Welcome to the 07-08 School Year

As you know, I am retiring at the end of the 2007-2008 school year and the search for my replacement is currently underway. During this transition it is important for everyone in APS to stay focused on students and meeting their educational needs in a safe learning environment.

Despite the numerous issues that we all confront and manage on a daily basis in a school district of this size, the bottom line for all of us is student achievement. Every APS employee plays an essential role in supporting this goal by providing services and support that enhance and facilitate teaching and learning every day in our schools.

We continue to work hard on closing the achievement gap and ensuring that all students improve their academic achievement. APS, in partnership with the NM Public Education Department, has assigned two exemplary principals to provide leadership in 14 APS schools under restructuring. Two middle schools and 15 elementary schools have received extra funding for beating the odds and helping their students achieve at the highest levels.

We have opened Volcano Vista High School, had the groundbreaking of the new Southwest High School, and have planned community meetings in October to discuss boundaries for a new northwest elementary school and middle school as the district stretches westward. And our students, teachers and staff continue to represent APS in a positive light through their awards, nominations and achievements.

As we continue to move forward, I am committed to advance the district’s goals and initiatives that will increase student achievement. Thank you for your efforts and dedication to students. Every APS employee contributes to our students’ success.

Superintendent
Dr. Elizabeth Everitt

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You can access Perspective online at www.aps.edu.
Send a copy to a friend.

Search for New APS Leader Underway

The Albuquerque Public Schools Board of Education has initiated its search process for a new superintendent to replace Dr. Elizabeth Everitt, who announced her retirement for June 2008.

The selection of a new superintendent is probably the most important decision for any board of education to make. Input is important from APS employees and members of the community to identify the characteristics and skills of our new superintendent.

“We want as many people as possible to participate in this process, and make sure their opinions and suggestions are included,” said Paula Maes, president of the APS Board of Education. APS has developed a website specifically for information on the superintendent search process. It includes a schedule of all community and employee meetings, an online survey, updates during the search process, frequently asked questions, and more.

www.aps.edu
Superintendent Search

New Southwest High School Breaks Ground

New Southwest High School Principal Karen Sanchez-Griego gives a thumbs up during the groundbreaking ceremony for the school which will cost more than $118 million and will have five learning academies, a full-sized gymnasium, auxiliary gym, performing arts center, kitchen, cafeteria, library, and athletic fields. Sanchez-Griego asked for suggestions for the name, mascot and colors of the school, and a special committee will review all suggestions to present to the APS Board of Education. The school is scheduled to open in August 2008.

Keep watching the APS website for the latest district news such as employee and district awards, events and updates. Make www.aps.edu the first place for APS news.
As one of the largest employee groups in the state, APS employees can make a significant difference in the lives of people who need it the most in the community by participating in this year’s United Way campaign. “Giving Makes Life Better” is this year’s theme and our goal is to increase employee contributions districtwide by 10 percent over last year.

APS campaign coordinators this year are Cathy Cavin, APS Education Foundation at 881-0841; Carole Smith, Character Counts at 880-2599; and Lisa Scheuner, Health and Wellness at 855-9832.

“Pledge Forms will not be preprinted with employee information this year,” Cavin said. “So it’s critical that everyone complete the form to include their employee number for any payroll deductions.”

The campaign will end on Oct. 26. All collection envelopes with pledge forms and donations should be returned to the APS Education Foundation, Suite 610 East, at the APS Building.

A Standard by Any Other Name...  

By Christina Fritz,  
Assessment Manager, Research, Development and Accountability

During site visits last year a teacher asked a small group of kindergarten students if they knew what a standard was. One of the students squealed with glee, “Oh I know!” The teacher urged her to go on and the little girl said triumphantly, “My mom drives a standard and she hates it.”

Standards are outcome statements, describing the academic content teachers should be delivering and how deep the students should understand the material. Students should know as well as be able to do these outcome statements. When teachers plan units of learning for their students they should begin with the end in mind, the assessments and how well they measure the standards.

