

October 20, 2006

Timeline

Upcoming board meetings

Tuesday, November 14

2500 South State Street

Administrative reports - 5 p.m.

Board of education meeting - 7 p.m.

A meeting outline is available one day prior to board meetings at www.graniteschools.org.

Anyone wishing to offer comments in a board meeting should sign up in the Public Relations office or call 646-4529 before noon on the day of the meeting.

Calendar

October 23-30

Benefits Open Enrollment

October 27 to November 15

- 23 ECT workshop, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., GEC Educational Programs Bldg., D-228
- 23 Great Beginnings praxis, 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., GEC Educational Programs Bldg., D-202
- 23 Title VII Family Literacy Harvest, 6:00 to 8:30 p.m., South Salt Lake Columbus Center
- 23 Fall recess through November 6 in single track year-round schools
- 24 eMints ITC training, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Jackling Elementary
- 24 Junior High YPP coordinators meeting, 3:45 p.m., Bennion Junior High
- 24 Boundary Open House meeting for Bennion, Valley, and Eisenhower Junior High School proposals, 6:30 to 8:00 p.m., Vista Elementary
- 25 Principals Professional Learning session, 7:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m., GEC Educational Programs Bldg. auditorium
- 25 Interconnections fourth grade workshop, 12:30 to 3:30 p.m., Murray Nature Center
- 25 YPP coordinators training, 4 p.m., Pleasant Green Elementary
- 26 SIOP training, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., South Salt Lake Columbus Center
- 28 CyberCorps training 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Elementary: Beehive Elementary Secondary: GEC Educational Programs Bldg., D-102

Employee benefits enrollment period: October 27 through November 15

The annual insurance benefits open enrollment period will be held October 27 through November 15, when employees may make changes to their benefits and insurance package. Most changes made will be effective January 1, 2007.

Open enrollment fairs will offer help from insurance providers, the district Benefits Office, and negotiating associations from 4 to 7 p.m. on Thursdays, November 2 and 9, at the Granite Education Center Administrative Services Building. Beginning at 5 p.m. district nurses will administer flu shots for a fee, subject to serum availability.

Some changes will occur to employees' benefits in the new year:

- ValueCare becomes BlueChoices HealthWise.
- All plans except the traditional plan feature expanded preventive care coverage.
- 2006 flexible spending reimbursements extend into the new year.

- National Benefits Services replaces Wells Fargo Health Benefits Services as the flexible spending administrator, at reduced costs to employees.

- Current flexible spending "Benny Cards" expire on December 31.
- Medical insurance contributions for those covering a spouse will increase slightly in 2007.

Employees who are eligible for internal dual coverage (both spouses are district contract employees) must enroll directly with the Insurance Office in order to have 100 percent coverage for 2007.

Employees who do not wish to change any insurance benefits are not required to re-enroll. However, to continue Flex spending plans, employees must enroll each year.

Unless a change is requested by the employee who currently has ValueCare, the conversion to HealthWise is automatic.

Arcadia Elementary has new principal

Kayla MacKay has been named principal of Arcadia Elementary School, replacing Shauna Nielsen, who is retiring. Kayla has been serving as assistant principal at Granger and Stansbury Elementary Schools and was previously an assistant principal at Hillsdale Elementary.



Kayla served an administrative internship in Davis School District as well as at Cottonwood High School and Hunter Junior High School. She taught in Davis District and in Montana before becoming an administrator.

Granite Youth Symphony turns 50

The Granite Youth Symphony is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year. The first event in the year-long celebration is the annual dinner concert to be held November 1 at Taylorsville High School. A public dinner service begins at 5:45 p.m., followed by the 7:00 p.m. concert.

The Italian fare includes spaghetti, salad, garlic bread, dessert and drink at \$7 for adults. Children under 12 and current orchestra members pay \$5. A family rate is available. Advance reservations are required by Monday, October 23. For additional information, contact the district music office, 646-4542. Contact this number also if you know any alumni of the symphony who should be invited.



A 'typical' student at Frost

Alex Brotherson is a typical fourth grade student at **Robert Frost Elementary School**. He plays baseball, chess, and beats his brothers at video games. He loves to write stories on his home computer, ride a bicycle, and, school officials say, Alex has excellent penmanship. Yes, Alex is a pretty typical kid. Until you notice – he has no arms.

