

insideDPS

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more schools open door to continuous year calendar in 2002-2003

Johnson Elementary School this year became the first school in southwest Denver to switch to the district's Continuous Year Calendar. Classes started July 24. Principal Kathleen Wilson greeted students with enthusiasm and sent students off to school by class through a colorful balloon arch.



Five new schools joined the ranks of those on the Continuous Year Calendar and opened their doors for the 2002-2003 school year on Wednesday, July 24.

The new Continuous Year Calendar schools are: Amesse, Barrett, Fairmont, Johnson, Smith, and Maria Mitchell elementary schools. The change is less of an adjustment for Maria Mitchell Elementary School. That school switched from an "Extended Year" school – where extra school days had been added to the schedule – to the Continuous Year Calendar.

Under Continuous Year Calendars, students are provided the same number of school days as those students who use the traditional calendar, but the summer vacation is dramatically shortened and longer breaks are



scheduled in October and March. Teachers and principals have observed that students in these schools seem to need less time to re-engage in the learning process when "summer" is over.

The five new schools join 13 others – Bryant-Webster, Cheltenham, Colfax, Columbian, Del Pueblo, Eagleton, Ford, Harrington, Maxwell, McGlone, Smedley, Valdez, and Wyman elementary schools.

Schools on the traditional calendar start Monday, August 19. ■

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...Of A Principal Opening A New School

Wil Minor is the Principal of the new Lena Archuleta Elementary School in Montbello.

At first glance, he appears to be just an ordinary principal concerned about the things most principals are concerned with just before school begins. However, as InsideDPS took a look at "a day in the life" of this energetic DPS veteran, we quickly found out that Wil Minor is far from ordinary, and he has a few more things to contend with as he leads the effort to open one of the four new DPS schools.

"I'm not only concerned with enrollment and ordering supplies," says Minor. "I'm also concerned about where the busses will pick-up and drop off, city permits, and trying to prepare for anywhere from 450 kids to 650 – for the first time."

Prior to today's meeting, Minor has been on a fast and furious pace to open the new school, which will serve the Montbello-Green Valley Ranch area. From the very beginning, Minor has been involved with activities ranging from the very serious, like hiring an entire staff and establishing the school's philosophy, to more fun and simple tasks like naming the school and deciding where the copiers should be placed.

When asked about the most exciting part of opening a new school, Minor says: "Starting from scratch. We have the opportunity to develop what we view as

summer leadership institute

to continuous year calendar in 2002-2003

Hundreds of DPS employees attended this Summer's Leadership Institute at the Double Tree Hotel, an intensive training session as the district prepares to implement a new Elementary Literacy Program to be adopted by all schools labeled "unsatisfactory" and "low" by the state. Other schools, however, are enthusiastic about the new reform and are opting to implement the program voluntarily.

Area Superintendents, Area Specialists, Building Coaches, Lead Teachers, Curriculum & Instruction employees were in attendance, among others. Building Coaches will help implement the program at their home school.

"The main objective is to lay the foundation in the reading program," said Sally Mentor Hay, Chief Academic Officer. "Our expectations have been low because teachers don't know where second-graders are supposed to be. Schools must have standards. It's like we've been singing out of tune."

Consultants from the Institute for Learning led the seminars. In one morning seminar, consultant Maryann Gremillon discussed a piece of literature with the audience, pulling out key teaching points. Later the group would discuss student-teacher conferences as part of the Writer's Workshop.

"Let's take a look at a piece of student writing from a student in New York," said Gremillon. "I'll read it aloud." In addition to the Writer's Workshop, teachers will also include time for a Reading Block, and Skills Block once the new literacy program is implemented.

"I think these components and frameworks will help teachers," said Diana Lopez, Northwest Area Specialist. "The exciting piece is that because our kids are so mobile, they'll find that schools are teaching something similar."

"It will also help with teacher mobility," added Daphne Hunter, Lincoln Elementary School Principal. "Schools will be using the same vocabulary."

"To know that everyone in your quadrant is doing something similar is great," said Lopez.

The program comes with support materials including a CD-ROM in which teachers will not

only be able to read about but hear how students should be reading at a certain level. They can watch a video on the CD of a student's reading performance to see and hear what the standards are.

