

BREA BUFFALO BANNER



AUG/SEPT/OCT
2011

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

Message from the Co-Prez

Welcome BREA families to fall in Colorado and the start of another school year. We love this time of year. We love its renewal of energy and change, all its color and beauty, and its fresh opportunity for giving, growth and learning. This August also begins our second term as co-presidents of your BREA and we are excited for another year of everything that fall brings.

We are MOST excited about the opportunity to help shape our children's academic environment through the activities and programs the BREA has created. And we hope YOU will share in this excitement. No amount is too small when it comes to volunteering your time, and what better way to become involved with your school than to volunteer!

The BREA has planned some new, fun and creative activities this year: some for our children, and some for just our parents! Be sure to check out the BREA bulletin board, the BREA website and watch for flyers coming home very soon for ways to get involved. We hope you feel the excitement and join us as we begin another wonderful year at Buffalo Ridge Elementary!

- Christina Duncan & Becky Anderson, BREA Co-Presidents

BRE Amazing Race Friday, September 16

Get ready to see your kids **move** in the first-ever **BRE Amazing Race**! This first-ever fitness *fun-raising* event will take field day to a whole new level. Students will participate in activities representing 10 different countries.

As our main 2011-2012 fundraiser, we hope it will raise the bulk of our goal (see back page, *Fundraising Forecast*).

Be on the lookout for details! A kick-off assembly is planned for Friday, September 2, and a materials packet will be sent home in folders that day.

Special thanks to Jen Krumenaur and her team for planning this great event!

Buffalo Ridge Elementary

7075 N. Shoreham Drive
Castle Rock, CO 80108
Main Office: 303-387-5575
Attendance: 303-387-5577

Snow Info Line: 303-387-7669

School - <http://schools.dcsdk12.org/bre>
BREA - www.buffaloridgeelementary.org

BRE Family Stampede & Carnival - Friday, August 19

It's that time again! Celebrate our welcome back to school at the third annual BRE Family Stampede & Carnival. This fun-filled tradition will take place on the school field from 5:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. next Friday, August 19. Don't miss the fun!

Activities include giant slides, a lollipop tree, a bungee bull, an obstacle course, a temporary tattoo artist, a dessert walk, and much more! And, what would the night be without *The DUNK TANK*?! You get three throws for \$1 to dunk your favorite teachers and staff members!

Pre-sale wristbands for children ages 3 and older are available for \$10 between now and Wednesday, August 17; wristbands at the door are \$12. The event is FREE for children ages 2 and younger and adults & chaperones not taking part in activities.

Special thanks to Laurie Jacobs and her carnival crew for working all summer long! They need lots of parent volunteers to help during the event. To learn more about the carnival or to sign-up to volunteer, visit www.buffaloridgeelementary.org.

Save the Dates ...

BRE Family Stampede	August 19
BREA General Meeting	August 24
Back to School Night	August 25
BRE Amazing Race Kick-Off	Sept. 2
No School/Labor Day	Sept. 5
Rock Slide Training	Sept. 7,14,21&28
Character Ed. Gathering	Sept. 9
The BRE Amazing Race!	Sept. 16
No School/ Teachers Only	Sept. 23
BRE Amazing Race Awards	Sept. 29
Fall Book Fair	Sept. 30 - Oct. 6
Rock Slide	October 1
No School/Conferences	October 5
No School / Fall Break	Oct. 17 - 21
BREA General Meeting	October 26

Open BREA Positions

The BREA has a few open committee chair/liason positions for this year:

Baskin Robbins Night Coordinator
Community Partners Chairperson
Yearbook Chairperson

If you are interested in learning more about any of the positions, contact Becky Anderson and Christina Duncan at presidents@buffaloridgeelementary.org.

Buffalo Bits ...

A Celebration Year!

Spring Gala

This school year is an extra special one as it marks BRE's 15th anniversary ... and we plan to celebrate!

Our 15th Anniversary Gala is being planned for **Friday, March 16, at The Sanctuary**. This adult only function will be a wonderful opportunity to get out, mingle and, of course ... have fun!

Interested in volunteering on the Spring Gala committee? Please send an email to Kelly Contos and Kristin Mauro at springgala@buffaloridgeelementary.org.

