

School district welcomes Jeff Whittle as new school board director

Happy New Year!
 I hope that you and your family had a wonderful holiday season and may 2010 be a wonderful year!

In the Deer Park School District we are about halfway through our school year and look forward to the upcoming months. It is hard to believe that the class of 2010, the first of the decade, is but six months from graduating! That time will go by incredibly quickly.

At our December board meeting the District welcomed Jeff Whittle as a new school director. Also, Joanne Greer and Lisa Jordan were sworn into new four year terms. Eric Keller was reelected as Board President and Carri Breckner as Board Vice-President.

Also at the December meeting, the Board voted to name the baseball field at Deer Park High School after longtime Board member David Franklin. Dave served on the board for almost ten years and was a tremendous contributor to the baseball program in Deer Park. Sadly, Dave passed away last summer while still a member of the Board. The naming of the field is a very fitting tribute to his memory.

Just prior to the winter break, the choirs from Deer Park High

School and Deer Park Middle School, under the direction of Dan Huffman, performed at the Shriners' Hospital, Northtown

Mall and in River Park Square. It was a great

experience for our students and for those who watched them! Also, our high school DECA program put on a "Night at the North Pole" for 25 Deer Park families on Dec. 12. Many thanks to all who were a part of that wonderful event.

As you are aware, the State of Washington has significant issues balancing the budget for the 2010-2011 fiscal year, the second year of the 2009-11 biennium. Governor Gregoire's initial budget proposed incredibly difficult cuts to K-12 education throughout our state. Those cuts would impact the Deer Park School District greatly. Please continue to watch the leg-

islature and be in contact with your legislator. We will keep you up to date with information on our website and through this newsletter.

We were thrilled with the response given to our survey regarding student led conferences. Survey results are posted on our website. The District will use the phone survey again as we can get a great deal of information from our parents in a short period of time. Also, the School Messenger system will be used in case of the need to delay the start of school, or close school, for incimate weather.

Thank you so much for the continued opportunity to serve as your superintendent. I would very much like to discuss any questions, comment, criticism or compliment you might have regarding our District. My phone number is 464-5507 and email is millerm@dpsd.org.

Again, have a wonderful 2010.

Message from Superintendent Mick Miller



What's Inside

Construction Update Page 2
 Night at the North Pole Page 2
 Arcadia Honor Choir Students Page 2
 Deer Park Elementary School Page 3
 Arcadia Elementary School Page 4
 Deer Park Middle School Page 5
 Deer Park High School Page 6,7
 Calendar, Contact Information Page 8

Several large sections of Deer Park High School are completed and open!

By Superintendent Mick Miller

The worst is over ... at least we hope it is!

When students and staff returned to Deer Park High School from winter break, they were greeted with the opening of a number of new classrooms and hallways. The new library is completed and open, along with the counseling center, three business education classrooms, three special education classrooms, a science classroom and new hallways which keep students inside for most of the day ... and a much shorter trip to the portables. Also, two new sets of restrooms have been completed.

Earlier in November, the new weight and fitness rooms opened, along with new PE and athletic locker rooms.

The new space is wonderful and will help both students and staff in their daily work. Also, both students and staff have been tremendously flexible and patient during this difficult phase of construction. We cannot



The student commons, music wing and theater

thank them enough.

Construction is on schedule! The student commons, music wing and theater are mostly up and enclosed. The old "200 wing" is next scheduled for demolition and remodel. Completion is still slated for August, 2010.

Night at the North Pole

Deer Park High School's DECA hosted the second annual Night at the North Pole on Dec. 12. The event was coordinated by senior DECA member Rashai Henry who began organizing the event in mid October. Twenty five families from the elementary schools were selected to participate in the celebration. Children were provided with crafts, activities, snacks and appetizers. The highlight of the evening was a visit from Mr. and Mrs. Santa Claus and two elves bearing gifts for each of the children.



The event is truly a community-wide effort, as Rashai received assistance and donations from school, community and local business sources. Deer Park Middle School for the second successive

year hosted a Junior High Dance and donated all proceeds toward the North Pole event, while each of the school staffs gathered gifts and decorations to help make this a successful and memorable occasion for all involved.

'Awesome' Arcadia students chosen to participate in county Honor Choir

Each year, the Eastern Washington Music Educators Association creates a choir from over 200 elementary school students throughout Spokane County. These students are then asked to attend a full-day workshop to practice six songs that the students previously received and practiced on their own. The all day practice session with the 200 students is an awesome undertaking. However at the end of the day, the concert in the evening is tremendous.