If, as a teacher, I want my students to learn how to measure objects to the nearest inch, then I must provide activities in which my students are measuring objects using standard rulers. I assess my students when I have given them ample time to practice; observing their progress and adjusting my instruction as they learn.

If, during the assessment, I ask students to measure objects to the nearest centimeter using a meter stick and I have not given them time to practice, then I am not assessing a student's ability to measure to the nearest inch. I am assessing their ability to transfer old knowledge to a new situation. My assessment of learning does not measure the desired outcome. In this situation I would get either a false positive or a false negative of the students’ measuring ability to proficiency.

As teachers build their assessments for learning it is imperative that the student activities match the expectation of the standards being taught. It is equally important that students are given multiple opportunities to learn the content and that the learning progressions developed by the teacher in the unit help the student unfold their understanding of the content.

Smart Holiday Shopping Takes Planning, Control Early

You say it every year after the holidays: “Next year I’m going to spend less money.” It’s easy to get carried away. It can be just as easy to stay financially fit, even during the busiest shopping season of the year.

The Credit Union National Association, the trade association for credit unions, and the Consumer Federation of America, Washington, D.C., suggest these holiday spending tips:

1. Budget your spending and set goals: Start with a realistic idea of how much you can spend on holiday gifts, food, travel, and so on. Add it up and really give some thought to what you can afford. Think about where you might cut back and stick to your budget.

2. Make a list: Shop from a list to avoid impulse purchases that could leave you snowed under in debt at the end of the season.

3. Comparison shop: Take the time to find the best deal. Fight the urge to get your shopping over with as quickly as possible, and, for the procrastinator: Don't wait until the last minute!

4. Trim your interest payments: If you must pay with a credit card instead of using cash, use a card with a low-interest rate. Now is a good time to look for a lower-rate card - start at your credit union.

5. Open a Holiday Club Account: Put some money in the account each month based on how much you spent this year; arrange to have that amount automatically deducted from your paycheck. This way, next year you'll have all the money you need. Plus, you'll earn interest rather than making big interest payments to finance next year’s holiday shopping.

Information provided by: 889-7755 - www.nmefcu.org
Institute Provides Leadership Training for Principals & Teachers

By Amelia Gandara, APS Education Project Manager

The APS School Leadership Institute was developed to provide school leaders with the skills and knowledge needed for transforming schools in a standards-based education system. The training emphasizes curriculum, instruction and student learning in order to maximize principals’ and other leaders’ competencies for leading school improvement into high performing, continuously improving learning organizations. The training content incorporates the standard-based learning that teachers are implementing. All principals and assistant principals are required to take at least one module each year.

The vision of the Institute is to:

• Create leadership professional learning opportunities that are aligned with standards and accountability to assist leaders in assertively leading improvement in teaching and learning;

• Create conditions and learning that facilitate and support leadership for successful schools;

• Create a professional learning environment that aligns and integrates school improvement work across the district;

• Provide prospective leaders (teacher leaders) with a foundation of the skills and knowledge needed for the school principalship.

These professional learning opportunities include a review of relevant research; collaborative work with colleagues to model, reflect and plan key concepts for leading implementation; and application of new learning and strategies in their own schools.

Teacher Leaders are encouraged to join their school administrators in this learning. To find out more about the School Leadership Institute, email Amelia Gandara at gandara@aps.edu.

Reminder of Lovelace Changes

The Lovelace-Gibson Emergency department has closed its Gibson location, replacing it with an urgent care center. Regular business hours for the urgent care center are from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. seven days a week.

The Lovelace Health System Emergency department is located at the new Lovelace Medical Center at I-25 and Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. Others are at Lovelace Women’s Hospital, 4701 Montgomery NE, and Lovelace Westside Hospital, 10501 Golf Course NW. Hospital operations were moved to Lovelace Medical Center-Downtown at I-25 and MLK. The facility includes an expanded, state-of-the-art emergency department; a new cardiac care center; and increased surgery capability.

