



Douglas County
School District

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NEWSLINE

A weekly news source from Douglas County School District

www.dcsdk12.org

October 29, 2009

Board of Education Meeting Preview

The next Board of Education meeting will take place on Tuesday, November 3, at 5 p.m. in the third floor Board Room of the School District Admin Building (620 Wilcox Street) in Castle Rock. Meeting agendas and minutes are available on the District website at www.dcsdk12.org under the Board of Education link.

Photo of the week ...



American Academy students recently appeared on the 9News morning program to deliver the "Wake Up Call" segment. The kids sat in formation and sang the first couple of lines from the song *Day-O*.

3rd Annual Colorado Avalanche 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.

PHS PeaceJam Club wins first PeaceJam Hero Award, visit from Nobel Laureate

Ponderosa High School's PeaceJam club will be the first recipient of the PeaceJam Hero Award and will be receiving a visit from Nobel Peace Laureate and native-rights activist Rigoberta Menchú Tum on November 17, 2009. The Ponderosa PeaceJam club was chosen for its work in promoting the mission of PeaceJam: to create positive change in themselves, their communities and the world through the inspiration of Nobel Peace Laureates.

Menchú Tum will be visiting Denver for the first annual PeaceJam Hero Awards Luncheon, to be held on November 18. This event will honor several outstanding PeaceJam supporters, but will also include the award given for the first ever PeaceJam Global Call to Action Challenge.

The annual Global Call to Action award,

sponsored by the Pearson Foundation, encourages youth of all ages from across the globe to submit videos or written pieces on their Global Call to Action projects that capture their group's impact and show the world what they have done to create positive change. The grand prize for this challenge is a daylong visit from Nobel Peace Laureate Rigoberta Menchú Tum and an award presented by this prestigious hero in front of 800 people at PeaceJam's Hero Award's luncheon.

In addition, Ponderosa PeaceJam will receive expert coaching from the Pearson Foundation on how to create a professional-style video of their project and will work with the students to create a film documenting their visit with Menchú Tum and their award reception.

The Ponderosa PeaceJam Club's Global Call to Action Projects:

Three years ago, Ponderosa High School's PeaceJam Club started a simple project –encouraging their school to recycle with the aim of reducing waste produced by the school's 1,700 students. Staff and students alike quickly embraced the recycling movement and Ponderosa now fills nine recycling dumpsters weekly with paper, plastics, and metals used throughout the school day, decreasing the waste produced at Ponderosa by 70%.

When the District's Energy Manager became aware of the recycling movement, he approached Ponderosa's PeaceJammers about launching an energy management program. Working with their building maintenance director, PeaceJammers completed an energy audit of their school and found ways to reduce energy usage by 13.8%.

Desiring to involve the community in their green movement, Ponderosa PeaceJammers participated in organizing an electronics recycling event allowing community members to drop off unwanted electronics for recycling rather than sending them to the landfill. The club worked with Waste Management and Sony Corporation to collect over 120,000 pounds of electronics from over 1,200 community members. Because of their incredible work, the Ponderosa PeaceJam group was invited by Denver Sister Cities International to accompany Mayor Geoffery Majiwa, the mayor of Nairobi, Kenya on a tour of Denver's Waste Management recycling facility. Mayor Majiwa engaged the youth in dialogue about ways to introduce recycling and energy management and increase youth engagement in his home country.

Ponderosa's PeaceJammers have also been conducting donation drives for over two years for The Gathering Place, Denver's only daytime center for women and children experiencing homelessness and poverty. To date, over 5,000 pounds of nonperishable items have been collected.

"The students at Ponderosa High School show the power that young people have to improve their schools, their communities, and the world," said Dawn Engle, PeaceJam co-founder, in a press release. "Their efforts demonstrate that the spirit and commitment of the Nobel Peace Prize winners who support PeaceJam's mission are universal, and that – no matter what the age – each and every one of us can make an important difference." The Global Call to Action Challenge challenges young people to document in digital film and in writing the projects they've implemented to benefit their local communities.

