

inside dps

The "Stapleton II" school, which will serve up to 750 students in grades four through eight, is scheduled for completion in June.



dps landscape expands

The landscape of Denver Public Schools continues to expand and change. Fast-growing Stapleton, ever-hopping Montbello and rapidly-expanding Green Valley Ranch each are home to new schools, just seven months from their debuts.

All three new schools have names pending, and all three were built as K-8 configurations – but that's where the similarities end.

Stapleton II School (Grades 4-8)

The "Stapleton II" school will be joined at the curriculum hip with nearby Westerly Creek Elementary School, the first school on the Stapleton redevelopment site. Westerly Creek is just a few blocks north of the new school, which is now nearing completion along Montview Blvd.

A recent Board of Education decision, following a community suggestion to have the schools work together, means the existing Westerly Creek Elementary School at Stapleton will serve students through third grade, while the new building will serve students in grades four through eight. Both schools will be overseen by a single principal in an effort to maximize cohesion.

Green Valley Ranch Picadilly K-8 School

Far to the northeast, the Green Valley Ranch Picadilly K-8 School (21601 E. 51st Place) site is quickly transforming from a dirt lot to an educational campus.

Under a proposal now pending with the Board of Education, this K-8 school would enroll students



A wee bit of Scotland. The Greenlee Scottish Dancers performed the "Dashing Sergeant" last month for special guest Mayor John Hickenlooper, who was visiting the K-8 school that day. The Scottish dance program began in 2002 and is funded as part of Lights On After School, a partnership among the DPS Foundation, Mile High United Way and the Mayor's Office for Education and Children.

Early Notification of Retirement

Any administrator, manager, or supervisor who is eligible for retirement benefits and submits a retirement request effective the end of the school year (for action by the Board at its April meeting) shall be eligible for a severance pay stipend of \$1,200 payable at the time of retirement.

The application deadline has been moved up to February 1, 2006 (from February 15).

Contact the DPS Retirement Office for applications, 720-423-8900. ■

W-2s Arrive This Month

Payroll and Business Services will send W-2s to employees' home addresses at the end of January. If you've recently moved, your manager should submit your address change as soon as possible to Human Resources at <https://employeeinfo.dpsk12.org>. ■

When did that happen?

Be in the know. It's easy to sign up for free email updates about news in DPS. A lot or a little, choose the information you want – this employee newsletter can arrive by email, too.

Sign up at <http://piolists.dpsk12.org>. Be sure to provide your correct email address and click "continue" and "finish" until you receive a confirmation that you're signed up. ■

"The Denver Plan" on TV

The current edition of "DPS Today," the monthly television show about Denver Public Schools on Denver cable 8, features a conversation with Superintendent Michael Bennet and Chief Academic Officer Jaime Aquino about the 82-page draft of "The Denver Plan" that proposes a host of reforms for Denver Public Schools.

The ideas cover a wide range of issues, including boosting student attendance, improving training for teachers and principals, and accelerating achievement among English Language Learners.

It envisions interventions for struggling learners, including mandatory summer school for some, and it proposes to develop a new policy that would govern the promotion and retention of students between grade levels. The list of ideas covers a wide range of issues.

The Denver Plan is online at <http://thedenverplan.dpsk12.org>.

"DPS Today" can be seen on Denver cable 8 throughout the month at 8 a.m. every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday; at 8:30 p.m. every Friday and Saturday; and at 1:30 p.m. every Sunday. Denver stations 22 and 48 also re-broadcast "DPS Today." Channel 22 is the DPS channel on Comcast cable in Denver. Channel 48 is an ITFS microwave channel that is received only within DPS facilities and delivered on cable channel 48 in classrooms.

The show airs on channels 22 and 48 at:

- Mondays at 4:30 p.m. and 9:30 p.m.
- Tuesdays at 8 a.m., noon, 4:30 p.m. and 9:30 p.m.
- Wednesdays at noon, 4:30 p.m. and 9:30 p.m.
- Thursdays at 8 a.m., noon, 4:30 p.m. and 9:30 p.m.
- Fridays at 4:30 p.m. and 9:30 p.m.
- Saturdays and Sundays noon, 4:30 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. ■

inside ProComp

ProComp round-up

February 1 Opt-In Window

ProComp's opt-in window for the 2006-2007 contract year will be February 1 through March 31, 2006. The opt-in window for 2005-2006 closed on December 31, and at press time, the final number of people joining was not known. Educators who think they are interested in joining during the second opt-in period should make sure their transcripts and in-service credits are up to date.

