

THE SLAVENS SCHOOL STORM

APRIL '09

A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER SERVING

THE SLAVENS COMMUNITY

INSIDE THIS ISSUE...

PAGE 1

From the Principal's Office

PAGE 2

Library, Pep Rally, Duck Drop

PAGE 3

PI Day

PAGE 4

3rd Grade Reporter

PTA

PAGE 5

School Supplies, PE, MSPA

PAGE 6

Grade Level Happenings

PAGE 7

Athletics

Art Contest

PAGE 8

Music News

Calendar

SLAVENS CODE OF CONDUCT

At Slavens we take the high road. We genuinely care about ourselves, each other and our school. We show and receive respect by using kind words and actions, listening thoughtfully, standing up for ourselves and others, and taking responsibility for our own behavior and learning. This is who we are even when no one is watching.

COMPASSION COMES IN MANY FORMS



KURT SIEBOLD

"...it's proof that one ordinary person, with the right combination of character and determination, really can change the world."

Trust students, teachers (and parents) had a relaxing spring break and are ready to put forth a good effort these next two months of school. Though our school year is a little more than three-fourths over, we still have a great deal to be accomplished that will contribute to the success of our students.

One request made by a high school administrator before I began working at Slavens was to keep in mind our purpose — to prepare our students to succeed at the next level of schooling as we prepare them for life. Our elementary teachers devote their time and energy to make sure our students are well equipped for middle school; our middle school teachers give students the skills that allow them to do well at any high school program they may choose. And once our students make it into high school, our hope for them as has been mentioned before isn't limited to the notion that they will achieve academic success only. Our desire is to see them become compassionate and contributing citizens who maintain a balance in life as they move on to further education and job pursuits.

Showing compassion can take on many different forms, but Greg Mortenson has given us an example to strive for. I recently finished the book, *Three Cups of Tea*, by Greg Mortenson and David O. Relin. The subtitle for the book is "One Man's Mission to Promote Peace...One School at a Time". It is a

biography of Greg Mortenson, a mountain climber from America, who wanted to give back to a needy community. His idea of starting schools across Pakistan and Afghanistan was inspired when he accidentally stumbled through the little village of Korphe, Pakistan, at the bottom of K2, after a failed attempt to scale the summit of this mountain. His promise to return and build them a school has grown into a major humanitarian project through the founding of the Central Asia Institute which has completed fifty-five schools to date.

In review of the book, Tom Brokaw wrote:

Three Cups of Tea is one of the most remarkable adventure stories of our time. Greg Mortenson's dangerous and difficult quest to build schools in the wildest parts of Pakistan and Afghanistan is not only a thrilling read, it's proof that one ordinary person, with the right combination of character and determination, really can change the world...He didn't set out to be a hero, he didn't even set out to 'make a difference'— he just set out to fulfill a promise that would have been so easy to forget.

Our Character Education Table Talk discussion topic in February was compassion. The definition on the table talk card reads, "Compassion: A deep awareness of and sympathy for another's suffering; kindness; tenderheartedness." Greg Mortenson's

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

LIBRARY, READING, AUTHORS, & RESEARCH, OH MY!

BY CHERYL BADGER

Now that CSAPs are over in the library we are back to our library skills. The Kindergarteners through 5th graders will be studying an author. We will read books, study the illustrator(s), and go on-line to learn more about the authors. Feel free to ask your child about who they are studying in the library.

Kinders: Eric Carle

1st: Mem Fox

2nd: Jan Brett

3rd: Allen Say

4th: Chris VanAllsburg

5th: Roald Dahl

The 5th grade classes are also doing research about persuasive essays they are writing for class. I've also been checking out to many 4th graders their country books, and 2nd graders their state books.

8th grade students just did research about Ray Bradbury, the author of Fahrenheit 451, which they are reading in class.

We have also just received many new books for our shelves: From Non Fiction to Chapter Books, to Biographies and Picture Books. Students will be checking these out soon for their leisure. They are now catalogued and were purchased at our book fair—thanks so much!

