

# NEWSLETTER

## DEER PARK SCHOOLS

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MARCH 2005

### Mike Salapka honored as Teacher of the Month by EWU and KHQ TV

Deer Park Middle School teacher Mike Salapka was honored as EWU/Q6 Teacher of the Month during a special DPMS assembly Feb. 10. Rusanne Hill, a senior at Shadle Park High School, nominated Salapka because of the impressions he made upon her several years ago. Her letter follows.

I believe that my fourth grade teacher, Mr. Salapka, was the best thing that ever happened to me as far as my education is concerned. He had a very original way of making learning truly pleasurable. He made me believe that I could become anything I dreamed of. He instilled a sense that learning and knowledge could take me anywhere I ever wanted to go. I learned critical thinking skills that I continue to carry on with me. Mr. Salapka really taught me the meaning of learning and its value. It is because of him that I have always enjoyed school and wish to continue my education as far as possible."

Middle school Principal Brent Seedall appreciates Salapka as well. "He is a wonderful teacher. He is a hard worker, dedicated, cares about the students and works extremely well with other staff members. He uses lots of humor in his classroom and his students enjoy and have fun as he teaches. Mike also supports his students by attending non-school activities in the evenings."

Congratulations Mr. Salapka!



Teacher Mike Salapka is congratulated by KHQ newscasters Dan Kleckner and Stephanie Vigil as the Q6/EWU Teacher of the Month.

### Superintendent enjoys the privilege of being part of Deer Park community

Having spent the vast majority of my life in Spokane County, I can only remember a few winters like this past one. It has almost been "balmy" over the past six weeks. "Punxsutawney Phil" may have said six more weeks of winter on Groundhog's Day, but in Deer Park, he would have been wrong. The longer days, warmer weather and sunshine have been wonderful.

Things have been very good in our schools as well. We continue to see increasing enrollment. On Feb. 1, our most recent student count date, we had the highest enrollment in the history of our school district. Each month we have hit a new high this year and we are so thankful to have new students and families joining our community. Growth for our district is occurring in our Home-Link program as well as in our traditional school programs.

With growth however come some challenges. Class sizes have crept up this year and we will need to look closely at this for next year which may include increasing the size of our teaching staff. Facility capacity is another issue.

To help address capacity issues, the Board of Direc-

tors accepted a recommendation from a Citizen's Facilities Committee and placed a bond issue before the voters to expand and modernize Deer Park High School. The bond issue, which totals \$11.9 million, would pay for 17,750 new square feet to DPMS, including a music area, science room and preparation space, and vocational education room. In addition, the entire 81,000 square foot building would be remodeled and modernized. State matching funds would pay for \$9.7 million of the project, along with \$.9 million from the District's capital project fund. Election Day is March 8 and I hope you exercise your right to vote.

While it has been a very good year for the Deer Park School District, we have had our share of hardship as well. However, on Saturday, Feb. 12, I was struck by the true privilege of working in a smaller school district. I witnessed the amazing love and support of our community as they wrapped their arms around the Morgan family and the memory of Levi, their son and an amazing sophomore at Deer Park High School, who lost his life in a car accident. Although I have worked

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## Principal Bonnie Bantis of Arcadia nominated for award

Arcadia Principal Bonnie Bantis has been nominated for Washington's Elementary "Principal of the Year" and National Distinguished Principal.

Bantis has been an active member of Northeast Elementary School Principal's Association for many years and has served in the capacity of president and vice-president. Her leadership, dedication to children and commitment to education are but a few of the reasons the association believes she is worthy of this special award. She speaks proudly of the association she has with her school, district, superintendent, school board and community.

## DPHS helps Crisis Nursery

"I love kids, and this is just a really good cause," said high school senior Dorothy Meyer. As part of her senior project, she distributed a letter on Jan. 28 to all students and staff at DPHS asking for donations to the Vanessa Behan Crisis Nursery. For two weeks she collected many miscellaneous items, from diapers to macaroni and cheese to toiletries.

Meyer has spent countless hours during the summer and into the school year volunteering at the Crisis Center. She plans to be a social worker or psychologist.



## Senior citizen dance planned

Deer Park High School Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD) are planning a special senior citizen dance on Friday, March 4 from 6:00-9:00 p.m. in the high school multipurpose room. Fifteen regular SADD members decided to pursue the dance idea after talking with DPHS Principal Trip Goodall who gave them the idea.

"We just want to open up the high school to the community," said SADD advisor Kim Lefler. "This is just another way to be active in a positive way."

Senior citizens are invited to bring their friends and come ready to dance and visit and have some great fun.

