

Hoofbeats

Marshdale PTA Newsletter Volume 5 – February 2011



From the President's Desk

Dear Marshdale Families,

Once again, Marshdale's Science Fair was a resounding success. In spite of having to reschedule due to the record-breaking cold we experienced last week, over 100 students participated in the 2011 Science Fair. Thanks to all the judges and other volunteers who juggled their schedules to ensure the success of this event – we couldn't have done it without you.

Looking for that ideal teacher gift for Valentine's Day? Check out the Giving Tree at www.marshdalepta.org or on the wall across from the school office. Teachers have posted requests for donations for their classrooms online and at school – we are sure they would be very happy to receive one of their requests.

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February

Upcoming Events

- 9 – 4th & 5th Grade Spelling Bee
- 9 – Early Release Day
- 16 & 17 – CSAP (grade 3)
- 18 & 21 – No School
- 26 – Monte Carlo Night
- 28 – CSAP (grade 5)

From the President's Desk

(continued from page 1)

Don't forget to get your tickets to *A Night In Monte Carlo*, our upcoming fundraiser at the Brook Forest Inn. PTA volunteers have been busy soliciting donations from merchants all over town and have lots of exciting items for the silent auction. Think your child would like a ride to school on a firetruck? Perhaps you'd like to visit Costa Rica or New York? These items and many more will be available to the highest bidder on February 26 – you won't want to miss this!

Lastly, PTA is looking for three people to fill outgoing board positions. Each position requires, at most, two to four hours per week, and MEETINGS ARE NOT REQUIRED! No special skills are needed, except a can-do attitude and an eagerness to serve your school and community. Now is your chance to get involved, and develop strong relationships with teachers and other parents in our community. You will get more out of it than you put in, I promise! If you are interested, please contact any PTA board member (see last page of this newsletter for a list of members) for more information.

Sincerely,

Kirsten Hollander
PTA President

New Marshdale Spirit Store

The Marshdale PTA website has a new Spirit Store! We have partnered with www.printfection.com to provide custom printing of sweatshirts, t-shirts, tote bags and other items with Marshdale logos. Two of the graphics available for spirit items are the winning entries from an art contest held earlier this school year.

You can access the store from the www.marshdalepta.org home page, or directly at <http://www.printfection.com/MarshdalePTA>. For each item sold, \$3 goes directly to the PTA. All funds raised will be used toward school purchases.

This is an easy way to raise money for the PTA and school, show spirit, and show off artwork created by Marshdale students. Check it out today!

West Jefferson Middle School

Invites You To
An Evening of Excellence
Orientation & Open House

February 9, 2011
5:00 – 7:30 p.m.

Meet the Staff

Tour the Building

Learn About our Programs, Electives & After-School Activities

Enjoy Student Performance Showcases

Bring your incoming 6th grader for some fun and orientation

9449 S. Barnes Ave. Conifer
303-982-3056

Please join us for an informative evening!

A huge thank you to PTA and their support for last month's *One School, One Book* campaign. Over half our families participated in this month-long reading challenge, meaning I will be dressing as Despereaux on Tuesday, February 8. Thanks also to Mrs. Kelly for organizing this event.

Another big thank you to Liz Horneck and Tara Saltzman (and their team) for their work on the Science Fair. Despite having to reschedule the Fair for weather reasons, we saw a great turnout this year.

As we move into the second part of the school year, it is a good time to remember ways to help your child (or children) succeed in school:

- **Revisit good homework habits** – set aside an uninterrupted block of time each day, preferably at the same time. It is also helpful to have an established place in the home with good lighting and seating where homework can be completed.
- **Set goals for learning** – talk to your child about goal setting and hear what they would like to improve on in school. Make sure that the goals are achievable rather than something so big that the child will easily give up on it. For example, "I will study my math facts four times this week" or "I will read four books in the next two months" are concrete goals that are easily tracked and measured. The most important part in the goal-setting process is to discuss and check progress regularly. Have your child post their goals in a place where you can both easily monitor them. Pride in accomplishments tends to increase a child's self-esteem.
- **Ensure that there is time for rest and relaxation** – while it's good for children to be busy and involved in activities they find enjoyable, "down time" should also be an important part of your child's day. Unscheduled time has been shown to increase a child's ability to remember new learning.
- **Promote good sleeping and eating habits** – during sleeping hours the body rebuilds tissue and keeps the immune systems in order. The brain uses this time to replay new learning and transfer it into its' memory banks. Experts recommend that children and adolescents get 10 hours of sleep each night. Also, remember that a well-balanced diet that includes more protein and less sugar helps a child pay attention throughout the day.
- **Ensure daily exercise** – regular exercise has been shown to increase the capacity for learning. It's a great idea to have your kids burn off some energy before sitting down to do homework. They'll be more receptive to learning, and may find it easier to focus.