Again, we will have our end of the year book sale. In the beginning of May I will start collecting fun titles that are in good condition. If you have any chapter books—especially young adult I'd love it. We never seem to have enough for our middle school students.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

WE'VE GOT SPIRIT, YES WE DO, WE'VE GOT SPIRIT, HOW 'BOUT YOU?

BY ANNE FRANKLIN

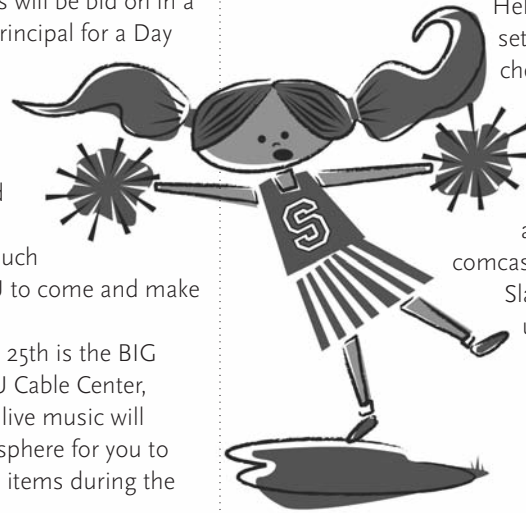
The Pep Rally to kick off the Slavens 11th Auction is TOMORROW, APRIL 3rd from 6:30-8pm in the Slavens Gym. Bring the whole family for a night of cheers and community building. Over 30 Faculty Forays will be bid on in a silent auction format and the Principal for a Day raffle will be held at 7:15pm. Our amazing faculty and staff have created some really fun outings and items! The money raised goes toward salaries and other essentials—things that make the Slavens community such an amazing one! We need YOU to come and make this night a success!

Then, rest up, because April 25th is the BIG GAME! From 6-10pm at the DU Cable Center, Retro-themed food, drinks and live music will create the perfect, casual atmosphere for you to bid on more than 300 fabulous items during the

Silent and Live Auctions. Invite your friends and neighbors, too! Invitations will be available for pick up at the Pep Rally. Catalogs will be sent home with the April 9 Thursday folder.

Want to do more than just attend the auction?

Help is still needed for set up and clean up, check out, decorating and more! Contact Anne Franklin scanfran5@msn.com or Amy Leonard amy.leonard@comcast.net for more details. Slavens...Together in Education...WE ARE THE STORM! ✨



QUACK! QUACK! THE DUCKS ARE BACK!

BY JANE HOWARD

Mark your calendars for Sunday, May 3rd for the 5th Annual Denver Rubber Duck Drop! This event is generously sponsored by Councilwoman Peggy Lehmann and benefits Slavens as well as four other Southeast Denver Public Schools. Three thousand sponsored rubber ducks will race down Goldsmith Gulch in George Wallace Park in a hilarious effort to be one of the first to cross the finish line! The day is filled with family fun and you should plan to spend the afternoon with your friends and family helping to benefit our school. Last year we raised \$3400 just for Slavens! All that you need to do is "buy" a duck for \$5 (or a set of 5 tickets for \$20). You'll receive a ticket with your duck's number on it and if your duck is one of the first to cross the finish line, you will win fabulous prizes such as a mountain bike, airline tickets and more! This year we have an extra incentive at Slavens: The student who sells the most ducks will win an iPod Nano!!! So make a list of your friends and family that "need" a duck and

start selling for a great cause! Also back by popular demand, we will have our class contest and the grade that sells the most ducks will win a pizza party during lunch at school. It's lots of fun for a great cause and we look forward to seeing you at the Duck Drop! Look for Duck Sellers after school during April to start purchasing your ducks. Should you have any questions, please contact Ronit Hicks, Annie Humphrey or Jane Howard. **Quack!** ✨



3.1415926535...

BY PARISSA REZAIIE-KHODABANDELOU

Recently, Slavens celebrated Pi Day. Pi Day is March 14, or commonly known as 3.14. Slavens 7th and 8th graders did Pi Day with our four core teachers, Mrs. Stoddard, Mrs. Degi, Mrs. Du Houx, and Mr. Framke. These teachers each had a station of Pi Day set up in their rooms, and the 7th and 8th graders transit around these four classes.