The PeaceJam Hero Awards Luncheon will take place on November 18, 2009 at the Seawell Ballroom, Denver Center for the Performing Arts, at 11:30 a.m. Details can be found at www.peacejam.org/luncheon.aspx.



PHS PeaceJam club members react to the good news.



Teacher **Theresa Weikum** received a grant for \$1,500 from the **Douglas County Educational Foundation (DCEF)** – the school PTO funded an additional \$500 – to hold a Learning Fair at **Northeast Elementary**.

“It is a very special day for our grade 4 to 6 students,” says Weikum. “We have traditionally organized a Learning Fair every three years. I look for people who have a passion and knowledge in a particular area and enjoy sharing it with students.

We will have about 18 to 19 presenters in the morning. Examples:~ a gentleman who makes a snowstorm in the classroom, an expert on bees, an expert on amphibians and reptiles, a flintknapper, [someone from] Dinosaur Ridge and Butterfly Pavilion, a woman who speaks about women who had to disguise themselves as men to fight in the Civil War, a mountain man (he actually lives in a tent year-round above Boulder), a dinosaur puppeteer, [a workshop on] the history of the 10th Mountain Division and their part in WWII, a traditional storyteller, a storyteller who focuses on African folktales ... as you can see it is an exciting and varied day and one that I enjoy putting together for our kids!

Students choose two workshops in the morning, based on their particular interest. After presenters finish their two presentations, we offer them a special lunch as part of our thanks for being a part of our day. Then we have an all-school assembly in the afternoon.”

The Learning Fair will be held on November 13, beginning at 9:30 a.m.

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*

New law banning teen drivers from cell phone use goes into effect December 1

On December 1, a new law will come into effect that bans sending text messages while driving. Further, it bans drivers under the age of 18 from both talking *and* texting on cell phones.

Governor Ritter signed the bill into law on June 1, 2009, saying “Driving requires our full attention. Drivers should not be texting while behind the wheel. And drivers younger than 18 ought to be focusing on the road, not their cell phones.” The bill was introduced after the death of 9-year-old Erica Forney of Fort Collins, who was struck by a car while riding her bicycle. The driver was distracted by her cell phone.

Colorado’s Teen Motor Vehicle Leadership Alliance, a group of government and private agencies focused on issues specific to teen drivers, are holding a Public Service Announcement (PSA) contest for students that they hope will get the message out to young drivers. Students may submit one entry per PSA category, which include video, audio and print.

The first 20 entries will receive a gift card. The winner of the video category will receive a Sony digital video camera recorder and a gift card, the winner of the audio category will receive an Apple iPod Nano and a Flip video camcorder, and the winner of the print category will receive \$500 and four tickets to the Denver Museum of Contemporary Art. For more information on the contest, go to www.coteendriver.com. Deadline is Monday, November 16, 2009.



News, Information and Resources

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: 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.

Upcoming Community University class

The L.E.A.N. Programs® are a family of workshops developed by William Sears M.D. and Exercise Physiologist, Sean Foy, MA. These educational programs utilize Dr. Sears’ simple techniques for parents and children in making nutrition fun, tasty, and easy to understand and implement. Additionally, Dr. Sears and Mr. Foy provide creative ways for children to get the proper amount of exercise.

L. E. A. N. Essentials – For parents of children ages three to twelve years

A fun, interactive and educational course for parents and caregivers who have limited time or may want to initially take small steps towards learning more about nutrition and healthy living for their children and families. This introductory program focuses on the four pillars of health:

- Lifestyle – How we live
- Attitude – How we think
- Exercise – How we move
- Nutrition – How we eat

Instructor: Joy Dysart **Time:** 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. (1 night) **Cost:** \$25 person/\$35 couple

Session 1: December 3; Legacy Point Elementary School (Parker)

Session 2: February 10; Flagstone Elementary School (Castle Rock)

Register online at www.desdk12.org - Choose “Community University” on the left.

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

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