

# Bear Tracks

## Principal's Pen

Spring, 2011

As I prepare this letter, we are only three days away from Spring Break. Hard to believe! With the March winds come many school activities and planning for the 2011-12 school year. Currently, we are registering incoming 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> graders, finalizing our plans for CSAP testing, beginning our volleyball season, celebrating the outstanding third quarter music productions, celebrating our outstanding student performances at Science Fair, Science Olympiad and Wassen Inventors Fair, making an academic push towards Spring Break, and planning for next year. Where does the year go?

Since my last letter, Blevins successfully hosted its Sixth Annual Community Fair. The music, games, food and community connections made it an outstanding evening and fun for all. A big thank you goes out to the many parents, staff, students, and PTO members, who gave up their Friday evening to volunteer and attend. The fair has developed into an awesome community event that reflects the Blevins Brand of "It's All Good in the Neighborhood."

When students return to school after Spring Break, we will begin the process of CSAP Testing. CSAP Testing always brings a significant amount of attention to teachers, administrators, parents and students. The Blevins staff is committed to providing a testing environment conducted with integrity and openness. State law requires that all students participate and does not provide the opportunity for any student to opt-out. Student attendance each and every day helps us ensure all students have an equal opportunity to demonstrate their academic ability, reduces the amount of time they will miss class for make-ups and reduces the time necessary for staff to administer make-up tests. Complete CSAP evaluations will allow staff members to use student data to improve student performance in future instructional opportunities and assist schools in making curricular decisions related to class selection in high school and middle school. As demonstrated by Blevins' current Extended Learning Opportunity or 9<sup>th</sup> Hour, student placements in remedial and enrichment classes are based on CSAP results. CSAP data is the only measurement that the state and district use to "grade" school and student achievement. All students taking all of the tests helps Blevins reach the state and federal requirements for participation. Students who are not assessed count against our school progress and thus impact negatively our school and community. **Each student not tested receives a zero score.** This in turn reflects poorly on Blevins' State Accreditation Report, the Federal "No Child Left Behind" requirements and our ability to place your student appropriately and assess their academic performance. Please help us make certain that your student participates in this process with effort and motivation to do the very best he/she can do. To assist in making this a positive experience, parents should ensure that their students have sufficient sleep and eat a good breakfast the morning of testing. Most important, is the sense of accomplishment students should get when completing a major assessment of their abilities that encourages them to look above present levels of performance and to seek continued improvement in their learning. Parents, your help, support and guidance will be most appreciated by the Blevins staff as we complete this critical assessment.

The Blevins' staff is very excited about the upcoming 2011-12 school year. We look forward to welcoming our new 6<sup>th</sup> graders to the Blevins community and wish our 8<sup>th</sup> grade students success as they become members of a high school community.

*(Continued on page 9)*

# March 2011

Su	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Choir/Orchestra Concert 7 pm	2	3 Band Concert 7 pm	4	5 Solo/Ensemble
6	7	8 PTO Mtg. 6:30	9	10	11 End of 3rd qtr	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23 8th gr. CSAP Science test	24 CSAP Math testing	25	26
27	28	29	30 CSAP Rdg/Wrtg testing	31		

## Schedule of Events

- **Mar 1** - Choir/Orchestra 7 pm
- **Mar 3** - Band Concert 7 pm
- **Mar 11** - End of 3rd quarter
- **Mar 15-19** - Spring Break NO SCHOOL
- **Mar 23-April 1** - CSAP Testing

# April 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 7 VBall @ Blevins	2
3	4	5 Talent Show auditions 3:30 pm 7 VBall @ Preston	6	7	8 School Dance 7-9 pm	9
10	11	12	13 <b>Poetry Cafe</b>	14	15 No School P/T Conf. Trade-off day	16
17	18 No School Collaboration Day	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27 Talent Show Dress Rehearsal 3:30-6:30	28 Talent Show Performance 7 pm	29 5th grade visitation Rayz Awareness/Melanoma Run	30

## Schedule of Events

- **April 4** - Track begins
- **April 5** - Talent Show Auditions 3:30-6:00 pm
- **April 8** - School Dance 7-9 pm
- **April 15, 18** - NO SCHOOL - Teacher Work Days
- **April 28** - Talent Show Performance 7 pm
- **April 28** - Melanoma Run/Walk

