

insideDPS

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East high students learn in unique setting

Shannon Wells, a junior at East High School, is a member of the Hunkpapa Lakota tribe. She has spent summers on the reservation in Cheyenne River, South Dakota, but she believes she still has a lot to learn about her heritage. That's why she enrolled in the East High Museum Program, a unique new class that transforms the Denver Museum of Nature and Science into a classroom for high school students.

This semester, three courses are being offered at the museum: Geology; Native American Anthropology; and Anthropology of Africans in the Diaspora. East High teachers Tamara Rhone, Jon Jacobs and Craig Renz are teaching the program, and Donna Otabachian, teacher on

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More than 150 volunteers from Denver area Home Depot stores, KaBOOM!, NEWSED and community members joined together Oct. 16 to build a new playground at Del Pueblo Elementary School. The playground is possible through an ongoing partnership between The Home Depot and KaBOOM! (a national nonprofit organization dedicated to building playgrounds in neighborhoods that need them most). As national sponsor, Home Depot provided financial support, materials and numerous volunteers for the project. The renovation marked the 99th playground the companies have enhanced and converted into a vibrant safe haven for students.



...Of Sue Scovel, Secretary College View Elementary

You wouldn't think country dancing and school secretarial work had much in common, but being quick on her feet sure helps Sue Scovel, secretary at College View Elementary School.

Sue, who in her spare time competes in the United Country Western Dance Conference, Novice Class, Diamond Division, has received top honors in international dance competitions in the last two months and will compete in the world championship in Nashville in January. She spends about eight hours each week practicing dance.

During the school day, though, Sue is more often running than dancing. The College View office is a beehive of activity, from parents to students to staff needing help.

At one moment, David, a third grader comes in, eyes teary, a tissue tightly pressed on his right ear. Sue takes him to the clinic, removes the tissue, wipes off a bloody scab, and declares him healed. Sue is calm in the face of injuries, having worked as an emergency room clerk for 17 years.

A few minutes later, kindergartener Alejandro appears. Barely reaching, he rests his little chin between his hands on the office counter and asks, softly and seriously, "Can you help me change my wet pants?"

He's pulling a pint-sized, brightly colored suitcase on wheels behind him. Sue kneels down, gets eye-to-eye with the shy little boy and reassures him that this happens all the time, so he's not embarrassed. Then she takes him into a private room to change his clothes.

"I love the kids, and I try to treat each

See **A DAY IN THE LIFE** on page 8

cole middle school students participate in service learning project

On Wednesday, Sept. 11, Cole Middle School sixth graders spent a brisk afternoon at City Park helping mulch about 75 trees to kick off a service-learning partnership with Earth Force and Public Achievement. The students learned that mulching the bases of trees and other greenery protects them from drought conditions by insulating the moisture in the ground.

Students began the afternoon with a quick mini-lesson from ground's supervisors on the appropriate ways to use and store shovels and rakes, as well as the benefits of placing mulch around the trees. Then students, teachers and Earth Force counselors got their hands dirty. Students quickly figured out the importance of teamwork, as they broke into the mulch shovellers, wheel barrel navigators and mulch distributors.

Student Ben Wadsworth found the job difficult at first but very rewarding in the end. "The worst part of the job was that the mulch didn't smell so good. Once we got used to it and busy working, you couldn't even smell it," he said.

"I was amazed at how much the students got done and how well they all worked together," said Earth Force Counselor Sandy Kingsley. "This experience was so positive that it made all of the counselors even more excited about the partnership we will develop with Cole's sixth grade students."

Every Friday afternoon, sixth grade students will meet in small groups with their Earth Force counselors to focus on environmental and social projects. While students are learning to work as a team and to develop their problem-solving skills, the sixth grade teachers will use the time for team planning.

Started as one of the first Earth Force sites nationwide, Front Range Earth Force supports youth-driven, service learning programs in the Denver area. Since 1997, more than 4,000 Denver-area middle school youth have conceived and completed over 70 projects. Earth Force youth have built outdoor classrooms, introduced non-hazardous cleaners to their schools and worked with government and industry to help residents monitor industrial odors and improve drinking water quality. ■



In a related event to the one reported above at Cole Middle School, Cole students also planted ten trees and started work on American Forests' Living Classroom program. Living Classrooms are tree-planting projects for schools that combine history and environmental education. American Forests developed the program to provide teachers with a unique way to teach students history, environmental education, science, geography, mathematics and arts. In addition to the trees, the Living Classroom gift includes software, a video, books and lesson plans.

Celebrate American Education Week Nov. 11-17

Making Schools Great for Every Child" is the theme of American Education Week this year, set for Nov. 11-17.

The theme reflects the cooperation and hard work of all education staff, parents and community members in helping students achieve. The Wednesday of American Education Week is celebrated as Education Support Professionals Day.

American Education Week was first observed in 1921, sponsored by the National Education Association and the American Legion. Today, sponsors of the week are the U.S. Department of Education, NEA, National PTA, the American Legion, American Association of School Administrators, National School Boards Association, American Federation of Teachers, American School Counselors Association, Council of State School Officers, National School Public Relations Association, the Association of State Boards of Education, the National Association of Elementary School Principals, and the National Association of Secondary School Principals.

