

# BREA BUFFALO BANNER



Buffalo Ridge Elementary

FEBRUARY  
2009

BREA - Buffalo Ridge Educational Alliance - Your Parent/Teacher Organization

## PRESIDENTS' CORNER

Dear Parents and Teachers,

As our Spring Fundraiser approaches I find myself asking...Is all this time and work worth it? Then the smiles on the kids faces tell us all...yes, yes it is. They light up with all the new library books we provided and they talk about the cool laptops they get to use, which makes me realize...Yes! It is worth all the time and work that goes into a successful fundraiser. The students here at Buffalo Ridge Elementary are truly blessed by such a supportive group of parents.

We hope you found our "Did You Know" flier full of good information. This is the first of a series of fliers to keep our parents informed about our reasoning for how we move forward with fundraising. Thank you to Angela Carlson for all her hard work gathering the data and giving us a great tool for our future decisions on fundraising.

Sometimes people can get caught up in the trivial issues of fundraisers and lose sight of what we are trying to accomplish. Ultimately, we are trying to provide our students with programs and tools that will enhance their education. I hope you join us in this goal and choose to support our efforts.

Our next General Meeting is on Wednesday, March 18, at 11 a.m. in Mrs. Jacoway's classroom. At this meeting we will hear from Jodi Heimer, the district Audiologist. We will also be presenting our Spring Fundraiser along with goals for spending the proceeds. Many Executive Board positions on the BREA are open for next year. Elections will be held on April 8. If you are interested in joining the BREA, we hope to see you at the next General Meeting.

Best Regards,

*Carrie Manion and Diane Stavaski*

### Let's Celebrate -- CSAP Season is Here!

To help kick-off a great CSAP season, the BREA welcomed Dr. Jed Bowman to Buffalo Ridge for its meeting on January 21. Dr. Bowman answered a myriad of questions about BRE's CSAP history and goals as well as offered a sneak preview of the school's annual SAR (School Accountability Report.) His wealth of information inspired excitement about BRE's progress and a realization that our goal of reaching an "Excellent" rating is very attainable.

How can you help?

- Buffalo Ridge teachers and staff work tirelessly to keep pressure off the kids for CSAP testing- do the same at home. Emphasize that CSAP is a celebration; a chance to show-off what you've learned. Dr. Bowman likens it to finally getting to play in the sports game after a lot of practicing.
- Make sure your child gets adequate sleep and nutrition during CSAPs. The BREA will provide healthy snacks to all test-takers. Make sure your child remembers his/her water bottle on test days!

- It is imperative that all BRE children take the CSAP test! An absent test does not count as a zero, but rather carries a negative numerical value against the school. For every missed test, another test is effectively pulled down a full level of competency in the average. Spread the word to your friends and neighbors and encourage everyone to take part.

**DID YOU KNOW?** Real Estate Agents report that pulling the local school's SAR is often the first step taken in deciding which neighborhoods to shop for a home. Simply having every student take the CSAP test helps reflect the true growth and performance of BRE for our children, the school, and even our property values.

#### Yearbook Announcements

Congratulations to **Bailey McCue** for drawing the winning cover for the 2008-2009 yearbook! Photos for the yearbook can be dropped off to the office on CD or emailed to Susan Sanders, at [ssanders1@comcast.net](mailto:ssanders1@comcast.net), by **February 27**. Yearbook orders are also due by February 27. Yearbooks cost \$18.50 each.

#### Save the Dates ...

No School/President's Day	Feb. 16
SAC Meeting in the Library	Feb. 17
CSAP Testing - 3rd Grade	Feb. 18-19
DCSEAC Meeting	Feb. 18
Fundraising Mtg. at Daz Bog	Feb. 19
Yearbook Photos Due	Feb. 27
Yearbook Orders Due	Feb. 27
CSAP Testing	March 3-5
No School/Teachers Only	March 9
CSAP Testing	March 10-12
Butter Braid Sales Begin	March 12
No School/Teachers Only	March 13
Kids College - Reg. Deadline	March 18
BREA Meeting	March 18
DCSEAC Meeting	March 18
Coffee with the Principal	March 20
Spring Break/No School	Mar. 23-27
SAC Meeting in the Library	March 31
Butter Braid Orders Due	April 1
Dictionary Day	April 3
Family Night - Movie Night	April 6
BREA Meeting & Elections	April 8
Butter Braids Delivered	April 8
Coffee with the Principal	April 17
BREA Spring Book Fair	April 21-25
5th Grade Show	April 23
BREA Spelling Challenge	April 24
SAC Meeting in the Library	April 28

# Buffalo Bits...

## April is BRE Literacy Month!

The month of April is dedicated to Literacy! With the help from our fun loving teachers and staff, the BREA will start the month by hosting The Spelling Challenge Assembly on Friday, April 3. That same day is Dictionary Day. On Monday, April 6, BREA Family Night will feature "Akeelah & the Bee" to encourage kids to become great spellers. Next, our BRE Spring Book Fair will be in the Library from April 21-25, with proceeds benefiting the Library. We will end with the Spelling Challenge on Friday, April 24. Please share our enthusiasm by supporting Literacy in April!

