

Manitou Springs School District 14

Volume 2 Issue 1

Fall, 2005

Honoring Our Board Members by Larry Rice, Board President



On the 14th of November our school board will be bidding farewell to an eight year member, Debbie Lowery. We will also be welcoming a new board member, Lori Finn and I'll be rejoining the board to start my second term. The Manitou Springs Education Association will be hosting a "Meet the Manitou Board of Education Reception" before our formal meeting on Monday, November 14th from 5:30 pm to 6:30 pm in the conference

room of the Shared Integrated Learning Center. We will casually meet and answer any questions or hear concerns you may have. This will be an opportunity to greet Debbie Lowery at her last meeting and remember her dedication and accomplishments over the past eight years. Debbie has served our community with humble dedication, working to improve District 14's opportunities for its best resource, our children. Her untiring efforts have touched so many lives in ways most will never know. She is a great friend to our District and has been a personal mentor for me and I will miss her.

We are looking forward to the coming year with its exciting challenges and getting acquainted with our new member Lori Finn. Lori will bring a fresh viewpoint and ideas to help us grow and meet our challenges. Please plan to attend this

wonderful opportunity to thank Debbie for her accomplishments and to meet with Lori and the rest of Manitou School District 14 Board of Education as we look forward to working for you and our children over the next few years.

Ute Pass Elementary Named Gain Maker School by State

The Colorado Department of Education has named Ute Pass Elementary a 2005 "Gain-Maker School" for exceptional improvement in student achievement in CSAP math for the years 2003-2005.

The percentage of Proficient and Advanced scores raised from 58% to 90%! Way to go Ute Pass students, staff and parents!

MSES Literacy: MSHS Students Earn Presidential Medals by Principal Russ Vogel

An after-school literacy program that links Manitou Springs High School tutors and young Manitou Springs Elementary School readers has earned recognition from the President's Volunteer Service Award (PVSA) program. MSHS student tutors, who work one-on-one with elementary readers in need of literacy support, now can earn President's Volunteer Service medals for their community service—as well as well-deserved recognition in their quest for potential scholarships.

Manitou Springs Elementary School has hosted a Children's Literacy Center (CLC) tutoring site for five years. During that time, dozens of Manitou high school tutors have undergone CLC training and worked with more than 80 elementary students in the program's focused, prescriptive curriculum twice a week. **Incredibly, 95% of students who participate in CLC programs show a year's growth in reading after one 12-week session!**

MSHS student Natalie Martin, who has tutored and been coordinator for the MSES CLC program for two years, sought to earn the program's status as a PVSA Official Certifying Program to recognize the community service and long hours the tutors put in to strengthen elementary readers. Many of the tutors are National Honor Society members of whom a minimum of 50 community service hours are required, and the CLC program can help fulfill that requirement as well. Martin herself has earned a PVSA Bronze Medal, for more than 100 hours of volunteer service. Silver and Gold medals also are available, for additional hours of service.

More importantly, Martin says, she's making a difference in the lives of the students with whom she works--and through her tutoring and leadership of the CLC program, has "discovered who I am and confirmed my aspiration to become a teacher during this process."

MSES Librarian Mary Gressler, who oversees the MSES CLC program, also feels that the program means more than just great gains in reading for its participants. "The bond the children make with their tutor can be a life-changing experience," Gressler says. "These tutors significantly change the young reader's literacy skills—even their future success in school," adds MSES Principal Russ Vogel.



Curriculum, Accountability, & Professional Development

by Beth Cambell, Assistant Superintendent for Instruction



Math Curriculum Review, 2005-2006 is the “Year of Math” in Colorado and in District 14. This emphasis provides added statewide and regional K-12 training opportunities

with common district time set aside for our own curriculum review and adoption process. In our K-12 Math Committee work, we will evaluate what we are doing, what is serving us well, what are our areas of concerns that may require change, and what best practices in curriculum and pedagogy should be implemented to move us to increased levels of student achievement and proficiency.

The 24-member K-12 District Math Committee has interviewed and chosen a highly qualified math consultant to guide our work. We are beginning our preview and comparison of new or revised high-impact math curriculum, materials, classroom activities, and pedagogy.

