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Communications Division  
Employee Newsletter  
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April 27, 2010



**Message from Superintendent Chris King**

**A message from Superintendent Chris King**

Two weeks ago, Boulder High School and the Arapahoe Campus found unsigned written threats targeting minority students and staff. In both cases, the threats turned out to be false. In one case the alleged writer was arrested.

**BVSD Retirement Celebrations**

I would like to thank the students, parents, teachers, administrators and the diverse group of community members who rallied in support of BVSD and equity for all of our students in the wake of these incidents.

**Impact on Education**

Racism, sexism, homophobia, classism, and any other discrimination that threaten individuals and divide us have no place in our community. To keep these important issues in the forefront, BVSD is planning to join with the U.S. Department of Justice's Community Relations Service to assist our district and our greater community in addressing these issues in an ongoing manner. For more information on how community members can become involved, please visit the [BVSD website](#).

**Health, Dental and Vision Open Enrollment May 1-28**

Working together candidly and compassionately is the best way that I know to constructively confront these ongoing community concerns. Thank you to all community members who have already stepped forward to help in this work.

**Thumb TACs**

**It's Easy Being Green**

**Board Approvals**

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Boulder Valley School District

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**Boulder Valley Board of Education**

Ken Roberge, President  
Jim Reed, Vice-President  
Laurie Albright, Ed.D., Treasurer  
Jennie Belval  
Helayne Jones, Ed.D.  
Tom Miers  
Lesley Smith, Ph.D.

**BVSD Retirement Celebrations**

In addition to the annual BVSD Retirement Dinner on May 6, many other events are being held to honor our fellow employees who are retiring. Go to the [BVSD Retirement website](#) for information about various events taking place throughout the district.

Since many BVSDers work at various locations during their time with the district, they tend to have friends in several BVSD locations. Make sure to check the retirement announcements regularly so that you don't miss a celebration for someone you know.

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**Boulder Valley School District**

Christopher King, Ph.D., Superintendent

Newsletter Editor: Allison Metz

**Impact On Education's 2010 Razzle Dazzle Beach Bayou to be Farewell Celebration for Francie Anhut**



In addition to being Impact on Education's largest fundraiser – raising money for programs that support teachers and students in BVSD – this year's "Beach Bayou" dinner will be a farewell celebration for Francie Anhut who is leaving after seven years leading Impact on Education.

In its 23rd year, Razzle Dazzle attracts 450-550 guests to "the big tent" on the shores of the Boulder Reservoir on the Saturday following the end of school. This year's "Beach Bayou" will be Memorial Day Saturday, May 29 from 5:30 to 10:00 p.m.

Begin the evening sipping Hurricanes while nibbling Cajun-inspired appetizers and listening to excellent New Orleans jazz. Work up an appetite while bidding on fabulous baskets donated by schools and hundreds of individual silent auction items. Move on to a mouth-watering dinner featuring Cajun specialties: Oysters Rockefeller on Artichoke Hearts, Blackened Tilapia, Chicken Creole, Red Beans & Rice, Fried Oysters with Collard Greens and Banana Foster Bread Pudding.

Then it's on to an exciting live auction featuring vacation get-aways, sports packages, fabulous dining experiences, and unique adventures. To cap the evening, the New Orleans street musicians will join together to create the best jazz outside of the Big Easy itself.

In addition to celebrating Francie's contributions to Impact on Education and BVSD, Beach Bayou will allow Impact on Education to fund Classroom Mini-Grants, Crayons to Calculators, Adelante, GAMES (Girls at the Museum Exploring Science), the Opportunity Fund and the Take My Teacher Home iPod program next year.

Attending Beach Bayou is a wonderful way to enjoy the area's best FUNraiser, celebrate Francie and support educational excellence in BVSD. **Tickets are \$150 per person and can be purchased online or by calling 303-245-5937. The deadline for buying tickets is Wednesday, May 19.** Because corporate sponsors help to underwrite the event, \$75 of the ticket price is a tax deductible contribution.