Lastly, CSAP is almost here! Please make sure that your child gets a good night's rest and has a healthy breakfast before testing. Please refer to the testing schedule on page 8 for these important dates.

Sincerely,

Christie Frost
Principal

(Thanks to Ingrid Mielke for sharing these ideas.)

Reminder – Lunch Prices Increasing

Just a quick reminder that increased school lunch prices go into effect on Monday, February 7, 2011. New lunch prices are as follows:

- Elementary lunch (K-6) prices will rise from \$2.00 to \$2.50
- Secondary lunch (7-12) prices will rise from \$2.50 to \$3.00
- Elementary breakfast (K-6) prices will rise from \$1.25 to \$1.50
- Secondary breakfast (7-12) prices will rise from \$1.50 to \$1.75

Upcoming Events

A Night In Monte Carlo and Silent Auction Update

Marshdale's *Night in Monte Carlo* fundraiser is right around the corner. On Saturday, February 26, join your friends and neighbors at the historic Brook Forest Inn for a night of dancing, hors d'oeuvres, and a spectacular silent auction. We have extended the \$35 ticket deadline to Friday, February 11 – after that date, ticket prices will rise to \$40.

Marshdale PTA members have been all over town gathering items for the silent auction. Some of the items include:

- A firetruck ride to school
- Vacation packages to Costa Rica, New York and Whistler, British Columbia
- Tickets for Denver Nuggets and Colorado Avalanche games
- Gift certificates to local restaurants
- Spa treatments, hair and nail salon gift certificates
- Gourmet gift baskets
- Horseback riding lessons
- Music, singing and art lessons

These are just some of the items to be auctioned. Make sure you don't miss out – get your tickets today. Drop a check payable to "Marshdale PTA" at the office, or contact Alissa Skildheim at alissa@skildheim.org. We look forward to seeing you on February 26!

Earth Day 2011 Celebration

The Environmental Committee is planning a school-wide Earth Day celebration for Friday, April 22. The day will be similar to the Winter Carnival. Students, staff and parents will participate in an assembly, learning stations, games, relay races, and work on the Mustang Trail. To pull off a celebration of this magnitude, we need YOU! Look for volunteer opportunities soon on the PTA website, or contact Tara Kulp or Jessica Cucchi.

Can't help that day? We also need supplies donated, specifically:

- Reusable plastic containers with lids (yogurt and other dairy containers)
- Two 4 x 4 foot pieces of half-inch thick rigid foam insulation panels (approximately \$6)
- Four golf balls

- Drinking straws (400)
- Cotton balls (800)
- Empty cereal boxes
- Clean empty gallon containers (milk or water jugs)
- Cardboard boxes in a variety of sizes
- Two desk bells
- Posterboard
- Bird seed
- Drink pouches

Please contact Tara Kulp (tara.kulp@gmail.com) or Jessica Cucchi (jessica.cucchi@gmail.com) if you can help with the event, or have any items to donate.

Marshdale 2011 Science Fair – Another Great Year!

Congratulations to the 125 students who shared their research and experiments at the 2011 Science Fair. These students gave us much to ponder. Many parents were particularly intrigued by a project by Parker Leek about the "Balance Bracelets." There is always something to be learned from our students at Marshdale.

All first-place winners took their projects to the Mountain Area Science Fair (MASF) on February 4 and 5. Second-place projects are currently on display at the Jeffco Library at Conifer High School. For a complete list of Science Fair winners, please see pages 9-11.

The theme for the judges this year was "How Can I Help?." Thank you to the more than 40 volunteers who were forced to juggle their schedules at the last minute due to weather-related school closures – we couldn't have done it without you! Science Fair judges included parents, neighbors, friends and

former students. Special thanks goes to so many returning judges, helpers and committee members, and to those of you who stepped up to help when we needed you most. It was a busy day and we never would have completed the fair without you.

Thanks also to the ladies in the front office, the facility staff, and to Mardi Rumin and Julie McCabe for the wonderful luncheon. If you are interested in helping with Science Fair, please contact any of the committee members. It is a great way to be involved with the wonderful students and adults at Marshdale.

Last, but certainly not least, a huge thanks to the Science Fair Committee. Liz Horneck, Tara Saltzman and Kerry Skurski worked tirelessly for months to make sure this event came off without a hitch. Despite the schedule changes, the Science Fair went on as planned, albeit a day late. Thank you!

