

The Heritage Explorer

Upcoming Events:

- ▶ Tuesday, April 7
5:00 PM - **Art Show**
6:30 PM - **Choir Concert**
- ▶ Tuesday, April 14
7:30 AM, Library
HEA Board Meeting
- ▶ Tuesday, April 14
6:30 PM, Gym
Kindergarten Orientation for 2009-10 School Year
- ▶ Wednesday, April 15
Assessment Day (*Students only come to school for their scheduled assessment time*)
- ▶ Wednesday, April 15
6:30 - 8:00 PM, MRMS
Bus Meeting for 2009-10
- ▶ Friday, April 17
3:30 - 8:00 PM, Gym
BOGO Book Fair
6:00 - 8:00 PM
HEA Pajama Night
- ▶ Monday, April 20
No School
- ▶ Tuesday, April 28
6:00 - 7:00 PM, Cafeteria
Heritage B.A.S.E. Camp Summer Enrollment Night
- ▶ Tuesday, May 5
7:00 PM, Gym
Beg. Band Spring Concert
- ▶ Thursday, May 7
7:00 PM, Gym
Beg. & Adv. Strings Spring Concert
- ▶ Monday, May 11
Heritage Night at Baskin Robbins (Highlands Ranch)
- ▶ Thursday, May 14
7:00 PM, Summit View Elem.
Adv. Band Spring Concert
- ▶ Friday, May 22
Field Day

Heritage Elementary
3350 Summit View Pkwy.
Highlands Ranch, CO 80126
(303) 387-6725

Dear Heritage Families,

April is **Literacy Month** at Heritage. Kicking off the month, HEA hosted an **Author Visit and Workshop**. Additionally, HEA is sponsoring a spring **Buy-One-Get-One-Free Book Fair** and the ever-popular **Classroom Door-Decorating Contest!** Thank you HEA for these wonderful literacy events.

Music is filling the April air. The **Spring Choir/Bell Concert** will be held on April 7. The students are working very hard to prepare for a beautiful patriotic concert for all. Thank you to Mrs. Mata for the energy and dedication to our Heritage music program. Additionally, Mrs. Orlando will be hosting the first ever **Heritage Art Show** prior to the concert. I know this will become a new tradition! What an awesome opportunity to showcase our budding artists.

Our spring break produced a spring blizzard, which did delay the completion of the Metro District ball field renovation. As the field dries from the much-needed moisture, the renovation will be completed. As noted last month, no school district dollars were spent on the renovation. The project was 100% funded by Metro District dollars.

Our budget process has been completed for the 2009-10 year. The March 19th letter from our Director, Ginny Owen, outlined the feeder budget reduction plan. To summarize the plan, below are the changes that will take place at Heritage beginning next school year:

- ▶ Our school will maintain an elementary band/orchestra program embedded during the school day, however, the program will be offered to 6th grade students only. This holds true for all elementary schools in our feeder.
- ▶ Our feeder will continue to offer the

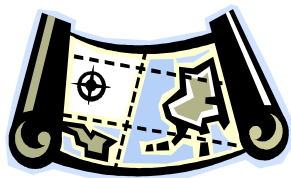
facilitator of gifted and talented position at each elementary school at a reduced level. The gifted and talented facilitation role will be expanded to the middle school to support a smoother transition at the secondary level.

- ▶ Our feeder will continue to support the roll out of elementary world language through the use of technology. All Mountain Vista feeder elementary schools, including Heritage, will be offering Spanish through technology. Details for implementation at each school are in process.
- ▶ Literacy intervention will be the focus for our schools, which was a top priority on the district survey. At Heritage, we are designing programming to enhance early literacy support for our students.
- ▶ The English as a Second Language (ESL) programming will continue. All elementary schools in the feeder will have an ESL program to identify and serve our English Language Learners.
- ▶ At Heritage, due to reduced funding, we have eliminated science as a "specials" offering. Science content will be taught in the regular classroom, which is what we have done in the past prior to having science as a special. All students will still have "specials" in art, music, physical education, technology and library.

Thank you to all who participated in the feedback process for supporting the feeder plans. Enjoy the spring weather and I will look forward to seeing you at one of our many upcoming activities.

Mary Lams
Principal





From Our HEA Coordinator...

