

SLPS Spotlight News

October 4, 2010

Weekly Edition

Attention SLPS! Did you know that honorees for the *Spirit of Excellence Award* come directly from Spotlight News? Did you know that ideas for *district press releases, media advisories, and web postings* come from Spotlight News as well? Did you know that Spotlight News is shared with *more than 4,500 recipients* on a weekly basis?

The Office of Public Information wants to publicize your school, but is only able to do so with your help. Please send information to Patrick Wallace by emailing Patrick.Wallace@slps.org. All information submitted about the success of students, staff, programs, etc. will be included in Spotlight News unless previously published.

SLPS News

School Improvement Grants Awarded to 11 District Schools

The St. Louis Public School District was recently notified by the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education that \$4.3 Million has been awarded to improve 11 schools in the District. The funds are part of the federal government’s School Improvement Grant Program. This is the first year of three years of funding.

With the announcement of funding, SLPS can immediately begin implementing new initiatives outlined in the improvement plans for each school. Among the new initiatives are extending the school day, Saturday classes, reading improvement programs, additional social services and professional development opportunities for teachers.

SLPS schools receiving SIG funding are Vashon, Fanning, Langston, L’Overture, Ashland, Columbia, Hamilton, Jefferson, Mann, Sigel and Walbridge.

Cole Elementary Participates in BioBlitz 2010 (Submitted by Michael Murawski of the Saint Louis Art Museum)

Students from Cole Elementary recently had the exciting opportunity to participate in the 2010 BioBlitz – a 24-hour inventory of life in Forest Park led by the Academy of Science St. Louis. Working with staff and volunteers from the Saint Louis Art Museum and the Saint Louis Zoo, students enjoyed nature excursions in the park where they observed and sketched the local habitat. As part of the event’s opening ceremony, students had a special chance to meet St. Louis Mayor Francis Slay and hear from several notable St. Louis leaders involved with the BioBlitz event.

This special event kicked off the second year of the Saint Louis Art Museum’s partnership with Cole Elementary School. The program has been made possible through the museum’s collaboration with St. Louis Public Schools and the Saint Louis Zoo’s WildCare Institute Center for Conservation in Forest Park. This program brings

together art and science in a way that helps students develop their observation and critical thinking skills while also gaining an awareness of their local environment.

Football Legend Isaac Bruce and Congressman Clay Visit Cote Brilliante

Students at Cote Brilliante had a rare opportunity to serve as guest chefs and cook alongside football legend Isaac Bruce and Congressman Lacy Clay during a recent “Let’s Move” assembly. “Let’s Move” is a national campaign aimed at reducing childhood obesity. The “Let’s Move” visit to Cote Brilliante was made possible thanks to the Fresh Gatherings program at St. Louis University.

In addition to learning how to prepare a healthy snack, the Cote Brilliante students had a chance to learn a few fitness tips from Isaac Bruce. Bruce led the children in warm-up drills, workout techniques and cool-down drills. Following the assembly the students received goodie bags with kid-friendly nutrition literature, healthy kid-friendly recipes and a healthy snack.

Gateway High School Opens First-Ever Student Credit Union Office

With a ceremonial ribbon cutting, the JagCity Credit Union officially opened for business on Friday, October 1st at Gateway Institute of Technology High School. The in-school credit union is believed to be the only one of its kind in a Missouri public high school. Gateway students will be able to visit the JagCity Credit Union on Fridays during the school year.

JagCity Credit Union is made possible thanks to the assistance of Gateway Metro Credit Union. The school has six students trained to serve as tellers. They will be assisted by Gateway Metro Credit Union staff members. Each student opening an account at the JagCity Credit Union will receive a \$5 gift from Gateway Metro.

Monroe Elementary Cuts Dedication Ribbon on Rams Playground

Rampage the mascot joined several parents and students for the official dedication of the new playground at Monroe Elementary School on Wednesday, September 29th. The new playground was donated by the Rams. In fact, all Rams players and office personnel came to the School on June 8 to help build the playground.

Monroe Principal Greg Hammen handled the ribbon cutting ceremony and presented Rampage and Rams representative Sarah Rouland with a special Thank You plaque from the Monroe students. Ms. Rouland asked the children to take care of the playground so that students for years to come will be able to enjoy the gift from the Rams.

Kirkwood Music Center Donates 30 Violins for Walbridge Students

Children at Walbridge Elementary School received a very special donation this past week. Music Education Consultant John Kinnison of the Kirkwood Music Center visited the school to drop off 30 violins and accessories. The generous donation will allow up to 90 students to learn how to play the violin as part of the school’s Breakfast Series program. Students will take violin lessons before school on Tuesdays – Thursdays.

