

— A National School Public Relations Association award-winning newsletter —



## APS Briefs

- Gateway football coach **Jeff Sweet** was named 2004 **Coach of the Year** by his peers in the Continental League American Conference. Read about Sweet's accomplishments as Gateway's football and basketball coach at [www.aps.k12.co.us/staff/sweet.htm](http://www.aps.k12.co.us/staff/sweet.htm).
- Fulton teacher **Michelle Barone** had three books published last year. Read more about Barone's books and how she became a published author at [www.aps.k12.co.us/staff/barone.htm](http://www.aps.k12.co.us/staff/barone.htm).
- Interested in helping raise funds for teacher scholarships? Then join APS for the 2005 **Savor the Flavor** winetasting event, April 30 from 6-9 p.m. To learn more about Savor the Flavor, visit [www.auroraedfoundation.org](http://www.auroraedfoundation.org).

### RETIREMENTS

Are you planning a spring retirement celebration? If so, instead of sending retirement announcements districtwide, submit invitations to [webmaster@gw.aps.k12.co.us](mailto:webmaster@gw.aps.k12.co.us) for posting on the new Retirement Web site. You can find daily updates at [www.apsnet/retirements.htm](http://www.apsnet/retirements.htm).

## APS Heroes Save Lives

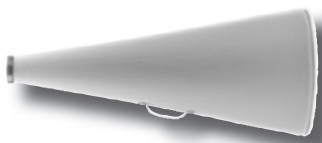
On a cold December morning, Project Coordinator Arnold Wiebold collapsed in his office after suffering a cardiac arrest. Co-workers went into immediate action and helped save Wiebold's life.

After hearing a loud noise caused by Wiebold's fall, architect Cindy Sauls and construction support director Jim Bittle quickly realized that Wiebold was in a life-threatening situation. Lynn Type of Copier Services quickly administered CPR while secretary Evelyn Phillips placed an emergency call to 911. Project Coordinator Dave Elisberg ran to the fire station next door and returned with paramedics while Phillips was still talking to the 911 dispatcher. The paramedics transported Wiebold to a local hospital, where he was in intensive care for several days.

Wiebold left the hospital on Christmas Eve with a new defibrillator that monitors his heartbeats. He returned to work in mid-January thankful for his colleagues' quick actions. To express his gratitude, Wiebold presented each co-worker with an angel figurine. "I was surrounded by angels the day I collapsed, so this was my way to thank my co-workers for saving my life. Because of them, I am here today," Wiebold said.

*To read about other APS Heroes, go to page 2.*





# APS Applause

APS Heroes continued from page 1

## West Staff Member's Safety Training Tested by a Real Emergency

On a recent drive home, West Middle School's counseling secretary Pam Hicks' quick thinking helped prevent an accident.

Hicks noticed that the driver in the next lane was violently shaking. Realizing that something was wrong, Hicks gestured to the car's passenger and quickly moved to block the intersection. She opened her doors and used flashers so others could see that there was a problem. The passenger turned the ignition off and the car coasted to a safe stop before hitting Hicks' car. Hicks immediately called 911 on her cell phone, and within two minutes emergency vehicles arrived on the scene. "I am glad that my safety training taught me how to think and act clearly in an emergency," said Hicks. Her quick actions prevented what could have been a serious accident.

## Sable Hero Aids Choking Student

Thanks to Julie Warner, a paraeducator at Sable Elementary, a child's lunchtime mishap did not become a tragedy. One day in the cafeteria, a student approached Warner and began waving her arms wildly. As Warner saw the child's gestures and frightened expression, she realized that the student was choking and needed help. Fortunately, Warner remembered her first-aid training and performed a successful Heimlich maneuver on the student. "I'm so glad that I took a safety class and knew how to help our student," said Warner.

## More than 1,300 Respond to Recent Survey



APS has more than 1,800 teachers on staff. More than two-thirds of them took the time to respond to an online survey about instructional preparation time.

"We are very pleased with the response received from district staff. Principals and leadership teams will use the information from the survey to continue productive dialogue with staff about efforts to increase student achievement," Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources Tony Van Gytenbeek said.