It is hard to believe that we are wrapping up another school year. April is guaranteed to speed along as it takes us into May, which then leads us into summer vacation. As we head into the last few weeks of school, we will be taking time to thank all our wonderful staff and volunteers at Heritage. Please remember to take a moment to honor all the fantastic people who make Heritage such a great community and a supportive, nurturing learning environment. If you would like to get involved in the activities we will be planning for staff and volunteer appreciation, please contact Kimberly Cronin, our Teacher Appreciation Coordinator (kcronin@messner.com), or Nancy Miller, our Volunteer Coordinator (nancy.miller@dcsdk12.org).

HEA will be winding down, but we want you to put a few more dates on your calendar. Don't forget that **Pajama Night**, a family reading event, and the **Buy-One-Get-One-Free Scholastic Book Fair** will take place on Friday, April 17th. The book fair will open after school ends and wrap up at the end of Pajama Night, which goes from 6:00 to 8:00 PM. Come to purchase books, enjoy some classic stories, and maybe win some door prizes!

On Monday, May 11th, HEA will be hosting an ice

cream social and fundraising night at **Baskin Robbins**, located near the King Soopers on University. Come enjoy some delicious ice cream and help support our school!

Friday, May 22nd is **Field Day**. HEA approved a grant last month for Shawn Larkin, our PE teacher, to allow each class to design and create a flag for the Field Day festivities. Be sure to come to the school that day to cheer on our Explorers as they celebrate one of the best days of the year!

Several positions on the HEA Board will be vacated at the end of this school year. We are looking to fill the positions of **Coordinator, Treasurer, Spirit Coordinator**, and **Teacher Appreciation Coordinator**. I have served two years as Coordinator and will be stepping down, but plan to stay on the Board in some capacity. Although it is hard to think about next year, please consider getting involved in order to continue the great work that HEA does. If you are interested in one of these positions or would like more information, please contact me or any other Board member. We would love to talk with you!

Julie Sweeney

303-683-8182

jrsweeney92@yahoo.com



THANK YOU



to all of our fabulous volunteers who worked hard to make our 1st **Winter Carnival** a success!
We raised \$2,374.12 and appreciate all of the families who attended the event to support our school.

- Ann LuMaye, HEA Spirit Event Coordinator

Get Ready for Field Day! Friday, May 22nd, 2009



It is time to order your **Field Day** t-shirts! Order forms are available on the Heritage website. The shirts are forest green this year, and cost \$6 each. They are available in both youth and adult sizes. The last day to order is Friday, April 10th.

If you have any questions, contact Mr. Larkin at shawn.larkin@dcsdk12.org.



Spring Swings Ahead with Heritage Instrumentalists - *By Joe Anderies*



The Heritage band and strings students are having a fantastic time preparing for several great performances this spring.

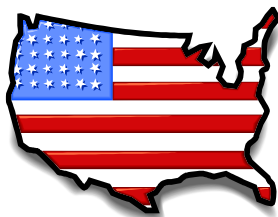
As always, anyone is invited to join us for these concerts. In our tradition, there are several incredible mentor musicians who will be joining the students for each of these performances. Mark your calendars—hope to see you there!

- ▶ **Friday, April 17th - Firestorm Jazz Ensemble** (before-school jazz band) performs at *Jazz Celebration* at Metro State in the King Center Concert Hall, Auraria Campus 3:45 PM.
- ▶ **Tuesday, April 21st - Firestorm Jazz Ensemble** (before-school jazz band) performs at *MVHS Feeder Jazz Concert*. Opening concert at 6:30 PM at the MVHS theater.
- ▶ **Friday, April 24th - Greeley Jazz Festival. Adv. Band** 11:30 AM to 12:30 PM, **Adv. Strings** 1:00 to 1:30 PM. Both at the Clarion Hotel, located just down the street from Union Colony Civic Center.
- ▶ **Tuesday, May 5th - Beg. Band Spring Concert**, 7 PM at Heritage gym.
- ▶ **Thursday, May 7th - Beg. And Adv. Strings Spring Concert** along with Summit View Strings, 7 PM at Heritage gym.
- ▶ **Thursday, May 14th - Adv. Band Spring Concert** (along with Summit View Adv. Band), 7 PM at Summit View Elementary gym.

1st Graders Celebrate American Symbols *By Alisa Pauley, 1st Grade Teacher*

Heritage first grade students recently put on a wonderful performance in celebration of our learning about American Symbols.

Our "From Sea to Shining Sea" program was held on March 18th. The students invited their families to join us for patriotic songs and a celebration of their learning.



2nd Graders Portray Famous Americans *By Pam DeYoung, 2nd Grade Teacher*

Second graders traveled back in time to demonstrate their learning about important people in United States History and the world. We had appearances from many famous Americans such as Abraham Lincoln, Betsy Ross, Albert Einstein, Martin Luther King Jr., and even Elvis Presley himself! Students had a blast presenting their information and mingling with all of the famous Americans.



