



March 11, 2009

Board At Work



News from the Pattonville School District Board of Education

Celebrating Seuss and reading across Pattonville



Drummond Elementary student Travion Warren poses with the Cat in the Hat during a recent visit to his school.

The Cat in the Hat was making the rounds in Pattonville recently - if not in person, then in spirit. The focus on the famous Cat at elementary schools in Pattonville last week was part of Read Across America, a nationwide campaign that emphasizes reading. Sponsored by the National Education Association, "Read Across America" marks Dr. Seuss' birthday and encourages children and adults to read together. Schools enjoyed visits from the Cat in the Hat, held reading sessions in pajamas, sponsored Family Reading Nights and other reading activities to build excitement for reading. The Cat was chaperoned by student volunteers from Pattonville High School.



The Cat visits a classroom at Remington Traditional School where he received a warm greeting.

Below, Isabella Hutchison-Dibello, age 2 enjoys a book and a snuggle with a stuffed Grinch during the Parents As Teachers Dr. Seuss Birthday Party.



At left, Brendan and Shawn Hulahlan enjoy a game of Bingo with their grandmother, Loretta Hulahlan, during the Family Reading Night at Rose Acres Elementary. Families played Bingo featuring the names and characters from Dr. Seuss books and earned books as prizes.



Board approves economic agreement for certified staff

The Pattonville Board of Education approved an economic agreement with its certified staff for an increase in salary and benefits of 4.25 percent for each of the next two school years. Certified staff members include teachers, counselors and librarians. The agreement is a result of board members and administrative staff holding discussions on salary and policy issues with representatives of the Pattonville National Education Association (PNEA) through the district's Professional Studies Committee.

One of the Pattonville school board's financial goals continues to be offering competitive salaries to attract and retain quality staff members. As with this agreement, the board has been able to fund raises by reducing staff through retirements and normal resignations without impacting services in the classroom or raising class sizes. This is done by carefully monitoring student enrollment and class sizes and by reviewing each vacant position to determine whether it is still needed or whether the work can be accomplished in another way. Over the past 10 years, the district has reduced certified, administrative and support staff by 15 percent or 140 positions, which has saved the district more than \$20 million. Initial projections for the 2009-2010 school year include a reduction of 14 more certified and support staff positions through attrition.

"We budget conservatively and look for efficiencies where possible so we can continue to provide competitive salaries and compensation for the individuals who take care of our students," said Chief Financial Officer Ron Orr. "We do this while working to maintain a balanced budget."

Orr said the district is able to do this while also maintaining one of the lowest tax rates in St. Louis County. The district's average tax rate is typically 30 cents less than the county average, and in the last three or four years, the district has either reduced or maintained its tax rate for residential home owners.

"We carefully monitor the economic situation and have been planning for this current economic downturn for two years," Orr said. "We have worked diligently to be in a position where we could continue to invest in our staff, while also being sensitive to the issues facing our families and residents."

Orr said the membership of the PNEA ratified the economic agreement by an overwhelming majority. Under the agreement, a new teacher with a bachelor's degree will earn a starting salary of \$38,500. Pattonville's experienced teachers with a master's degree and 30 additional hours of coursework will earn \$79,410 at the top of their salary schedule (with at least 18 years in Pattonville). Based on the new salary schedule, it is estimated that the average salary for teachers in Pattonville next year will be about \$58,000.

The board is expected to take action on a proposed economic agreement with support staff members at the April 14 board meeting. Support staff members include secretaries, custodians, food service staff, bus drivers and others who support Pattonville's educational programs.

Program enables PHS graduates to receive paid tuition

Pattonville High School students have a unique opportunity not available to all high schoolers in Missouri. If Pattonville graduates meet certain eligibility requirements, the state of Missouri will pay for two years of tuition to any Missouri community college or career education school through the A+ Schools program. Students that attend some four-year universities in Missouri have earned additional scholarships for having completed the A+ program. Pattonville earned the A+ School designation in 2002, making Pattonville students eligible for having their tuition paid by the state if they maintain a 95 percent attendance rate, good citizenship, at least a 2.5 grade point average and volunteer 50 hours in the area of mentoring and tutoring younger students.

Pattonville school board members reviewed an evaluation of Pattonville's A+ program during its March 10 board meeting. The report showed nearly 500 seniors (or one in four graduates) since 2004 have been eligible to receive the A+ incentive. Becky Krohn, A+ coordinator, and Dr. Jennifer Allen, high school assistant principal, presented the report and said school staff will be working to increase the number of students enrolled in the program and the number of graduates that fulfill all the A+ requirements. In order to do that, staff will incorporate the discussion of students' A+ status into the one-on-one meetings students and families have with guidance counselors during registration. They will also send a letter to parents of eligible freshmen in January to explain their eligibility in the program and provide parents with an enrollment form. These two new strategies will be incorporated into the other normal recruiting and awareness activities that currently take place for the A+ program.

Superintendent's Update

Michael A. Fulton, Ed.D, Superintendent

St. Louis Spelling Bee Finalist

Congratulations to Eric Bateman, an eighth-grader at Holman Middle School, for earning a spot as one of 33 finalists in the 2009 St. Louis Post-Dispatch Spelling Bee. These finalists will compete in the 23rd annual Spelling Bee on Saturday, March 14 at Maryville University. More than 60,000 students from charter, home, private and public schools in Missouri and Illinois competed in school-level spelling bees to earn one of 300 spots in the Spelling Bee semi-finals. The finalists were chosen from among those 300 students. The winner of the finalist round will advance to the national finals at the 82nd annual Scripps Howard Spelling Bee in Washington, D.C.

