

Connections

February 23, 2007

Timeline

Upcoming board meetings

Tuesday, March 6

2500 South State Street

Study session – 3:30 p.m.

Administrative reports – 5 p.m.

Board of education meeting – 7 p.m.

A meeting outline is available one day prior to each board meeting at www.graniteschools.org. District patrons may request time to offer comments in a board meeting by contacting the Public Relations office at 646-4529 before noon on the day of the meeting.

Huntsman award deadline

The deadline for nominating teachers, administrators, and volunteers for the 15th annual Huntsman Awards for Excellence in Education is 5 p.m. on Friday, March 16. Forms have been provided to all schools. Ten educators and volunteers will be honored, each receiving \$10,000. Any Utah citizen may submit a nomination. To obtain nomination forms, visit www.huntsman.com/haee, or contact Christena Durham at 584-5799.

Calendar

February 26–March 3

26-27 REACH training, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Hilda B. Jones Center

27-28 SEP conferences in junior high schools

28 Principals' professional development, 7:30 to 10:30 a.m., Granite Education Center Program Services Bldg. auditorium

28-1 SEP conferences in senior high schools

2 Read Across America Day

2 SEP compensatory day in secondary schools; student non-attendance day, end of term in traditional and single track elementary schools

2-3 Utah Coalition for Educational Technology conference, Murray High School

Wasatch claims Academic Games title

Wasatch Junior High School has captured the district Academic Games championship and will compete in the National Academic League tournament. Wasatch defeated Kearns Junior High's team 76-44 on February 21.

Wasatch jumped out to an 18-11 lead after one period and steadily increased its advantage, leading 24-14 after round two and 47-36 after the presentation round, which focused on developing a disaster management plan.

Kearns and Wasatch both advanced to the title match by upsetting the top seeded and home-standing champions of the two district leagues on February 20. Kearns sprinted to an early 12-point lead against League II champion Evergreen and held on for a 73-71



victory. Wasatch ended League I champion Brockbank's two-season undefeated streak 76-66.

The new district champions are mentored by Tom Burke, assisted by Kathleen Thompson and Robert Lindsay. Yevgeny Pevzner, Mary Murdock, Sarah Mensching, Heidi Hartshorn, and Sadie Thomas comprise the Kearns mentor team.

Granite High programs may be redefined

In its February 20 meeting, the board of education reviewed a number of administrative recommendations related to programs currently operating as part of Granite High School. District proposals include maintaining the Granite High Learning Community at the 3300 South location.

Students in grades 9-12 from throughout the district could attend by permit, though the number of ninth grade students attending Granite High from the Granite Park boundary is limited to 100. While all other Granite High students would have to provide their own transportation, any Granite Park Junior High ninth grader attending Granite High would be bused.

The district proposes to establish the Granite Peaks Learning Center at the 3900 South location that was Central High School. Under the learning center's "umbrella," Granite Peaks High School would include the Newcomers program, the former alternative school program, and independent study. Expectations are that the high school programs would focus on core curriculum, staffing ratios

based on enrollment, high student retention and graduation rates, and scheduling that would align with other district programs such as the Granite Technical Institute and Career and Technical Education

Adult and community education programs currently housed at the Granite Education Center would also offer programs at the Granite Peaks Learning Center. While the Young Parents program would likewise be administered under Granite Peaks, it would remain at the Hunter Satellite.

A Granite Technical Institute satellite would operate at the 3300 South campus in the "I" building, where CTE programs such as auto body/paint, home building, and welding/metals could be expanded.

With Granite Peaks programs relocating, space on the second floor of the Educational Programs building would allow expansion of the GTI biomanufacturing program.

Board members are expected to review the recommendations and make a final decision on March 6.

West Lake observes College Week

West Lake Junior High School students made a jump-start in university life as they participated in College Week. The event is designed to boost students' interest in attending a college or university. In their advisor classes, students were "assigned" to a post-secondary school – University of Utah, Harvard, Duke, etc. Intercollegiate contests were conducted throughout the week; e.g., a door decorating contest, fight songs, and others. Colleges and universities in Utah donated prizes for contest winners.