January Surveys

This month, many educators will have the opportunity to participate in a web-based survey that will yield valuable feedback on two fundamental instructional reform initiatives that are underway this year.

The survey will gather educators' opinions about the process of setting student growth objectives and the new professional evaluation system. Both topics are part of the ProComp salary system, as well as the overall instructional reform agenda. Additionally, every educator who participated in ProComp's first opt-in window will be asked about their experiences. People involved in the Professional Development Unit pilot will be surveyed separately. Information gathered from the surveys will be used to improve the products and processes.

Q&A

Q. I am taking classes now and would like to know if these credits can be used to establish a higher starting salary for me under ProComp in the 2006-2007 school year, even though I have not finished my coursework.

A. Credits earned before June 30, 2006, may be used for salary advancement for people who join ProComp during the first two opt-in windows. Documentation for these credits must be submitted to Human Resources before August 31, 2006, and payment will be effective on the submittal date. The total number of credits eligible for buy-out is 30 semester hours.

Program Evaluation

The ProComp Transition Team has accepted the first internal review of ProComp's implementation conducted by the Office of Planning, Assessment and Research (PAR). The report covers the 2004-2005 contract year. Researchers reported a mix of findings, ranging from great personal satisfaction among the ProComp work groups to a need for greater coordination and communication. This first internal report will form the basis of an ongoing program of internal and external evaluation of ProComp's impact on the district and educational achievement. A more detailed summary of the report is available at www.denverprocomp.org.

ProComp

The Professional Compensation System for Teachers was designed jointly by the Denver Public Schools and the Denver Classroom Teachers Association.

For more information about ProComp, visit www.denverprocomp.org, call 720-423-3900 or email optin@dpsk12.org.



About the new schools

Green Valley Ranch Picadilly K-8

Final completion date: June 30, 2006

Cost: \$17.9 million

Source of funds: 2003 General Obligation Bond

Capacity: 840 Students

Size: 108,000 square feet

Amenities: 8,600 square foot gym with bleachers; 3,500 square foot Library Media Center; science rooms, art studio, computer classroom, technology lab, Learning Landscape, athletic fields.

Stapleton II

Final completion date: June 12, 2006

Cost: \$19.6 million

Source of funds: Denver Urban Renewal Authority

Capacity: 750 Students

Size: 102,000 square feet

Amenities: 9,600 square foot gym with bleachers; 3,200 square foot Library Media Center; science rooms, art studio, computer classroom; technology lab; wireless access points throughout; Learning Landscape with Grasslands Learning center, Earth History Timeline Walk, and River Walk; outdoor classroom seating, athletic fields. Also: First school in DPS to make exclusive use of closed-loop ground-source heat exchanger system (Geothermal) to heat and cool the entire building. Break-even point for initial investment is projected at seven years based on current heating fuel prices.

Montbello Village Place K-8

Final completion date: July 27, 2006

Cost: \$18.0 million

Source of funds: 2003 General Obligation Bond

Capacity: 840 students

Size: 111,431 square feet

Amenities: Located on a relatively small site, DPS and Denver Parks & Recreation are cooperating to develop the school's play fields in Village Place Park across the street from the school. The two-story building includes all amenities needed for the DPS elementary and middle school programs.

Baker Middle School / Center for International Studies

Final completion date: July 21, 2006

Cost: \$3.0 million

Source of funds: 2003 General Obligation Bond

New amenities and upgrades: Locker room upgrades, complete interior repaint, duct cleaning, replace corridor ceiling, replace all carpet, exterior brick work, complete repaint, replace all steel windows with new aluminum windows, convert asphalt playground to sodded commons area, re-sod soccer field, among other steps.

LANDSCAPE from page 1

through fifth grade from an established boundary area. However, students wishing to attend grades six through eight would enroll through the Choice process.

A community meeting to discuss enrollment in the new Green Valley Picadilly K-8 School is set for 7 p.m. Wednesday, January 11 at Green Valley Elementary School, 4100 Jericho St.

