

NEWSLETTER

DEER PARK SCHOOLS

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APRIL 2005

Superintendent Mick Miller thanks Deer Park community for voting on bond

Ouch!

On March 8, the Deer Park School District had before the voters a bond issue, which would have provided local funds to expand and remodel Deer Park High School. As of March 17, 2005, the "yes" vote was 59.2%, or just .8% less than the 60% necessary for passage.

So close!

While we are disappointed that the measure did not pass, we are thrilled that we had 2341 votes cast in the election. That is almost 500 more votes than we have ever had cast in a school district election in our history. On behalf of the board of directors, our students and our staff, I thank you for taking the time to vote. Nothing is better for our children than for them to see adults participating in our democracy by voting. Yes, we would have loved to have had 19 votes switch from no to yes, but we were still thrilled to have had so many people voting. Again, thank you.

The board of directors will decide at their regular meeting on March 28 whether or not to place the issue before the voters again in May.

Outside of the bond issue, there have been many wonderful things occurring in our district this past month. We have continued to experience growth. For the seventh straight month our enrollment has hit a new record high. The Clayton project is almost complete. An open house was held in early March and the building is receiving rave reviews. A formal dedication will come later this spring.

In addition, our sixth grade Math is Cool team, under the direction of Mrs. Lisa Smith, finished second at the regional competition and will be headed to the state competition in Seattle. Congratulations to team members Jared Attridge, Garrett Bekemeyer, Kelsie Carlson, Taylor Cornwell, Thomas Cyphers, Kourtney Douchow, Trevor Duncan, Ryan Feser, Colton Hanson, Kim Johnson, Brianna McCollough, Kalsey Moorman,

Karl Nevala, Mitch Rummer, Marie Scott and Max Taylor. Also, congratulations to advisor Dennis Matson and the DPHS DECA students who competed at the state tournament. Two Stags, Greg Gibson and Laura Bray qualified for nationals. Laura and Greg are the first DPHS students to ever qualify. Well done!



Children play at the Clayton School during a recent Open House.

As March turns into April, it means that our Washington Assessment of Student Learning (WASL) testing is just around the corner. I thank parents in advance for supporting your children during the testing period. It is stressful for students, and for staff, but our children are better prepared today than they have ever been and they should not worry about the

tests. All we ask is that students give their best effort. To help with this we ask parents to be sure their sons and daughters get good rest during the testing period!

Thank you again for your support of our district and for our children. It is truly an honor to work with the children in our community, with our staff and with all of you. If you have a question, comment, concern or criticism, please do not hesitate to call me at 464-5507 or send me an email at millerm@dpsd.org.

Have a wonderful spring.

Superintendent

Scoliosis screenings will be conducted at middle and high schools on April 12 and 28

Nurse Tammy Glidewell will conduct scoliosis screenings later this month at the middle and high schools. On Tuesday, April 12, seventh graders will be

pulled from P.E. All ninth grade students will be called out of social studies classes on Thursday, April 28. Consent forms will be sent home with students.

Elementary teachers working diligently to improve reading instruction, student progress

Deer Park Elementary staff has been working hard to improve reading instruction and student progress. The reading goal that was set for Deer Park Elementary as part of their School Improvement Plan states 85% of students will be reading at grade level as determined by the Developmental Reading Assessment (DRA) by the end of second grade in the year 2007.

Offering quality reading instruction has been a goal at Deer Park Elementary School for many years. Experts in the field have been invited to DPES to train staff members. Phyllis Ferguson, Margaret Mooney, Linda Lee and Mary Haymond have done extensive training work with the staff. In addition to in-house training, most of the elementary teachers have attended reading conferences and workshops. Since 1999, staff members have been reading professional books related to reading instruction and attending book studies. All staff members understand that they are teachers of reading.