Impact on Education is dedicated to increasing student learning and support for public education in BVSD. We support and motivate excellent teachers, increase student interest and achievement in science, technology and math and create opportunities for "at-risk" students. For more information please visit [Impact's website](#).

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**Be informed! Benefits Open Enrollment is May 1-28.**  
*Any changes are effective July 1, 2010.*

**What Plans Does BVSD Offer?** BVSD offers three health plans, one dental plan, and one vision plan\*. You may enroll in any or all of these types of coverage. You may also enroll or drop any eligible dependents in any of the plans in which you are enrolled. A one page summary of the health plans can be found [here](#). For more information please attend a Benefits Open Enrollment meeting or visit [BVSD's Benefits page](#). The meeting schedule is listed below.

*\*You are automatically enrolled in Life (\$20,000), Long Term Disability (LTD), Employee Assistance Program (EAP). BVSD also offers seven voluntary tax-deferred savings opportunities: 401(k) through PERA, five different 403(b) providers, and one 457 plan. You can enroll in these savings plans anytime. The district also offers a Flexible Spending Account; the Open Enrollment period for that plan is November.*

**Who is eligible?** Eligible employees are those who work 20+ hours per week, or those who are contracted at 50 percent or greater for a minimum of 90 days, in a regular position. PERA retirees are not eligible.

**How Should I Choose a Health Plan?** This may not be an easy decision, especially because BVSD has three good plans from which to choose. Each plan is different and we have employees enroll in all three plans. Here are some of the factors that you can use in your decision:

- Think about whether you like the kind of plan you have now or whether you want to make a change. BVSD offers three plans: **Great-West/Cigna Standard Plan**, **Great-West/Cigna Basic Plan** and **Kaiser HMO**. Both of the Great-West/Cigna plans include a nation-wide network and almost all local physicians and all local hospitals. There is no pre-existing limitation on any plan. See more complete plan descriptions on our [benefits page](#).
- The premium for employee only coverage is covered by the district for all three plans. Consider all of your potential health care costs—not just your premium—when you evaluate costs. Look at deductibles, co-pays, and out-of-pocket maximums when estimating your total health care costs. The Great-West/Cigna Basic Plan has the lowest dependent premiums, but higher out-of-pocket costs when you use the plan. If you or your family have the need for frequent and/or expensive health care services, you might be better served in a plan with higher premiums and more generous benefits like the Great-West Standard or Kaiser.

**What has changed for 2010-11?** Kaiser has increased dependent rates and Kaiser OB/GYN visits are now subject to the specialty office visits co-pay. Great-West/Cigna plans and premiums are the same as this year with some minor changes (no pre-existing condition limitation, dependents covered to age 26, labs/x-rays need to be in-network to receive in-network benefits—we will be publishing a complete list of in-network labs soon).

**Do I have to do anything during Open Enrollment if I'm not making any changes?** No. But don't forget that this is also the opportunity to enroll in the Dental and/or Vision Plan. The premiums and benefits for these two plans are same as this year. For more information on the [vision plan](#) click [HERE](#). For more information on the [dental plan](#) click [HERE](#).

Please attend a Benefits Open Enrollment orientation meeting for more information on any plan:

**May 3**, 4:00 p.m. Black Diamond Room – Ed Center (during Blood Drive)

**May 10**, 4:00 p.m. Black Diamond Room – Ed Center

**May 19**, 4:00 p.m. Black Diamond Room – Ed Center

**May 24**, 10:00 a.m. Black Diamond Room – Ed Center

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**Equity Department:** TAC raised concerns regarding the district's plan to meet the goals and objectives of the Department for Institutional Equity since the administrative positions of the department were eliminated as a result of budget cuts. Catalina Martis and Dr. Ellen Miller Brown presented a chart that shows how different administrators and education center staff have divided the work of that department. TAC encouraged teacher inclusion in the formulation of district wide and building plans for ensuring institutional equity in our schools.