Let's start with Mrs. Stoddard. In this class, 7th and 8th graders made a pi chain. In this activity, each student is given four digits of pi. Then, with the key that is posted up (it consists of a color for each number 1-9), we go get our color strips to make our chain. When we have finished making our individual chains, we connect them in the correct order. When all of these chains were done, we put it up around the hallway.

Next, let's go to Mrs. Degi. In this class, we got to do a pi digits scavenger hunt. Basically, each team was given identical packets, and facts were posted around half the classroom. Next, we had to go figure out the answers. When we finished, we each got one slice of pie, of our choice.



Student participants in Pi Day.

Third, let's go to Mrs. Du Houx. In this class, we started with a circle area game and pi memorization at the same time. This game consists of: two players, two large circles for each player, two medium circles for each player, two small circles for each player, and a game board, which is basically a construction paper. Each player gets to put a circle down of their choice, one at a time, until no more circles can fit. (The starter player is judged by Rock, Paper, Scissors, or whatever you and the opponent choose.) The player with the most area covered total wins the game. You continue, and Mrs. Du Houx makes a map so you will be able to record who wins, and

you will be able to know who you play next. As you go on through the games, you win points. There is a website where you can test how many digits of pi you know, and we got to use that website. This was happening for the people that were waiting to play, or had lost the circle area game.

Next, let us go to Mr. Framke's room. In this class, we played math jeopardy. There were questions about circumference, area, minced meat (basically a surprise question), pi digits, and several more. It was simple, just like real Jeopardy. You answer a question: if it is right, you get the amount of points the question is worth; if the answer is wrong, the get the amount of points the question is worth taken away from your team's score.

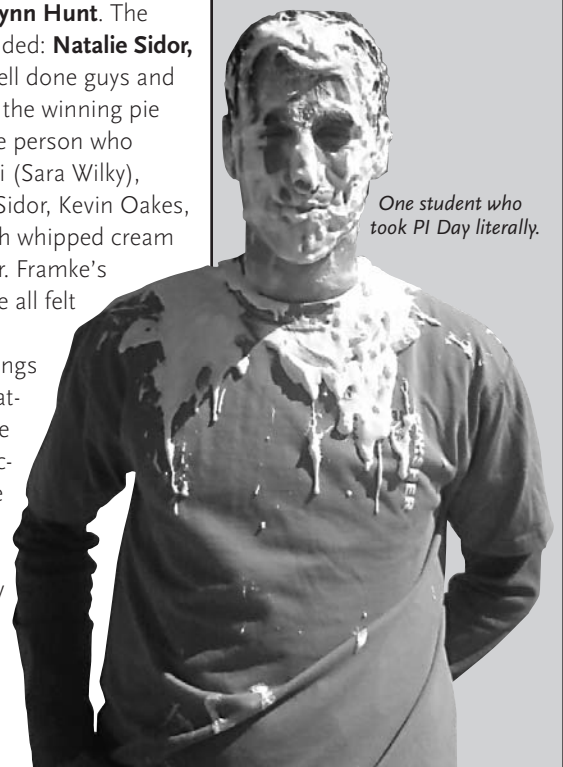
There was one more activity you could choose to do on your free time if you wanted to: the pie bake-off. Here, each student who wanted to enter brought in a pie before 7:35am for Student Council (the judges) to choose the best two pies from each homeroom (one class only had one participant, so there were seven winners in the end). At the Awards Ceremony, the winners were announced from seventh place to first place: the first place winner was **Joe Schroer**, 7B. Well done Joe!

Now that we are talking about the Awards Ceremony, let's explain this. The pi memorization winner was **Sara Wilky**, 7A. Great memory skills, Sara! The participants for the pie baking contest were (not in order): **Joe Schroer, Timmy Foster, Kyle Ochea, Natalie Sidor, Tory Rowe** and **Cory Fraker, Emily Gramer, and Ashlynn Hunt**. The team with the most points included: **Natalie Sidor, Kevin Oakes, Caitlin Barron**. Well done guys and gals! For the Awards Ceremony, the winning pie of the bake-off (Joe Schroer), the person who memorized the most digits of pi (Sara Wilky), and the winning team (Natalie Sidor, Kevin Oakes, and Caitlin Barron) got to smash whipped cream pies made by Sara Wilky into Mr. Framke's face. It was fun watching, but we all felt sorry for Mr. Framke.

