



The Voyager

1st Quarter

October 2007

Lesher Jr. High School

Principal: Tom Dodd

Asst. Principal: Mike Grigg

Counselors: Wylie Cate & Helen Kaplan

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Special points of interest:

- * PSD offers new e-mail sign-up for all parents to receive news from the District & Lesher. Get connected!
- * 4 PSD initiatives are moving ahead
- * See photos of Homecoming Parade
- * IB Information Meetings will be held in December
- * Information for school closures in English & Spanish

From the Principal...

Dear Lesher Families and Friends:

It's hard to believe we're already wrapping up the 1st quarter of the school year. As the football and softball seasons come to a close we are gearing up for wrestling and girls' basketball, our *Lego* robotics team is going strong, and our music department is readying for its first concerts of the year. Time flies when you're working with great kids and a knowledgeable staff!

Once again we opened the school year at Lesher with much excitement. We welcomed our largest 7th grade class in the 48-year history of Lesher, and our students were greeted by more facility upgrades. Most notable is our new and improved bus lane, handicapped accessible front entrance, handicapped parking spaces, student gathering area, flagpole, wider sidewalks, and landscaping. Thanks to the great work PSD Director of Building and Grounds Jerry Garretson and the City of Fort Collins, Lesher will benefit from a safer and more aesthetically pleasing Stover Street entrance, and a new *Transfort* bus stop near the intersection of Stover and Prospect. Please remember, if you're picking up or dropping off your child please use the parent drop off lane along Lake St. on the north side of our building. The new bus lane on Stover St. along the west side of the building is reserved for our 15 buses, which arrive every morning and afternoon. In addition, Mr. Garretson is currently working with our Parent-Teacher Organization (PTO) in designing a new, lighted

sign for the corner of Prospect and Stover with an informational display, and a natural rock sign for our east wing entrance. Thanks also to Alan Boatright, PSD's Director of Custodial Services and Pete Hall, Director of Facilities for providing us with new floors in our gyms and boys and girls locker rooms. Some other happenings the first quarter included:

- Back-to-School Night Sept. 6 had over 400 parents and guardians in attendance.
- Our wonderful PTO under the capable leadership of President Lynn Ann Johnson sponsored Lesher's Back-to-School Picnic Sept. 8, an 8th Grade Pool Party at the Parkwood pool Aug. 29, 7th Grade Family Night with chili dogs and bingo on Oct. 9, as well as, our annual magazine sale fundraiser that netted nearly \$10,000. Special thanks go to parent Angie Thomas who organized the back-to-school picnic, Greg and Suzanne Davis for donating a blow up obstacle course for the back-to-school picnic, Mark and Susan Hoenig for organizing the pool party, Nira Valdez for organizing and Tammy Osborn for calling bingo at the 7th grade night, Alisa Roberts for organizing teacher appreciation quarter treats, and Pam Raab, and Peggy Smith who coordinated the magazine sale and made it a great success- **YOU ALL ROCK!**
- Our Inquiry class taught by Mrs. Marsh just completed, and marched with, its float in the community homecoming parade. *Next page>>*



Mr. Dodd's Letter - cont'd.

- MAP (Measures of Academic Progress) testing was completed last week. These state-aligned computerized MAP tests provide accurate results that can be used to identify the skills and concepts individual students have learned, diagnose instructional needs, monitor academic growth over time, place new students into appropriate instructional programs, and make data-driven decisions at the classroom, school, and district levels. Thanks to Leshar Assessment Coordinator/Math Dept. Head Janice Martinez for organizing the testing that will occur again in early May.

Please support our efforts to raise student achievement at Leshar. One way you can do that is to continually check your student's academic and attendance progress throughout the year on Pinnacle Internet Viewer (PIV). If you need assistance accessing Pinnacle please contact our Counseling Center at 472-3804. Also, please report your child's absences within 24 hours by calling our attendance line at 472-3815. For those parents who drive their child to school, please get him, or her here on time. Too many students are late to first period. Good attendance is not only crucial to

your child's success at school, but also key to our school's funding, which is based on our enrollment count determined via student attendance between September 24 and October 5. If our students are not here we can't teach them! This year Leshar will benefit from the *Phone Master* system, which will allow us to automatically place a call home with an automated message when a student is marked with an unexcused absence. As we become more familiar with this technology we will use it to send automated messages home to inform parents of important upcoming events like Parent-Teacher conferences.

