



Douglas County  
School District

Learn today. Lead tomorrow.

# NEWSLINE

A weekly news source from Douglas County School District

[www.dcsdk12.org](http://www.dcsdk12.org)

July 16, 2009

## Board of Education Meeting Preview

The next Board of Education meeting will take place on Tuesday, July 21, beginning at 5 p.m. in the third floor Board Room of the School District Admin Building (620 Wilcox Street) in Castle Rock.

### Photo of the week ...



**eDCSD - Online Education** celebrated the end-of-their school year picnic at DCSD's Shea Stadium.

Families enjoyed kickball tournaments, played "Blob" tag, had a water balloon toss and more...it was a fabulous day!

Many of the families had never been to the stadium and all were grateful to have such a wonderful location to gather in.

## Superintendent columns appearing in local papers

Superintendent Jim Christensen's Bulletins continue to be monthly features in the *Colorado Community Newspapers (CCN)*.

His columns serve as an ongoing effort to educate and share information with community stakeholders regarding the "state of the school district." Topics include more detailed information regarding School District budget reductions, state and local issues that impact schools, as well as spotlighting some of the unique and innovative things DCSD is doing. Jim's latest Bulletin "Opportunity Awaits" will appear in the printed version of CCN this week.

Bulletins can always be found on the **Budget Reduction Info** page of the District website.

## County cities and towns among top 25 Best Places To Move

A recent article in Forbes Magazine ranks Parker (4), Castle Rock (5) and Highlands Ranch (20) among the country's top 25 Places to Move. As always, education is part of the picture! The growth in student enrollment in an area and the education levels attained by residents are all factors that lead to people moving into an area.

Historically, Douglas County School District has been among the fastest growing school districts in the country. Even though enrollment growth is slowing, DCSD is still expected to enroll 1,200 to 1,500 new students each year. Quality neighborhood schools, options and opportunities draw families to the County's communities.

The magazine selected "America's best places to move" from extensive criteria which included the number of residents who relocated because of jobs, population growth figures, people in executive and professional jobs, the price, size and age of homes, proximity of multinational companies, and the observations of local builders, government officials and residents.

Global employers named in these three communities included Lockheed Martin, Echo Star and Agilent. Adults with Bachelor's degrees or higher range from 43 percent to 61 percent, with 28 to 32 percent of the communities' populations having moved into the area from out of state within the past five years. More than 59 percent of their residents were born in a different state or part of the country.

Douglas County School District Schools are consistently ranked among the top schools in the Country by various national publications, most recently *Newsweek* as featured in last week's *Newsline*.



## Innovative job training for entire community

Through an innovative partnership with Arapahoe/Douglas Works and Arapahoe Community College, DCSD is providing classes and certification training for adults looking to add IT skills to their resume. IT classes are now enrolling the next group of students at the Expert Technician Academy located at Legend High School in Parker.

In less than a year, more than 70 adults have participated in various training programs earning 600 credit hours and numerous industry-recognized certifications. With the job market as tight as it is right now, people are finding it more important than ever to maintain their competitive edge. For individuals, attaining certifications means increased job security, additional career opportunities and increased credibility in the workplace.

Training opportunities are available for the following certifications:

- **A+ certification:** provides a globally recognized competency and skills standard for the entry-level PC technician by validating the skills and knowledge to diagnose, repair, configure, install, troubleshoot and upgrade personal computer hardware and operating systems.
- **Net+ certification:** provides a global standard for validating the network support technician's foundational competencies in the installation, configuration, and troubleshooting of essential networking hardware, protocols and services.
- **Security+ certification:** provides a global benchmark for best practices in information system security validating knowledge of general concepts, communication and infrastructure security, basics of cryptography and operational/organizational concerns while addressing the top security issues, technologies, techniques, and policies relevant to industry standards.
- **Oracle Certified Associate:** recognizes achievement in mastering introductory Oracle skills and proves ability to perform foundation level Oracle tasks.

The next round of classes begin in August and additional information is available at the District website at <http://schools.dcsdk12.org/eta>.

