

# Winter 2010-11 – Bear Tracks



## Principal's Pen

December 2010

Happy Holidays Blevins Community! Wow, I can hardly believe that Winter Break is upon us and first semester is coming to a close. I guess "time flies when you are having fun."

Currently, Blevins students and staff are busy with many activities including: Homework Help (available to all students), Science Olympiad is organized and working diligently preparing for spring competition(s), boy's basketball is beginning its seasons, and 2010-11 Yearbook Staff is diligently preparing this year's publication. Congratulations to all our Fall/Winter student athletes in the 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade for their hard work and to the many students who made first quarter honor roll, and the students and staff of the Blevins Music Department for their outstanding fall and winter performances. A special recognition goes out to our 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade football teams for earning and being recognized as District Champions.

I would also like to recognize the many 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 14<sup>th</sup> Blevins will be celebrating its 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Blevins Community Fair. The vision for our annual fair is to provide a low cost celebration of the Blevins community and the incredible support and investment of our students, staff and parents. In addition to our current students and family, Blevins also invites students in our feeder elementary schools who are in the 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade. 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 Mike Foster, Blevins 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Math Teacher and Science Teacher, for being selected as the Blevins Teacher of the Year and nomination to the Poudre School District Foundation for the annual Excellence in Education Award. Kudos also go out to Mrs. Candace Martin-O'Connor 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.

In an effort to promote Blevins to our community, Blevins has posted a video to our website that helps parents and students get a good idea of what the Blevins community is all about. It includes interviews with parents, former Blevins students now in high school and college, and Blevins staff. Please take a look and tell your friends. This type of production is new to our community, so we would appreciate any feedback that you may have for us. Check it out on our home page and click on the "It's all Good Blevins Movie." In addition to this video, I have created a few documents that inform potential parents and students of our incredible community.

It seems appropriate during this holiday season, to share with you my thoughts of what I am thankful for and how lucky I feel to work with this community of students, teachers and parents. I am thankful for:

- My family and my family's health
- Being employed and able to provide for my family
- The brave men and women who serve our country and communities domestically and abroad (soldiers, fire/rescue and law enforcement, etc..)
- Blevins students who continue to amaze me with their dedication and acts of kindness
- A dedicated staff for whom is always willing to go the "extra-mile" for kids
- A wonderful parent community that is supportive of our school community
- The Blevins Parent Teacher Organization for whom take the time to meet and support Blevins in a multitude of ways
- The Fort Collins and PSD community that voted to support and invest in our schools by voting and passing a Bond and Mill override.

### Announcements and Reminders:

1. Many of you took the time to complete a survey related to Blevins as part of our Innovation and Efficiency data collection and report. This report can be viewed on the PSD website. Take a look. The report goes into more depth, but I will tell you that both staff and parents overwhelmingly support Blevins as a "Neighborhood" School.
2. 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 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<b>NO SCHOOL - WINTER BREAK</b> <sup>1</sup>					
2	3 NO SCHOOL Teacher Work Day	4 PTO Mtg. 6:30 pm	5	6	7	8
9	10 Honor Band Audition Week	11	12 7 Bball @ Blevins 8 Bball @ CLP	13	14 Community Fair! 6-8:30 	15
16	17 NO SCHOOL 	18	19 7 Bball @ Boltz 8 Bball @ Blevins	20 Pre-AP Parent & Student Info Night 6:30 pm Vision & Hearing Screening	21	22
23	24 7 Bball @ Blevins 8 Bball @ Webber	25 5th grade Parent Info Night & Instrument tryout night 6:00 pm	26 Bball BYE	27	28 School of Choice Deadline	29
30	31 7 Bball @ Blevins 8 Bball @ Kinard					

## Schedule of Events

- **Jan. 4** - PTO Meeting 6:30 pm
- **Jan. 14** - 6-8:30 pm BLEVINS COMMUNITY FAIR
- **Jan. 17** - NO SCHOOL - MLK Day
- **Jan. 20** - PreAP Information Night 6:30
- **Jan. 25** - 5th Grade Parent Information Night 6 pm
- **Jan. 28** - School of Choice deadline