In Pi Day, my two favorite things were making the pi chain and eating pie. This is because I feel like the pi chain was really a team activity, which made it much more fun to do. I liked eating the pie because, well, it's PIE! But the main reason is eating pie usually doesn't happen in school. Well, that concludes my version of telling how Pi Day went. I hope you enjoyed it! ✎

LIBRARY FROM PAGE 2

I will also collect magazines such as Sports Illustrated Kids, GL Girls Life, and Six 7 8. I do not need National Geographic — sorry! I do not take board books/toddler books—our students need books at their level. The quarters/change/\$\$\$ that we collect, during this summer reading sale, help us pay for all our magazine subscriptions. Thanks so much! I'm looking forward to our summer reading sale at the end of May.



One student who took Pi Day literally.

humanitarian effort was an effort of compassion. I was inspired by his story and hope for our students that they will develop the quality of compassion as part of their growth towards success. Check out our Peace Action Club for more examples and opportunities to show compassion.

*Balance has been the theme for the Character Education Table Talk discussion topic in March; Honesty is our April theme.

JOIN US AT THE AUCTION

Join us April 25, 2009 for the 11th Annual Dinner and Auction at the DU Cable Center.

THANK YOU TO PARENT VOLUNTEERS

Slavens PTA would like to send out a BIG thank you to all our parents who have volunteered their time to the many events here at Slavens both previous and events in the future. Your support means so much to the Slavens students and staff. Thanks for all your hard work.



Parent volunteers at the Pajama/Story night.

SLAVENS STUDENTS RISE & SHINE EARLIER THAN OTHERS IN DPS

BY ARIEL SHUNNESON, 3RD GRADE REPORTER

Slavens School students start school 45 minutes earlier than the students at University Park Elementary. So when Kindergarten through Fifth Grade students at Slavens are getting up to get ready for school, our friends at University Park Elementary are still sleeping. Why do we get the 8:15am start time?

An interview with Ms. Hatchett gave me all the answers I was looking for. She explained that the start time for Slavens School is determined by what time the Denver Public School buses arrive. It turns out that the Denver Public Schools' start times have to be organized to get all of the children to school on time. And that is not an easy job! There are 41 elementary schools that start at 8:15am, 37 elementary schools that start at 9:00am, 15 middle schools that start at 7:25am and 13 high schools that start between 7:30am and 8:15am. DPS uses the same buses to get the elementary, middle

DPS uses the same buses to get the elementary, middle & high school students to school on time.

school and high school students to school on time. The bus drivers have to get to work at 5:30am! That is really early! I would not like that job because I do not like to wake up early.

Some people don't mind waking up early.

I interviewed my third grade teacher Ms. Pavao and asked her if she would like it if school started at 9:00am. Ms. Pavao said, "No, I don't think that I would." Additionally, I asked Heidi Frazier, 3rd grade student at Slavens, if she would like to sleep in and start school at 9:00am. Heidi said that she likes to start at 8:15am.

Some people thought a later start time would be a good idea.

Ms. Hatchett stated, "I like to sleep in, I like to go to bed early and I like to sleep all of the time." That sounds like a lot of sleeping to me! Owen Edmonds, 3rd grade student at Slavens, said, "I like to sleep in so I would like to start school later." I couldn't agree more! ✎

SLAVENS PAJAMA & STORY NIGHT

BY AMY SOLTES

The first ever pajama/story night was a great success! We had Ms. Miller, Ms. Frank, Mr. Siebold and four players from the DU Men's Basketball team reading stories. All the kids had fun and got to enjoy freshly popped popcorn provided by the Hospitality committee— Maria Wischmeyer, Eileen Robinson and Wendi Mahoney. Also, thanks to Annie Zarlengo, Amy Leonard, Sarah Soane, Patti Winicour, Ashley Wolfe, and Leah Scott for helping out. None of these events would be possible without the support of our parents, teachers and staff!

