 1410 AM
KJJD 1170 AM (SPANISH)
KPAW 107.9 FM
KQLF 97.9 FM
KRFC 88.9 FM
KSME 96.7 FM
KUAD 99 FM
KUNC 91.5 FM
TRI 102 102.5 FM
Z94.3 94.3 FM
Denver radio stations KOA 850 AM and KOOL 105 FM

In the event of a late start due to weather, school will start on a 2-hour delay (see schedule in this newsletter), and buses will run 2 hours after regular pick-up.

*2009 Blevins Teacher of the Year
and PSD Foundation Excellence in
Education Award Nominee -
Miranda Conyers !*



**SKILLS FOR PARENTS
BLEVINS LOVE AND LOGIC PRESENTATION
FEBRUARY 2, 2010
6:00 - 8:00 PM
BLEVINS AUDITERIA
PIZZA AND DRINKS WILL BE PROVIDED
DRAWINGS FOR GIFTS**

Come and hear how to improve your skills as a parent through Love and Logic. The presentation will be taught by Shannon Yockley, who is a licensed therapist and Love & Logic instructor. Love & Logic teaches parents simple, logical, powerful skills and attitudes to use. There will be a question and answer session after the presentation. Pizza and drinks will be available at 6:00 and the presentation will begin at 6:30. There will also be drawings for gifts and a discussion of the Blevins Discovery program.

**Congratulations to the following students for being
recognized as
Blevins Student of the Month!**

6th Grade	7th Grade	8th Grade
September:		
Katie Winkelman	Skyler Bowden	Makayla Trujillo
October:		
Alexis Serrano	Desiree Loyd	Breann Watterson
November:		
Rica Ramirez	Elise Niedringhaus	Brandon Groesbeck
December:		
Jhossep Torres	William Brauch	Bradley Wells

UPCOMING BLEVINS SPORTS

Boys Basketball - Practice begins Dec. 14

Girls Volleyball - Practice begins Feb. 22

*Please remember to have sports physicals turned in to Mrs. Garcia before the first day of practice. They are available in the Health Clinic at Blevins.

**Don't forget to sign up for
the Blevins email list on the
District website to receive
informational emails! It is a
great resource. Another
great resource is our Blevins
website - especially the
"Morning Announcements"
section. Check it out at
www.pdschools.org/schools/blevins**

**CHECK YOUR STUDENTS' GRADES FROM
HOME ONLINE ON PIV**

HOW TO USE:

1. Go to www.pdschools.org/schools/blevins/
2. Click on "Go to Pinnacle Grade Viewer"
3. Log in with your child's ID number and student PIN number.
(Call Blevins with questions)

(For further information, please call Student Services, 488-4008)

**Yearbooks on sale now through
Dec. 18th for \$32.00. After
that, the price goes up to \$37.00.
Get yours now!**

Upcoming Music Events

- March 4 Choir and Orchestra Concert
- March 11 Band Concert
- April 6 Talent Show Auditions
- April 21 Talent Show Rehearsal
- April 22 Talent Show Performance
- May 18 Band Awards Concert
- May 20 Choir and Orchestra
Awards Concert

**Attention
Globetrotters! Italy
meeting on January
24th from 1:00-
3:00 in room 130.**

Pre-AP Info

PreAP Information Night for Parents and Students
Thursday, January 21st at 6:30 pm
Blevins Library

Are you a parent or student interested in the 7th grade PreAP program for the 2010-2011 school year? Then please attend an informational meeting in the Blevins Library on January 21st at 6:30 pm. We will be explaining the requirements for the program and answering your questions. Please contact Diane Schultz in Student Services at either 488-4009 or dschultz@psdschools.org if you cannot attend.

Visiting Author Janna Nickerson

Montana author, Janna Nickerson, presented the story of her writing career to our Blevins students Nov. 11. Miss Nickerson began writing her fantasy trilogy, Fifth Battle Trilogy, when she was 13. She told students she began writing because of the encouragement of her 6th grade teacher. She self published her 1st book at the age of 17. She described this process, her writing techniques, and the story of her 3 fiction young adult novels. Miss Nickerson has presented her writing story to thousands of students 5th-12th grade throughout the western states. We were happy to have her share her writing experiences with our Blevins students.

Her books are available for checkout in our library. The author's website is <http://www.iysowar.com>.



**Blevins Middle School
Two Hour Late Start Schedule
For Severe Weather**

Period 1 or 2:	9:45-10:35
Period 3 or 4:	10:40 –11:35
Period 5 or 6:	A Lunch 11:35-12:05 Class 12:10-1:05 B Lunch Class 11:40-12:35 Lunch 12:35-1:05
Period 7 or 8:	1:10-2:05
Period 9:	2:10-2:35

INCOMING 6TH GRADE MIDDLE SCHOOL PRE-REGISTRATION

Middle school counselors visit elementary schools to present registration information. Middle schools also host informational meetings.

