



Douglas County
School District

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NEWSLINE

A weekly news source from Douglas County School District

www.dcsdk12.org

August 27, 2009

Board of Education Meeting Preview

The next Board of Education meeting will take place on Tuesday, September 1, beginning 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 ...



Students wait in the sunshine for their day to start at Buffalo Ridge.

Board candidate forum this Monday

Four seats on the Douglas County School Board are up for election this November 3. Please join us for a chance to meet the candidates and hear their views on education in Douglas County. All registered voters may select one candidate in each district; therefore they will be able to vote for a total of four candidates.

District B: John Carson; Sue Catterall

District D: Kat Cammack; Kevin Leung; Kevin Williams; Daniel Gerken

District E: Douglas Benevento; Kristine Turner

District G: Emily Hansen; Meghann Silverthorn

Please be aware that more candidates may declare closer to the date of the forum; these individuals will be invited to the forum as soon as their information is posted.

When: Monday, Aug. 31, 7 - 8:30 p.m.

Where: Chaparral H.S. Auditorium

The Fall '09 election is mail-in only. Mail-in ballots will be sent to the homes of registered Douglas County voters in early October by the Douglas County Clerk and Records Office. For more information, feel free to contact Courtney Smith, Douglas County Federation, at 303.688.3381.

Change in District leadership

This week, the Douglas County School District Board of Education accepted the resignation of Jim Christensen, who has been Superintendent of Douglas County School District for six years.

In his resignation letter to staff, Dr. Christensen thanked them and their supporting community teams for their continued work in providing educational excellence. "The recently released academic indicators display the performance of our kids on CSAP, ACT, AP exams, early literacy and thinking. I beam with pride on what you continue to accomplish and your work has left me nothing short of emotional. You are leaders in academic performance in our state and leaders in purpose for our community."

Christensen will be joining an education organization that will focus on ensuring every child has a chance to learn and graduate from high school, even when facing or living in situations that point to the contrary. "I treasure the time I have spent in Douglas County School District and have had nothing but positive experiences here," said Superintendent Christensen. "But this is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to work very specifically in an area of education I am passionate about, and which I see as education's greatest challenge."

"Jim has led the District with vision during a time of tremendous growth and change. We wish him well on his next endeavor and are confident he will continue to be a force in public education," said Board President Kristine Turner. "While there is never a good time for a school district to lose a quality Superintendent, we feel confident the procedures we have in place will make this transition a smooth one."

The Board chose Steve Herzog, the District's Chief Operating Officer, to serve as interim Superintendent. Herzog offers 30 years in education with 15 of those in Douglas County schools. Turner added, "We are thrilled to have Steve work with us through this transition process and his strong experience in all facets of education within Douglas County schools will enable us to move forward quickly."

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-Superintendent Jim Christensen

Flu season returns this fall

As we approach traditional flu season, there is additional concern that there will be further outbreaks of the H1N1 flu, also known as "swine flu," that we first learned about this past spring. Therefore, it is important to review the symptoms of flu and tips for preventing its spread.

So far, incidence of H1N1 flu have been no more severe than normal seasonal flu, and the symptoms for both are similar:

- Fever greater than 100 F
- Sore throat
- Cough
- Stuffy Nose
- Possibly vomiting or diarrhea

It is projected that a vaccine for H1N1 will be available this fall. When more information about the vaccine and its distribution becomes available, we will share it on our website and through your schools. Right now, the best way to slow the spread of flu is to:

- Cover your nose and mouth when you cough or sneeze.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water; alcohol based hand cleaners are also effective.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth.
- Avoid contact with sick people.
- If you or your children get sick, the Center for Disease Control (CDC) recommends that you stay home for 24 hours after the last symptom ends.

Monitor your student for flu symptoms and have your student remain at home if any symptoms appear until a determination can be made as to the severity. Your student will be sent home if they come to school with any symptoms consistent with the flu. Sick students must be picked up from school promptly. Schools cannot keep sick children in the health room at school due to the exposure to other children and school staff.

For more information regarding H1N1 flu in Colorado, call the Colorado Help Line at 1.877.462.2911 or go to Tri-County Health at www.tchd.org or the Colorado Department of Health at www.cdph.state.co.us.