**Middle Level Task Force:** District staff is aware of the slow progress in implementing the recommendations of the Middle Level Task Force. The next step is to update board policy to include the findings of the Middle Level Task Force. Dr. King maintains that implementation of these recommendations will require a new budget stream, and we should assess the community's interest in supporting this.

**Wellness Policy--Poster Rules:** TAC asked for and received the guidelines for placement of non-instructional materials like posters in cafeterias. TAC advised the district to implement the rules for posters/advertising in a manner which is sensitive to the efforts of building staff to decorate cafeterias. Efforts to uplift, add posters showing good nutritional choices, and change the space should be done with a collaborative spirit with the school, rather than with what is a perceived, top-down approach.

**District Absence Policy:** TAC inquired about this issue because there appears to be a wide range of interpretation of the attendance policy across the district. While Infinite Campus is used to generate lists of students with high absentee rates, each school is responsible for pushing cases into the courts. The caseload for chronically truant kids is currently over 200. The district is using grant monies to fund attendance liaisons to help address cases of absenteeism among at-risk youth as a proactive approach to the problem.

**Standards Based Grading:** TAC inquired about the district's expectation for SBA at this time and whether there are any non-negotiable elements of the SBA that the district expects to see. There is a basic expectation that standards based grading be in place, but the roll out of the guaranteed viable curriculum of the Curriculum Essentials Document has taken precedence this year. The district expects principals, as instructional leaders, to be fully versed in all aspects of SBA. Looking ahead at possible revisions to the teacher evaluation process, the district plans to have teacher demonstration of the components of SBG as part of teacher evaluation. TAC recommends that the district provide guidelines regarding SBG in terms of non-negotiable expectations, recommended expectations and options, and areas of SBG implementation within teacher discretion. TAC also encourages teachers to let TAC representatives know their concerns on this and all other issues.

*Submitted by David Stewart, acting April TAC chair.*

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### It's Easy Being Green

Even a few small changes in the things you do on a regular basis can add up to a significant impact on the environment. Try to incorporate some of these ideas into your everyday routines at home and at work.

- Run full loads. When washing clothes, only run full loads or use the automatic controls for smaller loads, and use cold water for the rinse. Only run the dishwasher when full as well.
- Recycle more. Take full advantage of community resources for recycling paper, plastics, used electronics and other household items. To get rid of useable items you no longer need, sell them at a garage sale or online, or donate items to charity.
- Change the light bulbs. Replace traditional incandescent bulbs with energy-efficient and compact florescent bulbs. These use at least two-thirds less energy to provide the same amount of light. They also last up to 10 times longer than traditional bulbs.
- Turn off lights. Teach all members of your household to turn off the lights when they leave

- a room. Place little stickers by the light switches to remind everyone.
- Fix leaky faucets and showerheads. According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, one dripping faucet can waste 250 gallons of water a month, or 3,000 gallons a year.
- Drive less, bike and walk more. Walk and bike to destinations whenever you can. You'll save on gas, reduce pollution and get the health benefits of exercise. When you must drive, group errands together so you don't waste gas and time.
- Rethink your commute. If you drive to work, consider mass transit (if available), carpooling or biking to work. Mass transit not only saves you gas and car expense, it is beneficial for air quality. Fully occupied buses and trains produce fewer nitrogen oxides per commuter than cars.
- Take good care of your car. Properly maintain your car for maximum fuel efficiency. A clogged air filter can significantly reduce gas mileage. Keeping tires inflated to the correct pressure also improves gas mileage. To prevent gas from evaporating when filling, buy gas in early morning or late evening, when the air is cooler and gas is most dense.
- Bring your own mug. Banish foam and other disposable cups from the break room at work. Ask your employer to institute a policy requiring employees to bring their own reusable coffee mug. Many coffee shops will let you use your own insulated coffee carrier, too.

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### Under New Management

- John Long, Assistant Principal/Athletic Director, Broomfield High, effective July 26, 2010.

