



Douglas County
School District

Learn today. Lead tomorrow.

NEWSLINE

A weekly news source from Douglas County School District

www.dcsdk12.org

July 9, 2009

Photo of the week ...



Dunk tank V.I.P.

Third graders at **Mountain View Elem.** got a treat at their June 25 school carnival – a V.I.P. in their dunk tank!

Superintendent Jim Christensen took his chances on the pitching arms of MVE students and lost. The first student to come up for a throw dunked the Superintendent on his first shot.

“Good thing it’s warm today,” joked Superintendent Christensen. “Those kids have good aim!”

National Conference a big success

By Ann McGrath, HRHS graduate

After over three years of intense planning and preparation, 22 students from Highlands Ranch High School celebrated an incredible accomplishment. The much anticipated 73rd annual NASC (National Association of Student Council) conference came to Colorado June 27-30.

Many may doubt the ability of high school students to organize a national conference for 1,500 students with minimal help from adults. However, the HRHS staff, principal, Student Senate advisor and the Highlands Ranch community couldn’t be happier with the final results of the conference.

“For four days, those 22 committee chairs were perfect,” said Rashaan Davis, HRHS teacher and Student Senate advisor. “They didn’t miss a beat.” Throughout the four days, the phrase “Best conference ever” was heard multiple times, only epitomizing the true reward for the students who had dedicated their high school career to such an event.

Welcome back, four-track, year-round students!



As we launch into the 2009-10 school year, I wanted to take this opportunity to welcome students, families and staff back to school.

This week in Douglas County School District, almost 12,000 students and staff in our four-track schools begin a new session. The continued partnership between families, community members and our School District staff is essential to our students’ success. We look forward to building these critical relationships throughout the school year and welcome your participation as we help our students become responsible citizens, and improve public education in our community.

I am very proud of our organization and its people. I believe we have a clear focus on kids. Thanks to outstanding teachers and staff, we are considered leaders in public education in Colorado. I want to thank you for your support in the past year, as our organization moved through some challenging times. The financial pressures will no doubt continue. But we believe we are making a difference in the future of our community and that of our country.

I am glad you are a part of Douglas County School District and look forward to a successful school year.

Open Campus policy new this school year

A new policy goes into effect this year at District high schools which allows some students to leave the school campus during free periods.

Sophomores, juniors and seniors will be allowed to leave school grounds when not enrolled in a regularly scheduled class. Freshmen will *not* be allowed to leave school grounds without advance permission from the Principal.

The new policy will provide students with more flexibility in their schedule to pursue off-campus opportunities, such as College Ready courses, technical education, internships and work opportunities.

“Open campus is a privilege, not a right,” says Dan McMinimee, Director of Schools for the Ponderosa feeder. “It can be taken away at any time because of grades, behavior or attendance problems.”

Student focus groups will convene regularly to discuss the implementation of the policy, and students from the focus groups will act as community liaisons to facilitate a “good neighbor” relationship between the schools and their surrounding communities.

“We believe this new open campus approach will benefit our older students who have earned the privilege of managing a portion of their day,” says Superintendent Jim Christensen. “Our students are, for the most part, fully capable of conducting themselves in a responsible manner both on and off campus.”

The new language added to BOE policy JH in the 2009 Student Rights and Responsibilities handbook states:

Freshman students may not enter cars or leave the school grounds during school hours without advance permission from the Principal, inclusive of lunch periods.

Other students, who do not have a regularly scheduled class period, may leave campus without advanced permission of the Principal. This flexible schedule option for students is a privilege and subject to revocation based on grades, attendance and/or disciplinary action.

This new policy puts DCSD in line with several other metro school districts, such as Cherry Creek, Denver and Jefferson County, that employ open campus policies at all or some of their high schools.

BOE policy JH can be found on our website at www.dcsdk12.org, Board of Education, Board of Education/Superintendent Policies, J-Students. For more detailed information, please refer to your individual school’s website.



- **Welcome back, 4-track students!**



- **The Hope Online Learning Academy Co-Op**, a Douglas County School District Charter School, is proud to announce that several of its Learning Centers are participating in the Summer Food Service Program. The program, funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), provides free meals to all children under the age of 18.

The following sites will provide free lunches from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.:

- » IBG Learning Center, 2525 Geneva St., Aurora, CO 80010
- » Hillcrest Academy, 3200 Dahlia St., Denver, CO 80207
- » Harrison Street Learning Center, 2880 Harrison St., Denver, CO 80205

Meals began on June 22 and will continue through August 31, 2009.