"Just reading about it isn't enough," said Haye. "If you actually have a student's performance before you, teachers say, 'oh, I see. I get it.'"

A district-wide program also will be implemented in other subjects. But since reading/literacy is the foundation of all learning, district leadership decided to start with a district-wide literacy program. Schools will begin implementation at the start of this school year, 2002-2003.

This effort is supported by grants through the Morgridge Family, Donnel Kay Foundation, and the Piton Foundation. While the district is attempting to get at least 75% of the program privately funded, Federal funds such as Title 2 for Staff Development will support the remainder. ■



During the Summer Institute, designed to train hundreds of new literacy coaches about the district's new elementary literacy program, Eagleton Elementary School Principal Inez Catbagan discussed teaching points found in a sample of children's literature.

"Under New Management"

A number of DPS principals are on the move to a new assignment this school year and other staff members have been promoted to principal. Many principals are new to the district, too. Here's a list of principal appointments confirmed by the Board of Education since last March. A few more appointments are expected at the first Board of Education meeting in early August.

Ashley Elementary School -

Kenneth Hulslander

Baker Middle School -

Linda Torres

Beach Court Elementary School -

Frank Roti

Cheltenham Elementary School -

Claudia Beck, Interim Principal

Cole Middle School -

Nicole Veltze

Columbian Elementary School -

Beverly Winders

Cowell Elementary School -

Michael Gaither

Doull Elementary School -

Jane Sbarboro

Eagleton Elementary School -

Inez Catbagan

Fallis Elementary School -

Brenda Kazan

Gilpin Elementary School -

Katherine Salaz

Hallett Elementary School -

Wanda Beauman

Henry Middle School -

Wendy Lanier

John F. Kennedy High School -

John MacPherson

Knapp Elementary School -

Richard Gonzales

Kunsmiller Middle School -

Miguel Salazar

McKinley-Thatcher Elementary School -

Vicki Cyr

Merrill Middle School -

Ann Greenfield

North High School -

Offie Hobbs

Remington Elementary School -

Sal Dimarco

Smiley Middle School -

Nate Howard

South High School -

William Kohut, Interim Principal

Steck Elementary School -

Charles Raisch

The Moore School -

T Jason Martinez

University Park Elementary School -

Katherine Johnson

West High School -

Angela Bodenhamer

This group is joined by the principals opening the new schools - Wil Minor at Lena Archuleta Elementary School; Ron Nordin at Lowry Elementary School; Sophia Masewicz at Bruce Randolph Middle School; and Patricia Slaughter at Rachel Noel Middle School. ■

new online application system unveiled

The Department of Human Resources has launched a new Online Application System. The system will speed up the application process. Stacks of paper applications and resumes will be eliminated along with the time spent managing the information.

As new job postings are created they will be posted electronically and in real time at the following web site link: <http://hr.dpsk12.org/>. The job postings will be simplified and easier to read. Applicants will be able to search job postings to identify only those that interest them. The system accepts both solicited and non-solicited applications.

Applicants no longer have to visit the administration building to apply. However, applicants who do not have Internet access can use the kiosks located in the Welcome Center at the district administration building (900 Grant Street) or at public libraries or area workforce centers.

Applicants will be able to complete the required application information online, attach a resume, and send the complete package to DPS via the Internet. Applicants have access at anytime on any day of the week to update, change and revamp their resume and application. They will be able to choose to receive e-mail notification of any position that becomes available in their identified areas of interest on either a weekly or daily basis. Applicants can also apply to multiple positions with one completed application.

Here is more information about the system:

The standard length of postings will remain the same (about 2 weeks). Applicants will be better informed on the status of their applications and will receive automatic notification when their application is received by DPS.

The Human Resources staff will have the ability to access and report applicant status per inquiry for all district applicants.

Hiring Managers will be able to review applications and resumes, decide whom to interview, schedule/ conduct the interviews, make the reference calls, and notify Human Resources of the recommended hire via the online system.

Letters are automatically generated for regrets and congratulations to applicants.