# May 2011

## Schedule of Events

- **May 13 - NO SCHOOL**
- **May 17 - Band Awards Concert 7 pm**
- **May 19 - Choir/Orchestra Awards Concert 7 pm**
- **May 20 - 8th Grade Celebration**
- **May 27 - LAST DAY OF SCHOOL (1/2 day)**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2 Musical Tech	3 Musical Tech	4 Musical Dress Rehearsal 3:30	5 Musical Performance 7 pm	6 Musical Performance 7 pm	7
8	9	10 PTO Mtg. 6:30	11	12	13 NO SCHOOL Teacher Work Day	14
15	16	17 Band Awards Concert 7 pm	18	19 Choir/Orchestra Awards Concert 7 pm	20 8th Grade Celebration/Awards 5:30-8:30	21
22	23	24 Instrument Assignment Night 6-7:30 pm	25	26 Last Day of School! 	27	28
29	30	31				

## From the Counselors:

### Look ahead to the next stage in your child's career - high school

Two-thirds of the school year is gone. Now a big transition looms for many middle schoolers and their parents. High school is six months away. Start preparing your child and yourself.

Expect your child to:

**Feel excitement** about the opportunities high school offers. These include new friendships and more freedom. High school also lets students pursue a wide range of interests through extracurricular activities.

**Feel nervous.** Standards for academics, behavior and independence are far beyond what most middle schoolers are used to. Then there's the size of high school - a school building and populations that may be double what your child has now.

You can help if you:

**Tap available resources.** Most middle schools give guidance about coping in high school. The high school, too, will likely offer orientation sessions for new students. Urge your child to attend.

**Talk to your child.** Share some of your own high school memories. Discuss honestly the classes your child wants to take and how she will manage her schedule. Have her talk with current high school students about their experiences.

**Encourage your child.** Starting high school is a huge milestone. Your child is growing up. Let her know you are proud of her and are looking forward to this new stage.

*Source: Elizabeth Johnson, "Parent Involvement Essential to Successful Middle School Transition to High School," EduGuide, [www.eduguide.org/Parents-Library/Middle-School-Transition-High-School-2288.aspx](http://www.eduguide.org/Parents-Library/Middle-School-Transition-High-School-2288.aspx).*

### IMPORTANT GRADE DATES:

**March 11** - 3rd quarter ends

**March 21** - 4th quarter begins/6th grade 4th quarter schedules distributed during 2nd period

**March 25** - Report cards distributed during Homeroom.

**April 22** - Mid-quarter grades passed out during 9th period.

**April 29** - 5th grade visitation (9:30-11:30)

**May 26** - Last day of school (1/2 day)

Final report cards will be mailed home during the first week of June.

# OUTSTANDING SCIENCE STUDENTS!

## Success at the Wasson Inventor's Fair!

Congratulations to the 5 Blevins students who participated in this year's 7<sup>th</sup> annual **Wasson Inventor's Fair**. 38 students representing 5 Poudre School District Middle Schools competed at this year's event. All 5 of the Blevins inventions were awarded the first place blue ribbon! In addition to the 1st place awards, each student received a \$100 bill from Wasson Industries. The Blevins team included:

**Jacoby Bengler**  
**Madison Crosson**  
**Brenden Fitch**  
**Rachel Knaff**  
**Sean Papile**



## Science Olympiad Regionals

The Blevins' Science Olympiad teams competed in the Northern Regional competition on March 5th. 28 teams battled it out for top honors. Blevins won 9 medals. The Blevins Second Team placed 12th overall and will be advancing to the State Competition. Blevins First Team took home the second place trophy! Individual medals were as follows:

**For Battery Buggy:** Sean Papile and Tom Pusheck - 2nd place  
**For Compute This:** Tom Pusheck and Trevor Hartman - 3rd place  
**For Disease Detectives:** Ben Young and Anna Dworkin - 1st place  
**For Experimental Design:** Laura Lenczycki, Trevor Hartman, and Tom Pusheck - 1st place  
**For Fossils:** Graeme Bagley and Eric Krehbiel - 1st place  
**For Crime Busters:** Anna Dworkin and Ben Young - 1st place, Payton Fisher and Belle Girard - 3rd place  
**Fro Shock Value:** Rica Ramirez and Sean Papile - 3rd place  
**For Write-it/Do-it:** Sean Cornell and Eric Krehbiel - 3rd place

Congratulations to all team members! A great job representing our school. Good luck at the State Tournament in April!