Spurred by the school improvement goal, the work to increase student learning has intensified this year. The book study book, *What Really Matters for Struggling Readers* by Richard Allington, helped staff focus efforts for improving student progress. Innovations that have been tried include comprehension groups, extra phonics instruction, fluency groups, motivation work and teacher tutoring (when teachers had student teachers). Creation of a team of second grade teachers,

specialists, and Principal Miller has provided innovations to improve student learning. Principals, secretaries, interns, parents and bus drivers have been enlisted to help students with their reading. Students are being assessed more frequently using the DRA assessment in order to monitor their progress. Some creative scheduling has been done in order to find the time to do extra assessments. Time spent actually reading in the classroom has been increased as well.

The book study helped to make staff more aware of the need for students to own their own books at home. It is difficult for students to become readers when they don't have reading materials. In addition to the three books students receive from Reading is Fundamental, PTO pitched in, with help from teachers, to provide another book at the end of the February reading marathon. The PTO has also provided money to hire authors to visit the school to inspire students.

Parents are an extremely important part of student achievement so homework has been revised to include more discussion and language development with a focus on reading. If every child turned off television, computers, and video games to read at least 20 minutes a night, student achievement would increase. Staff at Deer Park Elementary School know they are only part of the team working for a child's success – the parents are an equally important part of the team. Together we can meet our reading goals.

Senior Jonathan Lipke is training for search and rescue

"I became involved with the Search and Rescue team through scouting," said senior Jonathan Lipke. "I want to stay involved with it for a while although I don't think I'll do it as a career."

Lipke has definitely made a commitment to this endeavor, however, as he attends meetings every Tuesday as well as monthly weekend trainings at different locations throughout the Spokane area. He has two more months of training which usually takes six to nine months to complete.

With the search and rescue certification, Lipke will be on call twenty four hours a day. He said that a person usually averages about 12 searches a year.

Senior project advisor Addy Frost said that Lipke's search and rescue certification is an example of how a student can further career interests with senior projects that are required of all DPHS seniors.



Asthma management seminar is offered in Spokane on April 12

On Tuesday, April 12, an asthma seminar will be held at Stevens Elementary School from 6:00-7:30 p.m. at 1717 E. Sinto in Spokane. "A Breath of Fresh Air" will feature a talk with Dr. Michael Kraemer from Spokane Allergy and Asthma Clinic. The topic is asthma management at home and school.

Pizza and child care will be provided. Those interested in attending should RSVP at 345-4200 by April 11.

Spanish or French Summer Camp available in June

Spanish and French (if number of students is sufficient) will be offered again from June 13-24 for one hour each day. The emphasis will be on understanding spoken Spanish/French more so than speaking. Please contact Barbara Swenson at 464-5930 or swensob@dpsd.org.

DEER PARK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Spokane Astronomical Society treats second graders to view Saturn and stars

A thin layer of clouds blanketed the evening sky on March 11, but that didn't stop some 70 star gazers from visiting the south lawn at Deer Park Elementary School. Students in Lisa Coe's and Denise Smith's second grade classes were eager to bring their family members to view some of the planets they had been studying in their solar system unit. Spokane Astronomical Society members Steve Krause, Richard Bodnar and Jerry Eber brought their meteor telescopes for the viewing.

The children were excited about seeing Saturn and agreed that it did look like the pictures. "I think it was great because the students got to see what the planets really look like," said teacher Lisa Coe. The children were also able to see the International Space Station fly over.

The children had studied the planets, moon, sun and asteroids. Their classes did a project where they looked for information, found what was accurate and wrote out the information to be included on posters. They also did math graphing on their favorite planets as well as space art projects.

Look for another star gazing party later this month.



Many curious second graders attended a star gazing party at Deer Park Elementary School on March 11.

Superintendent Mick Miller to visit during Parent Involvement Center Coffee Hour

Superintendent Mick Miller will be the special guest at the Coffee Hour in the Parent Involvement Center on Wednesday, April 13 from 9:00-10:00 a.m.

A Love and Logic parenting class will begin Tuesday, April 12. Please call 464-5643 for more information.