To celebrate American Education Week in your school, you might consider:

- Sending home a handout asking families to read together during this week and providing a book list. (This would also support the Million Words Campaign!)
- Invite retired teachers to visit the school.
- Invite parents and neighbors to spend time in the classroom volunteering.
- Ask local firefighters, police officers, city officials to visit and talk about their careers.
- Have students write letters to the local papers about their favorite subject or why education is important to them.
- Proclaim American Education Week on your school marquee or classroom bulletin boards and include a quote about education. Here are some samples:

"The highest result of education is tolerance." Helen Keller

"Education is not the filling of a pail, but the lighting of a fire." William Butler Yeats

"A child miseducated is a child lost." John F. Kennedy

"A teacher affects eternity," Henry Adams

"An investment in knowledge pays the best interest." Malcolm Forbes

"It is in education that the American dream begins to take shape." Tom Brokaw. ■

Montbello's David "Gonzo" Gonzales goes global — wins gold

Montbello High School physical education instructor David "Gonzo" Gonzales went to Argentina in October and brought home a haul — of gold.

You can now call him "world champion" after he won four medals all of the same certain, shiny hue (rhymes with bold) in the squat, bench press, and dead lift. That success gave him 820 kilos lifted and, as a result, the medal for overall winner in his weight class at the IPF Master World Championships in Villa Maria Cordoba, Argentina.

"Standing up on the awards platform, listening to your national anthem — you have no idea how wonderful that feels," said Gonzales upon his return Oct. 16.

"Core strength" is one of the qualities that Gonzales tries to build in all the young athletes he works with — whether they're members of the Warriors football team (Gonzales is defensive coordinator) or baseball players. "Kids need strength, especially at this age," said Gonzales. "I tell the coaches in the various sports that I'll get 'em stronger, you give them the specific skills they need."

Gonzales has been lifting weights all his life, and he's been competitive for 18 years. He's been with DPS for about 18 years, most of that time at nearby Martin Luther King Jr. Middle School. Gonzales earned a master's degree in exercise physiology at the University of Northern Colorado in 1984.

Gonzales lifts only in drug free competitions like those sponsored by IPF (International Powerlifting Federation), which uses the same drug standards as the Olympics. Gonzales says he has his own, natural edge — age. "This is a sport where the older you get, the stronger and wiser you get," he says. "I'm more patient with my preparation and don't get so hyped up for an event anymore."

If his powerful physique isn't proof of enough of his dedication, Gonzales lists the following personal bests: squat, 750 pounds; bench press, 501 pounds; dead lift, 677 pounds.

By the way, David's father has never missed one of his competitions. And, even with the meet held in the southern hemisphere, that record stands intact. For both generations of the Gonzales family, it was the first trip out of the country. ■



World champion weightlifter David Gonzales (center) with four Montbello High School Warriors — Nasseer Ghafur, Kyle Frye, Marvin Hawkins, and Maurice Lucas (left to right).

teller elementary's p.e. teacher featured in national newsletter

Above the gym doors and throughout the gym office at Teller Elementary are handmade, glittery signs that say "PE Diva." This is the title given to physical education teacher, Christine Baumgartner, whose students adore her.

Baumgartner, who began teaching physical education in 1969, thinks PE should be fun.

"PE class should always be a reward to students for their hard work in the classrooms," she said. She remembers the stories from friends who said, "Oh, I hated PE because they made me do this and they made me do that and I wasn't any good at it. I was always embarrassed."

"I don't want my kids to be embarrassed, so I encourage movement, socialization, sportsmanship and having fun as opposed to being the best athlete," she said.

Her students aren't the only ones who appreciate her energy and enthusiasm. Baumgartner recently received national attention in the fall

issue of *The Pulse* for her unique ability to motivate students in the Jump Rope for Heart event. *The Pulse* is a newsletter co-sponsored by the American Heart Association and the American Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance (AAHPERD) that focuses on the Jump Rope for Heart and Hoops for Heart programs.

Baumgartner created a series of jumping events to motivate her students, including the Heart Throb, a 30-second speed-jumping event. Other events are The Razzle Dazzle, The Marathon and The Millennium Mile.

By incorporating the Jump Rope for Heart events into the physical education program at Teller Elementary, she makes sure that every kid can participate.

This is Baumgartner's fifth year at Teller. In addition to the Jump Rope for Heart events, she is involved with several other programs. For example, her PE Aces are a group of third, fourth and fifth graders who help the younger students learn. She also helps with the Peer Mediators, who are students trained to help peers settle their problems.

This year, Baumgartner is coordinating a blood drive with Bonfils Blood Center in conjunction with the Jump Rope for Heart. She wants parents and the community to donate blood, "so that the kids can see adults helping their community and giving back in other ways," she said. *The Pulse* is available online at www.aaahperd.org/aha-pulse. ■



Teller Elementary School physical education teacher Christine Baumgartner with (left to right) students Sarah Martin, Lauren Gibbs, and Ally Chapel.