Administrators, teachers, professional technical, and clerical office positions MUST be applied for online using this procedure. All other employee classifications have the option of applying online or in paper form. It is strongly recommended that the online option be used in order to speed up application processing time. ■

"Event To Prevent" Raises Awareness About Domestic Violence

The "Event to Prevent – Domestic Violence Is Not A Game!" will be held Saturday, August 24, beginning with a Colorado Rapids game against the San Jose Earthquakes at 2 p.m. at Invesco Field. Following the game, the Rapids and Broncos wives will play an exhibition soccer game, and the team mascots will play as goalies. Next, the Broncos cheerleaders will provide entertainment and celebrity athletes will sign autographs.

The Denver Domestic Violence Task Force participants will have tables to provide educational material about domestic violence, community resources, effects on children, and other information. Finally, local music icon Nina Storey will wrap up the event with an evening concert. The first 5,000 children who attend the game will receive a free, commemorative Colorado Rapids lunch box.

You're invited to help make the "Event to Prevent – Domestic Violence Is Not A Game" a signature affair in the Denver community. Tickets are available at Ticket Master or by calling the Colorado Rapids at 303-299-1599. Tickets start at \$14. ■

Congratulations!

The Denver Public Schools Middle School Prep League, sponsored by the Denver Nuggets, Colorado Avalanche, IKON Printing, and the McCormick Tribune Foundation has selected **Coaches of the Year** for the 2001-2002 sports season.

The following coaches were selected by their peer coaches and division and league champions for the spring 2002 season: Clarice Basti, Hamilton Middle School, Girls Soccer Eastern Division; Anthony Lopez, Skinner Middle School, Girls Soccer Western Division; Pete Castillo, Martin Luther King Jr. Middle School, Baseball Eastern Division; Mike Christoff, Lake Middle School, Baseball Western Division; and Vinny Lopez, Hamilton Middle School, Floor Hockey.

Food and Nutrition Services held their annual Manager of the Year Awards celebration on May 14, 2002. Diana Trujillo of Kepner Middle School was presented with the Secondary Manager of the Year Award and Gladys Hernandez, Fallis Elementary, was presented with the Elementary Manager of the Year Award. The winners were selected after a panel of four evaluated 30 nominated managers based on established criteria (percent of student participation, profit/loss status, performance appraisal, marketing efforts, etc.).

Donna Shocks, Nursing Services received national recognition in the May edition of the magazine *Nursing Spectrum*. Shocks was listed under the article "Extraordinary RN's Shine Brightly." The article states: "Under her leadership, the DPS school nursing program has become a national model and integrates many types of roles to address the students' needs, including nurse practitioners and paraprofessionals."

Lily Muldoon, East High School received a \$2,500 scholarship as part of the Discover Card Tribute Award Scholarship program. This year winners were selected from a pool of nearly 7,500 applicants. While students must maintain a minimum 2.75 cumulative grade point average to qualify, they must also demonstrate accomplishments in three of four areas: special talents, leadership, obstacles overcome, and community service.

Trudy Eret presented at the CCSO (Council of Chief State School Officers) National Conference on Large-Scale Assessment on June 23-26, 2002 in Palm Springs, CA. This annual conference brings together more than 800 people with a professional interest in student assessments developed in all areas of the curriculum and conducted on national, state, district and even classroom levels. Eret made the presentation: "Out of the Frying Pan and into the Press: Preparing Information Releases on Sensitive Indicators." ■

Comings & goings

APPOINTMENTS

Katherine Salaz: Principal, Gilpin
Linda Torres: Principal, Baker
Michael Gaither: Principal, Cowell
Joanne Hilton: Curriculum & Instruction Director, Education
Offie Hobbs: Principal, North
Kenneth Hulslander: Principal, Ashley
Gandhari D. Zeppetello: Teacher, Rishel
Linda Acosta: Secretary II, Bryant-Webster
Vanessa Bernal: Secretary I, Manual
Opal I. Jackson: Secretary I, Smiley
Suzanne K. Scovel: Secretary I, College View
Andrea L. Tafoya: Secretary I, Cowell
Michelle L. Carlock: Executive Secretary I, Administration
Ronald M. Finn: General Laborer, Operations
Shirley A. Helbig: Athletic Field Mechanic, Operations
Petra A. Estrada: Custodial Helper, Emily Griffith Opportunity School
Selina M. Velasquez: Custodial Helper, Grant Middle
Brianne K. Calandra: Planning/Research Analyst, Education
Thomas J. O'Keefe: Lead Accountant, Education
Laura A. Paul: Recruitment Specialist, Education
Fernando Perez: SFPC Liaison Specialist, Education
Michael Denoyer: Senior Electrical Supervisor, Operations
Bruce Childs: Parts/Tool Room/Counter Clerk, Operations
Glendon R. Williams: Vehicle Service Tech II, Operations
Chris Belshe: Assistant Principal, Manual