# February 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 7 Bball @ Leshar 8 Bball @ Blevins	3 7 Bball @ Preston 8 Bball @ Blevins	4 School Dance 7-9 pm	5
6	7 7 Bball @ Blevins 8 Bball @ Lincoln	8 PTO Mtg. 6:30 pm	9 7 Bball @ Wellington 8 Bball @ Blevins	10	11 RMHS Reg. Info Distribution 1:30	12
13	14	15	16	17 Honor Band Rehearsal	18	19
20	21 NO SCHOOL COLLABORATION DAY 	22 Honor Band Rehearsal 8 am-12 pm Honor Band Concert 7:00 pm <b>Volleyball Tryouts</b>	23	24 RMHS Reg. Pick-up	25	26
27	28					

## Schedule of Events

- **Feb. 4** - School Dance 7-9 pm
- **Feb. 8** - PTO Meeting 6:30 pm
- **Feb. 11** - RMHS Counselors come to Blevins for 9th gr. registration
- **Feb. 21** - No School - Collaboration Day
- **Feb. 22** - Volleyball tryouts begin
- **Feb. 24** - RMHS counselors pick-up 9th gr. registration

# March 2011

## Schedule of Events

- **March 1** - Choir/Orchestra Concert 7:00 pm
- **March 3** - Band Concert 7:00 pm
- **March 8** - PTO Mtg. 6:30 pm
- **March 11** - Last day of 3rd quarter
- **March 14-18** - SPRING BREAK - NO SCHOOL
- **March 22-31** - CSAP Testing

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Choir/Orchestra Concert 7 pm	2	3 Band Concert 7 pm	4	5 Solo/Ensemble Festival
6	7	8 PTO Mtg. 6:30 pm 7 Vball @ Lesher 8 Vball @ Blevins	9	10 Volleyball BYE	11 End of 3rd quarter	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
<b>SPRING BREAK - NO SCHOOL</b>						
20	21	22 <b>CSAP Testing</b> 7 VBall @ Wellington 8 Vball @ Blevins	23	24 7 VBall @ Blevins 8 VBall @ Webber	25	26
27	28	29 <b>CSAP Testing</b> 7 VBall @ Boltz 8 VBall @ Blevins	30	31 7 VBall @ Blevins 8 VBall @ Blevins		

## 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](http://www.girlsandboystown.org/btpress)).

### **Important Grading and Registration Dates for 2nd Semester**

- **Jan. 4** 3rd quarter begins
- **Jan. 7** Report cards distributed during 9th period
- **Jan. 28** School of Choice deadline
- **Feb. 4** Mid-quarter grades handed out to students during 9th period
- **Feb. 11** RMHS Counselors visit Blevins to hand out registration packets
- **Feb. 24** RMHS Counselors visit Blevins to collect registration packets
- **March 11** 3rd quarter ends
- **March 21** 4th quarter begins/6th grade schedules handed out during 2nd period.
- **March 25** 3rd quarter report cards distributed during 9th period
- **April 22** Mid-quarter Grade Reports distributed during 9th period
- **Week of May 30** Final Report Cards will be mailed home



*It's ALL GOOD in the NEIGHBORHOOD"*

Please join us for a night of family fun at our 6th Annual Blevins Community Fair. This is a great opportunity for our community to see what Blevins is all about. Join us for food, games, fun, and prizes!

Help us celebrate our AWESOME Blevins community.

- **Free Admission**
- **Game tickets .25 each (games range from 1-8 tickets)**
- **25 Game Booths for all ages**
- **Caricatures Artist and Fun Photo Opportunities**
- **Face Painting**
- **Hovercraft rides**
- **Cake Walk**
- **Performances by Blevins Jazz Band and  
Just For Kicks Professional Jazz Band**
- **Pizza, Drinks and Cookie available to purchase for  
dinner \$4.00 per person**

## Blevins Science & Engineering Fair 2010

Congratulations to the 198 participants of the 2010 Blevins Middle School Science and Engineering Fair! Students who were awarded either First or Second Place medals will advance to the Longs Peak Science and Engineering Fair to be held at the University of Northern Colorado on March 1, 2011. The following students were awarded medals for their outstanding projects:

### 6th Grade

**1st Place:** Maddie Olver, Lauren Nelson, Lauren Foerster

**2nd Place:** Kendrik Seen, Marley Boulton

### 7th Grade

**1st Place:** Xandria Amash, Jack Barrier, Payson Cronen-Smith, Josh Gilbert, Piper Nunn, Sean Papile, Kate Unfug

**2nd Place:** Justen Downing, Megan Fenwick, Kelton Hevelone, Jessika Hoyberg-Neilsen, Holly Mackie, Rica Ramirez, Cammy Swab, Katie Winkelman

### 8th Grade

**1st Place:** Ben Blumhardt, Maddie Crosson, Sydney Dickens, Rachel Knaff, Laura Lenczycki, Elise Niedringhaus, Courtney Robbins, Jonathan Sherwood

**2nd Place:** Jacoby Benger, William Brauch, Alex Dressen-Shipley, Tyler Haskett, Jared Janzen, Katherine Neff, Aston Woy

The Blevins Science Department would like to thank all the volunteers who helped set up and judge this year's event. We would also like to thank those who mentored our students as they developed their projects.

### 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](http://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

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\*\*\*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.\*\*\*

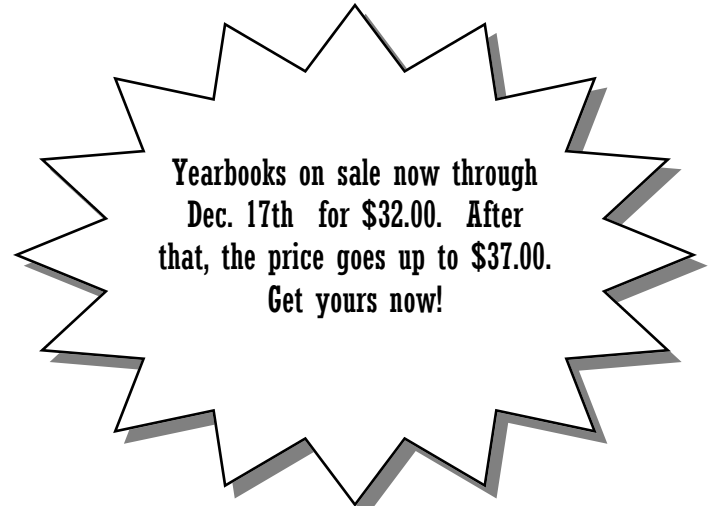
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## Pre-AP Info

PreAP Information Night for Parents and Students  
Thursday, January 20th at 6:30 pm  
Blevins Library

Are you a parent or student interested in the 7th grade PreAP program for the 2011-2012 school year? Then please attend an informational meeting in the Blevins Library on January 20th 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.

<b>Congratulations to the following students for being recognized as Blevins Students of the Month!</b>		
6th Grade	7th Grade	8th Grade
<b>September:</b>		
Bailey Floyd Valeria Hernandez Avelita Mercado	Madi Druse Olivia Fortunato Shane Tolley	Jared Janzen Sam Penner Josh Rhead
<b>October:</b>		
Emmett Brown Stephanie Muchow Hanna Wilder	Anna Biederman MacKenzie Druse Brenna Timm	Zoe Carlyon Nivek Leathers Katherine Walter
<b>November:</b>		
Payton Fisher Molly Hoffman Karla Luna	Victoria Fernandes Angel Martin Mac Zafarana	Mariah Johnson Sarah Rogers Aaron Spaude
<b>December:</b>		
Roba AlQutati Hannah Patchen Sierra Rohlfs	Megan Fenwick Jennifer McLarty Sean Miller	Tino Makombe Alex Northey Alex Taylor



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

Period 1 or 2:	9:40-10:30
Period 3 or 4:	10:35 –11:25
Period 5 or 6:	A Lunch 11:25-11:55 Class 12:00-12:50 B Lunch Class 11:30-12:20 Lunch 12:20-12:50
Period 7 or 8:	12:55-1:45
Period 9:	1:50-2:30

