

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 10 individuals who make a difference in the lives of APS students. At a ceremony held at South Middle School on October 24, Barry honored eight staff members, one parent and a community/business member with Superintendent Quarterly Awards. To see the winners, turn to page 2.

October 2007

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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.

Staff Members Find Ways To Get Fit

APS staff members are "Picking up the PACE" on their health! Staff members from more than 10 different sites are committing to a healthier lifestyle this fall.

• America On The Move Walking Contest

More than 200 APS employees participated in a six-week contest. Walking teams from Iowa Elementary School, East and Aurora Hills middle schools, and Gateway and Central high schools took 69,556,488 total steps (that's 1.4 times around the earth). A pedometer recorded their daily steps. Participants agreed to increase their steps each week. America On the Move staff members offered online support, weekly updates for



groups and a banquet ceremony for all participants. The Aurora Central High School team won the contest with 26,821,327 total steps.

• 10,000 Step Program

More than 30 APS employees joined the 10,000 Steps® Program in September. The eight-week program is designed to help increase physical activity with the instant reward of a pedometer and motivational support through electronic tips and messages. Registered individuals will qualify to win gift cards from REI.

• Water Aerobics

APS Transportation Department employees decided in April 2007 to seek ways to improve their health. They recruited Transportation Secretary Rebecca Dater to teach water aerobics classes. Trainers, bus drivers and support employees trade their transportation gear for swimming gear twice a week. "This is not a stretch and breathe class, it's a move your body and sweat in the water class," said Dater.



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.

Licensed Employee, Elementary



Megan Moore
*Teacher,
Sable Elementary School*

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*

Licensed Employee, Elementary



Sandra Smith
*Teacher,
Aurora Frontier K-8*

Licensed Employee, Middle School



Jennifer Case
*6th Grade Math Teacher,
East Middle School*

Licensed Employee, High School



Tammy Strouse
*Performing Arts Teacher
and Department Chair,
Rangeview High School*

Quarterly Award Winners (continued)

Classified Employee, Elementary



Callee Ernest
*Educational Assistant, Technology,
Peoria Elementary School*

Classified Employee, Secondary



Heidi Kelley
*Educational Assistant and
Athletic Trainer,
Rangeview High School*

Classified Employee, Support



Ryan Wamsley
*Journeyman Carpenter,
Facilities & Maintenance*

*Administrative / Professional /
Technical Employee*



Scott Habermehl
*Principal,
Vassar Elementary School*

Parent



Carmen Andrade
*Parent,
North Middle School*

Community / Business Member



Janet Kiyota
Community Member

APS in Action

Retiring With Style

Retired Aurora Central High School Athletic Director Ad Lopez left his mark at the school by transforming the athletic program from 2002-2006. Since his retirement, Lopez has pursued his passion of jewelry making and was recently featured in the August/September issue of “Latino Suave” magazine. A portion of his proceeds go to local students. “Designing jewelry is a lot of fun. I’ve always given back to my community,” said Lopez. “I know how important scholarships are to students wanting to succeed after high school. People helped me out and now I want to help others.” His studio is located at 1556 Florence Street, near the Aurora Fox Theatre. For more information about Lopez and his jewelry-making endeavors, visit www.adlopezoriginals.com.

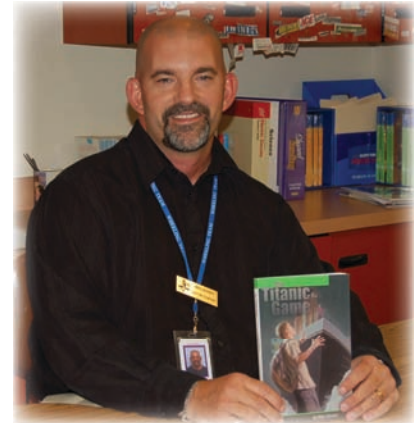


APS Honors

- ***Drama Honors***—The Alliance for Colorado Theatre honored **Gateway High School Assistant Principal John Delaney** with the Distinguished Service Award for Theatre Advocate Outside the Profession. The ACT Board honors individuals who support theatre education in Colorado. Kurt Muenstermann, former Gateway Theatre Director, presented the award to Delaney. “Gateway is proud to have a board of education that supports the arts financially and attends many concerts and plays,” said Delaney.
- ***Quilt Honors***—**Human Resource Payroll Specialist Debbie Devries** finds solace in creating works of art using thread and fabric. Devries recently entered a quilt into a competition sponsored by the Colorado Quilters Council. This APS employee didn’t just win — she swept the competition and earned First Place, Best of Show, Award of Excellence and People’s Choice. “I’ve been quilting for six years and enjoy doing it in my spare time. My co-workers like to see the different pieces I’ve created,” said Devries.



- ***Literacy Honors***—**Wheeling Elementary Teacher Mike Warner** just published his first children’s book. Warner worked on “The Titanic Game” during lunch breaks and late nights since 2001. The seven-year Wheeling teacher discussed the editing process, shared drafts of the book with students, and even allowed his class to vote on the final illustration for the cover. Warner’s wife, Ann, is a paraprofessional at Wheeling and is proud of her husband’s book about a fifth-grade boy and his adventure on the Titanic ship. Warner sent his manuscript to 17 publishers in 2004. “It feels great to have my foot in the door. I’ve written ten books and one has been published. I love writing and will continue to write for a very long time,” said Warner.



In Memory of Debbie Justen

Last year, many APS employees and community members donated funds for a memorial bench to honor long-time APS teacher Debbie Justen, who passed away. The completed bench is now located outdoors at Dalton Elementary School. Please stop by and see this beautiful tribute to a wonderful person.