At home, Alex helps with the dishes, so it was no stretch for him to participate in lunchroom duty at school. Like most fourth graders, he had been waiting four years for the opportunity. **Cleo Reid**, who works in the school office and in the lunchroom, reports that Alex was capable of doing the job he was assigned – to take the serving trays from students who had finished lunch, scrape the leftovers into the trash can, and stack the trays. School officials back up what Alex's mother, **Jenny Turner**, says. "Alex doesn't want to hear that there are things he can't do. He will prove that he can."

Matheson examines bullying

More than 300 **Scott M. Matheson Junior High School** students and parents participated in the first Community of Caring parent/teen night on October 4. The theme was "Teen Bullying . . . Why?" School officials believe the recent spate of school violence may have contributed to what was the largest forum turnout in school history.

Rebecca Ibarra, Community of Caring lead teacher, provided facts and statistics about school bullying and why students "snap" and ultimately perform acts of violence. A short video was shown and students were reminded that they are the "eyes, ears, and heart of the school." Each has a responsibility to speak up when they know of any threat to others. Students and parents received packets of information including definitions, resources, and a list of danger signs. School administrators are considering a student suggestion that a school-wide assembly should be held to benefit all students.

Monroe grateful for help

Monroe Elementary School was the beneficiary of a humanitarian service project from the Lehi stake of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. In fact, the generosity overflowed so that Monroe shared the bounty with nearby **Hillsdale Elementary**. Monroe Principal **Launa Harvey** reports that the church group collected truckloads of clothing and delivered them to the school. Many Monroe teachers donated their time to help distribute the clothing. Each congregation in the stake also adopted a Monroe family and provided some "wish list" needs, including quilts. Handcrafted supply bags were given to each student at the start of the school year. When Launa and the school's Professional Learning Specialist **Hazel Peterson**, Secretary **JaNan Himmer** and **Paul Edmunds**, Social Worker, went to Lehi to express thanks, they were presented with \$2,500 to use as the school sees fit. "It was just an overwhelming experience for our community and our students," Launa says.

Student enrollment down

Granite School District's official 2006-07 enrollment continued to decline slightly, though there is a slight increase in elementary school students. The total enrollment in all programs is 68,372. Last year's official October 1 tally was 68,561.

The number of students in regular programs is 65,942. Of those 37,015 are in elementary schools, 15,084 in junior high schools, and 13,843 in high schools. There are 2,430 in special programs such as Young Parents, YESS, and the Granite Alternative program.

Congratulations

- **Anne Puzey**, music teacher at Bennion Junior High School, received a "High 5" from KSL Television on October 10. Anne was nominated by a co-worker at Hale Center Theatre for her work as musical director for the current production of *Man of La Mancha*. Anne is lauded for her meticulous direction of the musical and selfless work with her students at Bennion.

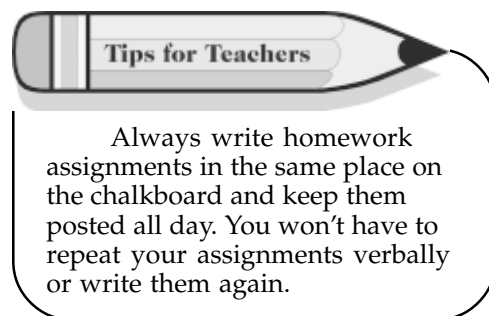
- **Ishmael Castillo**, assistant custodian at Eisenhower Junior High School, has been selected as October's Outstanding Employee of the Month by the Granite Educational Support Professionals Association.



KJHS celebrates 50th

Kearns Junior High School enjoyed a successful 50th anniversary celebration on October 6 with more than 1,000 visitors, including district and civic guests. Five former principals launched the celebration by cutting a birthday cake. Two faculty members and several students from 1956 were present, as well. During the morning, students planted four large trees and four bushes at nearby Southridge Park. Two of the trees were provided by Salt Lake County; the others were purchased by students who conducted an Earth Day carwash. **Scott Zeilder**, Wasatch Front Community Forester, provided lessons on how to properly plant trees. In the spring, students will plant additional trees as the school launches a plan to become stewards of Southridge Park.

The week of October 16 brought **Leonardo on Wheels**, a mobile science exhibit, to Kearns Junior. It was the centerpiece of a Family Science Night on October 17, and throughout the week all students had an opportunity to experience discovery time and perform experiments.



The important thing is not so much that every child should be taught, as that every child should be given the wish to learn.



Sir John Lubbock

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