

# Connections

February 16, 2007

## Timeline

### Upcoming board meetings

**Tuesday, February 20**  
2500 South State Street  
Administrative reports – 5 p.m.  
Board of education meeting – 7 p.m.

A meeting outline is available one day prior to board meetings at [www.graniteschools.org](http://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.

### IDEA session

The February IDEA staff development meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 21, in D-102 at the Granite Education Center Program Services Building. The discussion will center on proposed changes in Utah State Office of Education rules for special education. Administrators planning to attend should contact Janet Arakaki-Moulton, 646-4627, or [janet.arakaki-moulton@granite.k12.ut.us](mailto:janet.arakaki-moulton@granite.k12.ut.us).

### Calendar

#### February 19–26

- 19 Presidents' Day, all district offices and schools closed
- 20 Senior High MESA Day, 8 a.m. to noon, Utah Cultural Celebration Center
- 21 IDEA staff development 7:30 a.m., D-102, GEC Program Services Bldg.
- 21-22 SEP conferences in single track year-round schools
- 22 Prevention Dimensions elementary training, 8 a.m., D-102 Program Services Bldg.
- 22 Junior and senior high school drama tournament, 4 to 9 p.m., Taylorsville High School
- 23 National Boards support meeting, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., D-206, Program Services Bldg.
- 24 Utah Consortium for Mathematics Educator Enhancement conference, Cottonwood High School
- 26 REACH training, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Hilda B. Jones Center

## Qwest, USOE honor Granite Educators

Five teachers in Granite District schools are among 20 statewide honored by the Qwest Foundation and the Utah State Office of Education. The teachers' proposals for using innovative technology in the classroom were each rewarded with a \$2,000 to \$2,500 grant. More than 100 teachers throughout Utah applied. Of the nine teachers awarded in the Salt Lake Valley, five teach in Granite District schools.

The recipients include:

- **Florence Graham**, sixth grade teacher, Gearld L. Wright Elementary School, Technopolis – Futuristic City
- **Rhonda Small-Oakes**, Hartvigsen School, Play and Learn Curriculum
- **P. K. Sanders**, science teacher, Olympus Junior High School, Here Comes the (Virtual) Sun



*Flo Graham reacts to receiving a Qwest Foundation technology grant.*

- **Mary Martinez**, science teacher, Cottonwood High School, Computer-based Learning in the Laboratory
- **Michelle Tanner**, a Utah School of the Deaf and Blind educator based at Wright Elementary, Curriculum Podcasting for Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing Students

## CTE showcase draws thousands

Crowds in excess of 3,500 people visited the second annual **Career and Technology Education** open house on February 7 at the Granite Education Center. The open house is held each February, which is CTE Month. This year's theme was "All education is career education."

Visitors browsed informational displays set up throughout the Granite Technical Institute and on the main floor of the Program Services Building. Among the course representations, visitors saw Skills USA vehicles from Cyprus High School, a calf from Wheeler Farm agriculture program,



cosmetology services from Granite High School, a food program connected with the GEC Café, health sciences, dental assisting, computer animation, and more.

The CTE staff is also providing a "traveling show" with displays and registration information for each high school and junior high school. Many CTE classes offer concurrent enrollment.

## Wright open house planned

An open house will celebrate the completion of Granite District's newest school, **Gearld L. Wright Elementary**. The event will begin at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, February 22. A program will include student vocal and instrumental music performances plus remarks by **Superintendent Stephen F. Ronnenkamp**, board of education members, and **Lila Wright**, widow of the school's namesake. The school's student council will serve as color guard.

Principal **Marilyn Laughlin** says a building tour will include a science fair, computer labs, and the media center. Members of the school safety patrol will act as hosts.

## It's all Greek to Rosecrest students

Students in Gloria Munn's fifth/sixth grade class at Rosecrest Elementary School held a Greek festival to culminate their studies. Sixth grade students used Power Point presentations to teach their classmates about the ancient Greeks' daily life, houses, food, children, education, and festivals. The students used their own assessment to correct and grade themselves following each presentation.



