

# Boulder HighLights



Boulder High Parents' Newsletter December 2009/January 2010 • No. 4

FROM KEVIN BRANEY, PRINCIPAL

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Dear Students, Parents, and Friends of Boulder High School:

Finals and the end of first semester are upon us, we are in the midst of open enrollment and all the accompanying activities, and winter break is close at hand! It is indeed a busy and anxious time of year. We have been fortunate to have some relief: two snow days, Halloween and the Haunted House, and the Boulder High production of *Frankenstein*. Thanks go to *Maureen Dolan* and the entire theater/haunted house cast and crew for their hard work on these two very entertaining events.

We all have high expectations and hopes for Boulder High. As such, I want to update you on our progress towards making this school the very best it can be. According to the Colorado Growth Model on the CSAP tests last spring, we have made some improvements towards our School Improvement Team goals and staff development objectives:

**Math**-the median growth for the 9th and 10 grades combined was 60, the district was 56, and the state was 50.

**Writing**-the median growth for the 9th and 10th grades combined was 51, the district was 52, and the state was 50.

**Reading**-the median growth for the 9th and 10th grades combined was 46, the district was 46, and the state was 50.

On the 11th grade ACT test in the spring the composite score for Boulder High was 23.0, the district was 22.2, and the state was 19.6. As a result of this information, as well as school climate information, faculty, parents, and administrators have developed a plan to support improvement in all of these areas. What we call our School Improvement Plan will look to bring focus and alignment to our efforts to enhance the overall learning experience at BHS.

For those of you who are considering enrollment at Boulder High for the 2010-2011 school year, let me invite you to our BHS Showcase on December 7. In addition to learning about our academic programs and extra-curricular activities, you will have the opportunity to meet in small groups with administrators, teachers, and students for a personal conversation. Additionally, we are offering school tours on Fridays starting December 4 and two opportunities for Coffee with the Principal. You will find detailed information about these events on our website.

Students will find support for finals preparation with Cramfest, offered by our Panther Pride members on December 10 (details will be posted around school soon). This is a great opportunity to get that extra bit of tutoring, questions answered, and concepts clarified (not to mention great snacks!).

Six of our Boulder High students were selected by audition, out of a field of over 400 students, to participate in the Western States Honor Orchestra Festival at University of Northern Colorado last month. Congratulations to *Madeline Dings*, *Oscar Friedman*, *Allison Rickel*, *Isabella Soehn*, *Erica Wiener*, and *Bailey Wilkerson*.

I look forward to seeing many of you at our second semester activities. If there is anything I can do for you, please let me know. **Happy Holidays to you all and I hope you have an enjoyable and restful winter break.**

Kevin Braney, Principal  
kevin.braney@bvdsd.org  
(720) 561-5713

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## Finals Schedule

Tuesday, 12/15:	Periods 1, 5
Wednesday, 12/16:	Periods 2, 6
Thursday, 12/17:	Periods 3, 7
Friday, 12/18:	Period 4 & Makeup

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<b>First final:</b>	8:30-10:30 a.m.
<b>Second final:</b>	12:00-2:00 p.m.
<b>Lunch:</b>	10:30-12:00 (cafeteria closed on Friday)

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## Special Thank You!

The Language Arts department and *Kevin Braney* would like to thank *Kathy Pear*, Boulder High parent and owner of CITRONWorkspaces for her generous donation of office and desk chairs. Congratulations to *Kathy*, as well, for her #5 ranking in the *Daily Camera's* recent article on the most successful women-owned businesses.

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## Open Enrollment Tours

Tours will be held on Fridays, beginning on December 4 and running through January 8, at 8:00 a.m. and 1:30 p.m., with a limit of 10 people per group. Please contact *Laurie Goodman*, principal's assistant, at (720) 561-5713 or [laurie.goodman@bvsd.org](mailto:laurie.goodman@bvsd.org) for tour reservations.