PTO catalog fundraiser planned April 13-18

A catalog fundraiser sponsored by PTO will be held April 13-18. Two catalogs will offer candy, knick knacks and jewelry. Please help support our PTO.

The next meeting will be held Tuesday, April 12.

Kindergarten registration will be May 5

On Thursday, May 5, from 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m., Deer Park Elementary School will register children for kindergarten for the 2005-06 school year. Children must be five years old on or before August 31, 2005 in order to enroll in kindergarten. Parents will need to have the following in order to register their child: proof of immunization, birth certificate or signed copy of the birth announcement from the hospital. Without these documents, your child will not be registered at this time. Children also need to attend the registration and will be given a short assessment.

Pacific Science Center exhibit visits DPES

The Pacific Science Center and the PTO presented a "Rock and Roll" exhibit March 23-24. Students experienced what it was like to be in an earthquake and learned what causes a volcano to form. Other activities included viewing a large dinosaur footprint and assembling a fossil layer puzzle.

Students run at recess for Fast Run

Lately, many students can be found running laps during recess. They're gearing up for the Fast Run scheduled later this month. Students are responsible to run their practice laps during recess to qualify for race day. They set goals and reach them at their own pace.

The race will be held at the track. Kindergartners will run one lap, first grade two laps and second grade three laps. Students will receive a certificate, ribbon and ice cream for their accomplishments. The ultimate reward will be the pride and realization that they are making healthy choices.

Muffins for Moms breakfast is May 6

Muffins for Moms will be back again this year on Friday, May 6, from 7:30-8:30 a.m. The annual PTO sponsored activity offers parents an opportunity to eat breakfast with their child.

ARCADIA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Afterschool WASL tutorial at "Awesome" Arcadia is 'good for the children'

By Principal Bonnie Bantis

In Webster's Classic Dictionary the word 'assessment' means appraisal or evaluation. Each year the fourth, seventh, and tenth grade students take the Washington Assessment of Student Learning or WASL in the spring. The fifth and eighth graders take the science WASL at the same time.

This assessment for fourth, seventh and tenth grades has become one of the most respected assessments across our nation. It assesses reading, writing, and math, and how the Washington children are learning to think to a higher standard, to become accountable and articulate, and to better prepare themselves for their future lives.

As our world changes so quickly, our children must also learn to face the challenges of a technology-driven world. The WASL is one snapshot of our students and we want our children to do the best they can on any assessment.

The 'Awesome' Arcadia staff, under the direction of Barbara Palanio, has had WASL tutorial sessions twice a week for ten weeks, an hour at a time for the past three years. These WASL tutorial classes better prepare the children for this assessment. The children meet in

small groups (6 or 7 children) with a teacher each Wednesday and Thursday afternoon. They first receive a snack, then they go right into classes doing problem solving, comparing their work to the rubric, writing sample questions, and test taking strategies.

The teachers all have the same agenda each week and they cover the same material for their groups. After the WASL tutorial session is over, the teachers get together for an hour to disseminate information and to discuss questions that students or parents raised.

These tutorial sessions not only assist the students in having a better foundation and outlook toward assessments, but it helps the teachers and parents better understand where the students are and where

they may need more assistance. We are very proud of our fourth graders taking the WASL Tutorial classes and we also want to thank the parents and grandparents who come each week and pick up their child. It is one of the best things we do for our children and they will be better students for taking this extra time to learn. Thank you to the teachers who take the groups each week and teach them. Our community is working well together to create better children.



Several Arcadia teachers assist with the WASL tutorial classes after school twice each week.

Arcadia Roadrunners eagerly train for Bloomsday on Tuesday and Friday afternoons

By Principal Bonnie Bantis

Sixty-four Roadrunners are either walking or running around the soccer field on Tuesday and Friday afternoons. The Roadrunner program is the 'preliminary get in shape time' for children and adults in preparation for Bloomsday. Mr. Travis Peterson is the official Roadrunner coach, and he has students sign in at the clipboards, slip into the appropriate shoes (no open-toed shoes, flip-flops or sandals here), and begin stretching for 20 to 30 minutes of running.

