

Welcome Back!

Tuesday with Mike

Delta County School District 50J

February 24, 2009

Paonia Wins State Wrestling Championship Class 2A

Paonia placed six wrestlers in the state tournament, scoring 139.5 points. They placed ahead of Wiggins who had 120 points.

Paonia champions included:

- Justin Iacovette placed first at 119 pounds
- Lukas Wiggins placed first at 152 pounds
- Justin Smith placed second at 145 pounds
- Preston Bonine placed fourth at 125 pounds
- Adrian Lopez placed fifth at 130 pounds
- Chad Bradbeer placed sixth at 125 pounds
- Josh Burns placed sixth at 189 pounds

Coaches: Andy Pipher Mike Reedy
 Bobby Reed Mark Milner



SPECIAL CONGRATULATIONS TO THE PAONIA EAGLES STATE CHAMPION - WRESTLING TEAM

Hotchkiss Wrestling Places 12th in 3A Mike Beard placed 2nd at 215 pounds. Caleb Wyatt placed 3rd at 145 pounds.

Coaches: Glenn Suppes Doug Horton
 Matt Hall Cory Watkins

More results Next week.

Boettcher Scholarship Delta High School

Congratulations to Andrew Astin. He was awarded the Boettcher Scholarship and Katie Chapman qualified as an alternate.
We are so proud of you.

Real success is finding your life's work in the work that you love.

...David McCullough



Everyday Heroes

Darlene Henry is a woman who wears many hats, scarves, and aprons. She is a remarkable paraprofessional in the special education program at Delta High School. Kathleen Ray, SWAP coach, says that she is honored to say Darlene is an everyday hero.

Darlene has worked in the classroom setting for many years, beginning her career in Texas. Kathleen says, I watch in awe and respect as she works with and through the many joys and challenges of a special education classroom provider. She is dedicated to every student that enters into her magical presence, and they love her!

One minute she has the cooking apron on teaching a class how to prepare penne and meatballs. Next you'll see her with PE shoes on walking laps and playing basketball, all the while, never losing a stride and always with a smile on her face and rhythm in her steps.

Keep watching, because she now is teaching one-on-one with total concentration in counting coins, spelling a student's name, and working on math skills.





One of the many everyday heroes at Delta-Montrose Technical College was recently recognized by the Colorado Community College System as DMTC's *Faculty of the Year*. **Johanna (Jody) Roeber** has been the nursing department coordinator at DMTC since 2005. She oversees the Med Prep, Adult Nurse Aide, and Practical Nursing programs.

Jody is strongly committed to providing a quality education to students interested in a challenging and exciting career as healthcare professionals. Her love for teaching, her professionalism, and her outstanding work ethic make Jody an excellent role model for the students in her programs. Jody also consistently provides support and leadership for the staff in her programs.

Under Jody's leadership, the Practical Nursing program has begun the process of applying for accreditation from the National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission (NLNAC). The NLNAC is the nationally recognized accrediting agency for healthcare education programs. Jody has put in many hours in the evenings, on weekends, and during the summer to compile the information necessary for the initial stages of the accreditation process.

Jody's commitment to her students, staff, programs, and colleagues at DMTC helped make her our Faculty of the Year award winner and one of our everyday heroes.



Strategy of the Week: Levels of Student Engagement from Working on the Work

Because student engagement is central to the work of our district schools, it is important that educators understand and are able to identify the various levels of student engagement. These are the terms that researchers use.

Engagement - students find the work interesting, meaningful, and challenging.

Strategic Compliance - students pay attention but are not committed; the learning does not have personal significance.

Ritual Compliance - there is no commitment to the work and students pay minimal attention.

Retreatism - the student does not pay attention or participate but does not engage in disruptive behavior.

Rebellion - the student's attention is diverted and he or she may be actively disruptive.

Amendment 23 Funding

We have been awaiting word on the inflation number for Colorado and today learned that the Legislative Council has set the Denver-Boulder-Greeley Consumer Price Index at 3.9 percent. This means that schools must be funded at growth plus 3.9 percent plus one percent under Amendment 23. As we know, the state is cutting significant dollars and this relatively high inflation rate (compared to some predictions) will create some anxiety about funding other government services, as well as what constitutes base funding for schools.

Congratulations—Mathletes

The *Math Counts Regional Competition* held in Grand Junction hosted an impressive group of 120 sixth through eighth grade competitors. Twenty-four of these competitors were selected to go to state competition. Out of those 24, almost 1/3 of the winners were from Delta County: one team from Delta, two individuals from Hotchkiss K-8, and one individual from Paonia Jr./Sr. High School. These students were selected as outstanding competitors to represent our region and compete for a place on the state team.



