

# Manitou Springs School District 14

Volume 1 Issue 2

Spring, 2005

## *District 14 Shining Stars*

### **Fulbright Scholar**

Manitou Springs Elementary School art teacher **Laura McCracken** has been selected to participate in the Japan Fulbright Memorial Fund Teacher Program in November, 2005.

We are extremely pleased and proud that Laura has been selected to travel to Japan in November to visit Japanese schools, study Japanese art programs, and immerse herself in the Japanese culture.

Laura will be considered a "Japan Fulbright Memorial Fund Scholar" and the program "is intended to provide (her) with a professional development opportunity to raise (her) awareness of and interest in Japan and to directly or indirectly apply this cross-cultural experience back in (her) home school and community." Congratulations, Laura! You make us proud!

### **Spirit of the Mustang**

Congratulations to six District 14 employees who were honored at a banquet on April 28th as 2005 Spirit of the Mustang Award winners. Employees are nominated by their peers and are chosen based upon their advancement of the mission and goals of the District, their commitment to the welfare of students, and their demonstrated professional growth. On behalf of our children, we recognize and thank the following people.

**Mike Burke:** MSHS custodian

**Steve Paterson:** MSES 5<sup>th</sup> grade teacher

**Cathy Karr:** MSES 3<sup>rd</sup> grade teacher

**Jenny Burnell:** Secretary to the Assistant Superintendent for Instruction

**Staci Christensen:** UPE 4/5 grade teacher

**Greg DiFiore:** UPE 4/5 grade teacher

### **Pikes Peak United Way Award**

Manitou Springs School District 14 employees have been awarded a traveling trophy which recognizes the school district in the Pikes Peak region with the highest percentage of employees contributing to the United Way. The trophy was presented to Superintendent Crawford at the United Way's spring luncheon at the Broadmore Hotel. Assistant Superintendent Sue Scott organized and coordinated the District 14 campaign.

### **New School Leadership Project**

In 2003-04, UPE staff members **Deb Yagmin, Charla Schwartz, Greg DiFiore, and Staci Christensen** participated in this project to nurture teacher leadership capacity in our district. The project was highlighted in the spring issue of the nationally published Journal for Staff Development.

## *Board of Education: Consider This* by *Larry Rice, Board President*

Every four years there is an opportunity for folks in our community to contribute their skills, their life experience, and their energy, and to receive more than they give. It's an opportunity to actually participate in government at a level where your voice does indeed matter. This opportunity directly impacts our community and our most important resource; our children. This opportunity is to serve on our Manitou Springs, District 14 School Board.

This year we will have two openings for the five member School Board. Terms are for four years and term limits make only two terms possible. I encourage you to explore this opportunity to work with our nationally recognized school district. For more information, contact me, any school board member, or any school administrator. (Contact information is located under "School Board" on the District web site [mssd14.k12.co.us](http://mssd14.k12.co.us)). Elections for school board will be held next November but commitments to run for this office need to be made by August. I hope you will consider joining us next November to fill this important role in our community.



## *Ute Pass Elementary Opening Pre School* by *Dr. Deb Yagmin, Principal*

Spaces are still available in the new **Ute Pass Community Preschool** that will open August 2005 for students who will be four years old by September 15<sup>th</sup>. The preschool program is designed to promote children's knowledge and skills in all developmental areas – cognitive, social/emotional, physical and aesthetic – and to establish a foundation for lifelong learning.

The preschool program reflects the belief that children are active learners. They build meaning and understanding through full participation in their learning environments. This child-centered program will combine high expectations for each child with respect for individual development. Preschool children are at different stages in their growth and development; therefore, they differ in their abilities. Two children exactly the same age might be quite different in their rates of development. Because each child at the UPE Preschool will be viewed as an individual, preschool instruction will be carefully organized to provide for different developmental levels of children.

Please come join us as we start this exciting preschool journey together! Call UPE at 685-2227 for more information.

## *Dedicated Employees Retire*

June 7, 2005 will be the last day of school for seven valued employees of Manitou Springs School District 14.

**Sue Scott**, Assistant Superintendent for Instruction, MSES teachers **Cathy Karr** and **Kay Miller**, MSES counselor **Carol Jones**, UPE teacher **Linda Tripp**, and MSHS teachers **Debie Bennett** and

**Dennis Korth** will all retire at the end of this school year.

**There will be a district breakfast reception in their honor in the MSES Commons and assembly in the District Auditorium beginning at 8:00 AM on June 8, 2005. The public is invited to attend and honor the service of these wonderful educators to our children.**



## *Relevance in Curriculum*, by Sue Scott, Assistant Superintendent for Instruction

Five teams of teachers and staff are involved in district-wide curriculum review this year in the areas of social studies, physical education, health, technology, and information literacy. Their work identifying critical content and concepts and selecting curriculum materials will be concluded by early June. Next year, implementation and opportunities to make improvements on this year's work will take place. For those of us who graduated from high school five years ago or more, the focus of curriculum looks far different than when we were in school. Granted, some things stay the same, but to a large extent, the gym class, technology class, library resources and in some respects the social studies class is far different.

