

Outstanding Student - continued

Through AVID, Bazile chatted with guest speakers from a variety of colleges and took campus tours. He spent time writing essays and filling out college applications. He learned about the Socratic seminar, which prompts students to ask questions and be part of a discussion.

"AVID guided me," Bazile said. "It's like a jump start that helps get your mind on the right track. Without it I don't know if I would have taken so much time to think about colleges."

ProStart teacher Dorene Brown chose Bazile as one of three students to accompany her to the national Coalition of Essential Schools Conference in North Carolina.

"I thought he'd get a lot out of it, and have a lot to give," Brown said. "Warrin has had challenges in his life, but has a great ability to look at the future and not get set back."

Bazile is now applying to colleges and hopes to study communications and international business. A big part of his future plans also includes giving back to the community.

"I want to impact as many lives as I can," he said. "I want to make chances for people who don't have chances."

Two principals earn high honors

For their exemplary leadership skills and passion for their position, two Spokane Public Schools educators were honored by different organizations as Principal of the Year.

The Association of Washington Middle Level Principals chose Shaw Middle School's Chris Lynch as tops in the Inland Empire region. Spokane's elementary principals surprised Regal Elementary's Mallory Thomas by naming her the Dick Stannard Distinguished Elementary Principal of the Year.

Lynch has worked hard to build a strong community at Shaw. She was chosen for her ability to believe in others and her willingness to build the capacity of those around her to move toward a common goal.

"I believe that all kids can learn. It is our job to figure out how and provide that structure and the follow through," she said. In addition, her extensive community networking reaps untold benefits for Shaw families.

Thomas is known as a true team player who inspires those around her as a model for life-long learning.

"At the heart of every conversation with Mallory is the child's well-being and academic success," wrote one nominator. "Without hesitation she shares strategies she has implemented that have worked in her building. It is not uncommon to hear others say, 'Let's ask Mallory.'"

Thanks to School Employees Credit Union of Washington for sponsoring the Distinguished Elementary Principal program.

Spokane Public Schools
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Spokane, WA 99201-0206

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Quote from the President

We are grateful for the support our community has historically shown Spokane Public Schools. With the 2003 bond, the public trusted us to create better learning environments and to use taxpayers' dollars wisely. We are proud of the improvements that have been made throughout the district and look forward to another opportunity to earn the public's trust through the 2009 bond.



Rocco N. Treppiedi
Board of Directors

Learn about APPLE and Montessori

Families interested in enrolling their student in Spokane Public Schools' Montessori or APPLE (Alternative Parent Participation Learning Experience) programs must first attend an orientation meeting for the program in which they are interested. Students must live within the boundaries of Spokane Public Schools, but are not required to live within the attendance boundaries of Balboa, Jefferson, Garfield or Franklin to be eligible.

Montessori, a program for first through sixth graders, views the life of a child as a developmental continuum. It has a unique set of procedures, materials and a curriculum designed to enhance a child's life experience far beyond the immediate rigors of the classroom.

APPLE, open to all first through sixth graders, is for families who want to be more involved in their child's education. The consistent presence of parents in the classroom provides children with opportunities to build confidence and positive relationships with adults. Multi-age groupings allow for more individuality and encourage cooperative learning between children of different ages.

Montessori meetings:

Feb. 18 at 7 p.m. at Balboa Elementary, 3010 W. Holyoke Ave.
Feb. 26 at 7 p.m. at Jefferson Elementary, 3612 S. Grand Blvd.

APPLE meetings:

Feb. 24 or March 10 at 7 p.m. in the first floor boardrooms of the administrative office, 200 N. Bernard.

(Note: The APPLE program is offered at Garfield Elementary, 222 W. Knox Ave., and Franklin Elementary, 2627 E. 17th Ave.)

For more information about either of these programs, call 354-7365.



School Talk

Register to vote!

Make sure you are registered to vote in the upcoming school elections. Registration forms are available at the Spokane County Elections Office, city and town halls, all staffed fire stations, public library branches, public schools and state agency offices.

To vote in the March 10, 2009, election, registration forms must be postmarked by Feb. 7. If you miss this deadline, you can still sign up in time by registering in person at the Spokane County Elections office, 1033 W. Gardner, by Feb. 23.

To vote in Washington State, you must be a United States citizen, a legal resident of the state and 18 years old by Election Day.

Questions? Contact the Spokane County Elections office at 477-2320 or check www.spokanecounty.org/elections.

Learn about Spokane Public Schools' 2009 bond and levy inside on page 2.