In April, second grade will be switching gears and learning about two very important senses: eyes and sight, and ears and hearing. Our essential learning is around "People have body systems that enable them to live and grow." We will also be learning about how people can use and take care of the natural resources provided by the Earth.



Our HEA Fundraising Dollars At Work

In March, the HEA Board approved the following:

- A grant for \$1,191.78 to Mary Lams to purchase and install a flat screen television. The television, which will be located in the front office, will display current events and announcements at Heritage. Kids will learn how to use PowerPoint to create and display presentations on the television.
- A grant for \$313.74 for P.E. teacher Shawn Larkin to purchase materials that will be used for each class to create their own vinyl flag that will be used during Field Day, and then in the classroom.



Spring Assessment Day Information

By Andrea Cosens, 4th Grade

On Wednesday, April 15th students and teachers at Heritage will meet in small groups to spend time reading, writing or participating in math assessments together. A few reminders about our day:

- ▶ Students will come to school for their assigned time block only.
- ▶ Kindergarteners have 45 minutes blocks; 1st through 6th graders have 90 minute blocks.
- ▶ Parents should sign in their students in the main hall 5 minutes before their scheduled time.
- ▶ Meet your child in the main hall at the end of the time block to sign him/her out.
- ▶ No lunches or buses will be provided on April 15th.
- ▶ Students do not need to bring backpacks, snacks or water bottles to school that day.
- ▶ Parents are welcome to stay at school and help with volunteer projects in the cafeteria while waiting for students.

PBS Update

By Karen Barker, Assistant Principal

A recent addition to the Heritage website is a link for Positive Behavior Support. The PBS link gives parents access to the Heritage Positive Behavior Support Matrix that we use to set behavior expectations for all students. The matrix is divided by locations of the school and behavior expectations for each location. The overarching expectations are **Giving Respect, Promoting Safety and Showing Responsibility (GPS)**. Please take a moment to review the matrix. We see the benefits of clear expectations for all students in every area of the school.

Another exciting PBS announcement is the all school **Heritage Lunchtime Luau** that is planned for Friday, May 15th on the Heritage soccer field. At this event, we will celebrate all the wonderful choices and examples of **Giving Respect, Promoting Safety and Showing Responsibility** our Heritage Explorers have demonstrated this year. We would love to have parents and siblings join in the fun. Details regarding the specifics of the day will be available soon.



Volunteer Update

By Nancy Miller, Volunteer Coordinator

Volunteer Workday, April 15

There will be a Volunteer Workday on Wednesday, April 15 — Assessment Day. Volunteers are invited to the cafeteria to work on projects for the teachers while they wait for their children to be assessed.

Buy-One-Get-One-Free Book Fair, April 17

Volunteers are needed to help set-up in the afternoon and to cashier throughout the evening.

HEA Board Positions

Several of our HEA board members have reached their term limit and will be vacating their position at the end of the school year. Positions that will be open for the school year include: **HEA Coordinator, Treasurer, Spirit Event Coordinator, and Teacher Appreciation Coordinator**. If you are interested in learning more about one of these positions, please contact me (nancy.miller@dcsdk12.org) or Julie Sweeney (jrsweeney92@yahoo.com).

Volunteer Webpage

You can learn more about upcoming volunteer opportunities by accessing the Volunteer page of the school's website.

Box Top Challenge Ends May 8

The top collecting class at each grade level will earn popsicles! Although this is our last challenge of the school year, our collection efforts are ongoing. Keep clipping and saving throughout the summer and bring your Box Tops back to school with you in August!

Tyson Chicken Project A+

We are kicking off a new Clip & Redeem fundraiser! Watch for the special Tyson Project A+ label on participating products and turn them in to the school. We will receive 24¢ for each label redeemed.



Papa John's Pizza Fundraiser

Another new fundraising opportunity is being offered by Papa John's pizza. Each time you place an order in the store or online and give the code **HERIT**, our school will earn 50¢. This code is valid at all Papa John's locations in Colorado so spread the word to family and friends.



Heritage B.A.S.E. Camp to Hold Summer Enrollment Night - April 28th

Please join us on Tuesday, April 28, from 6:00 to 7:00 PM in the cafeteria for the **Heritage B.A.S.E. Camp Summer Enrollment Night**.

