

Middle School Newsletter
Jan. 22-Jan. 25

Middle School Enrichment

Beginning Friday, February 1st we will be starting the enrichment classes. These classes run from 2:00-3:00 every Friday until April 25th. Each teacher will be leading an interesting class for the middle school students. **BUT**, we need some **parents to volunteer** to teach classes too. If you are interested, please contact Melissa Hatchett as soon as possible. We would love to hear your creative ideas, but here are a few examples of classes done in the past: yoga, baby-sitting, survival skills, sewing, knitting, technology, financial/budgeting, cooking, bowling, tennis, flower arranging, printmaking, hand drumming, sign language, etc. If you have special interests and would like to join us, we would LOVE to have you. Feel free to pair up with another parent or two to make it more fun! (720)424-4200.

Valentine's Day

The middle school students are planning a Valentine's Day Dance on Thursday, February 14th. Student Council has requested a disc jockey for the dance. If anyone knows of a great, reasonably priced, disc jockey who would be willing to work from 1 p.m. till 3 p.m. please contact David or Nancy Bell at (303)744-3836. Many thanks.

Please help Us!

We are sending Cheri Hanna's name in for the Denver Teachers' Award this year. Please, take time to write something to add to her portfolio. Cheri's dedication to students and to this school deserves this recognition. If you can add anything to our collection of documents, letters, and pictures . . . it will be much appreciated. We need to create a "personal teaching keepsake" for Cheri that can be sent in as her nomination packet. Please help us. We need all the documentation into us by February 1st . . . That is NEXT FRIDAY!!!! You can give it to Kathy Degi . . . to Melissa Hatchett . . . or directly to Kathy Gile.

SEACAMP—7th Grade Families

Parents of 7th graders—we will have a general/optional informational meeting regarding the annual trip to San Diego on **Tuesday, January 29th at 5:00 pm** in Room 208. Also, Please be on the lookout for SEACAMP information in hard copy form. Wilma Shepherd will be sending your grocery certificate statement in the mail. The first payment of \$250 will be due on February 8th. Hope to see you Tuesday!

Talent Show—5th graders only

The Slavens Talent Show is just around the corner! The performance will be this Friday, January 25th at 6:00 pm. Hope to see you there!

Any donations collected at the talent show will go toward the benefit of Matthew Keil who is a quadriplegic after being shot in the neck in the Iraq War. You can see further information at the following website:

www.caringbridge.org/visit/matthewkeil

Basketball

Girls' game 1/24 vs. Merrill at Merrill 3:45pm

Boys' game 1/17 vs. Merrill at Merrill 4:45pm

Please note: At Hamilton, Merrill and MLK, no students are allowed at the game without their parent. Students may NOT attend the games with someone else's parent. Plus there is no food or drink allowed. Thank you for showing these schools the respect Slavens' families have for others' property.

Friday Afternoon Basketball for Slavens 5th Grade Girls

All 5th grade girls are invited to join their classmates in the Slavens gym on Friday afternoons in February for four weeks of basketball. Organized by Frank Rowe, Slavens Middle School Girls Coach, after school basketball will follow this schedule:

Dates: Feb. 8, 15, 22 and 29

Time: 3:10 p.m. to 4:15 p.m.

Location: Slavens gym

Tennis shoes are required. Girls have the option of changing into shorts and a t-shirt in the girls' bathroom in the Slavens gym if they prefer to play in something other than their school clothing.

All 5th grade girls are encouraged to come and play. There is no cost to participate and previous basketball experience is not necessary.

Questions? Contact Frank Rowe at 303-863-0521 (w), 303-829-1164 (cell) or

frowe@rppublishing.com

Character Education

Character Education and the development of an "intentional culture" of responsible, respectful and self-reliant students is an important aspect of education at Slavens. Everyday, students are taught the rights and responsibilities of good citizenship. Often these lessons are woven into the curriculum. Teachers emphasize fairness and compassion while encouraging students to think globally as productive members of a community. We would like to highlight the things teachers are currently doing that promote the development of these important character traits. We would also like to strengthen the collaboration between home and school by promoting a common, shared language of character education. If you are interested in participating on a committee to reinvigorate character education at Slavens please call Kary Cramer at 303.322.7645.

Adopt a Family

A sincere, warm thank you goes out to everyone in our Slavens community who gave to the Ellis Elementary School Adopt a Family drive. There were boxes and boxes and boxes of a wide assortment of items donated. We filled half of a classroom at Ellis with all the items given by you.

A very enthusiastic group of families from the Peace Action Club and the 8th grade girl's basketball team (thanks Frank Rowe) hauled everything to Ellis. We were all treated to a performance by part of the Ellis Jump Rope Team. After the Ellis kids finished demonstrating

their keen jumping skills they invited all the Slavens students to come jump with them. Everyone had a great time and the Slavens kids didn't realize how tough it is to do double dutch. After all that jumping, principal Khoa Nguyen had pizza and cake ready for everyone. So many Ellis families benefited greatly by all the donated items. Thank you again for caring and your generosity.

Mark Your Calendars

1/29—SEACAMP meeting for 7th grade parents 5:00 pm
2/1—Enrichment classes for students begin
2/10—Hearts for the Arts at the Black Pearl
2/13—MSPA meeting @ 7:55 am
2/15—End of 2nd trimester
2/18 and 2/19—No school for students
3/4 – 3/13—CSAP testing
3/24-3/28—Spring Break
4/12—Auction @ DU Cable Center
4/18—No school for students
4/21-4/25—3rd round of Benchmark testing
4/29—Day @ DU 10:30-1:30
5/2—No school for students
5/14—Athletic Banquet 5:30-7:30 at Slavens
5/26—No school for students
5/28—8th Grade Last Day
5/28—8th Grade Continuation 5:30-10:00 pm @ Embassy Suites
5/29—Last Day of School

Mobile Art Collection now on display at Slavens

The Mobile Art Collection (MAC) will be on display at Slavens from January 16 – January 29th. The MAC is an exhibit of original artworks created by Cherry Creek Arts Festival (CCAF) exhibiting artists. This spectacular show of fine art is made possible by the SCFD Alliance Grant. Select middle school students will be trained as docents by CCAF, and will lead tours for other students and the community. This show is not to be missed!

Celebrate Arts Community Night

On January 29th, from 6-8 p.m. Slavens will host a special evening to celebrate fine arts. This is an excellent opportunity to have a family art night! The Mobile Art Collection will be on display for your viewing pleasure. Ms. Barnett's middle school choir and 4th grade music classes will be performing in the auditorium. Select 3rd grade students will play recorders throughout the art exhibit. Ms. Biermann will be selling a very affordable collection of her own artwork. The proceeds from this art sale will help pay for her upcoming National Art Education Association conference, which is in New Orleans. Please join us this evening and feast your eyes and ears on magnificent art!

Tours and Shadowing—only 1 more week

If you know anyone interested in shadowing our middle school, please let them know the dates for January. Each Wednesday we will have shadowing for students from 8-12:00 and 12:45-3:00. Each shadowing student must make an appointment with the office.

(720) 424-4150.

Tours for grades K-6 will be on Thursdays in January. These will take place from 9:30-10:00 am. These tours are for any interested parents who would like to see the school.

Go Green with ALL Contest Results

As you may have heard, all of your efforts have paid off! Slavens has won \$5,000 in the “go green with ‘all’ contest! Thank you, Slavens community, for all your hard work! (The grand prize was awarded to a school in Arizona.)