Family Fun Events

The BREA has lots of great events planned for the school year. Come to one or come to all -- whatever works for your family! Save the dates for these upcoming spirit building events and check the BREA website to learn more.

Rock Slide Run/Walk and Training

The Rock Slide is back again at BRE! Students will get fit, visit with friends and celebrate school spirit while Paige Taylor encourages fitness, a great attitude and lots of fun for a second year! Save the date for **Saturday, October 1**, for this annual 1-mile fun run and 5K run.

Rock Slide Training is slated for the four Wednesdays prior to the event (9/7, 9/14, 9/21 and 9/28) before school.

Sign-up information for both the Rock Slide Fun Run and the Rock Slide Training will be sent home in Friday folders and will be available for download on the BREA website (www.buffaloridgeelementary.org) in the coming weeks. See you there!

Fall Book Fair

The annual Fall Book Fair is planned for **September 30 - October 6**. Thanks to Linda Day and her crew for organizing this reading extravaganza for the second year in a row! The Scholastic Book Fair provides a great opportunity to purchase books for the whole family while supporting BRE.

Watch for more details, including hours and special events, as the Book Fair nears.

We Need You!

Our school is fortunate to have an amazing ensemble of parents who support everything from classrooms to carnivals -- and everything in between. The BREA couldn't do our job without you, that's for sure! It takes a lot of work to host a carnival, run a 'BRE Amazing Race', staff a book fair, prepare teacher meals, etc. So, we thank you for setting aside *your* time - no matter how great or small. For more information about volunteering with the BREA, please contact Lesley Gibson, BREA Volunteer Liaison at lesley.gibson@buffaloridgeelementary.org.

Character Corner

We are pleased to announce that 'Caught With Character' is back for 2011-2012. For those of you new to BRE and as a reminder to those returning, 'Caught With Character' happens in conjunction with our Character Education and Project Wisdom programs at BRE. Project Wisdom offers instruction on how to provide a school-wide character program. Currently, BRE uses the program by having a daily character lesson read during the morning announcements. 'Caught With Character' expands that program based on the monthly themes which are introduced at school wide gatherings. Students are given the opportunity to be acknowledged by teachers and staff when "caught" demonstrating good character. While kids will receive paper trophies and special 'Caught With Character' pencils at school, we know the most important part of this program is the pride kids feel when they are "caught" and can tell others about it. We hope you ask your kids about our monthly themes as well as check out our 'Caught With Character' boards in the front hallway. Learn more about Character Education on the BREA website. Many thanks to Jena Van Slyke and Lori Soechtig for championing our Character Education program! Upcoming character themes are:

August: Do Your Best!
September: Commitment
October: Positive Attitude

Fundraising Forecast

As we embark on another great year, the BREA is working closely with Principal Berggren and her staff to support our teachers and students. The district goal moving forward is clear - innovative classrooms. At BRE, this translates to teacher training, science and technology.

The funds raised by BREA will help provide teachers with the necessary training and materials for expanded technology in the classroom (iPads, FOSS Kits, and Smart Boards). Teachers are working in grade level teams to formulate 'teacher grants'. These grants will be the basis for fund distribution throughout the year.

This year's goal is to raise \$50,000 (based on a national PTO fundraising average of \$100 per student). We will kick-off the year with our main fundraising effort, **BRE Amazing Race** (see page front page). We look forward to this fun-filled day in which BRE students seek sponsors to support wellness. Thanks for your support!

King Soopers Gift Cards

Do you shop or fuel-up at King Soopers? Earn 5% for our school simply by paying with a King Soopers re-loadable gift card. Purchase a \$10 gift card and start shopping! The \$10 will be applied to your first purchase. Last year, we raised \$11,000 with this program. It's that easy!

Download the form on the BREA website by clicking on the 'Fundraising Programs' page.

BREA Executive Board 2011-2012

Co-Presidents:

Becky Anderson & Christina Duncan

Secretary: *Jill Johnson*

First Vice President: *Ally Berggren*

Teacher Liaison: *Jen Jacoway*

Treasurer: *Karin Miller*

Co-VP's of Communication:

Sandy Cranston & Elean Gersack

VP of Student Activities:

Nicole Wight & Shannon McQueen

VP of Ways & Means: *Jen Krumenaur*

VP of Hospitality: *Michelle Rafter*

Room Parent/Volunteer Liaison:

Lesley Gibson