For instance, how many of you participated in cup stacking activities to enhance your fine motor skills? I remember "monkey bars" on the playground where one swung from the rungs of a horizontal ladder. Fast-forward to today: horizontal climbing walls and the prospect of repelling down a wall.

Electric typewriters were in vogue back in the 60's and "onion skin" erasable paper made life so much easier. Compared to keyboarding a word processor document on a machine with a 1 Gigahertz processor, those typewriters are dinosaurs that students can only attempt to envision as useful.

While we tied up the phone for hours and prepared reports and papers for our instructor to read, now students use instant text messaging and e-mail and they publish their work for the world on BLOGS.

In your study of countries, did you ever research the prospect of a business of your own design that would be successful in Russia? Did you ever become the inventor you were studying and create an invention that could be found on that inventor's patent list?

It doesn't matter if you're a teacher of physical education, technology, library and information literacy, or social studies; the work teachers are aligning to today's standards is far different than the work teacher's were doing ten years ago. It's an exciting time in education and the support our community provides allows us the opportunity to provide relevant curricula.

### *Budget Assumptions for 2005-2006*

We are currently in the budget develop process, with key Board meetings on May 23 and June 27 at 7:00 PM in the SILC.

**Key budget assumptions** are:

**Revenue:** TABOR (.1%) and Amendment 23 (1%) provisions and a projected increased enrollment of 38 students provides a net revenue increase of \$263,127.

**Expenditures:** Employee salary steps and lanes plus other projected cost increases total \$223,047. **Health Care** increases have yet to be determined.

It is the district's practice to balance projected revenues and expenditures which can be a challenge. Your input at Board meetings is welcomed and appreciated.

### *Activity Fees for Extra-Curriculars Considered*

Activity fees are assessed by schools to create a revenue flow to supplement extra curricular activities such as athletics and performing arts. Manitou Springs School District 14 is one of the few school districts remaining in El Paso County which does not assess activity fees to its students. After a year of research, we are considering assessing fees, the amounts of which are in line with neighboring schools.

The key elements of the fee system currently being considered are:

1. Fees will be assessed to students in grades 6-12 who participate in interscholastic athletics and drama programs.
2. Fees will be assessed to students in grades 9-12 who participate in Knowledge Bowl and Forensics.
3. Fees will be \$60 per student per activity, with a yearly caps of \$120 per student and \$300 per family.
4. Fees will be waived for any student who is unable to pay, and a scholarship fund will be established to support these students.

Revenue from fees will be used to correct inequities which exist in our coaching, directing, and advising salary scale and system of stipends. This system has undergone a year long committee study, and the fees will provide a revenue stream to fund the proposed changes.

Mr. Crawford has met with parents of the four Building Advisory Accountability Committees which have supported the concept of fees and the proposed use of this new revenue.

## *Eighth Graders at High Trails, by Keith Elsberry, MSMS Principal*

Manitou Springs Middle School eighth grade students took part in the annual Outdoor Education trip on March 30th, 31st, and April 1st at High Trails camp near Florissant.

The purpose of this trip is to help students learn more about the environment and the importance of protecting the beauty of the area in which they live. A second consideration for this trip is for students to strengthen their friendships in a nonacademic arena which is so important before they transition to the high school.

One aspect of this trip that has proven to be extremely valuable is that current high school students volunteer their time to serve as counselors. On this particular trip, 26 outstanding high school students accompanied the eighth graders. These older students provide a sounding board for our eighth grade students and help



ease their anxiety about entering high school. The bonds they establish are amazing to observe. The eighth grade students consistently reference how critical the experience is to develop a level of comfort regarding their upcoming high school years. They view these three days as one of the most valuable experiences they have during their middle school years.

### *Arts Academy, by Wendy Harms*

Manitou Springs Arts Academy has been serving the students of Manitou Springs School District 14 and surrounding areas for 14 years. Dedicated to sharing the arts in a joyful and intensive training process, educators, parents and local business leaders began MSAA in 1991 to advocate for arts implementation within the school district. Today, we continue to play a role in establishing and assessing arts programming within our district. MSSD14 provides the facilities, our community provides the support and the young people provide the inspiration for our little academy!

