

inside dps



Aaron Mikulich with young son Ogdan and Tracy Edwards with her son Ethan are among the dozens of families that have toured Bradley Elementary School in recent weeks to see for themselves how the neighborhood school in southeast Denver will revitalize itself by starting the International Baccalaureate Primary Years Programme. Brown Elementary School in northwest Denver also is starting the program.

worldwide focus invigorates two elementary schools

The whole world is waiting. For you and your kid." That's what Brown Elementary School is saying about its freshly-picked plans to offer "a whole new world of learning."

Two neighborhood elementary schools – Brown in northwest Denver and Bradley in southeast Denver – are on their way to becoming authorized in the International Baccalaureate (IB) Primary Years Programme for elementary students.

After months of research, surveys and visits to other cities, the two schools are the first in the district to offer the elementary program school-wide. Bradley began implementing elements of the IB program this year; Brown's program will start in the fall. (Garden Place Academy offers a variation of the program to qualifying students.)

"The beauty of this program is that it includes the entire school," said Mary Firth, Bradley Elementary School's literacy

coach and IB coordinator. "There's no application process. It's designed for all students."

An Overview

To be brief, all students in both schools learn Spanish, and they'll be trained to become inquirers, thinkers, communicators and risk-takers. The program delivers the district's curriculum with the aim that students become knowledgeable, principled, caring, open-minded, well-balanced and reflective and that they develop appreciation, commitment, confidence, cooperation, creativity, curiosity, empathy, enthusiasm, independence, integrity, respect and tolerance. These attitudes should be modeled by the entire school community.

The transformation at Bradley already is happening. "Our students are changing," said Firth. "We want them

See **IB Primary Years Programme** on page 4

Former DPS Superintendent Evie Dennis (left) congratulates Summer Scholars Executive Director Anne Byrne on receiving the El Pomar Foundation's Award for Excellence in Education.



hats off!

Summer Scholars, Northeast Denver's literacy and youth development initiative, recently won the El Pomar Foundation's prestigious Award for Excellence in Education for its research-based, evaluation-driven programming that relies on teamwork between multiple entities – in this case Denver Public Schools, Denver Parks and Recreation and a diverse base of donors. The program shares a common goal with DPS, namely to promote academic achievement among struggling elementary students. Over the years, hundreds of DPS teachers, principals and paraprofessionals have worked as part-time staff in the Summer Scholars summer program, after-school tutoring program and family literacy initiative. By offering students at 19 Northeast Denver elementary schools year-round instruction and services, Summer Scholars has prevented the “summer learning slide” among 100 percent of participating students and has improved the reading skills of 80 percent of participants. Summer Scholars acknowledges the contributions of DPS staff and administration in making these achievements possible. For more information about Summer Scholars, visit www.summerscholars.org. ■

Spring Break Day Off Added

Employees who work at least 220 days on a 12-month schedule and whose work year began on September 1, 2004, will have an extra day off during spring break next month – Thursday, March 31. The change comes from a recent Board of Education decision to eliminate the August Colorado Day holiday in future years and replace it instead with a day off the Wednesday before Thanksgiving.

Only some employees will be affected next month by the change; others already have used the Colorado Day holiday since their work year started earlier. Note that there has been no change to the number of holidays observed; the day off for Colorado Day simply is being moved this year for some employees.

Beginning in the 2005-2006 school year, all employees who qualify for the Colorado Day holiday will have the same day off – the Wednesday before Thanksgiving Day.

Employees should check with their supervisor if they have any questions.

Exceptions

Some employees who work more than 220 days this year will not have the additional day off next month because they already observed the holiday.

- Cabinet-level administrative personnel who work 235 days (their work year started in July, so they observed the August 2004 holiday)
- Warehouse, building and grounds, facility managers and custodial staff who work 245 days (these employees observed the extra day off during the winter break)

Spring Break Reminder

- Continuous-year calendar schools are closed Monday, March 21 – Friday, April 8
- Traditional calendar schools are closed Monday, March 28 – Friday, April 1
- District offices are closed Monday, March 28 – Wednesday, March 30 ■

Montbello High School “in our collective hearts”

Following last month's fatal stabbing at Montbello High School, where one student lost his life during a fight with another student in the school cafeteria, Superintendent Jerry Wartgow urged the greater Denver Public Schools community to take the entire Montbello High School community into our collective hearts and prayers.

