



In The District

The official newsletter of the SALT LAKE CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

440 East 100 South
Salt Lake City, Utah

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Construction Update

The district's construction program is moving forward and providing communities with new, unique schools. The new Indian Hills and Bonneville Elementary Schools are nearing completion. Both schools will be open for the 2005-06 school year. The new Northwest Middle School will also be ready for students this summer.

Demolition of Glendale Middle School, Washington Elementary, and Highland Park Elementary will begin soon after school ends this summer. All three schools will be rebuilt. Glendale students will be moved to the old Northwest building until construction of the new school is complete. Washington students will move to the Lowell building, and Highland Park students will move to the Rosslyn Heights building. Retrofit work on Bryant Middle School will also take place this summer.

As you can see, it's going to be a busy summer. Moving furniture, supplies, and offices from old buildings to new buildings is a huge task. Planning has already begun to make sure the transitions go as smoothly as possible. Thank you to Auxiliary Services for its role in leading this planning and moving effort, and thank you to all teachers, administrators, contractors, and employees involved for their patience and hard work.



Northwest Middle School

Schools Offer Service

Miss Shannon's 6th grade class at Highland Park made 30 loomed beanies, 14 fleece blankets, and 10 scarves that were donated to the Sisters of Charity Orphanage in New Delhi, India.

Emerson student government officers spearheaded a donation drive to aid the victims of the tsunami disaster. The students set a goal of \$900.00. Donation boxes were placed in each classroom and in the office. After all donations were collected, the students had a total of \$1,882.00.

Sterling Scholar Finalists

Congratulations to the Sterling Scholar finalists from Salt Lake City School District. There are 13 Sterling Scholar categories, with five finalists in each category. Salt

Lake City School District placed at least one finalist in every category, except for Music. Sixteen of the 65 finalists for the Central Region were from Salt Lake City School District.

Editor's Note: Individual student awards are not typically listed in the district newsletter. If you are interested, you can find the list of finalists on the Deseret Morning News Web site at <http://www.desnews.com/scholars/>.

Congratulations

Congratulations to Patricia Miller from Edison Elementary School. Patricia is one of three Utah State Finalists for the Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching. The PAEMST is the most prestigious national award given in mathematics and science education.

Quote: _____

“Knowledge advances by steps and not leaps.”

~Lord Macaulay ~

Timeline

Board Meeting:

Mar 1 - Business Meeting 6:30 p.m.
Mar 15 - Study Session 6:30 p.m.

Newsletter Deadlines:

Mar 3 - Articles Due
Mar 10 - Publication

Testing Dates:

Feb 28-Mar 11 UOSE Direct
Writing Assessment Gr 6 & 9

Teaching Tip

Help Students Overcome testing anxiety

Standardized testing is a fact of life in most schools. Teachers have found ways to help their students do better on these tests without sacrificing what they know to be good educational practice.

Sometimes, students get so anxious that they can't do their best. Researchers estimate that between 20 and 30 percent of students feel at least somewhat anxious when they are taking tests. Some get so anxious that they can't complete the test.

Here are some tips that can help:

- **Lighten up.** To encourage students to relax, one teacher puts on a pair of Elmo slippers and a funny nose. Getting her students to chuckle, she finds, is a way to help them relax.

- **Teach time management.** Develop a schedule to help students prepare for the test. In the week before the test, have them spend 15 or 20 minutes each day reviewing. But on the night before the test, they should relax and get plenty of sleep.

- **Change the language.** One teacher told her students they wouldn't have any tests that year. After they cheered, she said, "But we will have some 'Zimbabwes.'" Giving the exam a different name took some of the terror out of it.

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Online Resources

Whether you're an ESL or bilingual teacher, teaching a foreign language or dealing with a new student with limited English skills, check out Lesson Plans and Resources for ESL, Bilingual and Foreign Language Teachers (www.csun.edu/~hcedu013/eslindex.html). The site includes national and state educational standards and curriculum frameworks for Foreign Language and ESL classrooms. You will also find a list of related professional associations.

The annual Iditarod sled race kicks off this year on March 5. Students can follow the sled race online through the Iditarod website (www.iditarod.com). Also included are a variety of learning activities on Alaskan geography and history, as well as on the history of

dogsledding. An Idita-hunt includes 80 questions that will have students searching the Internet for answers. Access the hunt at www.iditarod.com/idita_hunt.html.

March is Music in Our Schools Month and the San Francisco Symphony for Kids website (www.sfskids.org) is a great place to introduce your students to orchestral music. They can experiment with musical elements such as tempo, rhythm, pitch and harmony; learn about the four instrument families; listen to music; and even compose their own musical scores.

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Communication Corner

Show your positive side

If your boss had to characterize your attitude, would you be described as a ray of sunshine or a black cloud? Some employees don't realize that they unintentionally project negativity. To become the employee the boss can't wait to see in the morning, take these steps:

- **Suggest - don't complain.** If you disagree with a new procedure or rule, offer alternatives and solutions not recriminations and a bad attitude.

- **Air problems in private.** Don't challenge your boss in front of co-workers or other manager.

- **Learn to pick your battles.**

There are times when it's best to keep quiet and do what you are told. Not every battle is worth fighting. Winning can cost you more in the end than the battle was worth.

- **Take responsibility for your mistakes.** Show your maturity by admitting when you are wrong.

- **Be a team player.** Give your boss positive information about co-workers or jobs well done.

Source: Adapted from "Tips for Communicating Effectively With Your Boss, Insights, www.fiu.edu.