Direct Deposit Test Batch is Successful

The February test batch direct deposit of payroll was a success with 158 successful deposits (no failures). Thank you to those of you who have been willing to be “guinea pigs” for the past four months. We appreciate your patience and are happy to report that we are ready to open the direct deposit to all employees. In order to get signed up, you will need to fill out a Direct Deposit Authorization Form which can be found in First Class, News from D.O., or through our website at www.deltaschools.com under the Staff link and Forms link. Completed forms can be faxed or mailed to Diana at the District Office. The deadline for getting the form in for March payroll is **Tuesday, March 10**. Please call Diana if you have any questions regarding direct deposit.



“In the future, Terry, always make sure you have your decimal points correctly placed.”

CALENDAR

- February 24 Small Vehicle Class @ Hotchkiss Bus Barn at 6:00 p.m. RSVP: Marcia Hiler
- February 25 PERA Retirement Mtg. @DMTC—Enterprise Room at 5:00 p.m.
- February 26 School Board Meeting @ Hotchkiss High School
Transportation Work Session @ 6:15 p.m.
Regular Meeting @ 7:00 p.m.
- March 3 District Accountability Meeting @ Delta Center at 6:15 p.m.
- March 4 Elementary Math PLC @ CES
4:15—6:15 p.m.
- March 10 Principals’ Meeting @ D.O. 8:00 a.m.
Coordinating Council @D.O. 4:00 p.m.



Questions, Suggestions on Saving Money

Several weeks ago, I requested that you send cost saving ideas along for us to discuss and consider. As you might remember, the 4-day week question was outlined in a previous issue. Prior to Winter Break, a question came through Coordinating Council *about savings available by dropping off the two extra certified work days that we added in the 2008-2009 calendar.*

A brief history: two days were added at the daily rate last year to the salary schedule with student contact days at 168. This effort—salary and benefits, was over \$175K.

It is true that reducing the certified days would save money. However, the other side of the coin is the following—“Things to Think About:”

1. The average certified staff member would be cut about \$500.
2. The information had been received that the schools need more time together, not less.
3. The \$500 day loss would practically negate a good part of the potential step increase.

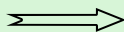
The question is very sincere, and I appreciate the conversation. I would appreciate your communicating your thoughts to a Coordinating Council representative, Glen Suppes, Coordinating Council President (gsupes@deltaschools.com), or to me at (mmcmillan@deltaschools.com) .

2008 Highlights

Annual Report to the Public

Financial Stewardship: Citizens and taxpayers have a responsibility to become informed regarding the expenditures of local tax dollars. School systems are given the stewardship of these monies to utilize effectively to promote the growth and achievement of children. To many citizens, Delta County School District has an excellent reputation for strong fiscal management. Independent auditors and the Colorado Department of Education have repeatedly supported this reputation. Over the past four years our district has moved from a position of having no fiscal reserve to having nearly one month’s operating expenses for crisis or emergency situations. Additionally, this past year, our district ranked **first** in school districts having more than 3,200 students in the percentage of revenue spent in direct support of children. This accomplishment is more remarkable due to the fact that Delta Schools rank 160th out of 178 school districts in the amount of funding it receives (real dollar amount) to educate each child. ***Our first priority is to directly utilize funds to serve students – they are, without question, at the center of each and every decision we make!***

The most important aspect of strong financial stewardship is the effective utilization of existing revenue. Second, is the pursuit of additional revenue sources like grants that add to or support current programs. In 2008, Delta County received \$263,000 in additional literacy grants and \$50,000 to establish recruitment and retention efforts for our instructional staff. Last year, the state granted Delta County over \$600,000 in our pursuit of early childhood education. Last January, a remodeled Garnet Mesa Elementary School opened in Delta with the support of a two million dollar state BEST grant (Building Excellent Schools Today). This spring, we intend to apply for a state grant to help replace Cedaredge Elementary School. These two elementary schools were designated as our facilities in greatest need. It is important to note that both of these building projects have been undertaken without asking for additional taxpayer



support. ***We believe that safe and healthy school environments are important for every child’s success.***

Third, after consideration of stewardship of public dollars and aggressive pursuit of additional operating dollars outside of taxes, the public is concerned about a school district’s financial place in the community. Delta County School District has a yearly operating budget of over 50 million dollars. It is important to realize that over 90 percent of this amount remains in the local economy: employment, goods, and services. We also support the local economy by preparing over 500 students each year to enter into additional training in fields like health care, business, law, drafting, mining, and mechanics. Our facilities are open and readily utilized by our community.

Early Learning Opportunities: Delta County Schools believe that early learning can play a crucial and significant role in a child’s future achievement performance. The Backpack Program has been successfully serving over 500 Delta County parents in supporting the home instruction of their children for over 15 years. The returnable “tubbies” encourage and educate parents in supporting their child’s skills in fine and gross motor understanding and pre-literacy.