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

#### HOW TO USE:

1. Go to <http://eweb.pdschools.org/schools/blevins/>
- 2.
3. Click on "Go to Pinnacle Grade Viewer"
4. 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)

**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 <http://eweb.pdschools.org/schools/blevins/>**

# SPORTS PAGE

## Girls Basketball

### 7th Grade:

A huge congratulations goes out to the 7th grade girls' varsity basketball team. They ended the season with an overall record of 7-1, placing them 2nd in Districts!! The Junior Varsity also had a great season, ending with an overall record of 5-3. In addition to all their hard work and sacrifice on the court, the girls had a great opportunity to volunteer their time outside of practice for the Homeless Gear. They were able to separate clothes, dishes, and other items to help less fortunate people in our community. The 7th grade girls' basketball team and Coach Polenz would like to thank Nicole Martinez (parent of player), Ken John and all the other Homeless Gear employees for organizing and making this opportunity possible.



Parents, thank-you for all your support and the commitment of getting your daughters to and from practices, as well as being a positive role model at home and at the games. Allowing your daughter to be part of an athletic team has lifetime benefits and the experiences you have provided are immeasurable. Thanks for such a great season and we look forward to another great year in 2011!

### 8th Grade:

The 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Girl's Basketball team made great strides this year, tremendously improving both their individual skills and their ability to play as a team. The girls finished 2-7, but played tough and did not give up in the face of adversity. They will take with them valuable life lessons as they parley their experiences and get ready for high school basketball.

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## Softball



On behalf of the softball team, Blevins and Coach Polenz, we would like to thank Matt Chavez for making signs for the home and visitors dugouts. These signs add a nice touch as well as a warm welcome for the visiting teams. We would also like to thank Jennifer Buchanan and Adobe for sponsoring a wonderful banner for the Bruin softball team. The banner and signs are appreciated and the players absolutely loved making the fields a little more welcoming. Thank you once again for your generous support of our team.

~ Coach Polenz ~

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## UPCOMING BLEVINS SPORTS

Boys Basketball - Practice begins Dec. 13  
Girls Volleyball - Practice begins Feb. 22  
Track - Practice begins April 5

\*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.



## NEWS BRIEFS FROM PSD

**Give PSD your email - stay informed!** You will receive updates on: \*Emergency/School Closure Information \*District Changes Impacting Your Child \*District News and Accomplishments \*Board of Education Action \*Monthly E-newsletter . Sign up now at [www.psdschools.org](http://www.psdschools.org) > E-mail Alert Sign-up.

**Follow PSD on Facebook and Twitter!** Sign up to follow PSD on Facebook and Twitter. Links are now located at the top of the new PSD home page. Check it out!

**PSD is excited to offer computer access at Walmart.** You can now access PSD information at a computer in the Walmart SuperCenter, 1250 E. Magnolia, Ft Collins. The PSD computer, which is available during regular Walmart business hours, gives you access to the PSD website that includes the latest district news and events, as well as information about school registration, busing, calendars, and district policies. You also have access to specific information about your child through the Parent Portal on the PSD website. Please know that this computer does not have access to outside email or internet sites beyond the PSD website. PSD thanks the Walmart SuperCenter for partnering with the district on this project.

**Board expected to take action on Underutilized Schools in January.** In January, the PSD Board of Education is expected to take action on a recommendation concerning underutilized schools, culminating a process underway for the past three years. The Board's resolution directed district administration to develop a plan that may include closing schools as early as the 2011-12 school year. Four elementaries and one middle school were identified using the same five criteria across all schools to prepare closure/consolidation plans and innovation/efficiencies plans: Beattie Elementary, Irish Elementary, Lopez Elementary, and Putnam Elementary, and Lincoln IB World Middle School. Another nine elementaries and two middle schools prepared only the innovation/efficiencies plan: Cache La Poudre Elementary, Harris Bilingual, Lab School for Creative Learning, Laurel Elementary, Riffenburgh Elementary, Timnath Elementary, and all three Mountain Schools (Livermore, Red Feather, and Stove Prairie), and Blevins and Boltz Middle Schools.

