



BILL METZ ELEMENTARY
METZ MESSENGER

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Our mission is to inspire the pursuit of excellence, one student at a time.

Principal's Connection

Hopefully the first couple of weeks were as good for your child as it was for our school. The meet the teacher and registration night was a big success as we had the opportunity to talk with many of you. We want to thank our sponsors for the night: Top Value, the City of Monte Vista, Nino's, Stretch's Cuts, Rio Grande Savings and Loan, Torres Floral Design, and the Sand Dunes Swimming Pool. We gave away lots of great prizes thanks to our sponsors! It's great to be part of a supportive community!

We also received some great news from CDE (Colorado Department of Education). Last year we put some new practices into effect such as IE time (Intervention/Enrichment) for EVERY student in reading and math for 30 minutes a day. We also had a focused approach on what the students were learning and still needed more help with. These practices helped the students grow tremendously as a whole and the school jumped 8 percentile points in reading/writing and 17.5 points in math. These measures of growth are great indicators for us that we are doing the right things.

We will get started with our IE times for reading and math this year in the middle of September. Students will be taking reading and math assessments this week so we can know where they are at and where they need to grow the most. During these IE times students go to various teachers throughout the building to work on their specific needs.



**IMPORTANT
 UPCOMING
 DATES:**

- *Sept 7th - School is in session*
- *Sept 11th - School Pictures*
- *Sept 13th - Smile for a Mile @ Metz*
- *Sept 20th 6:30pm Family Fun Night*
- *Sept 24th-26th 5th grade swim program*
- *Oct 1st-3rd 4th grade swim program*
- *Oct 8th-10th 3rd grade swim program*

School Information

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School Pictures

We will have our annual fall school pictures next Tuesday, September 11th. Pictures will be taken by Peak Photography and are usually completed by lunchtime. Your child has already had their picture form sent home with them. If you've lost the order form, please pick one up from the office. If your child is absent, they can have their pictures taken on re-take day which is TBA. The student pictures will be used in the production of our annual year-book as well. It's never too early to reserve your yearbook copy. Ask the front office for details.

Parent School Improvement Team

Do you have an idea that could be used to improve Bill Metz Elementary? Do you want to know what is going on with the school? If you are on the parent school improvement team, then you'll be the first to know about student achievement and growth updates, the school and district budget, and school safety issues. The principal will share updates with you and ask for your input and feedback. Let your voice be heard! There are quarterly meetings throughout the year so it isn't a huge time commitment. The team will meet after school until around 5pm on these four days: Tuesday, September 11th; Tuesday, November 27th; Tuesday, February 12th; and Tuesday, April 30th. Elementary childcare is provided by our Americorp members so you don't have to worry about what to do with your children for that hour. We encourage parents to come and participate!



Swim Programs

We are excited to not only continue our swim program in the 3rd and 4th grades this year but also expand our program to 2nd and 5th grades thanks to the Monte Vista Education Foundation's financial support. 3rd-5th grades students will be learning to swim in the fall (see "important dates") and 2nd grade in the spring. The cost to parents is \$15 for three days of swim lessons. This provides students with a life saving skill that will benefit them for the rest of their lives! We want to thank Vickie Welch, Brandi Barbosa, and all the classroom teachers that become swim instructors for the program to make it successful.

Creede Theatre visited last Wednesday ...



Counselor's Corner

Welcome back to school! My name is Kim Luitich, the kids call me Miss L and I am the school counselor here at Bill Metz Elementary. I am excited to be back with the kids and starting my 6th year here. If you do not already know, I go into the classrooms every week for second, third, fourth and fifth grades; Mrs. Haslar still goes into classrooms for first graders.

The first unit Mrs. Haslar and I both teach during the school year is around Howard Gardner's theory that each person has multiple intelligences and areas of strength. So many times kids tell us at school that they are not smart, but it is our belief that every child is smart in their own way. This is why we teach the kids about the eight types of smart and how to recognize when you are strong in a particular smart and when you need to work on one. We have just started teaching about our smarts, so you can start off by asking your child what it means to be word smart or picture smart or any of the others and eventually learning what smart they excel in and what they should focus on making stronger. Below are the eight smarts for your reference.



I hope this helps you to learn with your child. If you feel you need more information, please do not hesitate to ask me at kimal@monte.k12.co.us or 719-852-4041 x4138.