## Spotlight

- Cheryl Racz, preschool teacher at **Coyote Creek Elementary** thanks the entire CCE community for showing their support of the Ronald McDonald House. In the past 5 years CC preschool and CCE, along with **Eldorado, Roxborough** and **ThunderRidge/Northridge** preschools have collected over 140 gallons of 'pop'tabs. This equals 140 free nights of stay for those families who have children receiving care at Children's Hospital!



- Harry Watterman (far right), Assistant Commissioner of the Colorado High School Activities Association Foundation, presented DCSD with a check for \$5000 from the CHSAA Foundation to benefit the recent National Association of Student Council's Conference held at **Highlands Ranch High School**. Accepting, from L-R: **Dave Callan, DCSD Activities and Athletic Director**, and HRHS conference cochairs **Anne McGrath** and **Hayley McElhinney**.
- **Kristy Batchelor**, fourth grade teacher at Frontier Valley ES, has been selected to attend the national **2009 Mickelson ExxonMobil Teachers Academy** in Jersey City, NJ next week. The Academy is a summer camp just for teachers giving them an opportunity to improve their math and science teaching skills.
- **Chaparral High School** senior, **Maddie Lips**, was recently chosen for the US Rowing Junior High Performance Team. Currently, Maddie is in Germany training with the High Performance team, as well as the rest of the US team. She may be a future Olympian!

### 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*

## Introducing...the Y.E.S.S. (Youth Education and Safety in Schools) car!

The Douglas County Sheriff's Office (DCSO) recently unveiled its newest addition to the Sheriff's Office Patrol Division, the Y.E.S.S. program car. Utilizing drug asset seizure funds (at no tax expense to the citizens of Douglas County), the Office acquired a vehicle that has been graphically enhanced to display and promote the newly created Youth Education and Safety in Schools program that will kick off in August for the 2009-10 school year.

The Y.E.S.S. program, a collaborative effort between the Douglas County School District (DCSD), the DCSO and the Castle Rock and Parker Police departments, demonstrates the continued commitment to the youth of Douglas County and the importance of positive learning experiences in the lives of our youth.

Y.E.S.S. features many programs for youth including **Text A Tip**, a program in our High Schools that allows students to text safety and security concerns regarding their schools to the Sheriff's Office and the Douglas County Schools. Also, beginning in August of this year, the Y.E.S.S. program will focus on School District middle schools by offering innovative class presentations instructed by Officers and teachers covering topic areas such as internet/cyber safety, peer pressure, bullying, drug and alcohol resistance, and teen suicide prevention.

DCSO, DCSD, and the CRPD and PPD understand the importance of investing in the youth of the community. Equipping youth with additional knowledge and resources will only assist them in making positive life choices, resulting in a safer and stronger community. For additional information on the Youth Education and Safety in Schools program, please visit the DCSO website at [www.dcsheiff.net](http://www.dcsheiff.net).

**Reminder:** Douglas County Sheriff David A. Weaver's next **Coffee Talk and Tour** will be held Wednesday, July 22, from 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). 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 a tour of the detention facility. Please RSVP to Deputy Cocha Heyden by July 17 at 303.660.7586.



## News, Information and Resources

### Colorado Preschool Program applications being accepted

The DCSD Early Childhood Department is a participant in the Colorado Preschool Program (CPP). The CCP was established to help families who, due to financial or situational circumstances, may be unable to provide a preschool experience for their child. Developmental risk factors may also be considered. Eligibility will be based on level of need.

To apply for the program, go to the Early Childhood link on the DCSD home page ([www.dcsdk12.org](http://www.dcsdk12.org)) and click on "Preschool Information." Applications may also be requested by calling the preschool information line at 303.387.0801 or picked up in person at 8200 Park Meadows Dr., Lone Tree.

For more information, contact Nancy Burdic, DCSD Preschool Resource Teacher at [nancy.burdic@dcsdk12.org](mailto:nancy.burdic@dcsdk12.org) or 303.387.0806.

### 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](http://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](http://www.dcsdk12.org)) and look for a link to more detailed information, or click on Business Services > Nutrition Services > Summer 2009 Newsletter.

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

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