This year the Honor Choir was held at University High School in the valley. Congratulations to our fifth grade students



Austin Hayes and Jordan Zeik were 'Awesome' Arcadia ambassadors of Deer Park.

wonderful event. Austin Hayes and Jordan Zeik were the 'Awesome' Arcadia ambassadors along with two student from Deer Park Middle School.

Deer Park was represented with amazing and excellent voices. Congratulations for a job well done.

DEER PARK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Hands-on science curriculum energizes and motivates students to learn

Two years ago, classroom teachers at Deer Park Elementary, Arcadia, and Deer Park Middle School (grades K-6) began implementing a physical science kit into their curriculum. The kits are based on an inquiry model, where students explore, think, and investigate through



Cody Krous illustrates his wax worms.

hands-on activities and experiments. At every grade level, the process of scientific inquiry is e m p h a -

sized. In addition to learning scientific facts, students are encouraged

to think and theorize based on their own observations.

Last year earth science was the focus, and this year life cycle is the target. Teachers and students spend approximately six weeks on each kit or theme and recently finished the first segment. Kindergartners learned about fish, first graders delved into plants, and second graders dove into insects.

"This was the best science unit I've ever done," shared second grade teacher Beth Phillips. "The students really got into experiencing the insects and caring for them." Each student watched their own mealworms grow at their desk and logged their activities; scientific



Molly Fenton, Aydría Wilson and Natalie Hook draw and discuss their project.

journals, science experiments, and literature were all a part of the students' learning.

First graders in Denise Smith's class learned about a variety of different plants and how they can start from seeds, cuttings, bulbs and grafting. They planted brassica seeds and journaled the process.

Winter Music Program

Under the direction of Matt Kohlhauff, the DPES Winter Music Program was presented to parents and community members Dec 11. Kindergartners sang "My Red Sled" and "Red and Green." First graders shared "If I Could Fly Like a Snowflake," "Christmas Wishes" and "Silly Holiday Song." Second grade classes presented "Frosty the Snowman," "Shalom Chaverim" and "We Wish You A Merry Christmas." Brigham Collins and Tyler Sewell performed piano solos, and everybody sang "Lights of the Season."

Second grade quilts raffled off at winter music program

Elementary art teacher Angeliki Hibbard was delighted when five handmade quilts were completed. Students in each of the second grade classrooms created their own piece of art using iron-on crayons and a square of fabric. Mrs. Hibbard beautifully stitched the adorable squares into five gorgeous quilts.

The quilts were raffled by the PTO at the December winter music program. A special thanks to parents for donating some of the fabric.



Beaming smiles reflect the second graders' pride in their quilt project that was displayed in the main foyer.

Read A Thon will begin Jan. 26 and run through Feb. 19

The annual Read A Thon begins later this month on Jan. 26 and runs through Feb. 19. The school goal is to collectively read 90,000 minutes during the four-week project which is sponsored by the Parent Teacher Organization (PTO).

The primary goal of the Read A Thon is to encourage all elemen-

tary school children to read (or be read to) for 15 minutes with a parent at home every day. During the school day, children are also encouraged to read in their classrooms.

A bulletin board in the main foyer will record the progress of the children's reading.

Family Movie Night

Many Deer Park Elementary School children and their families look forward to Family Movie Night on Jan. 22. Along with the special feature, licorice, popcorn and water will be provided. Family Movie Night is a PTO event designed to bring school and families closer together.

ARCADIA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

'Awesome' Arcadia fifth grade Winter Band Concert is music to your ears!

By Principal Bonnie Bantis

We are all given gifts. However some of us open them at different times. Well, if this is true, then many of our fifth graders at 'Awesome' Arcadia are opening one of their gifts (talents) to the music world.

Under the direction of Mrs. Jill Bray (who has the patience of Job), the fifth graders gave their debut concert on Dec. 10 in the Arcadia gym. These stu-



Several fifth grade band students take a moment to pose during band class.

dents worked diligently in practicing their instruments to play in the concert for their parents. These wonderful fifth grade parents have rented instruments, borrowed instruments and even purchased instruments for their children to use.

What a large and wonderful band it is, and the students are proud of their accomplishments.

Third, fourth and fifth graders enjoy bowling experience for a second year

By Principal Bonnie Bantis

Last year Mr. Schuerman, Mrs. Quaschnick and Mrs. Geri Lundgren put their heads together and began our 'Awesome' Arcadia Bowling Days for third, fourth and fifth graders. Again this year, students have been practicing eye-hand coordination, throwing, pitching,

and many other exercises to make their game better, but the proof is in the bowling.

