

# SKYHAWK NEWS

Volume 8, Issue 5 – May, 2009

Hill Campus of Arts and  
Sciences

FROM OUR PRINCIPAL.....DON ROY



## Parents,

- Thanks so much for your support these past months. Initial reports on our recent Benchmark exams are very encouraging—showing significant gains school-wide in reading, writing, and math. I am confident that these gains will also be reflected in our CSAP results when they come out this summer.
- During the next few months the Hill teachers and administration will work together to revise and refine the curriculum for our Thursday Seminar classes, revisit our School Improvement Plan goals and strategies, and attend many workshops to ensure that our instructional methodologies are aligned with research-based best practices. Our foreign language teacher, Mr. Eastman, is revising his curriculum, as only year-long Spanish will be offered at 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades. This will provide students with a much more solid foundation when they leave Hill for High School. At 6<sup>th</sup> grade, we will continue to offer Exploratory Spanish as part of the nine week electives. Also, our Language Arts teachers will be trained in Springboard, a new college prep reading and writing curriculum.
- Parents, please help us enforce our policy on IPODS and electronic games, which are best left at home. If they turn up missing at school, we cannot be held responsible. Also, remind your child that all cell phones must be turned off and kept out of sight during school hours.
- For the most current information on end-of-year activities, please visit the Hill web site at [hill.dpsk12.org](http://hill.dpsk12.org).

Thanks again for all you have done in support of Hill! Enjoy your summer!

Sincerely,

*Don Roy*

Principal,  
Hill Campus of Arts & Sciences  
720.423.9680



# SKYHAWK NEWS

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We're on the Web!

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Talk to any Hill teacher by email!



## Continuation

Continuation is quickly approaching. The ceremony will take place in the auditorium on Thursday, May 28<sup>th</sup> from 10:00-11:00. Please have your child at school **no later than 9:15**. Students will report directly to their first period class. After the ceremony, all 8<sup>th</sup> grade students and guests are invited to the cafeteria for an informal reception. Students and guests are free to leave anytime after Continuation.

Students are asked to remember to wear nice clothing for this formal ceremony. We recommend a suit, or a shirt and tie for our young men, and a dress or skirt for our young ladies.

Due to limited seating in our auditorium, we are asking that each student limit his or her guests to two people. Please feel free to video this event for other family members.

Students must have all fines paid in order to participate in Continuation. Outstanding fine lists are posted outside the main office. If you have any questions about fines, please speak to the Treasurer, Ms. Byers-Norton. In addition, students suspended after April 27<sup>th</sup> will be withheld from Continuation.

We certainly wish all of our exiting 8<sup>th</sup> grade students the best of luck in their high school careers and with all of their future endeavors. The Hill Campus staff thanks each one of you for the privilege of educating your children.

*Theresa Dansky*

Assistant Principal

Hill Campus of Arts and Sciences

## END OF YEAR REMINDERS

- All Fines & Fees must be paid for students to participate in the end of year fieldtrips & Continuation festivities. Lists are posted outside the office. Call the treasurer at 720-423-9680.
- Milwaukee Street Tavern will donate 10% of your check to Hill. Just tell the wait staff when ordering that you want to donate to Hill Campus. They are located at 201 Milwaukee Street in Cherry Creek North.



## ART DEPARTMENT NEWS

This year's student art exhibit marks the 10th anniversary of this annual event, and promises to be the BIGGEST and BEST show ever with more than 300 paintings, drawings and sculptures. Students who have had work juried into the show will receive special invitations the first week of May, and all other students are welcome to come with a parent to view the art, have some cake and witness the awards presentation. It will be held in the cafeteria on Thursday, May 14th, from 6:00 – 7:00. Awards will be announced at 6:45.