District Accountability through DAAC and AYP

We value those who serve in school level and district capacities through the District Advisory Accountability Committee (DAAC) and the Building Advisory Accountability Committee (BAAC). The Manitou Springs District 14 Board of Education has charged the DAAC with the following four objectives for the 2005-06 school year: 1) district accreditation of schools, 2) research and recommendations for school and district “body of evidence” which indicates individual student success, 3) input and considerations for the K-12 math curriculum re-

view and adoption process, and 4) input and review of the District 14 Wellness Policy development.

District 14 has met all of its 2005 Adequate Yearly Progress targets required by the No Child Left Behind federal legislation. AYP is also Colorado’s determination of incremental progress towards meeting the goal of all students being proficient in Reading and Math as noted by CSAP by 2014.

The District’s annual Accountability Report will be published this winter, providing stakeholders with a range of district and school data through this year-end summary.

Professional Development

On August 18th at a district-wide in-service we began a year-long K-12 book study, Classroom Instruction that Works. The book highlights nine research-based instructional strategies responsible for high impact student achievement gains across grade levels and content areas.

The focus for 2005-06 Skill Blocks expands the newly adopted District Vision Statement, “Compassionate citizens contributing with knowledge and integrity to a dynamic world”, and includes three options:

- 1) **Urban Experience for Educators:** Walk in the Footsteps of the Poor and Homeless.
- 2) **Building Understanding and Communications in a 3-part series:** understanding personal communication “filters”, the law and court decisions regarding controversial issues, and using controversial issues as “teachable moments.”
- 3) **Conflict Management and Resolu-**

tion: mediation and facilitation skills, principals of Restorative Justice, and moving through conflict when you are an involved party.

Please call me at 685-2024 or email at bcampbell@mssd14.org with questions, insights, or concerns.

MSES Third Grade Learn about Space Travel

Congratulations to MSES third grade teacher Christi Marquardt who has been selected as one of the 2005-2006 Teacher Liaisons to the National Space Foundation located in Colorado Springs. She attends courses with the Foundation, will be part of a teacher panel, and sat on a committee which assembled 180 lesson plans for grades Pre-kindergarten-12 aligned with the National Science Standards. These lessons will be available at no charge on the Space Foundation’s website at www.spacefoundation.org.



Last month, Mrs. Marquardt’s third grade class was one of ten classes attending the “Space in the Classroom” experience at Peterson Air Force Base. They met an astronaut who presented video of his third lift off from the point of view of both the ground and from inside the shuttle. Additionally, the students viewed fire fighting, dog training, and an open airfield museum.

The Ute Pass Elementary Community Preschool opened to seven wide-eyed four-year-old students. Teacher Lynn Grieb, who has seven years experience in our district, greeted them with books, centers for music, art, drama, a puppet theatre, games and a tool center. This tuition based preschool is set up to educate with a playful beat. The preschool curriculum was developed to prepare students for kindergarten while reinforcing the socialization skills needed for school. The other students at Ute Pass Elementary have embraced the new “little buddies” and vie for their turn to read to them. To enroll your child call 685-2227.



Thank You for the Painting, by Rob Cody, MSHS Principal



There is a great line from a movie about certain moments in your lifetime

when “the cosmic tumblers fall into place and something incredible happens.” This is what I believe happened on October 12, 2005. I was invited by Dan Weeks to attend a BAC dinner and art fundraiser. The fundraiser had an amazing collection of local art created by local community legends. Business owners, BAC board members, politicians and caring citizenry filled the hall. A beautiful piece of art by Ron Apgar was displayed for auction. Mr. Dan Stuart and his wife asked me if the high school had any money to purchase the painting entitled “Thunder Horses.” I told him no. A few minutes later the Stuart family asked the auction host if the audience could offer money to purchase the painting for the high school instead of holding an auction for this one piece. The wonderful group of people

assembled at the event began offering up to \$125 each to purchase the piece for Manitou Springs High School. Amazing!

Thank you to all who attended the fundraiser! And a special thank you to the Weeks and Stuart families and all those who donated the money to the BAC by thinking of the high school. We will have an official unveiling in November.

gress and improve home and school communication. If you are the parent of a grade 6-12 student and have not received your user name and password and the detailed instructions for website use, please contact your school office.

