

FIRESIDE CHAT

September 15, 2023

Message from Mrs. Keppler

Dear Families,

Fireside was the proud recipient of the John Irwin School of Excellence in May, 2023, which is given to schools that demonstrate exceptional academic achievement over time. A key factor in our strong growth and achievement is attributed to our teacher's commitment to their own growth and development, as well as their focus on the needs of **each and every** student.

This week grade levels engaged in collaborative data-driven discussions in the area of literacy to better understand and pinpoint instructional needs. As was shared during Back to School night, teachers are also in the process of learning a new literacy curriculum- IntoReading, that is based on best Science of Reading practices. While it's a steep learning curve, I'm proud of how our teachers have embraced the challenge for the betterment of our kids.

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Now let's talk safety...a shout out to our parent community for your continued support of school safety and for making every effort to use the crosswalk and volunteering to be crossing guards- you rock! Here's where we can continue to use your help:

- Dismount bikes on school grounds (this includes all sidewalks). Please note new yellow painted signage.
- Avoid parking in the Hug-n-Go along Dahlia Street.

As always, thank you for your continued partnership and for making Fireside an exceptional place to raise and educate our kids.

Happy Rosh Hashanah (Shana Tora) to our Jewish families celebrating the Jewish New Year!

PTO News

Jog-A-Thon – Our Biggest, and ONLY Fundraiser!

This annual event is coming up next Thursday, Sept. 22. (See the [full schedule here](#).)

Your generous donations provide:

- Professional classroom aides (paraeducators)...this is where we spend most of our funds!
- Classroom supplies for each grade and each teacher
- STEM fair, school garden, student newspaper funding, community events (e.g., Multicultural Celebration)
- Art, music, library, playground, and P.E. equipment
- Grants for other learning activities and upgrades to technology

Our suggested donation goal is \$150–175 per Fireside student in your family. You can choose to write it or raise it. Students have held stands selling lemonade, bracelets, cookies, ice cream, etc.

Your donation will directly support our students and teachers. Please join us today in helping prepare our children for the future! Our entire school community appreciates your support at every level. Make sure your student(s) return their Jog-A-Thon

envelope (or [via PayPal](#)) by **FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 29th.**

<https://www.firesidepto.org/fundraising>

Colorado Rapids Fireside Night

Enjoy a Saturday night watching soccer while supporting Fireside! The school earns \$5 on each [ticket purchased](#). The game is tomorrow at 7:30pm. Questions? Please contact your Fundraiser Chair, [Alicia McCurdy](#).

More About the Parent Teacher Organization

Ready to get involved? Follow us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), or visit www.FiresidePTO.org to discover the many ways to support our school.

Spotlight on Specials: Music & Library

(by Tina Dozauer-Ray & Michelle Mattocks)

Music

I feel so fortunate to have landed at Fireside Elementary to teach general music to such a talented and enthusiastic learning community!

A quick intro...I grew up in rural Iowa where I cultivated a love of animals, plants, and music. I earned a BM in vocal performance from the Oberlin Conservatory of Music in Ohio, as well as a MMEd in choral music education at CU Boulder. I am also a National Board Certified Teacher and will be working on renewing that license this year. I've taught general, choral, and instrumental music from kindergarten through 12th grade across BVSD for 27 years and currently reside in old town Louisville with my husband, two sons, and new rescue dog.

We hit the ground running in the music room, reviewing basic musicianship techniques such as note reading and ensemble singing and playing for the older set, and singing and music games and dances for our primary kids. This week, our 3rd graders started a ukulele unit, and our 4th and 5th graders

started playing guitars. I cannot express how lucky I feel to have a full classroom set of guitars and ukuleles (thanks, PTO!!!)

I am working on scheduling "informances" (informative performances) in the amphitheatre for grades 3-5 during their regular music times in late October, and will publish dates as soon as they are finalized. Informances for younger grades will be later in the spring; we'll let you know!

Library News

On Monday, September 18, students in 4th and 5th grade will have the opportunity to hear from author Julie Hedlund. If you are interested in purchasing a signed copy of her book, please do so [HERE](#). Paper order forms will be going home in Friday Folders as well. Books will be delivered on Monday.

Students in kindergarten through 3rd grade will be hearing from accomplished illustrator Luke Flowers later on in October. Stay tuned for more information.

Back to School Night: Survey

Please take a moment to provide Back to School Night feedback [HERE](#).

Free Breakfast

You may have heard that BVSD is offering free meals for all students, but did you know that this applies to breakfast as well? **All BVSD schools are offering free breakfast this year.**

Pop in the cafeteria at 7:30am Mon/Tue/Thu/Fri and at 8am on Wednesday. Find interactive breakfast and lunch menus on the [BVSD Menus Page](#).

Remember: Free and Reduced Lunch applications still need to be completed to save families money on a number of other

school-related fees. Visit the [Free and Reduced Price Meals webpage](#) for information. Check the share information box so the school will be able to see that other fees have been waived.

No School: September 25

Monday, September 25 there is no school for students as it is a district professional development day. The BVSD printed menu calendar lists menu items on this day in error, but there is no school that day. Other menu items for the remaining month are listed correctly. [View the BVSD Calendar](#).

P.R.I.D.E Awards

Congratulations to this week's P.R.I.D.E. award winners:

Annie Portrey, Bennett Karns, Miriam Lacz, Zach Martin, Yuval Naveh, Adlin Gaida, Victor Hernandez, Maddy Smith, Oliver Fahs, Cohen Levy, Bryn Cordes, Emmett Vollmer, Shea Martin, James Simon, Ethan Fahs, & Sophie Sharp.

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SchoolMessenger is a notification service used by the nation's leading school systems to connect with parents, students and staff through voice, SMS text, email, and social media.