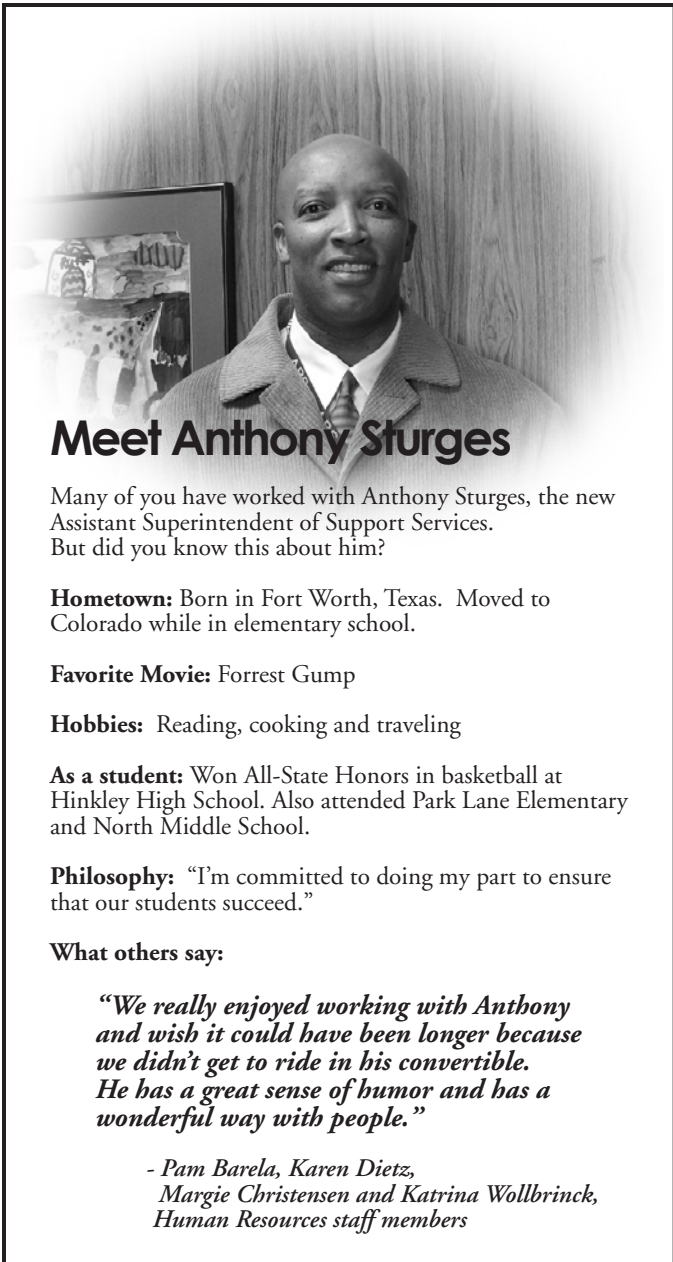
A May 2004 agreement between Aurora Public Schools and the Aurora Education Association called for the survey. Survey questions were drawn from the content of the May 2004 APS/AEA agreement and asked about professional development, planning time and staff meetings at our schools. Staff received detailed reports on the data collected.

Van Gytenbeek and AEA President Brenna Isaacs are working with schools to maximize available time for teacher-directed instructional preparation while recognizing the need for professional development.

The survey showed teachers and administrators are working together to provide the planning time and professional development needed to improve student achievement.

"AEA is pleased with the response to the survey. We are encouraged that the discussions being held among principals, leadership team members and teachers will result in greater awareness of how to balance the use of time at every site," said Isaacs.

For more information, visit [www.aps.k12.co.us/aea](http://www.aps.k12.co.us/aea).



## Meet Anthony Sturges

Many of you have worked with Anthony Sturges, the new Assistant Superintendent of Support Services. But did you know this about him?

**Hometown:** Born in Fort Worth, Texas. Moved to Colorado while in elementary school.

**Favorite Movie:** Forrest Gump

**Hobbies:** Reading, cooking and traveling

**As a student:** Won All-State Honors in basketball at Hinkley High School. Also attended Park Lane Elementary and North Middle School.

**Philosophy:** "I'm committed to doing my part to ensure that our students succeed."

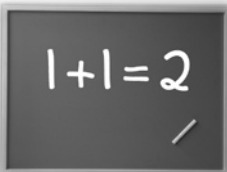
**What others say:**

*"We really enjoyed working with Anthony and wish it could have been longer because we didn't get to ride in his convertible. He has a great sense of humor and has a wonderful way with people."*

*- Pam Barela, Karen Dietz, Margie Christensen and Katrina Wollbrinck, Human Resources staff members*

## Did you know? •••••

- E-News Updates are distributed via GroupWise twice monthly.
- You can learn more about staff accomplishments by visiting the Staff Showcase page at [www.aps.k12.co.us/staff/showcase.html](http://www.aps.k12.co.us/staff/showcase.html).
- You can learn more about student accomplishments by visiting the Student Showcase at [www.aps.k12.co.us/students/showcase.html](http://www.aps.k12.co.us/students/showcase.html).
- We want to hear about your staff success stories. You can submit your good news story ideas using an online form at [www.apsnet/news.htm](http://www.apsnet/news.htm).