- **Catherine Channell**, Chinese teacher at **Chapparral HS**, received a \$5,000 grant from the Anna and John J. Sie Foundation to travel to China. Ms. Channell and her students will be traveling to China this summer for intensive language training.
- Two **Mountain Vista HS** students, **Tom Brath** and **Danica Kampfe**, hosted a "Style Your Sole" (SYS) event to promote the One For One initiative by shoe company Toms Shoes. Tom's Shoes donates one pair of shoes to needy children in Argentina and Ethiopia for every pair of shoes sold. Between online orders from MVHS students and physical shoes sold at the event, more than 100 pairs of Toms were sold.

ADMINISTRATION

Jim Christensen, *Superintendent*
 Bill Hodges, *Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources*
 Annette Fante, *Assistant Superintendent of Learning Services*
 Pat McGraw, *Chief of Staff*
 Steve Herzog, *Chief Operating Officer*
 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*

News, Information and Resources

Reminder: Transportation redesign

DCSD recently redesigned bus transportation routes for the 2009-10 school year due to budget reductions. As you prepare your students for the coming school year, please familiarize yourself with the changes. 4-track bus route maps for 2009-10 school year are now available from the front page of the District website (www.dcsdk12.org). Bus routes for conventional and modified calendars will be available July 15.

Reminder: changes in Nutrition Services

Families, please be aware of changes in Nutrition Services regarding the school lunch program that are in effect. Items of note include the fee changes, the department moving to paperless lunch menus, a new online payment plan, and a fee for returned checks. For more information, go to the School District website (www.dcsdk12.org) and look for a link to more detailed information, or click on Business Services > Nutrition Services > Summer 2009 Newsletter. Please direct questions to Marj Dyce at marj.dyce@dcsdk12.org or call 303.387.0320.

July 11: DCHS Lincoln display at Governor's mansion

Douglas County High School has been designated as a Lincoln Legacy School for 2009 based on their ongoing celebrations in honor of Abraham Lincoln's Bicentennial.

On Saturday, July 11, the DCHS extensive Lincoln collection will be on display for the public at the Boettcher Mansion at the Governor's Residence from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m. as part of the Governor's First Saturday Family Day Colorado Celebration featuring the Bicentennial of Lincoln. The event is free to the public. The Governor's Mansion is located at 8th and Grant in Denver.

In addition to the opportunity to view the library collection, there will be Civil War re-enactors, as well as music and games of the time period. Attendees will also be able to tour the Governor's Mansion. The collection is on loan courtesy of Mrs. Peggy Cummings, DCHS Library Media Specialist.

Asbestos Management Plans available

All Douglas County School District schools are required to maintain an Asbestos Management Plan on-site for their school. This requirement includes schools that do not have asbestos containing material (ACM). In these cases, there is a signed letter from the schools' contractor stating that asbestos was not used in the construction of that site.

For schools that contain ACM, the management plan contains the original inspection, sample results, all subsequent re-inspections, periodic surveillances, and notifications. This management plan is available to all interested parties with an affiliation to the school. Requests to view the management plan can be made at the front office of the school. Notifications regarding the existence of these plans will occur on an annual basis.

For more information about DCSD's asbestos management program, visit the School District website at www.dcsdk12.org and search for "AHERA" or contact: Zachary L Nannestad, DCSD Environmental Health Manager/Risk Management at 303.387.0027.

Don't forget student insurance

While most students have health insurance, there may be extenuating circumstances where a student may not have the coverage they need. DCSD does require that all students who participate in outdoor education programs have health insurance.

Providing a safe learning environment is a top priority. Once again, the School District has joined forces with United Healthcare Student Resources to offer student health insurance for a small fee. There are several different insurance programs available for families.

You will soon receive your student health insurance enrollment form. You can contact your school for additional forms or check out the online enrollment form at www.k12StudentInsurance.com. For additional information, contact Brennan Mendus, Assistant Director of Risk Management at 303.387.0038.

Sheriff's Office Coffee Talk and Tour on July 22

Douglas County Sheriff David A. Weaver has scheduled his next Coffee Talk and Tour. This event gives the public an opportunity to meet with the Sheriff and ask questions about the operations of the Sheriff's Office. The presentation will conclude with an extremely informative tour of the detention facility.

The Coffee Talk and Tour will be held on Wednesday, July 22, 8:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. in the Jury Assembly room located within the Robert A Christensen Justice Center (4000 Justice Way, Castle Rock). Space is limited, so RSVP to Deputy Cocha Heyden by July 17 at 303.660.7586. Please leave name and number so Deputy Heyden can call back and relay information on safety procedures when entering the Justice Center.

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

Douglas County School District, Communications Office, 620 Wilcox Street, Castle Rock, Colorado 80104.
 phone 303.387.0033 • fax 303.387.0107 • email communications@dcsdk12.org • www.dcsdk12.org