As always, thank you for supporting Leshar, and for allowing us the stately responsibility of educating your child(ren). As you have come to expect, great things are happening everyday at Leshar Junior High School. Viking fever - catch it!

Sincerely,
Tom Dodd
Principal

*"A school for the mind,
and a home for the heart."*

Leshar Staff Update

Art teacher **Deb Frain** earned her Masters degree in Art from UNC last summer.

Leshar Math Dept. Head **Janice Martinez** was one of three semi-finalists for the Rotary Teacher of the Year Award presented annually to one of the 27 monthly winners selected by the Fort Collins Rotary Clubs.

In addition, Ms. Martinez and Social Studies teacher **Chris Nickel** are completing administrative internships at Leshar as members of this year's CSU principal license cohort group. As such, Ms. Martinez is coordinating a New Teacher Academy to help teachers in their first two years at Leshar be successful, and Mr. Nickel is working on initiating an after school Study Club, and an after school Chinese Language Enrichment opportunity for students during the spring semester.



GOT THOR?

Teamwork

Honesty

Organization

Respect

The new THOR is
Ryan Hoenig!

Please congratulate
him if you see him
or have him in class!

The sub for him is
Hunter Weitz.

School Choice Application Period October 1 - February 8

Poudre School District offers a wide variety of instructional options to meet the educational needs of students. Through School Choice, parents may register their child to attend a school outside their neighborhood attendance.

Families may submit School Choice applications beginning October 1, 2007 through February 8, 2008 for the 2008-2009 school year. The order in which School Choice applications are received prior to the deadline does not affect the chance of the student being accepted at the requested school. If the number of applicants exceeds the number of available slots for a particular school and grade level, students will be selected by public lottery.

Please complete one School Choice application form per child per school and submit to each school the student is applying to attend.

Among the areas of the policy are commitment – state law and PSD’s policy presume a family that exercises School Choice plans to keep their student (s) in that school for at least the full school year and also through all grades served by that school. Those wanting to transfer back to a previous school must complete a School Choice application and ask to be transferred back.

Once a student has been accepted into a school, there is no need for parents to resubmit a School Choice application

each year. Families exercising School Choice will no longer receive a renewal letter or notice in the future. However, if a child is on a waiting list for a school and wants to remain there, parents must notify the school in writing each year of their desire to remain on the waiting list.

Eighth grade student athletes who plan to participate in high school athletics at a high school outside of their attendance area must submit a School Choice application to that high school by Friday, February 9, 2007. Once athletes begin practice at the high school as 9th graders, they must remain at the high school in order to maintain full varsity eligibility. If sometime during their high school career student athletes choose to return to their neighborhood high school, they will not be eligible to participate in 50% of varsity competition for the first year they return to their neighborhood school.

For complete details about PSD’s School Choice policy, visit the PSD web site at www.psdschools.org and click on “School Registration.”

International Baccalaureate Information

All 6th graders in Poudre School District will soon be receiving informational letters regarding the IB program for 2008-2009. A meeting will be held early in December for all who are interested. Check the PSD website for updates.

Arrive On Time

On any given day we have 10-15 students tardy to 1st period class. Educational research and common sense tells us that being on time is essential to success in school and in life. Being on time allows a student to receive the full benefit of the educational opportunity in a classroom, reduces disruptions to teachers and students in the classroom, and allows students to be involved in the learning process from start to finish, improving their chances of being successful in school.

Again, we encourage you and your student to be vigilant about being to school on time. If a student’s tardy to school has a reasonable explanation, please have your student present a signed note to the attendance office with this explanation. If the reason for the tardy is the student’s inability to get ready for school, the student will receive a consequence from the school to hopefully change their behavior. We ask your cooperation in the interest of your student and others in our school. Thank you.