# APS In Action

## APS Transportation: A Vital Part of the Team

“The Wheels on the Bus Go Round and Round.” The words from this children’s song provide a description of the more than 1.1 million miles APS buses travel each year transporting nearly 11,000 students daily. But there is more to being a successful transportation department than just moving wheels.

The APS transportation department runs 39 general and 39 special-needs bus routes. “People may not be aware of all the challenges our staff members face on a daily basis,” Transportation Director Scott French said. The drivers meet stringent schedules, drive in all types of weather and traffic, and manage a busload of students at the same time. Paraeducators ride with drivers on special-needs routes to assist students.

Bus drivers complete between 80 and 120 hours of classroom and on-the-road training before becoming certified to drive children. Each year drivers receive 12-16 hours of additional training to maintain their skills.

Thanks to the funds from the 2002 bond, and in response to the recent drought, APS modified its bus washing facility to include a water recycling system. The system recycles 50 of the 60 gallons of water required to wash each bus.

The on-site maintenance facility keeps the APS fleet of 128 buses in top running condition. All other district-owned vehicles are also repaired and serviced at this facility.

All of the transportation staff members work hard to ensure a safe and comfortable ride to and from school.



*Lorraine Trundle and Dan Hall review route information before picking up students.*

“We wouldn’t do this if we did not care about kids.”

*Dan Hall, APS bus driver*



### STAFF FEEDBACK SURVEY

We want to hear from you! Please tear off, complete and return via school mail to Communication Department, Administration Building. You can also complete the survey at the online posting of *Clipboard* at [www.apsnet/Clipboard](http://www.apsnet/Clipboard).

How often do you use information found on the APSNET intranet site? ([www.apsnet](http://www.apsnet))

Daily  Weekly  Monthly  Other \_\_\_\_\_  
(please specify)

Do you visit the E-News Updates when the GroupWise e-mail announcements are sent? ([www.apsnet](http://www.apsnet))

Always  Frequently  Occasionally  Other \_\_\_\_\_  
(please specify)

How often do you visit the staff and student Web showcases?  
([www.aps.k12.co.us/students/showcase.html](http://www.aps.k12.co.us/students/showcase.html), [www.aps.k12.co.us/staff/showcase.html](http://www.aps.k12.co.us/staff/showcase.html))

Daily  Weekly  Monthly  Other \_\_\_\_\_  
(please specify)

What stories would you like to see covered in *Clipboard* or other publications?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



# Building For the Future

## 2005 Focus on New and Remodeled Schools

APS is planning big things for the 2005 construction season, including new and "near new" schools that will change the district's landscape.

In the "near new" category are whole-building remodels at four schools: 875 Peoria (currently William Smith High School), Sixth Avenue Elementary, West Middle School and Hinkley High School.

"We are all very excited that we will have a building that conveys the same sense of pride and determination that we feel about our students and staff. We would like to thank the voters of Aurora for making the whole-building remodel possible and propelling our school into the next century," said Karla Groth, Sixth Avenue principal.

New construction includes the Murphy Creek K-8 School, currently underway and slated to open in August 2005, and K-8 #2, scheduled to open in the Conservatory development in August 2006. In addition, the district will start construction on a replacement building for Paris Elementary, scheduled to open in August 2006.

A new heating and air conditioning system is planned at Wheeling Elementary, one of nearly 20 schools slated for this improvement under the bond program. By 2007, APS will add air conditioning to all schools without such systems, providing a more comfortable atmosphere for students and staff members.

Additional projects include building improvements at six elementary schools: Aurora Quest Academy, Montview, Side Creek, Vaughn, Wheeling and Yale. The district will also complete projects started last year at T.H. Pickens Technical Center.

APS bond projects are funded through a \$225 million bond approved by district voters in 2002. For more information about bond projects, log on to [www.aps.k12.co.us/bond](http://www.aps.k12.co.us/bond).

## APS Adopts 2005-06 Construction Calendar

Staff and students at seven schools will use a modified calendar for the 2005-06 school year to allow time for completion of bond construction projects. The schools on this construction calendar include Altura, Century, Elkhart, Lyn Knoll and Virginia Court elementary schools, West Middle School and Hinkley High School.

On this construction calendar, there will not be a fall break and classes will end on May 4, 2006. Specific bell times for 2005-06 will be announced later this spring.

The 2005-06 calendars can be accessed on the district's Web site, [www.aps.k12.co.us/district-info/calendar.html](http://www.aps.k12.co.us/district-info/calendar.html).



*Ms. Wojdyla's fourth-grade students work in one of the mobile classrooms at Sixth Avenue Elementary. The school's bond project includes a new classroom addition.*

### CLIPBOARD SURVEY

Please return via interschool mail

To: **Communication Department  
Administration Building**

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Your submissions are welcomed and encouraged. Please use the online submission form at <http://www.apsnet/news.htm>.