It is hard to believe, but the end of the school year is fast approaching. At the next PTA meeting we will be discussing volunteer opportunities for next year. If you have any interest in becoming more involved, or simply want to come listen to the possibilities, please join us on April 14 at 5:30

in the library. Please remember that it takes the involvement of all of our parents to continue to make Slavens a thriving community. ✎



With pajamas on and popcorn in hand, students, DU Men's basketball players and parents take a break from story time for a quick snapshot.

NEWS FROM THE MSPA

BY ANNE ROWE, MSPA CHAIR

Spring is in the air and life upstairs continues to be busy! A few highlights since the last newsletter:

- Reminder of grade level liaisons/volunteer coordinators to help with a variety of activities/programs. The following parents have volunteered (thank you!)
 - 8th—Kathy Gile/ Shelley Hook
 - 7th—Eva Mendaz/ Suzanne Mountfort
 - 6th—Holly Boren/ Sabra Knauf/ Ashley Kilroy
- The Middle School Valentine's Dance was a huge success and the students had a great time. Thanks to all the parent volunteers and to the MSPA social chairs: Holly Boren, Ashley Kilroy, Jena Graff and Allison Hartman.
- Career Day is on April 16th and is going to be a great experience for the middle school students. International author and speaker Carol Carter, providing the keynote speech from 8:10 – 9am, will kick off the day. Carol's company, LifeBound, specializes in success and transition programs for students. In her keynote speech, Carol will focus on "Gifts and Talents for Teenagers" which helps students identify likes/dislikes, strengths/weaknesses, discover their unique and amazing qualities, with the goal of empowering them to maximize the treasures they possess. Parents are encouraged to attend Carol's keynote in the

auditorium from 8:10 – 9am. The students will then rotate through 5 different sessions with professionals in various fields, such as Health and Medicine, Government, Business/ Entrepreneurship, Math & Science, and the Arts (graphic design, culinary, interior design and much more!) Thank you to Kathleen Armstrong and Lesley Hurd for all their hard work on putting Career Day together!

- May 6th will be a busy day for Slavens Middle School. The students will be spend the day at the University of Denver for DU Day, and the Spring Athletics Banquet will be held that evening to celebrate the Winter/Spring sports—boys & girls basketball, girls soccer and baseball.
- The 8th Grade Continuation Celebration will be held on Thursday, May 28th, 6:00 – 10:00pm at the Embassy Suites Hotel, 7525 E. Hampden Avenue. All 8th Graders and their families are invited to attend. Thanks to our wonderful continuation chairs—Kendra Black, Ashley Kilroy and Katie McGinley!

If you'd like to learn more about the MSPA or how you can be involved please contact me at arowe@rppublishing.com or 303-929-1681. The Next MSPA meeting is Wednesday, April 8th at 8:15am in the upstairs teacher's lounge. All are welcome to attend. ✎

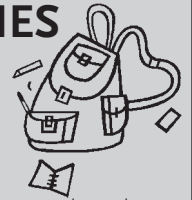
sdsds

BY AMY HICKS

Spring is here, and you know what that means...Time to order school supplies! Don't spend the week before school in a frenzy. Pre-order your supplies and enjoy the



SCHOOL SUPPLIES ARE BACK!



BY AMY HICKS

Spring is here, and you know what that means...Time to order school supplies! Don't spend the week before school in a frenzy. Pre-order your supplies and enjoy the summer.

- Proceeds raise funds for Slavens
- Students get the exact school supplies the teachers want
- All supplies are delivered to elementary classrooms or packaged for middle-school students before the school year starts.

Watch for order forms in upcoming Thursday folders and on the school website. All orders Due May 22nd. NO LATE ORDERS.