## FAMILY NIGHT

We would like to thank all the parents that participated with Family Night this last year. Please look in your August 2009 newsletter for information on plans for next year. Have a safe and fun summer break! Carol Bubes, Social Worker and Linda Burdick, School Psychologist

## Important Dates



May 7, Thursday	6 <sup>th</sup> grade to the Zoo
May 8, Friday	Shakespeare Festival
May 13, Wednesday	6 <sup>th</sup> grade – DU Field Trip
May 14, Thursday	10 <sup>th</sup> Annual Art Exhibit 6-7PM Music Showcase and Band/Choir Concert 7PM
May 15, Friday	Late Start – 10:30AM
May 19, Tuesday	D/HH Picnic 6PM
May 20, Wednesday 6:30PM	Ms. Frisch's 6 <sup>th</sup> grade Magazine Showcase
May 21, Thursday	Locker clean out
May 25, Monday	Memorial Day – NO SCHOOL
May 27, Wednesday	8 <sup>th</sup> grade to Elitches
May 28, Thursday	8 <sup>th</sup> grade Continuation 10AM 7 <sup>th</sup> grade to Pirates Cove 6 <sup>th</sup> grade to The Bay
May 29, Friday	Assessment Date – NO SCHOOL

### ***Kudos to Kendall!***

How many of you knew that right here at Hill, we have a Junior Achievement Ambassador? She is eighth grader, Kendall Bundy!

Each year the Colorado Business Journal honors a community member with an induction into the Colorado Business Hall of Fame. This is marked with a black-tie dinner with over 1200 business leaders in attendance.

For the past four years, it is our Kendall Bundy, as a Junior Achievement Ambassador, in front of an audience of 1200, who has introduced an inductee. This year she awarded Sam Manes posthumously.

Kendall has found that with each year, she gains confidence. Part of that confidence is derived from memorizing her script, rehearsing and rehearsing (when she's not at swim practice, practicing and practicing) and then she's ready. "I love speaking in front of people!" She admits, too, that a bonus is getting a new dress for the occasion.

Kendall was first nominated for her ambassadorship by a fifth grade teacher at Steck Elementary. In the succeeding years, in order to continue being an ambassador, Kendall has written essays where she has highlighted her love of public-speaking and enterprise. (She currently runs a baby-sitting business which she actively markets.)

When Kendall Bundy is not busy on her speaking circuit or at swim practice, she helps organize the annual Bowl-a-Thon or golf tournament fundraisers.

Here's to you, Kendall, "knock 'em dead" at South!

### ***This Year's Line on the Wall***

Many of us have the tradition of measuring our children by standing them against a wall or a door and our making a line by balancing a pen on the tops of their heads, making a line on the wall and marking the date. This is our evidence that our child is growing up.

In the book, [Yardsticks, Children in the Classroom Ages 4-14](#), by Chip Wood, Turner Falls MA: Northeast Foundation for Children, Inc. (2007), the author also measures children by growth patterns and their implications in the classroom. The following is excerpted from [Yardsticks](#).

**Twelve-Year-Olds: Growth Patterns**

**Physical:**

- Very energetic; need lots of sleep, exercise and food
- Enjoy physical education and sports
- Boys and girls both have growth spurts
- Girls show signs of puberty; most are menstruating

**Social Emotional:**

- Adult personality begins to emerge
- Capable of self-awareness, insight and empathy; more reasonable and tolerant than at eleven
- Enthusiastic and uninhibited; appear to feel secure
- Care more about peer opinions than those of teachers and parents
- Will initiate their own activities without adult prompting

**Language:**

- Understand and enjoy sarcasm, double meanings, word play and more sophisticated jokes
- Enjoy conversation with adults and peers
- Value peer vocabulary (slang)

**Cognitive:**

- More able to think abstractly
- May begin to excel at a subject (such as science) or a skill (such as drawing)
- Can and will see both sides of an argument
- Very interested in civics, history, current events, politics, social justice and environmental issues, as well as pop culture and the latest cool clothes, watches, etc.
- Increasingly able to organize their thoughts and their work

**Thirteen-Year-Olds: Growth Patterns****Physical:**

- Lots of physical energy
- Skin problems are common; hygiene becomes more important
- Most girls are menstruating and have reached almost full physical development
- Most boys are showing first signs of puberty (they will reach full development at fourteen or fifteen) and are physically awkward

