

# BENNETT SCHOOL DISTRICT 29J NEWSLETTER

APRIL, 2012

## *Message from the Superintendent*



Greetings students, parents, community members and staff,

### District & School Improvement:

#### 2011 District & School Performance Ratings:

1. District -	70.5%	Accredited
2. Bennett Middle School -	69.3%	Performance Plan
3. Bennett High School -	67.1%	Performance Plan
4. Bennett Elementary School -	62.2%	Performance Plan
5. Corridor Community Academy -	50.0%	Improvement Plan

### ENERGY-SAVING INITIATIVE

What's the best way for schools to invest in our students' future? We should invest in the best teachers, the best books, and the best computer equipment. We should invest in modern facilities that are comfortable and conducive to learning. We should invest cost-effectively. Cost-effectiveness is key. We face budget cuts and declining enrollments. No one wants higher taxes. Construction and energy costs are high, and - as a rural district - water is expensive, too.

In fact, we can make wise investments that improve education - and also pay for themselves. Investing in energy-saving improvements is the best example. By cutting energy and water use, investment dollars can be recovered through future cost savings - all while helping the environment.

The Bennett School District will soon finalize an energy-saving program that will prevent education dollars from going "up the chimney" as wasted energy. We are considering a district-wide energy management program, part of which would contain computer-related energy costs. Centrally located software would schedule computers and monitors to go on and off - not just "asleep" -- at appropriate times. This is a big money saver.

The district is looking at vending machine controls with sensors that regulate lighting and cooling, depending upon periods of use. We will upgrade lighting fixtures, and we're evaluating low-flow water devices. We plan a weatherization program to seal leaky windows and doors - and fully seal connections associated with "added-on" building extensions. We are targeting furnace and chiller replacement where old, inefficient equipment is now in use.

Many improvements would be literally guaranteed to pay for themselves by qualified outside vendors through the use of a proven instrument called an "energy performance contract." Why waste education dollars on unnecessary spending on energy and water? Let's get those dollars back - and steer that "found" money toward genuine educational needs.

We'll be keeping you informed about the progress of this exciting initiative!

### Cross-walk Safety Issue:

I have received a couple of concerns in regards to some vehicles have not been yielding at the crosswalk by the Library. Please make sure that we are yielding at the cross walk between the school and the Library for the safety of our children.

### Notification for Emergency School Closures:

It is that time of year again when weather related school closures may occur. For emergency situations, school closures due to the weather or routine school announcements, an all-call will be made directly to your home utilizing the district's *School Connect* calling system. For weather-related school closures calls will be made no later than 6:00AM and possibly as early as 5:30AM. Bennett School District will also provide this information on major television and radio stations by 6:00AM.

I appreciate your continued support.

Yours in achievement,

Dennis D. Veal  
Superintendent of Schools  
Bennett School District 29J

*"If you want your life to be a magnificent story, then begin by realizing that you are the author and every new day you have the opportunity to write a new page" - M.H.*

### Contents

Superintendent Letter	1
Preschool	1
Elementary School	2
Middle School	2
High School	3
Counselor's Corner	3
High School Athletics	4
Community Info	4
Menu/Calendar	

### Upcoming Events

- April 6 - No School  
Teacher In-service
- April 13 - Pre-School  
Screenings
- April 14 - Prom
- April 24 - ACT'S
- May 11 - Benefit  
Concert
- May 16 - 8<sup>th</sup> Grade  
Promotion 1 p.m.
- May 18 - 12:00 p.m.  
Last Day of School
- May 20 - 12:00 p.m.  
Graduation

Dear Parents,

Eighth grade promotion will take place on May 16, 2012 at 1:00 pm in the Bennett School District Auditorium. Students need to arrive by 12:45 pm to line up and prepare for the ceremony. Students need to dress their best for this event. Girls can wear skirts or a dress that are the appropriate length (following the middle school dress code), dress shirts and or dress tops must cover the shoulder and torso completely. I encourage girls not to wear high heels that are over 2 inches high. Students often become nervous when they have to walk on the stage and high heels are slippery on that surface, plus very noisy. Girls may also wear dress pants. Boys are to wear dress pants and a nice shirt. The dress code for boys will be enforced with no hats or sagging pants allowed the day of the event.

Thank you to all middle school parents that provided food and support during TCAP testing. The staff and students appreciate the wonderful food and the kind words of support.

If there are any questions about 8<sup>th</sup> grade promotion please contact the middle school office.

Sincerely,

Amy Burns

Middle School Principal

#### **Bennett Preschool Registration and Screenings:**

The Bennett School District will host preschool screens and registration on Friday, April 13, 2012.