During December each third, fourth and fifth grade class visited the Deer Park Bowling Lanes to see how well they could aim, throw and earn a strike. It was a



After honing their skills at school, Arcadia's fourth graders got into the groove at Deer Park Bowling Lanes on Dec. 4.

fun and great experience.

Thank you Lundgren's and staff for your work in putting this excellent time together for Arcadia students, and thanks also to our transportation department. What an excellent experience for our children.

Arcadia's Polar Express delivers reading, reading, and more reading!

By Principal Bonnie Bantis

During the month of December, 'Awesome' Arcadia readers worked to see if they could get the Polar Express to wind around the building and to the North Pole. The train had cars filled with three hours of reading from each child. The cars also had graffiti on them with names of students and signatures from adults clarifying that the reading took place at home.

For each three-hour reading session (cumulative), each child filled out a card to be added to the train.

The children jumped "A-I-I-I-I A-Aboard-d-d!" and readied books, cleared eyes, cleaned glasses, and found a great place to read, and they stretched the train all throughout our wonderful school. Yet another reward the children received for creating this long, long train full of hours and hours of great reading included watching the movie *The Polar Express* and enjoying hot chocolate with a peppermint stick on the last day of school prior to winter break. It was a grand time and Arcadia's reading is better than ever.

DEER PARK MIDDLE SCHOOL Concert Choir opens winter music season for the Northtown Mall

December has always been a busy time for the Deer Park Middle School seventh and eighth grade Concert Choir. The choir traveled to River Park Square for their first mall performance. They then joined the sixth grade choir for a joint performance at the Northtown Mall. Both choirs also performed at the winter concert on Dec. 16 at Deer Park Middle School.

The choirs received a warm welcome from all of the audiences during their two midday performances as well as the winter concert. The sound of seasonal music floating through the air always adds



The seventh and eighth grade Concert Choir sang at River Park Square and at the Northtown Mall in addition to the DPMS winter concert.

to the festive feel of the malls. All of the performances provided over 35 minutes of vocal music and an opportunity for these talented singers to develop stronger performance skills. The seventh and eighth grade choir is under the di-

rection of music teacher Dan Huffman. The sixth grade choir is under the direction of Matt Kohlhauff.

Congratulations to Mr. Huffman and the seventh and eighth grade middle school Concert Choir.

Parent support helped to make Student Led Conferences a wonderful event

On Nov. 23-25, students and parents at Deer Park Middle School were involved and participated in Student Led Conferences. These conferences provided an opportunity for students to reflect upon their academic and behavioral successes and shortcomings for the first quarter and part of the second quarter of this school year. The Student Led Conferences also provided a time for students to discuss with their parents goals for maintaining or improving their success in the future. During these conferences, students reviewed each of their classes

and showed samples of work. The middle school staff viewed this as an opportunity for students to emphasize their strengths, acknowledge their weaknesses, and plan for future school success.

The staff at Deer Park Middle School would like to thank all of the students and parents who participated in the Student Led Conferences. There was a great turnout with lots of positive comments from parents about how much they liked this format of discussing and communicating with their son or daughter about how things

are going at school.

We are truly grateful for the support parents give Deer Park Middle School. Whether it is getting your child to school on time, helping them with their homework, attending an after school activity or volunteering at our school, research shows that the more parents are involved with their son or daughter's education, the more successful they will be. Thank you for taking such a tremendous amount of interest in your child's education while they attend Deer Park Middle School.

Students recognized for academic success

Almost 300 students were recognized in the middle of November at the first quarter Academic Recognition Awards assemblies. Students who earned a grade point average of 3.0 to 4.0 received a Certificate of Academic Achievement and a coupon to McDonalds for a free small McFlurry dessert.

Academic Recognition Awards assemblies are held once each quarter to honor students who do well in class, do their homework, turn in their assignments, and work hard on their school work. Keep up the great work students and thank you for being such hard working, excellent students!

DPMS parent group meetings

Our parent group meetings for the remainder of the school year will be held on the following dates: Jan. 19, March 16 and May 18 from 6:00-7:00 p.m. in the DPMS library. Parents of sixth, seventh and eighth graders attending DPMS and Deer Park community members are invited to attend these meetings. Please contact Principal Brent Seedall at 464-5807 with questions.

DEER PARK HIGH SCHOOL

Knowledge Bowl students begin season strong with a first and two seconds

By Advisor Stacey Brown

The Knowledge Bowl team at Deer Park High School is off to a great start this year. About 12 students have been practicing after school twice a week since October. Knowledge Bowl is an academic quiz team competition – somewhat like Jeopardy for high school. Students compete in teams of four against other teams from north-east Washington and Idaho in subjects such as geography, literature, math and history.