Leave On Time

A Word from our Resource Officer:

With the arrival of colder temperatures I have noticed an increasing number of students in the school building after the end of the school day. These students are not working with a teacher or doing schoolwork. Our night shift custodians have had to ask these students to leave the building so they can get their cleaning done.

ALL students need to exit the building by 2:50 PM every day, unless they are involved in a sports practice, a school sponsored activity, or are working directly with a teacher. Parents, PLEASE be prompt in picking up your students at the end of the school day.

If I can be of any assistance, call me at 472-3871.

Thanks. *S.R.O. Denny Pink*

What's Happening at Lesher

Fort Collins Public Library Comes to Lesher

This group needs little inspiration to read, but Mrs. Musci's Great Books class received a little extra incentive during class on October 12th.

Sue Ellen Jones, Teen Librarian at the Fort Collins Public Library, visited class bringing a suitcase full of new titles to entice any reader. Students listened to book talks and voted on their favorite titles. These titles will become our literature circle texts.

Since our class was so attentive, each student received a \$5 gift certificate to Cinemark Theaters!

Where is Pinnacle?

The Poudre School District web page has been redesigned. If you and your students are looking for Pinnacle Grade Viewer on the PSD page, it is now under the SCHOOLS tab. The steps for reaching your PIV information are the same. We will also be changing the links on the Lesher Student page very soon.

Lesher Scary Story

The annual Lesher Scary Story Contest began in the month of October.

We expect over 150 entries in the competition and the winner will receive \$30, courtesy of Lesher PTO! Write on Lesher!

Creative Writing Finds Inspiration At Denver Art Museum

Art across the curriculum enriches a student's experience, enhances their enjoyment of life, and gives students a deeper understanding of the world around them. On October 10th, students in our Creative Writing program took a field trip to the Denver Art Museum to see the traveling exhibit of *Artisans and Kings: Selected Treasures of the Louvre*. Each student became an expert on one piece of art in the show, researched the piece of art and composed a story to go with that piece of art. Actually seeing the piece of art in person was a once in a lifetime experience. Thanks to the Bohemian Foundation and the Lesher PTO for funding the trip.

The picture below shows our Lesher students in Denver.



Students of the Month

Students of the Month are nominated and voted upon by the Lesher Staff. These students possess THOR characteristics of Teamwork, Honesty, Organization and Respect, and their leadership and academic accomplishments make them eligible for consideration.

CONGRATULATIONS to our winners for the months of August and September.

AUGUST

- 7th Andrew Epstein
Nicola van den Heever
- 8th Javier Aguirre
Julia Cooper
- 9th Dom Bejarano
Evon Harmon

SEPTEMBER

- 7th Jacqueline Espinosa
Christopher Panella
- 8th Socorro Ontiveros
Brady Mosbrucker
- 9th Yoon Kim
Lucas Suazo



INQUIRY Class Creates Float for Homecoming Parade

The students in Marty Marsh's 1st semester INQUIRY class worked hard on a huge paper maché replica of the famous "A" in the foothills near Hughes Stadium for Lesher's entry into this year's Homecoming Parade on October 6th. Many students and Lesher staff members enjoyed the parade on a beautiful Colorado fall morning.



Educational Support Services

Lesher's new block schedule has allowed the Special Needs Department to better integrate curriculum from the general education program. Cheryle Haworth teams with Cathi Jacobs in Biology class several times a week. Susan Colvin teams with Chris Nickel in the 9th grade World History class. She modifies tests and assists in study skills for resource students. Karen Gaebler partners with Janice Martinez to teach 7th, 8th and 9th grade math classes.

This summer Chris Moore and Pam Scroggins attended Discovery Training for a week at Fossil Ridge High School with other members of the Special Needs Dept. This course was taught by Bryan Maddox from Centennial High School, and helps students commit to the learning culture of the six Ps: Prompt, Polite, Prepared, Participate, Positive mental attitude, and Produce.

Our department welcomes Diann Schooler for the Moderate Needs Program. She comes to us from Shepardson Elementary and has varied teaching experience. In addition, Schooler has her law degree.

Our paraprofessionals, Deb James, Lois Chung, Heather Howe, Barb Moreng, Chase Lott and David Thompson continue to assist exceptional students in their regular and special classes.