District residents who wish to have their children screened for preschool or children birth through 3 years with developmental concerns should call (303) 644-3234 x 1507 to schedule an appointment or leave a message. Developmental screenings, including vision and hearing screens, will be completed on April 13<sup>th</sup>. All children must have physicals to attend preschool. Immunizations must be updated. Physical and immunization records can be provided prior to the first day of school in August. Bring birth certificate at day of screening. Registration packets are available at the preschool office before April 13<sup>th</sup>. Screen and registration may take 1-1 ½ hours. Due to the length of the screenings, parents are asked to make other arrangements for younger siblings.

Patti Kopang,

Preschool Director

Dear Parents,

At this time of year we begin to think about next school year. We will have **Kindergarten Visitation** on Wednesday, April 11<sup>th</sup> from 2:00 to 3:00 p.m. If you have a student that will be ready to start school next year or know of a child that is ready, keep this date in mind. We will begin with the children enjoying an activity in the kindergarten while parents meet in the cafeteria to gather necessary information about school such as lunches, buses, procedures, etc. When we finish this short orientation, parents will rejoin their children in the kindergarten rooms. Registration packets will be available at that time. We look forward to seeing you on Wednesday, April 11<sup>th</sup> from 2:00-3:00 p.m.

If you believe that you will want to request a specific teacher for your child next year, please plan to visit prospective classrooms during the month of April. Give Frances a call at the school to schedule a time. We'd like you to observe each of the classrooms at a grade level so that you can make an informed decision about the best placement for your child. There are number of variables that the staff must consider as we compile class lists so we will ask that you list your first and second preferences. We will do our best to place your child where they will be most successful. The school office phone number is: 303-644-3234 extension 1000.

Our students have been reading like crazy!!!! Students are excited about the Dive Into Reading program. Those students completing their first sheet will qualify to attend the pool party at the Bennett Recreation Center on the evening of April 20<sup>th</sup>. There are additional prizes that accumulate with each completed reading sheet. Continue to encourage your child to read after the program is over. It is our hope that through this program we can encourage children to "Dive into Reading" for a lifetime! This program is supported through the Bennett Elementary School PTSA. Our thanks go to them for organizing and sponsoring this event!!!!

Valerie Beard,

Elementary Principal

The Bennett High School staff would like to congratulate the wrestlers competing at the Colorado State Wrestling Tournament and thank them for representing us so well in the 3A division. As a team, we finished in 8<sup>th</sup> place. We would also like to acknowledge the individual place winners of the 2012 State Wrestling Tournament: Caleb Copeland (1<sup>st</sup>), Josh Miller (3<sup>rd</sup>), Hudson Bell (6<sup>th</sup>), and Corby Wyett (6<sup>th</sup>).

Bennett High School participated in TCAP testing during the 2 weeks, March 5-15, prior to Spring Break and we had 100% participation from the freshman and sophomore classes.

Mrs. Riessen and Mr. Veal have been developing a class schedule that will be based on a 4 day school week and an 8 period day for the 2012-2013 school year. With an 8 period daily schedule, we will need to revise our graduation policy to include the additional period of time and the additional credits that students will be able to earn which will increase the graduation credit requirements. This will also impact new students enrolling in our system.

Bennett High School Prom will take place on April 14, 2012, at 7:00 p.m. The dance will be held in the big gymnasium.

Mark Purslow,

Bennett High School Principal

As we prepare for summer, I wanted to share an article with you from the Second Wind Fund. This organization has been an invaluable asset to our school, students and parents. I hope you all have a wonderful summer and I look forward to working with you next year. If you have any questions or concerns, as always, contact me at [catier@bsd29j.com](mailto:catier@bsd29j.com) or 303-644-3234 X7224-Mrs. Riessen-

**Second Wind Fund of Metro Denver**  
**Article for Parents**

For many youth, summer is a time of sunshine and fun with friends. Sadly, for some of our youth, summer can be a time of darkness and despair. If you notice some of the following behaviors with your child, they may be at risk for suicide. Know that there is hope and help available, even during the summer. Second Wind Fund of Metro Denver (SWFMD) provides quick, frequent and convenient access to free counseling services with licensed therapists for uninsured or underinsured youth at risk for suicide, who do not have financial resources to pay for therapy. For more information about SWFMD please visit our website at [www.swfmd.org](http://www.swfmd.org), and click on Community on the green bar at the top of the page.

**WARNING SIGNS of SUICIDE RISK**

These warning signs *may* indicate that a youth could be at-risk for suicide. When concerned about a suicide risk, **immediately contact a mental health professional, your family physician or call 911.** During the school year, we encourage you to contact your school counselor, social worker or psychologist.