“We will continue to hold the kids and staff at Montbello High School in our hearts and to help them with the grieving and healing process,” said Superintendent Wartgow.

In a commitment “to do everything humanly possible to make sure such a tragedy never happens again in our Denver Public Schools community,” Superintendent Wartgow has launched a series of discussion groups with high school students to talk about their concerns and ideas about addressing school safety at all high schools.

With their Collaborative School Committees, schools also are reviewing and revising, as necessary, supervision plans for classrooms, cafeterias, passing periods and school grounds, Emergency Response Crisis Management plans, bully prevention plans and other school safety issues.

Weapons Watch

“Weapons Watch” posters now are up in each middle and high school. The program is an anonymous tip line (720-913-STOP) for providing information about illegal weapons in schools – callers won't be identified. The tip line is staffed 24 hours a day, seven days a week by the Denver Police Department. There is a reward offered of up to \$500 for information leading to the seizure of illegal weapons.

Superintendent Wartgow said one clear theme emerged from the tragic event at Montbello – that students know when there are weapons in schools and when potentially dangerous situations are brewing, yet they feel uncomfortable coming forward.

“It is critically important that our schools establish a culture where students and others feel comfortable reporting threats and providing information to the appropriate adults in order to maintain a safe environment,” he said. ■

2005 teacher transfer/ staffing around the corner

It's the time of year again to start preparing for the teacher transfer/staffing process. To view all information on teacher staffing, access the Human Resources link from the DPS homepage, www.dpsk12.org. The "employees" section features frequently asked questions, informational session dates and locations, and the staffing calendar.

Reminders for Teachers

To ensure that your teacher qualifications are accurate, please go into SEA (Employee Self Service) and review your qualifications. Follow the instructions listed below to submit any changes no later than Friday, February 18. In addition, if you have renewed your license this year, please send a copy to Human Resources as soon as possible. The Colorado Department of Education is NOT responsible for sending a copy of your license to HR.

To get into SEA:

1. Access <https://employeeinfo.dpsk12.org> (from a district computer)
2. Enter your Outlook UserID and Password
3. Click on "Personal Information"
4. Click on the "Certification" and "Education" links to view current information. If any information is inaccurate, or if you have completed further educational credits or licensure requirements, please fill out an Employee Information Change Form by clicking on "Data Corrections" and then click on "SEA Employee Correction Form." This form also can be accessed by going to <http://hr.dpsk12.org/sea/index.shtml>. Print and complete the form, and send it to the HR Service Center or the Welcome Center at 900 Grant Street. Please include any pertinent documentation including transcripts or copies of certifications.

Key Dates for Teachers

Deadline for Early Retirement Incentive	February 15
Deadline for teachers to submit qualifications (additional endorsements or transcripts)	February 18
Teachers apply for Intent to Vacate, Move to Part Time/Job Share, Leave, Return from Leave.....	March 7-14
Schools/Collaborative School Committees/Personnel Committees conduct Reduction In Building/In-Building Bidding and report to HR	March 14-22
Schools post jobs.....	April 4-6
Teachers apply (internal).....	April 7-11
Schools/Personnel Committees interview and offer to teachers (internal)	April 14-18
Assignment of unassigned non-probationary teachers.....	April 21-23
Schools post jobs (internal/external).....	April 25
Teachers apply (internal/external).....	April 27-30
Schools/Personnel Committees interview and offer to teachers (internal/external)	May 4-8
Last day for transfer	May 8
Start of external-only cycle.....	May 9
Statutory deadline for non-renewal.....	June 1

Twelve Join Esteemed Ranks of National Board Certified Teachers

Twelve DPS teachers recently earned their National Board Certification:

- **Nina Barber, Hamilton Middle School**
- **Debra Boetel, Park Hill K-8 School**
- **Stephanie Csikos, Park Hill K-8 School**
- **Gregg Heid, Hill Middle School**
- **Jodi King, Park Hill K-8 School**
- **Kathy Leerssen, Bromwell Elementary School**
- **Karen Patz, Grant Ranch K-8 School**
- **Richelle Ramirez, Swansea Elementary School**
- **Carmen Rubino, Denver School of the Arts**
- **Rebecca Sauer, South High School**
- **Angela Simmering, Newlon Elementary School**
- **Anne Thulson, Odyssey Charter School**

They join the ranks of Colorado's 203 teachers with the same designation. In all, DPS has 36 teachers who have earned the certification – more than any other district in the state. Nationwide 40,203 teachers are certified.

National Board Certification is a symbol of professional teaching excellence.

A certificate will attest that a teacher was judged by his or her peers as one who is accomplished, makes sound professional judgments about students' best interests and acts effectively on those judgments. Offered on a voluntary basis, National Board Certification complements, but does not replace, state licensing. The certification establishes advanced standards for experienced teachers.

Teachers must demonstrate their knowledge and skills through a series of performance-based assessments that include student work samples, videotapes, and rigorous analyses of their classroom teaching and student learning. Written exercises probe the depth of their subject matter knowledge and their understanding of how to teach those subjects to their students. Candidates typically spend 200 to 400 hours on their portfolio and additional time in the assessment center.

A National Board Certificate is valid for 10 years. It is available to all teachers who hold a baccalaureate degree, have taught for a minimum of three years in a public or private school and have held a valid state teaching license for those three years. ■

IB Primary Years Programme from page 1

to become more aware of what's going on globally – to focus not just on the school here, but throughout the world.”

Firth said the entire program is inquiry-based. “Students learn how to ask questions. Teachers introduce central ideas, and students learn how to question and research beyond the information they've been given. We're teaching children how to initiate their own learning.”

“I think the IB program gives kids an advantage,” said Katie Mikulich, who attended a recent open house at Bradley Elementary School with her husband and two young children. “They become more aware of the world.”

Six Meaningful Organizing Themes

IB elementary schools organize information into six different themes that identify areas of shared experience and have meaning for individuals in different cultures. These themes are part of the common ground that unify the curriculums in all IB schools: who we are; where we are in place and time; how we express ourselves; how the world works; how we organize ourselves; and sharing the planet.

“Right now we spend most of our time teaching reading, writing and math – not enough time in science and social studies,” said Brown Elementary School interim principal Mary Ann Baca. “That will change.”

“It's all tied into district and state standards,” said Firth.

Chief Academic Officer Sally Mentor Hay has visited a Colorado Springs elementary school that offers IB and said she wishes the program were available to any DPS family who wanted to participate.

“What struck me most was how complete and balanced the program was and that it was implemented in a student-centered manner,” she said. “The curriculum is rich and all subject areas are treated in depth. Students learn a second language and have immersion experiences in that language.”

A Second Language

One of the program's goals of exposing children to languages other than their native tongue is to provide an insight into and an appreciation of other cultures and an awareness of other perspectives.

Tracy Edwards, who has a masters in international studies and is a parent of two young children, said during a recent tour of Bradley that she's looking into the Primary Years Programme because of the international focus and what we know about children learning a second language more easily when they learn it earlier in life.

Revitalized Schools

In an effort to improve student achievement and attract families back into neighborhood schools, Bradley and Brown are among 13 schools in Denver that are working with parents and community members to spend \$2.5 million specifically to identify attractive educational programs, reduce the achievement gap and increase student enrollment.

Bradley Elementary School began working with its community two years ago to identify a program for the school.

“We knew we needed to do something to attract neighborhood students,” said principal Angelo Spataro. “We wouldn't be able to do this without the revitalization funding.”

“It's a good mesh with the students and community,” said Firth.

Brown Elementary School spent almost a year researching and visiting schools that offered the programs its revitalization committee was considering. Committee members surveyed more than 300 current parents and other families in the neighborhood to gauge interest in those programs.

