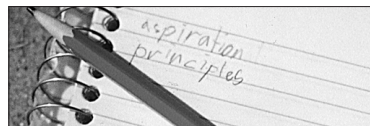


SENTINEL

Education



SCHOOL NOTES

District 12 board receives charter application

The Adams 12 Five Star Schools Board of Education formally accepted a charter application from the New America School which is proposing to be sponsored by the Five Star District and open its doors in July 2007 to students, ages 16-21, whose first language is not English.

As a part of the application process, the board of education will host two public hearings for community members to learn more about the application. Those hearings will be at the Educational Support Center, 1500 E. 128th Ave., Thornton, in the Aspen Conference Room. The first hearing was Nov. 15. At this hearing, representatives from the New America School presented the board with detailed information about the school and its proposal. School representatives also answered questions from board members. Those interested may submit written questions and comments to Frances Mullins, Executive Assistant to the Board, 1500 E. 128th Ave., Thornton 80241 or at frances.mullins@adams12.org. The questions will be addressed at the second hearing slated for Dec. 20.

To review the application from the New America School, log onto the district's Web site, <http://www.adams12.org> and click on "New America School" under the news section on the right side of the page.

For more information, contact the Five Star District's charter school liaison at 720.972.4146.

Coronado Hills critics attend film festival

Four Coronado Hills Elementary students will have an opportunity to screen the movie "Opal Dreams" at the 29th Starz Denver International Film Festival, Saturday at the Tivoli on the Auraria Campus. The Denver Film Society, KIDS FIRST! and the Entertainment Project, Inc.'s "Whose magazine? A youth publication," welcomes more than 50 area children to participate in the festival. Clarissa Villalobos, Neriah Abeyta and Jason Cardenas will attend a workshop from 9 a.m. — 12 p.m. at the Denver YMCA. They will then attend the 1 p.m. movie screening at the Tivoli. Autumn Dike will participate in the festival earlier in the week at Hotel Monaco.

Villalobos, Abeyta, Cardenas and Dike are members of the Coronado Hills Whose Junior Film Critics Club. The 16 members reviewed the film "Milton Rogovin: The Forgotten One." These reviews are posted on the "Whose magazine?" Web site at www.whosemagazine.org.



Taylor Nelson/METRONORTH NEWS

"It's the bigger the hat the better chef you are, right?" asks eighth-grader **David Arnel** who attends Overland Trail Middle School. Eighth-graders crowded around the Johnson and Wales booth at the Career Expo, an event in its second year that is annually organized by the Adams County Education Consortium. This year, there were close to 4,300 students who attended the event held at the Denver Merchandise Mart. From left, **Jon Ptaszenski** and **Shawn Young**, from Vikan Middle School in Brighton, **David Arnel** and **Adam Alderete** who attend Overland Trail Middle School in Brighton and **David Ramser** from Vikan Middle School. Holding a chef's hat, **Patrick Flores**, a representative from Johnson and Wales and also a Mapleton Public Schools School Board member explains the details of a career in culinary arts.

Exploring the possibilities

Eighth-graders learn what it takes to establish career in Adams County

By Taylor Nelson

Staff Writer

Chris Skinner, an eighth-grader at Shaw Heights Middle School sat at an empty booth hunched over his papers taking notes.

As thousands of his peers circled around him in the Denver Merchandise Mart Tuesday morning, he processed what he had learned.

"It's interesting to see they have all these different jobs here," he said as he looked around the room with over 100 booths and vendors from Adams County. "I thought there was just one or two you can choose from, but there's so many here."

Skinner was one of nearly 4,300 eighth-graders in Adams County

who participated in the Adams County Education Consortium Career Expo where students got a chance to interview and talk with professional business people, government and higher education representatives about what it takes to get to their positions and what it's like once they're there.

"I want to be a music producer or performing artist," said Skinner, who plays a little bit of everything, but mostly drums. "I was surprised at how much is involved in a career in the music industry."

Since its start in 2004, the eighth-grade career expo has grown from 900 to 4,300 students.

"It was a Herculean increase in kids this year," said Sandy Steiner, executive director for the Adams County Education Consortium.

Because studies have shown that after eighth grade is when a lot of students begin to drop out of school, the career expo is designed for the eighth-graders to look to the future with a career in mind and stay on track and in school.

"We're trying to encourage them to make the most of their high school years and their career op-

portunities," Steiner said. "If they got excited about something today that requires more than a high school diploma, that will hopefully sustain their interest more through college."

Adams 12 Five Star School's superintendent Mike Paskewicz watched as students wandered around him and said starting their interest at this level was important for future success.

"If every vendor here puts a spark in just 10 kids who are here today and inspire them to finish high school, it will help out our graduation rates," said Paskewicz, who is also the Education Consortium Chairman.

Some of the more popular booths that had students crowding around the table, standing on tiptoes and stretching their necks to see, were the veterinarian from the Denver Dumb Friends League, the chefs from Johnson and Wales and the representatives from the Marine Corps.

Before the career expo, counselors and teachers prepared students to maximize their time at the

Please see **CAREER** Page 10A

D27-J bond approved

By Taylor Nelson

Staff Writer

Voters in Adams School District 27-J approved an \$89 million bond that will maintain older buildings and create new facilities in the district to host the growing student population.

The bond passed with 58.66 percent of voters approving the tax increase, with 9,287 voting for and 6,546 voting against the bond.

"This is a real good indicator of the commitment this community has to its youth," said District 27-J superintendent Rod Blunck. "I'm very privileged to be part of a community like this one."

The bond will build two new elementary schools and two new middle schools and set aside \$4.763 million for maintenance to current structures. The four new facilities are slated to be completed in the next three years, with the first elementary school planning to open its doors for the 2007-2008 school year in the 120th Avenue and Holly Street vicinity.

District 27-J is currently the fastest growing district in the state. According to Blunck, there were 5,254 students enrolled in 1999 and this year, that number just passed 11,500 students.

Blunck started his superintendent position at District 27-J in July. The first middle school is planned to be built 40 acres east of Prairie View High School, 12909 E. 120th Ave. The location of the other two schools has not yet been determined.

The bonds will be paid for with a 7-mill increase in the bond redemption fund mill levy. Property owners will pay \$4.24 more per month per \$100,000 of property value.

The last time District 27-J bonded for new facilities was in the 2004 election. Voters passed the bond issue and the money created Prairie View High School and renovated Brighton High School.

"I want to thank our community for their support and I want them to know we will work hard to serve them," Blunck said.