



Aurora
Public
Schools

Picking up the PACE

A National School Public Relations Association award-winning newsletter

Highlighting Staff Accomplishments

CLIPBOARD

Congratulations Quarterly Award Winners

Superintendent John L. Barry recognized ten individuals who make a difference in the lives of APS students. At a ceremony held at North Middle School on January 16, Barry honored staff members, a parent and community/business members with Superintendent Quarterly Awards. To see the winners, turn to page 2.

January 2008

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A Hero in the Cafeteria

Crawford Elementary School has a new hero! Head Custodian Julius Greer took student safety into his own hands.

While monitoring the cafeteria and taking student lunch trays, Greer noticed that student Deondre was acting unusual in the lunch line. Deondre was choking and Greer quickly performed the Heimlich Maneuver on him.

After a few moments, Deondre returned to his normal day at school, grateful for his new hero.



"I am so thankful that I was at the right place at the right time for Deondre. I am glad that I was there to help. These students mean a lot to me."

--Crawford Elementary Staff Member Julius Greer

APS Teachers Earn Grants to Strengthen Mathematics Education

The Colorado Council of Teachers of Mathematics recently awarded grants of \$2,000 each to four APS staff members to fund mathematics teaching programs at their schools. Mike Abdale at Mrachek, Nicole Serinaldi at Rangeview, Marcy Greene at Iowa, and Deb Connor at Jewell will use their grants to create professional development programs that will help staff members strengthen their math teaching skills.

"These grants are a wonderful opportunity for us to share innovative and fun ways to teach mathematics in the classroom."

**- Marcy Greene
Iowa Elementary**



From left to right: Marcy Greene, Mike Abdale, Deb Connor and Nicole Serinaldi

Congratulations Quarterly Award Winners

Each quarter, Superintendent Barry honors individuals who are outstanding contributors to Aurora Public Schools. Staff, parents and community members nominate the winners. In addition to the award, winners' photos are displayed on a special "Wall of Fame" located outside the boardroom in the Educational Services Center, Peoria and at the Town Center at Aurora.

Classified Employee, Support



E.J. Horner
Bus Driver
Transportation

Each quarterly award winner is eligible for the APS Superintendent Annual Awards.

Do you know someone who goes above and beyond to help APS students become successful? If so, nominate this person for a Quarterly Superintendent's Award. Submit Superintendent's Quarterly Award nominations online at www.aps.k12.co.us/hr/awards.

*Superintendent's
Quarterly
Award*

Classified Employee, Elementary



Kathy Iken
Paraeducator, Health/Office
Yale

*Administrative / Professional /
Technical Employee*



Jose Paz
Language Services Coordinator
Communication Department

Licensed Employee, Elementary



Jennifer Thomas
Classroom Teacher
Sixth Avenue

Quarterly Award Winners (continued)

Licensed Employee, Elementary



Elizabeth Latham
*Teacher on Special Assignment
Elkhart*

Licensed Employee, Middle School



Dave Schoenhals
*Math Instructional Coach
Instructional Services*

Licensed Employee, High School



Tom Fox
*Educational Technology Coach
Instructional Technology*

Parent



Mary Martinez
Parent

Community / Business Members



Navy Information Operations Command, Colorado
Community/Business Members

Lea Irvine (Not pictured)
Classified Employee, Secondary – Paraeducator, Severe Needs/Life Skills – Gateway

APS in Action

Aurora Central Staff Members "Step It Up" at Rally

Aurora Central High School staff members stepped up their game at a recent schoolwide pep rally. Teachers and other staff members performed a step routine showcasing their dance moves as students cheered them on.



Back Row: Marlaine Beratta, Dana Nardello, Rhonda Robbins
Front Row: Heather Price, Brenda Parra, Amber Batson-Vasquez



"The pep rally was a fantastic experience. All of us were a bit nervous, but the minute we stepped out on the gym floor, the students cheered! The unconditional support of our students is the most memorable part of the experience for me."

*-Aurora Central High School Teacher
Rhonda Robbins*

Crawford Teacher Spearheads Giving Campaign

Crawford Elementary School teacher Kathryn Malone knows that teachers impact students' lives both in and out of the classroom. In the fall, a first-grade student in her class lost everything in a house fire. "I didn't have my library books anymore because they were burned in the fire," said Alfredo.

Malone and other Crawford staff members took action. They collected linens, kitchenware, clothes and appliances for the family.

GIVE

Want to Learn More About APS?

- Visit <http://www.aps.k12.co.us/communications/> to learn more about APS staff, students and APS community achievements.

APS Honors

• "Amazing Auroran" Honored at Hinkley High School

Aurora City Council member Renie Peterson recently presented **Hinkley High School teacher Christine Sundberg** with an "Amazing Auroran" award. Peterson selected Sundberg for the award based on her valuable contributions to her school, her students and the teaching profession. Sundberg recently earned a \$10,000 grant for Hinkley High School as the 2007 Wal-Mart Teacher of the Year for Colorado.



• South Middle School AP Makes the Grade

South Middle School Assistant Principal Alejandra Morales earned her doctoral degree in Educational Philosophies and Policy Studies. "Pursuing this degree while working at APS has increased my knowledge and understanding of the diverse ways I can contribute to closing the achievement gap," said Morales.



Morales came to the United States 11 years ago speaking very little English. Congratulations!