Thank you to all the volunteers and parents who support and help our teams. And thank you to Scot Heath for all the wonderful pictures. To view them all, please visit [http://home.comcast.net/~the\\_s\\_e\\_heaths/photos/Blevins\\_SO\\_2011/index.html](http://home.comcast.net/~the_s_e_heaths/photos/Blevins_SO_2011/index.html)



## LONGS PEAK SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING FAIR

Blevins students competed in a field of the best 213 projects of Northern Colorado at the 41st Longs Peak Science & Engineering Fair held at the University of Northern Colorado on March 1st. Our students represented Blevins well. Blevins received the following recognitions:

### Special Awards:

Holly Mackie— Allstate Pioneers of Science 1st place and \$40.00

Laura Lenczycki— Association for Women Geoscientists—Laramie Chapter 1st place, \$25.00 and certificate

Piper Nunn, Sydney Dickens, Justen Downing and Maddy Olver - Broadcom Masters Program Certificate and chance to win a trip to D.C.

Jacoby Benger-UNC College of Natural and Health Sciences 6th place certificate; The Practical Innovator Award certificate and watch

Jared Janzen-Office of Naval Research 2nd place certificate and medallion

Payson Cronen-Smith— UNC Pre-Health Professionals Club 1st place and \$20.00

Sean Papile— RICHO 1st place

Laura Lenczycki— The Colorado Geological Survey Award Certificate and book

Payson Cronen-Smith - UNC Campus Recreation Center 2nd place certificate and shirt