As a department we all strive to better serve our many students.

NOW is the time to buy your
2007-2008 Yearbook!!
 Payments accepted
 in the Main Office
 or online at
www.jostensyearbooks.com

Volunteers!
*We LOVE our Lesher volunteers
 and can always use more!*
 It is now MANDATORY that all PSD
 volunteers register at
www.psdschools.org. If you've
 already registered with an elemen-
 tary school, you'll need to edit your
 profile and add LESHER JR. HIGH.
 Thanks so much for all your support!

🎵 Concert Dates for Vocal & Instrumental Groups 🎵

Our music classes have been working hard and are anxious to present their efforts at these upcoming events:

OCTOBER

- 18 ~ Vocal Music Concert ~ 7 PM
- 25 ~ Nordic Winds/Orchestra
Concert ~ 7 PM

NOVEMBER

- 8 ~ Fall Concert for Beginning Band
& Orchestra classes ~ 7 PM

DECEMBER

- 13 ~ Viking Voices & Singing Sevies
Holiday Concert - 7 PM
- 18 ~ Advanced Ban & Orchestra

SPECIAL GUEST APPEARANCE

Famous Blues guitar player Hawkeye Herman will visit band classes 3 times during the next two weeks to work with students on the history of blues and rock and roll. Thanks Mr. Borger for making these arrangements!

News from Your PTO

Your Lesher PTO is off to a great start this year! With your help, we raised over \$8000 on our magazine fundraiser. Many thanks to our wonderful coordinators, Pam Raab and Peggy Smith, who really made the sale fun and rewarding for our students.

Because we had such a successful fundraiser, we will soon be starting our mini-grants process in which we award grants to teachers, staff and students for special projects and equipment to offer enrichment and improve educational facilities for students. If you would like to be part of the mini-grant process, please contact Lynn Ann At 484-3215.

The Eighth Grade Pool Party was a fantastic way to kick off the school year. The eighth graders had lots of splashing good fun. We had a great time at our back-to-school picnic. Lots of thanks to the Davis Family for providing us with the fun inflatables--they were a big hit! The 7th Grade Family night was also a fun evening. Mrs. Osborn did a fabulous job of calling bingo and lots

of prizes were won! Thanks to all the volunteers who helped make these events such great successes.

Albertson's has changed their Community Partners program and has a new card. If you have scan this card each time you shop at Albertson's, your PTO will automatically receive from 1% to 5% of everything you spend. If we all participate this can really add up, funds we can put into Lesher! Please stop by the office and pick up a new card. Feel free to take extras for family and friends who shop at Albertson's. If you can't make it to school to pick up your card, call me at 484-3215 and I will send you a card in the mail.

With all your participation, your PTO can continue to support Lesher students, parents and staff. Please contact any PTO member, teacher, or administrator if you would like more information on how to get involved.

Lynn Ann Johnson,
Lesher PTO President



THANK YOU!

- 👏 Kristin Glenn, our Consumer & Family Studies teacher, would like to thank all the parents & staff members who donated fabric pieces to her Teen Living classes. There was enough material for each student to make a pillowcase, and the class has made several quilts to donate to Crossroads Safehouse.
- 👏 The Lesher Staff would like to thank our wonderful PTO for the great snacks provided during lunch at the end of the 1st quarter.
- 👏 The Lesher Classified Staff would like to thank the Lesher Certified Staff for the excellent Chili Lunch provided to celebrate Classified Employees Week.



*Daylight Savings Time
Begins
November 4, 2007*

Counselor's Corner

Did you know?

- Suicide is the 2nd leading cause of death for adolescents in Colorado.
- Boys are four times more likely to die from suicide than girls.
- Teen girls are the most likely of any age group to attempt suicide.

As a parent, it can be hard to tell when your child is being a "typical adolescent" and when your child has a more serious problem. Because most adults expect teens to be moody, parents, teachers, counselors and adults often dismiss the troubled teen's behavior and say "He's just being a teenager". Although adolescents have their ups and downs, generally adolescence should not be an unhappy time. Sadly, for adolescents who experience depression, life may be miserable.