Comings & goings

APPOINTMENTS

Patricia A. Kuhn: Principal, Stapleton
Faustino C. Luna: Interim Principal, Hallett
Alicia K. Balcerzak: Psychologist, Education
Lisa H. Berning: Physical Therapist, Education
Debbie L. Burgio: Social Worker, Education
Jennifer M. Cano-Smith: Psychologist, Education
Doris M. Chandler: Social Worker, Education
Margarita G. Cordero: Psychologist, Education
Priscilla T. De Cianne: Physical Therapist, Education
Lynn E. Haley: Psychologist, Education
Naomi L. Kalfon: Speech Language Specialist, Education
Hollis A. Lenweaver: Speech Language Specialist, Education
Julie K. Link: Psychologist, Education
Rachel F. Mukwaya: Social Worker, Education
Teresa Rizzi: Speech Language Specialist, Education
Jennifer L. Urban: Speech Language Specialist, Education
Michael L. Coscarella: Office Support I, Kunsmiller
Kate Ferguson: Secretary II, Park Hill
Rick Garcia: Secretary I, Martin Luther King Jr.
Stacey K. Gartz: Secretary II, Gilpin
Debra S. McNeil: Secretary I, Ford
Leslie Sarlo: Secretary I, Rosedale
Lorraine Sleyzak: Secretary I, Edison
Shanna M. Spangler: Secretary II, Ford
Grisel Sweeney: Secretary I, Centennial
Monica Vigil: Secretary II, Montclair
Kendra L. Williams: Secretary I, Gilpin
Lisa Bakken: Tutor Interpreter, Denver School Of The Arts
Linda L. Lesar: Tutor Interpreter, East
Donna Palmer: Executive Secretary II, Education
Cheryl B. Jones: Food Service Manager II, Brown
Christopher J. Baker: Pipe Fitter, Operations
Joshua M. Griesbach: Athletic Field Mechanic, Operations
Charles E. Adams: Custodial Helper, Thomas Jefferson
Michael E. Atkins: Custodial Helper, Noel
Hubert Benjamin: Custodial Helper, Archuleta
Ana R. Duran: Custodial Helper, Thomas Jefferson
Carmen D. Herrera: Custodial Helper, John F. Kennedy
Namourou Konate: Custodial Helper, Thomas Jefferson

Matthew Madrigal: Custodial Helper, Maxwell
Vincent C. Ruiz: Custodial Helper, George Washington
Alan Williams: Custodial Helper, George Washington
Nanci S. Campbell: Media Technician, Munroe
Gary W. Capps: Telecomm Supervisor, Administration
Joshua T. Pool: PC Apps Specialist II, Operations
Rebecca A. Salinas: Education Tech Specialist I, Martin Luther King Jr.
Marianne Kenney: Assessment/Testing Director, Education
Linda Botnick: Nurse, Noel
Sandra L. Hansen: Nurse, Education
Bonnie Ivers: Psychologist, Education
Jeanne C. Raynor: Occupational Therapist, Education

TEACHER APPOINTMENTS

Michael Ackerman: Godsman
Katherine E. Allen: Kunsmiller
Andrew S. Altman: Martin Luther King Jr.
Estrella M. Alvarado: Baker
Craig Anderson: Gove
Susannah Barr: Greenwood
Jennifer C. Benjamin: Abraham Lincoln
Aurora Bernal: Castro
Roland G. Blasini: Cole
Sara L. Boudouris: Cory
Matthew R. Bovenzi: Archuleta
Dominique M. Brock: Noel
Vivian L. Bunn: Montbello
Tiffany L. Burkle: Place
Cecily W. Campbell: Bromwell
Rebecca Carr: Emerson Street School
Jacquelyn M. Carrillo: Manual/Arts & Cultural
Jill M. Connett: Columbine
Anne L. Conry: Newlon
Alex M. Corio: Lake
Elizabeth C. Correa: Abraham Lincoln
Patricia G. Crabtree: Beach Court
Jennifer L. Crawford: Teacher: CEC
Distance Learning
Maureen T. Dalton: Place
Christian J. Delaoliva: Smith
Heather K. Delfield: Force
Dale R. Dvorak: Gove
Pauline Edwards: Kunsmiller
Ray L. Erbe: John F. Kennedy
Nitchka R. Felix: Noel
Amy Ferguson: Holm
Rex C. Frerichs: Place
Jaclyn S. Frohne: Noel
Lorraine H. Giron: Barnum
Andrew K. Goodwillie: Green Valley
Jack E. Gronlund: Rishel
Stephanie T. Guevara: Rishel
Kristen Harkness: Manual/Leadership
Claudia Hauschild: Force
Deborah L. Henderson: Montbello
Chrystal R. Hernandez: Godsman
Rebecca F. Jackson: Beach Court
Jannike Johnson: Abraham Lincoln
Karin A. Johnson: Baker
Emily S. Joyal: Place
Anna L. Kluver: Moore
Adam R. Knudson: Morey
Ingrid A. Krueck: Skinner
Jeffrey F. Kurtz: Lake
Laurel A. Lane: Emerson Street School
Chris L. L'Heureux: Teacher: Teller
Caitlin Lindquist: Rishel
Mark A. Lombardi: Godsman
Sharon Lynch-Wilson: Stedman
John L. Madrid: Kunsmiller
Helen J. Magnuson: Castro
Laura E. Magruder: Godsman
Gilberto Marin: Force
Kathryn J. Mattis: Denison
Maymie McManus: Gove
Christine A. Meyer: Smith
Sharon A. Miles-Hastings: Cowell
Arturo R. Morellano: Oakland
Molly S. Muggge: Manual/Arts & Cultural
Christina Nesberg: Merrill
Ngoc V. Nguyen: West
Tim Nicholas: Montbello
Tara M. Niederkorn: Montbello
Adriana Nurena: Noel
Anne O'Sullivan: Kunsmiller
Barbara J. Owens: Noel
Elaine A. Papanastasiou: Cowell
Trenton L. Parks: Randolph
Sarah C. Pauli: Ellis
Leah Pearson: Harrington
Minda D. Pengelly: Skinner
Amanda Peringrina: Smedley
Amanda M. Prout: Denison
Eron L. Reed: Barnum
Gregory R. Reichmath: George Washington
Jennifer V. Reseigh: Place
Kirsten L. Richter: Cole
Tiffany M. Roger: Oakland
Robin Rountree: Southmoor
Kimberly J. Roybal: College View
Araceli D. Ruiz: Holm
Arturo P. Samora: Manual/Arts & Cultural
Andrew F. Sarmiere: George Washington
Kerry A. Scott: Rosedale
Taryn J. Shockey: Barnum
Nicole R. Shum: Columbine
Maria D. Silva: Green Valley
Daniel M. Smith: Gove
Dan Snipes: Noel
Nancy J. Stuhr: Kepner
Anne K. Toepel: Baker
Angela K. Tortessi: Beach Court
Cecilia A. Travis: Newlon
Elizabeth Vela-Robles: Greenwood
Paloma M. Velez: Oakland
Brooke Walker: Education
Justin T. Weeks: Force
Gregory D. Williams: North
Theresa J. Winslow: Force