## Showcase Evening \*New Date\* Monday, December 7, 7 P.M., BHS Auditorium

Join us for the Boulder High Showcase and learn about the different programs offered at Boulder High, including athletics and extracurricular activities. Hear from our principal, *Kevin Braney*, counselors, teachers, and students. Find out what makes Boulder High unique!

## Student Shadowing

Students are welcome to shadow a Boulder High student during the weeks of November 30 and January 11 (there is no shadowing on Wednesdays) for a morning or afternoon. For more information and for registration, please see Shadowing on the BHS website at <http://schools.bvsd.org/boulderhigh>.

## Coffee with the Principal

Wednesday, December 9 and Wednesday, January 13  
7:45-8:30 AM, BHS Library

Join Principal *Kevin Braney* for coffee and learn about Boulder High and what it has to offer your students. Take advantage of this informal opportunity to learn more about how Boulder High focuses the educational process to maximize student learning opportunities across a variety of disciplines while addressing different learning styles.

**Counseling Office**  
**(720) 561.5351**

Secretary:  
Jonetta Roy

A-Db  
Joanna Berman x2234  
joanna.berman@bvsd.org

De-Herm  
Claire Sandford x2232  
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Hern-Mc  
Marc Goulet x2235  
marc.goulet@bvsd.org

Me-Sb  
Doyle Johnson x2231  
doyle.johnson@bvsd.org

Sc-Z  
Andrew Tucker x2236  
andrew.tucker@bvsd.org

**A Message from Your Boulder High Counselors**

Things your counselor can help you with:

- Postsecondary Options
- Academic Concerns
- Personal Issues
- College/Career Guidance
- Graduation Planning (Courses, Graduation Checks, etc.)

**Counselor on Call**

Monday through Friday from 9:00 – 11:30 AM. and 1:00 – 2:00 PM

Monday – Claire Sandford Tuesday – Marc Goulet Wednesday – Joanna Berman

Thursday – Andrew Tucker Friday – Doyle Johnson

**Appointments**

Students may make an appointment during a free period or after school.

Parents may make an appointment by calling our office at (720) 561-5351.

**Thank You!**

We have been very busy in the Counseling Office this month and we could not have accomplished all we did without the help of some very dedicated volunteers.

**Scholarship Information**

Scholarship information may be accessed through the Naviance computer website. You can use your own password or sign in as a guest with the password "panthers." On the left margin of Naviance, select Scholarship List. Don't forget to check this website frequently as new scholarships are added all the time. Another comprehensive list is located on the Boulder High School website under "Counseling."

**2009-10 ACT/SAT/PSAT/AP Test Dates & Registration Deadlines**

ACT			SAT			AP
Test Date	Regular Reg.	Late Reg.	Test Date	Regular Reg.	Late Reg.	Test Dates
Feb 6	Jan 5	Jan 15	Jan 23	Dec 15	Dec 30	May 3-14, 2010
Apr 10	Mar 5	Mar 19	Mar 13	Feb 4	Feb 18	
Jun 12	May 7	May 21	May 1	Mar 25	Apr 8	
			Jun 5	Apr 29	May 13	

Register online at [www.act.org](http://www.act.org).

Check [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com) for more information.

Test schedule is available on the Counseling website.

**Note:** for testing and college applications, the code for Boulder High School is 060-115.

### College Applications – Finishing the Application Process

Once you have submitted your college applications, either by mail or online, don't forget to have your transcripts and test scores sent! Your counselor will need the following:

- Stamped, addressed envelope for each school to which you are applying
- Any forms your schools require to be filled out by a counselor (Counselor Report Form/Secondary School Report)
- \$2.00 for each official transcript

If you need a letter of recommendation from your counselor, don't forget that we need to know 3-4 weeks before the due date so we have time to write it!

Also, be sure to have your test scores sent to your colleges. Many colleges require that you have your scores sent directly from College Board and/or ACT. Log onto [www.actstudent.org](http://www.actstudent.org) or [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com) for instructions on how to send your scores.

### Requesting Midyear Grade Reports

Request midyear grade reports in January in the Counseling Office. Complete a request form and provide a stamped, addressed envelope and \$2.00 for each request.

