



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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US Surgeon General Visits Hawthorne Elementary

U.S. Surgeon General Richard Carmona visited Hawthorne Elementary School on Wednesday, April 6, 2005, as part of his "50 Schools in 50 States" initiative. As U.S. Surgeon General, Dr. Carmona is committed to speaking to the American people, especially America's youth, about the dangers of risky behaviors and the benefits of healthy choices. More information about the "50 Schools in 50 States" initiative can be found at www.surgeongeneral.gov.



Hawthorne Elementary School was chosen because the school is the site of the district's ongoing outdoor air quality study. In 2003, the Salt Lake City School District was the first district in Utah to receive the EPA Excellence Award under the Indoor Air Quality Tools for Schools program. Salt Lake City School District also serves as a mentor to school districts throughout the nation that are implementing their own indoor air quality management programs.

Education Foundation Offers Scholarships

College Bound Scholarship

Two scholarships, in the amount of \$2,000 each, will be awarded in the spring of a student's junior year of high school. The first \$1,000 will be disbursed in the summer before their senior year and the final \$1,000 will be made payable to the college they will attend. The deadline is May 1.

Steed/Sorenson Scholarship

This scholarship is for \$2,000 to be awarded to a deserving, hard-working Senior who would like to achieve his/her personal goals and contribute to our society. This award will be made payable to the college of the student's choice. The deadline is May 1.

Washington Elementary School Scholarship

Becky Bowen, a teacher at Washington Elementary, has established a \$500 scholarship to encourage former Washington Elementary students to further their education or job training. The deadline is May 1.

Applications and further information for these scholarships can be found on the district website by clicking on "Departments" then "Community Involvement" and finally on "Scholarships", or by calling 578-8212.

Mathematics and Science Scholarship Available

The Council of the Great City

Schools has launched a new scholarship program with Texas Instruments.

The new scholarship, called the Marcia Page Scholarship for Mathematics and Science Excellence, will provide college scholarships of \$5,000 (per year) to two African American females who graduate from one of the Great City Schools this spring and pursue a career in a math/science-related field.

The deadline for applications is May 1. Information and the application form can be found at: <http://www.cgcs.org/whatsnew/tiapplication.html>.

Timeline

Calendar Dates:

April 17-23 - Public School
Volunteer Week

April 22 - Earth Day

April 27 - Administrative
Professionals Day

April 29 - Arbor Day

Board Meeting:

May 3 - Business Meeting 6:30 p.m.

May 17 - Study Session 6:30 p.m.

Newsletter Deadlines:

April 21 - Articles Due

April 28 - Publication

Testing Dates:

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

Teaching Tip

Deserved Praise

Use sincere praise to motivate students

Praise can be a good thing—but not when it's empty, indiscriminate and overdone. If you applaud students for doing simple tasks, you render praise virtually meaningless.

To make praise effective:

- Don't use praise to get students to modify or improve their behavior. Few students are motivated to work harder or change behavior just to please or receive praise from their teacher.
- Praise shy or self-conscious students privately. They might refrain from pleasing behavior in the future—just to avoid being singled out publicly.
- Be subtle when praising those students who might fear that your approval will be met with disapproval from their peers.
- To make praise effective, examine it in the context of the feedback you give students overall. Keep a record of what you praise students for.
- Assess the kind of praise you give. It should be sincere, specific and helpful. Describe the student's performance. For example, say "Correct use of punctuation," instead of just "Good job."

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Online Resources

The Greek suffix -ology means "the study of." Kids who visit the Museum of Natural History's OLogy website will engage in their own study of many different sciences. The site is filled with hands-on activities that will help students learn more about everything from earth science to Einstein, and from dinosaurs to outer space. Visit the site at <http://ology.amnh.org/>.



Show students they can make a difference in the world. The new USA Freedom Corps website (www.usafreedomcorpskids.gov) has ideas for community service. From "For Teachers" link to "Learn and Serve America" and find "Resources for Programs." These

include a "K–12 Starter Kit" from the National Service Learning Clearinghouse and a service learning project to aid South Asia tsunami victims.

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A is for April and Arts

Many Salt Lake City Schools are celebrating the arts this month. Many of the various activities and fundraisers are listed in the Community Calendar on the district Web page. Go to www.slk.k12.ut.us and click on the Community Calendar link on the left side of the page.

Communication Corner

Produce Flawless Documents

Clear effective business writing not only reads well, it's also good for your business and career.

Managers often turn down applicants whose resumes and cover letters contain grammatical, spelling or punctuation mistakes. Likewise, supervisors use such mistakes to weed out candidates for promotions. Use these tips to polish your business writing:

- **Write concisely.** Avoid long, convoluted sentences. Use bulleted lists to express multiple ideas in an easy to scan fashion. And don't wander off topic or bury your most important points under unnecessary verbiage.
- **Keep it simple.** Drop the complex sentences and big, fancy words. They make writing harder to understand. For best results,

use simple, direct sentence structures and plain, unambiguous words.

- **Proofread everything.** Spell-check is good for finding misspelled words, but it's not foolproof. Always supplement an electronic spell-check with good old-fashioned eye-balling. Even better, find a willing co-worker to proof your work before you turn it in.
- **Revise, revise, revise.** Written work seldom, if ever, reaches its final, polished form in a single draft. Revising a document, usually more than once, lets you make major and minor fixes to distill the message.

Adapted from "Ten Tips for Better Writing," Edwin Powell, *Office Solutions*, www.galegroup.com