

Superintendent's

TULSA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Keith Ballard, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools



Bulletin

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Dr. Ballard's Weekly Message

Greetings. I hope everyone had a great Thanksgiving! I certainly did, but am now finding it necessary to resume my exercise regimen!

I met with the liaison committee from Tulsa Association of Secondary School Principals this week. We discussed a couple of noteworthy issues. First, I believe membership in professional organizations is very important. TASSP is aligned with the Oklahoma Association of Secondary Principals, just as the Tulsa Association of Elementary School Principals is aligned with its state organization. All school employees are eligible to belong to some organization that represents their interests at the national, state and/or local level. There is strength in belonging to organizations and I encourage participation. Additionally, these various organizations can be valuable communications tools. I enjoyed my interaction with TASSP and learned much about their issues. I will not always be able to resolve problems, but I will listen attentively and do my best to seek positive resolutions.

As I think about the best way for me to communicate with so many employees, it has become clear that I need to meet with various representative groups. Also on Thursday of last week, I had my regular monthly breakfast meeting with representatives from the Tulsa Classroom Teachers Association. I have enjoyed those breakfasts and have learned much about teacher issues.

Last Monday, Booker T. Washington Counselor Lynn Stockley and I traveled to Oklahoma City to participate in the Achieving Classroom Excellence steering committee meeting. ACE was formed three years ago and was the steering committee to enact several major legislative initiatives, including End of Instruction (EOI) tests. Lynn has been on the committee since its inception and, as Tulsa Public Schools Superintendent, I was recently appointed. The main topic of the current



ACE conversation is the establishment of cut scores for the critical EOI tests. I cannot stress enough the importance of ACE and its impact on the need for strong EOI preparation. ACE imposes stringent new requirements on students who wish to graduate on time. Those entering the 9th grade this year must pass End of Instruction tests in Algebra I and English II; and also pass tests in two of the following five: Algebra II, Biology I, English III, Geometry, and United States History. We must be focused on this requirement and we will do all we can to help our students achieve success.

Once a month I look forward to meeting with all Tulsa Public Schools principals. As always, I enjoyed our gathering last Wednesday. Chief Information Officer Todd Lee addressed the group about the Pearson/PowerSchool project which I wrote about last week. We continue to work diligently to raise private funds in order to afford this much needed program. I gave an update on the Alternative Education Task Force and spoke on some legislative issues.

At the ESC we continue to talk about and plan for the next bond issue. On Wednesday of last week I had lunch with representatives from the bond firm that managed our last bond issue. Accompanying me to the meeting was Chief Financial Officer Trish Williams, and Director of Bond Oversight Bob LaBass. In order to maximize student opportunities and provide a safe environment conducive to instruction, we must pass bond issues on a regular basis. A successful bond issue requires flawless management of the last bond issue, and a comprehensive communication program with school patrons. I will meet with the Bond Oversight Committee on a regular basis.

During the first week of December each year, Tulsa Technology Center sponsors a Pearl Harbor Day breakfast. Area educators, legislators, and other state education officials are invited to the Riverside campus of TTC. It was a wonderful salute to veterans of the U.S. armed forces. Joining me at the Pearl Harbor Day breakfast was Oklahoma City Schools Superintendent Karl Springer. Mr. Springer became (Continued)



Dr. Ballard's Weekly Message (Continued)

superintendent in Oklahoma City approximately four months before I became superintendent in Tulsa. Prior to the Oklahoma City assignment, he was superintendent in Mustang. We have been colleagues and friends for several years. We talk regularly and meet in person once or twice a month. After the breakfast, we met in my office and then attended the annual Jenks legislative luncheon at the Jenks administrative center.

Parent Teacher Associations are among Tulsa Public Schools' most important components. I enjoy working with PTA President RADIUS Guess and First Vice President Karen Gilbert on issues that impact parents and their students. Once a month I make comments to their gathering and last Thursday I joined them at a Dessert, Meet and Greet function. Together we will come up with a strategy to meet the Board of Education's goal of 100 percent parent/guardian participation in our schools.

