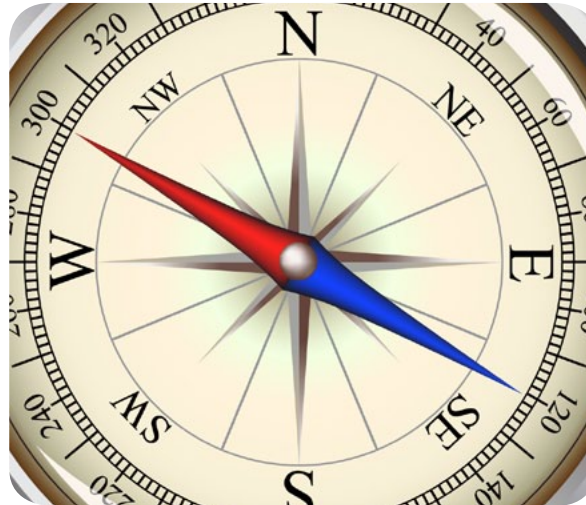


Staff Matters



Spotlight: ICAN Program



Superintendent Search



AP Summer Institute - Register NOW

Curriculum Connection

Distinguished Classified Employees

Remember to VOTE by February 14!

Spotlight: ICAN

As an ICAN classroom coordinator, Toraj Farzana is a teacher, cheerleader, student advocate, technical troubleshooter and a bit of a juggler. Each of his three ICAN sessions at Ferris High School averages 15 students – each of whom is working independently. One might be working on first semester Freshman English, while another does first semester Algebra and someone else does 11th grade second semester science. Farzana said he likes how ICAN gives students a great option for making up missing credits.

“Students aren’t here because they can’t do the work, but because of distractions or a lack of motivation,” he said. “Last year there were six or seven seniors who wouldn’t have graduated on time without ICAN.” At Ferris, ICAN students already have completed 32 classes first semester.

Once they pass their class, “it releases the weight of those lingering F’s and deficient credits. That’s the beauty of this program – that they can have that success,” Farzana said.

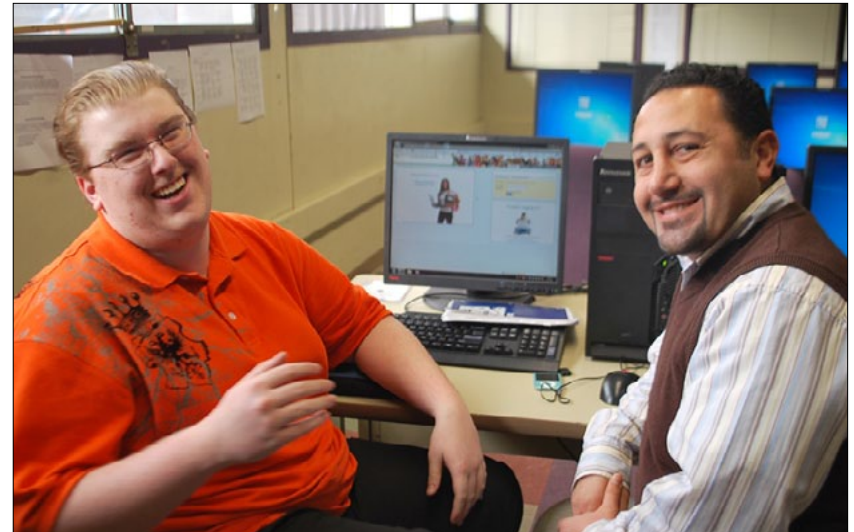
Now in its second year, ICAN is supporting students in different ways. At the high school level, ICAN (for Individual Credit Advancement Now) helps with students meet their on-time graduation goals; at the middle school level, ICAN (for Individual Course Achievement Now) helps students gain skills necessary to be promoted to the next grade level. ICAN’s student-centered approach uses Spokane Virtual Learning’s web-based, district-aligned curriculum. ICAN students have classtime scheduled with an ICAN classroom teacher, like Farzana, and can access their coursework from a computer anytime, anywhere. Their progress is tracked electronically to make sure their teachers and counselors know how to best support them. ICAN courses take an average of 6-8 weeks to complete, and students can test through district standards that they have already mastered.