Parents Gain On Line Access to Student Grades

Beginning in October 2005 parents of students in grades 6-12 have been given online access to their students’ grades and attendance. Through a Power School website and by using confidential user names and passwords, parents can continually check their child’s daily grades and cumulative grades for each class they take. They can also email teachers and sign up for automatically emailed grade reports and attendance reports. It is our hope that this program will help keep parents informed about their child’s pro-

Public Meeting for US 24 Environmental Assessment

We have been asked to inform you that the Colorado Department of Transportation will present alternatives for US 24 West at a public open house on Thursday, November 10, 2005 from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the West Center for Intergenerational Learning, 25 North 20th St.

Using issues, ideas and potential solutions developed by the public, CDOT and its consultant team have developed three alternatives for presentation at the open house. The public is invited to attend and give their thoughts and comments on the alternatives.

Comment on Gazette School Consolidation Series, by Roy G. Crawford

Beginning on October 9, the Gazette published a series of articles weighing the pros and cons of consolidating all of the schools in El Paso County into one so-called El Paso County Unified School District. Manitou Springs School District 14 has had no discussions about either a need or a desire to be part of such a school district. In addition, neither our school community nor our citizens had come to the Board or me promoting this notion.

In addition, there were three pieces of information in the article upon which I wish to comment because the data presented was oversimplified and misleading. First, even though we score well, I do not believe CSAP scores are the best indicator of how well a district services its students. Also, superintendents were not asked to confirm or comment upon the data

College Admissions

One hundred students graduated from MSHS in 2005 and were awarded 1.6 million dollars in scholarships. Seventy-five percent planned to attend four year schools and 20 percent planned to attend 2-year schools. Several will join the military or enter the workplace.

regarding average teacher salaries and administrative costs per student. There are many complicated variables in those calculations, and many of us questioned that data.

Please call me with questions about any of the information contained in those articles.

4-year schools in Colorado

Adams State (2)
CU-Boulder (4)
CU-Denver (1)
CU-Colorado Springs (8)
CSU – Ft. Collins (12)
CSU – Pueblo (3)
School of Mines (2)
UNC—Greeley– (5)
Denver University – (1)
Ft. Lewis—Durango – (5)
Western State—Gunnison – (2)

2-year schools in Colorado

PPCC – (10)
Rock Mountain Institute of Art – (1)
Massage School (1)
Colorado Tech (1)

Out of state schools (partial listing)

Stanford University (2)
Cotty College (1)
Pamona, CA
Northern Arizona State University
Chapman, CA
Whittman, WA

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POSTAL CUSTOMER

Message from the Superintendent by Roy G. Crawford

Our Vision

**Manitou Springs District 14:
Compassionate citizens contributing with knowledge and integrity to a dynamic world.**

Please enjoy this third newsletter being mailed to all residents of Manitou Springs School District 14. Due to space restrictions, the articles are brief and concise, but I hope they provide you with some insights into the work of the District. We take our responsibility to all of our residents very seriously, so if you have questions or concerns, please contact me at rcrawford@mssd14.org or at 685-2024.

I want to begin this message by thanking the many businesses who support our schools not only through the taxes they pay, but also by donating to the many fundraising efforts we initiate, by serving

on district committees, and by attending events and supporting our students. I also want to thank City of Manitou officials, employees and the fire department. They are extremely supportive of our schools as they help with the Homecoming Parade, the bonfire, and ball games. All of you bring a real sense of community to our schools.

In this edition Beth Campbell, our new Assistant Superintendent for Instruction has written two articles about the DAAC and curriculum work and some of our professional development activities. Also included is a message from Board President Larry Rice and several articles written by principals or teachers regarding specific activities in their schools.

As in the past, I encourage you to visit our website at mssd14.org. It includes job openings, Choice materials, detailed school event calendars, links to all four schools, all of our publications

(including past newsletters), School Board minutes, and so on. It is a great source of information.

One of our major policy development efforts this year is to create a Wellness policy as required by state law. I have convened a group of 20 employees, students, parents, and community members to research best practices and to develop policy appropriate to the needs of our communities. This should prove to be a very worthwhile piece of work to enhance and improve the quality of life for our students and our employees.

As usual, thank you for your continued support of our district.