Among the outpatient specialties and services at Lovelace Healthcare Center-Gibson are neurology, rheumatology, cosmetic surgery, pediatrics, ophthalmology, dermatology, dialysis, radiology, pharmacy, ear, nose and throat, hand clinic, podiatry, travel health, diabetes education, internal medicine, women’s health, optometry, gastroenterology, lab services, and primary care.
Some 300 teachers attended this summer’s Classroom Institute modules for standards-based education. By popular demand from teachers, these former “Saturday Standards Workshops” were offered by Teaching and Learning Systems (TLS) this summer. The feedback from teachers and principals was very positive.

TLS is offering another fall session of the Classroom Institute for standards-based education on one Saturday each month and one Wednesday evening per month. Online registration is on the TLS website: [http://www.aps.edu/aps/tls/index.htm](http://www.aps.edu/aps/tls/index.htm).

To register and obtain more information about each of the workshops, just click on the registration tab at the top of the TLS website. All six workshops are three hours and are held at Montgomery Complex. Mark your calendars for these remaining workshops:

* Saturday Workshops; 12:30-3:30 p.m.: Oct. 20 and Nov. 17;
* Wednesday Workshops; 4-7 p.m.: Oct. 24 and Nov. 28.

### Employee Update

APS employee RDA support specialist Dean McCann is having a bone marrow transplant in Tucson, where he and his wife Tilly will be through January. McCann, a Valley High graduate, suffers from Non-Hodgkin’s Lymphoma. He started working at APS 7 1/2 years ago as a volunteer at Reginald Chavez ES. His wife is an educational assistant at Reginald Chavez.

Anyone who would like to help Dean and Tilly through this difficult time should contact RDA at 848-8710.
**WORTHY NEWS**

Join the fun for the 2007 Maize Maze every Friday, Saturday and Sunday through Oct. 31. Special highlights include Moonlight Mazes and Haunted Moonlight Mazes. Go online at www.riograndefarm.org for details on admission fees and hours of the maze. The Rio Grande Community Farm is hosting the maze and offers educational opportunities to teachers and students. For details, call 345-4580.

National Dance Institute of New Mexico (NDI-NM) has created a new curriculum to provide teachers an opportunity to explore a new kind of physical education with an interdisciplinary focus with HIP to be FitSM Train the Trainer workshops. A dance or PE background is not needed. All workshops are held from 2:30-4:30 p.m. at Eubank ES on the following dates: Oct. 10, Nov. 14 and Dec. 5. For details call Sarah Young at 872-1800 ext. 1100 or e-mail sarah@ndi-nm.org.

Sandia National Laboratories is celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month with an art contest for APS students. All artwork must be dropped off by art teachers by 5 p.m., Oct. 5 at the Hispano Chamber of Commerce at 1309 4th St. SW. For details or questions, call Gil Morales at 284-9714.

An Advocacy and IEP workshop will be held by the APS Special Education Department from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Oct. 11 at the APS Parent Center located at the APS Building, 6400 Uptown Blvd. NE, second floor of the West Tower. The workshop is free and registration is at 8 a.m. Tell your parents they can learn strategies for building positive relationships with schools, about the Individualized Education Program (IEP) process, how to be an advocate for their child, and network with other parents and professionals. For more information call 247-0192.

MySpace Workshop is offered by Highland HS from 6:30-8:30 p.m., Oct. 16 in the HHS Family Center, Room 105. Free and open to all parents throughout the city, the workshop is conducted by the Albuquerque Police Department for parents to help them stay informed with current Internet trends and methods. Parents will learn how to keep their child safe from online predators, stalking and abuse through the Internet. For details, call Angela Williams at 265-3711, ext. 26047.

Sandia National Laboratories has announced its fifth annual scholastic essay competition, “The Write Thing to Do.” The contest encourages students in 10th through 12th grades to pursue careers in science, engineering and mathematics. Up to five students will be recognized, each receiving $2,000 in U.S. Savings Bonds. Deadline is Oct. 25 for schools to submit their entries from students. Winners will be notified Nov. 18. For more information, go to the website, www.sandia.gov, click on the Community link, then choose the Write Thing link on the right side of the screen.