**Social-Emotional:**

- Very concerned about personal appearance, but unconcerned about the neatness of their personal environment (rooms at home, lockers or desks at school)
- Often quieter than twelve's or fourteens
- Like to be left alone when at home
- Moody and sensitive; anger can flare up suddenly
- Their feelings are easily hurt, and they can easily hurt others' feelings; frequent meanness may stem from being insecure or scared
- Girls tend to focus on close friendships; boys tend to travel in small groups or gangs
- Girls show more interest in older boys than in boys their own age
- Spend hours on the phone or computer playing video games and watching TV
- Feel and exert a lot of peer pressure concerning what to wear, how to talk, what music to listen to, etc.
- Boys still engage in a lot of horseplay and practical jokes
- Both girls and boys show a strong interest in sports
- Worry about school work
- Increasingly punctuate their humor with sarcasm
- Enjoy collecting things (jewelry, make-up, music, movies)

**Language:**

- Want to know and use current peer language
- Answer parents with a single word or loud, extreme language

**Cognitive:**

- Some beginning to be more capable of abstract reasoning
- Tentative, worried and unwilling to take risks on tough intellectual tasks
- Like to challenge intellectual as well as social authority

**Fourteen-Year-Olds: Growth Patterns****Physical:**

- Need lots of exercise, snacks and sleep
- Girls are almost fully developed
- Growth spurts continue for boys, and their upper body strength begins to develop
- Both genders are more interested in sex; some are sexually active
- Very energetic, generally healthy; because being with peers is so important, most would rather go to school than stay home when they're sick

**Social-Emotional:**

- Crave adult connection even while fighting for their own identity; need adults to listen and negotiate rules and requirements
- Often embarrassed to be seen with their parents; fiercely critical of parents' dress, habits, friends and ideas
- Adult personality continues to develop
- Like to cram as much into each day as they possibly can
- Typically loud and rambunctious
- Are in a "know it all" stage, in which they especially dislike and respond poorly to adult lectures, feeling they know what will be said once they hear the first few words
- Rites of passage can be important to emerging sense of self
- Can be a pain at home and a star at school

**Language:**

- Very concerned with using the slang that is popular with peers but also want to learn how to communicate in the adult world
- Will engage more in group discussion
- Interested in word meanings and in developing a broader vocabulary

**Cognitive:**

- Better at figuring out cause and effect and doing other abstract thinking
- More willing to admit an error and try something a second or third time
- Very aware of problems in the larger world and generally still invested in learning more and finding solutions
- Like technology and learning how things work

If you would like to "read more about it!" please feel free to stop by my office across from Ms. Bubes' anytime to borrow it or other resources. Thank you, Cassie Perlmutter, G/T Itinerant-Wednesdays.

[Cassandra\\_Perlmutter@dpsk12.org](mailto:Cassandra_Perlmutter@dpsk12.org)

### **MARGARET SCHAACK SCORES HIGH**

(7th grader is in top 10th percentile in nation)

Hill Campus of Arts and Sciences' seventh grader, Margaret Schaack, will be recognized for her outstanding academic talent, this Saturday, May 9, 2009, at the University of Denver.

Margaret took college entrance exams as part of the Rocky Mountain Academic Talent Search which include the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) and American College Testing (ACT). Her exam results were in the top 10th percentile nationally which automatically allows her to participate in summer classes at the University of Denver. She will stay on campus with students from across the country and pursue subjects in depth.

Zoe Austermann, another Hill student, too, has participated, and our Gifted and Talented teacher, Cassie Perlmutter will be a speaker at the ceremony.

For more information, please visit: [CITY@du.edu](mailto:CITY@du.edu). The ceremony is at the Ritchie Center, Hamilton Auditorium from 10am-12pm, May 9, 2009.



### **MR. VESCIERI'S MONTHLY MATH PROBLEMS**

#### **Mother's Day**

Mother's Day is a holiday honoring mothers and is celebrated on the second Sunday in May in the United States. Mothers often receive gifts on this day. In 1914 President Woodrow Wilson declared the first national Mother's Day. Mother's Day has become one of the most commercially successful U.S. holidays.