## Deer Park Elementary School and food staff help to provide Meals on Wheels for area

With the help of Food Services at the Deer Park School District, Meals on Wheels of Spokane is now serving hot meals to eligible senior citizens in the Deer Park community.

Since Jan. 24, the kitchen staff at Deer Park Elementary School has been preparing meals for senior citizens. "We're altering our kid's menu a bit for our seniors," said head cook Ardith Evans who prepares the meals along with Jackie Race. "Right now we have one route, and we have some great volunteers. They don't mind taking a few minutes to visit with the people," said Evans.

To qualify for Meals on Wheels, citizens must be over

the age of 60, home-bound and have difficulties with preparing nutritious meals. Disabled persons under the age of 60 may qualify with a physician's note.

After contacting Superintendent Mick Miller and receiving approval to use school facilities, Cheri Mataya Muncton of Mid-City Concerns wrote and received the grants for the Deer Park area. The hot meals are a new service not replacing or taking away from Meals on Wheels currently operating in Deer Park with frozen meals or those hot meals available at the Senior Center.

Interested senior citizens or volunteers may call Mid-City Concerns at 456-6597.

## Middle school is awarded for new promotion policy

During a special assembly on Feb. 10, the Deer Park Middle School staff was honored for their excellent work in developing and implementing a new promotion policy. The school board was present while Superintendent Mick Miller presented Principal Brent Seedall with the award.

The policy and its implementation have been very successful and students at DPMS are achieving at greater levels than ever before. Congratulations middle school staff and keep up the good work!



Superintendent Mick Miller presented DPMS Principal Brent Seedall with a special award.

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## Deer Park community is appreciated

in bigger districts and schools, I have never seen such an outpouring of love and support as I did that evening. I am so proud to be part of a community that knows how to take care of each other through both good times and bad.

Thank you for your continuing support of our school district. If you have any questions, comments or concerns regarding our schools, please do not hesitate to contact me either via email at [millerm@dpsd.org](mailto:millerm@dpsd.org) or phone 464-5507.

Please remember to vote on March 8!

*Mick Miller*

# DEER PARK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

## Reading is Fundamental Night is March 8

Deer Park Elementary School will host their first Reading is Fundamental (RIF) night for this school year on Tuesday, March 8. This special event will be held at the school from 5:30-6:30 p.m.

Students and their families will be treated to fun poetry selections from a poetry style called Cinquain. Parents and children will have the chance to write a group poem using the formula for Cinquains and then will be given a worksheet to write a poem as a family. Poetry interpretation is an area that many students have difficulty on during the WASL. Poet Kenn Nesbitt will visit the school at the end of February.

After the poetry, all students who attend Deer Park Elementary School will have the opportunity to choose a book to keep. The books are purchased for DPES by a RIF grant through Page Ahead in Seattle. The purpose of the grants is to provide age-appropriate reading materials in children's homes. All children deserve to have a book they truly love. The books are paperbacks from Scholastic.

Children who attend the activity nights get first choice of books, but all students will have the opportunity to receive their book even if they are not able to attend the activity night. Two more RIF nights will be held during the year.



Carter Countryman and Noah McMichael and the Dr. Seuss Read O Meter.

## Students read volumes for Read A Thon

The February "Cultivate A Love For Reading" Read A Thon sponsored by the PTO was a great success. A special celebration of Dr. Seuss's birthday is planned for March 1. As part of the celebration, the PTO is buying a scholastic book for every student with donated points from teachers. Both the PTO and Principal Miller are buying *There's a Wocket in My Pocket* for each classroom.

## Teachers attend reading conference

Seven elementary school teachers attended The Debbie Miller Conference in Richland on Feb. 4. Miller is the author of *Reading With Meaning*.

## Pacific Science Center Exhibit to visit

The Pacific Science Center's Rock and Roll Exhibit will visit DPES March 23-25. Various math and science topics will be explored.

## Parent teacher conferences scheduled March 28-31

Deer Park Elementary School and Arcadia students are completing the second trimester of the school year this month. Parent teacher conferences are scheduled for Mar. 28-31.

Parents are encouraged to plan questions prior to the conferences, since there is a limited amount of time to talk with each teacher. Report cards will be given to parents at the conferences.

Conference days are early release days and school will dismiss at 12:10 p.m. for first and second graders. Kindergartners will attend school as usual through conference week.



Parent volunteers Debra McMichael, Amy Countryman and Gina Keller visit during the Feb. 9 Coffee Hour.