The top winners in the competition were **Shauna Morley's** class, University of Utah; **Alicia Spjute's** class, Boston College; and **Stephanie Bear's** class, Ohio State University. The project was sponsored by Gear-up.

Flag flown in Mid-East now at Valley Crest

On February 2, a U.S. flag that had flown in Afghanistan was presented to **Valley Crest Elementary School** at a school-wide patriotic assembly. Sergeant **Chester Day**, a parent of two Valley Crest students, flew the flag in honor of all Valley Crest students while he was serving in Afghanistan. The flag is now framed and on permanent display in the main lobby of the school.

Seuss on the loose

Woodrow Wilson Elementary School will celebrate Read Across America Day on Friday, March 2, with a Seuss on the Loose activity. Because May 2 is a compensatory day in other Granite schools, youth and adults from the East Millcreek community will read to students in younger grades and will provide Seuss-related carnival-like activities for students in grades 2-6. The school will be alive with Cat in the Hat head ware, costumes, and window art. The East Millcreek community has formed a partnership that supports Wilson Elementary, says Principal **Lynda Hart**.

Condolences

Kathy Hunsaker, a second grade teacher at Redwood Elementary School, passed away on February 17. Kathy started with the district as an hourly employee in 1996 and moved to contract status in 2000. We express our condolences to Kathy's family and friends.

Orchard families gather for movie, discussion of bullying issues

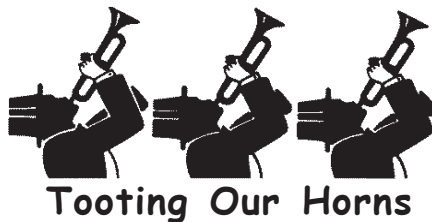
The Community of Caring program at **Douglas T. Orchard Elementary School** hosted a family movie night on February 15. Students and parents brought pillows, blankets, and stuffed animals and watched the movie *The Ant Bully*. Community of Caring coordinator **Katherine Paulson** (a.k.a. Miss K), provided a short list of topics in English and Spanish for families to discuss

during a break in the movie. The issues included "why it is not right to bully" and "learning to appreciate differences." The PTA

solicited help from a nearby McDonald's restaurant to supply cookies and drinks. Parents said the evening was a great success.

Arcadia students celebrate 100 days

First graders at **Arcadia Elementary School** turned a "100 Days" celebration of their first year as all-day students into a fund-raising effort. The students donated more than \$74 by making a coin trail down the hall. The money will help a teacher's child who is waiting for a kidney transplant.



Congratulations

One current and one retired Granite District employee have been acknowledged by Artistic Resource for Teachers and Students (ARTS) Incorporated. **Dr. Ellis C. Worthen**, a former district music and arts specialist, received the organization's Distinguished Service Award. Current district elementary music teacher, **Mark Woolf**, was honored with the District Educator Award. The awards were presented at an ARTS, Inc., gala held on February 20. Governor Jon M. Huntsman, Jr. had declared February 18-24 as Partners for Arts-In-Education Week.


Youth Symphony Festival planned

The senior and junior Granite Youth Symphonies will perform at Abravanel Hall in the annual Youth Symphony Festival on Monday, February 26. The Granite junior group is scheduled to perform at 9:30 a.m., and the senior performance is at 1:00 p.m. Each symphony will perform for a half hour. Recordings of the performances will be available for purchase.

Spring ahead early this year. Daylight Saving Time will begin in the early morning hours of Sunday, March 11.

Tips for Teachers

Immediately handle tasks that take only a moment to complete. For example, if someone requires a written reply, quickly jot down your response and put it in his or her box. By getting minor tasks out of the way, they won't hang around your desk and clutter it.


Knowledge – like the sky – is never private property. . . . Teaching is the art of sharing.
 — Abraham Joshua Heschel

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