



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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Fulbright Scholar Program

Two teachers and an administrator from Salt Lake School District this year received the Fulbright Foreign Scholarship that will send them to different parts of the globe. Jeff Herr, assistant principal at East High, will spend six weeks in the city of Brno, the second largest city in the Czech Republic. Esther Perez, a drama teacher in Bryant Middle School in Salt Lake District, also received the award. Officials are in the process of deciding to which country she will travel. Donene Polson, a media specialist at Uintah Elementary, was recognized in a previous newsletter.

The Fulbright Scholar Program sends 800 U.S. faculty and professionals abroad each year. The program is run through the Council for International Exchange of Scholars.

School Accolades

Edison Elementary students raised over \$2,000 for The American Heart Association by participating in the "Jump Rope for Heart" program. Students jumped in honor of an Edison student who is a recipient of a heart transplant.

Three 8th Grade Advanced Art students from Northwest Middle School were Honorable Mention winners in the Safety Poster Contest sponsored by the Utah Labor Commission. Each student won \$100. Northwest's Art Department also received \$500.

National Ranking for West

For a second year, West High's Mesa Junior Varsity Team participated in the TEAMS 2005 Engineering Competition and placed 7th in the national ranking.

Escalante Wins National Contest

Escalante Elementary School was picked from nearly 600 entries as the winner of the \$100,000 Radical Renovation: School Edition contest. The winning entry was submitted by fourth-grade teacher Mabelle Dahl and sixth-grade teacher Heather Giono. Dahl and Giono entered a comprehensive action plan for water conservation and wildlife development.

The two teachers enlisted their students, the school groundskeeper and principal, two archeologists, two graduate students and a congressman to help develop a plan that met the contest's stipulations of sustainable, eco-



friendly renovations. The money will be used to create a drainage system for the school's soccer field, restore natural habitat on the school's grounds and build an outdoor classroom to study wildlife and conduct biological experiments.

Washington Celebration

Washington Elementary will be having a Community Celebration to say farewell to the old and welcome the future as they embark upon building a new Washington school. The celebration will feature a children's carnival, art yard, neighborhood planning and gardening area, a memorabilia & photo gallery, plans of the new school, food, music, raffle drawings, and more. The event will be held Friday, May 20th from 3:00-7:00 p.m. and is open to everyone. All Washington and Open Classroom alumni and former faculty are invited. For information call the main office at 578-8140.

Timeline

Calendar Dates:

May 30- Memorial Day
Schools and District
Offices Closed

Board Meeting:

May 17 - Study Session 6:30 p.m.
June 7 - Business Meeting 6:30 p.m.

Newsletter Deadlines:

May 19 - Articles Due
May 26 - Publication

Testing Dates:

May 9-20 Administer Post-K
Assessment - All Schools*

*Testing window adjusted for those schools with an early closing date.

Teaching Tip

Learn to expect the unexpected; remain prepared for violence

Despite careful planning and good classroom management, teachers occasionally must deal with an angry or disruptive student. Experts say that the best way to prepare for these unexpected incidents—and to reduce the possibility that they might escalate—is to expect that they will occur.

Here are ways you can prepare for unexpected behavior in your classroom:

- **Have a well-defined code** of conduct and discipline policy posted in your room. Send it to parents, as well, so they are aware of what you expect.
 - **Conduct regular reviews** with students of your rules and expectations. Review the school behavior code.
 - **Develop an emergency** communication system with a teacher in a nearby room so that you can call for help quickly if you need it.
 - **Keep the school's emergency** procedures and numbers at hand.
- If you are confronted or threatened with violence:***
- **Call for help.** Use the intercom, a cell phone, or other means to contact another adult.
 - **Isolate the student.** Remove other students from the area, if possible.
 - **Do not touch the student,** but maintain visual supervision until the student has been removed to a secure area.

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Online Resources

Check out the Department of Education Student Aid Web site (www.studentaid.ed.gov). You'll find information that can help you answer questions from parents and students as they begin preparing for college. Included is a section where students can create a personal profile to assess interests. There is also a calculator that can help project costs and develop financing plans. You'll find information about financial aid programs. There's even a planning time line students can use to schedule the courses they will need to meet the requirements of the colleges they are considering.

Community of Caring

Dr. Sheryl O'Sullivan will be addressing "Teaching Character Education and Community of

Caring Values Through Children's Literature" on Wednesday, May 18 from 4:00 -6:00 p.m. at the Granite School District Offices, 2500 South State. For more information, call 557-5609.

U of U Online Course

The University of Utah is offering an online course beginning May 16, for anyone who would like to teach forgiveness techniques to children, students, clients, or patients. "A Behavioral Approach to Teaching and Learning Forgiveness", is based on the ground-breaking work of Stanford researcher, Fred Luskin.

For information, contact the Educational Psychology Department at 581-7148 or email baja94@msn.com.

Communication Corner

Planning reduces call time

Studies show that unplanned telephone calls last five minutes longer than planned calls. So if you make 10 calls a day, a little planning could save you nearly an hour. Here's how:

- **Create an agenda before calling.** List topics in the order you want to discuss them. That will cut down on call time and keep you from forgetting what you want to say.
- **Keep the call focused.** If a conversation veers off target, use your agenda to bring it back on track. Repeat something the other person has said, and use it as a bridge back to the original topic. Example: "I'm glad you brought up

the backlog of orders. That's one of the reasons I want to try out that new delivery service I just mentioned."

- **Encourage caller to come to the point** quickly by asking: "What can I do for you?" But don't be too abrupt. Practice by physically smiling and lifting your voice at the end of the question. It's important to watch your voice tone. If you're impatient, the caller will detect that in your voice.

- **Return phone calls** at a time of day that you know is a low-energy period for you. You'll feel less chatty, so you'll get right down to business.

Adapted from "Taming the Telephone," Laura Stack, www.theproductivitypro.com