It can be difficult to identify adolescent depression, because adolescents tend to mask their sad feelings, and express those feelings through their behaviors. When an adult sees a *pattern* of the behaviors below, it is important to take it seriously.

- Sadness/crying
- Change in appetite, sleeping
- Low energy
- Difficulty concentrating
- Loss of interest in activities
- Slipping grades or work
- Feeling angry or irritable
- Withdrawal / Isolation
- Alcohol or drug use
- Feeling hopeless, helpless
- Feeling guilty for no reason
- Talking about suicide, death
- Giving away possessions
- Careless, high risk behavior
- Making a suicide plan
- Unexplained mood improvement

If you have any questions or concerns, talk to your son or daughter's school counselor. You can also contact the Suicide Resource Center at 635-9301 for more information.

Hearing Loss in Children

Should MP3 player use be limited?

Ear specialists say a whisper is 30 decibels and that a normal conversation is 60 decibels. The sound from an iPod Shuffle has been measured at 115 decibels. A survey sponsored by the Australian government found that about 25 percent of people using portable stereos had daily noise exposures high enough to cause hearing damage. And further research from the United Kingdom determined that young people, ages 18-24, were more likely than other adults to exceed safe listening limits.

Researchers at Boston Children's Hospital determined that listening to a portable music player with headphones at 60 percent of its potential volume for one hour a day is relatively safe.

Why earplugs are important at concerts

Parents should be aware that various medical studies have found sound levels at rock concerts often to be significantly higher than 85 dBA, with some reports suggesting that sound intensity may reach 90 dBA to as high as 122 dBA. To experience 85 dBA, listen to an electric shaver or a busy urban street. Experts agree that continued exposure to noise above 85 dBA over time will cause hearing loss.

The University of Minnesota Medical Center recently presented findings of a study which examined the sound intensity throughout a well-known concert venue and the effectiveness of earplugs. The study found that sound pressure levels were equally hazardous in all parts of the concert hall. Accordingly, you should use earplugs at every type of musical concert, regardless of your vicinity to the stage.

A good rule of thumb: When a child accompanies a parent to any activity or location with excessive noise, ear protection should be worn by the entire family.

2007-2008 ATHLETICS INFORMATION

TENNIS

The Lesher tennis players did a great job and came in 2nd place for overall team scores in the district (Kinard was 1st). Thanks to coaches Hohweiler & Cate and all the parent volunteers for your help and support for a great season.

Here are the results of the finals. The player's place is out of the 436 participants in the PSD Jr. High Tennis Program this year.

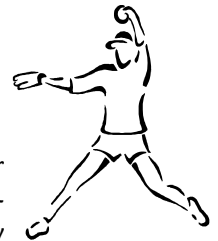
Joey Diaz	3 rd Place #1 Boys Singles
Brook Santangelo	4 th Place #1 Girls Singles
Tate Hoeven	3 rd Place #2 Boys Singles
Ryan Hoenig	4 th Place #3 Boys Singles
Daniel Culbertson / James Coupe	2 nd Place #1 Boys Doubles
Nicki Van Dee Heever / Katie Schirmer	4 th Place #1 Girls Doubles
Conner Finnell / Ryan Lembitz	2 nd Place #2 Boys Doubles
Morgan Dolak / Lauren Peterson	2 nd Place #2 Girls Doubles

The team celebrated their great season with a party on October 16th.



SOFTBALL

This year Lesher had more softball participants than any other Jr. High School with over 60 girls playing on four teams. The girls improved their softball skills while learning how to play together as a team. The Varsity team had a winning record this year. Thanks to coaches Loyd, Keough, Molinari, Freemyer & Waido for a great season!



FOOTBALL



The 7th & 8th grade football teams have completed their seasons, and while neither team had a winning record, both improved their records over last year.

The 7th grade team had over 40 participants, who had a lot of heart and worked hard to improve their skills. Jesse Kerns was the lead scorer.