“IB seemed to keep floating up to the top because it's international and research based,” said interim principal Mary Ann Baca. “They liked the philosophy because it addresses the physical, social, intellectual, aesthetic and cultural.”

As part of its program, Brown also will update and expand its existing computer technology, create a science lab and expand lunchtime and after-school tutoring, homework support and activities

Baca said that gaining the trust of those parents whose children may never attend a public school in Denver is a key to improving Brown.

“Full implementation of the IB Primary Years Programme will provide a strong and academically rich elementary school experience for these families and encourage them to keep their children in a feeder system that includes an IB middle years program and a diploma program.” (Denver's Hamilton and Smiley middle schools offer a version of the middle years IB program and George Washington High School offers the official IB diploma program.)

Outreach

Twenty-five of Bradley Elementary School's 261 students currently enroll from out of the district, and the school recently targeted a mailing to 3,300 nearby households with two- to nine-year-olds.

Brown Elementary School currently enrolls 372 students and is working on plans to offer three days this spring of open houses, presentations and tours.

“We've had a lot of calls from parents and community members who want to visit the school,” said Baca.

Both schools showcased their wares at the district-wide school choice fare in November. ■

what's happening tomorrow?

Sign up for free email updates about news in DPS. A lot or a little – choose what you want and how often you want it. “Daily News” features the day's headlines and tomorrow's events. Get news! It takes only a moment to sign up at <http://communications.dpsk12.org>. Be sure to give us your correct email address and click “continue” and “finish” until you receive a confirmation that you're signed up. ■

inside ProComp

MONTHLY NEWS ABOUT THE PROFESSIONAL COMPENSATION SYSTEM FOR TEACHERS

Q&A

frequently asked questions about ProComp

Key Communicators Collect, Answer Many Questions

The ProComp Key Communicators collected more than 400 questions from teachers about the new compensation system during their visits to schools in November and December. The Communications Work Group analyzed the questions and consolidated them into a set of more than 80 unique questions.

Most questions were about salary, retirement and opting into ProComp. Many others were about funding the new system. A sample of the questions and answers is presented here. The full set was sent to schools for use in January faculty meetings and has been posted on the ProComp website, www.denverprocomp.org.

In some cases, questions have been referred to other ProComp work groups for answers. Questions can be submitted anytime to procomp_info@dpsk12.org.

salary & retirement FAQs

What is happening with PERA?

The Denver Board of Education has expressed a continuing interest in a merger between the district's retirement system (DPSRS) and PERA and may consider a plan to merge with PERA by the end of the 2005 calendar year.

Are bonuses included in pay toward retirement?

No; bonuses are not currently "pensionable." However, six of the nine ProComp elements already can build into your "highest salary" for retirement, including PERA. The district and DCTA will seek to add the market incentive element by the 2005-2006 school year.

What about those employees who are beyond the steps and only get cost of living increases?

ProComp is particularly beneficial to teachers who have been in the DPS system longer than 13 years. Under ProComp, teachers who cannot earn an additional step in the current system are eligible to earn nearly \$1,000 every year through Professional Development Units and by meeting their annual objectives.

opt in FAQs

Once you opt in, can you opt out?

No; once a teacher opts into the ProComp system, his or her contract is governed by the ProComp Agreement.

Q&A

When is the first window for opt in?

It has been proposed that the first opt-in period take place after the anticipated mill levy election tentatively scheduled for November 2005.

Is there a guarantee that teachers who do not opt into ProComp will not have their salary frozen until they opt in?

The pay schedule for teachers who do not opt in will continue to be negotiated annually by DPS and DCTA. The current salary schedule will be maintained until the last teacher on it retires or leaves the district.

Will counselors be available to meet one-on-one with teachers to discuss options for opt in, etc?

There are many resources available to support teachers in relation to their decision to opt into ProComp. Some of these include: salary calculator, Human Resources staff, principals, Association Representatives and Key Communicators.

funding FAQs

How do we know that \$25 million is enough for the long run?