Changes on board

Congratulations to Rocky Treppiedi, the new president of the board of directors, and to Sue Chapin, who is vice president. The board's newest member is Dr. Jeffrey Bierman, a physics professor at Gonzaga University.

Bierman and his family moved to Spokane in 1996. He has participated in state and national physics education organizations and served on several Spokane city boards, including over four years on the Spokane City Plan Commission.

Our goal: All students succeed at each grade level and graduate from high school well prepared for a variety of post-secondary pursuits in our democratic society.

JANUARY 2009

2009 bond and levy election March 10

Spokane Public Schools' Board of Directors set the 2009 bond and levy election date for March 10. Thank you for taking the time to learn the facts about these important measures that supply essential funds to support our students.

Renewed every three years, the levy supplements state funding, which falls far short of providing for all that is required to give students a well-rounded education.

The levy is not a new tax. In fact, the levy tax rate is expected to decrease.

The facility and technology improvement bond continues the district's long-range plan set in place six years ago. Like the 2003 bond, there's something for everyone in the proposed 2009 bond. The plan even ensures the tax rate will be no higher than what voters approved in 2003.

continued - page 2

Outstanding student: Warrin Bazile

Each morning, Warrin Bazile wakes up to a list.

Posted on his wall and refined each semester, it highlights his goals: "Get a good education. Be successful. Get higher grades."

"And then there are bullet points under those, like OK, how will I be successful," explained Bazile, a senior at John R. Rogers High School. "I like to start the day with a reminder of what I want to be."

Where he is headed today is far different from where Bazile was headed just a few years ago. Living in Seattle, he was surrounded by people caught in a sticky web of drugs, gangs and prison.

"You'd look up and see someone down the block selling drugs," he said. "It's just what you'd see."

But thanks to many people believing in him, as well as his faith, Bazile has navigated safely through a lifetime of landmines.

"He is the epitome of the turn-around kid," said Rogers counselor Larry Quisano. "Warrin has every reason to be involved in negative behaviors, but he's not. He recognizes his own personal talent and exploits that in the best way possible."

A move to Spokane before middle school placed Bazile in the midst of more positive surroundings. Teachers reached out to him, offering help if he wanted to learn.

"Then, my grandma hit me with the education talk," Bazile said. "She asked me

"What do you want to do? How are you going to get there?" I looked around and didn't even realize that the things I was doing were wrong. I asked myself how I could flip things around."

And he did.

Rogers Principal Carole Meyer describes Bazile as an academic achiever; the type of student a teacher eagerly welcomes to class.

"He inspires me to be a better leader, listener and friend to the students I work with daily," she added. "He is a great spokesperson for John R. Rogers High."

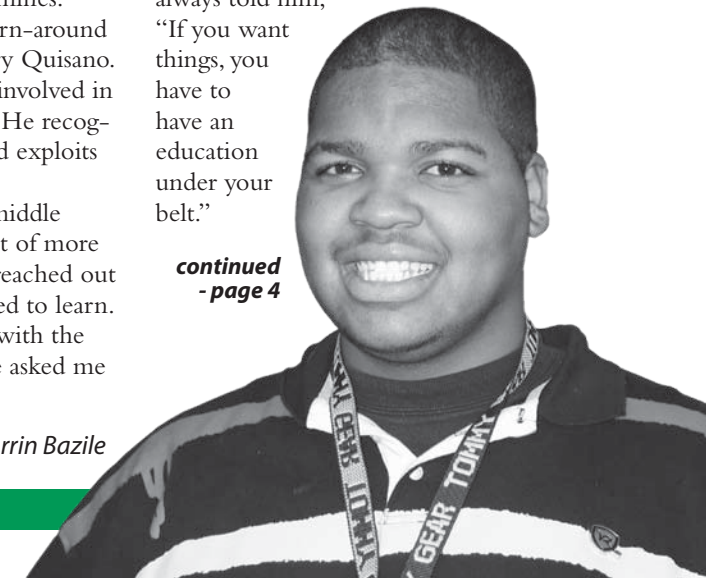
As a freshman, Bazile started in the AVID program. AVID (for "Advancement Via Individual Determination") is an

in-school academic support program for B, C, and even D students who have the desire to go to college and the willingness to work hard. Bazile was unsure what he wanted to do with his life, but his Dad always told him,

"If you want things, you have to have an education under your belt."

continued - page 4

Rogers High School senior Warrin Bazile



2009 bond and levy - continued

The 2009 bond continues Spokane Public Schools' proven history of constructing and maintaining durable, well-designed school buildings. The bond will:

- Modernize or replace Ferris High School and Jefferson, Westview, Hutton and Finch elementary schools
- Improve safety and security
- Upgrade technology
- Allow for smaller building improvement projects at all schools.

