



Aurora
Public
Schools

Picking up the PACE

A National School Public Relations Association award-winning newsletter

Highlighting Staff Accomplishments

CLIPBOARD

“Trust and teamwork will be the theme this year among community members, students and staff.”
--APS
Superintendent
John L. Barry



Superintendent Barry Launches 2007-2008 School Year

Superintendent John L. Barry had a busy schedule during the first week of the school year. Barry spent the first day of school riding a school bus, serving breakfast to the kids and encouraging involvement in APS by issuing a new set of challenges for 2007-08.

- **Students:** Elementary students are encouraged to read 25 books and middle and high school students are encouraged to read 10. The first 100 elementary and the first 50 secondary classes who meet the challenge will earn “high five” prizes from local businesses.
- **Aurora Education Association:** The APS teachers’ union wants teachers to accept the challenge to make a home visit to a student.
- **All APS Staff Members:** Mentor one child for the school year. The goal is to help keep children in school and motivated.
- **Principals:** The goal is to increase the percentage of proficient students in all CSAP categories by 3 percent.

For a complete list of Superintendent Barry’s challenges, visit www.apscms.net/news/2007/08/15/aps-challenges-07/.



Summer 2007

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APS in Action

APS Staff Takes Teamwork to the Streets!

APS staff members from across the district kicked off their work shoes and put on their sneakers to raise awareness and funds for people affected by Multiple Sclerosis.

More than 20 staff members formed a team and participated in the MS Walk recently. The team set a fundraising goal of \$1,000. This group, with Martha Baldwin as team captain, surpassed that goal and raised more than \$2,500.

The MS Walk is more than a fundraising event; it is a celebration for an entire community. Proceeds fund programs, services and research. Multiple Sclerosis is an autoimmune disease that affects the central nervous system.

"It was great to see so many co-workers support such a great cause."

Michelle Chandler, MS walker and West Middle School counselor



APS Picking Up the PACE in Local Media

Community members are learning more about APS through increased media coverage. Reporters from 12 media outlets visited APS and featured stories about the first day of school. This included television, radio, newspaper and Web stories.

This trend of increased news coverage has been in the works for some time. In every survey conducted by the Communication Department since 2004, parents, staff and students have asked for more good news stories about APS.

In 2006-07, there were more than 100 television stories about APS, a 250 percent increase from the previous year. In 2005-06 and 2006-07, more than 800 APS stories appeared in local newspapers, news Web sites, and radio and television newscasts compared to 300 stories during the 2003-04 and 2004-05 school years.

Paula Hans has recently filled a vacant position in the Communication Department as News Media Specialist. Hans, a former television news producer, brings years of media experience to APS. She will work with local media and APS staff, students and parents to continue sharing good news about APS.

In addition to local news stories, the Communication Team features positive news about APS in Clipboard, E-News and on the APS Web site. Share "good news" stories with the Communication Team at www.aps.k12.co.us/communications/good_news.htm.

APS Teachers—Learning Never Stops!

Aurora Public Schools is happy to announce the second year of a partnership with **Regis University and University of Colorado at Denver Health Sciences Center** that offers a Linguistically Diverse Educators Certificate to APS teachers. Last year more than 100 teachers completed their LDE certificates and many more are currently enrolled in the program. To view a complete list of participants, visit www.aps.k12.co.us/communications/clipboard/lde.pdf.

APS Teacher Brings Japan Back to Students

Imagine an 18-day educational tour to Japan during summer break. For Casey McMorrow, third grade teacher at Lansing Elementary, it's a fond memory. McMorrow was one of 10 Colorado elementary teachers who traveled to Japan this past June, as part of the "Program for Teaching East Asia" summer study group.

The University of Colorado at Boulder program allows educators to gain an in-depth look at Japanese culture. After writing three essays, completing an interview and attending a few orientation meetings, McMorrow was ready for her summer study!

She traveled with her group to Tokyo, Kyoto, Hiroshima, Yamagata and Yokohama. The theme of this year's study was "Texts and Contexts: Japan through Children's Literature."

"This is my chance to learn about other cultures. I want to give my students an understanding of the world," McMorrow said.

The group visited cultural and historical sites, met with scholars, visited elementary students and participated in curriculum development sessions.

McMorrow is bringing part of Japan back to her APS classroom. She plans to recreate a tea ceremony for her students, demonstrate the use of calligraphy pens and allow students to try on kimonos.

McMorrow recommends the program to other APS teachers. The program is funded primarily through a generous grant from the Freeman Foundation, with a \$1,000 contribution made by each teacher. McMorrow's favorite part of the trip was a visit to a Buddhist temple. "The whole process of meditating, eating in silence, and trying different foods was hard, but one of the most memorable experiences for me," said McMorrow.



Calling All APS Grads!



APS PACEsetter: Hap Legg

Legg graduated from Hinkley High School in 1994. He also attended Park Lane Elementary School and North Middle School.

- Legg attended the University of Colorado at Denver as part of the In-Roads Internship Program.
- Currently, Legg serves as the Senior Vice-President for First Bank of Aurora.
- He also serves as Chairperson for the Far North East Business Association, Vice-Chairperson for the Foundation for Educational Excellence, Vice-Chairperson for Court Appointed Special Advocates and Vice-Chairperson for the Far North East Neighbors.
- Legg has three daughters ages 4, 8 and 10. "My parents and my schools prepared me to succeed. APS students should take advantage of every opportunity and resource available to them and should strive to be involved with their schools."

- *Hap Legg*

Senior Vice-President, First Bank of Aurora

To share a story about an APS PACEsetter, visit www.apscms.net/enews/pacesetter-submission.



Hinkley High School Grand Opening Celebration

Thanks to bond funds, Hinkley High School has a brand new look. Please join us to celebrate the school's new building improvements.

**Thursday, Sept. 27, 2007
6-7:30 p.m.**

Hinkley High School
1250 Chambers Rd.

Come see your bond dollars at work!

APS Honors

- Arkansas Elementary School Principal Carol McBride and Lansing Elementary School Principal Jean Burke attended the Principal Leadership Academy this summer in Beaver Creek, sponsored by the Tointon Institute for Change. Along with 34 other principals from around the state, McBride and Burke learned a variety of research-based leadership practices to positively affect student achievement.
- The Aurora Retired School Employees Association awarded a \$500 educational development scholarship to Roxann Norris as part of the "Grow Your Own Program." This APS program provides educational opportunities for classified employees, that leads to the completion of a Colorado teaching license. Norris is pursuing a bachelor's degree in elementary education at Regis University and plans to graduate in December 2008.

*"This scholarship will go a long way in helping me reach my goals."
Roxann Norris, Park Lane Elementary School*

- Congratulations Aurora Frontier K-8! Art teacher Thad McCauley earned a Scientific & Cultural Facilities grant for the 2007-08 school year. The grant will fund workshops, classes and field trips to The Butterfly Pavilion, Colorado Ballet and The Wildlife Experience.
- Kudos to Transportation Department staff member Jake Trotter for earning the "Driver of the Year" award from the Colorado State Pupil Transportation Association. Trotter was selected from thousands of nominees in 50 states. He retired in June after 26 years with the district, but has graciously agreed to serve an additional five years transporting students to and from athletic events and field trips.

Want to Learn More About APS?

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