

MANITOU SPRINGS SCHOOL DISTRICT 14

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A Message from the Board of Education, by Jeanne Barnes, Board President



Jennifer Farmer,
Lori Finn,
Anna Lord,
Jeanne Barnes,
Larry Rice

Happy Fall! It's hard to believe we are already into October. It feels like school started just last week but we are, almost a quarter of the way through the year. It's easy for time to get away from us when there is so much going on. The Board of Education is no exception and we have a busy year ahead of us! Here is a look at some of the projects the BOE will be focusing on this year.

- Policy review/revisions in the Policy Manual areas of Instruction, Students, School/Community Relations, and Education Agency Relations.
- Ongoing assessment of the newly implemented Wellness Policy and wellness related changes throughout the district.
- K-12 science curriculum review.
- Assessment of the new math curriculum being implemented this year.
- Completion of energy efficiency upgrades in all of our buildings.

As you know, November 7th is Election Day. This year's ballot will contain more initiatives than we have seen in many years. Manitou Springs School District #14 will have an initiative on the ballot ask-

ing to increase our mills from 43 to 49 (\$1,000,000 maximum) in order to help the District attract and retain high quality staff, as well as fund important building maintenance projects. *This is ballot question 3B.* There are also Constitutional Amendment proposals that, if passed, will greatly compromise the local control and decision making of your local governments, including the Board of Education. I encourage you to study all of the ballot questions before casting your vote, especially Referendum J, Amendment 38, Amendment 39, and seek accurate information to help you with your decisions. See you at the polls!

Relevance, Rigor, Relationships: Manitou Springs High School



Over the past three years the staff at Manitou Springs High School has challenged our students to reach higher, learn more, and achieve greater success. The results have been encouraging. Last year twenty students took Level IV Spanish or French. Two hundred chairs were occupied by students taking honors level courses in English, social studies and science. Fifteen students took calculus and ten students were enrolled in physics. *Twenty students took three different Advanace Placement tests while Manitou students completed 65 college courses and earned both college and high school credit.* Considering a total school population of just about 450, and senior and junior classes totaling 215, these numbers show the growing strength of our rich academic program here at Manitou Springs High School.

UPE Students Adopt an Orphanage

Ute Pass Elementary School has a wonderful outreach opportunity that has been organized for them by the Dastur family. UPE students will be collecting items for an orphanage in Honduras. They have a hammock hanging in the hall outside the office with a plastic bin to hold donations. At the end of the month, everything they collect, along with letters from a classroom of children, will be sent to parent Keith Dastur, who is with the US Air Force and sta-

tioned in Honduras. What a great opportunity for our students to think globally! If you would enjoy supporting the Ute Pass students and their efforts, they will be collecting the items listed below.

- September – School Supplies
- October – Toiletries
- November – Christmas Presents
- December – Coloring Books
- January – Blue Jeans
- February – Undergarments and Socks
- March – Shirts

- April – Shorts and Shirts
 - May – Sandals and Flip Flops
- Thank you for your support.



Manitou Springs Education Foundation,

by Mark Johnson



Natalie Martin: MSEF Scholarship Winner

The Manitou Springs Education Foundation (MSEF) appreciates the support of the community over the last year, and we look forward to working together with our neighbors, teachers, and the district leadership in the 2006-2007 school year. In the last six months, MSEF awarded our annual scholarship to MSHS graduating senior Natalie Martin, who will pursue a career in education at UCCS; we provided financial support to the Manitou Springs Public Library and District 14 summer reading program; and we worked with Ken Jaray and others to begin a Restorative Justice program in Manitou, an effort to create peer-based mechanisms for alternative dispute resolution and reconciliation.

Central to our new mission are three initiatives. *The first initiative, "Arts Education and Community Development,"* seeks to expand funding for artist-in-residence programs in our schools, to foster greater connections between our unique local arts community and students, and to encourage students to explore careers in the arts and arts management. *Our second initiative, "Global Perspectives and Professional Development,"* seeks to enrich cross-cultural and international perspectives across the curriculum, from language arts to the sciences; to explore federal and other grant opportunities in pursuit of regional collaborations for foreign language teaching and area studies; and to encourage teachers and students to study abroad. *Our third initiative, will focus on "Service Learning and Leadership Development,"* and seeks to engage teachers and students in the study of local and regional issues, with a special focus on environmental sciences, land use, and water issues. It is our hope that these community-based projects will be academically

rigorous, inspire student leadership around civic and ethical issues, and open up new career opportunities.

If you wish to support our work, please send contributions to: *Manitou Springs Education Foundation, P.O. Box 242, Manitou Springs, CO 80829*, and please also consider designating MSEF as the beneficiary of your contributions to this fall's *UNITED WAY Campaign*. To assist us as we plan for our new initiatives, please contact MSEF President Mark Johnson at msjohnson@coloradocollege.edu or any of our other board members: Kathy Bell, Michael Faber, John Gregg, and Jennifer Farmer. Many thanks to all.

Chamber of Commerce Upcoming Events

October 28th - 12th Annual Emma Crawford Memorial Coffin Parade & Races. Parade begins around noon with races immediately following.

November: 10% of all purchases from participating merchants donated to the Manitou School District 14 school of your choice.