School visits are the favorite part of my job. Last week I managed to visit McLain, Bunche Early Childhood Development Center, Anderson and Burroughs elementary schools. At Burroughs, I stopped by the classrooms of two of my former Masters level students from my teaching days at OU-Tulsa. It was good to see Tedria Charles and Joy Parnosky. An exciting stopover as I moved around the District was at Booker T. Washington High School where I attended the all-school pep assembly for the Hornet Football Team. The Hornets will play Carl Albert on Saturday for the 5A state football championship. By the time you read this, we will know the outcome and I am confident TPS will be celebrating a football state championship.

On Friday evening I attended and spoke at an officers' induction ceremony for the Tulsa Area Alliance of Black School Educators. What an important organization for an urban school district. I look forward to meeting with TAABSE's new President, James Jones and Vice President, Julian Wilson. Congratulations also to Rosetta Hartmon, TAASBE Recording Secretary; JoAnn Fennell, Corresponding Secretary; and Wilbert Harris, Treasurer.

Thanks to Paula Wood and Sodexo for hosting a reception for me prior to the Board of Education Meeting last Monday. It provided me the opportunity to greet many community and school leaders. I truly enjoyed the event and am very pleased to have the opportunity to serve as TPS Superintendent.

Community Schools Initiative Reaps Dividends

It takes a village. The Tulsa Area Community Schools Initiative is designed to put that concept into action and it's working. Just ask Rita Kukura, a counselor at Cooper Elementary School.

"We function much better with it, Kukura said. "It helps our students with not only reading and mathematics but also with self-esteem issues that will benefit them in the future."

The concept is simple: Involve members of the community in educating students by creating a web of support that nurtures the development of both children and adults. Businesses, public, private and faith-based community organizations provide vital services and support. Cooper's involvement in the initiative has yielded an increase in after-school activities, a media literacy program and even an outdoor garden.

Part of a national effort, the local initiative was introduced to the area about five years ago by Tulsa's Metropolitan Human Services Commission. The Community Service Council of Greater Tulsa provides coordination and support. Community schools unite academics with families, school, and community to create a web of support by providing ample opportunities for early childhood care and development, mental health and social services counseling, neighborhood development and youth development. In Cooper's case, the initiative produced an effective anti-bullying campaign for students.

Eighteen Tulsa schools participate in the Tulsa Community Schools Initiative, including Alcott, Celia Clinton, Eugene Field, Hawthorne, Kendall-Whittier, Mark Twain, Marshall, McClure and Skelly, all of which benefit from relationships with the University of Oklahoma. Each of the schools has an OU Bedlam Medical Clinic on campus where students and families receive free medical care.

"We envision a time when community schools serve as centers of community life, offering comprehensive programs, services and opportunities to students, families and the neighboring community," reads a portion of the initiative's mission statement. "...Community schools provide nurturing environments and enriching opportunities which promote successful learning."

"It's everyone working together for the sake of a whole," said Kukura.

Because it takes a village.



Print Shop and Edison Prep Earn National Kudos

The Tulsa Public Schools printing staff and Edison Preparatory High School students recently earned a well-deserved pat on the back from the National Council of Teachers of English.

During a workshop for sponsors of student literary magazines, the advisory committee discussed the best of the best contest submissions, taking into account both budget and resources.

TPS' annual publication, "Eyrie," a compilation of literary works from Edison students, earned the "Highest Award," the designation for magazines that fulfill extraordinary standards of excellence. Judges said Eyrie's design and quality made it one of the four best student literary magazines in the United States and Canada.

In Highest Award magazines, students handle virtually all aspects of writing, production, and business with exceptional skill. The magazine is characterized by a variety of genres including print and multi-media presentations; highly original and technically outstanding writing; high-quality design with fonts and graphics that complement the theme and tone; inclusion of high-quality writings from various disciplines; and other evidence that schoolwide participation has gone into the development of the magazine.

Great News for Another TPS Teacher

Street School English teacher Sheila Jones has earned National Board Certification. Congratulations! Thank you for helping Tulsa Public Schools accomplish its mission of providing a quality learning experience for every student, every day, without exception.

How to Earn National Board Certification

Street School's Sheila Jones is the latest of about 110 Tulsa Public Schools educators who have earned National Board Certification. National Board Certification establishes the highest standards for an educator. Tulsa Public Schools would like to congratulate those instructors recently honored as National Board Certified Teachers for 2008.

