



Douglas County
School District

Learn today. Lead tomorrow.

NEWSLINE

A weekly news source from Douglas County School District

www.dcsdk12.org

September 24, 2009

Board of Education Meeting Preview

The next Board of Education meeting will take place on Tuesday, October 6, 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 ...



Hey there, it's Yogi Bear

Sedalia Elementary's kindergarten classes got a V.I.P. visit last week – from Yogi Bear! Yogi was visiting to talk to the kids about protecting and preserving the environment. The students played a game and talked about littering and how long it takes things we throw away to decompose. Yogi came from the Jellystone Campground in Larkspur. He's shown above with (L to R) **Addy Beeman, Tyler Haggard, Estefania Arias and Justin Bellum** and at right (L to R) with **Tyler Fisk, America Vega, David Dickson and Dakota Olund.**



Winter snow procedure reminder

As we move into another severe weather season, we wanted to inform you about Douglas County School District's procedures surrounding severe weather delays and school closures. The District website and telephone hotline will continue to be your best resource in the event of delay and closure: www.dcsdk12.org; or, 303.387.SNOW (7669).

The safety of each of our students is our top priority as we make these decisions. As a parent, you have the right to make individual decisions for your child. If you choose to keep your child out of school due to severe weather, his or her absence from school will be excused.

We will report schedule changes by High School Feeder Areas on local media outlets. Only exceptions to normal will be announced. If a High School Feeder Area is closed, buses will not operate either into or out of that area.

On a delayed schedule, elementary, middle and high schools start ONE HOUR later than the normal school start time. School buses will run ONE HOUR later than the normal route time. When activities are cancelled, ALL activities in the feeder area are cancelled including meetings, conferences, sporting events, practices/rehearsals, performances, etc. The decision on activities will happen by 1:30 in the afternoon. The District will use the following methods to notify parents about weather-related school schedule changes.

All information will be updated by 5 a.m. via:

- Local television and radio broadcasts
- District Weather Hotline
- 303.387.SNOW (7669)
- District website: www.dcsdk12.org

If your Feeder Area is not mentioned, please plan for your school to operate on a regular schedule. Again, only exceptions to normal will be announced. A listing of schools in each Feeder Area can be found on the District website at www.dcsdk12.org > Parent & Student Central > Snow Day Procedural Information.



Student Advisory Group meets to begin school year

On September 18, the Student Advisory Group (SAG) met to set the agenda for the group for the 2009-2010 school year.

The SAG began in 1998, and is comprised of juniors and seniors from each District high school. The SAG works directly with the Superintendent and the Board of Education (BOE) to provide them with a focus group of high school students, and it also affords the students an avenue to voice their feedback regarding their education – both what is exceptional, and what could be improved.

Beginning in 2009-2010, the group was made a committee of the Board of Education. This group has taken a leadership role in topics ranging from community service to sporting behavior. At the recent meeting, the group spoke to Interim Superintendent Steve Herzog, and learned about the history of the SAG, and the role and responsibilities of the BOE.

The SAG discussed several areas on which to focus for the coming year:

1. Graduation requirements including PE Credit as well as excessive absences;
2. Healthy schools - both student health as well as environmental "wellness";
3. Middle and High School schedule including zero hour and classes at other high schools.

The next meeting of the SAG will take place on October 12.

Spotlight

One hundred thirteen students at **Rock Canyon High School** have earned AP Scholar Awards in recognition of their exceptional achievement on AP Exams.

Four students qualified for the National AP Scholar Award by earning an average grade of 4 or higher on a five-point scale on all AP Exams taken, and grades of 4 or higher on eight or more of these exams: **Alexandra Harrison, Sarah Linke, Jaden Schupp and Hannah Wellman.**