### Obtaining Transcripts

To be considered official, a transcript must be mailed by a BHS counselor or the registrar. A transcript that is delivered by a student is considered to be unofficial.

### Senior Diploma Application and Graduation Credit Check

Parents: Your senior should have completed a senior graduation credit check by now. If the check is not yet complete, have your senior sign up NOW to meet with his/her counselor before Winter Break.

**Seniors:** Remember to bring your completed Application for Diploma and your Release of Records form to your appointment.

### Attention: Juniors, Sophomores, and Freshmen!!

Course selection for next year is coming up in February. To enter your selections you must have an active Infinite Campus password. See *Mrs. Roy* in the Counseling Office if you need a password or assistance with your account.

**Parents:** If you need a password or assistance with your Infinite Campus account, please e-mail *Jonetta Roy*, [jonetta.roy@bvsd.org](mailto:jonetta.roy@bvsd.org).

## A Grade Level Guide to Naviance

### 9th Grade

Counselors are meeting with students during Freshman Seminar classes throughout the year to work on Learning Styles, a program that assesses the student's optimal learning environment as well as the preferred learning modality according to a personality assessment.

### 10th Grade

Students take a personality test (based on Myers-Briggs) which will provide feedback concerning their most likely career paths, college majors, and the colleges which offer these majors.

### 11th Grade

Counselors work with students to continue to develop college choices based on career paths/personality tests. In order to explore postsecondary options, students will examine Naviance functions such as "College Search," "Scholarships," and "Scattergrams" (GPAs and test scores plotted on a graph for every college to which Boulder High students have applied in the past three years.)

### 12th Grade

Students will utilize Naviance to finalize their list of colleges to which they will apply. As well, there will be several mandatory surveys for seniors to take during the spring semester.

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## STUDENT COUNCIL

This holiday season Student Council is giving back to the Boulder community by donating gifts to families around Boulder who are less fortunate. The gifts will be purchased from the money donated by everyone's 5th period classes. The **money is due December 1**, and the class that donates the most money will receive a pizza party. During the weeks preceding finals, Student Council will purchase and wrap gifts for kids in the Boulder area. We will then deliver the gifts the week of finals. Student Council will also be honoring the Winter Sports at the **Winter Sports Rally on Thursday, December 10**, during TAP 2. The theme of this year's Winter Rally is "Surf into Snow." Student Council will also be hosting a free Pancake Breakfast on Friday, December 11, from 7:00 to 8:30 AM. There will be a special late start on this day. Finally, Student Council hopes that you have a happy holiday and a great New Year!

Student Council will be kicking off the 2010 school year with our annual **Winter Ball** on Saturday, January 16, from 8:00 to 11:00 PM. This year's theme is "White Wonderland." If you would like to volunteer or chaperone at this year's Winter Ball, please contact either *Jan Scrogan* [jan.scrogan@bvsd.org](mailto:jan.scrogan@bvsd.org) or *Ruthie Palmer* [ruthie.palmer@bvsd.org](mailto:ruthie.palmer@bvsd.org). This January, Student Council will also be hosting a **blood drive** on Wednesday, January 27. Everyone from Boulder High's community is welcome, parent or students. Students must be 17 years old and have a parent permission form. If any parents would like to donate, the times are 8:30 AM to 1:30 PM and you can either call the main office to schedule an appointment or just drop in. Help Boulder High save lives this January by participating in our annual blood drive!

## PANTHER CLUB

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### Panther Club Meeting

December 14

BHS Library, 6 PM

January 11

BHS Library, 6 PM

The Panther Athletic Booster Club is a nonprofit organization that supports all BHS athletics. One of our key goals is to provide financial assistance to our athletic programs when their needs are not covered by the school district budget or by the individual teams' fundraising efforts.

We'd like to thank our dedicated Panther Club volunteers for all their hard work during back-to-school registration, College Sports Information Night, organizing Sports Recognition Night, managing Sports Registration for several hundred athletes in the fall and winter and our parents who worked spirit sales under the purple tent during football games and at parent/teacher conferences...THANK YOU!