The middle school ICAN program provides online course recovery for students who have failed a math or English course at semester or quarter. The focus of the middle school program is to help students gain skills necessary for promotion to the next grade level.

ICAN really only works, Farzana said, with students who are ready to be responsible for their learning. Before they begin, Farzana has a sit down, face-to-face conversation with the students. He asks them if they are ready to take on ICAN, and has them write down the reasons why they think they have been recommended for ICAN.

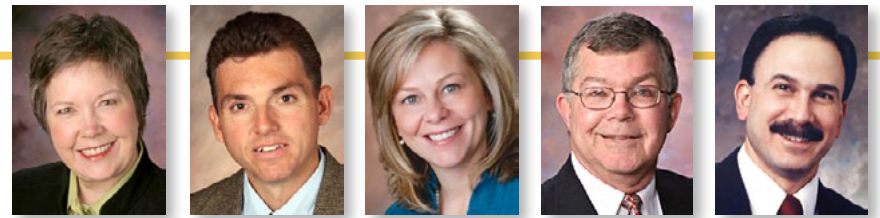
“This is right up my alley with how I want to help students, and spend more one-on-one time with them,” he said. “When students complete a class, their name goes up on a wall of fame. We promote success in here.”

Find more information about ICAN on the [Curriculum Connection site here](#).



Toraj Farzana, right, with one of his ICAN students.

Board Briefs



Nov. 30 meeting

Official notification from the County Elections Department was received certifying Deana Brower as having received the majority of votes for school board director position No. 5. Brower's six-year term will run from November 2011 to November 2017. Bob Douthitt was elected board president and Dr. Jeff Bierman board vice president.

Karin Short, associate superintendent for Teaching and Learning Services, and Dr. Tammy Campbell, executive director for Instructional Programs, provided an overview of the progress being made to implement Power Standards. Power Standards are defined as prioritized standards derived from a systematic and balanced approach designed as essential standards that students must master before moving on to the next grade.

Linda McDermott, executive director of Finance, presented for board adoption Resolution No. 2011-23 that certifies the 2012 Instructional Program Levy in the amount of \$61,323,708; rolls back \$2,676,292 to taxpayers from the amount approved by voters in the March 2009 levy election; and certifies the 2012 Debt Service Levy at \$30,650,000.

With regard to the Instructional Program Levy, the district is required by law to place an estimated rate per thousand of assessed property value on the election ballot, but voters are not approving the rate per thousand; rather, voters approve the dollar amount requested by the school district.

McDermott presented for the board's consideration a proposal for a new budget development process called for in an August 2011 board-adopted resolution. The resolution defined the reasons for a new process; specifically, that the current process be changed in order to better focus on the programs that will provide the strongest support of student achievement and financial efficiency.

McDermott provided an overview of the September 1 to October 31, 2011 interim financial report. She emphasized that the budget is a continuous process, and the monthly interim financial reports are one more tool to use in that process. In terms of student enrollment, McDermott reported that there are no extraordinary fluctuations at the various grade levels.

Tennille Jeffries-Simmons, executive director for Human Resources, presented the recently-ratified 2010-2013 collective bargaining agreement with IBEW Local No. 73. Jeffries-Simmons noted that the two parties have been negotiating since 2010.

Dec. 7 special meeting

President Bob Douthitt called the work session to order for the purpose of learning more about the district's college and career readiness agenda. A collaborative team including building principals and central office administrators gathered to share highlights of college and career readiness work currently in progress in Spokane Public Schools.

Dec. 14 meeting

Dr. Campbell provided an update on the middle level accelerated math and English language arts courses. The board adopted a resolution that authorizes the superintendent to accept any potential offer for Spokane Public Schools to participate in the pilot implementation of the AP Cambridge Capstone and Credential Program at one or more selected high schools beginning with the 2012-13 academic year.