Deadline for applications is Oct. 12 for the State Farm® Youth Advisory Board service-learning project grants ranging from $25,000 to $100,000. Topics are financial education, access to higher education/closing the achievement gap, disaster preparation, and driver safety. Applicants should be either an educator who currently teaches in a public K-12, charter, or higher education institution, or a school-based service-learning coordinator whose primary role is to coordinate service-learning projects in a public, charter, or higher education institution. Nonprofit organizations are also eligible if they are able to demonstrate how they plan to actively interact with students in public K-12 schools. To access an application, go to the Youth Advisory Web site at www.statefarmyab.com and click on “RFP Info.”

**What Every Man Needs to Know**

Think about it. When was the last time you went to the doctor? If you’re like most men, you waited until you absolutely had to go. And as you get older, this bad habit can turn into a true health hazard. The following are health problems that are more likely to affect men as they age.

**High Cholesterol** – When cholesterol levels are elevated, you place yourself at a greater risk for heart disease. The U.S. Preventive Services recommends that you begin to have periodic cholesterol screenings at age 35. After age 65, let your doctor decide how often you need to check your cholesterol levels.

**High Blood Pressure** – If you have high blood pressure, you face an increased risk of heart attack, stroke and/or kidney failure. The American Heart Association recommends that you have your blood pressure checked at least once every two years.

**Colorectal Cancer** – Like most cancers, the key to successful treatment of colorectal cancer is catching it early. Beginning at age 50, the American Cancer Society recommends that you have a simple fecal occult blood test (a test that checks for blood in your stool) every year.

**Prostate Cancer** – One of the most common cancers among men, it’s also one of the most deadly. Fortunately, it’s one of the most easily treatable cancers - when caught early. The American Cancer Society believes that men should be tested annually beginning at age 50.

**Testicular Cancer** – Testicular cancer is the most common cause of cancer for men between the ages of 15 and 35 - but it can occur at any age. Consult your physician about any persistent testicular discomfort, pain or swelling.

Remember, the relationship you have with your doctor is a very important one. If you’re not completely comfortable with your current doctor, ask your friends and colleagues for recommendations. When you’re able to speak freely with your doctor, he or she can help you feel better today - and avoid potential health problems tomorrow.
Deadline Nears to Nominate 12th-Graders for APS’ First-Ever “Selfless Senior” Award

For the first time Albuquerque Public Schools and acclaimed Albuquerque photographer Frank Frost will honor 12th-grade students who are nominated as “Selfless Seniors.”

APS is currently accepting nominations from the community and will select one male and one female senior from each of the district’s 11 full-service high schools.

“We want to honor students who make a commitment to promote positive change in his or her life and the lives of others in the community,” said APS Superintendent Dr. Elizabeth Everitt.

The “Selfless Seniors” program will recognize students who have not been recognized by their peers or school for something they have done. Nomination forms are posted on the district’s website at www.aps.edu, or you can pick one up at your local high school.

“It is with sincere gratitude that Albuquerque Public Schools partners with Frank Frost to pay tribute to many of our unsung heroes,” Everitt added. “It is an even greater honor to have an esteemed alum of APS offer his time and talent for nothing more than the chance to lift up some very deserving young people who likely never have been at the receiving end of public praise.”

Photos of the seniors and their stories will be displayed at various local businesses and high schools during the summer of 2008.

Send your school event calendar items so we can get them in the district calendar that’s on the APS website homepage. Call or e-mail the Communications Office at 881-8421 or goodnews@aps.edu to submit your school’s information.

Making Plans? Submit your school events to the APS online calendar

PEDDLER’S CART

FOR SALE

PET CARRIER – 20x13x11 for $20. Call 345-4460.

1998 SUBARU LEGACY – automatic, 158k, fully maintained. Good second/teenage car; $3,800, OBO. Call evenings 771-9262.

TWO DOORS – white/brass storm-glass or screen insert, 32-inch; solid-core wood entry, threshold, frame, w/doggie door, 32-inch - $75 each. Call 898-3191.