Amy C. Winter: Cole
Baruch Yitzchaki: South
Benjamin Y. Yoder: Career Ed Center
Betty A. York: Colfax
June Achenbach: Gilpin
Gina E. Ahnen: South
Rebecca W. Aiba: Whittier
June F. Anderson: Samuels
Dulce Leticia Aranda: Newlon
Antonio Arrieta: Mitchell
Olusegun Avileka: Randolph
Donald A. Baker: Gilpin
Brandi R. Bauer: Ashley
Cynthia E. Beardslee: Martin Luther King Jr.
Jennifer M. Beecroft: Lowry
John Bellis: Ebert
Catherine J. Blackburn: Goldrick
Saad S. Bokhari: Manual/Leadership
Becky L. Bottlemey: Gust
Gloria D. Brown: Archuleta
Heidi Brunsting: Kaiser
Catherine M. Buchanan: East
Paula M. Busey: Library Media Specialist, Randolph
Katherine Butler: Gust
Gloria J. Cannady: Noel
Justin K. Cantrell: South
Amanda B. Carpenter: Philips
Andrea Caruso: West
Laura C. Chafin: Schmitt
Jean J. Chapman: Philips
Brigid R. Clark: Randolph
Chris Coney: Hamilton
Honey Cook: Skinner
Sylvia Curiel-Torres: Newlon
Rachel E. Davis: Columbine
Virginia Delgado Donis: Randolph
David A. Dennis: Munroe
Frank E. Deserino: South
Melanie R. Dewey: Park Hill
Gabriel Diaz: Valverde
Martha E. Diaz-Fonrouge: Munroe
Peter Douglas: Goldrick
Alison Dow: Columbine
Jill M. Dreier: Randolph
Mary J. Dubie: Gifted & Talented
Mary M. Duncan: Montbello
Mary Ellen Durcan: Ebert
Ryan Dwyer: Samuels
Merrill Emmett: Manual/Millennium Quest
Janet L. Etchart: Cole
Lezlie Faber: Hallett
Janelle N. Fernandez: Samuels
Michael Fink: Slavens
K. Michael Fitzgerald: Ebert
Jaimie C. Flack: Park Hill
Christine A. Flanders: Noel
Julia M. Fritch: Park Hill
Amanda R. Allus-Grimm: Smiley
Mario Giardiello: West
Joe Glover: South
Joanie M. Graber: Randolph
Nicole Green: Ebert

