

SCC Briefing

Newsletter for CSD School Community Councils



Giving Thanks

“Not what we say about our blessings, but how we use them, is the true measure of our Thanksgiving.” — W.T. Purkiser

As we head into the season of giving and goodwill, we would be remiss if we didn't wish you all a wonderful Thanksgiving and joyful start to the winter holidays. We are so thankful for the opportunity to work as partners with you in this noble endeavor of educating the children in our community. We are inspired by your commitment to service and your enthusiasm for educational excellence. We appreciate all you do to make our community such a great place to raise a family.

Fall Musicals

Throughout November, our community was treated to some fantastic musical theater productions at Alta, Brighton, Corner Canyon, Hillcrest, and Jordan high schools. It's amazing how much talent we have in our schools — and we appreciate the countless hours our parent volunteers spent helping the casts of “How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying,” “The Wizard of Oz,” “Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat,” “In the Heights,” and “Les Miserables.”

[See Jordan High's cast of “Les Miserables” perform on Fox 13.](#)

Hillcrest's Sacred Images

With the swoop of a curtain and a round of applause, students at Hillcrest High unveiled a fresco they created as part of the “Sacred Images: A Vision of Native American Rock Art” program. The effort began with a daylong field trip to Nine Mile Canyon, where students examined and drew ancient rock art and learned about the Fremont people that once occupied the canyon. Aside from learning about how to express an idea through art, several of the students said the project taught them more about their own valued identity. In celebration of the mural's unveiling, community dignitaries, students and District administrators gathered to learn about the project and give homage to all those involved in the process. Several Canyons students also sang and performed dances from their native heritage. We appreciate

the support of the parents whose children participated in the project. As you all know, encouragement from home makes all the difference.

[See a Facebook photo album of the unveiling.](#)

College Application Week

While we're still compiling the number of Alta Hawks, Hillcrest Huskies, Jordan Beetdiggers, Brighton Bengals and Corner Canyon Chargers who submitted viable college applications last week, we feel comfortable calling Utah College Application Week a final-exam-sized success. Throughout the week, students of all kinds — and from all CSD high schools — filled out and submitted college applications. The support from parents was simply phenomenal. So many moms and dads were working side-by-side with their teens on the applications. We also heard from many parents and guardians who appreciated the \$25,000 commitment from the Canyons Education Foundation to help cover applications fees. It was a true community effort to guide every senior toward the next step in her or his higher learning.

Snow Day Notifications

When the weather outside is frightful, we'll be contacting you in the delightful early hours of the morning to let you know the course of action for the day. As we have done in previous years, if the Superintendent or his designee decides that the weather is too extreme to hold school or delay the start of classes, we will immediately work to notify parents through phone, e-mail and text messages. This decision is usually made by 5 a.m.

Please take a moment to ensure that your correct phone number is listed in Skyward Family Access. We use information from this system when we send emergency messages to parents and guardians. Also, please take a minute to "Like" the District Facebook page and "Follow" Canyons District on Twitter. Emergency notifications will be posted on those sites, too. Notices also will be posted on the District's website, www.canyonsdistrict.org.

Days lost because of inclement weather will be made up first on the President's Day and then during Spring Recess.

Open Enrollment Window

Per Utah statute, the school-choice window opens Monday, Dec. 1. Schools will continue to accept Standard Open Enrollment Application Forms through Friday, Feb. 20, 2015. Students who want to attend a school other than the one assigned to them by geographic boundaries must submit these applications, which can be accessed on the website (<http://www.canyonsdistrict.org/planning-and-enrollment-1>), any Canyons school, or the Canyons Administration Building, 9150 S.

500 West. Applications should be submitted directly to the school where the child would like to attend. Once a school administrator approves an open-enrollment permit, the permit will renew automatically every year thereafter as long as the student remains at the same school and the permit is not revoked. Permits, which are granted on a first-come, first-served, space available basis, must be renewed when a student advances from elementary to middle school or from middle school to high school. Questions? Please call the Canyons District [Office of Planning and Enrollment](#) at 801-826-5092.

Input Sought

Parents of middle school students have received a Skylert message inviting them to provide input on the proposed health textbook. Parents were notified last week of the two-week input window, in which they could view the texts in their schools' main offices and provide written feedback on a form created for this process. They also were notified that text had been recommended by a committee of parents and educators as part of a careful and conscientious process aligned with state law and District policy.