An economic analyst working with the Joint Task Force on Teacher Compensation projected costs 50 years into the future to ensure that the system will be sustainable.

How much will the new tax cost the average homeowner?

Based on current data, the increase in tax for the average homeowner (\$247,000 home) will be \$58 per year or about \$5 per month.

If the proposed 2005 mill levy fails, is there a backup plan to get the funding?

If the mill levy fails, the compensation system will not be implemented.

What is the trend for voter approval of funding DPS mill levy requests?

In November 2003, Denver voters passed a \$20 million mill levy override by 56 percent and a \$310 million bond by 59 percent. Early polling data about a proposed November 2005 mill levy has been positive and is improving.

Will the bad economy have a negative impact on the mill levy vote?

Mill levy requests have been funded by voters even in challenging economic times. In November 2004, Colorado voters said yes to fully 96 percent of bond money requested by Colorado school districts. Out of \$1.01 billion requested, \$973.7 million received voter approval. (Bond dollars can be used only for capital construction costs, which include building new schools and renovating existing facilities.) Nearly as successful were 2004 mill levy overrides in 17 school districts. Voters approved 74 percent, or \$69.84 million of the \$94.66 million requested. (Mill levy overrides are tax increases used to pay for increased operating costs in school districts.)

accountability FAQs

What happens to the unused money from the mill levy?

Any unused funds will be held in trust for future use specifically for ProComp in the "Teacher Compensation Trust Fund."

Who is responsible for auditing the trust fund money?

The "Teacher Compensation Trust Fund" will be audited annually by an independent firm.

How does ProComp plan to handle the data it will take to keep track of all teachers and all aspects of the program?

The Operations Work Group has been in action since March 2004 to work on this and is continuing to construct systems to support ProComp. Information systems are being updated and put in place to handle the data needs of ProComp. ■

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 or email Brad_Jupp@dpsk12.org.



comings & goings

Appointments

Linda DeFord: Library Technician I, Education
 Michael Greening: L2 Plumber, Operations
 Mark Kenney: L2 Carpenter, Operations
 Leonard D. Lopez: Library Technician I, Cole Middle School
 Charles M. Mansfield: Planning & Scheduling Coordinator II, Operations
 Rebecca A. McRee: Planning & Research Analyst II, Education
 Benjamin F. Napheys: Senior Programmer/Analyst, Administration
 Jennifer C. Payne: Human Resources Generalist, Administration
 Calvin Smith: Night Custodian Helper, George Washington High School
 Chrystal Taylor: Night Custodian Helper, Montbello High School
 Lexsee Waterford: Assistant Principal, Martin Luther King, Jr. Middle School
 Danielle M. Williams: Planning & Research Analyst, Education

Teacher Appointments

Judy Amick: Grant Middle School
 Antonio Arrieta: Archuleta Elementary School
 Shannon Q. Berliner: Smith Elementary School
 Lloyd Bourdon: McGlone Elementary School
 Mark Chezick: Archuleta Elementary School
 Margaret F. Debus: Fairmont Elementary School
 Linda D. Estlund: Thomas Jefferson High School
 Andrea C. Estrada: Westery Creek Elementary School
 Judy K. Graham: Literacy Coach, Fallis Elementary School
 Michael Hilton: Manual Arts & Cultural Studies High School
 Leah Houston: Rachel B. Noel Middle School
 Thomas A. Jones: Cole Middle School
 Deborah A. Kopylov: Smith Elementary School
 Sheila F. McFather: Cole Middle School
 Lisa M. O'Dorisio: Skinner Middle School
 Kathleen Rader: Slavens Elementary School
 Carolyn Royal: McGlone Elementary School
 David Rutkowski: Oakland Elementary School
 Francis J. Scaglione: Morey Middle School
 Catherine I. Smith-Whitworth: Smith Elementary School
 Jill M. Stratton: Lake Middle School
 Kelly M. Teitelbaum: Southmoor Elementary School
 Celia Tejeda Garcia: Gust Elementary School