## Parent Involvement Center welcomes parents

On Wednesday, March 2, a special morning of scrapbooking is planned in the Parent Involvement Center from 9:30-11:00 a.m. Supplies will be available although parents with supplies to share are encouraged to bring them. Scrapbookers will be working on page 1 and are reminded to bring photographs.

Another monthly Coffee Hour is planned for March 16 from 9:00-10:00 a.m. in the Parent Involvement Center. Share a cup of coffee or tea with parent volunteer Amy Countryman and learn about the center, lending library and the many resources available to parents. The center's goal is to make sure children are successful at school.

## ARCADIA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

### Math Helping Corps teacher helps make geometry great fun for third graders

By Principal Bonnie Bantis

Mrs. Mary Jo Ormsby and Mrs. Diana Hanlin held the large piece of string that was tied together and created a large shape, as Mrs. Ormsby asked the third graders, "How many quadrilaterals can you make from this string? Let's name some of them as Mrs. Hanlin and I create them," she said as they moved the string into the shape of a trapezoid. "How many of you can name this shape?" Mrs. Hanlin's third graders enthusiastically raised their hands.

After naming the shape, they were to create (with the help of a partner), a parallelogram, a quadrilateral, a triangle with a right angle, and two shapes with parallel sides. Mrs. Ormsby not only models the strategies for the children, but she models the lesson and use of the vocabulary for the staff. She asks the students specific questions and will only accept the most specific of explanations. She expects the students



Mary Jo Ormsby and Diana Hanlin make quadrilaterals for students.

to explain how they got an answer and what strategies they used to come up with that answer.

"Thinking and giving students strategies to use are the most important things we can teach children to do in math," states Mrs. Ormsby, Arcadia's Math Helping Corps guest teacher. She keeps the children and staff actively involved in the math lessons, and her modeling of specific questioning techniques has assisted the staff in every curricular area. She knows how to get the children to solve the problem and use correct vocabulary to clearly explain the answer.

"Mrs. Ormsby has become such an asset to our staff, and we have learned a great deal from her questioning and teaching style," said Mrs. Hanlin. She has modeled for the third graders how to use their geometric vocabulary to clarify their specific answer in solving basic geometry problems.

### EWU graduate students help 'Awesome' Arcadia with Curriculum Based Measures

By Principal Bonnie Bantis

Eight Eastern Washington University graduate students, under the direction of Gretchen Jefferson, Ph.D., NCSP, have come in to Arcadia for the second year to assist the students, staff and parents in doing Curriculum Based Measures for the children. These 'quick' assessments are given to all children in the fall, winter and spring of the school year, and data is collected of children's improvement in reading, math, spelling and writing. The data is then shared with students and parents at Parent Teacher Conferences in the fall and spring.

Arcadia psychologist Greg Swartz coordinates the program with EWU and the Deer Park School District. He also helps in the processing of the data and assists the students in interpreting the data with the Arcadia staff. The EWU students who have helped Mr. Swartz are Erin Clark, Sarah Reiber, Alison Rose, James Soehnlein, Janie Peterson (enters all the raw data into the computer program), Kristin Hermann (coordinates the Deer Park Middle School CBM's), Cody Gardiner (a practicum student working with Greg Swartz), and Brian Martin who is also coordinating the Arcadia CBM's.

The quick two- and three-minute assessments are created to measure the students' improvements in the four

curriculum areas and to help the teacher see the improvements being made in the classroom. In comparing the data taken in the fall and then again in the winter, if there is not a significant change in the students' scores, then the teacher can reevaluate their instructional strategies and see if they can change instruction for the children.

When the students and Mr. Swartz brought the data to the staff, the improvements were very positive and significant. These CBM's are a great measure of what children are learning and how instructional strategies help the teachers in their delivery to the students.

We, at 'Awesome' Arcadia, want to thank Mr. Greg Swartz, Mr. Brian Martin, and Mr. Cody Gardiner. They have been excellent in their help with these assessments. Also to Dr. Jefferson and the EWU students, we extend much thanks.



Cody Gardiner and Greg Swartz assess a student.

# DEER PARK MIDDLE SCHOOL

## Students recognized for academic success

Deer Park Middle School students were recently honored at the Academic Recognition Awards Assembly. Students with a grade point average of 3.0 to 4.0 received a certificate, coupons and candy. Over 250 students were recognized during this event. Following the assembly, honored students also received a donut for their efforts and hard work.

Academic recognition awards assemblies are held each quarter to honor students who do well in class, do their homework, turn in their assignments and work hard on their school work.