### Division Awards:

Holly Mackie, Honorable Mention Animal Sciences

Maddy Olver, 2nd place Animal Sciences

Xandria Amash, 1<sup>st</sup> place Animal Sciences

Tyler Hasket, Honorable Mention Earth & Planetary Sciences

Jacoby Benger, 1st place Engineering

Elise Niedringhaus, 1<sup>st</sup> place Mathematics & Computer Sciences

Payson Cronen-Smith, Honorable Mention Medicine & Health

Gammy Swab, Honorable Mention Microbiology

Piper Nunn, 2nd place Microbiology

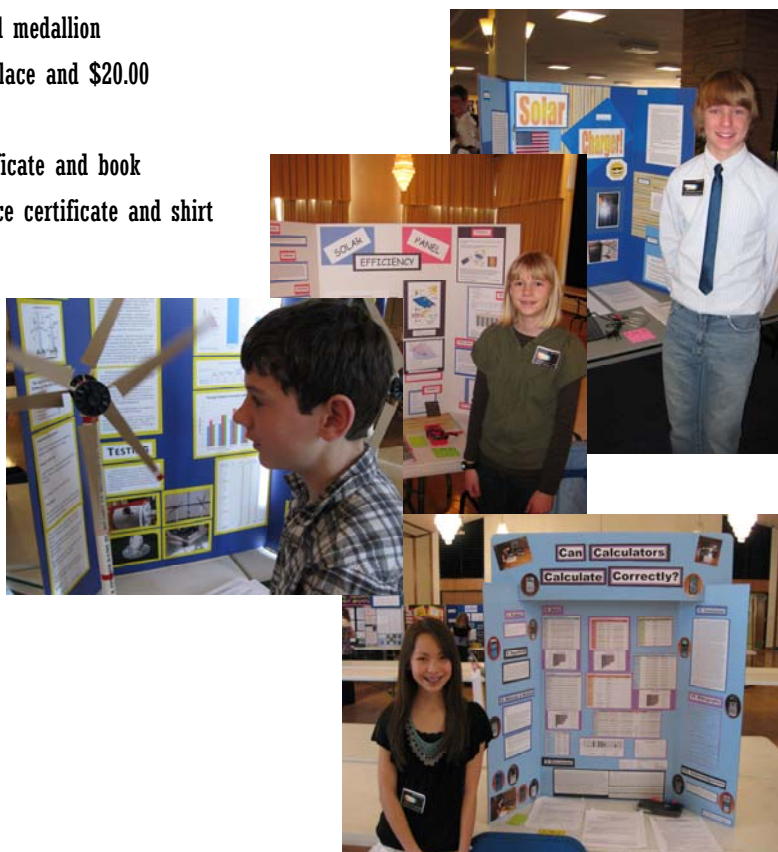
Jared Janzen, Honorable Mention Physics

Sean Papile, 1st place Physics

Katherine Neff, 3rd place Plant Sciences

Laura Lenczycki, Honorable Mention Environmental Sciences

Lauren Nelson, 1st place Environmental Sciences



**State Qualifiers will be competing at the CO State Science and Engineering Fair.**

Xandria Amash

Jacoby Benger

Lauren Nelson

Elise Niedringhaus

Maddy Olver

Sean Papile

Katherine Neff - Alternate

Piper Nunn - Alternate

**Good Luck at State!!**



# SPORTS INFORMATION

## TRACK

Blevins Track Season begins with the first day of practice on April 4th. 6th graders will be allowed to participate in track at Blevins. They will practice with the 7th and 8th graders, and will have one triangular meet. 6th graders will **not** be participating in the 7th and 8th grade meets. Based on the triangular, students will be chosen to participate in the 6th Grade District Meet, which will be held on May 7th. There will be a **\$30.00 athletic fee** for 6th graders. The regular athletic fee will apply for 7th and 8th graders. All grades need to have physicals on file in the office before the first practice.

### 7th and 8th Grade Meets

Wednesday, April 20

Blevins/Lesher/Wellington @ PHS

Wednesday, April 27

Blevins/Lincoln/Webber @ PHS

Wednesday, May 4

Blevins/Boltz/CLP @ PHS

Wednesday, May 11

Blevins/Kinard/Preston @ FRHS

Districts - Wednesday, May 18 @ RMHS

Meets begin at 3:30 pm, with the exception of Districts.



## VOLLEYBALL

Girls Volleyball season has begun!

Remaining Schedule:

March 22 - 7th @ Wellington, 8th @ home

March 24 - 7th @ home, 8th @ Webber

March 29 - 7th @ Boltz, 8th @ home

March 31 - 7th @ home, 8th @ Lincoln

April 1 - 7th @ home, 8th @ Kinard

April 5 - 7th @ Preston, 8th @ home

April 7 - 7th @ home, 8th @ CLP

April 10 - 8th grade District Tournament @ FCHS



## SPORTS OR MUSICAL PHOTOS

It's not too late to order photos of a Blevins sports team, or musical group. Prices are as follows: \$6 for an 8X10, \$4 for a 5X7, and \$2 for a 4X6. Please send your request and contact info, along with payment to the front office. Pictures will be processed 1 to 2 weeks after payment is received. If you have any questions, please contact Becky Duran at [rduran@psdschools.org](mailto:rduran@psdschools.org), or at Blevins at 488-4052.

## BLEVINS YOUTH FOOTBALL CAMP

**Who:** 2nd - 7th grade students

**When:** May 30th - June 3rd from 4:00-5:30 pm

**Where:** Blevins Middle School Football Field

**Cost:** \$20.00 - Includes a T-shirt and refreshments (\$35.00 max for families)

**What:** A football camp instructed by the Blevins Coaching Staff and players, emphasizing on football fundamentals

**Questions:** Contact Coach Dougherty at (970) 690-2574

or Coach Jones at (970) 481-2416

**Who:** Any student athlete 4th grade and up (boys and girls)

**When:** Begins July 6th 7-8 pm. Mon. Wed. Thur. throughout the month of July

**Where:** Blevins Middle School Football Field

**Cost:** \$20.00 for individuals, or \$35.00 max for families. Please make checks payable to Blevins Middle School

**What:** Speed and agility drills to increase athletic performance - instructed by the Blevins coaching staff

**Questions:** Contact Coach Dougherty at (970) 690-2574 or Coach Jones at (970) 481-2416

# PSD Information

## Be Informed, Visit the PSD and Blevins Web Sites Often!

Visit [www.psdschools.org](http://www.psdschools.org) and [www.psdschools.org/schools/blevins/](http://www.psdschools.org/schools/blevins/) to learn about what is going on in PSD and Blevins including special events, updates, school closure and delayed start information, and the many events going on at Blevins. The "News and Events" section of the Blevins website is of special value in keeping up with all of our activities. The information changes frequently, so visit often!

## PSD Summer School Dates

Secondary Summer School for grades 9-12 will be held this summer, dates and places to be determined. 8th grade completers will be able to take 9th grade courses. Registration begins the week of March 21.

