

The Vanguard Voice

Volume 14, Issue 5

www.cmca12.com

Dates to Remember

JUNE

- 10 Report cards mailed
Board Meeting (6 pm in the Vanguard Library)
- 22 School closed for two weeks

JULY

- 7 School reopens
(administrative offices only)
- 20 K-6 Summer School begins
(ends August 7)

AUGUST

- 3 Fall Sports registration
(grades 6 - 12)
- 4-6 Mandatory Show Days
- 5 New staff begins
- 6 Fall Sports registration
(grades 6 - 12)
- 10 First day for returning staff
- 12-14 High School Retreat
(grades 9 - 12)
- 12-14 New student testing and
orientation / health screening
- 19 First day for K-12 students

Dear CMCA Families and Friends,

Our school year has come to an end, and this is our final edition of this year's newsletter. Over the past month we have had many great successes to cap an outstanding school year. Brittany Crippen became the first Vanguard athlete to win a state championship, our fifth graders raised over \$2,000 to develop their playground and to get Mr. Locke to shave his head, and our elementary playground improvements initiated by the PTO have been completed. Our elementary students celebrated this successful year by having their final Knowledge Bowls, poetry teas and field day, and secondary students celebrated with final exams, a high school beach party and the annual 8th grade trip to Elitch's and Moving-Up Ceremony.



As much as this is a time for celebrating achievements and bringing the year to a close, it is also a time for planning the successes of next year. Our teachers have been very busy helping our students prepare for the next grade, and I know our students are ready. At the high school level, this means preparing for our first year of seniors including planning for college acceptance, additional course offerings, prom, and graduation. Meanwhile, our administration has been working hard to build the right team to work with our students next year. Among many exciting additions to our staff at the elementary and secondary levels are two key positions. We have hired Kayla Rotz to be our Elementary Assistant Principal. Kayla will be primarily responsible for overseeing our elementary curriculum and instruction. We have also hired Michael Baruzzini as our Junior High Assistant Principal. Mr. Baruzzini is filling in for Mrs. Read who is retiring after this year.

Finally, summer brings time for rest and recreation for our students, staff and families. I wish each of you a safe and enjoyable vacation, and I look forward to seeing you in August, energized and ready for another year of great success at CMCA and The Vanguard School.

Sincerely,
Colin T. Mullaney
Executive Director

CMCA Third Graders Eye up a Cow Eye!

Cheyenne Mountain Charter Academy third grade students concluded their science lessons about vision and optics by dissecting cow eyes. Assisted by adults, the 103 students examined parts of the eye including the cornea, iris, lens, vitreous humor, retina and optic nerve. The young scientists also learned that cows have four eye muscles for looking up, down and side to side whereas humans have six eye muscles and can roll their eyes. In addition, the students learned about the shiny, blue-green tapetum part of the eye which animals have, but humans do not, allowing them to see in the dark.



Photo by CMCA parent Joe Lee

On April 30th, CMCA third grade students dissected cow eyes. Participants in Ruth Donovan's classroom included (left to right) Quincy Bradfield, Seth Fuqua, Jeremy Allgood, William Vasquez, and Mikayla Vasquez.

Battle of the Books



A special congratulations is given to ten of CMCA's 5th grade students who participated in this year's Battle of the Books Festival. Over the course of the year, these students committed themselves to reading as many of a list of forty books as possible in an effort to be fully prepared for the battle in which they fought valiantly on Thursday, April 16th, at Colorado College's Armstrong Hall. Team #1, consisting of Hannah Reed, Jenny Smith, Andrew Perkins, Bujji Setty, and Simone Watson, read a combined total of 68 books and scored 130 points in the battle. Team #2, consisting of Kyle Neuner, Alexis Haak, Darby Linn, Zacery Olney, and Rebecca Hurlbert, read a total of 73 books and scored 170 points. Though these ten represented our school, there were many more students behind the scenes who read and committed to weekly meetings over the course of the year whom we also want to commend for all their hard work. All of these students are champions!