Montbello Village Place K-8 School

At Montbello Village Place K-8 School (14250 E. Albrook Dr.), no boundary attendance zone would be set and students would enroll through the "Choice" process. The plan suggests that the new principal, to be appointed this month, may work with the Chief Academic Officer to select a thematic program consistent with the Denver Plan to meet expressed school community desires.

The additional piece of the plan here is that during the first year of operation (2006-2007), the parents and community would work to develop a proposal for a theme or curricular emphasis so the school would convert in 2007-2008 as a regional magnet.

A community meeting to discuss enrollment in the new Montbello Village Place K-8 School is set for 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, January 10 at Rachel B. Noel Middle School, 5290 Kittridge St.

Center for International Studies

For the final new choice on the DPS map, head back to near downtown Denver as the Center for International Studies settles into place at the former Baker Middle School site. Previously at West High School, "CIS" will expand to serve middle school students and will have its own stand-alone school for the first time.

As the enrollment season begins in earnest, these are the new physical infrastructure changes for parents to consider as they size up options for next school year. But parents and students also are strongly advised to check in with schools in their local neighborhood to see what's new – many school communities are actively engaged in reengineering their programs and offerings.

Choice Enrollment Period Is This Month

The month of January is the first round of Choice enrollment, which allows families to apply for a transfer to a neighborhood school outside the one in their own neighborhood.

Choice enrollment forms are available at all schools; completed forms for the 2006-2007 school year need to be returned to any school by Tuesday, January 31 for central processing. A lottery will be conducted if there are more applicants than space available in a school. Families will receive acceptance letters or waiting list notification by mid-February.

After January 31, families will need to return Choice forms to the specific school or schools that interest them. These may be completed through the first two weeks of the next school year. Students are enrolled during this second round of the Choice process on a first-come, first-served basis. Waiting lists are maintained for schools with more applicants than space available.

Enrollment Guide Is Online

The 2006 enrollment guide (in English and Spanish) now is online from the "parents and students" link on the DPS homepage, www.dpsk12.org. The guide outlines choices for families, district enrollment procedures and more. ■

comings & goings

Appointments

Anthony Aguilar: Custodian Helper, North High
 Howardine Anderson Jr: Custodian Helper, George Washington High
 Richard S. Boss: Custodial Helper, West High
 Walter Burton: Custodian Helper, East High
 Shaunna Cook: Custodian Helper, Westerly Creek Elementary
 Jennifer Dobson: Teacher, Elementary, Education
 Barbara M. Foster: Dispatch II, Operations
 Betty J. Fox: Library Technician, Education
 Patricia Garcia: Secretary I, Del Pueblo Elementary
 Laura A. Gonzales: Secretary II, Administration
 Connie S. Hartig: Teacher, Secondary, Lake Middle
 Susan Herwig: Nurse, Sabin Elementary
 Wendy A. Jacobson: Tutor Interpreter, Abraham Lincoln High
 James P. Jones: Teacher, Elementary, Gilpin Elementary
 Julia Julian: Teacher, Elementary, Steele Elementary
 Jane M. Maes: Secretary I, Fallis Elementary
 Luis G. Martinez: Teacher, Secondary, Bruce Randolph Middle
 Shelly D. Mandel: Teacher, Secondary, Morey Middle
 Carlos G. Medina: Custodian Helper, West High
 Margaret Paccione: Student/Family Liaison Specialist, Fairview Elementary
 Rebecca B. Painter: Teacher, Elementary, Wyman Elementary
 Antonio Perea: Teacher, Secondary, Martin Luther King Jr. Middle
 Melanie Perkins: Teacher, Secondary, Morey Middle
 Joseph D. Rhodes: Custodian Helper, South High

Aida Rodriguez- Sandoval: Teacher, Elementary, Munroe Elementary
 Amelia Roper: Teacher, Elementary, Marrama Elementary
 Ronald Stricklin: Custodian Helper, John F. Kennedy High
 Pearl Toyne: Speech Language Pathology Assistant, Education
 Julie M. Troch: Teacher, Elementary, McGlone Elementary
 Brenda L. Vega: Teacher, Elementary, Castro Elementary