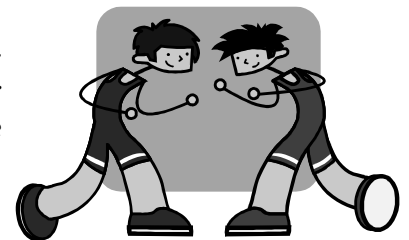
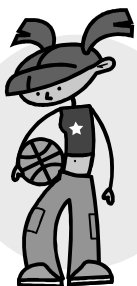
The 8th grade team had quality wins over Lincoln (20-6), CLP (14-8) and Kinard (14-8). The Kinard game was particularly tough and the defense thwarted a late second half drive with a key interception by Will Seng which sealed the victory for the Vikings!

The 8th grade offense was led by the speed and agility of **Brady Mosbrucker** and **Charles Rappe**. As a total defense, we played very well. **Gilbert Trent** led the team in fumble recoveries and the defensive line was anchored by **Tim Thompson** amongst others.

 * **HIGH SCHOOL** *
 * **SPORTS** *
 * All 9th grade athletes are re- *
 * minded to check the Athletic *
 * information on high school web- *
 * sites. Here you will find out all *
 * the try-out information and the *
 * schedules for upcoming winter *
 * sports at Fort Collins, Rocky *
 * Mountain, Fossil Ridge & Poudre *
 * High Schools. *
 * *
 * *****

Winter Sports Seasons

Our winter sports seasons have begun. Girls Basketball try-outs began on October 15 and Wrestling started on October 17. We're looking forward to successful seasons and hope that LOTS of fans will come out to support our teams. GO VIKINGS!



School Closure Information

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 www.psdschools.org 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. We will notify Spanish radio station KGRE, AM 1450 and KJJD, AM 1170 for our Spanish speaking families.

TELEVISION STATIONS:

Channel 2	CW2 Colorado/KWGN
Channel 4	KCNC4 Denver/CBS4 Denver
Channel 7	7News KMGH
Channel 9	9NEWS KUSA
Channel 13	Fox 31

NEWSPAPER:

www.coloradoan.com

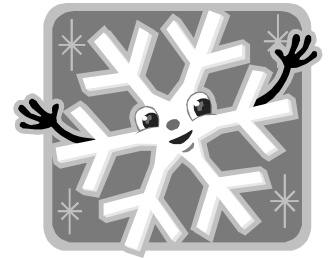
On severe weather days, when school is held as scheduled, parents are reminded to expect delays in school bus service, and to help dress children appropriately for potential longer waits at the bus stop.

LOCAL RADIO STATIONS:

BEAR 107.9 FM
KUNC 91.5 FM
KCOL 600 AM
KGRE 1450 AM (SPANISH)

TRI 102 102.5 FM
KIIX 1410 AM
KUAD 99 FM
KCSU 90.5 FM

KJJD 1170 AM (SPANISH)
Denver radio stations KOA 850 AM
and KOOL 105 FM



Cierre de la Escuela Debido al Clima

Si las escuelas cierran debido al clima extremo u otras situaciones:

Padres de familia deberían sintonizarse a una emisora de radio local, emisora televisiva, o conectarse a la red de Internet a la Página Web de PSD (Distrito Escolar de Poudre), para averiguar sobre cierres de escuelas la mañana del día en cuestión. Los Medios de Comunicación solamente son informados si las escuelas cierran; no habrá anuncios de los medios de comunicación si las escuelas están abiertas, en casos usuales

Una decisión sobre cierre de las escuelas por razones del clima es hecha aproximadamente para las 6:00 a.m. y los medios de comunicación son notificados inmediatamente. **Padres de familia no deberán llamar a la escuela, oficinas del distrito, o los medios de radiodifusión y teledifusión.**

Las siguientes emisoras de radio y televisas y la Página Web de PSD proveerán información sobre los cierres de la escuela de PSD. Notificaremos a las estaciones de radio de habla hispana KGRE, AM 1450, y KJJD AM 1170 para nuestras familias hispano hablantes.