Comings & goings

Rebecca L. Grining: Hamilton
Cherlynn Grubbs: Swansea
Turi A. Gustafson: Schmitt
Jarred S. Hanson: West
Mark Harrison: Ford
Carol Hartl: McMeen
Steve Harvey: West
Jessie Hayes: Lowry
Mark A. Heffron: Emily Griffith
Opportunity School
Lisa Heiser: Ebert
Jamie A. Hencmann: Schmitt
Michael J. Hendlar: Rishel
Tyler M. Herbst: Randolph
Hugo N. Hernandez: Lake
Luz Maria Hernandez: Newlon
Sharon B. Hicks: Gilpin
Jennifer Hightower: Southmoor
Karin Hindmarch: Schmitt
Aaron C. Hoard: Archuleta
Thomas R. Hollenbeck: South
Kelly N. Hopkins: Fairview
Polica J. Houston: Philips
Tracy A. Ikner: Lowry
Knous K. Jackson: Kunsmiller
Antwan D. Jefferson: Montbello
Giselle Kahn: Knapp
Mary R. Karst: Philips
Deborah L. Kornmesser: Goldrick
Dean Kramcha: Cole
Allison M. Lake: Schenck
Jennifer M. Larned: West
Daniel M. Lawrence: Smiley
Todd Lederman: Denison
Eleanor M. Lemann: Denison
Caroline M. Liddil: Cory
Danielle Little: Smith
Alejandro Lofaso: College View
Pamela L. Lofgren: Munroe
Joyce M. Longacre: Rishel
Laura Luevano: Harrington
Allison Madory: Edison
Melissa D. Malberg: Randolph
Carol A. March: Florence Crittenton
Juan Marin: Grant
Paula E. Marinelli: Swansea
Regina Martinez-Pent: Oakland
Eileen McCarron: Montbello
Heidi L. McClellan: Hallett
Christopher L. McHugh: East
Kate K. McKim: Knapp
Lauren E. McKittrick: Fairview
Ronald D. Meek: East
Miguel A. Melendez: Horace Mann
Jason C. Melgaard:
Manual/Millennium Quest
Marilyn D. Mendelson: Valdez
Allison K. Millmore: Montbello
Shawn D. Moldofsky: Gilpin
Eloisa M. Montoya: Gilpin
Sara V. Morrow: Hamilton
Dolores Mullin: Edison
John W. Najmowski: Rishel
Trudy Newell: Montbello
Diem Nguyen: Kepner

Jean E. Orosco: Gilpin
Jamie L. Osantowski: Gilpin
Juan E. Osorio: Beach Court
Guadalupe L. Patino: Castro
Tamara L. Payne: Marrama
Debra Peaster: Noel
Debbie L. Perea: Denison
Brandon L. Pollard: Skinner
Debbie A. Posateri: West
Nathan M. Pruss: Moore
Tashmesia N. Quincer: Cole
Michael J. Quintana: Merrill
Becky L. Ramsey: West
Cherre Remkus: Martin Luther King Jr.
Celina M. Rogers: Fairview
Enrique Rosales: McMeen
Theodore Rosen: Noel
Gregory D. Rothbard: Edison
John C. Russell: Military Instruction,
Education
Jodie B. Rutledge: McMeen
Dawn T. Salter: Hallett
Rosa Santillan Chia: Swansea
William Sauaia: Cole
Rebecca A. Schmitz: Gilpin
Lynette Scholes: Stedman
Anda H. Seale: Moore
Katherine P. Self: Godsmen
Sean R. Semler: Randolph
Mary M. Settle: Park Hill
Tracey A. Shaws: East
Elizabeth Shuster: Kunsmiller
Candice A. Skiff: Randolph
Casey A. Smith: Gilpin
Earsie Smith: Noel
Twyla Smith: Fairview
Melissa Snow: Crofton
Lucy T. Sopiartz: East
Shaina Spieler: Denison
Rhona Stalker: Traylor
Christine A. Stang: Martin Luther King Jr.
Gina Steinhoff: Noel
Elizabeth L. Stone: Private Schools &
Institutions
Elizabeth E. Sundell: Smith
Jennifer E. Swan: Manual/Arts & Cultural
Christopher S. Tabb: Manual/Arts &
Cultural
Elisa Toledo: Gilpin
Dorothy E. Tomlinson: Library Media
Specialist, Whittier
Norma E. Torres: Rishel
Gregory J. Toston: Archuleta
Pamela S. Vandenberg: Fairview
J. Douglass Vaughn-Harris: Denver
School Of The Arts
Shana L. Vaught: Ebert
James Vigil Jr.: East
Kelly L. Vorenkamp: Lake
Kerry Wagner: Ebert
Deborah M. Walker: Randolph
Alexia K. Warburg: Goldrick
Edward Watson: Montbello
Munroe W. Watson: Montbello
John F. Wilfley: Denver Kids

Elizabeth C. Will: Traylor
Jennifer A. Williams: Rishel
Melissa B. Wilson: Goldrick
Karen L. Woerner: Beach Court
Rene F. Zamora: Cole
Dawn M. Zilch: Doull
Judith A. Curtis: Emily Griffith
Opportunity School
Virginia O. Froehlich: Emily Griffith
Opportunity School
James M. Kessler: Emily Griffith
Opportunity School