Changes In Assignment

Maria T. Berman: Assistant Principal, Elementary, McGlone Elementary
 Carmen C. Bernal: Custodian Assistant I, Barnum Elementary
 Karen S. Chapin: Assistant Principal, Elementary, Swansea Elementary
 Donald E. Cisneros: Truck Driver, Operations
 Randnell J. Crisp: Custodian Assistant I, Slavens Elementary
 Danyelle S. Dillard: Secretary II, Montbello High
 Angela T. Farina: Licensed Practical Nurse, Education
 Philip Faustin II: Vehicle Service Technician II, Operations
 Timothy Gallegos: Senior Supervisor, Transportation Foreman, Operations
 Robert Good: Director Planning & Research, Education
 Grant Guyer: Coordinator, Assessment Coordinator, Education
 Saul Hernandez: Custodian Assistant I, Lowry Elementary
 Kimberly J. Jacobs: Secretary I, Lowry Elementary
 Marley King: Specialist III, PC Applications, Administration

Irene J. Kuoni: Office Support III, Administration
 Jennifer C. Lopez: Secretary I, Martin Luther King Jr. Middle
 Benjamin Mandzic: Custodian Assistant, Lake Middle
 Elphine T. Medina: Custodian Assistant, Administration
 Suzanne Morris-Sherer: Assistant Principal, Middle School, Martin Luther King Jr. Middle
 Sharon M. Ndem: Custodian Assistant, Operations
 James K. Sanchez : Vehicle Service Tech II, Operations
 Rosalie D. Trujillo: Custodian Assistant, Operations
 Jacqueline J. Wimmer: Custodian Assistant, Operations

Reappointments

Sally A. Bustamante: Secretary, Executive II, Education
 Carolyn B. Hartl: Teacher, Elementary, Ellis Elementary
 Wendy Koceski: Literacy Coach, Maxwell Elementary

Retirements

Peggy J. Chiovitti- Moritz: Speech Language Pathologist, Education
 Tony E. Kotris: Vehicle Maintenance Technician, Operations
 Robert L. Robinson: Teacher Secondary, Rachel Noel Middle

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focus on

Carla Callahan

Resource Teacher, Special Education
Del Pueblo K-8 School

Years with Denver

Public Schools: One and a half years.

Greatest or latest accomplishment: I went to Ireland last summer and found my family's castle.

Editor's note: Carla is one of only 36 teachers in the nation selected recently to receive the National Education Association Foundation's "Read Across America Library Books Award." The \$5,000 awards help public schools purchase library books.



Why you decided to become a teacher:

I enjoy figuring how children learn and how best to teach them according to their own individual learning style. It's like a puzzle.

Four words you think students would use to

describe your teaching strategies: Energy, active, excellence and fun.

One way you give your students recognition: I know the names of all the students in our school.

From your experience, the most effective way to communicate with parents: I like to put myself in their place and talk with them the way I would like to be talked to.

What you do for fun: I take my Bernese Mountain Dog (Sherpa) to the lake.

Hometown: Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Person who has influenced you most in life: My 13-year-old son Juba.

Favorite restaurant: Taj of India, 6750 S. Pierce St., Littleton.

Best book you've read in the past year: "The Art of Happiness: A Handbook for Living" by the Dalai Lama and Howard C. Cutler.

Family: My son Juba, my sister Sydney and her family in California.

Philosophy for life: "I'm glad I did" rather than "I wish I had."

Three items (books, records, movies, presidents, etc.) you would take with you if you were stranded on an island: The movie "Harold and Maude" (1971), the book "A Right to be Merry" by Sister Mary Francis and any music by Beethoven.



2006-2007 School Year Calendars

Traditional Calendar

The Denver Board of Education is considering a draft 2006-2007 traditional school year calendar that calls for a start date of Monday, August 21, 2006. Final adoption is scheduled for Thursday, January 19.

Highlights of the draft:

- First day of school: August 21
- Thanksgiving break: November 22-24
- Winter break: December 22-January 5
- Spring break: March 26-30
- Last day of school: May 31

The draft 2006-2007 traditional school year calendar is online at <http://www.dpsk12.org/calendars>.

Continuous-Year Calendar

Per the draft of The Denver Plan, staff currently is reviewing the continuous-year calendar in the context of resources required and academic achievement. Staff is expected to present a draft 2006-2007 continuous-year calendar to the Denver Board of Education on Thursday, January 19. Final adoption is expected by the end of January.

insideDPS is a newsletter for and about Denver Public Schools employees. It is published monthly during the school year.

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