LA LANNE POWER JUICER – w/recipes, $50; Bowflex Power Pro XTL w/leg extension, $200. Call 304-9481.

BEDROOM SET – w/chest of drawers and mirror, $75 or OBO. Ask for Mike at 342-0568.

CEILING FANS – two 52-inch, one 42-inch. All work, white, ready to install, $30 each. Call 345-4460.

1998 MERCURY VILLAGER – garage-kept; 69,000, A/C, leather captain seats, $5,500. Call 897-2524 or 270-4866.


SERVICES

JOB-SHARE PARTNER NEEDED – late Oct/Nov for remainder of 07/08 school year; 3rd grade, afternoons, math/science. Call 872-9405.

MATH TUTORING – all levels. In my home, far NE Heights. Certified, master’s level. Call 237-9039, 362-1871.

PIANO LESSONS – Certified instructor, 25 years experience. Westside location; reasonable rates. Call: 836-5544.

RENTALS

VACATION – rent my two bedroom condo at Fairfield Pagosa, Colo. $150/2 nights. Call Paula at 884-4883.

Peddler’s Cart forms can be found on the APS website at www.aps.edu under the Community Relations web page at the APS Departments link. Deadline for October Perspective is Oct. 15.
Network Cabling Successes at Schools

By Kenneth Cole, Technology Client Services Director

More schools and more classrooms around the district mean more demand for data network connections. The APS Technology Department is in the middle of an aggressive program to install network cabling to every classroom in the district. In 2005, the current Capital Master Plan (CMP) was created with $26 million allocated to provide a minimum number of computer connections in every classroom within five years. The Technology Department’s Data Communications team is meeting this challenge and working hard to have all these projects completed in even less time.

Tony Perry is the manager of the Data Communications team that is currently overseeing more than 450 network installation projects in the district. Their list of projects include new construction and remodeling projects, portable building moves and installations, and the CMP funded school projects. Tony’s team closely manages the work of four cabling contractors who are assigned their projects with the tight specifications demanded for our school networks.

Each project begins with a review of the work needed with the school administration and/or the facilities, design and construction architect. The contractor is asked to provide a bid for the work. When the bid is approved and the funding source is available, the purchase order can be awarded.

During the project, the data communications team reviews design changes and resolves issues that might keep the project from moving forward. When the contractor is done, a final walk-through is scheduled to identify any work that does not meet the Technology Department’s high standards. Finally, Tony, or one of his three team members, reviews the completed work with the school principal to let them know that the project has been completed.

During the last school year, the Data Communications team worked at 83 different school sites and awarded more than $5.5 million to their network project contractors. Their hard work is making a real difference in providing computing resources to our schools.

Cleveland MS Dynamics Go To NY for National Performance

The Cleveland Middle School Choir, known as the Dynamics, are among five middle schools in the nation - and the only one in New Mexico - selected to perform nationally at the American Musical Salute: Remembering 9/11 in New York on Oct. 26-29.

“This is a once in a lifetime event for our students and we’re so excited about this great honor,” said choir director Erica Costello.

The students are busy raising money to meet their fundraising goal. The school is appealing to the community for tax-deductible contributions to enable students to participate in this prestigious national honor. Anyone wanting to make a contribution to see these APS students represented in this salute, can make their checks payable to Cleveland Middle School, with the APS identification number for tax-deductible status - 85-600-101 - written in the memo portion of the check. For more information call the school at 881-9227.

Can You Tell Where These Prairie Dogs Lived?

If you think you can correctly identify what school these prairie dogs were removed from, submit your full name, employee identification number and employment location to rickman@aps.edu for a chance to be placed in a prize drawing.

Pictured from left are UNM biologists Paul Polechla and Brian Frank retrieving a prairie dog they flushed from the grounds at an APS school recently. Both men volunteer for Prairie Dog Pals to relocate the critters to a selected habitat on the West Mesa.

Prairie Dog Pals offers many volunteer and educational opportunities for APS students. Any school that has prairie dogs can call Prairie Dog Pals, which relocates the animals free of charge. Prairie Dog Pals welcomes using the humane removal process as an educational opportunity for students at the schools where the animals are being extracted.