Educators that have achieved the distinction receive from the state \$5000 for a ten-year period for their expertise, effort and accomplished teaching. More TPS teachers are encouraged to show their dedication to education through this tremendous opportunity.

Teachers interested in becoming a candidate can attend an information session on board certification and scholarships on Monday, December 8, at Fulton Teaching and Learning at 5:30-7 p.m. The session is sponsored by Education Leadership Oklahoma.

For additional information contact Terry Beach, NB Regional Coordinator & NBCT 2006 (925-1129) or Pam Brooks, EC Curriculum Specialist & NBCT 2002 (925-1136).

POINTS OF PRIDE

Middle and High School

Metro Honor Choir

Photographs by Tracy Kouns





Handheld Devices Boost Classroom Learning



Fully committed to providing an enriched learning environment, officials at Tulsa Public Schools have announced the acquisition of student mobile learning devices for McLain's Scientific Exploration & Technology Utilization Magnet program.

The Nova5000 weighs 2.4 lbs and features a 7-inch touch

screen. The device bridges the gap between laptops and handheld solutions by offering students a mobile learning appliance for classroom use. McLain currently has ten carts of Nova5000s. TPS Director of Instructional Technology Yamilette Williams says by 2010, every McLain student will have access to a Nova5000.

"We see a great deal of potential for the Nova5000s as a daily learning tool within our science and technology magnet strands and are really looking forward to seeing what they can offer all of our core content classes as well," Williams said. "Our goal is to provide our students with all the tools and effective instruction they need to be successful now as well as after graduation."

Multiple office tools as well as multimedia, instructional and assessment software are built into the Nova5000, allowing students and educators to conduct complete projects and lab reports. Sylvetta Striplin, Chair of McLain's science department, says the devices will be a boost to the classroom.

"As we integrate it into our classroom activities and become more proficient with the equipment, both students and teachers will have wonderful learning experiences," said Striplin.

"What do they do at the ESC?"

Academy Central Elementary students search for answers as they explore the inner workings of the Education Service Center.

It's a chance to "expose our students to different professions and plant a seed early," said Academy Central Principal Ebony Johnson.

Second-graders will take a trip to Tulsa Public Schools' Education Service Center on Tuesday, December 9.

Johnson says Academy Central will also explore the entertainment industry (attending a performance by the Trio Orchestra), the horticultural and carpentry professions (building a home for Habitat for Humanity), medical fields (a trip to St. John Medical Center), and banking and finance (studying the stock market).

Free Holiday Gift for Parents

The experts at CREOKS Behavioral Health Services are offering free courses for TPS parents and staff. The next class is perfect for this time of year!

Don't Pop Your Cork!": Dealing with Anger & Stress at Home

December 10, 2008, 6:30 - 8 p.m.

Memorial High School Library – 5840 S. Hudson Ave.

Anger is an emotion that exists in all families and all human beings. Unfortunately, families of this generation bear little resemblance to the "Leave It to Beaver" clan. Today's lifestyles create a host of stresses on the family. Come learn about the emotion of anger, develop skills in recognizing the underlying causes of anger, and learn how to express anger in healthy ways. You will also learn to recognize that stress is a natural part of life, learn how to identify and cope with stressors and the signs of stressors, and recognize ways we can help our families get the support they need during times of stress.

For more information, contact Stacey at stacey.berry@creoks.org or 227-2016 ext. 150. A class minimum of three is required. All classes are subject to cancellation.

Holiday Recipe for Happy, Healthy Feet

by Dr. Pamela Butler

Director of Health Services

For happier/healthier feet and to prevent injury try the following:

- Buy shoes later in the day when your feet are their largest.
- Try on both shoes and walk around the store. Buy for the larger foot because both feet are seldom the same size.
- Since feet get larger with age and shoe size varies by maker remember to measure your feet, while standing, on each visit.
- Don't buy shoes you have to break in. Your toes should not be pinched and your heels should not slip.
- For athletic shoes make sure you have appropriate cushioning, flexibility at the ball of the foot and a stiff heel counter. A firm heel counter helps lock the foot into the shoe. If you do an activity more than three times a week, consider buying an athletic shoe designed for that activity.
- Wear the same type of hose or socks to the store that you wear with the shoes. This prevents you from buying a shoe that later fits too loose or too tight, only because you changed from socks to hose, etc.