Team members include Drew Adams, Garrett Bekemeyer, Kellie Brazington, Ryan Brookshire, Skyler White-Colton, Kirsten Egerton, Blake Eide, Cody Hultman, Tiana Keith, Krista Potts, William Scott, Jake Tuininga and Alex Toenniessen. At their first meet at Central Valley High School, the varsity team took a first place finish in one round and tied for second in the other two rounds.

Future meets will be held Jan. 11 at West Valley High School, Jan. 25 at Couer d' Alene Charter Academy and Feb. 8 at St. George's School. The regional competition, sponsored by ESD 101, is held near the end of February. Teams who qualify there then advance to state.



Knowledge Bowl students compete in teams of four in core subject areas which include geography, history, literature and math.

Second Harvest Food Bank

On Nov. 14, 51 students from Deer Park High School volunteered to assist at the Second Harvest Food Bank in Spokane. The students represented ASB organizations DECA, Key Club and Link Crew from 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Student volunteers boxed food supplies for distribution for Thanksgiving and Tom's Turkey Drive.

First semester ends Jan. 21

Second quarter and first semester ends Jan. 21. Grades are scheduled to be mailed Jan. 28. As a reminder, students with fines or unpaid fees will not receive semester grades until payment is received. To find out why a report card was not received or for fine/fee amounts due, please contact registrar Sherry Rollins at 468-3523.

Second semester schedules

Counselors are in the process of working with students to establish their second semester schedules for the second semester which begins Jan. 22. Students will receive their second semester schedules during their advisory class on Jan. 14.

Parents with questions may contact counselor Glenn Poland (grade 9 and 10 students) at 468-3527 or Catherine Oviatt (grade 11 and 12) at 468-3528.

Upcoming ACT and SAT test dates

The next ACT test is Feb. 6. Registration deadline is Jan. 5. Late registration is Jan. 6-15. Future ACT dates are April 10 (March 5 deadline/late registration March 6-19) and June 12 (May 7 deadline and late registration May 8-21). Online registration is available at www.actstudent.org.

The next SAT test date is Jan. 23. Registration is closed. Future SAT test dates are March 13 (deadline Feb. 4 and late registration is Feb. 18); May 1 (registration is March 25 and late registration is April 8); June 5 (registration is April 29 and late registration is May 13). Register on-line at www.collegeboard.com.

ACT and SAT tests start at 8:00 a.m. at DPHS in room H103. Students must arrive on-time.

For additional information and questions regarding ACT and SAT tests, please contact counselor Catherine Oviatt at oviattc@dpsd.org or call her at 468-3528.

DEER PARK HIGH SCHOOL

Adaptive Education students enjoy Jingle Jam

Mrs. Goodnight's and Mrs. Bayless' adaptive education class attended the annual "Jingle Jam" dance Dec. 4 at the Northern Quest Family Pavilion. Once again, students had a great time!

The "Jingle Jam" is an area-wide gathering of adaptive education programs that provides a setting for students to practice appropriate social behaviors. Students were served an appetizing lunch and provided an opportunity to dance and socialize with other peers. The students are looking forward to the next social event in May.



The Jingle Jam was held at the Northern Quest Family Pavilion last month.

Drama Club to present *All I Really Need to Know I Learned in Kindergarten* Feb. 25-27

Auditions for the play (with music), *All I Really Need to Know I Learned in Kindergarten* were held Dec. 14 and 15 at the high school. A play with music is not a musical but includes a few songs throughout the production.

Due to construction, this will be the only play this year.

DECA students fare well at regionals

Recently, 24 Deer Park High School DECA students competed at Spokane Community College in the Area 11 Regional Competition. Over 700 students represented 16 schools in the competition. Of the 24 Deer Park students competing, 21 qualified for state competition. Congratulations to these DPHS students and best wishes at the state competition in March in Bellevue.

Accounting Applications: Barrett Cook, 1st place; Dayde Collins, 3rd place

Apparel and Accessories: Courtney Robbins, 1st place

Automotive: Ryan Feser, 1st place; Kayla Clough, state qualifier

Business Services: Amy Otteson, 4th place

Marketing Management: Drew Adams, 2nd place; Laci Parks, 7th Place

Restaurant and Food Mgmt: Kellee VanHook, state qualifier

Retail Merchandising: Nic Olson, 5th place

Sports Entertainment: Michael Gonzalez, 7th place

Buying and Merchandising: Caitlin Morrow and Hannah Palmer, 6th place

Financial Analysis: Colby Wayenberg and Tyler Schuh, 4th place

Hospitality Services: Tessa Heins and Danny Sabo, state qualifiers

Travel and Tourism: Cynnea Schreiber and Bailee Jacka, 1st place; Katie Linebarger and Cidney Mattausch, 5th place

This play has a very flexible cast so director Cheryl Demco was able to accommodate a wide variety of schedules.