### **Timeline for January:**

- Jan. 11: PSD administration will present the Board with a recommendation Jan. 11, 2011
- Jan. 25: The Board tentatively plans to vote on the recommendation on Jan. 25, finalizing the process

**PSD Attains Accredited Status in New State Process.** Poudre School District has achieved the "Accredited" status, or one of the two highest accreditation ratings, through the Colorado Department of Education in the state's new accreditation process announced November 30. "We are excited that our district is accredited and placed in one of the top two categories and is on a 'Performance Plan' (District Unified Improvement Plan), which is the highest level of plans," says John Passantino, PSD assessment and school support team coordinator. "In addition, all of our schools are fully accredited and ranked in the top two plan categories as identified by the state as well."

**School Choice in PSD: How it works, deadlines approaching.** PSD's School Choice program allows families to select the school that best meets their child's educational needs, on a space available basis. Round-trip transportation is the responsibility of the parents for School Choice students. The online School Choice application is now available at [www.psdschools.org](http://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 2011-12 are:

**January 28, 2011, for secondary (grades 6-12)**

**February 11, 2011, for elementary (grades K-5)**

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.

**Annual Accountability Report to the Community for 2009-10 available online.** PSD is pleased to announce the availability of our 2009-2010 Annual Accountability Report to the public. Both the information required by federal law and district accreditation information are now available on the Colorado Department of Education's Web site at <http://www.schoolview.org/SchoolPerformance/index.asp> This information is also available on the district's Web site here: [www.psdschools.org](http://www.psdschools.org). On the PSD 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](mailto:jody@psdschools.org).

## Exciting Information about Blevins

Blevins is striving to be the best middle school in Northern Colorado, and since becoming a middle school we are serving students and families better than ever. Did you know that:

- Thirty-three of Blevins' 36 full-time teachers have a Master's Degree or above
- Blevins has five active teachers who have been recipients of the prestigious Poudre School District Foundation Excellence in Education Award and Recognition
- Blevins has a very dynamic and innovative team of 6<sup>th</sup> grade teachers
- Blevins is dedicated to academics and has a Pre-Advanced Placement Program that prepares students for Rocky Mountain High School's Advanced Placement Program
- Blevins has strong science programming with the largest middle school Science Fair in the district and has won the State Science Olympiad Championship and represented Colorado at the National Science Olympiad Competition 5 out of the last 6 years
- Blevins has a dedicated and dynamic music program (choir, orchestra, and band) and has an annual musical production
- Blevins has a modern and recently remodeled Technology Lab and Classroom
- All Math and Science classrooms have SMART Technology or Smart Boards
- Blevins has and utilizes web conferencing equipment
- Blevins has three fully operational Computer Labs
- Blevins has fully functional science labs for 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades
- Blevins has a modern and recently remodeled Library/Media Center
- Blevins' football teams won both 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade District Championships this year
- Blevins has some of the best athletic facilities in the district (2 full size gyms, a health/weight room with climbing wall and cardio equipment, 2 softball fields, 2 tennis courts and an incredible amount of open fields/turf)
- Blevins Leadership is visible before, during and after school, interacts with students consistently, and is very approachable
- Blevins has a School-Based Mentoring Program in partnership with Rocky Mountain High School (\$450,000 Grant)
- Blevins has a strong Character Education Program called Discovery that is based on dignity and respect for all and is a Positive Behavior Support School (PBS)
- Blevins consistently promotes anti-bullying with our current programming of Rachel's Challenge, Pink Shirt Challenge and an anonymous reporting system

### **Blevins Community - We need your help!**

The Community Fair is just around the corner and we will be in need of many volunteers to make this happen. We will have two photo stations that will need adults to run and keep track of names for future delivery. We will need adults to help serve/sell food. We have thirty games that need two shifts each of adults. We will need student assistance as well.

We will also need **cakes** for the Cake Walk, **2 liter bottles of soda** for the Ring Toss and **Bingo prizes**. Please help make this a great event for everyone.

Thanks,

The Blevins Community Fair Committee (Contact Connii Rogers at: [connii-rogers@comcast.net](mailto:connii-rogers@comcast.net) to help.)