

## From the Principal

Dear Buena Vista Families,

I have wonderful news for everyone. We received the EEF grant, written by Linda Hansen, which will allow us to purchase two more computers for our computer lab. Right after receiving this wonderful news, I was informed by the BVPO that an anonymous donor had given our school, through BVPO, \$5,000.00 to be used for technology. The staff is thrilled and grateful and delighted at this news. I will be working with Mary Hochberg (our technology person) and the staff to develop a plan for the best use of this money. The priority is purchasing enough computers for the lab so that every child can work on a computer in the lab without doubling up. I will keep you posted on the final purchases. From all of the staff, we want to say thank you for everyone's efforts to bring Buena Vista into the 21<sup>st</sup> century technologically. It has been an almost magical transformation.

Speaking of raising funds for technology, the BV staff has been working to do their part. On Dec. 3-Dec. 10<sup>th</sup>, Barnes and Noble Book Store (the one by Toys Are Us) is letting us host a book fair. A portion of any purchase made during this week will go to our school technology fund. **The purchase must be accompanied by a voucher.** We will be sending vouchers home with your student, so please hand them out to family and friends. There is also a voucher included in **this newsletter** that you can use. If you end up at Barnes and Noble during the week of Dec. 3- Dec. 10<sup>th</sup> without a voucher you can request a voucher from the cashier. We will also be "manning" the gift wrap area of Barnes and Noble on Sunday Dec. 5<sup>th</sup> (12-6 pm), Friday Dec. 10<sup>th</sup> (4-10 pm) and Monday Dec. 13<sup>th</sup> (4-10 pm.) The choir will be singing on Dec. 9<sup>th</sup> at 3:00. Please pass on vouchers and information to friends, family and neighbors. Thanks to Jamie Myers for organizing all of these wonderful opportunities.

Our own book fair was fabulous. It is delightful to see our library transformed into a literature wonderland. A huge "thank you" to Brenda Large for organizing all the details and to the many Buena Vista and Meadowlark parents for their support of this event. We had a great time at Special Friends day Monday and Tuesday of this week. Thanks to all those who helped organize this event. Brenda Large, Diane Tilby, Mary Hines and many other parent's time and energy are much appreciated. I also want to thank Tami Miller for creating this parent newsletter each month. It is a vital form of communication and it wouldn't happen without her volunteer hours to make it happen. Have you noticed the new box outside our office in which the Parent Organizations gather information? Seen the cool mail boxes outside the 2<sup>nd</sup> grade classrooms? Tom Beckstrand is the one responsible for making this much needed addition. Give the man some

### November Calendar

22-24	Book Fair
25-26	NO SCHOOL. Thanksgiving
30	BVPO Meeting - 7 PM - library

### December Calendar

3	Poinsettias arrive-pick up in Gym
3-10	Barnes&Noble Fundraiser
7-8	Buddy's Diner Fundraiser
8	Krispy Kreme pre-order due
16	Krispy Kreme delivery date

### **Safe passage and good exercise - *Smart Ways to School* can help!**

#### ***Form a walk or bike group***

We can help you connect with other families to form a walk or bike group. If your child already walks or bikes, tell us how it works for you! **Call Lisa VanWinkle with *Smart Ways to School* at 682-6212.**

#### ***Willing to help, but don't have much time?***

Would you enjoy helping with a fun "*Golden Sneaker*" contest to encourage students to walk, bike, bus or carpool to school? We would hand out and collect students' contest cards and give out prizes. Easy and effective because everyone likes to win!

With very little time, you could make a difference! More kids would get great exercise and the school would be safer with less traffic. **Call Lisa at 682-6212 or email [lisa.vanwinkle@ltd.org](mailto:lisa.vanwinkle@ltd.org).**

#### ***Ready to consider a carpool?***

*Smart Ways to School* can help you find another family to carpool with.

1. Complete and return a SchoolPool application. **Apply online at [www.swts.ltd.org](http://www.swts.ltd.org) or call 682-6212 to request an application.**
2. We'll send you a match list of possible SchoolPool families at your child's school who share a similar route and schedule.
3. You can contact families on the list and decide if you want to SchoolPool with them.

#### **Lisa VanWinkle**

Project Lead, Smart Ways to School Program  
 Commuter Solutions (housed at Lane Transit District)

## Krispy Kreme Fundraiser Information

Krispy Kreme pre-order forms will be sent home with students next week. Deadline to pre-order is December 8th. Delivery will be on Thursday, December 16th from 8:00 to 9:00 AM at the Methodist Church on the corner of Oakway and Cal Young. The doughnuts will be sold for \$8 per dozen. We profit \$4.50 for each dozen sold. If each BV family buys one dozen the

## Buddy's Diner Fundraiser Dec. 7 and 8th

Stop in after school for a milkshake or after shopping for a quick dinner and help support Class Trip 2005. We are working hard to fund several scholarship requests and appreciate your support!

**THANK YOU** to all the families who volunteered to make Carnival such a fun evening. It could not have happened without you. You are **APPRECIATED!!**

A special thank you also to the following local businesses that provided donations for carnival:

Safeway  
Costco  
Trader Joe's  
Albertsons

## READING MADE EASY

Reading and academic achievement go hand in hand. Children who are poor readers often receive poor grades, are easily frustrated, have difficulty completing assignments, have low self-esteem and may even have more physical illnesses due to stress. The good news is there are simple ways to help your child become a more effective reader.

Setting good reading habits early is up to us as adults. We need to let them see us reading for our jobs and for pleasure. They need to see that reading isn't something they just do in school.

Setting aside a regular time each day to read to your child will help him hone his own skills, such as reading comprehension, vocabulary and the decoding of words. Reading to your child will also increase his desire to read independently.

Filling your home with reading materials will also help him become a better reader-it is shown that children with access to a large variety of reading materials score higher on standardized test. Keep reading materials in a variety of spots: the car, bathroom, bedrooms, family room and even near the TV.

Books are the most portable form of entertainment. Books don't require batteries like toys, but they sure light up a child's smile.

If your child sees you and other family members reading it will inspire him to read. Set aside 15 to 30 minutes each day for family reading time-a time when everyone can read silently together. Reading fluency can be increased with just 15 minutes of daily practice.

Work on skills by reading menus, roadside signs, game directions movie time listing and other practical everyday information. It also is helpful to keep reading material handy for your children when waiting for appointments or riding in the car.

However, reading shouldn't stop at everyday activities. You can open your children up to magical and far away worlds by taking them to the library. Make a habit of going every few week to borrow new materials. Your local library might also offer reading programs and contest that may appeal to your child.

### Worksheet, K-3

Help your child choose a few books from the list below and be sure to check them out on your next trip to the library. Discuss the plot and what they liked or dislike about each book.

Agapanthus Hum and Major Bark, by Joy Cowley

Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day, by J.

Viorst

Bonaparte, by Marsha Wilson Chall

Cold Feet, by Cynthia C. DeFelice

Is Your Mama a Llama?, by Deborah Guarino

The Lion and the Mouse: An Aesop Fable, by Bernadette Watts

Cam Jansen and the Birthday Mystery, by David A. Adler

Farmer Brown Shears His Sheep: A yarn About Wool, by Teri Sloat

By Jill Noland

Poinsettia's arrive Dec. 3rd. Please pick yours up at the Gym after school on Dec. 3rd if you ordered one. Thank You, Class Trip 2005.