3rd Grade Reading CSAP

Congratulations to our Third Grade Staff and most importantly, our students, for the excellent performance on the Reading CSAP. Our students had the highest percentage (97) of proficient and advanced students in Colorado Springs, and none of our students tested "unsatisfactory." This is the highest percentage we've ever achieved on our Third Grade Reading CSAPs.

4th Grade Ends the Year with a Bang!

The end of the 4th grade year has been filled with many exciting activities. The students prepared to transition to a new building next year on the Vanguard campus. Other fun-filled activities were the Medieval Feast on May 1st and the dissection of a bison's heart on May 6th.

The Medieval Feast was successful thanks to Lady Tonya Betterson and her loyal nobles (parents) who helped to make this event full of excitement and festive activities. The lords and ladies of CMCA made stained glass windows and jeweled goblets, held a jousting tournament, and danced around a May pole. There were also several performances of musicians, dancers, jugglers, tumblers, and of course, jesters.



Dr. Lee, a CMCA parent and cardiologist, volunteered his time to come and do a presentation on the circulatory system, which the students have been studying in science class. He brought a bison's heart, lungs to dissect, and a kidney to show to the class.

Before the year is complete, 4th graders will attend a field trip to the top of Pikes Peak (May 27) and perform in their annual Poetry Tea (June 3rd).

Tom Sawyer 2009

For the past two years in the month of May, seventh grade students have memorized immortal lines by Mark Twain, stepped up onto a flatbed truck, and performed skits from *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*. Mark Twain's realistic dialogue took flight once more during the third annual Tom Sawyer Family Picnic and Ice Cream Social on Friday evening, May 15, 2009, in the Vanguard Cafetorium. Gathering for a dinner coordinated by Bethany Drosendahl and her committee of dedicated parents, participants enjoyed fried chicken, potato salad, corn, lemonade, iced tea, ice cream, and pie. Sixty-five seventh graders in period costumes brought Twain's words to life speaking with distinctively Southern accents. The standing room only crowd watched and listened to the well-known story of Tom Sawyer and his friends Huckleberry Finn, Becky Thatcher, and others who, in the process of growing up, witness a murder, encounter Injun Joe, escape to Jackson's Island, get lost in a cave, and dig up buried treasure.

This year, the decision was made to hold the picnic in the Cafetorium and present the skits inside on our new stage. Bombarded by cries from parents and students alike that "tradition" was at stake, that neither the show nor the

skits could go on inside, the administration and teachers faced a dilemma: give in to "tradition" or forge ahead with plans for holding the event inside. Given the ominous weather forecast, inside won out. However, parents were not to be silenced yet, for another decision had been made which also went against the norm: cookies were to be served instead of asking parents to donate pies. However, "tradition" dictated that only pies would do! Thus, several mothers divided the seventh-grade class list, called parents, and solicited pies. Not surprisingly, our parents stepped forward again, and pies poured in throughout the day. So many pies arrived that, after the show, an impromptu pie auction erupted with Chairman Bethany Drosendahl as auctioneer; an extra \$99 was collected, enough to treat the seventh graders to a pizza party for their hard work.

Our Tom Sawyer event has evolved into an annual tradition because it celebrates so many things that make our CMCA community unique: the hard work of our students, our commitment to the classics, and most of all, the dedication and support of parents and families. Thank you to every family who helped make our 2009 Tom Sawyer event a rousing success!

College Corner: Celebrating State ACT Scores

On April 22nd, our junior class took the State ACT test, which is the final standardized test that is administered by CMCA/Vanguard. Before we celebrate the score results, let us review the academic policy of our school which begins with our Mission Statement of "guiding students in the development of their character and academic potential through academically rigorous, content-rich education programs."

According to research by ACT (*What We Know About College Success*, January 2008), the number one determinant for college readiness is taking a rigorous core curriculum in high school. Other top strategies include teachers who are competent in their subject matter and provide test preparation experiences to familiarize students with the content and format of the ACT. All of these recommendations are in place at The Vanguard School. Our college preparatory courses are taught by highly skilled teachers, and our students participate in an integrated series of curriculum- and standards-based assessments through ACT's College Readiness System. (EXPLORE – grade 9, PLAN – grade 10, and ACT-- grade 11). With these key components in place, coupled with academic self-discipline and motivation, our students should achieve college readiness or workplace success.