Vashon Students Earn Dual Credit through St. Louis Community College

Vashon High School and St. Louis Community College at Forest Park have joined together to offer students an opportunity to earn college credit while completing their senior year in high school. This year, 21 Vashon students are enrolled at the William J. Harrison Education Center while also completing the requirements for their high school diploma. These students were selected based on their achievements in academics and

attendance. Vashon Principal Derrick Mitchell and counselors Kynedra Ogunnaike and Rasheda Harris are making sure these students have a head start on their successful college careers.

Meramec First Graders Clown Around with Circus Star

Jimla the clown, star of the Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey circus, made a visit to Meramec School last week. Jimla stopped by to teach the school's first graders a few fitness lessons. He also joined KidSmart and the St. Louis Area Food Association in donating physical education equipment to the school. As an extra-special treat, Jimla provided the entire school with tickets to see an upcoming circus performance at the Scottrade Center in St. Louis.

Grant Opportunity for Writing Teachers

Attention teachers: Here is an opportunity to apply for a grant valued at up to \$3,000. The Bob Costas Awards for the Teaching of Creative Writing grants are available to exceptional teachers who motivate their students to write through innovative teaching methods. Winning teachers are awarded grants to enhance successful projects currently underway. Projects can be carried out in school, through an after-school writing workshop or during a summer program.

This grant is available for teachers from all academic disciplines in grades 6 – 12. The deadline to apply is November 19, 2010. Visit <http://professionals.collegeboard.com/k-12/awards/costas> for more information.

Flu Shot Clinics Set for 13 CEFS Sites

St. Louis Public Schools is partnering with SARA Health Services to offer Flu Shot Clinics during the week of October 4th at all 13 Community Education Full Service School sites. The immunization services will be available to all SLPS staff and all community residents age 18 or over. There is no appointment necessary and the process should take only a few minutes.

For more information, including locations and times, visit flushotstoday.com, call (636)751-1080, or contact your local CEFS Community Collaborative Specialist.

SLPS in the News

- http://www.stltoday.com/news/local/education/article_892916b1-d397-5bf4-97db-3d8dbfd63a74.html
- <http://www.ksdk.com/news/education/story.aspx?storyid=219534&catid=21>
- <http://www.kmov.com/news/local/The-High-Cost-of-Educating-Teachers-104007928.html>
- <http://downtown.fox2now.com/content/adult-flu-shot-clinics-slps>
- <http://downtown.fox2now.com/content/state-district-town-hall-meeting>
- <http://midtown.fox2now.com/content/jagcity-credit-union-opens-gateway-tech>
- http://www.stlamerican.com/articles/2010/09/29/news/local_news/localnews05.txt
- http://www.stlamerican.com/articles/2010/09/29/business/people_on_the_move/people02.txt

Upcoming Events

District Hosts Town Hall Meeting on October 16

Date: October 16th

Location: Vashon High School, 3035 Cass Avenue

What: Continental Breakfast 9AM – 10AM

Program 10AM – Noon

Who: Superintendent Adams, SAB members, DESE Representative, AFT Local 420, Cooperating School Districts

Why: To update the community on the District's progress towards accreditation, provide information about the District's academic achievements, share a report about the plans for Proposition S, and offer community members a chance to participate in a question and answer period with program panelists

Career and Tech Ed Department to Present Careers on Wheels Programs in October

The Division of Career and Technical Education will again provide Careers on Wheels programs to six SLPS elementary schools this fall. These programs are designed to give children information about a variety of careers that use a vehicle on the job. It helps students see the connection between school subjects and how they are in the world of work and why it is important to stay in school and graduate.

Some of the participants in the Careers on Wheels programs are the St. Louis Fire Department, St. Louis Police Department, Missouri Department of Conservation, Happy Trails, St. Louis Science Center, and St. Louis Streets Department, Missouri Department of Transportation, St. Louis Building/Lead Department, Charter Communications and St. Louis Children's Hospital.

The programs are held on the school yard between 9am and noon. In the event of inclement weather, the program will be postponed until spring. The Careers on Wheels schedule is as follows:

- October 5 at Ford Elementary
- October 8 at Bryan Hill Elementary
- October 13 at Stix Early Childhood Center
- October 15 at Meramec Elementary
- October 20 at Jefferson Elementary
- October 26 at Dewey Elementary

Dairy Fully Fueled Tour to Visit Dewey International Studies

Date: October 15th

Location: Dewey International Studies, 6746 Clayton Ave.

Spotlight Photo of the Week

Cote Brilliante Kids Cooking With Isaac Bruce



Former Rams superstar receiver Isaac Bruce helps a couple of Cote Brilliante students make a tasty treat. If you would like to submit a photo for Photo of the Week, send it to Patrick.Wallace@slps.org with a caption. Submitted photos will be featured in future Spotlight News issues.

Author's Note

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