CHANGE IN ASSIGNMENT

Ann Greenfield: Principal, Merrill
Connie Comelius: Assistant Principal, Moore Elementary
Elza Guajardo: Assistant Principal, Abraham Lincoln
Hans Kayser: Assistant Principal, Abraham Lincoln
Annette Nobles: Assistant Principal, Thomas Jefferson
Katherine Adolph: Principal On Special Assignment, Education
Mary Ann Baca: Principal On Special Assignment, Education
Claudia Beck: Interim Principal, Cheltenham
Suzanne Cordova: Literacy Director, Education
Sal Dimarco: Principal, Remington
Estefan Duran: Curriculum Specialist, Education
Merida Fraguada: Assistant Principal, Marama
Jackie Goring: Assistant Principal, Montbello
Catherine Gonzales: Principal On Special Assignment, Education
Amy Green: Area Specialist, Education
Ken Hansen: Assistant Principal, Newlon
Luiza T. Hernandez: Assistant Principal, Randolph
Nathaniel Howard: Assistant Principal, Smiley
Melvin Jackfert: Assistant Principal, John F. Kennedy
Margarita Jaramillo-Hall: Area Specialist, Education
Katherine Johnson: Principal, University Park
William Kohut: Interim Principal, South
Diana A. Lopez: Principal On Special Assignment, Education
Loyola Martinez: Principal On Special Assignment, Education
Beverly Nosewicz: Assistant Principal, South

Lorenzo Padilla: Assistant Principal, North
Carolyn Riedlin: Assistant Principal, Ellis
Damon Smith: Assistant Principal, Noel
Jana Smith: Assistant Principal, Maxwell
Leslie Teneyck: Assistant Principal, West
Lynne Tucker: Curriculum & Instruction Director, Education
Carol Wilcox: Assistant Principal, Green Valley
Beverly Winders: Principal, Columbian
Mary Ann Bash: Curriculum Manager, Education
Stephen Gonzales: Arts Curriculum Manager I, Education
Rosann Mavers: Driver/Route Supervisor, Operations
Linda Abeyta: Area Specialist, Education
Talonna Arakawa: English Language Acquisition Specialist, Education
Barbara Askinazy: Area Specialist, Education
Tammy Brown: Area Specialist, Education
Marisol Chavez: Area Specialist, Education
Roger Chow: Curriculum Specialist, Education
Ann Christensen: Area Specialist, Education
Heather Craig: Area Specialist, Education
Debbie Dedrick: Area Specialist, Education
Monica Dilts: Area Specialist, Education
Wendy Downie: Curriculum Specialist, Education
Amy Friedman: English Language Acquisition Specialist, Education
Diana Gonzalez-Navarez: Curriculum Specialist, Education
Jill Harvieux Pitner: Area Specialist, Education
Eugene Jacquez: Safe/Drug Free Schools Manager, Education
Elizabeth B. Johnson: Area Specialist, Education
Abigail Johnson-Brown: Area Specialist, Education
Kim Kelly: Area Specialist, Education
Eric Larson: Curriculum Specialist, Education
Julia Linkous: Area Specialist, Education
Peggy Loader: Area Specialist, Education
Martha Loera: Area Specialist, Education
Helen J. Martinez: Area Specialist, Education
Debbie Milner: Curriculum Specialist, Education
Julie Murgel: Area Specialist, Education
Samba Ndiaye: Curriculum Specialist, Education
Kris O'Clair: Area Specialist, Education
Anna Picconi: Area Specialist, Education
Theress Pidick: Curriculum Specialist, Education
Roma Pitt: Area Specialist, Education
Delessia Rucker: Area Specialist, Education
Elma Ruiz: Curriculum Specialist, Education
Maria G. Salazar: Curriculum Specialist, Education
Susan Santini: Area Specialist, Education
Wendie Schumacher: Area Specialist, Education
Anna Sellars: Area Specialist, Education
Roxanne Wilderman: Area Specialist, Education
Donna Winter: Area Specialist, Education
James Maes: Facility Manager II, Greenlee
Norman W. Roger: Facility Manager III, Administration
Rita K. Raymond: Secretary II, McKinley-Thatcher
Teresa J. Torres: Secretary II, Ford
Fran Vera: Secretary II, Valverde
Elizabeth S. Wrenn-Estes: Library Acq./Tech. Service Manager, Education
Auggie M. Duran: Custodian Assistant I, Edison
Mary Garcia: Custodian Assistant I, Taylor
Lenora S. Muniz: Custodian Assistant II, Grant Middle
Hien Tran: Custodian Assistant II, Operations