Until next year, Happy Experimenting!

Third Annual Marshdale Portrait Fundraiser

Local photographer and Marshdale parent Amy Johnson is offering studio sessions on Saturday and Sunday, March 12 and 13.

Amy recently won *Mountain Connection* magazine's "Best Of ..." contest in the Kid category – if you're not familiar with her work, just check out the cover of the February issue of *Mountain Connection*! You can also view samples of her portfolio at her website, www.amyphoto.com.

The session fee is \$30, with the entire fee going to the Marshdale PTA. Each slot is 15 minutes, and you may book multiple slots.

Each session includes:

- 15 minutes of studio time for children and/or family pictures
- One free 5x7
- 20% of any additional orders goes to Marshdale PTA

All sessions are held at Amy's studio in south Evergreen. Call or email Amy now to reserve your slot. You may reach her at 303-674-6149 or amy@amyphoto.com. Limited slots are available, so contact Amy now!

Environmental Committee Planning Sessions

Upcoming planning sessions for the Environmental Committee are scheduled for Tuesday, February 8 and Tuesday, March 8 at 6:45 p.m. All meetings are held at 28104 Tresine Dr. in Evergreen. Please contact Tara Kulp at tara.kulp@gmail.com for directions or additional information. All are welcome – hope to see you there!

In The Community

Friends of Conifer Parks & Recreation

Never heard of the Conifer Recreation Center? Well, that's because there isn't one – yet. The Friends of Conifer Parks & Recreation (FOCPR) is a group of local residents working to establish a Conifer Parks & Recreation district. In support of this goal, the FOCPR is holding two fundraisers in the coming months. The first, WinterFest, will be held at Raven's in Aspen Park on Saturday, February 19. Join your friends and neighbors for a night of live music and help support FOCPR at the same time. The second fundraiser is the annual Family Barn Dance on Saturday, March 5, from 4:00 to 9:00 p.m. Enjoy kids' activities, live music, dancing, food, games and more!

Proceeds from both fundraisers benefit the May 2011 election for a Park & Recreation District. For more information about the FOCPR, please visit their website at <http://www.focpr.org>.

Friends of Conifer Parks & Recreation Presents:

WinterFest

When: Saturday, February 19
8:00 p.m. – midnight

Where: Raven's

Cost: \$10 cover

2nd Annual Family Barn Dance

When: Saturday, March 5
4:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Where: Marshdale Memorial Barn
Turkey Creek & Hwy 73

Cost: \$25/family
\$15/individual



Winter Fest

8pm-12am, Saturday, February 19
At Ravens

25577 Conifer Rd. Suite 100, Aspen Park

\$10 cover charge supports
Friends of Conifer Parks & Recreation

Live Music from Kicked to the Curb



www.conifercommunitycenter.org

Did You Know ...?

... that 20 of 22 Marshdale teachers attended a six-hour seminar on SmartBoards last month? With the expansion of this new technology in our school, training in its proper usage and effective application becomes increasingly important. Thanks to our teachers for taking the time to attend this class.

2009-2010 District Annual Report Now Available

Each year, state and federal law requires school districts to publish an annual report on how well they performed. The report is mailed to schools and public libraries and is made available on the district's Web site. The document talks about student achievement, how the taxpayer's money is spent for education and progress on the Strategic Plan, which is the district's road map for the year. The federal "No Child Left Behind" law and the Colorado Department of Education specify that certain information must be included in the annual report including Colorado Student Assessment Program (CSAP) scores, SAT and ACT scores and information about the qualification of the district's teachers. In addition, Jeffco Public Schools Strategic Planning

and Advisory Council, an advisory group composed of board of education members, cabinet members, representatives from the district's employee associations, parent representatives as well as citizen and parent leaders, provides input about the annual report.

A copy of the 2009-2010 Jeffco Public Schools Annual Report can be obtained at any school or viewed online at: http://www.jeffcopublicschools.org/publications/annual_reports/index.html

The Colorado Department of Education also provides information for parents about school performance online at: <http://www.schoolview.org>.

New Designer Drug Alert

The Drug Enforcement Agency recently classified K2, Spice and other synthetic marijuana substances as illegal and dangerous. If you hear your child talking about *Ivory Wave*, *Black Mamba*, *Spike* or *Mr. Smiley*, all common names for these drugs, you should pay attention.