Winter Wonderland? Or Hazard Trap?

Irmgard Tatic, TPS Safety Manager

Preventing slips and falls is a major concern for TPS when outdoor surfaces are wet, icy, and slippery under foot. Here are some suggestions to help prevent falls and possible injuries:

- Wear appropriate footwear with nonslip soles on wet, icy, or snowy days.
- Take extra care when walking on wet, icy, or snow-covered walkways. Walk slowly and slide your feet on slippery surfaces.
- Avoid turning sharply when you walk on a slippery surface.
- Hold on to the railing when using outdoor stairways.
- Be especially careful when carrying packages, equipment, materials, etc.
- Wipe your feet when entering a building so that your wet soles won't cause you to slip on indoor flooring.
- If you slip and start to fall, limit your injuries by bending your elbows and knees and using your legs and arms to absorb the fall.
- Roll into the fall, if that's more appropriate.

Math Science Partnership Rescheduled



The Mickelson Exxon Mobile Teachers' Cohort is presenting a math science partnership course to help third through fifth grade teachers to learn to use hands on, inquiry based

activities to integrate math and science.

The session has been rescheduled for Thursday, January 15, from 3:30 - 5 p.m at Fulton Academy. Each participant will receive a textbook. Sign up on DK on the Tulsa Public Schools website.

Spanish Classes

Hola! Free Spanish classes are available to TPS employees. The once-a-week classes begin January 12 from 4-7p.m. at Fulton Teaching and Learning Academy. The program runs for 17 weeks.

Classes are available for beginners and experienced speakers in need of a refresher. Go to the Professional Development website (www.tulsaschools.org/depts/pd/) for more information.

SAFARI Montage

Now Available To TPS Teachers From Home!

from Ellen Duecker, Director of Library & Media Services



Safari Montage, our award-winning, online video system is available to you from any computer, any time!

Go to safari.tulsaschools.org then use the drop down menu to locate and select your schools. You can access Safari

Montage by using your TPS email login and password.

For home access, simply download the SAFARI Montage Media Player plug-in to your home computer:

- Log in to SAFARI.
- Select the "help" tab.
- Click on "browser and plug-in downloads" located in the left frame.
- Choose the SAFARI Montage Media Player version for your home computer and follow the prompts.

If you have not seen Safari Montage, talk to your library media specialist to arrange a brief demonstration.

Partners

In Education 

Wilson Signs PIE Agreement

Woodrow Wilson Middle School is formally solidifying a Partners in Education agreement with a signing ceremony on December 10.

Wilson's partners are the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority and New Dominion, L.L.C., a business specializing in oil and natural gas recovery.

Principal Dr. Oliver Wallace says Wilson's partnership with the sorority has the collegians mentoring Wilson students. New Dominion has donated twenty-five \$100 gift certificates from Wal-Mart to underprivileged families and is also developing a mentoring program.

Springdale Students Stroll to Dentist for PIE

Shortline Dental is joining forces with Springdale Elementary School as a Partner in Education.

The signing ceremony was a thrilling celebration that included a Jupiter Jump and a visit from Tulsa Mayor Kathy Taylor and culminated in a stroll to the grand opening of the Shortline Clinic at Lewis and Pine.

Shortline will provide Springdale students with dental education, a toothbrush and toothpaste.



Green Points: Weekly Tips from Bob LaBass

Did you know? Compact fluorescent lamps use only 25 percent of the energy that incandescent lamps use, produce the same amount of light and last 8-10 times longer. Conserve energy and save money. Switch to CFLs whenever possible.

TPS: Committed to Health

From Lisa Griffin, Child Nutrition Coordinator

Tulsa Public Schools has partnered with the Alliance for a Healthier Generation, a collaboration between the American Heart Association and the William J. Clinton Foundation co-led by California governor Arnold Schwarzenegger. The Alliance's goal is to stem the tide childhood obesity by 2010 and to help all children live longer and healthier lives.