## ITBS Test is scheduled for March 7-11

All DPMS sixth graders will take the Iowa Tests of Basic Skills (ITBS) March 7-11 at the middle school. Students will be tested in language arts, mathematics, reading, science, and social studies.

Parents can help their child prepare for testing by making sure students get plenty of sleep and eat nutritious meals. Parents should also encourage their child to put forth their best effort possible. Test results should be returned to the school before the end of the school year.

## Become familiar with writing formats

In middle school, your child will be asked to write both fiction and nonfiction. And he/she has to be able to use several different formats for each kind of writing.

Here are some kinds of writing your child should start to practice:

- **Creative Writing.** This can be a story, a poem or a play — anything your child chooses to make up. Creative writing is fun because your child can use imagination.
- **Explanation.** This is also called expository writing. It is used when the writer wants to share information with the reader. It can be how to put something together or how to solve a problem. Clear writing is the key. The reader of an explanation should come away informed, not confused.
- **Personal essay.** This is a written monologue. In a personal essay, your child can tell about something he/she believes or has experienced. Clear, organized language is still important.
- **Persuasive essay.** This is a written way to try to convince the reader that the writer's opinion is the correct one. It should include examples that support the writer's opinion. It may also include examples to show why opposite opinions are wrong.



## Mike Salapka honored with teacher award

With family members looking on, teacher Mike Salapka spoke to DPMS students and staff after receiving the special honor of EWU/Q6 Teacher of the Month on Feb. 10.

## DPMS Parent Teacher Conferences March 3

DPMS will offer arena conferences for parents of sixth, seventh and eighth graders from 4:00-7:00 p.m. on Thursday, March 3. No appointments are required for the conferences and all teachers will be available to meet with parents.

Teachers invite all parents to take advantage of these conferences. They are a wonderful opportunity for parents to check and monitor the progress of their child and also to get involved with DPMS.

If parents cannot attend and have questions or concerns about their child's progress, they are encouraged to call DPMS at 464-5800 and set up an appointment to meet with their child's teacher.

## WASL Test to take place in April and May

All seventh grade students will take the Washington Assessment of Student Learning (WASL) during April 18-May 6. 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-May 6, 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 get adequate rest. Eating healthy foods and having nutritious meals provided for them is also important. Students should do their best on this WASL test.

# D E E R P A R K H I G H S C H O O L



The entertaining and hilarious "Fools" was presented by the Drama Club on Feb. 15-17 and was well-received by the public.

## Site Council meetings

The Site Council meets on the third Wednesday each month at the high school at 3:30 p.m. For more information, please contact Principal Trip Goodall at 464-5907.

## Spring sports

March 7 is the beginning of the spring athletic season. Deer Park High School will be offering two teams of baseball, softball, boys' soccer, and golf as well as teams in boy' and girls' tennis and track.

Over 175 athletes will compete in over 155 events in the months of March through May. DPHS is proud to have this number of offerings for students.

## Future Farmers of America students place second at agriculture contest

During a District 5 Feb. 2 Agricultural Sales and Service Contest in Reardan, the FFA team placed second out of 11 teams. Jeanne Doubia, Shanelle Hillbery, Scott Huffman, Brian Koppe and Carlee Lyons will compete at the state convention in May at Washington State University in Pullman.

On March 23, Deer Park High School is hosting a subdistrict leadership contest at 3:00 p.m. Deer Park, Riverside, Colville, Newport, Springdale, Kettle Falls and Chewelah will compete in various public speaking and leadership contests.

## Traffic Safety Education

Sign-up for Spring Traffic Safety Education class continues through Thursday, March 3 at the high school main office. Classes begin March 7 and end May 13. There will be no classes during Spring Break. Class fee is \$300.00.

## Running Start meeting

A meeting will be held March 8 at 7:00 p.m. in the high school cafeteria for those students and their parents who are interested in Running Start for next year. A representative from Community Colleges of Spokane and students who are now attending the Running Start program will be in attendance.

## From Principal Trip Goodall Spring activities abound

Spring is around every corner though I am certain we will still have a last blast of snow! With this new season comes new sporting events, concerts, plays, activities and the last steps towards graduation for our seniors.

We invite you once again to visit the high school to watch a sporting event, to meet with a staff member, or to volunteer your time to tutor a student. Your support over the years has been greatly appreciated by the staff and students here at DPHS. If you would like to volunteer your time or visit the high school, please contact us at 464-5900. We look forward to seeing you in the future.

## Conferences are March 31

Parents are invited and encouraged to attend Parent Conferences on March 31 from 5:00-8:00 p.m. Teachers will be in their classrooms to meet with parents to discuss their child's academic progress and answer questions. Parents will receive their student's third quarter report cards.