Recently, the Drug Enforcement Agency listed Spice as a Schedule 1 drug, in the same category as marijuana, heroin and LSD. Jeffco Public Schools follows federal guidelines; therefore, if a student is caught using, possessing, giving or sharing any of these substances at school, they will be suspended for five days. The penalty for purchasing or selling them is immediate expulsion. Effective this semester, a second offense within three years from the first offense will result in a mandatory expulsion.

It is very important to know that while these drugs are illegal federally, they are easily found at tobacco shops, convenience stores, novelty shops where drug paraphernalia is sold and online. In many cases, they are sold as incense and labeled "not for human consumption." Symptoms can include hallucinations, severe agitation, vomiting, elevated heart rate, elevated blood pressure, tremors, seizures, anxiety, numbness and tingling, or pale appearance.

We encourage parents to look for these products in your child's possession, discuss the dangers and watch for any symptoms. The district's office of dropout prevention and recovery has helpful information on their website to help you if you suspect your child is using drugs. That website is: http://www.jeffcopublicschools.org/programs/drop_out/finish_line/index.html or you can call them at 303-982-6559.

Your student's safety and well-being is always our top priority. For more information on student use of drugs and alcohol, refer to the student conduct code book, pages 12-16.

2011 Elementary CSAP Schedule

Grade 3 Reading

Mon 2/14	Tues 2/15	Wed 2/16	Thurs 2/17	Fri 2/18
		Reading Session 1 (grade 3 only)	Reading Session 2 (grade 3 only)	

Grades 3 – 6 CSAP Assessments

Mon 2/28	Tues 3/1	Wed 3/2	Thurs 3/3	Fri 3/4
Science Session 1 (grade 5 only)	Writing Session 1 (grades 3 – 6)	Writing Session 2 (grades 3 – 6)	Reading Session 3 (grades 4 – 6)	Reading Session 4 (grades 4 – 6)
	Science Session 2 (grade 5 only)		Science Session 3 (grade 5 only)	

Mon 3/7	Tues 3/8	Wed 3/9	Thurs 3/10	Fri 3/11
Writing Session 5 (grades 4 – 6)	Reading Session 6 (grades 4 – 6)	Math Session 1 (grades 3 – 6)	Math Session 2 (grades 3 – 6)	Math Session 3 (grades 4 – 6)

2011 MARSHDALE SCIENCE FAIR WINNERS – DIVISION 2 (GRADES 2 & 3)

CATEGORY	RANK	NAME	GRADE	TITLE
Aerodynamics & Fluid Dynamics	1	Aidan Plaehn	2	Balloon
	2	Sean Linehan	3	Catapult
Botany	1	Katie McCabe	2	Flowers
	2	Cassie Troy	3	Plants
	3	Wyatt Winters	3	Flowers
Chemistry	1	Ande Westerhauser	3	Gas
	2	Adde Hollander	2	Water Boil
	3	James Coveney	2	Soda Explosion
Earth & Environmental Science	1	Sam Horneck	3	Elevation
	2	Morgan Parslow	2	Solar
Electronics & Magnetism	1	Jamie Armstrong	3	Fruit Battery
	2	Ellie Hislop	3	Conductivity
	3	Nolan Bly	2	Battery Strength
Material Science	1	Zoey Born	2	Gum & Hair
	2	Kara Halingstad	2	Sun Protection
	3	Abbey Putz	2	Melting Crayon
Physics	1	Jordan Banfield	3	Pinewood Derby
	2	Lias Kaanta	2	Pressure
Structures	1	Sarah Hinchey	3	Penny Bridge
Zoology	1	Sydney Kasperbauer	2	Birds

Announcements

2011 MARSHDALE SCIENCE FAIR WINNERS – DIVISION 3 (GRADES 4 & 5)

CATEGORY	RANK	NAME	GRADE	TITLE
Aerodynamics & Fluid Dynamics	1	Nick Williams	5	Clothes
	2	Madison Yux	5	Frisbee
	3	Randy Suttle	5	Rockets
Botany	1	Rachel Elander	5	Trees
	2	Erin Reilley	5	Plants
	3	Jasper Cucchi-Cameron	5	Plants
Chemistry	1	Hailey Janson	5	Iron
	2	Isabel Arnold	5	Volcano
	3	Darrian Scardina	4	Salt
Earth & Environmental Science	1	Maya Siegel	5	Sea Levels
	2	Nick Putz	4	Evaporation
	3	Aden Osborn	5	Cooking Times
Electronics & Magnetism	1	Dillon Woodworth	4	LED Light
	2	Kyle Curtis	5	Fruit
	3	Zoe Hankey	5	Satellites
Human Body & Behavior	1	Sawyer Halingstad	5	Font
	2	Parker Leek	4	Balance Bracelets
	3	Eli Born	5	Estimating Time
Material Science	1	Rachel McKenna	5	Freeze Liquids
	2	Courtney Benbow	5	Boat Float
	3	Ian Whittington	5	Candle Burn
Microbiology	1	Ryan Roberts	5	Saliva

