



# 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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## Utah, China Sign Agreement

A new agreement between the Utah State Office of Education and the People's Republic of China will bring a Mandarin Chinese language teacher to West High School this fall. To promote a lasting relationship between the Beehive State and China, the memorandum also invites a Utah



*Chaunsheng Liu, Minister Counselor of Education, People's Republic of China and State Superintendent Patti Harrington sign a memo of understanding while Governor Jon Huntsman Jr. and State Senator Howard Stephenson watch.*

teacher to offer English in China. Only one other state, South Carolina, has a similar agreement with China.

Nearly 1.1 billion people worldwide speak Mandarin Chinese. That's twice the number of English speakers, in the United States, according to the Utah State Office of Education. Currently, Mandarin is taught in four Utah public schools - Provo High, Park City High and Davis School District's Kaysville and Farmington

junior highs.

Recruiting students for classes at West High has already begun. The district is also gauging interest in other high schools and looking at the possibility of splitting the visiting teacher's time between two or more schools.

## 2005 Gateway to Learning Educator Workshops

The Tanner Humanities Center will present three workshops for educators this summer. All sessions will be held on the dates indicated at the Tanner Humanities Center, Durham Seminar Room, 115 Carlson Hall, University of Utah. Carlson Hall is located on the corner of University Avenue and South Campus Drive (380 So. 1400 East). Parking is available behind Carlson Hall.

Each of the following courses is eligible for three graduate level University of Utah continuing education credits, or provides 24 in-class contact hours.

1. **America in the 1960s (June 20-24, 2005).**
2. **Constitutional History: Ideas and Institutions (July 18-22, 2005).**
3. **Interpreting French and Francophone Cultures (August 1-5, 2005).**

For more information or registration contact Rich Tuttle, Tanner Humanities Center: (801) 581-3732 or e-mail: [r.tuttle@mail.hum.utah.edu](mailto:r.tuttle@mail.hum.utah.edu).

## Foundation Grants Available

The Salt Lake Education Foundation has several grant opportunities available.

**The William R. Wood Memorial Arts Grant** is an award, not to exceed \$3,000, for the purpose of promoting the arts as a way to help students achieve higher levels of success.

**Teacher Research Grants** make it possible for teachers to develop innovative curriculum for the classroom that can be replicated in other classrooms.

**Teacher Summer Research Grants** are awarded to teachers, not to exceed \$4,000, to research, develop, and write curriculum during the summer months.

The deadline date is April 30. Information and the proposal form can be obtained on the district web page: [www.slc.k12.ut.us/departments/CommunityInvolvement](http://www.slc.k12.ut.us/departments/CommunityInvolvement).

## Timeline

### Calendar Dates:

Mar 25-April 1 - Spring Break

### Board Meeting:

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

### Newsletter Deadlines:

Mar 31 - Articles Due

Apr 7 - Publication

### Testing Dates:

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

# Teaching Tip

## Help For Teachers

Math, science and special education teachers who have taught in Title I schools for up to five years may be eligible for higher loan forgiveness amounts under a new law.

The Taxpayer-Teacher Protection Act (P.L. 108-409) signed by President Bush in October 2004, authorized up to \$17,500 in loan forgiveness to individuals who have been employed full-time for five consecutive years as highly qualified math, science and special education teachers. This dramatic increase of \$12,500 above the loan forgiveness amounts available to other teachers is meant to ease the shortage of teachers in key subject areas. The increased amount of teacher loan forgiveness is available to new Federal Stafford Loan borrowers (math, science and special education teachers with no outstanding loan balances prior to Oct. 1, 1998, who borrowed eligible loans prior to Oct. 1, 2005).

For more information, call the U.S. Department of Education's customer service call center at 1-800-433-7327, or visit [www.ifap.ed.gov/dpcletters/GEN0414.html](http://www.ifap.ed.gov/dpcletters/GEN0414.html).

## Quote: \_\_\_\_\_

**“Education is what survives when what has been learned has been forgotten.”**

~B.F. Skinner~

## Online Resources

With the cold and flu season here, many schools are looking for ways to help prevent the spread of germs that so often run rampant among children in close quarters. The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) maintains a web site that offers flu prevention tip sheets; answers to frequently asked questions; and brochures and color posters in multiple languages that can be printed and used in schools. For more information, go to [www.cdc.gov/flu/school](http://www.cdc.gov/flu/school).



Go to [Dictionary.com](http://Dictionary.com) to look up English words, computer terms, place names, biblical names, and U.S. zip codes. The site also offers a thesaurus and reference book search feature, as well as the ability to translate English phrases into several major languages.

## What's Working

Newman Elementary School's Read Naturally program, to build reading fluency, has made a real impact. Through the combined efforts of teacher aid, Renee Goudie, the volunteer coordinator, Joylin Stepan and the weekly volunteer work of 30 volunteers from the Ensign LDS Stake, students working in a lab setting, have made marked progress after just 6 weeks of participation.



*Principal Sue Parker and Assistant to the Superintendent Patrick Garcia review test data as Ms. Parker writes next year's school improvement plan for Highland Park Elementary.*

# Communication Corner

## Take notes like a pro

Whether in a meeting, training session or seminar, good note taking is essential. Use these techniques to sharpen your skills:

- **Write in phrases**, and keep them as short as possible.
- **Listen for pointer words** and phrases that signal a significant idea is coming. Examples: "Some final thoughts on the matter are..." and "First, I want to discuss..."
- **Skip examples** unless you

need them to illustrate a concept.

- **Use abbreviations.**
- **Leave question marks** if you miss something. Ask another participant to fill you in later.
- **Write down formulas**, dates, numbers and graphs.
- **Put your comments in brackets** to differentiate them from the speaker's.

Adapted from Bull's Eye Business EWriting Tips, [www.basic-learning.com](http://www.basic-learning.com)