Linda McDermott presented for board adoption Resolution No. 2011-26 recertifying the 2012 Instructional Program and Debt Service levies. The need for recertifying the levies is due to a one-time tax refund granted to Providence Sacred Heart Hospital to be collected in 2012. State tax exemption laws changed in terms of how in-patient care is determined and evaluated for nonprofit hospitals in the state. The refund, therefore, is for property taxes collected from the hospital since 2008. According to McDermott, the refund amounts to just over \$2 million to Sacred Heart from taxing districts in the county.

Dr. Mark Anderson, associate superintendent for School Support Services, presented for the board's consideration Resolution No. 2011-25, which provides for the procedures, conduct, and notice of an election to be held February 14, 2012, and provides for other matters properly relating thereto.

January is board appreciation month

Thank you to school board members Bob Douthitt, Dr. Jeff Bierman, Sue Chapin, Rocky Treppiedi and Deana Brower, and student advisors Shanice Applewhaite and Karl Fencil.

Congratulations, Distinguished Classified Employees

Spokane Public Schools recently honored its Distinguished Classified Employees for 2011-12:

Rick Hankins, head custodian, Regal Elementary: Rick has a strong work ethic, is resourceful with problem solving and remains calm in crisis situations. He is committed to developing a service learning structure at school for students. He takes the time to listen to students and senses those who might need positive acknowledgement and rewards them with his special smile or a high-five. He coordinates, trains and supervises students for the “A Team,” which helps set up for assemblies, collects recycling tubs, distributes fruit and vegetable snacks to classrooms, and does other community service projects around the school. He has been described as the “ultimate team player.”

Joel Newland, steamfitter foreman, Maintenance Department: Joel exudes enthusiasm in his work and that becomes contagious to all who work around him. His colleagues have great respect for his knowledge, passion for the trade and the experience he brings to the shop. Others are better because of him. Whether a call is made at 6 p.m. or 1 a.m., Joel always responds in a positive way. He routinely reminds everyone that “We’re here for the kids,” and his work always focuses on that mission. His efficient work directly benefits students and teachers in the classroom.

Left to right, Becky Wilkey, Robin Fiorillo, Joel Newland, Leslie Summers, Rick Hankins and Kristy Mylroie.

Becky Wilkey, high school resource officer, Ferris High School: Becky has been instrumental in effecting positive change for the Ferris student body. In April 2010, she organized a week-long drug awareness week, which resulted in dozens of students requesting help for themselves or friends or family members. She is always professional, respectful and positive when working with students, and spends time getting to know them to better understand their behavior. She is a disciplinarian, counselor, teacher, role model, and most importantly, someone on whom students and staff can always rely.

Robin Fiorillo, Leslie Summers and Kristy Mylroie, specialists, Community Relations: These three women take very seriously the mission of SPS, and are intentional in sharing that story in their work. They are self-starters, cheerful representatives of our district in the community, and exceed expectations in nearly every project they undertake. Their professionalism, positive spirit and ability to communicate to such a broad range of citizens make them ideal ambassadors of SPS.

Thank you to sponsors School Employees Credit Union, Luigi’s and PEMCO for making this program possible.



Superintendent search begins!

The SPS School Board has begun collecting staff, parent and community input on desired characteristics of the next SPS superintendent. You are invited and encouraged to attend an open forum for staff:

Feb. 1 at 4 p.m. at Sacajawea Middle School, 401 E. 33rd

or

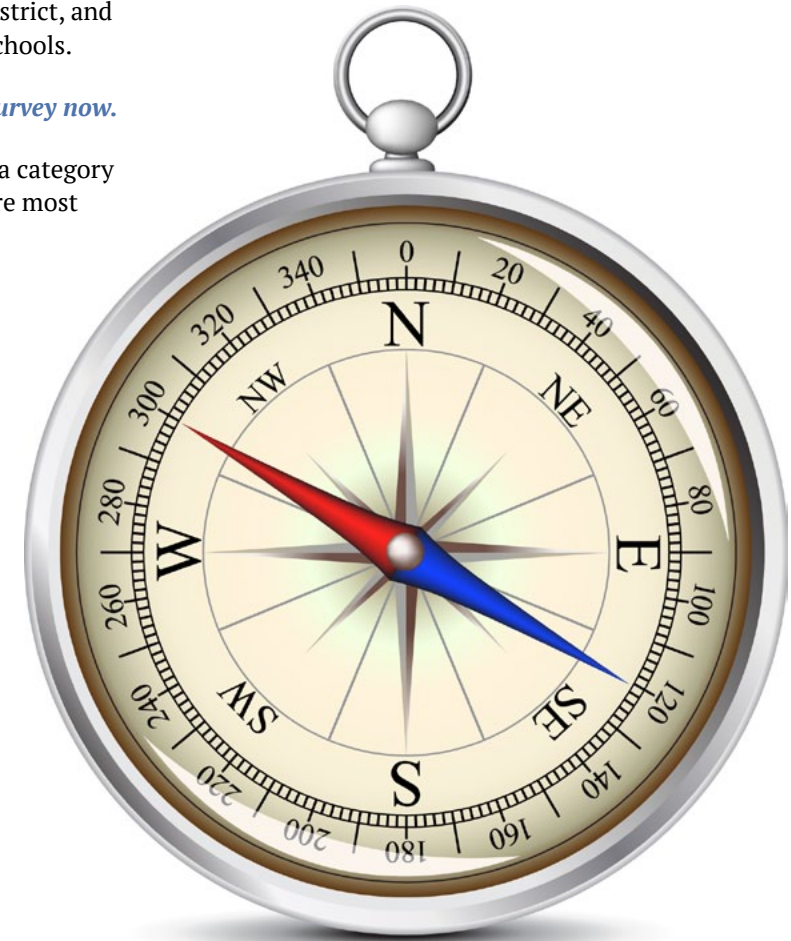
Feb. 2 at 4 p.m. at Glover Middle School, 2404 W. Longfellow

The professional search consultants from Hazard, Young, Attea & Associates will be present at the forums to gather input. This will be an opportunity to share your opinions on the strengths and challenges of the school district, and on the qualities and characteristics the superintendent should have to successfully lead Spokane Public Schools.

In addition, an online survey will be posted at spokaneschools.org through Feb. 3. [Click here to take the survey now.](#)

Your participation in the forums and/or the online survey is crucial. The online survey asks you to choose a category – certificated, classified or administrator. It will be valuable to see which superintendent characteristics are most important to each group.

Based on the input received, the consultants will conduct a nationwide search and recruit candidates in February and early March. Staff and the public will have an opportunity to meet finalists in April. The new superintendent should be announced by the end of April.



Congratulations

Congratulations, National Board Certified Teachers

Spokane Public Schools has 34 new National Board Certified teachers, joining the ranks of the 945 Washington teachers who achieved National Board Certification in 2011. Washington ranked second nationwide in the number of new National Board Certified Teachers this year.

Completion of the certification process signifies that teachers have developed and demonstrated the skills required of an accomplished education professional. A voluntary assessment program designed to develop, retain and recognize accomplished teachers, and to embed ongoing school improvement in schools nationwide, National Board Certification is achieved through performance-based assessment and testing that takes one to three years to complete. Many consider it to be the highest symbol of professional teaching excellence.

“Applying for national board certification compelled me to be reflective about my teaching and to focus on how to be more effective every day, in every situation,” said North Central teacher Kelly Stromberg. “What I do every day – teaching – is deeply important to me, and going through the certification process enhanced my ability to be more effective at it.”