Anna asked six of her third grade friends for the age in years of their mothers.

Friend	Ashley	Dawn	Jennifer	Laura	Sarah	Shawna
Age in years	28	36	27	31	35	29

What is the positive difference between their mean and median age?

Brent takes his mother to a restaurant for Mother's Day Brunch. They can select as much food as they want from the buffet for a cost of \$15.00 each or they can order from the Ala Carte menu and pay for each item separately.

Ala Carte	Orange Juice	Toast	Cereal	2 Eggs	Bacon	Fruit	Potatoes
Cost	\$1.50	\$1.75	\$1.50	\$2.00	\$1.75	\$1.50	\$1.50

Brent orders the buffet and his mother orders one of each item from the Ala Carte menu. There is a 6% sales tax and a 15% service fee, both of which are based solely on the price of the food. What is the amount of the total bill including the tax and service fee?

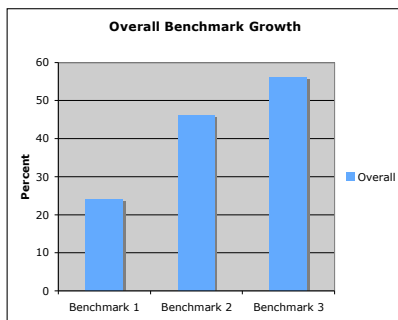
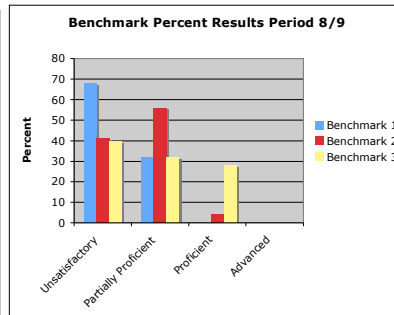
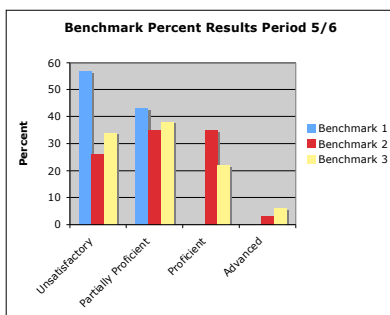
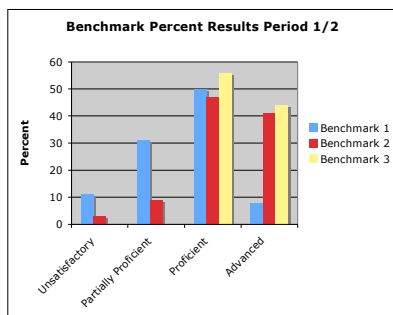
Tasha is making 5 flowerpots for her mother for Mother's Day. Each flowerpot is a cylindrical can that has a diameter of 7 inches and a height of 8 inches. She fills each flowerpot  $\frac{3}{4}$  full with potting soil. What is the total number of cubic inches of potting soil she needs for the 5 flowerpots? Express your answer to the nearest whole number.

Richard is making a rectangular poster for his mother for Mother's Day. The poster is in proportion to a rectangular 3-inch by 5-inch card that has the words "MOM, I LOVE YOU" written in letters that are 0.5 inches tall. The shortest side of the poster is 3 feet. What is the height in inches of each of the letters on the poster?

### **MS. CALVIN'S BENCHMARK RESULTS**

We had a huge growth this year in Ms. Calvin's math class. Period 1/2, as a class, scored

100% proficient. That is AWESOME! Here are the charts for all the benchmarks and the total overall growth to proficient or higher. The overall growth from the first benchmark to the last was 32%.



### The Music Minute

Wow! Another year is almost done! It has been great working with all of the students at Hill to get music back in the school and I am really looking forward to next year!