The play is based on the book of the same name by Robert Fulgum. It features several small stories. Thus it is possible for an actor to be cast in more than one part. The play takes a funny, insightful and heartwarming look at what is profound in everyday life. The stories showcase colorful characters such as: a shy little boy who insists on playing the "pig" in his class production of "Cinderella" and steals the show; a "mother of the bride" who brilliantly orchestrates the perfect wedding until the bowling ball of fate rolls down the aisle; and a quiet survivor of Auschwitz illustrates the difference between a problem and an inconvenience.

After winter break, rehearsals will take place almost daily. The play will be presented Feb. 25-27 at Arcadia.

DEER PARK SCHOOLS

where future needs are met today

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

Carri Breckner

Joanne Greer

Lisa Jordan

Eric Keller

Jeff Whittle

www.dpsd.org
509/464-5500

DEER PARK SCHOOLS

January 2010 Events

All Schools

- Jan. 1 New Year's Day, No School
 Jan. 18 Martin Luther King Day, No School

Deer Park Elementary School

- Jan. 8 Title I Practice, Praise and Popcorn
 Jan. 12 PTO Meeting, 3:30 p.m.
 Jan. 25 Reading Marathon Begins
 Jan. 27 Ranger Assembly

Arcadia Elementary School

- Jan. 21 PTCA Meeting, 6:00 p.m.
 Jan. 23 Winterfest Scholastic Chess Tourney
 Jan. 28 Principal Pride Assembly
 Jan. 29 Crazy Hair Day, Pickles and Popcorn

Deer Park Middle School

- Jan. 4 Seventh Grade Boys' and Girls' Basketball Begins
 Jan. 8 December Students of the Month Celebration, 11:45 a.m.
 Jan. 12-14 Eighth Grade History CBA
 Jan. 13 Site Council Meeting, 3:15 p.m.
 Jan. 19 DPMS Parent Group Meeting, 6:00-7:00 p.m.
 Jan. 19-22 ASB Spirit Week
 Jan. 20 Second Quarter Ends
 Jan. 21 Third Quarter Begins
 Jan. 22 Early Release, 12:10 p.m.
 Jan. 28 Second Quarter Report Cards Go Home With Students

Deer Park High School

- Jan. 5 ACT Registration Deadline
 Jan. 6-15 ACT Late Registration Deadline
 Jan. 14 Advisory Schedule
 Jan. 19 Finals, Periods 1 & 6, Early Release 12:20 p.m.
 Jan. 20 Finals, Periods 2 & 5, Early Release 12:20 p.m.
 Jan. 21 End of First Semester
 Jan. 22 Finals, Periods 3 & 4, Early Release, 12:20 p.m.
 Jan. 22 Beginning of Second Semester
 Jan. 22 Class Meetings
 Jan. 23 SAT Testing, 8:00 a.m., Room H103
 Jan. 28 ASB Meeting, Second Period, Mr. Smith's Room

Deer Park FFA at 82nd National Convention

Five Deer Park FFA students attended the National FFA Convention in Indianapolis, Indiana from Oct. 21-25. John Bloss, Austin Bast, Haley Henry, Tanya Losh and Miriah March were accompanied by chaperone Marc Bloss. They flew out of Spokane International Airport Oct. 19 and arrived that same evening safely in Indianapolis, Indiana. For their senior project, John Bloss and Austin Bast were responsible for the Washington State booth located in the Hall of States. The spectators had some insightful questions about our state. Thank you Deer Park FFA Boosters and those who volunteered their time to help make the students' way to the convention.

CONTACTS

District Administration

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 Shauna Ferguson, Director of Fiscal and Human Services
 Travis Hanson, Curriculum Director
 Tami Meserve, Administrative Assistant
 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 Joe Feist
 468-3500 • 800 S. Weber Road



Alternative High School

Principal Joe Feist
 468-3624 • 800 S. Weber Road



Special Programs

Trip Goodall, Director
 464-5519 • 428 N. Main Street



Special Services

Greg Swartz, Director
 464-5521 • 428 N. Main Street



Home-Link Program

Carol VanWormer, Principal
 468-3350 • 428 N. Main Street



Transportation

Sonja Rosenthal, Supervisor 464-5530



Nutrition Services

Duane Smilden, Supervisor 464-5540



Maintenance

Steve Howard, Facilities Mgr. 464-5541



Newsletter

Debbie Trepanier, Editor 292-2117