



Douglas County
School District

Learn today. Lead tomorrow.

NEWSLINE

A weekly news source from Douglas County School District

www.dcsdk12.org

September 17, 2009

Photo of the week ...



CHS athletes give back to community

The football players at Chaparral High School have participated in a number of volunteer projects this year. They did landscaping at Castle Country Assisted Living in Castle Rock for two exhausting days this summer. Last week they came to the Parker Library to disassemble the children's reading room to allow for renovations. These are not only talented players (2-0 so far!), but are hard working and care about their community.

School board approves Dr. Herzog

The DCSD Board of Education unanimously approved Dr. Steve Herzog as Interim Superintendent, effective immediately, to replace Dr. Jim Christensen who announced his resignation on August 24, 2009.

Herzog's career began as a teacher of special education students. Herzog acquired 12 years of experience as a principal in both Arizona and Colorado. In DCSD, Herzog served as a principal, a Director in Human Resources, and most recently as Chief Operating Officer.

"Steve has the skills, qualifications and vision to lead the District during this transition period," stated Board President Kristine Turner. "We are thrilled to have him guide the District at this time."

Herzog will serve in this role while a search is conducted to hire a Superintendent to lead Colorado's third largest school district, serving over 56,000 students.

Text-A-Tip sees immediate success

The Text-A-Tip program is seeing success, six months after it was adopted.

The program, a partnership between DCSD and the Douglas County Sheriff's Office (DCSO), is a text message tip hotline started in March and offered a new way for students to communicate safety concerns. In the program's first six months, more than 150 tips resulted in drug and theft arrests, as well as the arrest of an individual making threats about harming other students.

The program utilizes the same technology as Crime Stoppers but allows high school students in the Douglas County School District to send a text message in real time. Students can anonymously give information about a crime or express concern over a student who may be in trouble. Each DCSD high school has been assigned an identifying keyword, which the student enters at the beginning of the tip. The student sends the text to the special access number, and the message is received by a School District dispatcher, who can even text back in real time. The tips are monitored 24 hours a day, and the dispatcher can call in further resources such as law or fire personnel or school administration. If the tip involves a crime in progress, it will be sent to the appropriate police dispatch center for immediate response.

DCSO is the first law enforcement agency in the state to offer the Text-A-Tip program. "We are extremely pleased with the success of this program, it has surpassed all of our expectations and has become a valuable resource," says Dan Clemente, DCSD director of security. "We are also very proud of the students that have stepped up to be responsible citizens and used this program the way it was intended: to help make their school a safer and more productive learning environment."

The tip program is intended for non-emergencies; students should still use 911 when reporting a true emergency. The program is currently available to DCSD high schools only. Depending on further success of the program, it may be extended to middle schools in the future.

For more information about Text-A-Tip, contact the DCSO's Youth Education Program at 303.814.7033.



BOE Candidate Forum tonight

Tonight there is another Board of Education Candidate Forum, hosted by the Douglas County Charter School Parent Community and moderated by Theresa Marchetta, anchor for Channel 7 news.

This forum is a wonderful opportunity to meet the candidates prior to casting your votes. Join us and be prepared with questions you would like to ask the candidates.

Registered voters in Douglas County will receive a ballot in mid-October. The last day to register to vote is October 5. All ballots must be *received, not postmarked*, by November 3.

This is a county-wide election, we will be electing four directors from four geographical areas. You can choose one candidate in *each* area.

- District B: John Carson (incumbent)
Sue Catterall
- District D: Dan Gerken
Kevin Leung
- District E: Doug Benevento
Kristine Turner (incumbent)
- District G: Emily Hansen (incumbent)
Meghann Silverthorn

For more information, please contact Donnell Rosenberg 720.935.7741. The forum will be held:

When: Thursday, Sept. 17, 7 p.m.

Where: Platte River Academy gym
4085 Lark Sparrow
Highlands Ranch

BOARD BRIEFS

This section summarizes highlights of the September 15 Board of Education worksession not featured elsewhere in this publication.



Sara Rode, SLP and Sarah Reid, AT-Assistant

Jocelyn Mertens, Speech Pathologist and Assistive Technology-SWAAAAC (StateWide Assistive Technology Augmentative Alternative Communication) Coordinator is pleased to announce that two of her department employees have won awards from the Colorado Department of Education for outstanding service in assistive technology for students with disabilities.