Spotlight

- A **Heritage Elementary** student placed first in the Macy's Spelling Bee in Denver. **Ben Antonsen** won the bee and a \$150 gift card for Scholastic, and as the winner, Ben will go to New York on September 26 to compete at the Herald Square Macy's for the grand prize of a \$5,000 scholarship for Kaplan tutoring.
- **Rocky Heights Middle School** art teacher **Jeff Schlundt** is being featured in a solo art show of his work at the Hartman Gallery in the library of Regis University. His show will be up for two more weeks.
- Another **Rocky Heights Middle School** teacher, **Susie Ritter**, was selected to receive the Colorado Middle Level Theatre Educator of the Year Award from the Alliance for Colorado Theater. She will be honored at a luncheon on Sept. 25.
- The following students achieved a perfect score of 36 on their ACT exams in:

READING:

Ryan Bull, CHS
Trenton Davin, RVHS
Derek Driggs, MVHS
Colin Ida, MVHS
Patrick Kark, MVHS
Egon Kazmer, MVHS
Emily Marso, CHS
Laura Reed, MVHS
Isabil Salinas, MVHS
Elise Sigley, MVHS
Whitney Wood, CHS

ENGLISH

Caitlin Johnson, MVHS
Rebecca Lichtin, MVHS
Katherine Poling, MVHS
Noelle Smits, MVHS

SCIENCE:

Bryan Bamhart, CHS

ADMINISTRATION

Jim Christensen, *Superintendent*
Bill Hodges, *Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources*
Annette Fante, *Assistant Superintendent of Learning Services*
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*

Eagle Scout final projects benefit District kids

The DCSD Occupational Therapy (OT) Department was recently the beneficiary of two Eagle Scout projects. Wesley Davis, 9th grader at Sierra Middle School, and Jordan Foley, senior at Castle View High School, used their final projects for Boy Scout Troop 88 to create items that can be used with students.

Wesley Davis made 100 wooden slant boards that can be used with special needs students to help with writing tasks and visual tracking. These boards are placed on top of the student's desk for the student to use during writing assignments. They typically cost about \$40 each to purchase, plus shipping so this project totals a \$4,000 plus donation to the OT Department. Wesley, a 9th grader, has been in the Discovery program at Sierra Middle School and will be enrolled in honors classes for 9th grade. In addition to Boy Scouts, Wesley is active in his church, is currently serving as Senior Patrol Leader of Troop 88, plays percussion in the band, and enjoys a variety of activities.

Jordan Foley's project was 47 slanted footstools, useful when tables and chairs are too tall or when a student just needs extra support under his or her feet. These footstools would cost around \$30 each to purchase, so this constitutes a \$1,500 donation to the department.

Two more scouts from Troop 88 in Parker are planning to complete their Eagle projects for the Occupational Therapy and Physical Therapy (PT) Departments. They are working on those proposals now. Two other Scouts from other Douglas County are troops are also working on projects, one for the PT Department and another for the OT Department.



Jordan Foley's footstools were delivered to the OT department in June.

News, Information and Resources

2nd Annual Colorado Rapids Community Night

This year's DCSD Colorado Rapids Community Night, sponsored by the Douglas County Educational Foundation, will be held on Saturday, September 5, 2009.

The Colorado Rapids will host Toronto FC at Dick's Sporting Goods Park, starting at 8 p.m. Beginning at 5 p.m., Douglas County High School will play Rock Canyon High School in a varsity boys soccer game.

Tickets are \$12 for seating in the South Stands, a \$20 value, and parking is included with the cost of each ticket. Additionally, \$2 of each ticket sold will be donated back to the DCEF directly benefiting Douglas County Schools!

To order tickets contact your local DCSD school or visit <http://schools.dcsdk12.org/dcef> and click on the Colorado Rapids Night ticket link.

Save the date – Grand Opening of new ECC South!

Come celebrate the new Early Childhood Center South on Wednesday, September 9. Speakers will include Superintendent Jim Christensen, Assistant Superintendent Annette Fante, Early Childhood Coordinators Kerry Goudy and Mary Byrd and a parent guest speaker. Renaissance Expeditionary Magnet School will provide a drum performance; preschoolers will entertain with singing; there will be a ribbon cutting, building tour and refreshments. Festivities begin at 11 a.m. at the new facility at 3950 Trail Boss Lane, Castle Rock.

Call for nominations for school directors

The Board of Education of Douglas County School District in the Counties of Douglas and Elbert calls for nomination of candidates for school directors to be placed on the ballot for the regular biennial school election to be held on Tuesday, November 3, 2009.

Nomination petitions may be obtained at the Douglas County School District Administration Office, 620 Wilcox Street, in Castle Rock. Office hours are Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Completed petitions should be submitted no later than 4 p.m. on August 28, 2009 to: Nona Eichelberger, Secretary, Board of Education; Douglas County School District Re. 1; 620 Wilcox Street; Castle Rock, CO 80104; 303-387-0258.

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