EMISORAS TELEVISAS:

Canal 2	WB2News-KWGN
Canal 4	NEWS4-KCNC
Canal 7	7News-KMGH
Canal 9	9 NEWS-KUSA

PERIÓDICO:

www.coloradoan.com

PÁGINA DE WEB DE PSD:

En días de clima extremo, cuando hay clases programadas, los padres de familia son recordados que tal vez haya demoras en los servicios de autobús de la escuela, y a ayudar a sus hijos/as a vestirse apropiadamente para esperas más largas en la parada de autobús.

www.psdschools.org

EMISORAS DE RADIO LOCALES:

BEAR 107.9 FM
KUNC 91.5 FM
KCOL 600 AM
KGRE 1450 AM (ESPAÑOL)

TRI 102 102.5 FM
KIIX 1410 AM
KUAD 99 FM
KCSU 90.5 FM

KJJD 1170 AM (ESPAÑOL)



Poudre School District Initiatives Update

PSD will soon announce year grade levels will change

By the end of November, schools will finalize the grade level they will adopt, and PSD will be ready to announce the year—either 2009 or 2010—that grade levels will change district-wide.

Following discussions with their site-based management teams and staff, schools will formally acknowledge the grade level they plan to adopt by Nov. 18. Once PSD received that information from schools, the district can determine whether grade levels will change district-wide in August 2009 or 2010.

School readiness plans will address major areas of changes

The Grade Configuration Implementation Committee is meeting bi-monthly to coordinate the change of grade levels. Each school will create a readiness plan that addresses key areas of grade levels changes, and parents are invited to review the draft framework for the plan through November 15 (www.psdschools.org under Grade Configuration Implementation).

Once a readiness plan framework is adopted, schools will have through April 2008 to prepare and submit the plan for their level—K-5 elementary schools, 6-8 middle schools, K-8, or 9-12 high schools.

Boundary Steering Committee considers scenarios for high school boundary changes

The Boundary Steering Committee met twice in September and early October to discuss preliminary scenarios regarding possible high school boundary changes. Two committees are studying high school boundaries with the goal of changing boundaries to better balance enrollment in Poudre School District. The Steering Committee is developing possible scenarios, while the Review Committee will give feedback to the Steering Committee.

At a recent meeting the Steering Committee, co-chaired by Jim Sarchet, PSD Assistant Superintendent of Business Services, and Kelli Nuber, parent, was divided into smaller groups to identify pros and cons of high school boundary scenarios.

The Steering Committee will update the Boundary Review Committee from 5 to 7:30 p.m., Thursday, Nov. 1, at the Johanssen Support Services Center. The public is welcome to observe but not participate in the meeting.

Choice Busing Committee Recommends Public Meetings in January

The School Choice Busing Committee met twice in September to review committee objectives, as well as discuss current practices and operating principles. Volunteers serving on the committee are studying School Choice Busing, to review existing practices and define a fair and equitable system that is financially sustainable.

Volunteers representing schools and students explained how Choice Busing impacts each program. The committee reviewed costs, legal issues and the transportation budget increases over the past six years.

A draft policy of the committee's recommendations will be presented to the Superintendents Cabinet in November and public meetings will be scheduled in January 2008.

Middle school study team researching best practices

A subcommittee studying middle schools is determining essential components of middle schools, based on student achievement and student well being. The middle school committee is researching best practices, including what to retain, remove, examine more carefully, and improve in the junior high model. (See inventory of current practices at www.psdschools.org under Grade Configuration Implementation.) Committee members plan to visit top middle schools in late October and November.

PSD planning for smooth transition of classroom positions

PSD's Human Resources department will hold meetings in November for teachers to hear plans for movement of classroom positions. A personnel advisory committee comprised of teachers, classified staff, counselors, a principal, and district HR staff is studying scenarios to coordinate movement of staff.

Committee continues progress in small schools study

The small schools study committee, formed to conduct a cost/program offerings analysis of different school sizes and fine-tune the student-based budgeting (SBB) school size factor, met twice in September. The committee continued analyzing evidence and statistical research from Wyoming and Nevada, reviewed the standards for the two professional panels to use, as well as set the framework for the professional panel nominations.

The Wyoming research compares the cost of resources, such as general school structure (class size), personnel, and non-personnel, to different size schools. A study performed in Nevada collected expenditure data at the school level. The small schools committee will use this data to examine the differences in school spending due to school size.