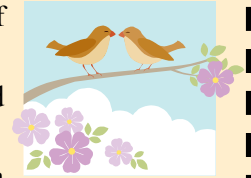
Within the last two years, the Delta County Preschool program (BELA) has grown tremendously. The 30 student program of 2004/05 has grown to 208 this fall. These students were previously unserved by any formal preschool program. In addition, BELA has partnered with the Head Start program to serve an additional 119 students. This entire outreach effort (\$653,000) has been ***created and sustained without any additional support from the taxpayers of Delta County.*** The research documents that school achievement is greatly enhanced by early learning. Students who participated in Backpack, combined with preschool, are showing remarkable achievement results in elementary school and beyond.

...(Continued on page 4)



Thoughts and Concerns

- ◆ Congratulations to **Rob** and **Annie Griffin**, teachers at Delta Middle and Cedaredge Elementary Schools, on the arrival of their twin daughters, Kelsie Corinne and Allison Gloria. Annie is home from the hospital and we wish her a speedy recovery.
- ◆ Congratulations to **Dayna Farmer**, teacher at Garnet Mesa Elementary, and her husband, on the arrival of their daughter, Josie.
- ◆ Congratulations to **Scott Graves**, music teacher at HK-8/HHS, and his wife, on the arrival of their son, Brian.
- ◆ Our thoughts go out to **Susan Waehner**, teacher at Cedaredge Elementary who recently had surgery. We wish Susan a speedy recovery.
- ◆ **Amos Leon**, custodian at Lincoln Elementary School, has been hospitalized. We wish Amos a speedy recovery.



BE THERE!

Skills for the 21st Century

This winter we have asked for your thoughts and input on what skills or sets of skills are necessary for our graduates to be competitive in a Global Economy. Suggestions have included: problem solving, creative thinking, integrity, teamwork, and others.

In my opinion, employers are also looking for future workers to *be there*. In the **Annual Report to the Public** released last week, our district-wide attendance rate was 95.7%, short of our goal of 96%. Although short of our goal, I think it is a great achievement. Sometimes parents and students are not as concerned about attendance and tardiness as they need to be.

The **BRUTAL FACTS**: This morning on *Morning Express* with Robin Meade, the story was that 20% of the *American Work Force* is late to work one or more days per week. Think about it! These are also the same workers in a poor economy that **GET LAID OFF!**

Yes, it is important that we instill in our students to “be there!”

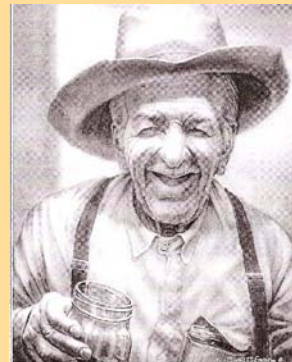
Highlights(Continued from page 3)

Colorado Growth Model: The State of Colorado launched a new method of academic accountability in 2008—it is called the Colorado Growth Model. This new concept measures the amount of growth students realize in an academic year compared to their peers. Our district had great success in the area of growth and was recognized in 2008 by the Commissioner of Education, Dr. Dwight Jones. Two of our schools, Hotchkiss High School and Cedaredge Middle School were awarded the prestigious Commissioner’s Cup Award for “beating the odds”. This award is given to schools that have students in low socio-economic situations showing significant growth relative to their peers. Additionally, our 2008 school district graduates were granted over one million dollars in pursuit of higher education and had two Boettcher Scholarship winners in 2008 (bringing the total number of Boettcher Scholars to nearly 25 in the last 20 years—truly outstanding!)

Thoughts from the Ranch

(Courtesy of Sheryl Yeager)

An Old Farmer's Advice: (Picture is a pencil drawing)



- * Life is simpler when you plow around the stump.
- * A bumble bee is considerably faster than a John Deere tractor.
- * Words that soak into your ears are whispered...not yelled.
- * Meanness don't jes' happen overnight.
- * Forgive your enemies. It messes up their heads.
- * Do not corner something that you know is meaner than you.
- * It don't take a very big person to carry a grudge.
- * You cannot unsay a cruel word.
- * Every path has a few puddles.
- * The best sermons are lived, not preached.
- * Most of the stuff people worry about ain't never gonna happen, anyway.
- * Live a good, honorable life. Then when you get older and think back, you'll enjoy it a second time.
- * Don't interfere with somethin' that ain't botherin' you none.
- * The biggest troublemaker you'll probably ever have to deal with watches you from the mirror every morning.
- * Good judgment comes from experience, and a lotta that comes from bad judgment.
- * Live simply. Love generously. Care deeply. Speak kindly.

**Open up doors for talented people below,
beside, and above you.
Then you'll be surrounded by the best.**

.... Carol Dibattiste