## Attend Workshop March 24 to Give Your Input on Draft Plan to Provide Support for School Choice and Innovation Programs in PSD

Parents and community members are invited to attend a public workshop from 6:30-8:00 pm Thursday, March 24 at Boltz Middle School, to provide input to PSD on how to allocate mill levy funds district-wide to schools and other areas of a plan outlining Support for School Choice and Innovation Programs.

PSD will use feedback from parents and community members to modify the plan based on community values and priorities. The revised plan will be shared with the Board of Education April 26, and then with schools, so they can apply for funds.

In 2011-12, PSD will have \$300,000 designated for School Choice Programs. Funds will come from the 2010 mill levy, and will be allocated for the first time in 2011.

## ◀ IMPORTANT CSAP INFORMATION ▶

### **CSAP Testing Schedule:**

**Wednesday, March 23 - 8th Grade Students Science**

**Thursday-Friday, March 24-25 - All Students Math**

**Wednesday-Friday, March 30-April 1 - All Students Reading and Writing**

### **Ways Parents Can Help:**

- **Ensure your child gets a good rest the night before each testing day.**
- **Provide your student a nourishing breakfast each morning.**
- **Plan ahead to ensure that your child is present and on time for the test.**
- **Schedule appointments or vacations on non-test days.**
- **Have your child dress in layers - kids do better on tests if they don't have to think about how hot or cold they are.**
- **Don't be too anxious. Say, "This test is important. I know you will try hard and do your best." Your confidence will be contagious.**
- **On the day of the test, give your child these tips:**
  - \***Skip a question and move on if you don't know the answer. You can always come back later. Maybe you will be ready to answer that question then.**
  - \***Check your answers carefully. Make sure the numbers of your answers correspond to the numbers of the questions on the test.**



# Music Department Events



## Upcoming Concerts

April 2	Solo & Ensemble @ Preston
April 9	PSD Middle School Honor Choir
April 22	Blevins Talent Show
April 23	Greeley Jazz Band Fest.
April 27	PSD Middle School Honor Orchestra
May 18	Band Awards Concert
May 20	Choir/Orchestra Awards Concert



## Alice in Wonderland

May 5 and 6, 2011



Join Alice's madcap adventures in Wonderland as she chases the White Rabbit, races the Dodo Bird, gets tied up with the Tweedles, raps with a bubble-blowing Caterpillar, and beats the Queen of Hearts at her own game! This fast-paced stage adaptation of Alice in Wonderland features updated dialogue and new arrangements of such classic Disney songs as "I'm Late", "The Un-birthday Song", and "Zip-A-Dee-Doo-Dah".

Adults: \$5.00

Student/Children: \$3.00

PSD Badges are not valid for this event

## PSD Middle School Honor Band

Blevins had a record 28 students audition, 2nd only to Preston, and a new record for the number of students selected with 12 selected for the Honor Band from Blevins! These students performed an amazing concert on Feb. 22nd after 9 hours of rehearsal over 3 days. Congratulations to these students for being among the best of the best middle school musicians in PSD!

<u>Student</u>	<u>Instrument</u>	<u>Student</u>	<u>Instrument</u>
Haley Patrick	Flute	John Kim	Trombone
Chris Monell	Clarinet	Josh Collier	Trombone
Sean Beers	Clarinet	Nikolay Anishchenko	Trombone
Jared Janzen	Tenor Sax	Kelton Hevelone	Euphonium
Rica Ramirez (qualified on 2 instruments!)	Baritone Sax Trombone	William Benson	Percussion
Tyler Kind	Trumpet	Cammy Swab	Percussion

## 8TH GRADE CELEBRATION & BARBEQUE

Please mark your calendars for Blevins 8th grade Celebration and Barbeque on May 20th from 5-7 pm at Cottonwood Glen at Spring Canyon Park. It will include food and beverages, games and other activities. After the festivities, **parents will be invited** to participate in an awards ceremony for outstanding 8th graders. (Parents who come for the picnic will need to provide their own food.) We are looking forward to a fun celebration! Parent volunteers are needed! Please email Mrs. Life at: [slifeost@psdschools.org](mailto:slifeost@psdschools.org).

# OUR OUTSTANDING STUDENTS!

## SPELLING BEE

Congratulations to 7th grader Xandria Amash. Xandria won the Blevins Spelling Bee for the second year in a row. She then went on to place in the top 10 at the PSD Spelling Bee, making her eligible for the State Competition in March. Good luck, Xandria!

## NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC BEE

Congratulations to Trevonne Robinson for winning the Blevins National Geographic Bee. He has taken a written test to qualify for the State Bee. Good luck, Trevonne!

## MathCounts TEAM

Congratulations to our MathCounts team members Josh Rhead, John Kim, Alex Taylor, Scott Powers, Soren Ostergren, Rosie Hofer, and Andre Taylor for a smashing performance on Feb. 26th at CSU. Our Blevins team finished in 5th place out of 19 teams, earning trophies for our top four players and our school. And on top of that, congratulations to Josh Rhead for finishing in 14th place overall and earning a spot in the State Competition in Denver in March. Excellent job, MathCounts team, you made Blevins proud!!

## SLT PROJECT

The Student Leadership Team will be starting a service project after spring break to benefit the safehouses in our community. What is a safehouse you ask? A safehouse is a completely hidden and private home where children and teens who have been abused or may be in danger of abuse live. Blevins students and families are encouraged to participate by bringing cash to lunch to buy candy grams or bring 1 1/2 continuous yards of fleece to Ms. Jones. The final project after money and fleece has been collected will be to make tie blankets for the children in the safehouses. The Student Leadership Team will then deliver them to the office of Crossroads Safehouse. Start making your donations now!

## KIVA INTERNATIONAL PROJECT

A dime... you see it on the ground and keep walking. But with Kiva International that dime is 10 cents closer to someone in Africa being able to start a business. We, Blevins Middle School's Pre-Ap 7th grade classes have organized a collection to fund someone in Africa through an organization called Kiva International. Kiva International is a micro-lending organization that loans individuals and groups money to start or expand their businesses. We collected over \$315 dollars in 1 week! Check on the Blevins website for more information on who we decided to fund. If you are interested and would like to learn more about Kiva International you can go to their website [www.Kiva.org](http://www.Kiva.org).

*(Continued from page 1)*

As many of you know, the state of Colorado, and therefore Poudre School District, continues to manage the impact of the declining economy and budget shortfall(s). At Blevins, we are committed to providing the best education possible, despite our declining resources. However, we all look forward to "brighter" economic times.

Reminders: Please support Blevins in keeping our campus safe by not using the front bus cul-de-sac for pick-up and drop-off from 7:20-7:50 am and 2:15-2:45 pm. For student and bus safety, PSD does not mix buses, parent pick-up and students. Also, remember that there are no U-Turns allowed on or anywhere near the Blevins campus.

Have a great Spring!

Respectfully,

David W. Linehan

## When to Keep Your Child

### Home From School

Poudre School District recommends that parents keep children home if they have:

- A temperature over 100 degrees
- Diarrhea
- Vomiting
- Ear pain
- Eye drainage, redness, or itching
- Sore throat
- Swollen glands
- A significant cough



Remember we do not have a full time nurse on site every day. Please do not send your child to school to be "diagnosed". Thanks for your consideration.

Get On Board for a tour of FABULOUS FRANCE, Spring Break 2012. Student meeting (parents welcome) on April 12, 2011 from 2:30-3:30 in room 130.

**Congratulations to Blevins Student, Brooks Fisher, for being chosen as one of Channel 9's "9Kids Who Care"!**



## Poetry Café

The Blevins English Department is excited to announce the 7th annual Poetry Café! It was a huge success last year, and we are looking forward to it on April 13th - 14th this year. Every student participates by reading some of their original poetry or poetry by other authors. It's a great event. Hot cocoa and snacks will be served as well.

Parent volunteers are greatly appreciated. Please contact Ms. Lind-Tufte at 488-4041 or klindtuf@psdschools.org if you can help.

### Congratulations to the following students for being recognized as Blevins Students of the Month!

6th Grade	7th Grade	8th Grade
<b>January:</b>		
Joel Collier Noon Elmikashfi Kasyfur Raduan	Raina Hollcroft Isaiah Mercado Amber Trimble	Rachel Knaff Katherine Neff True Wiggins
<b>February:</b>		
Cedric Culhane Rebecca Erickson Maddy Olver	Yun Seo Choi Madi Nigro Scot Powers	William Benson Julia Duke Shanequa Russo
<b>March:</b>		
Devin Holtscaw Alia Mohd Rozi Andre Taylor	Emily Blomberg Payson Cronen-Smith Andi Johnston	Madi Crosson Craig Farber Salofi Gaoa