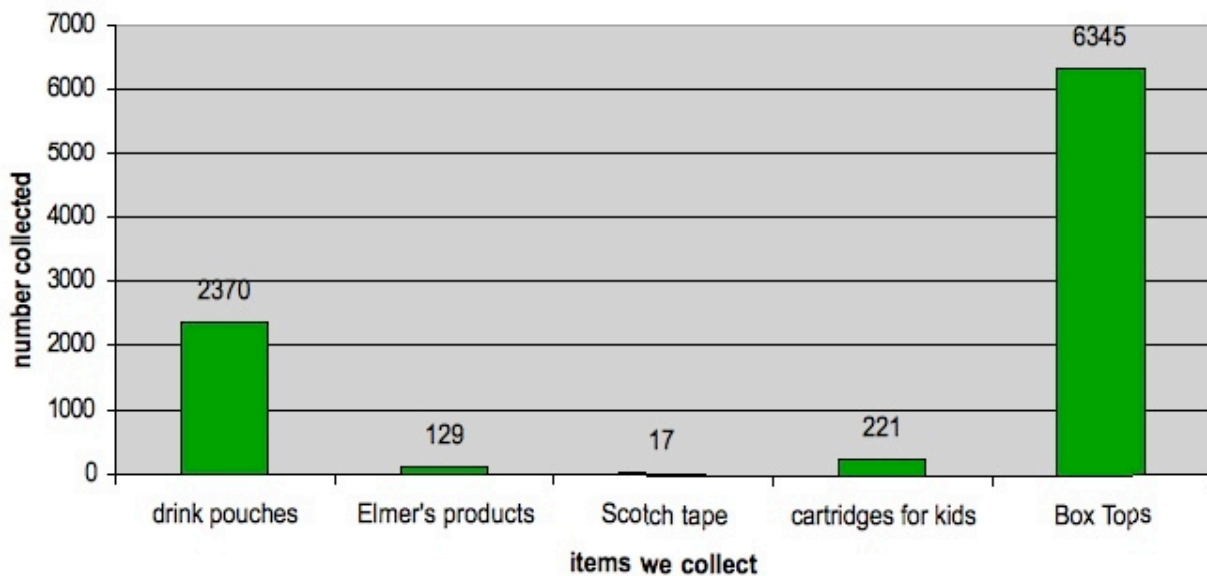
2011 MARSHDALE SCIENCE FAIR WINNERS – DIVISION 3 (GRADES 4 & 5)

CATEGORY	RANK	NAME	GRADE	TITLE
Physics	1	Ethan Halingstad	5	Marble Weight
	2	Robert Severa	5	Pulleys
	3	Vincent Verheij	5	Helium
Structures	1	Joe McCabe	5	Earthquake
Zoology	1	Jackson Lipke	5	Dog Food
	2	Isabella Lombardo	5	Weather & Pigeons
	3	Coral Kastner	5	Spiderwebs

Recycling Update

We're doing well, but we think we can do better as we enter the second half of the school year. Let's collect more Elmer's glue products and Scotch tape in the coming months. Download your collection chart reminder from the PTA website and start saving! The money we make through these collections funds our Earth Day celebration and supports environmental efforts at the school. Any excess will be donated to WaterAid America and Water for People to help environmental issues on a global level.

Collection Totals To Date



Sponsor the PTA

The Marshdale PTA is always looking for business partners to sponsor PTA events. If you have a business you'd like to promote, or know of someone who does, the PTA newsletter and website both offer advertising opportunities for local businesses. The website and newsletter reach over three hundred mountain-area families and are a great way to build your business. For more information on advertising opportunities, please contact Jennifer Dailey at jtdailey99@msn.com.

Quick Links

- ❖ [School Website](#)
- ❖ [PTA Website](#)
- ❖ [PTA Calendar](#)
- ❖ [Lunch Menu](#)

Newsletter Submissions

Have some news to share or an event to promote? Let us know – we may be able to include your item in the next edition of *Hoofbeats*. Send submissions to newsletter@marshdalepta.org by the 20th of each month for consideration for the following month's newsletter. Thanks!

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