CHANGE IN ASSIGNMENT

Charles F. Elbot: Principal on Special
Assignment, Educating For Character
Helen Wright: Nurse, Randolph
Ellen M. Destefano: Teacher, Castro
Darryl Jefferson: Teacher, Oakland
Trudy Newell: Teacher, Montbello
Edward C. Quintrall: Teacher, Smedley
Gayedine R. Bujanda: Office Support I,
Martin Luther King Jr.
George R. Goodwin: Facility Manager I,
Archuleta
Jacqueline Jackson: Facility Manager I,
Ashley
Teresa M. Sullivan: Tutor Interpreter, Baker
Edward N. Walton: Facility Manager III,
Noel
Juana Cenicerros: Food Service
Manager III, Cheltenham
Tomas Estrada: Food Service
Manager III, Castro
Deborah Y. Harris: Food Service
Manager II, Moore
Samuel M. Casados: Custodian Asst II:
Operations
Melissa M. Davis: Custodial Helper, East
Eugeno H. Herrera: Custodian Asst I,
Archuleta
Raymond Hudson: Custodian Asst III,
Noel
Raymond C. Parker: Custodial Helper,
John F. Kennedy
Mable L. Payne: Custodian Asst I,
Oakland
Andrew G. Perez: Custodian Asst II, Sabin
Linda M. Rodriguez: Custodian Asst II,
Operations
Barbara J. Romero: Custodian Asst I,
Beach Court
Steven L. Sanders: Custodian Asst III,
Lake
Carlos P. Valdiviezo: Custodian Asst IV,
George Washington
Jose A. Vega: Custodian Asst I, Lowry
Christina V. Chavez: School To Career
Specialist, Emily Griffith Opp School
D'lese A. Delmonico: Area Specialist,
Education
Diana S. Ludwig: District Buyer I,
Administration
Gilberto Munoz: Central Curriculum
Specialist, Education

Gretchen A. Vaughn: Balarat Specialist,
Balarat
Wesley L. Ashley: Assistant Principal, East
Mark B. Bailow: Teacher, Columbine
Debra Byrne: Psychologist, Education
Erika K. Arias: Teacher, Sandoval
Christina Blair: Teacher, Horace Mann
Kris Bomgars: Teacher, Oakland
Jessica Buckley: Teacher, Harrington
Katherine L. Caskie: Teacher, Doull
Dorothy F. Corlin: Teacher: Kunsmiller
Mary A. Dawson: Library Media
Specialist, Schenck
Jennifer Eber: Teacher, Thomas Jefferson
Diana D. Gadison: Teacher, Hallett
Betty J. Lott: Principal: Teacher, Gove

REAPPOINTMENTS

Stephen Groethe: Teacher, Henry
Maryisabel T. Meza: Teacher, Remington
Veronica I Marin: Secretary I,
Martin Luther King Jr.
Jesus E. Bujanda: Teacher, Baker
Kirsten L. Carlson: Teacher, McMeen
Mark S. Haase: Teacher, Hamilton
Joanna J. Kendrick: Teacher, Moore
Athanasia M. Maniatis: Teacher, Teller
Margie Moore: Teacher,
Martin Luther King Jr.
Antonio E. Rodriguez: Teacher, Mitchell
Rene R. Rojas-Billings: Teacher, Ford
Tara B. Savage: Teacher, Archuleta
Kristine Segura: Teacher, Denison
Amalia S. Shelffo: Teacher, Remington

RETIREMENT

Roseann M. Busch: Teacher, Rishel
Robert L. Caton: Teacher, Skinner
Sandra Cavanaugh: Teacher, Smedley
Cora E. Lay: Teacher, Administration
Tim J. Loverde: Teacher, Thomas
Jefferson
Deborah D. Miller: Teacher, Slavens
Belinda M. Nygren: Teacher, George
Washington
Elizabeth Stansberry: Teacher, Education
Linda C. Stevens: Teacher, University Park
Loretta M Abeyta: Secretary, Valverde
Darlene K Reeves: Secretary, Montclair
Larry L. Cameron: Assistant Principal, East
Barbara A. Armstrong: Teacher,
Montbello
Carla M. Burneson: Teacher, Samuels
Barbara A. Ingram: Teacher, Manual
Dennis G. Johnson: Teacher, Valverde
Gholamreza Makvandialimoradi: Teacher,
Baker Middle
Sara G. Maldonado: Teacher, Lincoln
Mary J. Oliver: Teacher, Montclair

Editor's Note: Parent Lori Lorenz gave InsideDPS permission to print this powerful letter about her family's personal success with the Million Word Campaign.

October, 2, 2002

To Colfax Elementary School:

My son, Toussaint Lorenz, is in Mr. Svoboda's fifth grade class. He's reading "The Series of Unfortunate Events" for the million word project. He's on his 7th book since August.

Toussaint has decided he loves reading. He's taken to turning off the TV and his video games because he wants to know what's happening to the Baudelaire children.

He had a friend over for a slumber party. They were watching a movie and decided to read a book instead. They spent most of the rest of the evening reading.

This is such an exciting process to watch. I've tried to encourage him to read, but all these actions have been his own, making it that much more exciting.

He's also set up a reading night every week, "a family reading night," no phone or TV.

I want to thank Mr. Svoboda and Colfax Elementary School for their enthusiasm in teaching, and the Denver Public Schools Million Words Program.

Thank you,
Lori Lorenz

READ 
one million words
EVERY YEAR

EAST HIGH from page 1

special assignment, is the coordinator. Almost 100 students are enrolled in the classes, which meet at 7:30 a.m. four mornings a week at the museum.

"At East High, we take the district goals of student achievement and closing the achievement gap very seriously. We were looking for some model to provide a smaller learning community," Otabachian explained in talking about the genesis of the program.

"This smaller learning environment has had a positive impact on our at-risk youth who are attending," she said. With a 96 percent attendance rate, both students and their parents embrace the program.