The newest board-certified teachers from SPS are: **Jennifer Anderson** from Linwood Elementary, **Sheri Burrill** from Roosevelt Elementary, **Mary Davis** from Longfellow Elementary, **Linda Delaney** from Sacajawea Middle School, **Laura Hamilton** from the Special Education department, **Robin Harrison** from Rogers High School, **Edward Hollingsworth** from Whitman Elementary, **DeLynn Hughes** from Glover Middle School, **Matthew Johnson** from North Central High School, **Douglas Joslyn** from Logan Elementary, **Krista Juul** from Balboa Elementary, **John Keller** from Sheridan Elementary, **Norilee Kimball** from North Central High School, **Bobbi Konshuk** from The Community School, **Paulla Lalley** from Audubon Elementary, **Mildred Landis** from Sheridan Elementary, **Kimberly Lee** from North Central High School, **Derek Mullin** from Stevens Elementary, **Kara Nelson** from Logan Elementary, **Katie O'Connor** from Ferris High School, **Elizabeth Pipkin** from North Central High School, **LouAnn Reamer** from Shadle Park High School, **Sara Reijonen** from The Community School, **Sandra Rendle** from Logan Elementary, **Stacey Reser** from Shadle Park High School, **Brian Shute** from Franklin Elementary, **Patricia Standal** from Stevens Elementary, **Kelly Stromberg** from North Central High School, **Catalina Svoboda** from Ridgeview Elementary, **Marie Tamura** from North Central High School, **Sandra Westerman** from Longfellow Elementary, **Aaron Wevers** from The Community School, **Kris Wofford** from Audubon Elementary and **Michelle Wolfe** from Sheridan Elementary.

Achievements

The first issue of Spokane|CDA Woman features a cover story about Garfield Elementary’s **Dee Dee Quintero, Andrea Moore** and **Meghan Slick**.

“The three base their lives on respect, justice and love,” the article said. “They love the way all students are respected for who they are and the limitless possibilities of who they may become.”

Lewis and Clark High School’s **Theresa Meyer** was selected GSL Assistant Principal of the Year for 2011-2012.

Dr. Tammy Campbell, Instructional Programs, is one six members on the Common Core State Standards Steering Committee.

Lewis and Clark High School teacher **Michelle Wells** was chosen KHQ’s teacher of the month for January.

A new online resource for families: Curriculum Connection

The screenshot shows the Curriculum Connection website for Spokane Public Schools. The header features the site title and navigation links. The main content area includes a search bar, navigation menu, and several featured sections: News and Updates, Curriculum Areas, SPS Seven Steps to College Readiness, District News, Resources, and Meet Our Educators. The SPS Seven Steps section is highlighted with a graphic of a staircase leading to a graduation cap.

Curriculum Connection
 Spokane Public Schools
 Quick Access ▾ Select A School ▾

SEARCH Home For Students For Parents Our Courses For Staff Meet Our Educators Resources Sign In

News and Updates
 Principals' Conference
 ICAN Program (Credit / Course Recovery)
 Spokane Virtual Learning

Curriculum Areas

- Career & Technical Education
- English Language Arts
- Fitness & Health
- Math
- Science
- Social Studies
- Visual & Performing Arts
- World Languages

SPS SEVEN STEPS to College Readiness
 click to view more information

- ▶ Step 7: 1550 SAT, 22 ACT
- ▶ Step 6: 3 on an AP exam
- ▶ Step 5: Algebra 2 by Grade 11, 'C' or higher
- ▶ Step 4: Algebra 1 by Grade 8 or 9, 'C' or higher
- ▶ Step 3: Advanced math MSP in Grade 4
- ▶ Step 2: Advanced reading MSP in Grades 3-8
- ▶ Step 1: Advanced reading in Grades K-2

District News
 Public input wanted for superintendent search
 Levy 2012 facts
 Strengthening Families workshop

Resources
 Power Standards
 Curriculum Guides
 Standards Based Grading

Meet Our Educators
 Become acquainted with some of our talented teachers and administrators.

excellence for everyone

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 Spokane Public Schools complies with all federal and state laws and regulations and does not discriminate.

Spokane Public Schools is all about learning. To support the work we do with students, we want parents and guardians to be able to help their children at home. A new online resource, Curriculum Connection, was designed to do just that.

The site provides a one-stop shop for information about what students are learning at each grade level, in each subject area. In addition, videos and others resources are included to give parents and students an easy way to better understand what's being taught in the classroom.

