



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 30, 2009

## Board of Education Meeting Preview

The next Board of Education meeting will take place on Tuesday, August 4, beginning at 5 p.m. in the third floor Board Room of the School District Admin Building (620 Wilcox Street) in Castle Rock. The first Tuesday of the month is a Work Session for discussion of educational and business matters. Meeting agendas and minutes are available on the District website at [www.dcsdk12.org](http://www.dcsdk12.org) under the Board of Education link.

### Photo of the week ...



Legend High School in Parker was host to *Call to Leadership 2009*, an annual gathering of nearly 300 District leaders in preparation for a successful year ahead.

## Express Check-In

DCSD has been experiencing technical difficulties with Express Check-In. We apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused. We are working diligently to correct this situation and we appreciate your patience as we transition to this new online service.

Parents, if you are having difficulty accessing Express Check-In, please check the District website or your child's school for information on how to complete the registration process.

If your student is at a middle school or high school that is accepting online payments, you can access the Express Line online payment system from the front page of the District website at [www.dcsdk12.org](http://www.dcsdk12.org).

## Community University looks to serve wider audience

Douglas County School District is offering a new way to provide adult education courses that serve community interests and needs. Formerly known as The Parent University, Community University will expand its course offerings. In addition to the popular parenting courses that have been offered since 1997, there will be new courses in response to non-parent community requests.

**Courses start this fall and will include:**

### Interest-Based Skills

- You're on the Air: How to Really Make it in Voice-Overs!
- What is a Tweet? Understanding New Technologies
- Financial Planning: Investing for Retirement

### Online Learning

- Obesity: Balanced Diets and Treatment
- Understanding Autism Spectrum Disorders
- Sustainability: What Can I Do?

### Student Academic Support

- The Reading Process – How do Students Learn to Read?
- Another New Math? A Primer in Conceptual Math
- Preventing Antisocial or Violent Behavior

### Parent/Student Relationships

- Magic for Early Childhood: Practical Parenting
- Parenting Young Children: Teaching Children Responsibility
- Parenting Teens: Preparing Adolescents for Responsible Adulthood

In addition to the traditional face-to-face offerings, Community University is in the process of developing online courses that can be taken anytime or anywhere. "We hope our new online offerings will allow busy adults in the community the chance to acquire new information at their own pace," says Brian Hales, Director of Staff and Community Development.

Courses are being added regularly based on demand, so visit the online Community University Course Catalog periodically to see what's new. You can access the catalog online and register for classes by going to the District website ([www.dcsdk12.org](http://www.dcsdk12.org)) and choosing "Community University" from the left side panel.

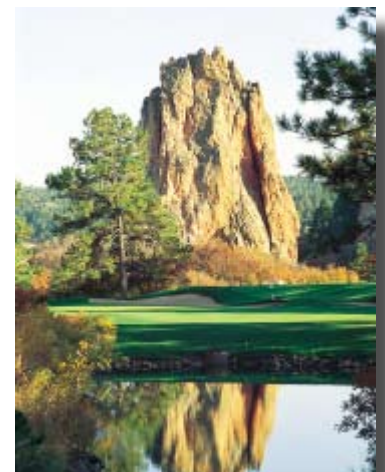


## DCEF Golf for Education V Tournament: great day, great success!

The Douglas County Educational Foundation (DCEF) hosted its annual golf tournament, Golf for Education V, on July 27. The fund raiser, held at the beautiful Perry Park Country Club in Larkspur, was presented by RBC Capital Markets, HSA Bank, ISC, and FirstBank. All of those in attendance, including 140 golfers and 40+ volunteers, enjoyed a picture perfect day while raising money for the Foundation.

The DCEF would like to extend a special thank you to all of our gracious sponsors for their support in continuing to make Golf for Education a great success! Approximately \$48,000 was raised at this year's event. Monies raised will go to support technology initiatives for teachers and students in Douglas County School District classrooms, and will help "Fill the Gap" caused by our current economic climate.

