



## *Color The Earth*

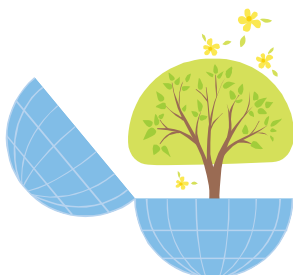
You are invited to attend and participate in a fun and interactive Family Event for The Young (ages 3-12) and for The Young At Heart (all ages). Parents and family members are encouraged to attend. Come and celebrate The Planet Earth and the people who live on it – Wednesday, February 17th from 6:30 - 8:00 pm at the Broomfield Library Auditorium, 3 Community Park Road, Broomfield, CO 80020.

Using interactive songs, stories and art, we will wiggle, giggle and discover the joy of respecting yourself, others and the world around you. Expect Family Fun!

Join popular children's storyteller, Beth Epley, early childhood and creativity expert Dr. Laura Ganus, Dr. Vanessa Ewing - Principal and Accelerated / Differentiated Education Expert at Broomfield Academy, and Girl Scout Troop #340 for this fun evening event. After the *Color The Earth* presentation, there will be a short question and answer period related to programs and activities that foster both character and arts development in our families and in our community.

There will be raffle for a two-week scholarship to Broomfield Academy's Summer Enrichment Camp (one elective class included). Raffle tickets will be \$10.

For more information, call Broomfield Academy at (303) 469-6449.



# SCHOOLS

## Schools' storied secret bound for Audi



Photo by DAVID R. JENNINGS / Broomfield Enterprise

▲ **ANIMATED LESSONS:** Storyteller and musician Beth Epley tells a story to first-, second- and third-graders at Broomfield Academy on Tuesday. Epley, who frequently performs at area schools, will bring her lessons disguised as fun to the Broomfield Auditorium Wednesday as part of the Color the Earth event.

By Dylan Otto Krider  
Enterprise Staff Writer

Beth Epley describes her act as "stand-up comedy for kids."

"It's music mixed with stories mixed with movement," she said.

She has been yukking it up at area schools for more than 30 years.

"It's the only job I've ever had," she said, and now performs at about three schools a day.

Epley primarily performs at elementary schools, though she does the occasional birthday party or barbecue, and she's become a bit of a regular at Broomfield Academy.

She's had to do just about every topic, from bullying to literature to history. Call it learning with a hearty helping of fun.

Wednesday, the community can catch a glimpse of the delight she has bringing to school children at Color the Earth, an event at the Broomfield Auditorium sponsored by Broomfield Academy and Girl Scout Troop No. 340.

"She comes to our school once a month, and I know she goes to a lot of other Broomfield schools," said Broomfield

### IFYOUGO

**What:** "Color the Earth" featuring Beth Epley

**When:** 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, February 17

**Where:** Broomfield Auditorium, 3 Community Park Road

**Information:** 303-469-6449 or [www.bethepley.com](http://www.bethepley.com)

Academy principal Vanessa Ewing. "She's part of our character education at the school."

Each month Broomfield Academy students do a community service project and focus on a specific virtue, such as respect, integrity and perseverance. Epley performs songs and stories relevant to the specific virtue.

Epley is part of the Academy's "Distinguished Speaker" series, which has brought in speakers such as former Colorado first lady Dottie Lamm.

Epley has been around long enough, that she has a pretty good idea of the curriculum and can quite literally wing it on just about any topic.

It never gets old, she said, because "I do whatever I want and can just make the topic, make it up as I go ... the stuff is always new."

She estimates about 20 percent of her material is impro-

vised, and even her set songs and material are typically a bit of modified past improv.

Over the years, she has learned little tricks about how to keep kids engaged without starting a riot.

"It's how you make them stand up and down. You give them cues, maintain eye contact and use all these techniques you develop in the battlefield," she said.

Since Wednesday's performance will be in an auditorium, it will be a much bigger deal than her typical school visits. Her environmental shows usually include the routine, "Don't be a drip."

Kids should expect to get wet. Epley likes to squirt the kids with a water bottle.

"Of course. It's a story about water, isn't it?" she quipped.

So far, there haven't been any major disasters.

"No, I have never stepped on a child," Epley said. "Sometimes they bonk their heads while they're dancing. ... I have had a child barf. That's a professional risk you have to take."

How does she keep up the energy for three shows a day?

"I steal it from the children," she said.

## school briefs

### Local students make All State Orchestra

Eight Legacy High School music students and a Broomfield High School student have been selected for the 2010 Colorado All State Philharmonic and Symphony Orchestras. They will join about 100 other students from across Colorado.

Legacy students **Tim Daily**, **Annie Lister**, **Hannah Fernau**, **Krissy Hermanski** and **Claire Forbes** were selected for the Philharmonic; **Nathan Gonzales** and **Rose-**

**Anna Martin** were selected for the Symphony and **Erik Deines** was selected for both. Broomfield High School student **Alexandra Briggs** was selected for the Philharmonic.

The Philharmonic will perform at 4 p.m. on Saturday and the Symphonic will perform at 6 p.m. at the University Center for the Arts at Colorado State University in Fort Collins. Tickets are \$15 for each show, but those who purchase tickets to the 4 p.m. show can see the 6 p.m. show for free. Tickets can be

purchased by calling 970-491-ARTS (2787) or at <http://csuartstickets.universitytickets.com> (registration required). For more information, call 720-972-6795 or go to [www.coloradoallstateorchestra.org](http://www.coloradoallstateorchestra.org).

### New online school holding info meeting

Provost Academy Colorado, a new public online high school, will hold two community information meetings this month.

Prospective students and

parents or guardians can learn and ask questions about Provost Academy classes, curriculum and assessment tools.

Meetings will be from 6 to 8 p.m. Monday at Northglenn Recreation Center, 11801 Community Center Drive, and 6 to 8 p.m. Wednesday at Anythink Brighton, 327 E. Bridge St. For more information, go [www.co.provostacademy.com](http://www.co.provostacademy.com) or call 888-472-2656.

### BVSD science fair coming on Feb. 23

The seventh annual Roche Colorado Regional Science Fair for Boulder Valley School District students will be Feb. 23 at the Glenn Miller Ballroom at the University of Colorado-Boulder. Senior projects will be judged in the morning, beginning at 8 a.m., and junior level judging will begin at 12:30 p.m.

This year's theme is "Science Connects" and the fair is expected to include projects from nearly 200 middle and high school students. Projects will be open

See **SCHOOL** on **A11**