

BREA BUFFALO BANNER



Buffalo Ridge Elementary

NOV 2011-
JAN 2012

Message from the Co-Prez

It's countdown to the Holidays! What happened to Fall...? Our awesome BRE families participated in great Fall events including SUPER SATURDAY and The Amazing Race, which raised over \$38,000. Every little bit counted, and EVERY child showed great school spirit! Our families are standing together behind our school even as budgets are tighter than ever. Thank you all for participating and all of the awesome BREA organizers!

As many of you know, the results of the November 1st election will cause all budgets for Douglas County Schools to become even tighter. By March, the 2012-2013 budget will be announced and our needs will be known. As always our BREA family is strong and will pull together to support our staff and teachers to keep BRE a great place for our kids.

Mark your calendar for **Friday, March 16**, for the Buffalo Ridge Elementary 15th Anniversary Gala Celebration and Auction. This adult only event will be held at the Sanctuary Golf Course and will be an opportunity to celebrate our school while keeping it going strong for years to come. This year marks Principal Berggren's first BRE kindergarten graduating class making it extra special! The committees are forming now, watch for details about how you can be a part of the planning for this fantastic event!

We have many surprises and activities planned in the New Year. We hope to see you all at Family Movie Night on Friday, December 2 and our next BREA General Meeting/Coffee with the Principal on Wednesday, December 7.

- Christina Duncan & Becky Anderson, BREA Co-Presidents

Welcome New BRE Families!

Please help extend a special welcome to all of our new families at BRE this year!

Airhart, Canono, Cowan, DeBacco, Dutzer, Eubanks, Gruber, Gunnersen Hall, Kent, Kisch, Lenderman, Maaliki, Malone, McMullen, Medina, Memon Mosteller, Mullen, Myers, Norris, Pinnegar, Reed, Romero, Smith, Stevens, Wegner, Williamson, and Yehle

Thanks to our new parent liaison, Kari Ansay, for putting together welcome coffees during the first week of school and for assisting our new families throughout the year. Kari can be reached at:

newparentliaison@buffaloridgeelementary.org

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

Character Congratulations

Congratulations to students who have been 'Caught with Character' so far this year. Daily winners, classroom winners, and grade-level winners should all be very proud of showing great character. Below is a list of the grade-level winners to-date. Visit www.buffaloridgeelementary.org and click on "Character Education" to see photos of the classroom winners for each month.

August -- Do Your Best!

Kindergarten - **Joe**; First - **Logan**;
Second - **Abbi**; Third - **Sam**;
Fourth - **Shaeleigh**; and Fifth - **Ciara**
Bonus: **Abby**

September -- Commitment

Kindergarten - **Jacelyn**; First - **Willis**;
Second - **Karisma**; Third - **Lucy**;
Fourth - **Elliott**; and Fifth - **Daren**
Bonus: **Joshua**

October -- Positive Attitude

Kindergarten - **Kendall**; First - **Jordan**;
Second - **Payton**; Third - **Griffin**;
Fourth - **Jimmy**; and Fifth - **Cody**
Bonus: **Tyler**

Our upcoming character themes are:

November: Responsibility

December: Friendship

January: Honesty

Remember ... character matters!

Save the Dates ...

Dream Team Neon/80's Day	Nov. 18
Thanksgiving Break	Nov. 23-25
Dream Team PJ Day	Dec. 2
Family Movie Night	Dec. 2
BREA Meeting followed by	
Coffee with the Principal	Dec. 7
Staff Cookie Exchange	Dec. 14
Holiday Break	Dec 16- Jan 1
Dream Team Patriotic Day	Jan. 4
No School / MLK Jr. Day	Jan. 16
No School / Prof. Dev. Day	Jan. 20
3rd Grade Show	Jan. 26
Dream Team Rainbow Week	Feb. 6-10
Dream Team Sucker Sales	Feb. 10
Jump Rope for Heart	Feb. 10
Coffee with the Principal	Feb. 15
No School / Presidents Day	Feb. 20
Dream Team Health Fair	Feb. 24



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Buffalo Bits ...

Family Movie Night

Save the date for Family Movie Night - **Friday, December 2**. This year's movie, *Willy Wonka & The Chocolate Factory*, will begin at 7pm in the gym. That day marks Dream Team's PJ day, so kids can stay in their PJ's all day and night! Pizza will be sold in the cafeteria, beginning at 6pm. Watch for more details! *Please note that this is a parent supervised event only. No drop-offs.*

Staff Cookie Exchange

The 3rd annual Staff Cookie Exchange is planned for **Wednesday, December 14**. We need 60 families to make 3 dozen cookies each, so each staff member can take home an assortment of 3 dozen. Teachers LOVE this tradition, so please help if you can. Special thanks go out to Tammy Abramovitz, Carin Kirkegaard and Tricia Wackerly for leading the charge. For questions or to sign-up to make cookies, contact Tammy at tammydenver@yahoo.com.