Otabachian applied for a grant from Colorado Department of Education and learned that the museum was applying for a similar grant. As a result, the school and museum decided to work in partnership. The three classes this semester are the first phase of their work together. The school and museum plan to expand the program next fall with classes on astronomy when the Space Odyssey exhibit opens.

While a large number of the students in the Native American Anthropology class have tribal backgrounds, some students enrolled to learn about other cultures. Selena Rodriguez enrolled after taking a Colores Humanos class and deciding she wanted to know more about the early history of our nation.

East High is a focus school for American Indian students, and 30 percent of the district's Native American high school students attend East. There are 63 tribes represented in DPS, with the Lakota and Navajo (Dine) being the largest.

Students in the African American Anthology course are studying the museum's Egyptian exhibit.

"I want to be a paleontologist, so this course is helping me a lot," said junior Antwon Scott. "Being here at the museum is giving me a real grasp of Egyptian culture."

Students divide their time between museum classrooms and the exhibits, where they use worksheets to enhance their learning. They are also improving their critical thinking skills, comparing what they know of their culture with the exhibit.

For example, Shannon was concerned about the museum's hogan not having an east-facing door, and she plans to share her thoughts with the curator. The students were invited to preview the IMAX film, "Pulse," and give input to the museum to help in the decision about whether to bring the film to Denver.

"The museum staff has been incredibly warm and welcoming, and the program has opened our students' eyes to possible careers," Otabachian said. ■

Stedman students celebrate the arts with ballet

Stedman Elementary students enjoyed the dance of The Ballet Arts Theatre in October in celebration of National Arts and Humanities Month and Disabled Awareness Month.

Teri Westerman, Miss Wheelchair Colorado 2000, performed stylized ballet with able-bodied dancer David Mineo. Westerman is president of PHAMLY, an organization for disabled actors. The dancers and Paul Fiorino, artistic director of the Ballet Arts Theatre, demonstrated dance steps, and had the students at Stedman try the first ballet position. Students learned to pronounce such words as "adagio" and "Tchaikovsky" and saw interpretative dances from "The Nutcracker" and "Jekyll and Hyde."

The event celebrated National Arts and Humanities Month and Disabled Awareness Month, both of which occur in October. Ballet Arts Theatre is celebrating its 45th year in the Golden Triangle, and Fiorino has been artistic director for 10 years. Fiorino is also president of the Golden Triangle Arts District and serves on the Governor's Council for Physical Fitness. The program came to Stedman through the sponsorship of ArtReach. ■

Dancers David Mineo and Teri Westerman perform stylized ballet for the students at Stedman Elementary School to celebrate National Arts and Humanities Month and Disabled Awareness Month.



Denver teachers learn computer skills to enhance their teaching

After their school day is done, 155 DPS teachers become learners as they participate in the free Intel Teach to the Future program. Classes are held in all areas of the city, taught by 11 DPS master teachers who were trained during an intensive weeklong session last summer.

Teachers enrolled in the class are learning how to create Power Point presentations, publications and web sites. They are discovering how to search the Internet for web sites that can help them with their lesson plans. Teachers take 40 hours of hands-on classroom training and may earn graduate and recertification credit. They also receive a 1 ½"-thick training manual and free software for personal use.

"Teachers don't have to be computer savvy to participate in the class. Our job is to teach them to use technology as a tool in their classroom," said Rob Hoffman, who offers a class each Thursday at CEC.

Lori Gaido, a science teacher at Contemporary Learning Academy (CLA), finds Hoffman's course "very useful." "I will be able to do better presentations, and I can teach my students to do them," Lori said. "Rob is a good motivator."

"Kids today are very visual. I'm excited about using technology and having my students gain confidence with it," said CLA teacher Gerardo Muñoz.

The Intel Teach to the Future program is a worldwide initiative, and the goal is to reach one million teachers in more than 25 countries by 2003. The goal for Colorado is to train 6,000 teachers. Intel is investing \$100 million in cash, equipment, curriculum development and program management.

DPS master teachers and their fall course sites are Doug Tucker at Rachel Noel; Craig Herrera at Bryant-Webster; Katy Morten at Lowry; Lorraine Smith and Robert Hoffman at CEC; John Zaffore at Force; Andrea Tucker at Maxwell; Ed Glassman at Denver School of the Arts; Christina Torres at Cowell; Michael Massey at West; and Anthony Cordova at Harrington.

The next CEC session of Intel Teach to the Future will begin Jan. 16. Other classes may be offered throughout the district. If you are interested in participating, send an e-mail to Robert_Hoffman@dpsk12.org or Lorraine_Smith@dpsk12.org. ■

literacy

coaches model lifelong learning

The conversation is animated. With workbooks in hand, DPS elementary school literacy coaches sit at round tables in a banquet room at the Doubletree Hotel, talking about the speaking and listening skills young learners need as a foundation to reading. Sally Mentor Hay, Chief Academic Officer, oversees the conversation and encourages teachers to think and explore together.

It's October, and the literacy coaches are attending their second institute of the school year, with a third planned for winter. The three-day fall institute was designed to help literacy coaches hone their skills so they can work with classroom teachers in improving instruction. On one of the three days, principals attended with their coaches.

