



Douglas County
School District

Learn today. Lead tomorrow.

NEWSLINE

A weekly news source from Douglas County School District

www.dcsdk12.org

October 8, 2009

Photo of the week ...



Teacher Debby Smith (left) accepts flowers and \$1,000 worth of supplies from representatives of OfficeMax.

Flagstone's better day

Flagstone Elementary was selected by Adopt-A-Classroom and OfficeMax to receive a surprise visit on behalf of the nationwide event called *A Day Made Better*, a one-day event that awards selected teachers more than \$1,000 in school supplies.

On Tuesday, October 6th a team of OfficeMax representatives came to Flagstone to surprise Debby Smith, the 6th grade teacher who was nominated as the representative for Flagstone.



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National attention for DC Support Center

DCSD received a visitor from the White House this week. Gil Kerlikowske, Director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy visited the University Center at Chaparral on Tuesday to hear about the work the DC Support Center is doing to create safe and drug free environments.

The DC Support Center provides services for suspended, expelled and at-risk students, with a maximum capacity of 16 students to ensure personal attention. Staff use a research-based curriculum to assist students in skill building, and in making positive social choices and behavioral changes.

The Office of National Drug Control Policy was impressed by the excellent results the DC Support Center has seen – after only six months of working with the Center, students made a year-and-a-half worth of growth.

“Our team and community based partnerships were honored by a visit from the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy,” says Janet Laning Krug, Student Assistance Coordinator for the Center. “We were able to share our successes and challenges in a forum which may contribute to the national discussion on supporting students and families who are at risk.”

Partner agencies include Parker Rotary, Project PAVE, Douglas County Youth Initiative, DC Oakes Alternative School, Art From Ashes, Safe & Drug Free Schools, Colorado Department of Education and the 18th Judicial District.



Director Gil Kerlikowske spoke to DC Support Center staff on Tuesday, October 6.

District will test emergency message service

The District is testing a new tool for keeping parents informed: the emergency messenger system.

Using the same system the District uses now to notify parents, messages tagged as emergency will be routed through a call processing service that is capable of much faster delivery.

“It’s significantly faster,” says Sue Thompson, applications support specialist for the District. “Regular messages will be delivered four times faster than our old system while reducing the dependency on physical infrastructure. Emergency messaging speed is even faster, with potential to deliver District-wide calls within hours.”

The emergency message system will only be used when a message is urgent, such as informing parents when a school is closed or when early dismissal is required, such as for a water main break or heavy snow. It won’t be used for normal messages from schools, and it won’t be used to inform parents about normal snow day closures.

The emergency message service places phone calls to all contact numbers on file for parents and guardians. “This service will allow us to more quickly and efficiently inform families about emergencies,” says Dan Clemente. “It’s a new tool for the District in our ongoing effort to ensure the safety of our students.”

Decreased energy usage = District savings

The District strengthened its focus on energy management in Fiscal Year 2009.

With an increase of almost 8% in the square footage in our District and the growth of our technology needs, electrical usage could have increased in kilowatt-hours per square foot. However, not only did DCSD reduce the usage per square foot, we actually reduced our total electrical usage by over 7%!

The District showed a savings of over \$1,100,000 compared to last year. Students performed “habit” audits in their schools, staff removed plug-load items, ITS focused on reducing technology energy needs, operations and maintenance staff worked on the behind-the-scenes equipment and scheduling – all these factors and more contributed to the savings.

This combined focus gives DCSD the opportunity to use the savings towards more important needs within the District. “Everyone worked to save both money and energy for DCSD,” says Lee Smit, Energy Manager. “I look forward to seeing what we can accomplish in Fiscal Year 2010!”

BOARD BRIEFS

This section summarizes highlights of the October 6 Board of Education worksession not featured elsewhere in this publication.



- **Nikolas Warejcka** represented Colorado proudly at the America's Best School Bus Inspector Competition. Nikolas won the 6th Annual competition at the year's event was hosted by Michelin America in Greenville, SC on September 22-25.