### Board Approvals

- The board approved the Amendment to the Lease and License Agreement for a Fiber Optic Telecommunications Network by and between the City of Louisville and BVSD.
- The board authorized a contract award for construction services for the Superior Elementary School Bond project to Mark Young Construction.
- The allocation of surplus Bond funds from the Citizens' Bond Oversight Committee was approved by the board. Those schools and the recommended allocations are:
  - Community Montessori: \$850,000
  - Horizons K-8 Charter: \$900,000
  - Creekside Elementary: \$370,000
  - Arapahoe Ridge Campus: \$100,000

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### Hats Off!

#### ***Congratulations to this week's Superintendent's Honor Roll recipients:***

*The first annual "Earth Day recognition for the Superintendent's Honor Roll" were honored at the April 27 board meeting. The following groups and individuals have, according to BVSD Sustainability Coordinator Ghita Carroll, made outstanding contributions toward meeting BVSD's goals as outlined in the BVSD Sustainability Management System or SMS.*

The SMS is broken into four categories, **Education, Buildings, Transportation** and **Material Flows**. Students and staff district wide have been making changes big and small to help green our operations and curriculum.

In the **Education** category, we honored **New Vista High School's Earth Task Force** made up of: *Students: Kelly Muller, Zander Deetz, Aleyna Porreca, Aaron Fox, Marissa Bramlett and Malcolm Marshall. Teachers: Paige Doughty, Kate Hartman and Andy Stephens*

The Earth Task Force is a group of dedicated students and teachers who have spent the past year creating a comprehensive sustainability campaign at New Vista. The school was selected as a pilot by BVSD, and this group has gone above and beyond all expectations in their efforts. Some of their activities included: hosting "eat local" and "lights out" lunches; creating an



"Alternative April" bike, bus or walk month; and raising money to install solar panels on the school (to name just few activities).

Also in the Education category, **Crest View Teacher Cindy Monnet** was honored for her creation of "green curricula." Ghita writes that Cindy is, "a stand-out teacher who has brought renewable energy, energy efficiency, and other environmental concepts to life in her classroom through her enthusiasm for teaching and her collaboration with the University of Colorado's Teach for Sustainability."

Another **Crest View Elementary teacher** who was recognized was **David Mohseni** who served as the sponsor teacher for Eco-Cycle's Waste-Free Lunch Contest three different years, first at BCSIS and now at Crest View Elementary, facilitating up to a 95 percent lunchtime waste reduction at those schools.

**Flatirons Elementary Teacher Mike Strife** was also recognized for his integration of concepts of sustainability within his lesson plans and his leadership in CU's Teach for Sustainability program.

In the **Buildings** category, **Jesse McCoppin** of BVSD IT was recognized for his successful implementation of new IT power management software, which will power down all district computers when not in use, savings tens of thousands of dollars for BVSD in decreased energy costs.

Next in the Buildings category was **Lou Novak, Bond Project Manager** for the new Casey Middle School. Lou was acknowledged for his leadership in the construction of what will be BVSD's first LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certified school, making it one of the greenest school buildings in the nation.

In the **Material Flows** category, **Matt Stewart, BVSD Warehouse Manager**, was recognized for his many greenBVSD efforts around reuse and recycling. Thanks to Matt's time and dedication, BVSD has been able to reuse and recycle the majority of the furniture coming out of the schools for replacement. He has also helped reduce the amount of non-recyclable items in the warehouse stock.

In the **Transportation** category, **BVSD Alternative Transportation Coordinator Landon Hilliard** was honored for his tireless advocacy for biking, walking and busing. His ongoing work has resulted in thousands of BVSD students taking alternative modes of transportation to school.

*We would also like to congratulate this year's winners of the Renew Our School Grant! Fireside Elementary, Flatirons Elementary and Monarch K-8 will each receive a free 10kW photovoltaic system and educational kiosk this summer.*

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