The Curriculum Connection site also explains standards-based grading and why it's important, lists power standards so families know what is most important for students to learn each year, and shares information about many of the educators in SPS. The "Seven Steps for College Readiness" will help families keep their student on track for graduation and ready for success in any path they choose to follow. [Check it out here.](#)



July 30 - August 2, 2012

Lewis and Clark
High School

Spokane, Washington



Stay with us at Spokane's
historic Davenport Hotel



Inland Northwest Advanced Placement* Summer Institute

The Inland Northwest AP* Summer Institute features 23 sessions, including six pre-AP* sessions:

English

English Language: Marci Bowman, Tucson, Ariz.

English Literature, new: Rebecca McFarlan, Indian Hill High School, Cincinnati, Ohio

English Literature, experienced: Thom Wade, Arroyo Grande High School, Arroyo Grande, Calif.

Math

Calculus AB: Brendan Murphy, John Bapst Memorial High School, Bangor, Maine

Calculus BC: John Losse, Sedona, Ariz.

Statistics: Marty Sternstein, Ithaca College, Ithaca, NY

Science

Biology: Peggy O'Neill Skinner, The Bush School, Seattle, Wash.

Chemistry: Bill Bond, Snohomish High School, Snohomish, Wash.

Environmental Science: Daniel Hyke, Alhambra High School, Alhambra, Calif.

Physics: Stephen Fuerderer, Burnaby Mountain Secondary School, Burnaby, BC

History and Social Studies

U.S. History: Keith Wood, Murray High School, Murray, Utah

World History: Charles Hart, St. Petersburg, Fla.

U.S. Government: Dave La Shomb, Advanced Technologies Academy, Las Vegas, Nevada

Fine Arts

Studio Art: Jerry Stefl, The School of the Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, Ill.

World Languages

French Language and Culture: Verna Lofaro, Cherry Creek High School, Englewood, Colo.

Japanese Language and Culture: Sandra Garcia, Forest Grove High School, Forest Grove, Ore.

Spanish Language and Culture: Ann Mar, Alamo Heights High School, San Antonio, Texas

Pre-AP Courses

Pre-AP* English: Kris Tully, University High School, Tucson, Ariz.

Pre-AP* Math: Victoria Landers, Claremont High School, Claremont, Calif.

Pre-AP* Science: Darrel James, Fred C. Beyer High School, Modesto, Calif.

Pre-AP* Social Studies: Arch Bryant, Chicago, Ill.

Pre-AP* Studio Art: Joann Winkler, Clinton High School, Clinton, Iowa

Pre-AP* World Languages: Rosann Batteiger, James Bowie High School, Austin, Texas

Register Now:

www.spokaneschools.org/APSummerInstitute

INWAPSI@spokaneschools.org

INWAPSI Director Sally Pfeifer at 509.354.6914



This AP Summer Institute has been endorsed by
*College Board, AP, Advanced Placement, Advanced Placement Program and the acorn logo are registered trademarks of the College Board. Used with permission.

WINTER ADULT FITNESS CLASSES

Sponsored by the Wellness Program!

**Classes are offered to staff and immediate family only (ages 14 and over).*

SIGN UP NOW FOR ADULT FITNESS CLASSES

ZUMBA! NORTHWEST CLASS

Instructor: Tamara Yarde
 Class times: Mon/Wed 6:00 - 7:00 pm
 Dates: January 18-March 21
 Location: Shadle Park HS Commons/Cafeteria
 Cost: \$30
 *No class 2/20

ZUMBA! NORTHEAST CLASS

Instructor: Carly Gannon
 Class times: Mon/Wed 6:00 - 7:00 pm
 Dates: January 18-March 21
 Location: Garry MS Commons/Cafeteria
 Cost: \$30
 *No class 2/20

FITNESS CONDITIONING

Instructor: David Casteal
 Class times: Mon/Wed 6:00 - 7:00 pm
 Dates: January 18-March 21
 Location: Rogers Fitness Center
 Cost: \$30
 *No class 2/20

YOGA

Instructor: Pamela Davis
 Class times: Tues/Thurs 5:00 - 6:00 pm
 Dates: January 17-March 22
 Location: Grant Elementary
 Cost: \$35

ZUMBA! SOUTH CLASS

Instructors: Ann Schmick - Lynn Chapman
 Class times: Mon/Wed 7:00 - 8:00 pm
 Dates: January 18-March 21
 Location: Chase MS Cafeteria
 Cost: \$30
 *No class 2/20

Questions? Email Gretchen Snider at gretchens@spokaneschools.org or call (509) 354-2497

REGISTRATION FORM- Pre-Registration Required

Please send via inter-school mail with payment:
 Administration Bldg. Attention: Cashier

Returned checks subject to a \$25 fee.