We would also like to thank our new members who have responded generously to our calls for help. December is a great time to join Panther Club. We are a 501(c)3, not-for-profit organization, which means that donations are 100% tax-deductible. For donations greater than \$120, donors can direct as much as 100% to their sport of choice. Members may now join online with a credit card by visiting the Miscellaneous Link at [www.boulderpantherclub.com](http://www.boulderpantherclub.com) or by downloading a membership brochure.

Our paver program was once again popular this fall with parents and alumni. Keep an eye out for the new installation of bricks behind the gym late this year. **Go Panthers!**

## CROSS COUNTRY

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### Boulder High Cross Country Scores at State Meet, *Kelsey Lakowske Wins Girls Race!*

The Cross Country team capped off an exciting season at the state meet in Fort Collins on November 7th, with a **second place** finish for the Girls team and **seventh place** for the Boys. Junior *Kelsey Lakowske* completed her undefeated season with a first place win and a time of 17:28. Sophomore *Sam Lewis* turned in a strong 4th place finish with a time of 18:26. For the boys, And senior *Ashi Guiles* placed 20th, posting a time of 16:35. **Congratulations Panthers!**

More headlines:

***Kelsey Lakowske* ends an undefeated season by being named Colorado Track Cross Country Runner of the Year**

***Kelsey Lakowske* and *Sam Lewis* named to 5A All State and Colorado First Team Cross Country**

"For years, school systems across the nation dropped the arts to concentrate on getting struggling students to pass tests in reading and math. Yet now, a growing body of brain research suggests that teaching the arts may be good for students across all disciplines.

Scientists are now looking at, for instance, whether students at an arts high school who study music or drawing have brains that allow them to focus more intensely or do better in the classroom."

~ Liz Bowie in *The Baltimore Sun*, May 18, 2009

Every day more testing reveals how critical the arts are in students' brain development and how much more successful their academics are when balanced with an arts curriculum. Boulder High School strongly supports this notion. We welcome you to visit anytime and see what robust work our Draw/Paint, Pottery, and Photography students are doing.

#### Current Exhibits

Finished work can always be seen in the Kim Ryan Art Gallery housed in the BHS main office.

New Banksy-inspired stencil art was created by students and has been installed throughout the halls of BHS. Check out the panthers, people, and designs from 3rd floor World Language to gym locker walls. Thank you Studio Arts students!

Buchanan's Coffee House on the Hill is hosting *Jesus Menas* and *Denzel Samaniego's* colorful paintings. The two-person show is inspired by graffiti and beautiful women.

In October, the Boulder Museum of Contemporary Art hosted an "Open Wall" event and art show for teenagers in Boulder. Many BHS art students participated and their work has now gone on to hang at The Cup coffee shop on Pearl Street for the month of November.

#### Recent Events

Last year BHS student *Sophia Sweeney's* self portrait won a National American Visions Medalist in the Scholastic Art Competition. Out of 1000 national winners, Sophia's is one of 80 pieces chosen to hang in Washington, D.C. Her work is being displayed in the office of the National Endowment of the Arts. Last month *Virginia Schick* flew to Washington, D.C. and met Sophia for the ribbon cutting of the President's Committee on Arts and the Humanities in The Old Post Office at 1100 Pennsylvania Avenue. We are honored to have a teacher and student represent Boulder High in our nation's capital!

On Halloween day BHS students *Kelsi Brooks* and *Hannah Kendall* joined *Ms. Schick* for the annual Denver "Gorilla Run." Dressing up as gorillas, they helped to raise over \$1000 for the Mountain Gorillas Conservation Fund in Africa!

Boulder High is so fortunate to be downtown where walking field trips are so easy. Boulder High pottery students went to the Boulder Public Library in November to view the 40th anniversary show of the Boulder Potters Guild. Viewing works by local potters and sculptors really helps students make relevant connections to their own work in the pottery studio.