- Talk of suicide, death, and/or no reason to live. Even a one time comment, such as "I wish I was dead", should be taken seriously. Remember, *do something the first time you hear a comment*
- Preoccupation with death & dying
- Withdrawal from friends and/or social activities
- Drastic changes in behavior
- Loss of interest in hobbies, work, school, etc.
- Giving away prized possessions
- Taking unnecessary risks, reckless or impulsive behavior
- Sense of hopelessness
- Experience of public humiliation/embarrassment, or a disciplinary crisis
- Feeling like a failure or a burden to others
- Chronic irritability and agitation
- Ongoing physical distress symptoms such as headaches and stomachaches

**PARENTS - WHAT TO DO IF YOU ARE CONCERNED - there is hope and help available**

- Talk with your children about their suicidal thoughts and feelings. Talking about suicidal thoughts does not increase risk, and in fact reduces risk, as long as it's done in a compassionate and nonjudgmental way
- Encourage and participate in counseling with them, if needed, to help them resolve family stresses
- To refer a youth to SWFMD: during the summer, contact your family doctor, a mental health professional or Metro Crisis Services at 888-885-1222 for 24/7 telephone crisis intervention. They can contact SWFMD for you at the SWFMD Referral Line: 303-988-2645
- During the school year, please contact your school counselor, social worker or psychologist for a referral to SWFMD

**HOTLINES/ RESOURCES**

- In an emergency, call 911 or go to the nearest hospital emergency room
- In the Denver metro area, call **Metro Crisis Services: 888-885-1222** for 24/7 telephone crisis intervention
- National Suicide Prevention Lifeline: 1-800-273-talk (1-800-273-8255)
- For GLBTQ youth, call the Trevor Project 1-866-4-U-TREVOR (1-866-488-7386)

**Juniors: ACT'S April 24<sup>th</sup>!!! Get plenty of rest the night before!!!**

Spring sports are in mid-season and will be getting ready for the post season. Our baseball team will be starting up league play fighting for a top spot. If the baseball team finishes within the top 5 in league play they will earn the right to play in the first round of the 3A State Baseball Tournament which will be May 12<sup>th</sup>. Check the website after May 8<sup>th</sup> to see if Bennett Baseball will be playing in the first round of playoffs. The soccer team is looking to finish in the top five in league to qualify for the state playoffs. They have some important league matchups to finish the season. If the girls qualify for the state playoffs, their first round game will be May 9<sup>th</sup>. Track is in mid-season form and has a few athletes looking to qualify for the state track meet which will be held at Jefferson County Stadium on May 17<sup>th</sup> through the 19<sup>th</sup>. Good luck to our Spring athletes and finish the season strong!!

Summer time is fast approaching and is an important time of year for our athletes. It is often said that players are made in the off-season. Our sports programs offer many opportunities to develop player's skills over the summer. Contact the athletic department to get information about a specific sport and the summer opportunities they provide.

The Bennett High School Athletic Department is offering the opportunity for athletes 16 years of age to participate in summer fundraising. The fundraiser is working concessions at home Rockies games. For every six games the athlete works, they will have their activity fee for one sport paid for. Parents can get involved as well to help their child get to the magic number of six more quickly. The Colorado Rockies have a new policy in regards to working concessions at the games. Every worker is required to take a class before they are eligible to work. For more information, contact Matt Karnes. Matt Karnes' contact information: email- [mattk@bsd29j.com](mailto:mattk@bsd29j.com) or phone- 303-644-3234 ext.7404

Have a fun and safe summer!!!

Aaron Riessen  
Athletic Director  
Email: [aaronr@bsd29j.com](mailto:aaronr@bsd29j.com)  
Phone: 303-644-3234 ext. 7379

**BENEFIT CONCERT**  
**May 11, 2012**

The Bennett Music Department is excited to be hosting a benefit concert Friday, May 11, 2012 at 7pm in the Auditorium. The money raised from tickets will help fund future music clinics, activities, and festivals.

The concert features professional New York Jazz Artist "Chris Geith". Geith has been No. 1 in the contemporary jazz, fusion, and urban/R&B charts.

The opening act will feature a Colorado country band "Rodeo Road Apples".

Tickets may be purchased at the door and on-line at [www.kcsdr1.org](http://www.kcsdr1.org). Prices range from \$15.00 - \$25.00.

The concert is sponsored in conjunction with Kit Carson School District, Ennovate, and K-High Smooth Jazz Colorado.



**Bennett Rec Center**  
*Easter Celebration*

**Sunday, April 1st**  
**1:00PM-3:00PM**

*Come for Magic & More Family Entertainment*  
*with Colorado's Favorite Illusionist/Balloon Artist*  
*Edward Aragone*

**GAMES \* CRAFTS \* TATTOOS \* PRIZES**

*Get Your Picture Taken with the Easter Bunny!*

**Bennett Recreation Center**  
455 First Street  
Bennett, CO 80102

**FOR MORE INFO \* CALL 303.644.5040**