Twenty-seven students qualified for the AP Scholar with Distinction Award by earning an average grade of at least 3.5 on all AP Exams taken, and grades of 3 or higher on five or more of these exams: **Guillermo Arribas, Jami Becker, Kelsie Boyle, Amanda Davanzo, Kathryn Donegan, Alexandra Harrison, Kyle Kennedy, Sara Kleinkopf, Maria Lawson, Madison Lian, Sarah Linke, Jennifer Mayo, Anne McCarthy, Nicole McManis, Kevin Mitchell, Matthew Napolitano, Elliot Padgett, Nicole Rafferty, Alex Rowe, Bradley Salus, Jaden Schupp, Logan Thompson, Suzan Wagstaff, Christopher Welden, Hannah Wellman, Ashley Williams and Diana Yang.**

Seventeen students qualified for the AP Scholar with Honor Award by earning an average grade of at least 3.25 on all AP Exams taken, and grades of 3 or higher on four or more of these exams: **Elizabeth Baker, Christopher Battin, Miles Blair, Kelli Bohren, Trenton Davin, Nicklas Decherd, Kyle McDaniel, Lauren McDaniel, Alexander Nuss, Adam Postma, Corrin Powell, Daniel Ramirez, Jessica Salus, Brooke Skinner, Curtis Stuck, Samantha White and Sean Yu.**

A further 65 students qualified for the AP Scholar Award by completing three or more AP Exams with grades of 3 or higher.

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*

DCSD's web-based library software making a difference

There hasn't been a raucous party to mark the first anniversary of DCSD's new web-based library software, but when you consider its impact on our school libraries, there really is cause for celebration. "Changing to a web-based program has made a huge difference in how we can serve our patrons," says Angie Parten the District's Library Automation Support Specialist. "For example, kids, parents, and teachers can now search all of our school libraries from any location or device that has internet access."

Parten, who works at the District Library Media Center, was part of a team led by District Library Coordinator JoAnn Patterson. The team was charged with selecting and rolling out a web-based library system.

The new system's minimal level of required maintenance, long term affordability and nearly non-existent down time has endeared it to District staff, but the real winners are the kids. "Now students at our school can create and monitor their own library account, share book ratings and reviews, request books from other schools, and even make wish lists of materials they would like us to purchase," reports Buffalo Ridge Elementary's Carolyn Major.

Adds Patterson, "The best thing about this project is that we are really just starting to take advantage of these new opportunities. I am anxious to see how our services will evolve now that we have this system in place." To see the new DCSD library system visit <http://library.dcsdk12.org>.



News, Information and Resources

DCEF Open House

The Douglas County Educational Foundation is holding an open house on September 30, from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. at their offices at 300 West Plaza Blvd, suite 102, in Highlands Ranch. Please R.S.V.P. by September 28 to 303.387.0505. There will be light refreshments and a door prize.

Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training (ASIST)

ASIST is a FREE 2-day workshop designed to teach the skills to competently and confidently intervene with a youth at risk of suicide. Developed by LivingWorks Education, Inc., the workshop prepares Youth Gatekeepers to integrate principles of intervention into everyday practice.

By the end of the workshop, participants will be better able to:

- Reduce attitude barriers which hinder the ability to be direct and comfortable with suicidal situations
- Dispel myths about youth suicide
- Identify the indicators to assess suicidal risk
- Intervene with youth at risk of suicide
- Engage in efforts to build collaborative resource networks for suicidal youth.

Workshop Dates: Oct. 19-20, 2009; Nov. 9-10, 2009; March 22-23, 2010; June 7-8, 2010

Workshop Details: Individuals select one, two-day workshop offered for DCSD personnel and community members. DCSD registrants will receive one hour of relicensure credit or horizontal advancement credit if the workshop is not taken during contract time.

Workshops will be held from 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at: New Hope Presbyterian Church, 2100 W. Meadows Parkway, Castle Rock, CO 80109

Sponsored by the Kiwanis of Castle Pines and Douglas County School District. To register, community members contact Jill at scootsnoop@aol.com.

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. 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.

Save the date: Substance Abuse Resource Fair Oct. 9

The Douglas County Substance Abuse Coalition in conjunction with Douglas County School District, will host a Substance Abuse Resource Fair on Friday, October 9 from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. at Rock Canyon High School. This open house style event is open to all professionals and community members interested in obtaining more information about substance abuse resources in the Douglas County region.

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