Participant _____

Name: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Amount Enclosed: \$ _____ Check # _____

Make Checks payable to: Spokane Public Schools

Circle the class you are registering for:

Yoga

Fitness Conditioning

ZUMBA! - Northeast

ZUMBA! - Northwest

ZUMBA! - South



Learn more about APPLE and Montessori



Families interested in enrolling their student in Spokane Public Schools' Montessori or APPLE (Alternative Parent Participation Learning Experience) programs first need to 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 or Jefferson (Montessori locations), Garfield or Franklin (APPLE locations) to be eligible. Both programs are for first through sixth graders.

Montessori 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 beyond the immediate rigors of the classroom.

APPLE 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. 15 at 7 p.m. at Jefferson Elementary, 3612 S. Grand Blvd.

Feb. 23 at 7 p.m. at Balboa Elementary, 3010 W. Holyoke Ave.

APPLE meetings:

Feb. 28 or March 7 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.

ETC.

Staff Matters is your publication, a chance for you to communicate with staff district-wide about successes and challenges in both your work and after-work life. But we can't share your news if we don't know about it. Call 354-7387 or e-mail Kristy Mylroie at Kristymy@spokaneschools.org any time with story ideas, comments or thoughts on what you'd like to read about in Staff Matters.

Wellness information

This year's SPS Brick House Competition is new and centered around Bloomsday. The large-school/site (secondary) and smaller-school/site (elementary) that has the highest percentage of registered Bloomsday Finishers will win the coveted Brick House Award for their site along with a special catered treat for the entire building team. All you need to do is get your team members registered for Bloomsday, get the list to your wellness rep, and then walk, jog, or run your way to some great memories and good health.

Your wellness representative can help answer questions you might have. Contact District Wellness Coordinator Kuray Oman (354-7238) or Nutrition Director Doug Wordell (354-7391) with questions.

We want to hear from you!

Community members are invited to text or email their questions about Spokane Public Schools to es@ksps.org before or during the district's live call-in show, "Educating Spokane," which next airs Thursday, Feb. 9, at 7:30 p.m. on KSPS channel 7.

School Board members join Superintendent Nancy Stowell to answer questions from the public.

For those who would like to call in their question, the 354-7711 hotline number will be available during the show.



SPS Kindergarten registration starts March 5

Will your student be 5 on or before Aug. 31? If so, it's time to start thinking about registering for kindergarten! We are eager to welcome you to the Spokane Public Schools family.

From March 5 through the end of the school year, please register at your neighborhood elementary school. Not sure which one is your school? Call 354-5900 and we can help. To register, you'll need to bring a birth certificate or other verification of age, and immunization records. Find more information at www.spokaneschools.org.

Express childcare fills the school day

Express offers a convenient, smooth transition to and from childcare for your child's school day. Each of our programs is a neighborhood place where people know our staff, children and each other. Activities include crafts, games, building, quiet time for reading and homework, as well as snacks, outside/gym time and participation with community groups. All of these activities are designed to support the school-day curriculum. Before- and after-school Express (for K-6) and kindergarten Express are offered at many SPS schools. Call 354-7312 or visit spokaneschools.org/express for more information.

Retirement dinner cutoff date!

If retirement is in your near future, make a note of Friday, April 20. That's the cut-off date for official retirement letters to be received by Human Resources in order to attend the 2012 retirement dinner.

This is an event you won't want to miss. Attendees from last year's dinner said: "It felt great to be treated so respectfully," and "This was a great ending to a wonderful career."

Anyone submitting a retirement letter after April 20 will be put on the 2013 retirement dinner list. Thank you!