Melissa Thomiley: Hallett Elementary School
 Tammy L. Trujillo: Columbine Elementary School
 Linda D. Wearly: Hallett Elementary School
 Donna S. Whitsitt: Greenlee Elementary School

Reappointments

James J. Dosky: Teacher, Lake Middle School
 Susan M. Moening: Harrington Elementary School

Changes in Assignment

Michael L. Anderson: Distribution Manager, Operations
 Guadalupe H. Castillo: Custodian Assistant IV, Abraham Lincoln High School
 Maria M. Corral: Office Support II, Education
 Andrew Delgado: Custodian Assistant IV, North High School
 Claudia A. Gallegos: Teacher, Swansea Elementary School
 James R. Griboski: L1 Protective Coatings Technician, Operations
 Christine Gurevitz: Accountant, Administration
 Deborah L. Heart: Director, Curriculum and Instruction
 Jane Ann Hebert: Educational Pro-Tech, Education
 Ellene Hernandez: Secretary II, Bruce Randolph Middle School
 Carlo S. Martinez: L1 Millwright, Operations
 Sylvia Mayes: Custodian Assistant II, Operations
 Gisele McFarland: Food Service Manager III, Morey Middle School
 Robert N. Morris: Director, Transportation Operations
 Papa N. Odoi-Ii: L1 Millwright, Operations
 Steven L. Sanders: Custodian Assistant I, Whittier Elementary School
 Matthew L. Smid: Senior HVAC Supervisor, Operations

Retirements

Linda J. Abeyta: Area Specialist, Education
 Arthur Alvarez: Regular Bus Driver, Operations
 Barbara H. Askinazy: Area Specialist, Education
 John W. Ackerman: Teacher, Henry Middle School
 Ann H. Bailey: Principal, Thomas Jefferson High School
 Arthur Q. Bailey: Senior Systems Administrator, Administration

Allen V. Balczarek: GOB Program Manager, Research, Planning and Special Programs
 Petra G. Botello: Facility Manager I, Emily Griffith Opportunity School
 Phil C. Bowser: Director, Transportation Operations
 Roderick W. Buckner: Teacher, Henry Middle School
 Darlene O. Calhoun: Social Worker, Columbine Elementary School
 Thomas P. Coursey: Senior Systems Administrator, Administration
 Bernard Daniel: Supervisor, Senior Transportation Foreman, Operations
 Theresa Davis: Regular Bus Driver, Operations
 Patricia A. Deden: Secretary I, Montbello High School
 Alice Douothit: Teacher, McMeen Elementary School
 Dona B. Gibson: Teacher, Marrama Elementary School
 Thurl M. Glass: Route Scheduler II, Operations
 Karlee H. Gomez-Smith: Manager, EGOS Training, Emily Griffith Opportunity School
 Reggie W. Hammons: Lead Vehicle Maintenance Technician, Operations
 Linda R. Henry: Teacher, Abraham Lincoln High School
 Charles E. Herbst: Teacher, Thomas Jefferson High School
 Peter G. Hergenreter: Principal, CEC Middle College of Denver
 Craig M. Houser: Teacher, Grant Middle School
 Marcia Jobe: Teacher, Smiley Middle School
 Peggy A. Loader: Area Specialist, Education
 Michael D. Lohmeier: Distribution Manager, Operations

Steven R. MacAlpine: Senior Programmer/Analyst, Administration
 Ronnie C. Matterson: Teacher, John F. Kennedy High School
 Janice L. McCrory: Teacher, North High School
 Nancy L. Mickle: Database Administrator I, Operations
 Edward V. Montojo: Teacher, South High School
 Marilyn F. Norman; Secretary II, Greenwood Elementary School
 Sam E. Nuanes: CEC Instructor, Career Education Center
 Henry P. Pinedo: L3 Athletic Field Technician, Operations
 Michael E. Persson: Teacher, John F. Kennedy High School
 Deborah A. Petersen: Teacher, North High School
 Susan G. Santini: Area Specialist, Education
 James W. Schrant: Teacher, North High School
 Barbara J. Seifert: East High School
 Richard L. Smith: Assistant Area Superintendent, Northeast Area
 Aida C. Souviron: Spanish Language Professional Examination Specialist, Education
 Violet M. Sullivan: Teacher, Columbine Elementary School
 Laurence Tarver: Principal, Gove Middle School
 Craig B. Whitehead: III, Teacher, North High School
 John F. Zaffore: Teacher, Force Elementary School