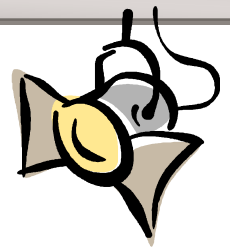
The State ACT contains four curriculum-based tests that measure academic achievement in the areas of English, mathematics, reading and science and is scored on a scale of 1-36. The Vanguard School had thirty juniors take the ACT with fifteen students earning composite scores of 27 or above, placing them in the 90th percentile. Five students achieved scores of 32 or higher, placing them in the 99th percentile. The highest individual score was 35 and the average score of the entire junior class was 27. These are scores to celebrate!

We are proud of our lead class of juniors; they are the beginning of the legacy of The Vanguard School.

Jill Custer, College Counselor



Student Spotlight



47th annual Young People’s Art Exhibition

Students of all levels participated in the 47th annual Young People’s Art Exhibit. This competition is open to all school districts and is highly competitive.

The following elementary school students had pieces entered: Mitchell Daly, 2nd grade; Olivia Fowles, 4th grade; Sydney Mobley, 4th grade; Evan Stahl, 5th grade; Arabella Forcellini, 5th grade. The following received awards for their entries:

- Olivia received a ribbon for exemplar work in traditional style
- Sydney received a ribbon for exemplar work in value
- Evan received a ribbon for exemplar work in form
- Arabella received a ribbon for exemplar work in traditional style

Six of our Junior High students exhibited in the 47th annual Young People’s Art Exhibit. The following students had their art work chosen for this exhibit: Jessica Bens, 8th grade; Jessy Sweet, 8th grade; Rachel Hatton, 8th grade; Sara Volz, 8th grade; Emily Donaghy, 7th grade; Andrew Barton, 8th grade. The following received awards for their entries:

- Rachel – Painting in Watercolor
- Sara – Print and Sculpture
- Emily – Sculpture
- Andrew – Self-Portrait Drawing



Sara, next to her sculpture



Rachel, next to her watercolor painting



Emily, next to her sculpture



Andrew, next to his self-portrait drawing

Vea Sanchez and Locks of Love

Vea Sanchez , a 4th grader in Ms. Bauder’s class (along with others in her family) recently had over 20 inches of hair cut and donated to “Locks of Love”. Locks of Love makes wigs out of human hair to help those who do not have hair (usually from cancer treatments). Way to go Vea!

Abby Dorman, Athlete of the Year

Abby Dorman received the "8th grade girl student athlete of the year" award in the Gold Crown basketball league this winter. The Vanguard School's 8th grade girls had a successful season in this league, which is the top competitive junior high basketball league in Colorado and features nearly 70 teams. The award was based on achievements in basketball, academics and community service.

Cheyenne Mountain Charter Academy
1605 S. Corona Ave
Colorado Springs, CO 80905



Win a \$10,000 Scholarship for Your Child & \$10,000 for Our School!
Lands' End Partners in Education Scholarship Sweepstakes



Lands' End has announced an exciting scholarship and school fundraising opportunity exclusively for parents and schools participating in the Lands' End school uniform program. We are delighted that we are one of the qualified schools eligible to enter and parents, we need your help to win. Lands' End is hosting the sweepstakes with prizes and funding valued at over \$100,000.

Starting April 26, 2009, parents of students currently enrolled in our school are eligible to submit an entry in the Lands' End Partners in Education Scholarship Sweepstakes. Parents simply need to log onto www.landsend.com/scholarship and fill out the online entry for a chance to win. Parents can enter from April 26th thru July 15th, 2009.

During the first week of August, Lands' End will randomly select five eligible grand prize winners and award each a \$10,000 scholarship to be placed into a pre-established 529 qualified tuition plan account. For every winning family, the corresponding Lands' End Preferred School will also win \$10,000 for funding to be used as needed. Also, an additional 100 families will each win a \$100 Lands' End Gift Card that can be used toward school uniform purchases.

Cheyenne Mountain Charter Academy · 1832 S. Wahsatch Avenue
The Vanguard School · 1605 S. Corona Avenue
Phone: 719.471.1999