#### Upcoming Events

Students are currently entering work in The Scholastic Art Awards. This is a state and national art competition that was established in 1923 to foster the creative development of teens across the country. There is more than \$20 million in awards and scholarships. **Good luck BHS!**

Beginning in January 2010, the Boulder High Art Department will be hosting Breakthrough Arts Free Figure drawing for teenagers. This will take place on Mondays from 3:30-5:30. Our Open Studios art club students are so excited they have already started on their own: with alumni *Rose Lewis* as their model, they went down the street to 8 Port coffee shop and had a figure drawing session all on their own!

## IMPORTANT DATES

### December 1

7:30 P.M. Bands Concert  
(CB, WE)

### December 3

7:30 P.M. Jazz Bands Concert  
(BJ, LJ, JU, RB)

### December 5

6:00 P.M. Boulder Parade of  
Lights (WE, CB, BJ, LJ, JU, PJ)

### December 8

7:00 P.M. Choirs Concert  
(Choirs)

### December 10

7:30 P.M. Orchestras Concert  
(CO, SO)

### December 17

Chamber Orchestra Tour -  
Area Middle Schools

## IMPA parents needed to help with upcoming concerts

We are fast approaching the winter concert season and will be looking for people to assist at each of the concerts. IMPA has a list of people who have signed up for this type of help, but we welcome additional assistance with respect to leading the volunteers for the Jazz and Band concerts, taking photos, helping the instructors with programs and printing, etc.

Volunteers need to arrive approximately one hour prior to the start of the show to set up, hand out programs, and collect donations that go toward the IMPA scholarship fund. Please consider taking a shift--our music program depends on the help of our fantastic parents!

In addition we are looking for help with the Alumni Concert tentatively set for January 7 at 7:00 p.m. This event is intended as a fundraiser and will feature BHS Music Department alumni who have gone on to have careers in music.

If you can help, please email *Cathy Faughnan* at [faughnan4@yahoo.com](mailto:faughnan4@yahoo.com).

## Check out the IMPA website!

All the information parents and students need to know about the Instrumental Music Parents Association can be found on our new website at [www.impa-bhs.org](http://www.impa-bhs.org). Check it out to keep apprised of important instrumental music information like concert dates, volunteer opportunities, scholarship information, and more!

# PAC

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Please join us on December 9 for our last regular meeting of this semester. Joining us will be *Patti Ashley*, the Program Coordinator for the District's Community Access Mentoring Program. The meeting will be held at 7:00 p.m. in the BHS library.

The January PAC meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 13, at 7:00 p.m. in the BHS library. If you have never attended a PAC meeting, make it your new year's resolution to get more involved in the BHS parent community -- **everyone is welcome!**

## AFTER PROM CO-CHAIRS NEEDED!

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On May 1, 2010, from midnight to 5:00 AM, the parents of Boulder, Fairview, and New Vista High Schools will co-host After-Prom at the East Boulder Recreation Center. Over 1200 students will enjoy a community-sponsored, safe, and exciting alternative to all-night partying following Prom. The goal is to ensure that every teen has a fun, memorable experience and arrives home safely.

Our goal is to collaborate with fun-loving, goal-oriented, and interesting people in order to create an unforgettable and secure event for the children of our community. To join this wonderful organization, contact *Dawn Brandt* (303) 917-6657 or [brandt.dawn@yahoo.com](mailto:brandt.dawn@yahoo.com).

We do need your commitment now and gift of time later as a Committee Co-Chairperson to build this great event. **NO EXPERIENCE REQUIRED!** We need help with the following committees: **Boulder High Board Member (shadow for next year), Fundraising, Volunteer Coordinator, Carnival, Decorations, Registration, Open House, Publicity, and Prize Center.**

## Make A Difference "WishList" Really Does Make A Big Difference!

The Fall Make A Difference "Wish List" and donation form were recently mailed to all Boulder High families. If you have been waiting for a good day to make your donation, that day is today! Last year the Make a Difference "Wish List" program raised almost \$50,000.00 to fund extra learning materials, scholarship fees, and program support for Boulder High School teachers, staff, and students!