Elementary Schedule Task Force Empaneled

A task force has been formed to gather information, problem-solve, and help develop an elementary school schedule that fully supports school communities. The task force includes one representative from all 29 elementary schools and Jordan Valley School, as well as four special-education teachers. The task force will begin meeting on Monday, Dec. 1, and is expected to meet at least three times.

Hawks Play for U.

The marching band at Alta High on Friday, Nov 14 filled in for the University of Utah's marching band at the Huntsman Center. The student musicians, clad in school colors (matching those of the U.), were shown live on the Pac12 Network when the Utes faced Ball State. The Utes' men's hoops team won 90-72.

PACE School Report Card

The Governor's Office is working with the State Office of Education and Utah State Board of Education to release the new PACE School Report Card, which replaces the UCAS report. A critical component of the new Report Card is the "School Snapshot" located at the bottom of the Report Card. This is where school principals are given a

chance to provide a 40-word description of what makes their school unique.

Midvale Middle to Relocate During Reconstruction

Students at Midvale Middle will have temporary digs starting next school year. The Board of Education voted to relocate the school community to the old Crescent View building for the 2015-2016 and 2016-2017 school years while the school is rebuilt with proceeds from the \$250 million voter-approved bond. The District Transportation Office is arranging to safely transport students to the temporary school location. The relocation is supported by Midvale City leaders. The old Crescent View, located at 11150 S. 300 East in Sandy, has served as the temporary home to the Mount Jordan Middle School community for the 2013-2014 and 2014-2015 academic years, during Mount Jordan's reconstruction. The new Mount Jordan Middle School, also rebuilt with bond proceeds, will be ready to welcome students in fall 2015. Midvale Middle School reconstruction is scheduled to begin in summer 2015, and be completed in August 2017.

Election 2014

“Democracy cannot succeed unless those who express their choice are prepared to choose wisely. The real safeguard of democracy, therefore, is education.” — Franklin D. Roosevelt

The votes have been tallied in the 2014 general election. Canyons District welcomes Amber Shill and Clareen Arnold to the Board of Education. Shill and Arnold join Board members Sherril Taylor and Steve Wrigley, who were re-elected, and Board members Nancy Tingey, Robert Green and Chad Iverson on the seven-person elected panel. Canyons District expresses appreciation to Mr. Tracy Scott Cowdell and Mrs. Kim Murphy Horiuchi for their service on CSD's Board of Education. Both served for eight years and were phenomenal advocates for their communities.

Prize Patrol

The holidays are coming early for 17 Canyons teachers who are receiving Innovation Grants from the Canyons Education Foundation. In all, the Foundation, the fund-raising arm of the District, is giving some \$90,000 to teachers who submitted grant-requests to pay for fun and inventive classroom projects. Did your child's teacher receive an Innovation Grant? Watch the District's website and Facebook pages for photos of the teachers as they are surprised in their classrooms with balloons and giant checks.

Art in an Instant

It's been said that people are least creative when racing the clock. Don't tell that to the aspiring Monets and Michelangelos from Alta, Jordan, Corner Canyon and

Hillcrest high schools who recently completed in ArtStock, a timed art-creation contest held annually at Jordan High. The event, which requires students to create an original piece of 2-D or 3-D art in four hours or less, gives our students “a chance to see what other kids are doing and how they do it,” said District Arts Specialist Sharee Jorgensen. The students also learn pacing and refinement skills, she said. Students from Jordan, Alta, and Hillcrest won first-place category awards at the event. Congratulations to the students — and cheers to all the parents who support their children in artistic endeavors.

Academic All-State

We’re cheering for the 14 students who earned prestigious Academic All-State Honors in fall sports from the Utah High School Activities Association. We’re also applauding the support systems of these high-achieving student-athletes. Parents, thank you for all you do to support students in their races to the top of their fields — and the class. Academic All-State awards go to 10-15 students in each sport. The students are:

- **Boys Golf:** Jeremy Aguilon, Daniel Fang, and Jacob Ulrich, [Hillcrest](#)
- **Boys Cross Country:** [Peter Johnston](#), Hillcrest
- **Football:** Peter Lynch, Hillcrest
- **Girls Tennis:** Alyssa Hirschi, [Brighton](#)
- **Volleyball:** Rebekah Anderson, Hillcrest; Sara Farnsworth and Samantha Mangum, [Alta](#); Madison Lewis, [Corner Canyon](#)
- **Girls Soccer:** Ashley Christensen and McKell Kellogg, Brighton
- **Girls Cross Country:** Samantha Nabity and Hannah Nelson, Brighton