Don't forget to stick around for the final concert of the year on Thursday, May 14, 2009. The concert will begin at 7:30 PM in the Hill Campus auditorium and will be full of soloists, choir, band, and orchestra music in celebration of an outstanding year! Refreshments will be served after the concert in the lobby.

Be sure to come early to check out the Music Composition Showcase. This will start at about 7:00 PM in the lobby outside the auditorium and will display songs that students composed as part of a class project incorporating language arts, math, visual art, and of course music. All of the projects look great and there is definitely a lot of musical creativity being shown in each class!!!

**NEW CHOIR DIRECTOR:** I would like to take a quick minute to introduce our new choir director for next year. Mr. Russ Smith has taught for many years in Denver Public Schools and is currently teaching choir at South High School and general music at Valverde Elementary. We are excited to have Mr. Smith as part of our team next year as we continue to bring music back to Hill!!!!

**TRI-M MUSIC HONOR SOCIETY:** I am proud to announce that Hill Campus of Arts and Sciences now has a charter membership in the Tri-M Music Honor Society!!! Hill Campus has chapter number 5999 of the Tri-M Music Honor Society and the chapter's purpose is to inspire music participation, to create enthusiasm for scholarship, to stimulate a desire to render service, and to promote leadership in the music students of Hill Campus. Tri-M Honor Society is the national honor society for secondary school music students and we are excited to induct our charter members in the Fall of 2009!!!

A HUGE thank you needs to go out to the Hill Campus PTA for your donations and support throughout the school year! We definitely couldn't have had such a great year and as much interest in the music program without your support and encouragement. The PTA has helped to purchase new instruments for the music department along with other necessities needed to make it all work! Thank you! Thank you!! Thank you!!!

As our program continues to grow we find ourselves in need of more instruments and supplies to support our Hill Campus musicians. If you would like to donate your time, old instruments, or make a monetary donation to the Hill Campus Music Program, please contact Mr. Funk

(Shawn\_Funk@dpsk12.org or (720) 423-9729).

Many thanks to all of you who have volunteered your time to help out the music program throughout the year. I appreciate your enthusiasm in helping out the music program. If you are interested in volunteering for the music program, please contact Mr. Funk at Shawn\_Funk@dpsk12.org or (720) 423-9729. We have many opportunities so please let Mr. Funk know what you want to do and we can get that arranged!!!

Mr. Funk is also planning to host a **Volunteer Work Day** in the band and choir rooms sometime after our May 14<sup>th</sup> concert in order to prepare instruments, the music library, and supplies for next year prior to going on summer vacation. Students and family members are encouraged to attend – we can use all the help we can get!!! Please keep an eye out for more information that will be sent home in the next couple of weeks. This will include the exact date and time of the work session.

### UPCOMING EVENTS

**Music Showcase – Thursday, May 14, 2009 @ 7:00 PM**

**End-of-Year Concert - Thursday, May 14, 2009 @ 7:30 PM**

*Refreshments will be served after the concert!!!*

Hill Campus of Arts and Sciences Auditorium



### PTA News

- **Teacher Appreciation Week** is May 4<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> and this is a great time to show our wonderful teachers just how much we really appreciate all that they do every day. We are blessed to have such an outstanding group of teachers who give their all to our kids and we hope to make this year's week very special. Volunteers are also needed for this so if you are interested please contact any of the PTA Officers.

### Fundraising News:

- **Box Tops:**  
Congratulations to Alexandria Ackerman our March Box Tops for Education winner. The April winner will be announced this week. The May winner will be announced the last week of school. Please collect Box Tops over the summer. We will announce a Summer winner the last week of August.
- **School Supply Sale:** Our first annual sale of pre-packaged school supplies was a huge success. The PTA realized a profit of \$300 that will benefit everyone at Hill. We are hoping for greater involvement next year so that even more funds will be raised to be put back into the betterment of our school.

### Keeping Informed:

Please remember to check the Hill website at [www.hill.dpsk12.org](http://www.hill.dpsk12.org) for all the news and announcements that will keep you up-to-date and informed. It is full of useful information that will help you stay in touch with all the things that are happening at Hill.