Children and adults circle the field as many times as they can making certain to pace themselves and work toward their goal. Some begin by walking and moving to a jog and on to a run while others choose the opposite approach.

Following the practice, participants chart their laps on the clipboards. Mr. Peterson then records their run on the graphs in the Arcadia hallway. He also introduces and discusses ways to continue and sustain healthy lifestyles. Mr. Peterson speaks to the children

of health and exercise, eating properly (keeping the junk food to a minimum), and getting enough sleep. Many of the children do not have a designated bedtime and may stay up as long as they like, but Mr. Peterson tells them about their need for sleep to help in their health and growth.

The 'Awesome' Arcadia Roadrunners are getting in shape. Thank you Mr. Peterson and all of the other staff and parents who are helping! You are all setting good examples for our children!

DEER PARK MIDDLE SCHOOL

Sixth graders excel at math competition

Sixteen students from Lisa Smith's sixth grade advanced math class competed in the annual Math is Cool competition on March 4 at Mount Spokane High School. Deer Park had four teams and participated in Division II, which includes schools with less than 200 sixth graders. There were 28 teams from 10 different school districts, five of which were private schools.

The participants were Jared Attridge, Garrett Bekemeyer, Kelsie Carlson, Taylor Cornwell, Thomas Cyphers, Kourtney Douchow, Trevor Duncan, Ryan Feser, Colton Hanson, Kim Johnson, Brianna McCollough, Kalsey Moorman, Karl Nevala, Mitch Rummer, Marie Scott, and Max Taylor.

In the individual competition Brianna McCollough was the highest scorer for Deer Park and also placed 10th overall. For the team competition, a school score is given. The highest team score from each event is used and then all the scores are added together. Deer Park placed second overall and qualified to send one team to the state level competition at the Math is Cool Masters on May 14 in Seattle.

For the competition students must answer a wide range of mathematical questions including probability, algebra, geometry, and problem solving. The contest included an individual test, two team tests, relays, mental math, and college knowledge bowl which is similar to the game show Jeopardy.

Congratulations to all who participated and good luck in May.



The sixth grade Math is Cool team performed well at the annual competition.

WASL Testing begins soon

All seventh grade students will take the Washington Assessment of Students Learning (WASL) during April 18-29. Students will be tested in the areas of math, reading and writing. The WASL tests are designed to measure student achievement toward a set of high state standards called Essential Learnings. Students in each school district are tested annually to see how they perform against those standards.

Also during April 18-29, all eighth grade students will take the WASL for science.

These tests are important and parents can help their child prepare for the WASL testing by making sure students obtain adequate rest. Eating healthy foods and having nutritious meals provided for them is also important. Students should do their best on this WASL test. The WASL testing results will be available in September.

High Five club members commit to be drug free and a positive role model

Well over half of the students at DPMS are High Five members. To join High Five, students must fill out a pledge card. On the pledge card, each student commits to three things: to be drug free, to assist friends in being drug free, and to be a positive role model for younger children.

Deer Park Middle School provides special activities for students who are High Five members. Some of these activities include a Saturday Activity Day at the school where students play basketball and other games, watch a movie and eat pizza. Also the very popular end-of-the-year trip to Silverwood Theme Park is always a huge hit with the students.

At Deer Park Middle School, High Five students strive to be drug free!

Encouraging Reading: Picking good books may raise your child's interest

Parents often expect middle schoolers to find something to read on their own. But many kids simply don't do this. They don't read. Or they read material parents don't think is good quality.

It is better to take a more active role to help your child find interesting reading material.

Middle schoolers particularly like books written for adolescents and young adults. Ideal books will have characteristics like these:

- Characters that are well-developed and a year or two older than your child.
- A topic that reflects your child's particular interests.
- An author who doesn't preach. Middle schoolers don't want to be talked down to.
- A quick start. The beginning of

Continued on page 7

DEER PARK HIGH SCHOOL

From Principal Trip Goodall Sophomores to take WASL test April 18-28

All sophomore students will be taking the Washington Assessment of Student Learning (WASL) from April 18-28. It is an opportunity for students to demonstrate mastery in core subject areas, and an opportunity for teachers to see whether areas of our curriculum need to be strengthened.