PTO Manager & Volunteering

BREA is excited to announce that we will be using PTO Manager this year to recruit volunteers for specific BREA events. If you have students attending Rocky Heights or Rock Canyon, you are already aware of this system.

PTO Manager is system that allows the BREA to send personalized emails to groups of people with one simple click. During online registration this summer, you were given an option to check a box for each BREA event that you might be interested in helping with. We have inputted your choices, along with the email address you provided, into PTO Manager.

When a volunteer need arises, you will be notified with a personal email asking for your assistance. Some of the needs may be convenient for you and others may not. There is no need to respond if you are not available.

If you did not register online or did not enroll after online registration closed, but would like to, contact Lesley Gibson at lesley.gibson@buffaloridgeelementary.org.

Coffee with the Principal

Save the dates for our remaining Coffee with the Principal gatherings. These informal get-togethers are a great opportunity to talk with Principal Berggren about current events and future plans. Send questions ahead of each meeting and RSVP to Michelle Rafter: principal.coffee@buffaloridgeelementary.org.

Wednesday, December 7 (starting with the BREA meeting)

Wednesday, February 15

Wednesday, April 11

All gatherings are held at the HOA2 Clubhouse in Castle Pines North (7306 Oxford Drive) at 9:15 a.m.

Fundraising Results

With your help, the BREA has raised about \$49K year-to-date. Some initial disbursements to science, technology, character education and grade level t-shirts have been made totaling about \$15K. Additional disbursements are pending and will be reviewed carefully knowing BREA support is more important than ever (see Co-Prez message). Money raised to date has come from direct donations, King Soopers gift card sales, the Amazing Race, the Fall Book Fair and Box Tops. View the entire budget report at www.buffaloridgeelementary.org and click on "Fundraising Recap".

Teacher 'Thanks'

Our teachers are very appreciative of all of the efforts our families make to provide extra support to our school. Here is a few examples of their thanks ...

"The SMART boards and FOSS kits that we have received, have shed a new light on our approach to team teaching! We have never seen the kids so engaged!" -- Jen Jacoway & Terra Shaffner (First Grade)

"I am SO grateful to the BREA for providing funds for the music program. We've been able to purchase more xylophones so that kids don't have to wait turns to learn parts and to play, and we were also able to buy materials to repair broken xylophones so kids were better able to learn. Since doing some mallet/xylophone units with the kids this year, they immediately noticed the difference and they were so excited and happy! I saw their skills improve so much faster, since they were able to use the instruments the whole time. We were also able to purchase an iPod for the room, and it has been so nice to have-time management has been easier, as I can set up a playlist for the day and we can "rock and roll!"-- literally and figuratively. :) I am so grateful for the support the music program has been given--we are so lucky!! Thank you!!" -- Cathy Deneault (Music)

"What a great opportunity it was to attend the ECAW (Every Child a Writer) training last month. I implemented writing lessons and techniques that I learned in the class the very next day. I'm very grateful for the money BREA provided so that I was able to receive such great training to make my writing instruction better for my students!" -- Karrie Brester (Third Grade)

"I was so excited when I found out that I had over \$400 in my account to start the year. We are so lucky to be teachers at BRE. I used these funds for books to assist kids that struggle and for those who need some additional enrichment opportunities. I also want to say thank you to parents for the time they take in the building helping kids and spending time on the big projects like the book fair and the Amazing Race. This school would not be the place it is without the dedicated parents who step up time after time. We appreciate you more than you know." -- Russ Jenson (Fifth Grade)

"I love teaching students to write. I am glad I had the opportunity to attend three days of writing training recently. I am always looking for ways to improve my skills so I can share with students." -- Betty Coombs (Third Grade)

Easy Money for BRE

There are lots of easy *on-going* ways to help raise money for BRE with little or no effort! Take a look ...

King Soopers Gift Cards can be purchased at school and allow you to pre-load a gift card for same day or future grocery and/or gas purchases. Simply pick-up a form at school or download one at www.buffaloridgeelementary.org. Then drop it off at the office with \$10. (The \$10 is pre-loaded on your gift card).

Shopping Sites that donate back schools are everywhere. The following is a short list of places where you can name BRE as your school of choice when making purchases. If you use them already, this is a no-brainer ...

Target (Red Card) - 1% from purchases
OneCause: 1-20% from 100+ stores
Mamapedia: 5% from daily deals

Box Tops for Education

Congratulations to third grade for collecting the most box tops for our initial drive this fall - with a total of 3,344 box tops. All in all, BRE earned \$1,345.30. Not too shabby! Keep collecting - our next drive will be after the holidays.

Oh, Babies!

Congratulations go out to Mrs. Brester, Mrs. Herzog and Mrs. Jacoway! Each welcomed a baby boy last month.
Ashton Brester - 10/17/11
Connor Herzog - 10/22/11
Cooper Jacoway - 10/22/11