



# Aspen Leaf

Vista Ridge Academy's Weekly Newsletter  
3100 Ridge View Drive, Erie, CO 80516  
Phone: 303-828-4944 Fax: 303-828-1525  
[www.vistaridgeacademy.org](http://www.vistaridgeacademy.org)  
Email: [vraoffice@mesanetworks.net](mailto:vraoffice@mesanetworks.net)

**December 12, 2007**

## Calendar

- Dec 13 **No** Basketball practice for the guys due to set-up for the Christmas program.
- Dec 13 Christmas Program 6:30 pm  
7-12 Grades: please arrive for warm-up at 6:00 pm. Go to the gym. K-6 Grades: please arrive for line-up at 6:15 pm. Go to the library.
- Dec 18-21 Semester Final Exams- **Permit needed from business office**
- Dec 21 – Jan. 6 Christmas Vacation- school out @ noon
- Dec 14 **Volleyball tournament Brighton @ VRA -12:45-2:00**



## Hot Lunch/Pizza

- Dec 13 Grillers
- Dec 17 Pizza by the slice
- Dec 18 Baked Potatoes
- Dec 19 Cheese Ravioli
- Dec 20 Haystacks

## We're Bragging

We are looking forward to our Christmas concert this Thursday evening! We have a wonderful program scheduled with children from kindergarten to twelfth grade participating. We are proud to be using our

new hand bells and sound system.

## Lost And Found

Please check our Lost and Found area located outside the library. The number of lost items is growing rapidly and everything unclaimed will be donated to the Goodwill if not claimed by Christmas break.

## Snow Days



As winter fast approaches please note the school policy regarding closings and delayed starts as stated in the Academic Bulletin:

In case of severe weather, consult radio station **850 KOA** AM, or television station **Channel 9**, for information regarding school closing. You may also refer to the KOA and Channel 9 Web sites for changes in the schedule. Please do not call the principal, School Board chairperson, or pastor for they need to have their lines open to plan and notify radio and TV stations if necessary.

A delayed start may be implemented because of conditions. A delayed start will usually be one hour later than normal. In general, on snowy days, the school will be open if nearby public schools are open.

## Exam Permits & Semester Finals

Students in grades 7-12 will need an exam permit in order to write their semester exams the week of Dec. 18-21. These can be obtained from Ms. Schneider starting Monday. Please be reminded of the financial

policy that was signed at the beginning of the school year; if your account is 60 days late or more your student will not be able to take semester exams until the bill is paid or *recent* arrangements have been made with Mrs. Lujan, the Business Manager. We thank you for your understanding and consideration of our school financial needs.

Also, please remember exam week when planning your family activities (such as late nights) so that our students are well rested.

### **Office Phone Use**

While we do not want to discourage use of the office phone when the situation warrants it, we have had quite a few students who want to check on how soon the parent(s) will arrive and/or arrange a play date. This has made for a hectic time in the office when school is out. Please arrange play dates and inform your student when you will be arriving so that we can limit the need for after school calls.

### **SA Announcements**

The Christmas Party that had to be postponed due to bad weather will be re-scheduled in January or February. A date will be announced after Christmas Vacation.

### **School Events**

**Spring Break in San Francisco** – If you want to go to San Francisco in March it is not too late to join. Stop by the office, drop off your deposit and get a copy of the itinerary!

### **Building Fund**

Don't forget that the end of the year is a ***GREAT*** time to get a tax write off by giving to our building fund. We are bursting at the seams and need to get this building project off and running!

### **Phonics, Spelling and Reading Classes**

Small group classes are meeting twice a week for students in grades 1-4 needing language support.

Multi-sensory linguistic lessons support VRA curriculum and help students with fluency and comprehension in reading and writing.

For information about the program please contact: Elaine Huot M.Ed. at 303.543.7489 or email elhuot@mac.com

### **Christmas Program at Boulder SDA Church**

The Boulder SDA Church would like to extend an invitation to attend their musical Christmas program this Saturday Dec. 15<sup>th</sup>. Sabbath school programs begin at 9:30 followed by the Christmas program at 10:50 am. Light refreshments will be served after the service. Boulder SDA Church is located at 345 Mapleton Ave., (Mapleton and 4<sup>th</sup>.)

### **Food Store**

You have time to order cases of veggie food before the New Year. The next order will go out December 17. This order will arrive during the week of December 30.

### **Pathfinders and Adventurers**

We will meet at our usual time from 3:45-5:00 pm this Wednesday.

### **8<sup>th</sup> Grade Fundraiser**

The cheesecakes are here. Please come to the office to pick up your order. Enjoy!

### **Music**

**Mrs. Helbley**  
**Beginning Band (Gr. 5-6) and Advanced Band (Gr. 7-12)** - *Remember to have your instruments at school on Thursday as we will be practicing throughout the day.*

**Christmas Program:** 6:30 pm on Dec. 13. Grades 7-12 are to wear their music outfits. Grades K-6 are to wear church or special occasion clothes. K-6 may

wear Christmas colors if they wish, but it is not necessary.

7-12 Grades: please arrive for warm-up at 6:00 pm.  
Go to the gym.

K-6 Grades: please arrive for line-up at 6:15 pm.  
Go to the library.

## **Classroom News**

### **Kindergarten Ms. Blankenship**

We are studying Christmas Around the World. We are learning about Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, Las Posadas and other ways to celebrate the season.