TOP 10 REASONS TO ORDER

10. Who wants to spend a hot August day in the school supply aisle at Target?
9. It costs about the same to order from Slavens. Priceless.
8. It's the green thing to do: no driving involved.
7. Your student will have the exact supplies the teachers want. Teacher's Pet.
6. It's a fundraiser for things you actually need.
5. There are approximately 479 types of Sharpie Pens, did you know that?
4. Most supplies are communal anyway?
3. In August you'll be willing to pay double to have this chore done. No late orders.
2. All supplies are delivered for you to classrooms.
1. It's the smartest money you'll spend and it helps our kids!

FIFTH GRADE IS FUN FILLED!

BY SHELLEY SCHMITZER & LINDA MATHES

February was a fun-filled month for 5th grade. The children went to the Denver Art Museum to learn about Japanese Cultural History and Art. In addition, the children got to view some pretty amazing other art; like a head in a suitcase that talked to them and 29 grey foxes running through an all red restaurant! In Science, they had a visit from Lauren Wilson, "The Science Dude." They learned about relative humidity, and they made clouds appear right on their desks. One of the greatest highlights of their month was going to Porter Place to share their talents and their Valentine's with the lovely residents there.

March started off with a visit from a retired science professor who is the Uncle of Ian Sukle. Uncle Dan demonstrated one of Newton's Laws of Motion with his tennis ball cannon that produced a loud BANG! The kids learned the physics behind the magic trick of pulling a tablecloth out from under a set table without breaking or moving any of the dishes. We also graphed the trajectory of a thrown object. All pretty cool stuff!

Of course CSAP has been our focus so far, but in between testing sessions, the fifth graders have been presenting their Million Dollar projects. Many of them will be on display in the hallway, so please take a minute to look at some of the outstanding ideas the kids have come up with on how to help our world with their money. This month also marks the start of our Ameritowne studies and the wrapping up of our American History study.

GRADE LEVEL HAPPENINGS

KINDERGARTEN BY STACEY LISTER

The Kindergarteners have been busy studying dinosaurs. We took a field trip to the Museum of Nature and Science and learned even more about dinosaurs. Everyone has written some beautiful poetry in the Kindergarten classrooms. We have been very impressed with their thoughtfulness and creativity. The leprechauns have been making their yearly visits to room 101, but they have been too tricky so far for us to catch them.

FIRST GRADE BY MINDY LUCERA

In Writer's Workshop, first graders have finished their "How To..." books. They are now learning about non-fiction conventions and how to write non-fiction. In Reader's Workshop, first graders are using their "Wonder Boxes" to keep track of their questions as they read.

In Science, first graders have finished an exciting weather unit. They started their Geography unit by sending "Flat Stanley" on many adventures around the United States and the world! In Math, first graders are studying geometry. Keep an eye out for their "Two and Three-Dimensional Shape Museum" in the hallway!

SECOND GRADE BY NATALIE FREI

THIRD GRADE BY KYLE MOE

It's amazing how busy third grade is. We just became published authors with our Denver History books. They are hard covered, bound books, with our own illustrations in them. It was cool getting the books we made and sharing them with our classmates. Some of the topics were: gold mining, Soapy Smith, the Fire of 1863, the Flood of 1864, the Sand Creek Massacre, and Molly Brown. Now, let's talk about Shakespeare. In Shakespeare, we are doing scenes from his comedies and tragedies, like Much Ado About Nothing, and Hamlet. We practiced our scenes with our groups for many weeks. After that we had three dress rehearsals to get ready for our audition for the Shakespeare Festival. We are all hoping to get stage time! Now get ready for the festival downtown on May 8th, 2009! I told you we were busy.

FOURTH GRADE BY NOAH RABINOWITZ

RECIPE FOR A SUCCESSFUL SPRING

First add the finishing touches to CSAP testing
Then add several ounces of area and perimeter
Next whisk properties of powders
Add 4 cups of Non-fiction research writing
Add a dollop of spelling, grammar, and handwriting
Garnish with field trips to the Mizel Theater and Plains Conservation Center

At the same time preheat oven for:

The Westward Expansion
Decimals, Fractions and percents
Earth Force Youth Summit
Fiction writing

Serve fresh!

Bon appétit!