The test provides important information about each student's performance and each school's success. We want to make sure each student has mastered the essential knowledge and skills he or she will need to succeed after high school. Your encouragement goes a long way toward motivating your student to do their very best.

Students gain real-life experience

The graphic design students at Deer Park High School have been working on a project for the Stevens County Fire District which involves designing a promotional brochure to be mailed out to recruit volunteers. To initiate the project, Stevens County Fire District Chief Keith Reilly came and acted as the client by informing the students about the requirements and duties of a volunteer as well as explaining which areas in the district are in most need

of volunteers. Each student used the information to design and develop a unique brochure utilizing Microsoft Publisher and programs such as Macromedia Fireworks and Adobe Photoshop to enhance their designs.

Upon completion, the brochures were mailed to the client to review. After analysis by fire district personnel, two designs were chosen. Students were given feedback on how to improve their designs for future projects and learned about meeting a client's needs. The chosen designs were created by Courtney Buffington and Travis Hunter. Reilly applauded all of the students for their quality work and said, "The students made it tough for the volunteers and employees to choose because they were all so well done."



Travis Hunter and Courtney Buffington

DECA students performed well at state competition; several will attend national event

Several Deer Park High School DECA students who attended the state competition early last month earned medals and an opportunity to attend the national



Marc Anderson, Courtney Buffington, Greg Gibson, Laura Bray and Brett Crownover

competition in Anaheim, CA, in late April. "I am proud to announce our students represented Deer Park with the standard of excellence that is becoming part of the culture here in this building," said advisor Dennis Matson. "The level of expectations these students placed upon

themselves is refreshing to see and speaks volumes for the changing attitude among our students in their ability to compete in the marketplace."

Marc Anderson — highest test score in the state, Food Marketing Management

Laura Bray — fifth in state, Business Services Management

Courtney Buffington — Third highest test score in the state, Apparel and Accessories Associate

Brett Crownover — third in state, Employment Acquisition

Greg Gibson — perfect score, Role Play; seventh in state, Retail Merchandising Associate

The following students also placed at the state competition: Marc Anderson, 16th; Andrew Rowley/Brandon White, 18th; Justin Chapman, 22nd; Brianna Matson, 25th; and Kelly Phillips, 29th.

Congratulations and good luck national competitors!

FFA Pancake Feed April 17

Deer Park FFA and Clayton Grange Pancake Feed will be held on Saturday, April 17 at the Clayton Grange from 8:00-11:00 a.m. The all-you-can-eat breakfast is \$3.

Music ensembles to compete at Columbia Basin College

The DPHS Music Department is planning for the yearly trip to Pasco this month. The ensembles will compete against same sized schools from around the Northwest. The fol-

lowing performances will be held at Columbia Basin College in Pasco: Concert Band, April 15; Jazz Band, April 16; All Girls' "Treble" Choir, April 22; and Jazz Choir, April 23.

DEER PARK SCHOOLS

April 2005 Events

All Schools

April 1 Early Release
April 4-8 Spring Break

Deer Park Elementary

April 1 Beach Day
April 12 PTO, Evening Meeting
April 12 Reading is Fundamental Night
April 21 ECEAP Parent Night

Arcadia Elementary School

April 1 Pajama Day
April 18 PTCA Meeting
April 18-May 6 WASL Testing
April 21 Site Council Meeting, 3:15-4:15 p.m.
April 22 Principal Pride Meeting
April 27 Dillman/Thierl Turnbull Wildlife Refuge Field Trip
April 28 Beal/Binsfield Turnbull Wildlife Refuge Field Trip
April 29 Peterson/Kowal Wildlife Refuge Field Trip
April 29 Pickles & Popcorn