Good luck to DECA members at State in Seattle March 2-5.

## March 2005 Events

### All Schools

- March 18 No School — Curriculum Day  
*Deer Park Elementary*
- March 1 DPES Class Pictures
- March 1 Dr. Suess Celebration
- March 2 Scrapbooking in the Parent Involvement Center,  
9:30-11:00 a.m.
- March 2 I Care Assembly, 2:15 p.m.
- March 8 PTO Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- March 8 Reading is Fundamental Night, 5:30-6:30 p.m.
- March 16 Coffee Hour in the Parent Involvement Center,  
9:00-10:00 a.m.
- March 17 ECEAP Parent Night
- March 24-25 Pacific Science Center, 9:00 a.m.-2:30 p.m.
- March 28-31 Parent Conferences, Early Release 12:05 p.m.  
*Arcadia Elementary School*
- Feb. 22-March 3 Spring Fundraiser
- March 2, 3, 9, 10, 16, 17, 23, 24 WASL Tutorial, 3:00-4:05 p.m.
- March 10 World of Differences Program, 1:45 and 7:00 p.m.
- March 17 Wearing 'o' the Green
- March 21 PTCA, 7:00 p.m.
- March 21 Group Pictures
- March 23 Principal's Pride Assembly, 10:15 a.m.
- March 24 All Day Write
- March 25 Pacific Science Center Program (tentative)
- March 25 Pickles & Popcorn
- March 28-31 Parent Teacher Conferences
- March 28-April 1 Early Release  
*Deer Park Middle School*
- March 2 Mid-term For Third Quarter  
Progress Reports Go Home With Students
- March 3 Parent Teacher Conferences, 4:00-7:00 p.m.
- March 7-11 Sixth Grade ITBS Test
- March 9 Site Council Work Session, 11:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m.
- March 11 ASB Variety Show, 1:45 p.m.
- March 25 Sixth Grade World's Fair
- April 1 End of Third Quarter  
*Deer Park High School*
- March 2-5 DECA at State Competition in Seattle
- March 3 Progress Reports Handed Out to Students
- March 4 Senior Prom (Senior Citizens)
- March 7 Spring Sports Practices Start Today
- March 8 Running Start Information Meeting
- March 23 FFA Hosts Sub-District Leadership Contest
- March 24 Ronald McDonald's Care Mobile at DPHS  
Medical and Dental Services available to children  
birth to 21. Call 324-7291 for dental appointment.
- March 31 Parent Conferences at High School, 5:00-8:00 p.m.



## 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

### What are strep throat and the commonly asked questions about strep throat?

Cases of strep throat have been reported in every district building this school year. The American Academy of Family Physicians provided the following information.

**Strep throat**, or streptococcus, is an infection caused by bacteria. Adults with strep throat may have a sore throat, a fever and swollen neck glands. They usually don't have a cough or a runny nose. Children with strep throat have a sore throat and may have tummy pain or a red rash with small spots. The rash is worse under the arms and in skin creases.

**How is strep throat treated?** An antibiotic may be prescribed to kill bacteria, which helps strep throat go away a little faster. It can also prevent a few rare but serious conditions that people with strep throat might get. It is important to

take all of the medicine.

**Should all sore throats be treated with antibiotics?** No. Not every sore throat is strep throat. Bacteria only cause about 5% to 10% of sore throats.

**What tests check strep throat?** With a rapid strep test, the doctor uses a long cotton swab to take some material from the back of the throat. The results of this test can be ready in about 15 minutes. A throat culture is performed when a sample of the throat material is sent to a laboratory and takes about 24 hours to learn the results.

**Can other people catch strep throat?** Yes. The infection can be spread to other people until those with strep throat have been treated with an antibiotic for 1 to 3 days. Children with strep throat should not go back to school or day care

until their fever has gone away and they have taken an antibiotic for at least 24 hours.

**What helps make sore throats feel better?** • Taking ibuprofen (brand names: Advil, Motrin, Nuprin) or acetaminophen (brand name: Tylenol). Children should not take aspirin. Aspirin can cause Reyes syndrome, a serious illness and in some cases death when it is used in children under 18 who have the flu. Always contact your physician before administering over-the-counter medications to your children. • Gargling with warm salt water (1/4 teaspoon of salt in 1 cup [8 ounces] of warm water). • For adults and older children, sucking on throat lozenges, hard candy or pieces of ice. • Eating soft foods, drinking cool drinks or warm liquids or sucking on Popsicles.



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

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**www.dpsd.org**  
**509/464-5500**

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