## Fundraising Updates

### Butter Braid Sales

Butter Braid sales begin on **March 12** and orders are due on April 1. The proceeds will benefit the teachers with Interactive White Boards.

**The Spelling Challenge** is a new fundraiser this year. Students will be assigned grade-level spelling words and will seek pledges based on the words they can spell correctly. The Spelling Challenge test will take place **Friday, April 24**. Favorite staff members will perform funny skits to help kick-off the Spelling Challenge during an assembly on April 3. Extra recesses will be given to the classes that raise the most money and spell the most words correctly. Money raised will be used to support the teachers start up fund for the 2009-2010 school year.

Volunteers are needed to administer Spelling Challenge tests on April 24. Contact Tricia Wackerly at [triciawackerly@comcast.net](mailto:triciawackerly@comcast.net) or Carin Kirkegaard [ckirkegaard@comcast.net](mailto:ckirkegaard@comcast.net) if you are able to help.

### Save Hangers, Save the Planet,

**and Save for BRE** - BRE has partnered with GreenEarth Cleaners, located near Safeway and Starbucks. For every 12 of their eco-friendly hangers returned, BRE will receive \$1. Collection bins are located near each building entrance. The drive-through cleaners is also offering 50% off for first-time customer orders!

### Box Tops & Campbell's Soup Labels -

The deadline for box tops to benefit the 2008-2009 year is **February 25**, so please look for all those box tops! Collection will continue throughout the remainder of the year for 2009-2010.

**Daz Bog Days** - Watch for another Daz Bog day coming in the late Spring!

**Sally Foster** - We will not be selling Sally Foster products next year, but you can continue to order online until June 2009. If you need to stock up on wrapping paper or anything else from Sally Foster, now is the time to do so! Choose BRE (854844) so the school will benefit from your online order. [www.sallyfoster.com](http://www.sallyfoster.com).

**Fundraising Meeting on 2/19** - The fundraising committee needs your help! The committee is looking for new local restaurants to sponsor BRE nights since Jimmy's restaurant has closed. Come to Daz Bog Coffee on Thursday, **February 19**, at 9:30 a.m. The committee is looking for volunteers to contact restaurants in hopes of scheduling BRE nights. RSVP to Angela Carlson at [acarlsonnp@msn.com](mailto:acarlsonnp@msn.com).

## Family Nights - Join Us!

### Movie Night

**April 6 at 6:30 p.m.** - BRE Gym  
*Akeelah and the Bee* (2006), rated PG - With an aptitude for words, 11-year-old Akeelah Anderson (Keke Palmer) is determined to spell her way out of South Los Angeles, entering scores of local contests and eventually landing a chance to win the Scripps National Spelling Bee in Washington, D.C.

### Evening with the Arts

**May 13 at 5 p.m.** - Rock Canyon H.S.  
RCHS production of "Rumors"

## Special Ed Advisory Council

The Douglas County Special Education Advisory Council (DCSEAC) is an excellent school and community resource for parents with children on Individual Education Plans (IEPs). The council works for positive partnerships between the district, parents, teachers and administration. The next DCSEAC meeting is planned for February 18 at South Ridge Recreation Center at 7 p.m. For more information, contact Peter Cooper at 303-393-8185 or [peterkatcooper@comcast.net](mailto:peterkatcooper@comcast.net).

## Character Corner

### February's Lesson is Respect: The Golden Rule

"Every American ought to have the right to be treated as he would wish to be treated." -- John F. Kennedy

Spend some time with your children today, and ask them what this means to them. Let them know that you believe character counts!

## Coffee with the Principal

Stop by and chat with Ms. Berggren and other parents at Coffee with the Principal. Coffees begin at 9:30 a.m. Locations for the next two Coffees are:

**March 20** - Hosted by Sue Westen  
759 International Isle South in CP Village

**April 17** - Hosted by Adrienne Geyer  
5651 Lariat Drive in E. Happy Canyon

To RSVP and to submit questions or topics for discussion, please email Sue Westen at [Principal.Coffee@buffaloridgeelementary.org](mailto:Principal.Coffee@buffaloridgeelementary.org).

## Safety First!

Speed Limit around Buffalo Ridge is 20 mph - please watch your speed!  
Always look both ways before crossing the street  
Friends make great buddies-never walk by yourself  
Everyone needs to check in at the office  
Talk to your children about stranger danger  
Yield to walkers in the cross walk

**Volunteer Crossing Guards** are still needed! Please consider signing up for a week. The sign up sheet is located across from Mr. Jenson's office.

The BREA will be sending home a **Parent Survey** in the next few weeks. Please take time to fill it out and return. Surveys can be anonymous, or include names. Thank you for your input as we look for ways to improve our school environment.

Please send any safety concerns, comments or questions to Liz Kampschroeder at [kamps5co@gmail.com](mailto:kamps5co@gmail.com).