Mark W. Williams: Custodian Assistant III, Hill Middle
Jimmy Mcgee: Dispatch II, Transportation
Mark D. Richardson: Route Scheduler II, Transportation
James A. Blank: Electrical Supervisor, Operations
Demrick Cummings: Plumbing Supervisor, Operations
Sheryle R. Edwards: Senior Lunchroom Supervisor, Operations
Rosann Mavers: Driver/Route Supervisor, Transportation
Daniel G. Reid: Senior Welding/Metal Works Supervisor, Operations
Kathleen Adams: Principal, Park Hill
Wanda Beauman: Principal, Hallett
Nancy Connor: Title I Director, Education
James R. Ogle Jr.: Assistant Principal, Montbello
Rory Pullens: Assistant Principal, Denver School Of The Arts
George Schnittgrund: Principal, Brown
Marcy Stoddard: Assistant Principal, Martin Luther King Jr.
Shireen Whitson-Truesdale: Teacher, Randolph
Mary Corro: Area Specialist, Education

REAPPOINTMENT

Angela Wall: to Psychologist, Student Services
Angela Douglas: Accountant II, Education
Desiree L. Pinedo: Custodial Helper, Denver School Of The Arts

RETIREMENT

Charles M. Selkirk: Social Worker, Education
Carolyn Jones: Teacher, Grant
Rustin Lane: Teacher, Abraham Lincoln
Carol J. Riley: Teacher, Newlon
Jeanette Thompson: Teacher On Special Assignment, Education
Alvin E. Fiscus: Clerk, Operations
Dorothy M. Pratt: Specialist, Education
David E. Young: Engineer, Operations
Byron J. Madonna: Clerk, Operations
Joseph Garcia: Plumber, Operations
Sanra Kania: Painter, Operations
Jenny R. Baccas: Food Services, Operations
Honora D. Cartwright: Secretary, Moore
Margaret E. Collins: Secretary, Eagleton
Mary J. Dampier: Secretary, Bradley
Judith C. Sims: Secretary, Marama
Stella Trujillo: Secretary, Bryant-Webster

Schools Prepare for Rocky Mountain Super School News

Rocky Mountain PBS has invited seven RDPS schools to participate in this year's Super School News. In its 23rd year of production, Super School News is a mini-television series written, illustrated and presented by Rocky Mountain PBS. It invites students to produce a two-minute news segment about their school and community to be aired on KRMA-TV Denver from November through June. Participating schools should have their information packets into Rocky Mountain PBS by Friday, August 9.

This year's schools are: Gust, Bryant-Webster, Wyatt-Edison, Barney Ford, Centennial, CCI Charter, and Harrington. Schools are chosen on a first-come, first-serve basis through the district's Public Information Office. Last year, 60 schools from 19 school districts within Colorado participated. The number of schools that can participate from each district is based on size.

Super School News provides an opportunity for student newscasters to learn firsthand about television, and gain experience in broadcast journalism and television production. Newscasters are able to tell the Rocky Mountain Region about their school and community activities.

In collaboration with a faculty advisor, the student newscasters write scripts and design accompanying visual materials. A volunteer production team from Rocky Mountain PBS meets with the students two weeks prior to their assigned taping date to review and rehearse the script. On their taping day, the newscasters tape their segment of Super School News at the Rocky Mountain PBS studio. Each school's segment is aired six or seven times during one week scheduled after the taping day.