If you have items such as a dreidel, menorah, farolitos or other things that go with the seasonal celebrations we would love to see them. Also if you have photos or pictures we would appreciate sharing them. It is fun to learn how others around the world are celebrating this special season.

### **Grades 1-2 Mrs. Gaines**

It has been as busy as Santa's Workshop in our room. Along with reading, math, and all the rest, we are working on poems that we will perform by the manger scene. Every student is involved. If all goes as planned, we will present next week Wednesday the 19<sup>th</sup> at 2:45 pm.

Our class Christmas party will be Thursday, Dec. 20<sup>th</sup>. The children have drawn names and should purchase a gift in the price range from \$5-\$10.00. Bring wrapped gifts any day before the party.

Reports are on a Christmas tradition or custom that you celebrate or one that is from another country.

### **Grades 3-4 Mrs. Hansen**

Christmas Party Time! Thursday, Dec. 20 we are having an all day party. DON'T eat breakfast at home. We are going to start the day with everyone bringing their favorite breakfast item. We are not

going to get presents this year, we are going to give. We are asking that each child bring \$2-5.00. We have a list of needy children in Lafayette we will take care of.

### **Grades 5-6 Mrs. Hodgson**

The Christmas Workshop will be up and running again sometime this week. Please watch for signs asking you to stay out of our classroom.

We have started a coin war in our room which will last until the end of the year. At that time we will decide on a mission project to support with our funds.

We will be visiting the Denver Museum of Nature and Science on Wednesday, December 19. We will visit the Rocks and Minerals exhibit as well as the traveling exhibit for the *Titanic*. A permission slip is enclosed in today's folder.

Our Christmas Party is scheduled for Friday, December 21. We will have breakfast together at school so students can sleep a few minutes longer on Friday. We will have a gift exchange; however, students are encouraged to spend no more than \$5. Ask them how their gift exchange can also be reflected in what they contribute for our mission project.

### **Grades 7-12 Mr. Wuerfel**

#### **Reading**

The seventh and eighth graders have been busy with their creative format novels. Some are reading historical diaries revolving around Civil War battles, medieval times, Civil Rights and many others. Students in this class have been extremely open minded to reading various forms of literature which will greatly help them in their future learning.

#### **English 7/8**

We're reading *No Promises in the Wind* which is a novel set in the 1930's, during America's most turbulent economic downfall, not excluding our present situation. Students have read about Roosevelt and the New Deal and how that affected literature

and writing as well as the negative perceptions of creativity and intellectual growth during that unstable period.

### **English 9/10**

The novel *To Kill a Mockingbird* has been read with both joy and aggravation. Some students have picked up on ideas of the importance of perception, the balance of communities, the tension of race issues and the metaphorical writing style of Harper Lee, one of America's brightest writers to date.

### **Bible**

We've finished with our unit on biblical and modern Judaism. We are well on our way to learning and understanding the roots of Catholicism and how that movement has affected Christianity as a whole and Seventh day Adventism in general.

### **Drama**

Oh the drama! Our newest play (Human Video) is looking spectacular. We will be videoing all of our plays, including this one, along with documentaries, bios and interviews with team members all on one DVD. This is going to be our first time putting a project like this together; we are most excited! If you're interested in purchasing a copy please let the office know; we've already had over 40 preorders!

## **Mr. Howard**

Exams next week.

**Remember**, you can keep up on what we're doing in class by visiting my website at:

[www.freewebs.com/brianhoward](http://www.freewebs.com/brianhoward)

## **Mr. Force**

### **Grade7-12**

Parents please ask your student if they have helped with their compassion child. We are supporting Amon and Chantall.

Grade 7,8,9- \$2.00/month

Grade 11/12- \$4.00/month.

### **Gymnastics**

Thank you parents for your support. The kids were awesome and your presence only made it more special. We are looking forward to the talent show on

Feb. 23<sup>rd</sup>.

### **Volleyball**

Volleyball tournament Brighton @ VRA -12:45-2:00

## **Home and School**

**Take-Home Dinner** – The next take-home dinner is Thursday, December 20<sup>th</sup> - just in time to help you out for the holidays! We will be featuring a complete menu from Papa Murphy's Take 'n' Bake Pizza! A Papa Murphy's Pizza menu is enclosed with your child's folder. Simply choose your pizza, salad, specialties and/or desserts and pay the price stated on the menu. Fill out the attached/enclosed order form and turn it in to the school office no later than Wednesday, December 19<sup>th</sup>. Your order will be available for pick-up at the kitchen window at 3:30 p.m. on Thursday, December 20<sup>th</sup>.

### **ONLY ONE MORE SCRIP ORDER BEFORE CHRISTMAS!!!**

**DON'T STRESS – IT WILL ARRIVE BEFORE  
CHRISTMAS BREAK!!!**

**Scrip Program** – There are over 200 major retailers waiting to donate money to our school! Orders can be placed at any time at the school office or by calling or emailing Ivy Lee. Please visit [www.glscrip.com](http://www.glscrip.com) and click on "Retailer List" to view the most up to date list of retailers.

**The next order date is:**

**Monday, December 17<sup>th</sup> (last one of 2007)**

**WAL-MART IS NOW A PARTICIPATING  
RETAILER!**

For questions contact Ivy Lee at 720.890.4875 or [ivyree@comcast.net](mailto:ivyree@comcast.net).

**Talent Show** – February 2008 seems like a long ways off, but for those students interested in participating in the talent show, now is the time to start thinking about it.