



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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Artist-in-the-Classroom Grant

The Salt Lake City Arts Council is making available to Salt Lake City elementary schools an Artist-in-the-Classroom (AIRC) grant. Funding is available for artists' fees and supplies for artists' residencies. Forms are due April 22, 2005. Each school may apply for only one residency.

The grant can be designed according to the needs of the school:

- Artists may work over many different time periods.
- Artists may work in any artistic medium - dance, theatre, music, crafts, design, architecture, creative writing, visual arts, photography, folk arts, folklore, film/video or other areas.
- A single teacher, grade-level team, or multi-level team of teachers may design projects appropriate for their students.
- Matching funding is not required, but if more school funding is available, a larger project may be accomplished.
- Schools may find their own artist or may pick from a list of pre-selected artists. Be creative and anything is possible!

Further information is available online at <http://www.slcgov.com/arts>.

Retirement Seminar

The Retirement Seminar originally set for March 31 has been changed to Thursday, April 7th, in the Administration Building (440 E. 100 So.) Rooms 115 & 116, from 3:45 p.m to approximately 6:00 p.m.

Corlis from the Social Security Office will do a presentation from 3:45 to approximately 4:30p.m., then Cory from the Utah Retirement Office will do a presentation from 4:30 to 6:00 p.m.

Diabetes Wellness Workshop

The District Benefits Office along with Altius Healthplans and Educators Mutual will host a Diabetes Wellness Workshop on Tuesday, March 22, 2005 in the East High commons from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m.

West High Mesa Winners

Recently, West High MESA students competed against other Utah high school students in the TEAMS competition. Groups of four to eight students worked in an open book, open note, open discussion format in a one-day, two-part competition.

The TEAMS exam is a one-day competition that requires students to think critically. Team members should have knowledge of math, chemistry, physics, biology, and computer applications. The questions posed represent college freshman-level engineering course work. Problems on TEAMS

competition offer students the opportunity to see how engineering touches almost every aspect of our lives.

Out of the three West High teams, one varsity team and two junior varsity teams, two won 1st place and the other won 3rd place.



North Star Principal Rosanne Henderson eats her way through a cake trying to find a hidden file. North Star students had read over 300,000 minutes sending Ms. Henderson to "reading jail." She had to find the file in order to "cut" through her handcuffs.

Timeline

Calendar Dates:

Mar 25-April 1 - Spring Break

Board Meeting:

Mar 15 - Study Session 6:30 p.m.

April 5 - Business Meeting 6:30 p.m.

Newsletter Deadlines:

Mar 17 - Articles Due

Mar 24 - Publication

Testing Dates:

April 18-April 29 - Elementary Supplemental Reading DRA -Gr 1-2

Teaching Tip

Prepare class for parent volunteers

You understand how critical parent involvement is in the success of your students' education. One of the best ways to connect with parents is to invite them into your classroom—as observers and, especially, as volunteers.

A little advance planning will go a long way toward making the volunteer experience a rewarding one. Consider these two issues:

- **What kinds of activities or projects do you want parents to help with?**

There is a vast list of activities they can help with—cutting, collating, publishing, reading with individuals or groups, etc. It's important to know what you would like your volunteers to do and to have necessary materials ready for them.

- **How will the students respond to working with a volunteer? What behavior will you expect?**

Your students will probably be excited to have a new person in the classroom and they may attempt to monopolize his/her attention. Make sure your students understand what the parents will be doing and that they will be busy. While it's appropriate for them to welcome the parents, it's also important to let parents do what they are there to do.

Keep records so you will know which students have worked with the parents and what they have worked on.

Reprinted with permission from the April 1, 2005 issue of *Better Teaching*®, Source: Peggy Cramer, "Tips for Welcoming Parent Volunteers Into Your Classroom," Education World, www.education-world.com/a_curr/voice/voice094.shtml.

Online Resources

Some 124,000 digitized historical documents, photographs and images can be accessed online through the U.S. National Archives & Records Administration's Archival Resource Catalog. Go to www.archives.gov/research_room/arc/topics/highlights.html for search hints and a list of topics included in the records.



If you're looking for new ways to add interest to your science curriculum, you'll want to take a look at The Science Spot (<http://sciencespot.net>). You'll find lesson plans and project ideas, science-oriented puzzles and even a daily science trivia section.

Reprinted with permission from the April 15, 2005 issue of *Better Teaching*® newsletter

Retiring or Resigning?

Are you planning on retiring or resigning? If so, please notify Human Resources in writing as soon as possible so they are able to complete the appropriate paperwork in a timely manner. Human Resources is also planning this year's retirement dinner on May 18 and would like to make sure employees retiring are invited to this wonderful event. If you have any questions, please contact Human Resources at 578-8337.

Quote: _____

"It takes less time to do a thing right than to explain why you did it wrong."

~Henry Wadsworth Longfellow ~

Communication Corner

Are you too blunt?

Do you pride yourself on being a no-nonsense, straight-talking kind of person? Being assertive about your opinions is fine, but at some point, assertiveness crosses over into bluntness. And that means you haven't taken other people's feelings into account. To find out whether bluntness is a problem for you, ask four or five people at work: "Do I come across as too blunt sometimes?" "Do I say things that hurt other people's feelings without realizing it?" If you get back some "Yes" answers, take these steps:

- **Watch your choice of words.** Don't preface remarks with dismissive or hostile words or phrases. Example: Don't say "It's obvious to me..." "I don't see how..." or "I can't believe..."

- **Monitor your tone or voice.** Even when your words are positive, your tone can convey hostility. How would you feel if someone said with a sarcastic edge "That's a great piece of work"? You'd probably take the comment as an insult.

- **Listen to yourself.** Many people don't realize that their tone is gruff or negative sounding. One way to tell is to tape record yourself during a phone conversation. Listen to the tape carefully. How do you sound? Friendly? Matter-of-fact? Or is there an unfriendly edge to your voice? Hearing what you sound like to other people can be a revelation. If there's a hostile edge to your voice, you'll need to consciously modify your tone.

Source: Adapted from "Bluntness," Tony Alessandra, www.getmotivation.com