*Greek food, clothing, and education were in the spotlight at Rosecrest Elementary.*

Fifth and sixth grade students donned Greek fashions and brought bread, olive oil, balsamic vinegar, olives, vegetables, grape juice, and fruit to emulate an ancient Grecian feast. The festival, which the Greeks used to honor Zeus, included students participating in arm wrestling, chariot races, discus and javelin throwing, plus math facts, memorization, and hand-writing contests. Gloria says the students came away with a greater knowledge of the Greeks and their own abilities as 21st Century students.

## KJHS to explore Topaz theme

Kearns Junior High School will host a series of presentations about the Utah internment camp, Topaz, where Japanese-American citizens were forced to relocate during World War II. Michael O. Tunnel, a popular children's author, will begin the presentations at 11:30 a.m. on Friday, February 23. All presentations will be open to the public. For additional information, contact the school at 646-5204.

## Granger High student claims major scholarship

Jenelle Dapp, a senior at Granger High School, has received \$2,500 as a Horatio Alger Utah Scholar for a series of essays and her academic performance. Jenelle ranks 22nd in her class with a 3.9 grade point average. She plans to attend Weber State University to major in either radiological technology or respiratory therapy.

## Granite students at the heart of healthcare

Students enrolled in Ann Hogensen's Virtual Healthcare Interactive Project (VHI) had an opportunity to experience a virtual heart surgery on February 12. Through a program created by the Utah State Office of Education and Intermountain Health Care students at the Granite Technical Institute are able to gain real life exposure to the health care field.

The 34 students selected for the program met after school for extensive preparation prior to the surgery. The students joined Dr. James Long in a live broadcast as he narrated video tape of a previous open heart surgery and answered student questions.

The innovative teaching methods allow students to gain experiences that would otherwise be unavailable due to safety and liability concerns. Utah's VHI is only the third program of its type in the nation.

Classes covered topics including surgical equipment, surgery prep, EKG reading, and a heart dissection. Additional opportunities are planned including a virtual cesarean section and an orthopedic surgery. Schools and districts must reapply each session to be considered for the program. The GTI is the only program in the state to be accepted to both of the two previous sections. Anyone interested in the program should contact Ann Hogensen at 646-4339 or [ann.hogensen@granite.k12.ut.us](mailto:ann.hogensen@granite.k12.ut.us).

## Academic Games final four eye action

It's playoff time for the Academic Games. Four teams remain to vie for a spot in national competition. In district semifinal matches on Tuesday, February 20, Wasatch will meet Brockbank, and Kearns, in its first appearance in the final four, will compete at Evergreen. The championship match is scheduled for Thursday, February 22, at the Granite Education Center.

Scores of the regular-season final games were:

Kearns 56, Bennion 51  
Brockbank 53, Kennedy 28  
Matheson 68, Hunter 39  
Jefferson 58, West Lake 34  
Bonneville 51, Granite Park 8  
Churchill 51, Olympus 41  
Eisenhower 49, Valley 32  
Evergreen 58, Wasatch 45

## Stay in-the-know by e-mail

If you want to be the first to know when new school calendars are finalized or what decisions were made at the board of education meetings, we can deliver regular updates to your e-mail account. A new "Updates by E-mail" service is available on the Granite School District website.

On this webpage you can register to receive several types of new information as soon as they are available, including annual school test scores, board of education meeting agendas, or to receive this newsletter via e-mail. More than a dozen categories of school and district information are available. Even daily education-oriented "newsclips" from newspaper articles are offered. If you subscribe to any of these free services, you will receive the information you requested every time it is updated.

To register for e-mail updates, go to [www.graniteschools.org](http://www.graniteschools.org), then click on Departments > Public Relations > Updates by E-mail.



*Children are our most valuable natural resource.*

– Herbert Hoover

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