Deer Park Middle School

April 1 End of Third Quarter
April 11 Fourth Quarter Begins
April 12 Camp Reed Open House, 4:30 p.m.
April 13 Site Council Meeting, 3:00-5:00 p.m.
April 14 ASB General Elections for 2005-06
April 15 Third Quarter Report Cards Go Home With Students
April 18 Academic Recognition Awards Assemblies
April 18-29 WASL Testing

Deer Park High School

April 15 District V FFA Contest at Spokane Valley High School
April 15-16 Concert and Jazz Band at Columbia Basin College
April 19-28 WASL Testing
April 22-23 Treble and Jazz Choirs at Columbia Basin College
April 28 Scoliosis Screenings for Ninth Graders
Visit stags.dpsd.org to view Stags spring sports and select activities.

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Realistic stories about children their age is appealing
a book can't be boring.

- Realistic relationships. Characters "live" the issues of adolescence.
- A story told from the point of view of an adolescent.
- Simple, easy-to-read writing. There are few unfamiliar words or complex sentences.
- Short chapters.

CONTACTS

District Administration

Mick Miller, Superintendent
Wayne Leonard, Business Manager
464-5500 • 428 N. Main Street



Deer Park Elementary School

Principal Michele Miller
464-5600 • E. 1500 D Street



Arcadia Elementary School

Principal Bonnie Bantis
464-5700 • E. 1120 D Street



Deer Park Middle School

Principal Brent Seedall
464-5800 • 347 S. Colville



Deer Park High School

Principal Trip Goodall
464-5900 • 800 S. Weber Road



Alternative High School

Principal Trip Goodall
276-5466 • E. 1412 D Street



Special Services

Bob Griffin, Director
464-5521 • 428 N. Main Street



Home-Link

Carol VanWormer, Director
464-5531 • 428 N. Main Street



Transportation

Shirley Hobbs, Director
276-2872



Food Services

Peggy Rieper, Director
464-5536



Maintenance

Steve Howard, Facilities Mgr.
464-5541



Newsletter

Debbie Trepanier, Editor
509/292-2117

From Nurse Tammy Glidewell Plan for bee stings, summer camps; assistance for children's heart problems

Alert for bee stings

Spring is early this year and sure enough, the bees are already out! Can you believe it!? Just a reminder to all parents whose children have serious reactions to bee stings or other insects, if you have not already been called, **please call the school** to determine whether we have the necessary medications, as well as a current signed *Medication Request Form and an Emergency Care Plan* for your child in case of an emergency.

The epinephrine kits expire one year after they are prescribed, so please look at the expiration before sending it to school. Physician and parent requests for medication also expire at the end of each school year. **By law, we cannot administer any medication that is expired,**

nor can we administer any medication without current signed consent from both the parent and the physician.

Assistance for heart problems

The Children's Heart Foundation is the philanthropy of the Royal Arch Masons of Washington, whose sole purpose is to provide financial assistance to those children who are in need of an operation or have had an operation for heart problems.

The assistance is available to any child, 17 years of age or younger, who is a resident of the State of Washington, regardless of race, creed or color.

The Royal Arch Masons Children's Heart Foundation, Inc. will, with certain reservations, pro-

vide funds for all or part of these operations, as authorized by the Trustees of the Foundation.

If you know of a child in need, or who has had such an operation and needs financial assistance for travel, medical bills, or medical supplies, please contact Nurse Tammy at 879-8054 for more information.

Summer camps

As summer nears, it is time to be thinking about summer camps. Information has arrived for summer programs and camps for Children with Special Needs in Washington State. The yearly asthma and diabetes summer camps data will be forthcoming.

For more information, please call 1-866-987-2500, option 4, or visit <http://www.cshcn.org>



The Deer Park School District #414 publishes this newsletter during the school year to inform citizens about school programs and activities.

Superintendent

Mick Miller

School Board

Larry Barden

Sueann Davis

Heidi Dougherty

David Franklin

Joanne Greer

DEER PARK SCHOOLS

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