



Perspective

Albuquerque Public Schools

Employee Newsletter

December 2006

Regional Quality Center Works to Improve Student Performance

Albuquerque Public Schools Regional Quality Center is working on improving student performance through several initiatives, one being the implementation of Continuous Classroom Improvement (CCI).

The Regional Quality Center made up of assistant superintendent Dr. Diego Gallegos, assistant director Nancy Kilpatrick and resource teacher Nancy Davenport works with schools and departments in implementing a systems approach to continuous improvement. The center is one of the strategies of the New Mexico Public Education Department, the Governor's Business Executives for Education and Strengthening Quality in Schools to provide a statewide approach and support system for increasing student performance.

"The work the center does, is really changing the way we think of education and making sure that we are continuously improving, which will result in higher student performance," said APS Superintendent Dr. Elizabeth Everitt.

Now schools and teachers are being trained in the CCI model, bringing the Plan Do Study Act (PDSA) strategies

right into the classrooms. Currently 119 classrooms within APS are being developed into demonstration models where the CCI model can be seen at work.

The teachers, who all volunteer their classes to take part as demonstration models, first develop a strategic learning goal for their class that is aligned to standards for that grade level or content area for their class. That goal is then shared with the students who then understand what they are working for.

"The goal for a class may be to have all first grade students reading at or above the second grade reading level by the end of the school year. If you ask students what the goal is, they can tell you or they will simply point to it in their classroom. It is really powerful," Gallegos said.

Classes will collaboratively develop a mission statement, which guides the work of the students towards reaching the class goal(s).

"Teachers who have mission statements in their classrooms no longer have to be asking students to stop being disruptive in class, but rather ask students if their behavior goes along with the mission of the classroom. When I have heard teachers refer to the mission in this way with their students, in class, it is amazing how they can get back to work so quickly," Kilpatrick said after visiting an elementary school. "They know and understand why they are doing what they are doing."

Teachers then lead PDSA cycles in their classroom every week on the targeted goals for their class.

"We encourage teachers to do weekly targeted goals and PDSA cycles that



focus on one content area that is aligned to their overarching goal for the year. So, if the class goal is to be in a second grade reading level the next year, the weekly goal would be aligned with that," added Gallegos.

"Continuous Classroom Improvement is helping us change the way we teach our students so that we have targeted goals and they know what they are working for. We truly expect to see this model translate into higher test scores and better learning for our students," added Everitt.

The Regional Quality Center is a partnership funded jointly by APS, the Public Education Department and the Governor's Business Executives for Education.

The center also assists the district in working toward its strategic directions of: Excellence in academic achievement in a standards-based system; quality, safe learning and working environments; and effective and efficient systems. For more information about the Regional Quality Center contact Tena Chavez at 880-3709.

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REGIONAL
QUALITY
CENTER





North Star, Ventana Ranch Elementary Schools Will Welcome Students Next Month



North Star Elementary School



Ventana Ranch Elementary School

The majority of the construction at both North Star and Ventana Ranch elementary schools is complete.

North Star elementary will include 31 classrooms, a gymnasium, cafeteria and kitchen, computer laboratory and administrative offices. The school, which is located at Ventura and Florence in northeast Albuquerque, is a two-story classroom building.

The total cost of the project is more than \$14 million.

The new 69,791 square-foot Ventana Ranch Elementary School is located on a 12 acre site at the northeast corner of Ventana Village and Las Ventanas.

The entire school is being constructed in one phase. The facility will include an administration area and support areas, cafeteria and kitchen, media center, a computer classroom and six kindergarten classrooms. Ventana Ranch also includes a two-story classroom building and a mini gym.

Ventana Ranch Elementary is currently operating in portable buildings located on the east side of the site. It was opened in August 2004.

The total cost of the project is more than \$9.7 million.

S.Y. Jackson Elementary students wrote stories for a new book

Students from S.Y. Jackson Elementary wrote stories for a new book *A YEAR IN THE LIFE OF MIMI – her miniature stories* and were on hand for a book signing recently at Page One Bookstore.

Allyn Harad, a counseling graduate student interning at E.G. Ross Elementary and the book's illustrator, painted several watercolors of a rabbit named mimi.



"I had the idea of using the rabbit to tell a story, and thought it would be great if students wrote the stories about the pictures I painted," said Harad. "I took photographs of the paintings to fifth grade classes at S.Y. Jackson and each student wrote a

mini-story which related to a single painting about an episode in mimi's life."

The students not only contributed 18 stories to the book, but also learned the process of getting a book published.

Second grade students also participated in the book by proof-reading the text.

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The APS Human Resources staff was treated to ‘Popcorn and a Movie’ during their last departmental meeting. The ‘Movie’ featured the rollout of a new online training product called ‘LearnKey’ that APS is providing to all employees in the district. There are approximately 80 courses that will be made available to hone personal productivity skills as well as technology skills. For a course list and instructions to access these courses go to the APS internet website at www.aps.edu and follow department links to ‘Training Coordination’. A link to the ‘LearnKey’ website can also be found on the APS intranet log on page as well as on the principal, teacher and secretarial web pages.