Super School News airs on KRMA-TV Denver from November through June. ■



Under the guidance of specialist Sue Pippenger, students at Wyman Elementary School completed a school-wide art project. Each student in the school decorated a flag-waving paper doll and the dolls were then assembled to create a colorful, patriotic mural.

boilers, roofs, paint, landscapes and four new schools

Facility Work At Record Pace To Prepare For 2002-2003

Summers are usually busy for the Department of Facility Management with deep cleaning of buildings and performing ground maintenance and minor repairs. But it wasn't just the outdoor temperature that kept the heat on this year – it was more than 140 separate projects being conducted at 80 different schools. Beginning August 19th, with four new schools opening up, another half-million square feet of new space will need care, cleaning, and attention.

The four new schools include two new middle schools, each capable of serving 900 students. Bruce Randolph Middle School (3955 Steele St.) and Rachel Noel Middle School (5290 Kittridge



Construction work on the new Bruce Randolph Middle School, 3955 Steele Street, continued throughout the summer. Randolph is one of four new schools that will debut later this month.

St.). Two new elementary schools will also open – Lena Archuleta Elementary School (16000 E. Maxwell) and Lowry Elementary School (8001 E. Cedar Ave.) in the Lowry Redevelopment area. The Lena Archuleta Elementary School was not programmed in the original 1998 General Obligation Bond program. However, through program and project stringent management, this school is being built within the original funding amount.

New classroom additions are also set to open. Garden Place Academy in north Denver will debut two new classrooms and new windows. Close by, Swansea Elementary School will also receive a two-classroom addition. Lake Middle School will sport a new eight-classroom addition for technology instruction. In southwest Denver, Denison Montessori School students will have access to a new library and in central Denver Steele Elementary School will open a cafeteria addition in the fall and soon have new windows.

In all areas of Denver, DPS schools have received upgrades in many ways. Projects included new roofs, new windows, new boilers, learning landscapes (elementary school playgrounds), new floors, interior painting, new outside storage buildings, improved fire protection and detection systems, upgrades designed to comply with the American with Disabilities Act (ADA), new electrical work, and new bleachers. A partial interior restoration of North High School is also being completed this summer. The 1998 General Obligation Bond and the 1998 Mill Levy Override largely funded these projects. Additional funds were received from the City and County of Denver and from private foundations and corporations for projects such as the learning landscapes.

As always, the custodial operations work force was busy cleaning and preparing schools for opening in August. Summer help, to include a special work force of bus drivers, visited many sites to clean and improve the exterior appearance of schools. When students and staff return to schools in August, however, school grounds will not be as "green" as usual. With the ongoing drought conditions, DPS initially went to voluntary water rationing for irrigation, which then became mandatory on July 1st. ■

DPS Bus Drivers Help Protect Balarat Outdoor Education Center From Fire Danger

For seven days in June, a team of 38 DPS bus drivers and maintenance staff made a daily three-hour commute to the mountains to minimize the fire danger to one of the district's most unique facilities. The crew spent the time clearing dead wood and potentially hazardous underbrush away from the cabins and buildings at the Balarat Outdoor Educational Center.

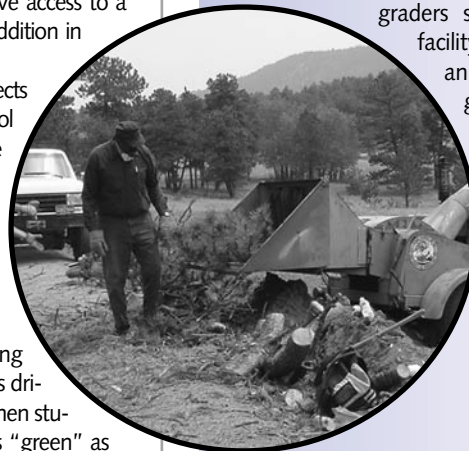
"Balarat had a lot of dangerous dead timber laying around," said Steve Frazier, Crew Leader. "It's a problem throughout the whole state, but since Balarat is a district-owned facility, it was the focus of our efforts."

The project came about as a result of concern regarding the on-going fire devastation that continues throughout Colorado, with fires both large and small popping up across the mountains as the extremely dry conditions continue. The Balarat project is one of several beautification projects taken on by the joint crew, which is a partnership between the district's departments of Maintenance and Transportation.