We understand that many of the "Wish List" requests are for large dollar amounts. No donation is too small as your gift will be combined with other contributions to support the more expensive items as well as a more enriching education for all of our students.

The Make A Difference "WishList" fundraiser is your opportunity to make a direct donation to a specific teacher, department, or an all school program. Your donation will directly benefit students and staff at Boulder High School and is tax deductible!

**You will not be asked to sell anything, make anything, or bake anything!**

Thank you very much for supporting Boulder High School!

Donor(s) Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Student's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Student's Grade \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone # \_\_\_\_\_

Donation Designation \_\_\_\_\_

Please make your tax-deductible gift payable to **Boulder High School - Wish List**

Mail this form and your donation to:

Boulder High School – Wish List

1604 Arapahoe Avenue

Boulder, CO 80302

### Questions?

Contact *Dolly Dean* (parent coordinator): (303) 473-9600, [dohdean@travelandsports.com](mailto:dohdean@travelandsports.com)

Boulder High School is an equal opportunity educational institution and will not tolerate discrimination, harassment, or violence against anyone based on race, ethnicity, creed, color, sex, gender identity/expression, sexual orientation, disability, national origin, or religion in its activities, programs, or employment practices. For information regarding civil rights or grievance procedures, contact an Assistant Principal at Boulder High School, 1604 Arapahoe Avenue, Boulder, Colorado 80302, 720-561-2200 or the Office for Civil Rights, U.S. Department of Education, Region VIII, Federal Office Building, 1244 North Speer Blvd., Suite 310, Denver, Colorado 80204, 303-844-5695.

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**Parent Advisory Council  
Boulder High School  
1604 Arapahoe Avenue  
Boulder, CO 80302**

**NON-PROFIT  
ORGANIZATION  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
PERMIT 154  
BOULDER, CO**

### December

1 Band Concert, Auditorium, 7:30 PM  
1-2 Bus Passes on sale, Treasurer's Office, A/B Lunch  
2 **TAP**  
3 Jazz Concert, Auditorium, 7:30 PM  
5 MUN Conference, BHS  
7 BHS Showcase  
8 Choir Concert, Auditorium, 7 PM  
9 **TAP**  
PAC meeting, Library, 7-9 PM  
10 **RALLY SCHEDULE**  
Orchestra Concert, Auditorium, 7:30 PM  
Freshman Cram-Fest, O-zone, 3-6 PM  
10-12 CO Thespian Conference, Denver  
14 Panther Club Meeting, Library, 6 PM  
15-18 **FINALS**  
15 LPAC meeting, 5:30 PM  
17 Music Dept. Alumni Benefit Concert  
21-31 **NO SCHOOL—Winter Break**

### January

1-5 **NO SCHOOL—Winter Break**  
6 **TAP**  
Begin 2nd Semester  
6-7 Bus Passes on sale, Treasurer's Office, A/B Lunch  
11 Panther Club Meeting, Library, 6 PM  
13 **TAP**  
PAC meeting, Library, 7-9 PM  
14 1st Semester Report Cards posted/mailed  
16 Winter Ball, 8-11 PM  
18 **NO SCHOOL--MLK Day**  
19 LPAC meeting, 5:30 PM  
20 **TAP**  
Senior Meeting, Auditorium, 9:30 AM  
27 **TAP**  
30 MUN Conference, CU, 6:30 AM-4:30 PM

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### Ride On!

RTD monthly passes for December and 10-ticket ride booklets will be on sale in the Treasurer's Office during both lunches on November 30, December 1, and December 2. Monthly passes are \$35.00 (checks payable to BVSD). 10-ticket ride booklets are \$9.00 (checks payable to BHS). Monthly passes and tickets for January will be on sale on January 6 and 7, 2010.

**Questions?** Contact *Cindy Henry* at [cindylouwho3333@yahoo.com](mailto:cindylouwho3333@yahoo.com).