Sarah Reid, Assistive Technology Assistant won as Rookie of the Year, and **Sara Rode**, as Speech Language Pathologist of the year.

With the Douglas County SWAAAC Team, **Sarah Reid** has been training classroom teachers and paraprofessionals, sharing her knowledge of assistive technology and providing real-life examples of the use of software and devices. Sarah has also helped with demonstrations of how to use the Picture Exchange Communication System, to help children to develop the intent and understanding of human interaction.

Sara Rode, SLP was also recognized for the wide range of skills mentioned above. In addition to working with speech devices and software, Sara works diligently with school teams and families to evaluate their students and make a working plan for the implementation for assistive technology. Sara is adept at making action plans and providing the training needed to all parties involved. She has often made the difference in how school teams and parents define their expectations of outcomes, thereby building bridges and setting the tone for the students' success.

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*

- The Board approved a modification to Executive Limitation 1.4, Compensation/Benefits/Employment.
- The Board adopted a New Executive Limitation, 1.9, Schools of Innovation.
- The Board approved a modification to Executive Limitation, 1.1, Treatment of Students, Parents, Public and Community.
- The Board postponed the motion to approve Monitoring Report, EL 1.7, Protection of Assets, to the next BOE meeting pending additional survey data be submitted by staff in support of 1.7.6, Endanger the District's public image, its credibility, or its ability to accomplish Ends.
- The Board approved Colorado Association of School Board 2009-2010 dues.
- The Board appointed Dr. Steve Herzog as Interim Superintendent.

News, Information and Resources

Save The Date: Rocky Mountain Storytelling Festival

Presented by Douglas County Libraries, the 2009 theme is *Folktales: Stories From Yesterday For Tomorrow* and featuring: Heather Forest, John Stansfield and Paul Taylor.

Friday, October 2 and Saturday, October 3 at Kirk Hall on Douglas County Fairgrounds in Castle Rock. For more information contact Priscilla Queen at pqueen@dclibraries.org.

DAC Regional Forums

At the September 1 Board of Education meeting, the Board confirmed the regional forums hosted by the DAC which will be held on September 22. The agenda will be posted on the DAC website: www.dcsdk12.org > Board of Education > District Advisory Committee. The 2009 DAC Regional Forums will be held:

When: Tuesday, September 22, 2009
 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Where: Castle Rock Region
 Castle View High School - Commons

Highlands Ranch Region
 ThunderRidge High School - Commons

Parker Region
 Ponderosa High School - Commons

Mesa Middle School to plant Pinwheels for Peace

On September 21, 2009, Mesa Middle School students of Castle Rock, CO plan to take part in an International art and literacy project, Pinwheels for Peace, by "planting" pinwheels with messages of peace in front of the school.

Pinwheels for Peace is an art installation project started in 2005 by two Art teachers, Ann Ayers and Ellen McMillan, of Coconut Creek, Florida, as a way for students to express their feelings about what's going on in the world and in their lives. Last year (year 4), over 2.3 million pinwheels were spinning in over 3,000 locations worldwide.

As part of the creation process, the students will write their thoughts about "war and peace/tolerance/living in harmony with others" on one side. On the other side, they will draw, paint, collage, etc. to visually express their feelings. The students will assemble these pinwheels and on International Day of Peace they will "plant" their pinwheels in the front of the school as a public statement and art exhibit/installation.

For more information, go to www.pinwheelsforpeace.com.

The Cherry Creek Arts Festival is coming to Rocky Heights Middle School!

Thanks to a grant funded in part by the citizens of the metro area through the Scientific & Cultural Facilities District (SCFD), a tax to support our schools and area culture, the Mobile Art Gallery owned by the Cherry Creek Arts Festival will be visiting Rocky Heights from September 15th to October 6th! The Mobile Art Gallery is a set of original works of art from the Arts Festival's exhibiting artists.

The gallery will be on display for the community on September 22 and 24 from 4:30 p.m. - 7 p.m. These times fall concurrently with the student led conferences and school book fair. Rocky Heights students are involved in the Mobile Art Gallery from its installation, to handling the art, to dismantling the exhibition. Student docents will also be trained to give tours of the Gallery to the student body and school community. Come check it out!

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

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