Our summer programming is in place, and we are looking forward to another full and busy summer.

**Dwell In It:** June 20-23 and 27-30: Mon-Thurs 9:00 AM-1:00 PM.: MSES

**Flights of Fancy:** July 11-14 and 18-21: Mon-Thurs 9:00 AM-1:00 PM.: MSES

For students entering grades 6-9, we are presenting "Slamspeak", a percussion and spoken work camp combining all of the arts in a production that will be created, written, and performed by the students

**Slamspeak:**  
July 11-22:  
Mon-Fri 10:00 AM-2:00 PM:  
SILC building



For more information call 684-2141. Our goal is to provide all families with access to our classes by providing scholarships and quality programming.

## *Beth Campbell Appointed Asst. Superintendent*

*by Roy G. Crawford*

At a special meeting preceding its scheduled work session on March 14, 2005, the Board of Education unanimously appointed Beth Campbell as Assistant Superintendent for Instruction beginning July 1, 2005. Ms. Campbell was nominated by the superintendent and a selection committee after a rigorous screening, interviewing, and reference checking process.



Ms. Campbell is currently the Director of Instruction in the Johnstown-Milliken Weld RE-5J School District, a post she has held for four years. Before that, she was the Lit-

eracy Coach at the middle and high schools in the Johnstown-Milliken District. From 1995-2000, she was a middle school language arts, social studies, and special education teacher in Urbandale, Iowa. In addition, Beth attended Upper Iowa University as an undergraduate and Drake University, Iowa State University, and the University of Denver as a graduate student.

We are pleased to welcome Beth to District 14. She has the passion, energy, commitment, and knowledge to keep our schools "cutting edge" in the areas of curriculum development, instruction, assessment, and professional development.

We will hold a reception for Beth in August, the exact date and time to be announced.

## *College Admissions*

There are 108 students on track for graduation for the school year 2005. Approximately 70 percent of our graduates are planning to attend a four-year institution and 20 percent plan to attend a two-year college or trade school. In the fall we have two students attending Stanford University and seniors will be attending other **out of state schools including:**

Puget Sound and Whitman in Washington State, Occidental, Chapman, Westmont and Stanford in California, Lake Forest in Illinois, Arizona State University and Cottey College in Missouri.

**Local schools include:** CU at Boulder, Denver and Colorado Springs, Colorado State University in Fort Collins and Pueblo, the University of Northern Colorado, the Colorado School of Mines, and the University of Denver.

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## *Message from the Superintendent* by Roy G. Crawford

It is with pleasure that we publish this second issue of our District newsletter. I hope you find it informative. For much more detailed information about our schools, I invite you to visit our website at [mssd14.k12.co.us](http://mssd14.k12.co.us). It provides school calendar information, the most recent accountability report, Board of Education minutes, links to the four schools, links to the Alumni Association and Manitou Springs Education Foundation, and so on. I also invite you to provide feedback to information in this newsletter to me at [rcrawford@mssd14.k12.co.us](mailto:rcrawford@mssd14.k12.co.us) or to call me at 685-2024. Your input and insights are invaluable to us as we make decisions, consider issues, and serve our communities.

**Our Vision:** This past year, we have been involved in a process creating a vision for our schools. At a retreat in August, the Leadership Team developed a draft vision statement. The District Accountability Advisory Committee, the Board of Education, and the K-12 social

studies curriculum review committee then provided detailed feedback on that draft. A committee comprised of a parent, several teachers, a building administrator, Sue Scott and me then revised the draft given the feedback received. That final draft as approved by the Board of Education follows, and will serve to focus all district decisions and discussion regarding policy, procedure, and curriculum. The narrative following the vision articulates what the key words in the vision meant to those involved in its creation. We hope you find it meaningful and that it appropriately reflects what you want for the children of our communities.

As usual, thank you for your support of our schools.

### **Vision**

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

As a school community, adults and children alike, we are compassionate. We are kind, sensitive, balanced, fulfilled, and caring. We respect and value those who think and act differently from ourselves.

As a school community we are citizens with a sense of responsibility to sound governance and civic and social responsibility.

As a school community we contribute to the greater good, and are positively proactive in our approach to life.

As a school community we are knowledgeable with a sound background in academics and the arts. We think critically and make decisions with an integrated understanding of math, science, literature, social sciences, physical wellness and the arts. This understanding and knowledge is the basis for our compassionate world view.

As a school community we have integrity. We are honest, balanced, ethical and just.

We know that the world is dynamic and ever changing, diverse, and challenging. We are flexible and resilient in meeting those challenges.