- ▶ Summer calendars and enrollment packets will be available for early registration on this night.
- ▶ For those in attendance, 10% will be deducted from June registration if calendar and payment are turned in by Monday May 4, 2009 (maximum deduction of \$25).
- ▶ Our theme this summer will be "Around The World."
- ▶ Come sample goodies from abroad!
- ▶ Drawings will be held throughout the evening. Enter to win a free field trip!
- ▶ Priority registration will be given to those in attendance.

If you would like to attend, please RSVP to Carolyn.Ewing@DCSDK12.org.



Third Annual Locks of Love Event is Coming in May

On May 11th, 2009, Heritage will hold its third annual **Locks of Love Event**. *Locks of Love* is a public non-profit that provides hairpieces to financially disadvantaged children suffering from long-term medical hair loss due to various diagnoses. The hairpieces help restore the children's self-esteem and confidence as they battle their illnesses.

During our last community gathering of the year, a local hair salon will come to Heritage to cut the hair of any student, parent, or staff member who would like to give a donation. Locks of Love accepts a minimum hair length of 10" (tip to tip). For more information on the requirements, visit www.locksoflove.org.

If your child is interested in participating in this event, permission slips are available on the school website. Or, have your child stop by and see Mrs. Logsdon (science teacher), or contact her at 303-387-6725 or jaime.logsdon@dcsdk12.org.

You're Invited to an Evening Celebration of Art & Music At Heritage Elementary School



Featuring

The Heritage Art Show

Come and enjoy artwork created by every Heritage Elementary student! The artwork will be displayed throughout the building from 5:00 to 6:30 PM on Tuesday, April 7, 2009.

Also Featuring

The Lights of Freedom

Presented by

The Heritage Choir & The Heritage Bell Choir



This concert begins at 6:30 PM and will feature both performing ensembles including 90 Heritage Elementary School students.

Please join us for an evening of fun and inspiration as we celebrate the ARTS in our school! Hosted by Mrs. Melissa Orlando & Mrs. Victoria Mata.



Weather Delays & Closings

Website: www.dcsdk12.org

Hotline: 303-387-SNOW (7669)

Info will also be provided on local television and radio broadcasts starting at 5:00 AM

- ▶ Heritage Elementary is part of the *Mountain Vista Feeder Area*.
- ▶ On a *delayed schedule*, school starts ONE HOUR LATER than the normal, and buses run one hour later than normal. Before school child care programs also open one hour later than the normal start time. All before school activities (such as Choir, HEROS, or Student Council) are cancelled.

Infinite Campus Parent Portal Accounts

By Karen Barker, Assistant Principal

On April 14th beginning at 6:00 PM, new Heritage Kindergarten parents will be able to pick up their Guardian Identification Number (GUID), which allows access to the Parent Portal. Additionally, on our Heritage Assessment Day, April 15th we will have GUIDs available for current Heritage parents. Heritage staff will be available both days to assist and answer questions.



Mountain Vista Feeder Area Bus Route Meeting for 2009-10



Community meetings to share preliminary bus routes for the 2009-10 school year have been scheduled. The meeting for the Mountain Vista feeder area will be held on April 15th, from 6:30 to 8:00 PM at Mountain Ridge Middle School.

Parents and community members will have the opportunity to review the preliminary route information, and share feedback. School district transportation personnel will be on hand to answer questions regarding the proposed plans.



Heritage Office Summer Hours

This summer, the Heritage office will be open every Wednesday, from 8:00 AM to 11:30 AM

Kindergarten Orientation Night

for the 2009-2010 school year
April 14th at 6:30 PM

- ♦ Meet the Kindergarten teachers
- ♦ Learn about the curriculum



Buy-One-Get-One-FREE Scholastic Book Fair to be Held April 17th

Scholastic's **Buy One, Get One FREE Book Fair** will be held on Friday, April 17th from 3:30 to 8:00 PM in the gymnasium, and you won't want to miss it! The theme of the book fair is "Lights, Camera, Book Fair!"



This is the perfect opportunity to stock up on books for the summer. As part of **Literacy Month** at Heritage, the Book Fair will be held on the same evening as the **Pajama Night** literacy event.



If you are able to help with the Book Fair, please contact Nancy Miller at nancy.miller@dcsdk12.org or 303-387-6725.



School Spirit Days

April 6th and May 11th

Show your Heritage pride
by wearing our school's colors:
navy blue, forest green
and burgundy.



Heritage Explorer

Editor: Carolyn Mustin
Heritage Parent Volunteer
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Thank you to everyone who contributed to this issue of *The Heritage Explorer*. Please email me your news, articles, and digital photos from Heritage events.

Deadline for May Issue: April 30, 2009