Today about 25 million kids in the United States are overweight or obese. In part because they lack access to healthy foods and recreation facilities, children living with families with lower incomes are more likely to be overweight or obese. The result is an increase in serious health problems such as high cholesterol, high blood pressure, stroke, Type 2 diabetes and depression early in life.

There Goes the Neighborhood! TPS 20 Moves to Webster



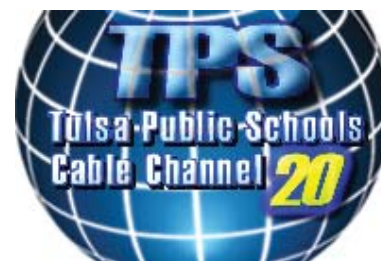
Production Manager Roger Shideler and Station Manager Lisa Ruffin do a little heavy lifting in the move from the ESC to Webster High School.

After years of operation in the Education Service Center, TPS 20, the district's cable television station, relocated to Webster High School the week before Thanksgiving. Station staff members will run TPS 20 from the renovated gymnasium on the historic Red Fork campus, where students will gain hands-on experience on state-of-the-art video production equipment. TPS 20 is a vital component of Webster's new, interest-based magnet high school for broadcast, digital media and marketing.

In response to this growing epidemic, TPS joined the Alliance for a Healthier Generation's Healthy Schools Program. HSP provides support for schools to create healthier environments that promote physical activity and healthy eating among students and staff. Schools that create these environments—in the classroom, cafeteria, gym, hallway and playground—are nationally recognized through the HSP awards program.

The following Tulsa Public Schools have committed to creating a healthier school environment for their students and staff: Addams, Alcott, Anderson, Cherokee, Columbus, Cooper, Disney, Eugene Field, Greeley, Hawthorne, Kerr, Mitchell, Park, Peary, Penn, Remington, Robertson and Whitman elementary schools; Clinton, Lewis and Clark, and Foster middle schools; KIPP Tulsa Academy; Booker T. Washington, Daniel Webster, East Central, and McLain high schools.

To learn more about the Healthy Schools Program log on to www.HealthierGeneration.org/Schools or call 1-888-KID-HLTH.



Video Production Specialist Jake Snow acquaints himself with his new, state-of-the-art digs at Webster High School for Broadcasting, Digital Media and Marketing.



TPS Job Opportunities:

One or more vacancies exist in the following positions. Those qualified and interested in such positions should file a written request or application and resume within five (5) calendar days (excluding holidays) of the date of this notice.

Computer Operator II – (12-months)

Reports to: Director of ISS Operations

Minimum Qualifications: High school diploma; MVS master console operations experience preferably in a sysplex environment; IPL and POR system recovery experience; TSO/ISPF panel operations; familiarity with scheduling software and Knowledge of CICS, Windows XP, JCL.

Duties and Responsibilities: Monitor multiple MVS consoles, perform z/OS console operations, perform HMC operations including POR and IPL, coordinate system restart recovery, coordinate production job and recovery, monitor production job schedules, etc. Requires shift work in a 24X7 environment.

Compensation: TS – 05 hourly
Date of Notice: December 8, 2008

Warehouse Distribution Specialist V (Two positions)

Reports to: Warehouse Supervisor

Minimum Qualifications: High school diploma or equivalent. Commercial driver's license (Class B) or have passed the written test prior to employment and successfully complete the road test within 45-days of employment. Experience in warehouse operations preferred. Ability to operate pallet jacks and forklift; lift 50 pounds repetitively; and bend, stoop and climb.

Duties and Responsibilities: Drive delivery truck, load and unload trucks, receive, record and stock materials as required, take inventory, prepare paperwork, read and fill warehouse requisitions.

Compensation: Grade 9 hourly
Date of Notice: December 8, 2008

PC Hardware/Software Technician

Report to: Administration Manager

Minimum Qualifications: Must have a high school diploma or equivalent. A+ certification required, HP/Dell certification a plus. Minimum three years PC and peripheral support and trouble shooting experience; working knowledge of Windows desktop (98, 2000, XP and Vista) and Apple PC; must be able to effectively deal with peers, vendors and users at all levels.