Coaches attended such workshops as "Teaching to Standards" and "The Portfolio System and Its Rubrics." Other sessions included supporting independent reading, running records, assessment, kindergarten skills, writing process and teacher resources.

The literacy coaches are an integral part of the new DPS literacy program. Their role is to work side-by-side with teachers to build on skills and knowledge in the classroom. They also meet in grade level groups with teachers to discuss student work and lead school-based study groups focused on specific teaching practices. ■



Katie Shively takes notes during the fall institute for elementary literacy coaches. The institute focused on skills teachers need to improve students' literacy skills.

Joe Craft

Director, Shakespeare Festival and Team Leader,
Arts Infusion Project

Years with DPS: 45 (Joe turns 72 this month and has no plans to leave DPS!)

Greatest or Latest Accomplishment: Receiving the Theater Educator of the Year Award from The Alliance for Colorado Theatre, an organization of state drama educators.

The Most Challenging Part About My Job: Trying to stretch the budget so I can do all I need to do. We sell T-shirts, hold a silent auction and I would mow lawns for the Shakespeare Festival.

The Most Rewarding Part About My Job: The day of the Shakespeare Festival each year, as I watch Shakespeare and Queen Elizabeth come up Curtis Street in a carriage with thousands of children stretched all the way back to the Galleria. It fills me with pride that so many students are excited about Shakespeare, learning and literacy. This year, 62 schools are signed up to participate with eight more on a waiting list.

I've also worked: I taught theatre in Snyder, Texas; auditorium activities for three years at the elementary school level; and theatre at Abraham Lincoln, North, South and the Career Education Center. I have also acted at the Country Dinner Playhouse and the DCPA, and owned Theatre in the Square in downtown Denver.

When I'm not working I am usually: Watching my grandchildren participate in sports and attending the theatre with groups of friends and colleagues.

Hometown: Born in Wichita Falls, Texas and grew up in Odessa. Attended McMurry College and came to Colorado for the theatre program at the University of Denver. I also had a fellowship to study Shakespeare in Stratford, England.

Favorite restaurant: El Ranchito on South Broadway. We go there every Friday night, and I usually order the #7: chile relleno, tamale, enchilada and a taco.

Favorite book: "The Robe" by Lloyd C. Douglas.

Family: Wife, Jane, daughter and four grandchildren. Two sons are deceased.

Philosophy for life: Something that Anne Frank said, "I believe that people are really good at the heart."

Final words: If you have an idea, stick with it. I started working on Denver School of the Arts in 1980, and it took 11 years to establish. I had the idea for a National Thespians Convention in Colorado, and people said it wouldn't work. It turned out to be one of the largest in the nation. Irv Moskowitz came to me with an idea about some type of Shakespeare event, and we started the festival in 1985. (Editor's note: Moskowitz was later DPS Superintendent, 1994-1999.) It began with 400 students, and now we're up to 3,000 in kindergarten through twelfth grade. Someone didn't tell the students that Shakespeare was hard, so they don't know.

one with respect," says the mother of two sons and a daughter. Sue has also worked with Cub Scouts for six years.

Sue arrives at College View at 7:30 each morning. Her first task of the day is to get messages, which may be as many as 30, off the answering machine. College View has an enrollment of 462 students in Early Education through fifth grade.

Before Sue knows it, school has started, and the frantic pace begins. Parents are filing in with tardy children who need passes to class. Someone needs to meet with a social worker. A teacher needs help with some supplies. A parent demands attention.

"It's important to show respect to every parent. If someone comes in angry, I am empathetic because no one wants anger back. We are on the frontline, and people expect us to be caring," Sue said.

With a population that's 76 percent Hispanic and 45 percent English Language Learners, College View has many parents who don't speak English.

"I try really hard, but I only studied one year of Spanish," Sue says. One day, a parent came to school asking for help with her student, who had a really bad abscess in his hand.

"I told the mother, 'lava con agua caliente y jamon.' Then I realized I said to wash the wound with warm water and ham, instead of 'jabon,' which means soap. We both got a good laugh out of that one," Sue recalls.

Helping teachers, especially new ones, is a top priority for Sue. "We have about 70 staff members, and I want to be considerate to each one."

She picks one project to accomplish each day, whether it's updating cumulative folders or ordering supplies. However, the task of the day often takes the back burner as Sue and fellow secretary Denise Polomares are constantly juggling the constant stream of customers who come into the office with those calling on the phone.

"The phones are ringing constantly. We hear from sales people, parents, people with special programs, downtown...a whole range of people," Sue says. The office staff is also responsible for distributing baskets-full of in-district and U.S. Mail.

"My job title is 'whatever needs to be done,'" Sue says. This includes getting records ready for the many students transferring in and out of College View. On the week InsideDPS visited, four new students were admitted by Tuesday afternoon.

Sue has been at College View for six years, but this is her first year as a secretary. She previously worked as a special education paraprofessional for three years and health paraprofessional for two.

"The biggest challenge is not knowing all I need to know. I'm learning a million things a day, but I need to learn five million! There's something new every day," Sue says. ■

BY MARILYN SALTZMAN,
PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE

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



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