"This is a win-win situation," said Frazier. "This joint effort is an opportunity for some of the district's bus drivers to have jobs over the summer, but it also helps the maintenance department fulfill some of its goals more effectively."

While the trip to Balarat was a first for the joint crew, this summer represents the seventh year for the partnership.

Balarat is one of the most unique features of Denver Public Schools. Located just 14 miles northwest of Boulder, Colorado, the 700-acre district owned center provides a variety of outdoor learning experiences including excursion programs for middle school students, a residential program for fifth-graders (some 4,400 fifth-graders spend time at the facility each year), and an "eco-intern" program for high school students. ■



Bus drivers teamed up with maintenance crews from the grounds department for the brush clean up at the Balarat Outdoor Education Center.

Stephen Frazier

Heavy Equipment Operator, Grounds Department

Years with DPS: 10 years.



Greatest or Latest Accomplishment:

The highlight is always working with the bus drivers during the summer with the beautification program. Recently helped with clean-up at Balarat Outdoor Education Center.

The Most Challenging Part About My

Job: Working with the different types of people I have to work with, from a supervisory point of view.

The Most Rewarding Part About My Job: Seeing my job to completion, going into areas that need help and being able to provide service and seeing the results of our labor.

I've also worked: Heavy equipment mechanic, small engine mechanic. Since childbirth to this point, it's all been good.

When I'm not working I am usually: Riding my black-and-chrome 1986 Harley Softail.

Hometown: Denver, Colorado – attended Smedley, Horace Mann and North.

Favorite movie: "Easy Rider"

Favorite restaurant: Wherever my bike takes me – roadside cafes in the middle of nowhere.

Favorite book: "Shadow Dance" by David Richo

Family: Son, 17, and a daughter, 13, "who I love very much."

Philosophy for life: To thine own self be true.

The most useless thing I ever bought: Nothing that I can think of; it's got to be useful for me to buy it.



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the perfect curriculum." Minor goes on to state that he's extremely excited to be able to choose the right literature, as well as the right team to implement the school's new teaching philosophy. "Because of the selection process we're using, I know the people on my staff are here because they want to be here," says Minor. "That's important since I'll be asking a lot of the entire team."

On the other hand, when asked about challenges, Minor says: "My biggest frustration right now is not having my own space. You have to carry everything all the time." For Minor, that includes his cell phone, which rings almost non-stop. There were calls from the construction site, a line on another new teacher, and, of course, requests for even more meetings.

For Minor, the fast pace will continue. Even today, his schedule shows no sign of loosening up. The day began with a nine o'clock interview for a literacy coach. He then dashed over to the Montbello Library for a ten o'clock meeting with a small group of newly hired teachers. Minor left that meeting to do an afternoon walk-thru at the construction site.

As we put on our goggles and hard-hats to enter the construction site, it became very clear that Minor had been in and out of the site several times before. A group of workers putting the final touches on the stairs of the main entrance waves at Minor. Just inside the door, another worker making a few adjustments on a wheelchair ramp makes a joke about being in the "principal's office" earlier in the day. As we moved further into the building, Minor received close to a dozen more, "Hey, Mr. Minor's" from various other workers.

It also became clear that Minor knows every inch of his building. As we walked through the facility looking at several rooms without name plates, Minor wasn't always sure where we were at times. However, that didn't stop him from reciting (from memory) some of the specific details about the capacity and various uses of every room. At one point he even wondered out loud about the location of a missing portion of a dry-eraser board, and eyeballed the measurements of a small closet in the front office.

As we finished our walk-thru of the facility, Minor spoke again about the fun in building a school from the ground up and how pleased he is with the interaction between the new school and the neighborhood association. "They've been crucial in helping the district and me, personally, keep this community informed about what's happening with this project." As Minor begins to make another point, his phone rings — again. It's a call he needs to take.

Minor jumps right into a discussion with the caller, waves goodbye, and moves to his office, which is his car for the moment, to continue the call. While his car serves as his office right now, Minor knows it won't be too much longer before he has a complete and appropriate facility to house his ideas and the children of this northeast Denver community. ■

**BY WIL ALSTON, PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE
TEMPORARY STAFF**

Editor's Note: This is the first in a series of stories profiling the wide variety of people and talents who work together 'inside DPS.'