SIXTH GRADE BY SARAH ARMSTRONG, SARAH GRAFF, LIAM MYERS, ELIZABETH ROTHROCK & AUSTIN BERRY

Math has been going great. We have been learning a lot. Mrs. Hanna is teaching us everything we need to know about multiplying and dividing with fractions. We've worked with the brownie pan model and the number line model. The unit we are currently on is Covering and Surrounding. What we learned in Covering and Surrounding how to find the area and perimeter of parallelograms, squares, rectangles, triangles, and circles. We learned about radius squares, and how to find the circumference, area, perimeter, diameter, and radius of a circle.

In Science, we are doing astronomy. We are doing a daily moon observation. That is where we look out our window and look at the moon and draw what the moon looks like on that date and time. Recently we went on a field trip to the Museum of Nature and Science and went to the planetarium show, Black Holes. We learned that the Milky Way Galaxy may actually have a black hole. We also went to the IMAX and watched The Ring of Fire, which was a good review of tectonic plates, earthquakes and volcanoes that we learned about in our Dynamic Planet unit.

In literature class (Mrs. Miller's class) we are working on many things. First being persuasive writing. We are learning how to write persuasively using different techniques, such as facts and expertise, strong statements, and counter arguments. We turned our first piece in just before Presidents Day weekend and our next piece was due on the 27th of February. We are also studying adjectives and Independent clauses in our Daily Language Instruction (or DLI.) Every Thursday morning we

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7

BETH GILE WINS ART CONTEST

BY TIMI BIERMANN

Beth Gile (8th) is the winner of the 15th Annual Creative Challenge! The Creative Challenge is an art contest inspiring students to promote organ and tissue donation in Colorado and Wyoming. This contest is sponsored by the Donor Awareness Council, and is open to students in grades 6th to 12th throughout Colorado and Wyoming. Beth's poster was chosen out of hundreds of entries as the 1st place winner. Beth will receive \$100 cash, gifts, t-shirts imprinted with her winning design, and a pizza party for her art class. For more information about organ donation, and to find out how you can become an organ donor, please visit the following website: <http://www.donor-awareness.org> ✎



Beth Gile's winning poster about organ donation.

GRADE LEVEL NEWS FROM PAGE 6

have literature circles. Every student is in a group. Each group is assigned a different book. The books are: The Last Book in the Universe, Hoot, The Cay, Jacks Black Book, and Things Not Seen. Every week we have meeting notes to fill out before the literature circles. We recently finished our first read-aloud book Sahara Special by: Esmé Codell. This is what we have been doing in 6th grade literature.

SEVENTH & EIGHTH GRADE BY KATHY DEGI

Language Arts: "Ah! All the world's a stage..." At least in 7th grade!

Students are abuzz with the sounds of Shakespeare as they ready themselves for the annual Shakespeare Festival auditions. Each group of 4 students has selected and rehearsed one scene from a Shakespeare play. In the true spirit of the bard, students have attached their own interpretations to each individual line...given that Shakespeare never wrote any stage directions for any of his plays. The results? Well, join us downtown on May 8th for presentations in at this year's DPS Shakespeare Festival!

Equally busy is 8th grade! Students are well into the classic American novel, Fahrenheit 451. It is interesting to see what ideas have evolved from this one-time "futuristic" novel by Ray Bradbury.

Math: 3.14!!! PI DAY was a great hit...literally ending with pie in the face!

Thanks to Mr. Framke for putting together a great and fun learning opportunity for our annual PI Day event. And, a special thanks to all the parents and students who baked or contributed pies for

this event. YUMMO! The taste-test winner...Joe Schroer!

Social Studies: Do you like to travel? Are you into exotic locations? Well, the 7th graders have some destinations to share with you. They have worked diligently to create power-point presentations highlighting their geographical knowledge of the world. These creative projects were presented on April 19th after many hours of research, group efforts, and talented input. Congratulations to the 7th graders on another learning task well done!

CSAP is done! And, once again, Slavens Middle School students worked diligently to showcase their learning for this year. We don't make a "big deal" of CSAP week...because Slavens students always rise to the occasion and give optimum effort. As a result, our community is very proud of our past CSAP results...and we continue to encourage students to always do their best.