Deaths

Carol J. Berger: Teacher, Columbine Elementary School



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Jose Mercado

Drama Teacher, North High School

Years With DPS: 2

Greatest Or Latest Accomplishment: Denver Post 2004 Ovation Award for Zoot Suit Riots. Appointed by Mayor Hickenlooper to the Mayor's Commission on Cultural Affairs. Most recently, staging Lorca's Blood Wedding. A challenge the students conquered.

Editor's Note: The Denver Commission on Cultural Affairs acts as an advisory board to the Denver Office of Cultural Affairs. The commission is comprised of dynamic and accomplished Denver leaders in the areas of the arts, business and education, all of whom are appointed by the Mayor.

The Most Challenging Part About My Job: "Letting go" of my work when I'm not working.

The Most Rewarding Part About My Job: The growth process of students from the first day of rehearsal to opening night. They don't look like students on stage. They look like stars.

When I'm Not Working I Am Usually: Salsa dancing at La Rumba.

I've Also Worked: A summer at a meat packing plant; a movie theater; and three years as an actor in Los Angeles.

Hometown: Greeley, Colorado.

Favorite Movie: Billy Wilder's "The Apartment" (1960).

Favorite Restaurant: Café Brazil (4408 Lowell Blvd., Denver). I love the Peixe de Angola.

Favorite Book: I like any play by Charles L. Mee or Tony Kushner. Novel – has to be "100 Years of Solitude" by Gabriel Garcia Marquez. I get this blissful, gut reaction after I'm done reading it.

Family: Three older sisters. I lost my mother Easter of 2003. She was a remarkable woman who raised four children on her own. She traveled to LA to see me opening night of a play called "Wit." She started a conversation with a man behind her about the play and how proud she was of her son. She didn't recognize Tom Hanks sporting his beard for the film "Cast Away." I miss her.

Philosophy For Life: "To thine own self be true." – Shakespeare (Hamlet)

Final Words: If arts programs (music, dance, vocal, visual, drama) continue to be cut from school curriculums in the name of reading and writing...there will be nothing to read or write about in the future.

february wellness workshop

Healing hearts: How your emotional and spiritual health can make your heart healthy

6:30–8 p.m. Tuesday, February 15

Porter Place Auditorium, 1001 East Yale Ave.

Hear disease is one of the top health problems we face today. We all know that diet and exercise can help make your heart stronger, but did you think your state of mind can also help? Studies have proven that your mental health affects illness recovery rates and that stress can lower your immunity and even create stress for your heart. Share an evening with Dr. Claudia Clopton, M.D., psychiatrist with the Centre for Behavioral Health at Porter Adventist Hospital, and Jane Braaten, R.N., director of the nationally-acclaimed Porter Heart Center, to discover how research shows that it's not only your physical health, but also your emotional health that can keep you well. Register by calling 1-800-327-6877 or 303-777-6877 (choose the "class registration" option). You will receive parking instructions and a map by mail after you register. For more information on this and upcoming wellness seminars, visit the Human Resources link from the DPS homepage, www.dpsk12.org. ■

Giving Campaign Ends February 9

There's still time left – the 2005 DPS Workplace Giving Campaign runs through Wednesday, February 9.

"The very nature of your work day in and day out at Denver Public Schools makes a positive difference for children in Denver," said Superintendent Jerry Wartgow. "The workplace campaign is another way for employees to support Denver students and other agencies that work to help those who are less fortunate."

Employees can designate a donation to Lights On After School, the DPS Foundation, the Mile High United Way Community Care Fund or to another Colorado non-profit agency of their choice. For more information, visit www.dpsfoundation.org or call the DPS Foundation at 720-423-3553. ■



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