- **Douglas County High School** boys golf won the Class 5A State Golf Championship!

- **Castle View High School** football coach **Ryan Hollingshead** was featured recently in the Denver Post as the Denver Broncos high school coach of the week. Hollingshead, a **Highlands Ranch High School**



Photo from Denver-post.com.

graduate, has been coaching the Sabercats for four years.

ADMINISTRATION

Steve Herzog, *Interim Superintendent*
 Bill Hodges, *Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources*
 Annette Fante, *Assistant Superintendent of Learning Services*
 David Hart, *Chief Finance Officer*
 Randy Weldon, *Chief Information Officer*

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Kristine Turner, *President*
 Emily Hansen, *Vice President*
 John Carson, Clifton Stahl, Ryan Stuart,
 Timothy L. White and Justin G. Williams, *Directors*

- David Twibell, president of the Colorado Capital Bank's Private Wealth Management group, provided an economic presentation to the Board.
- The Board asked questions of North Star Academy – West Campus in preparation for the October 20 BOE meeting.
- A discussion of DCSD financial topics included financial transparency, Fiscal Advisory Committee, Augenblick report, G.O. refunding, and a state of the state fiscal report.
- The Board discussed policy revisions to the End Statement 1.0, subends 1.1-1.10.
- Meeting minutes and agendas are available on the Board of Education page on the District website, www.dcsdk12.org.

News, Information and Resources

How to request teacher qualification information

The federal No Child Left Behind law allows parents to obtain certain information about the professional qualifications of their child's teacher(s). Specifically, as a parent or guardian, you have the right to request the following information:

- Whether the Colorado Department of Education has licensed or endorsed your child's teacher for the grades and subjects taught;
- Whether the Colorado Department of Education has decided that your student's teacher can teach in a classroom without being licensed or qualified under state regulations because of special circumstances;
- The teacher's college major; whether the teacher has any advanced degrees and, if so, the subjects of the degrees; and,
- Whether a teacher's aide or similar para educator provides services to your child and, if they do, their qualifications.

For more information, contact Human Resources at 303.387.0048 or 0049. You will receive a request form to complete and return to the District within 30 days.

Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training (ASIST)

ASIST is a FREE 2-day workshop designed to teach the skills to competently and confidently intervene with a youth at risk of suicide. Developed by LivingWorks Education, Inc., the workshop prepares Youth Gatekeepers to integrate principles of intervention into everyday practice.

Workshop Dates: Oct. 19-20, 2009; Nov. 9-10, 2009; March 22-23, 2010; June 7-8, 2010

Workshop Details: Individuals select one, two-day workshop offered for DCSD personnel and community members. DCSD registrants will receive one hour of relicensure credit or horizontal advancement credit if the workshop is not taken during contract time.

Workshops will be held from 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at: New Hope Presbyterian Church, 2100 W. Meadows Parkway, Castle Rock, CO 80109

Sponsored by the Kiwanis of Castle Pines and Douglas County School District. To register, community members contact Jill at scootsnoop@aol.com.

Save the date: Avs Community Night

This year's DCSD Colorado Avalanche Community Night, sponsored by the Douglas County Educational Foundation, will be held on Saturday, November 14. The Avs will host the Vancouver Canucks starting at 8 p.m. Tickets will be \$22 for seating throughout the Pepsi Center, value range from \$40 - \$119, plus no ticket service fees! As a special incentive, the Avalanche and DCEF will be donating \$4 of each ticket sold directly to each school to help "Fill the Gap"! To order tickets contact your local DCSD school or visit <http://schools.dcsdk12.org/dcef> and click on the Colorado Avalanche Night ticket link.

Substance Abuse Resource Fair Oct. 9

The Douglas County Substance Abuse Coalition in conjunction with Douglas County School District, will host a Substance Abuse Resource Fair on Friday, October 9 from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. at Rock Canyon High School. This open house style event is open to all professionals and community members interested in obtaining more information about substance abuse resources in the Douglas County region.

If you have comments, questions, suggestions, or a submission to *Newsline*, contact:

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