The DCEF develops private resources to enrich education within Douglas County schools for the fulfillment of lifelong learning experiences of our students, citizens and community.



Stunningly beautiful Hole #8 at Perry Park Country Club

## Spotlight

**Jennifer Jensen, Clear Sky Elementary** Computer Resource Teacher, DEP Mentor and STAR Discovery Educator, was one of more than 80 educators from across the country who recently participated in a Discovery Educator Network (DEN) National Institute to learn more about using technology in the classroom. Funding for the institute was through a grant from DEN. Ms. Jensen describes the experience:



*Jennifer Jensen with Discovery Education Director Lance Rougeux.*

“On July 13-17, I traveled to the Headlands Institute in Sausalito, Calif. to attend the DEN National Institute. The DEN Institute is an amazing professional development event for STAR Discovery Educators. Not only did we have the opportunity to participate in hands-on workshops, learning about new strategies and techniques for integrating digital content and educational technologies in our classrooms, but we also collaborated with fellow educators in order to share and create multimedia projects and lessons.

During this year’s institute I also presented some of the ways I integrate multimedia resources in presentation software, creating dynamic learning resources for both teachers and students. The Institute wasn’t all work. We did have the chance to take a trolley tour of San Francisco and managed to complete a few geocaches. Networking with peers and making new friends is another great aspect of this event. I came away with a number of great ideas, resources, and strategies that I look forward to sharing with my staff at Clear Sky Elementary and putting into practice in my computer lab.”

### 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

## ***Parent Portal Assistance***

Parents and families, if you are experiencing difficulties logging on to the District’s Parent Portal, please contact your children’s schools directly, or email the portal manager at the school directly: (your school acronym)portal@dcsdk12.org. So, for example: Castle Rock Elementary = CREportal@dcsdk12.org.

School acronyms can be found on the District website ([www.dcsdk12.org](http://www.dcsdk12.org)), under Parents/Students > Parent & Student Central > midway down the page under Communications > Commonly Used Acronyms.

## ***Reminder: Changes in Nutrition Services***

Families, please be aware of changes in Nutrition Services regarding the school lunch program that are now 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.

## ***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. Bus route maps for 4-track, conventional and modified calendars are available from the front page of the District website ([www.dcsdk12.org](http://www.dcsdk12.org)).

## ***Birth Certificates Necessary for Enrolling***

Certified birth certificates are needed to enroll children in school, sports and numerous after-school programs. They are also required when applying for a driver’s license, social security card or passport. A souvenir baby footprint birth certificate from a hospital is not acceptable as a legal document.

Certified birth certificates are available from Tri-County Health Department in person, by mail and over the internet. The cost is \$17 for the first certificate and \$10 for each additional copy. The administrative office, located at 7000 East Belleview Avenue, is open Monday-Friday from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Birth certificates can be ordered online at the Tri-County Health Department web site at [www.tchd.org](http://www.tchd.org). For more information, call 303.220.9200.

## ***Don’t Forget Student Insurance***

All schools will be back in session shortly, and with the new year comes the endless list of things to complete. When the list is long, items sometimes get overlooked.

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 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](http://www.k12StudentInsurance.com). For additional information, contact Brennan Mendus, Assistant Director of Risk Management at 303.387.0038.

## ***Save the Date: Youth Congress 2009***

The Partnership of Douglas County Governments will be holding **Youth Congress 2009** on Saturday, October 3 from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the Villa Parker, 10936 North Pine Drive, in Parker. Help change the world! Highlights of the day include meeting your elected officials, meeting the founder of PeaceJam, learning policy process, helping influence laws and meeting other involved youths. Participants will also receive volunteer credit hours and awesome take-aways. If you are between the ages of 13 and 19, you can be a youth delegate. RSVP to Carla Turner at 303.688.4825 x5327 or [cturner@douglas.co.us](mailto:cturner@douglas.co.us).

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

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