"The proposed bond maintains the Spokane community's investment in school buildings and technology," said Superintendent Nancy Stowell. "The levy helps provide the type of well-rounded education Spokane has come to expect for its students."

As with each of the 2003 bond projects, which are on track to be on time and within budget, the 2009 bond projects will provide a steady stimulus to the Spokane economy, by using local contractors, subcontractors, architects and engineers.

With voter approval of this \$288 million bond, Spokane Public Schools would receive approximately \$44 million more from state matching funds for a total of \$332 million to do the proposed projects between 2009 and 2015.

In Washington, levies now can pass with a simple majority approval (more than 50 percent). Bonds, however, still require a supermajority vote, or at least 60 percent approval. Though levies have no validation requirements, at least 40,680 people must vote in the 2009 bond election for it to be validated.

Please join us for public tours of the schools scheduled for modernization in the 2009 bond and learn more about the construction plans:

- Finch Elementary - Feb. 2
- Ferris High School - Feb. 3
- Jefferson Elementary - Feb. 5
- Westview Elementary - Feb. 10
- Hutton Elementary - Feb. 12

Tours will be from 3:30 - 5:30 p.m. School and district officials will be available to answer questions.

For more specifics about the bond and levy, or to view an informational video, go to spokaneschools.org.



Helping our students succeed in high school

High school can be a complex mix of social and academic demands, figuring out how to balance school and work, and deciding what to do after graduation. Spokane Public Schools has a number of programs in place to support students as they work toward earning a diploma.

AVID (for Advancement Via Individual Determination) is designed to support students in the "academic middle." An elective class during the regular school day, AVID provides students with academic and social support as they attend high-rigor courses. The idea is to raise expectations of students, provide support, and they will rise to the challenge.

The AVID program currently is offered at North Central and Rogers high schools and Glover Middle School, where it is helping to create a college-going culture. At Rogers, for example, just 46 students took the PSAT four years ago; this year, 466 students took the SAT practice test. The number of students taking Advanced Placement exams has bounced from 55 to 246 over the past few years.

Navigation 101 is a guidance program that helps boost parent involvement and encourages students to tackle more challenging courses. Students at many schools across the district meet at least once a month in advisory groups small enough to provide a strong connection among members. Student-led conferences with their teacher and parents are one of the projects students prepare for in their advisory class as part of Navigation 101.

"Academic Cores" at each SPS high school keep small groups of ninth graders with the same few teachers, helping make a large school feel smaller. This also allows teachers to share cross-curriculum information about their students.

Superintendent's Message



Nancy J. Stowell, Ph.D.

Besides extraordinary amounts of snow, our recent extreme weather also brought extraordinary challenges to our community. As one of the largest employers in Spokane County, we realize that closing school due to snow is not a decision to be taken lightly. It is a decision that affects many thousands of people, including employees and child-care centers.

Our top consideration always is the safety of students and staff. To determine whether or not to hold school, we did extensive analysis on a daily basis to ensure that we were making the best decision. That included working with an independent structural engineer to assess the integrity of our buildings' roofs and calling in the National Guard to help clear sidewalks to create better visibility around our schools.

We appreciate your patience and support as we continue working to make sure our schools are the best and safest place for our students to learn.



Moran Prairie sixth graders (from left) Mick Thompson, Max Wagner, Murphy Butte and Logan Johnston helped plant native plants this autumn during Spokane County's largest wetland rehabilitation project, just north of the corner of 57th and Palouse Hwy. The goal was to plant roughly 7,000 small plants and 58 shrubs, and to have the students be the key stewards of protecting the area as it develops. Throughout the day, more than 500 students spent time at the wetland digging and planting.

Indian Trail Elementary named School of Distinction

Washington's Superintendent of Public Instruction honored Spokane Public Schools' Indian Trail Elementary School with a Learning Improvement Award, naming it a 2008 "School of Distinction." Just 100 schools, out of approximately 2,300 in the state, earned the honor.

"This award represents our staff's mission to meet the needs of every child," said Principal Paul Gannon. "We collaborate as a staff and with parents to create a learning environment that honors every child's strengths."

The Schools of Distinction represent the top 5 percent of elementary, middle and high schools whose students exceeded the year's state average performance on the Washington Assessment of Student Learning in reading and mathematics, as well as demonstrated outstanding improvement over time in both subjects.

The state superintendent created this award last year, when Stevens and Whitman elementary schools received it.