Duties and Responsibilities: Duties include installation and support of district hardware and software at administrative and school sites. Interface with vendors on third part support or maintenance agreements. Troubleshooting advanced hardware and software problems and assist in making recommendations for district hardware and software support level.

Compensation: TS - 9
Date of Notice: December 8, 2008

Executive Secretary (12-months)

Reports to: Area Superintendent

Minimum Qualifications: High school diploma or equivalent required. College degree preferred. Minimum of five years office/secretarial experience; proficient in MS Windows, Word, Excel and PowerPoint; proficient in use of the Internet; excellent communication, organizational and secretarial skills required; excellent customer service skills required; maintain confidentiality in school/business matter and exercise initiative and good judgment in making decisions.

Duties and Responsibilities: Provide administrative assistance to the area superintendent in the efficient management of the district; complete reports of performance in the district using the state and district measures; prepare correspondence, reports, graphic presentations and other projects as requested; manage multiple projects in a fast-paced environment and ensure the completion and follow-up thereof; receive and screen callers in a professional, polite and tactful manner; give assistance in the operation of the office; refer callers to other employees, officials or departments when warranted; maintain appointment calendar; provide appropriate meeting materials; prepare appropriate reports, paperwork, travel arrangements, and expense reports for the area superintendent. Serve as liaison for the area superintendent with other district staff and the public and perform other duties as assigned by the area superintendent.

Compensation: BL-3
Date of Notice: December 8, 2008

More TPS Job Opportunities:

A vacancy may exist in the following position. Those qualified and interested in this position should file a written request or application and resume within twenty (20) calendar days (excluding holidays) of the date of this notice.



Counselor—Carver Middle School (188-days)

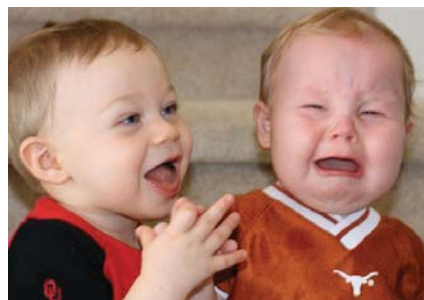
Reports to: Principal

Minimum Qualifications: Master's degree with Oklahoma certification as a school counselor.

Duties and Responsibilities: Works with building staff in planning and developing the school's total guidance effort which may include: individual crisis counseling with students and/or parents; group and/or classroom guidance; attendance problems; provide information to parents and students in educational and vocational awareness; interpret child's cumulative record; observe children for educational purposes; identify economic needs; refer students with special needs to school or community agencies, make home visits if necessary.

Compensation: Teacher's Salary Schedule plus extended days & stipend

Date of Notice: December 8, 2008



LAUGH OF THE WEEK!

**Bob Stoops and
Mack Brown**

The Early Years



December 15, 7 p.m.
School Board Meeting
ESC Selman Room

December 13, 6 p.m.
Parade of Lights
Downtown Tulsa

December 22-January 2
Winter Break - No Classes

Human Resource Contacts

Certified Applicants

Julia Edwards

Phone (918) 746-6286

FAX (918) 746-6647

email: edwarju@tulsaschools.org

Support - Technical Applicants

Deborah Black

Phone (918) 746-6184

FAX (918) 746-6342

email: blackde@tulsaschools.org

Administrative Applicants

Linda Earnest

Phone (918) 746-6146

FAX (918) 746-6144

email: earneli@tulsaschools.org

Support (TA/Para, Clerical) Applicants

Marsha Owen

Phone (918) 746-6517

FAX (918) 746-6144

email: owenma@tulsaschools.org

Sick Leaves

The following employees have been approved to receive donated sick days:

Brisker, Delois
Henderson, Andrea
Walker, Jennifer
Walsh, Anastacia
Wiggs, Phyllis
Wyman, Sandra



If you would like to donate a day of your sick leave, please request the appropriate form from your site secretary. Participation is voluntary and confidential.



Requests to distribute materials at TPS sites go through Janice Jones in the Public Information Office, 746-6298 or jonesja@tulsaschools.org.

Skelly Drive Baptist Church – Parents' Night Out
CUSA Championship – Rising Stars in Tulsa