Middle Schools	Tuesday 2/16/2010	Wednesday 2/17/2010	Thursday 2/18/2010	Friday 2/19/2010	Parent Meetings at Middle Schools
Blevins 488-4008	Bennett 11:20am Irish 1:00pm Olander 2:30pm	Beattie 10:00am Bauder 2:00pm	Dunn 9:30am Moore 1:00pm	Harris Bilingual 10:00am	Open House 1/26/10 6:30pm
Boltz 472-3702	Kruse 10:00am	Shepardson 10:00am O'Dea 1:00pm	Linton 1:00pm	Harris Bilingual 10:00am	Parent Info Night 2/23/09 6:30pm
Cache La Poudre 488-7404		Lab School 9:45am Tavelli 1:00pm	CLP Elem. 1:15pm	Stove Prairie 8:30am Red Feather 11:00am Livermore 1:00pm	Open House 11/12/09 5:00-7:00pm
Leshner 472-3804	Bennett 11:20am Riffenburgh 9:00am	Shepardson 10:00am O'Dea 1:00pm Tavelli 1:00pm McGraw 2:30pm	Dunn 9:30am Timnath 2:00pm	Harris Bilingual 10:00am Laurel 1:00pm	Open House 01/21/10 6:30-8:30pm
Lincoln 488-5708	Bennett 11:20am Irish 1:00pm	Lab School 9:45am Tavelli 1:00pm McGraw 2:30pm	Dunn 9:30am Moore 1:00pm Putnam 2:30pm	Harris Bilingual 10:00am Laurel 1:00pm	Call for shadow information
Kinard 488-5400	Traut 12:45pm	O'Dea 1:00pm	Moore 1:00pm	Bethke 11:00am Zach 1:00pm	Family Info Night 1/19/10 6:30-8:30pm
Preston 488-7309	Kruse 10:00am Werner 1:30pm	Bacon 12:45	Linton 1:00pm Timnath 2:30pm	Bethke 11:00am Zach 1:00pm	Curriculum Fair 1/21/10 7:00-9:00pm Parent Orientation 2/16/10 7:00-8:00pm
Wellington 488-6600	Rice 1:00pm	Tavelli 1:00pm		Eyestone 10:15am	Parent Orientation 2/25/10 6:30-8:00pm
Webber 488-7816	Olander 2:30pm	Beattie 10:00am McGraw 2:30pm	Lopez 11:25am	Johnson 11:00am	1/21/10 7:00pm
Polaris 488-4400	By appointment only.	1/12/10 6:30-8:00pm			

Parents need to return "Course Request Forms" to future middle school by Friday, February 26th.

NEWS BRIEFS FROM PSD

Stay Connected! Update Your Phone Numbers and Email Addresses!

Poudre School District communicates with parents, staff and community members in a variety of ways to ensure that everyone receives the latest PSD information regarding weather-related closures, emergency information, district initiatives and school-specific information. In order to contact you directly, we need your **current phone numbers and email address**.

To receive important messages via phone:

PSD's automated phone system is used to contact parents about non-emergency school events (such as parent-teacher conferences) and about emergency school and district situations. Parents may list two phone numbers to be used in the automated phone system. One phone number is listed as the primary contact number for general information and a second phone number is used to contact parents about emergency situations. Please know that BOTH phone numbers are called in school or district-wide emergency situations in order to deliver important information to parents. **Please make sure your child's school has the two phone numbers you want listed for general information and emergency calls.** You may update your phone numbers by contacting Blevins Student Services Office (488-4008).

To receive important messages via email:

PSD has an online email subscription system. If you want to sign up to receive school and district emails, or you need to update your email address, please go to the **Email Alert Sign-up** link on the PSD website at www.psdschools.org to input your current information. After you sign up, you will receive the following information via email: School closure information related to weather and other situations; PSD emergency information; important information specifically from your child's school such as emergency information, calendar changes, and school newsletters; quarterly PSD community e-newsletter containing important information on district initiatives and current news and events.

School Choice Deadline: First-consideration for secondary school (Grades 6-12): January 29th

The online School Choice application is now available at www.psdschools.org under "School Registration", which may be accessed from a home computer or any computer with internet access; a public use computer is available at the PSD Support Services Center, 2407 LaPorte Ave., or any of the district's schools. The first consideration deadlines for 2010-11 are: Jan. 29th for secondary schools, Feb. 12th for elementary schools. School Choice applications may be submitted after the first-consideration deadline until the first day of class at the beginning of the school year of requested enrollment. For the 2010-11 school year, there has been a policy change in regard to the application process for multiple birth siblings. To learn more about this change, please view policy JFBA at www.psdschools.org.

Annual Accountability Report to the Community for 2008-09 available online

PSD is pleased to announce the availability of our 2008-09 Annual Accountability Report to the public. Every year, school districts in Colorado report about their performance to their communities, based on requirements in the *No Child Left Behind Act*. In addition, state law has required that districts report district accreditation information. This information is available on the district's web site. You will also find information on district goals and the progress we've made towards those goals. If you would like a hard copy of this information, please contact Jody Margheim, communications specialist at 970-490-3543, or via email at jody@psdschools.org.

Register now for Community Learning Centers classes

Poudre School District's adult enrichment program, the Community Learning Center, will begin the winter-spring session the last week in January. Registration for the following classes is now open; Zumba, Spanish, French, Photography, Computers (Basic, Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Publisher, Web Building), Guitar, Pottery, and Altered Books/Art Journals. Visit our web site today for the list of winter/spring classes and register online at www.communitylearningcenters.com. Please email nmosley@psdschools.org or call 970-266-0150 for more information. Hope to see you in one of our classes!

**Parenting
can be fun
again!!**

BECOMING A LOVE AND LOGIC PARENT BEGINNING FEBRUARY 17, 2010

Has your child or teenager ever done something so unexpected or perplexing that it left you speechless? Do you ever find yourself getting tired of backtalk, feeling frustrated, or angry with your children? Parenting is more challenging than ever and parents are facing more and more situations that just don't seem to have clear-cut solutions. How does a parent not only survive, yet flourish, in their parenting role? Love and Logic teaches parents simple, logical, powerful skills and attitudes to use when their children have left them speechless. With help from Love and Logic, parents no longer have to fear that their children will catch them off guard and they no longer have to worry about being perfect.

Register online: www.communitylearningcenters.com (under special interests)

Register by phone: 970-266-0150, Nikki Mosley, Community Learning Centers

Instructors: Jacques Fournet (970-631-2727) and Alana Fournet (970-488-7313) - most easily reached by email: loveandgratitude@hotmail.com