### PTA Call for Involvement:

I've been reflecting on my son's academic career lately, realizing that we are close to ending yet another school year. 7<sup>th</sup> grade! I tend to do this as we reach certain passages in my family's lives: Preschool to Kindergarten (huge), Kindergarten to 1<sup>st</sup> grade (he wasn't a little kid anymore). I remember the last day of 5<sup>th</sup> grade, on the playground at Steck, wondering if it would ever be this good again, this rewarding? Would I ever feel so close to a school and the faculty again?

The answer is a resounding **YES!**

So, you know how you find yourself looking up toward your right eyebrow every now and then, trying to recall a piece of information or the lyrics of a song? I looked up in search of the source of my pleasure with Hill Campus of the Arts and Sciences and came up with the following conclusion: **INVOLVEMENT.**

Families enter middle school with an urban myth implanted ... your kids don't need you anymore. "They need to learn to be independent young adults. You can't protect them anymore. They'll be fine."

For the most part this is true. They learn, through a process, how to become more-independent young adults, but this does not happen magically between the end of 5<sup>th</sup> grade and the start of 6<sup>th</sup> grade. Students enter middle school 78 days older, nervous and facing a totally new learning environment. It's true we can't protect them in the same ways, but they need to know that we are still there for them. And,

it's accurate that they will be fine. We've chosen a good school with responsible leadership surrounding them during the day.

But, they do need us. They need to see us in their school. It validates and supports the kids' new adventure. They may not run up to you in the hall and give you a big hug or a high five, but they will know you are there and they will think that it's cool (or whatever word they currently use). And, it's cool for us, too. It's incredibly cool to be involved with our gifted and creative teachers, to feel the atmosphere of the school, and to be a part of what makes it tick.

Now, back to some personal reflections. As we approached the first day of school at Hill, my new 6<sup>th</sup> grader suggested to me that I should be even more involved than I had been with the PTA at Steck – even suggesting that I should be the President of the PTA (I believe he feels that this somehow will give him a leg up). I thought about it for a while and then dismissed the notion, mentally citing my total lack of experience.

A few weeks into the school year, I attended a meeting bringing new Hill families together with a discussion of PTA. Then, the inevitable question of who could help. The room quieted. A woman I had just met, Deb Proto-Maring, leaned toward me and offered, "If you co-chair with me I'm in." I agreed. I was nervous, but my son was pleased with the decision. The year went by so quickly. We accomplished our number-one goal: increasing communication. The updated website, new email messages, more phone messages, and our volunteer database helped us accomplish that goal.

Think hard about volunteering. No experience you say? Bring your spirit, your energy, an open mind, a desire to be part of what will keep Hill a school that future families can't wait to get to. Be a part for an hour, a day, every week, every month. Consider becoming a PTA officer, and don't worry about your lack of experience, because the great volunteers who have done this before you will have your back! We're not going anywhere for another year, but it's time to turn the leadership of the PTA over to a new group that will take us through the next year.

I wish to thank fellow officers of the past two years for their commitment to the PTA and to Hill Campus: Co-Presidents Deb Proto-Maring and Lisa Lancelot; Treasurers Julie Gendelman and Jan Downing; Secretaries Jan Bundy and Marie Destito; and our Webmaster, Dana Franklin. We also owe a huge debt of gratitude to all the volunteer families who made the past two years memorable as they gave their time, energy and money to a multitude of projects: Dollar-A-Day, Teacher Appreciation luncheons, academic team support, field trips, History Day, the Book Fair, classroom projects, Box Tops, sports, and so much more. The PTA couldn't accomplish anything without the faculty's support of our endeavors, and we hope that we have shown that, as a family of volunteers, if you ask us we will come.

We all look forward to an exciting new school year, and welcome all of the new families who will be joining us next fall. But whether you're an old-timer or a newcomer, we look forward to seeing you, and discovering the new dimensions you will bring to us through your involvement in our school. Have a great summer!

With warm regards,

*Ann Davis*

Co-President