Call 296-1937 or go online to www.prairiedogpals.org for more information.

Anyone interested in media training?

The APS Communications Office provides school and department personnel with the tools and practice to interact successfully with the media. Trainings are available by appointment. Call today at 881-8421.
**Mileage Club Encourages Sombra Students to Walk**

Some clubs claim exclusive rights to membership, but the Mileage Club at Sombra del Monte ES is growing thanks to the collaboration between schools and dedicated teachers.

“The idea of the Mileage Club is not a new one,” said Cindy Caine, Sombra’s Wellness Committee Chair and fifth-grade teacher. “I met with Chip Saltman of Bellehaven Elementary School last year to find out how he runs the Mileage Club at Bellehaven.”

Caine said her interest in starting this particular club emerged from her continued research on the benefits of exercise and increased brain function.

“In my own classroom, I have taken my students out for a quick walk on a regular basis to get their blood circulating,” Caine explained. “I noticed my students would be more alert and ready to take in the academic lesson I was presenting after a walk. Of course, the national concern with childhood obesity and Type II diabetes is a huge issue that the Mileage Club also addresses on a more subtle level.”

The goal is for students, families and staff to realize the how easy and enjoyable it is to strengthen their lungs, heart, brain, muscles and bones by talking a walk. If students choose to participate, they walk laps around the grass field during recesses. They earn tokens shaped like feet on a necklace for each mile they walk by turning in a Mileage Club card. During recess students visit with friends and teachers as they walk around the grass field.

“It has become a friendly competition between some students to see who can earn the most ‘feet’ on their necklace,” Caine said. “Even the principal, secretary, teachers and custodians are participating.”

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**FANS Brings Fun to Schools**

Nutrition has never been so much fun in APS. During September and October, the Food and Nutrition Services Department will be giving away food, holding school lunch elections, hosting special family events and more. For more information on the following events, contact your school’s cafeteria manager. An example of special promotions includes featured food, such as oatmeal given as a special breakfast item along with free sample packets of oatmeal and free coupons distributed to students.

- Oct. 1: Students can vote for their favorite candidate during the school lunch election event as part of National School Lunch Week from Oct. 15-19. Ballot boxes will be set up in the cafeterias or students can go online to www.voteforschoollunch.org until Oct. 19.

The ballot includes mac & cheese on Oct. 1, Jesse’s DC’Licious Luncheon (a turkey wrap with sides) on Oct. 3, Pippa’s Pollster Platter on Oct. 15, Biff’s Filibustering Burger on Oct. 16, and Yumi’s Rice Bowl on Oct. 18.

- Oct. 18: The 12th annual Take Your Family to Lunch Day. Meals for adults are $2.75 and $1.60 for children.

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**Walk & Roll to School**

On Oct. 3, walking or riding a bicycle to school takes on international proportions as APS students, parents and employees take to sidewalks for the 10th annual recognition of Walk to School Day. Millions of people from almost 40 countries will participate this year and everyone in Albuquerque Public Schools is invited to join.

“In New Mexico, we call it Walk and Roll to School Day, to include those traveling in wheelchairs, or by scooter, skateboard, rollerblades, bicycle, etc,” said Jessica Frost, coordinator for N.M. Safe Routes to School for the NM Department of Transportation. “The point is for kids to get to and from school using their own power and energy!”

On Walk and Roll to School Day, students have a special opportunity to celebrate the joy of walking and biking with parents, teachers and communities members. Walking or rolling to school provides students with daily physical activity, contributing to better academic performance and healthier living.

School staff who want to encourage students to walk and roll on a regular basis, beyond Walk and Roll to School Day, can start a Safe Routes to School (SRTS) program at school. The SRTS program is a federally-funded program, administered by the N.M. Department of Transportation that provides funds to school districts and communities to enable and encourage K-8 students to safely walk and roll to school on a regular basis.

**Resources:**

- International Walk to School Day website: http://www.walktoschool.org/
- NM Safe Routes to School website: http://nmsaferoutes.com