The APS/ATF/UNM partnership is interested in creating and supporting partnership professional development degree programs that:

- respond to the interests and needs of employees;
- are scheduled at accessible times and places;
- enable employees to advance professionally, whether it’s to get a license or progress through the licensure system and acquire an advanced degree;
- can help continue to provide high quality programs for APS students

Please help us serve your need better by filling out the survey at the website below and answering the questions openly and honestly. Under most situations, it will take you less than 10 minutes to complete. The results of this survey will be published later so that you may view the general needs of the district. Responses will not be associated with your name or school location. The website is:

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.asp?u=602242801788>

Congratulations to Nancy Brown, literacy teacher at Tomasita Elementary on her upcoming retirement from APS. Nancy has been teaching for 26 years. She has spent more than 22 years at Tomasita teaching kindergarten and first grade. The staff held a retirement party at the school this month.

Albuquerque Public Schools McCollum Elementary and the ‘Cluster System’ have earned Piñon level awards from Quality New Mexico. The awards are given to organizations that demonstrate a commitment and implementation of quality principles, progress in building sound and notable processes. The Piñon recognition means that both McCollum Elementary and the APS Cluster System are in the beginning stages of using systematic processes and early results in areas of most importance. McCollum Elementary and the APS Cluster System both received the awards at a ceremony last month. Two hundred and twenty trained volunteer examiners contributed an average of 70 hours each to evaluate applications and provide feedback reports for each applicant. The APS Cluster System is a system of support of elementary and middle schools which feed into a high school. Those groups are led by a cluster leader principal.

Join the Japan Fulbright Memorial Fund (JFMF) Teacher Program, which provides primary and secondary school teachers and administrators with the opportunity to participate in fully funded three-week study visits to Japan. The program aims to increase understanding between the people of Japan and the United States. If you would like to learn more about the program or to apply log-on to: <http://www.iej.org/jfmf>

PEDDLER’S CART

FOR SALE

Wicker trunk w/glass top, 20”h X 20”w x 36”l, \$25, Call 797-1941.

Drum Set 5 piece beginner, royal blue, chrome hardware, some Zildjin cymbals. \$200, 299-7359 or 401-5291.

1999 Nissan Sentra, Auto, 4 door, new belts, brakes, tires, tuned-up, nice find, \$5,200, 254-3856.

Original framed oil Apache Gun, Holster Saddle, Native American or Cowboy Art Collector, \$650, 899-8180.

Private collection, Douglas Dean, NM Art League Founder/Curator, Law, Army, Artist, Gentleman, 899-8180.

Coach Wallet – New Turquoise - \$50, ivory Lace Wedding Gown (5/7) Victorian Style, \$75 OBO, 507-3660.

Bunk Bed with Futon Bottom, \$275, maple octagonal end table \$20, O’Sullivan clothes armoire \$50, 865-7776.

SERVICES

Professional DJ for your event: Reasonable \$. Oldies, Country, Spanish, Old School, 10,000 songs, 836-5544

Need fall yard cleanup? Tree trimming too! Free estimates. Call Phil or Dennis 328-3372 or 243-4053

Tutoring Math, All levels. Certified Master’s level. In my home, far NE heights. 237-9039 or 362-1871

Vacation - Rent my 2 bedroom condo at Fairfield Pagosa, CO. \$150/2 nights. 884-4883 Paula

Expert Organizer will help create order from chaos. Rooms, closets, books, papers, photos. \$15/hr., 822-0387

FOR RENT

Home for Rent, La Cueva district. 3 bedroom, 2 bath, 2 car garage. 1900 sq. ft., 401-5994



McKinley Instructor Named English Teacher of Year



Cathy Intemann, an English instructor at Albuquerque Public Schools McKinley MS, has been named the 'Middle School English Teacher of the Year' by the New Mexico Council of Teachers of English.

She was selected for the award based on her work with students and nominations.

"I was very surprised but very honored," said Intemann. "I have taught a very long time and am trying to remain innovative in my lessons and projects that my students do."

She has taught for 33 years in several different states including Colorado, but has spent 25 years with Albuquerque Public Schools.

Intemann says she wants to make sure she teaches the standards to her students but likes to give them projects that teach them real life lessons. Her seventh grade students recently finished reading *7 Habits of a Highly Effective Teen*, and are writing stories about being better students.

Cathy Intemann, McKinley M.S. Teacher

Highland Teacher Receives Award for Foreign Language Work

Highland HS teacher Lupe Martinez has received the "Lifetime Achievement Award" from the New Mexico Organization of Language Educators.

Each year the group honors teachers who have dedicated their career to promoting world languages.

"I was surprised," said Martinez. "I am so thankful that my peers have recognized the work I have done to bring languages to the forefront of teachers, students and parents."

Martinez has been a teacher with Albuquerque Public Schools for 15 years and has taught at Highland for the past 11 years.

"Lupe is a champion of foreign languages and has created one of the finest education programs in the state here at Highland," said Principal Nicolette Dennis.

Highland currently offers students French, German and Spanish language courses.

"It is so important for students to learn another language so that they may be successful in our currently global economy," added Martinez. "I tell my students, I don't care what language you learn, just learn another language and it will help you reach the goals you have set."



Lupe Martinez, Highland H.S. Teacher

Martinez has created the school's first language lab, where students can do interactive lessons and correspondence using computer technology.