December 9th – "Snowflakes and Smiles" Holiday Parade. Follow Santa on the antique fire truck to the Town Clock at the end of the parade for free cookies, hot cider and visit with Jolly Old Santa Claus. 12:00 Noon.

Energy Champions Award by Tim Miller, Assistant Superintendent for Business Services

On September 15th Superintendent Roy Crawford and Director of Building and Grounds Jerry Zimmerman were honored at the Governor's executive residence in Denver. Jerry was recognized individually as an Energy Champion, and Roy accepted an award on behalf of the district.

Working with the Governor's Office of Energy Management and Conservation, the district entered into a performance contract with EMC Engineers Inc.

to undertake a comprehensive upgrade of heating, ventilation, lighting, and hot water systems.

The savings in energy costs to the district, estimated at \$2.4 million in the coming 12 years, are guaranteed by the performance contract and allows us to pay for the project with funds that would otherwise have gone to pay higher utility bills.



Energy Award at the Governor's Residence

Curriculum and Instruction, by Beth Campbell, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum

In August, administrators and teacher leaders in all schools received advanced training in Alpine Achievement's data analysis systems, and then shared these new skills and information during August in-service days for data-driven decision-making. August in-service days also provided training in our newly adopted K-12 math curricula. *In the first days of school, each elementary child was evaluated using the DIBELS (Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills) and Adams 50 reading assessments to know exact student readiness and ability levels that will guide next steps in instruction and interventions.* The September 1st K-5 in-service focused on the eight cognitive processes of Thinking Maps which are visual and cognitive "maps" to help students organize their reading, writing, and processing. At the September 1st in-service for middle and high schools, the continued "thinking skills" focus reinforced our previous Advanced Placement training investment and concentrated on critical thinking and reasoning through application, analysis, synthesis, and evaluation of content area knowledge and skills associated with academic content.

An integral group in every Colorado school district is the **District Accountability Advisory Committee**, whose role is providing input, feedback, and communication around a number of topics and issues requested by the Board of Education. Meeting monthly from September through May, Committee members are Lori Finn, Beth Campbell, Hayley Moran, Russ Vogel, Dan Weeks, Traci Woofter, Cheryl Brooks, Shaunda McQueeney, Tina Toms, Jason Berns, Loren McKee, Kristina Reavis, Jerry Murphy, Vi Gaunce, Jenny Burnell, and MSHS student representatives Katie Henderson and Willy Jones.

With our dynamic staff and your support, we're off to a great school year!

Meeting Diverse Learner Needs, by Pat Urban, Director of Special Programs

It is not unusual to hear someone say, "Things aren't what they used to be." For today's schools and school districts this is particularly true. Increased mobility and diversity of students means that teachers must think differently about what and how they teach. A typical school will have about 10-12% of its students receiving Special Education Services. There will be students whose native language is something other than English and students who have attended three different schools in the past two years. Children recognized as highly gifted will make up about 3-5% of the student body. All this, in addition to the multiple learning styles, learning differences, and strengths that all students have, provides increasing challenges to schools. Manitou Springs School District works very hard to recognize and meet the needs of its diverse learners.

In each of our four buildings, gifted learners are being challenged. Whether it is talent pools and extensions, Shakespeare or Sherlock Holmes, you will find elementary students engaged in higher order thinking skills and finding opportunities to express themselves in new and different ways. At the middle school, students meet in seminar like settings, engage in a variety of extra-curricular activities like Knowledge Bowl & Math Olympiad, and have curriculum extensions in their daily classes. This work prepares them for the rigor of high school, with its four-year plans, honors and AP classes, college level coursework, as well as multiple ways to be involved in school government and leadership.

Manitou Springs Schools invite all who are interested to come and visit these unique learning environments.

Manitou Springs School District 14

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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.

Phone: 685-2024 Email: rcrawford@mssd14.org Website: mssd14.org

This is the third year we are publishing and mailing a District 14 newsletter to every resident in the District. The vast majority of residents in our community do not have children in school and this newsletter is just one attempt to provide you with timely and relevant information about our schools.

Safety: The recent tragic incident at Platte Canyon High School is a graphic reminder that schools are not immune to the world's madness. Here in District 14 we have safety and emergency response plans in

place and we have a close working relationship with the local police. The recent events have served to once again sensitize us to our responsibilities to our students and their families.

Wellness: In June, the School Board adopted a Wellness Policy as required by Colorado and Federal statute. Key changes families will see in the District this year include:

- Breakfast available for every student in grades Pre-kindergarten -12.
- Fresh salads and fruits at every meal.
- Locally grown fruits and vegetables when possible.
- Weekly food nutritional content posted on every menu.
- Healthy a la carte choices.
- Increased on site, from "scratch", food preparation.
- No soda in vending machines.
- Nutrition educational programs for students, staff, and parents.
- Nutrition articles in our newsletters.

November 7 Election:

There are three very important measures on the ballot this fall.

3B provides \$1,000,000 (49 mill maximum) to be used for staff salaries and to maintain buildings and grounds. The website d14now.org provides specific details. Our School Board recently passed resolutions against Amendments 38 and 39 which would expand the right to petition to local governments and would require 65% of all revenues to be spent "in the classroom". These amendments will dramatically impact our schools. Please contact me with questions and comments, and thank you for your support.