Two professional panels, composed of nine PSD principals and teachers, will use parameters such as the Colorado Content Standards, class size, core subjects, and electives to 'build' schools of different enrollment sizes (100, 200, 300, etc). The panels are charged with identifying the challenges each school faces, due to school size, in keeping within the set parameters. The panels are scheduled to meet in October.

The small schools committee nominated members for the professional panels based on the following criteria: one principal and teacher from schools with enrollment of 0-400, 401-600, and 600 and over; a principal who has recently worked in schools of varying size; and two special teachers (art music, P.E., etc.).

Superintendent Hosts "Listening Sessions" for Community

Parents and community members will have an opportunity to talk with Superintendent of Schools Jerry Wilson during several "listening sessions" scheduled throughout the school year at different locations.

**The first one will be from Noon to 1 p.m., Thursday, October 25
at The Group Real Estate Offices, 401 W. Mulberry**

The informal gatherings are an opportunity to talk with Dr. Wilson about issues and concerns, ways to enhance student achievement, and ask questions about PSD's major initiatives. Other "Listening Sessions" include:

- Thursday, January 24, 2008 ~
Preston Junior High Media Center, 4901 Corbett Drive**
- Thursday, March 6, 2008 ~
Partnership and Volunteer Center, 1630 S. Stover**
- Tuesday, May 6, 2008 ~
Bauder Elementary, 2345 W. Prospect**

Everyone is encouraged to attend. No registration is necessary. For more information, call 490- 3607 or e-mail info@psdschools.org.

Stay Connected!

Online e-mail sign-up now available. We want your current e-mail address!

Sign up to receive the quarterly PSD community e-newsletter containing important information on district initiatives (grade configuration, boundary changes, etc.), and current news and events. You may also receive important school updates, calendar changes, and critical information from your child's teacher.

Poudre School District now has an online e-mail subscription system. If you provided an e-mail address on your child's Data Verification Form, your address is already in the system. If you have not yet provided one or if your e-mail has changed, please go to the eNewsletter Signup link on the www.psdschools.org and input your address.

Stay connected. Sign up today!



Safety Drills

We have had three successful fire drills and one lockdown this year. As a reminder to parents, there will be times when we practice a school-wide lockdown. When we do this all students and staff will know beforehand so we can practice in a business-like, proactive way. Also, lockdowns can be called for a variety of reasons and are not always related to intruders in the building. We wanted our school community to know that we do practice these procedures so that we can be prepared for any situation that may arise.

The Voyager

POUDRE SCHOOL DISTRICT
2407 LaPorte Avenue
Fort Collins, CO 80521

LESHER JR. HIGH SCHOOL
1400 Stover Street
Fort Collins, CO 80524

Phone: 970-472-3800
Fax: 970-472-3880

We're on the Web!

<http://www.psdschools.org/schools/lesher/>



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A Home for the Heart.

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For the Leshar Family of:

Mark Your Calendars

Details for these events are inside The Voyager



October

- 15 Girls Basketball Tryouts begin - 2:45 PM
- 17 Wrestling starts
- 18 🎵 Fall Concert ~ Vocal Music - 7 PM
- 19 NO SCHOOL - Teacher Work Day
- 22 PTO Meeting - 1 PM
- 23-31 Red Ribbon Week
- 25 🎵 Nordic Winds/Orchestra Concert - 7 PM
- 26 1st Qtr. Report Cards sent home with students

November

- 8 🎵 Beginning Ensembles Fall Concert - 7 PM
- 15 National Jr. Honor Society Induction - 7 PM
- 19 PTO Meeting - 1 PM
- 21-23 NO SCHOOL ~ Thanksgiving Recess
- 26 NO SCHOOL ~ K-9 Collaboration Day

December

- 7 Winter Dance - 6:30 PM
- 13 🎵 Holiday Concert - 7 PM
Viking Voices & Singing Sevies
- 17 Boys Basketball starts
- 18 🎵 Holiday Concert - 7 PM
Advanced Ensembles
- 20 End of 2nd Quarter
- 21 NO SCHOOL ~ Teacher Work Day

WINTER BREAK ~ December 24—January 4, 2008