A former Slavens student, Jake Brasch, won the 26th Annual Shakespeare Competition, held by the Denver English-Speaking Union on March 1st. Jake will compete in the national competition in April at the Lincoln Center in NYC. Congratulations, Jake! Slavens is proud of all our former students' efforts to excel!

SPORTS UPDATE FROM THE STORM FRONT

BY DAVID WEISS

Our "Varsity" basketball teams each chalked up great seasons. The boys finished just one game out of playoffs, our best season in years, and our girls were eliminated in the quarterfinal round. Coach Skuce and Coach Rowe are very proud of their charges this past winter, and we all look forward to next year so both teams can build on this year's success. This spring season we have added a boys 6th grade basketball team so we hope Coach Scott and the boys are up to the challenge of building the future of the program, they are presently 2-0. Our girls 6th grade team in its second season and has started 1-1 and will continue to focus on development for the future.

Our boys baseball and girls soccer teams have kicked off the 2009 season at 2-0. These two teams are historically in the hunt for spring titles and continue to be well respected in their divisions. Coach McGinley's boys seem ready to challenge all who step on the field and Coach Weiss's girls hope to continue to build on previous years successes. Both teams have a majority of returning players and have so far put forth two solid games.

As always, our student athletes continue to make us proud on and off the field. Our school competes in every sport offered which means about 80% of our Middle School students participate in the Prep League. GO STORM!

MUSIC NEWS

BY LIZABETH BARNETT

Elementary music students have really shifted into high gear this winter. After spending the first half of the school year on music concepts, we began rehearsing songs and dance moves for the musical productions "Go Fish" in second grade, and "Snow White" in fourth grade. For the first time, the fourth grade will present individual class productions of their musical instead of combining classes. It has been such fun to watch each class develop their own individual interpretation of the same show. The second grade will perform "Go Fish" on April 14th at 7:00pm. Mrs. Hildenbrand's homeroom will present "Snow White" on April 28th at 7:00pm, and Mrs. Frank's homeroom will present on April 30th at 7:00pm.

Middle school music and middle school choir have been busy as well. Thanks to the Alliance

Project, seventh grade students attended the ballet and choir students toured the performing arts center downtown. Coming up, the choir will also have the chance to meet a drummer from Africa who will teach them the "language of the drum" using authentic djembes and dumbeks..

Kindergarten has just begun their rehearsals of "A Farmer's Life", which they will present at the Slavens Arts Festival on May 17th. Recently, kindergarten has studied many animals through music, so now it's time to put our musical farm together! The Middle School Choir will present their final concert on the evening of May 12th in the auditorium from 7:00 to 8:00pm. Join us for an evening of song! ✨

SS

BY ANNALISE POWELL

Hold on...
Be patient

MARK YOUR CALENDERS!

APRIL

FEB 8Hearts for the Arts, 6pm
FEB 10CSC, 3:15pm
FEB 10PTA, 5:30pm
FEB 10FOSS, 6:30pm
FEB 11MSPA, 8:15am
FEB 12Late Start Day
FEB 13.....Middle School Valentine's
Day Dance
FEB 16NO SCHOOL
FEB 17.....NO SCHOOL

MAY

MAR 10CSC, 3:15pm
MAR 10PTA, 5:30pm
MAR 10FOSS, 6:30pm
MAR 11MSPA, 8:15am
MAR 13.....PTA Family Night, 6pm
MAR 23-27 ..NO SCHOOL

CONTRIBUTE TO THE STORM NEWSLETTER

If you have an idea for a story, a comment or a suggestion please contact the publishers:

Lisa Lojacono

lisalojacono@hotmail.com

Amy Feiman

amyfeiman@comcast.net

Thank you once again to the contributors to the newsletter. We appreciate all you do.



SLAVENS SCHOOL

3000 South Clayton Street
Denver, CO 80210

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

Office(720) 424-4150
Attendance.....(720) 424-4151
Fax(720) 424-4175

<http://slavens.dpsk12.org>