PEF Dinner Dance Auction

Thanks to the Pattonville Education Foundation for another great dinner dance auction. About 230 people packed the Maryland Heights Centre Saturday night to help the Foundation raise funds to support grants for teachers in the district. Congratulations to parent Janet Johnson who was named a Friend of the Foundation for all her work and support on behalf of the organization. The group also recognized the individuals who founded the organization 15 years ago: Patrice Rosner, Ken Buhlig, Tom Huddleston, Jim Valk, Rich Gould, Maggie Borgmann (the only original member to still be on the Board of Trustees), Robert Dick, Hubert Hoosman Jr., and Fredricka Lainoff.

Taste of Pattonville coming April 2

More than 25 area restaurants will be represented at this year's third annual "Taste of Pattonville" Sampler Night, sponsored by the Pattonville High School Renaissance and Character Education Committee. The event will take place from 5:30 to 8 p.m., April 2 in the high school cafeteria. Tickets are \$5 for children in kindergarten through fifth-grade and \$10 in advance or \$12 at the door for sixth-graders through adults. For tickets or to host a food booth, please contact Beth Moritz at Pattonville High School at (314) 213-8051, ext. 8209.

Pattonville Career/Volunteer Fair

The Pattonville High School Annual Career and Volunteer Fair will be held from 7:30 to 10 a.m., Friday, March 27 at the high school. The fair is an opportunity for high school students to meet and network with technical schools, organizations sponsoring apprenticeships and employers. Businesses large and small that hire young adults are invited to attend, along with various career and technical schools and apprenticeship representatives. Volunteer organizations may also participate. For more information, contact Kim Stinnett, Pattonville High School library media specialist, at (314) 213-8129.

Battle of the Burets

Here's your chemistry lesson for the day. On Thursday March 5, four students in Kathy Shearrer's Advanced Placement Chemistry class competed and excelled in the 16th Annual Battle of the Burets at Florissant Valley Community College sponsored by the American Chemical Society. Juniors Gina Glogovac and Rachel Roemmich placed fourth in their heat out of seven teams. Juniors Sydnie Frazier and Ana Solario placed first in their heat out of seven teams and were within 1 percent of the correct answer! Frazier and Solario advanced on to the final round and earned fourth place. What's a buret? A buret is a piece of glassware used to accurately measure volumes of liquids in milliliters. Shearrer said her students had to find the concentration of an unknown acid given a known concentration of a base. To do this they mixed some of the unknown acid with some of the known base until they got a pink color, then calculated the concentration of the acid. They had six minutes to complete the work, and they came within 1 percent of the correct concentration. Shearrer said the students trained for three weeks for this competition.



Juniors Ana Solario and Sydnie Frazier with their winning buret.

Business Bits

Bills Paid

The Pattonville Board of Education approved paying the following bills on March 10:

- \$1,984,177.65 for regular bills;
- \$88,827.73 for cafeteria bills; and
- \$2,096 to Cooperating School Districts for the balance (40 percent) of the CharacterPlus membership dues for the 2008-2009 school year.

Board Actions

The Pattonville Board of Education on March 10:

- Lodged for action updates to Policy GBA (Equal Opportunity Employment), Regulation BBB-R (Board Member Elections - Filing for Candidacy), and policies BBB (School Board Elections), BCA (Board Organizational Meeting), BCC (Appointed Board Officials), and FF (Naming Facilities); to see proposed changes, visit the district's BoardDocs Web site; a vote is expected on these updates during the April 14 board meeting;
- Approved the adoption of Grades 6 through 8 communication arts instructional materials, which includes student texts, teacher resource materials and software, at a cost of \$142,042;
- Approved the adoption of instructional materials for the English Language Learners program, including students texts, teacher resource materials and software, at a cost of \$66,091.34;
- Approved hiring staff members for the academic review and enrichment summer school programs;
- Authorized the superintendent to fill vacant positions and make necessary decisions relative to construction issues prior to the April 14, 2009 board meeting, with any employment and construction decisions made to be ratified by the board at the April 14, 2009 Board of Education meeting; and
- Approved a license agreement between St. Charles County and Pattonville for use of the Family Arena on June 4, 2009 or June 11, 2009 (date to be finalized by March 31, 2009), for commencement exercises for an amount not to exceed \$17,000.

Bid Awards

The Pattonville Board of Education on March 10 approved the following bid awards:

- \$5,599.36 to Tech4Learning for 254 "Frames 4" licenses with five "Frames 4" installation CDs to be used in K-12 computer labs;

- \$52,500 to Broyles Lawn Care to add the high school property to Pattonville's current lawn mowing bid (based on 35 cuts);
- \$44,000 to Satellite Sprinkler for irrigation systems at Pattonville High School's upper practice field and Drummond Elementary's athletic field; and
- \$23,624 to Glen Alspaugh for counter and cabinet projects in Pattonville High School's copy room, and in the administration office and kindergarten classrooms at Parkwood Elementary.

New Hires

- **Susan Knecht**, SIGMA gifted teacher, Holman
- **Shawna Farmer**, ninth-grade alternative teacher, High School
- **Stephanie Hruby**, mathematics, High School
- **D'Antay Mayes**, social studies, High School
- **Glenna Evans**, cook, Drummond
- **Tracy Mellring**, cook, Drummond
- **Danette Noel**, paraprofessional, Parkwood

Pattonville Online
www.psd3.org

Calendars

Pattonville maintains up-to-date calendars online. Click on the calendar tab in the left navigation column to view :

- An activities calendar of all school and district-level events
- An athletic calendar of Pattonville High School sporting events.

BoardDocs

Details of items discussed at board meetings can be found online. Click on any tab in the Web Tools menu on the right to find a link to Pattonville's BoardDocs page.

Your Board of Education

Ruth Petrov, President
Cindy Candler, Vice President
Bob Dillon, Secretary
Pat Bryant, Treasurer
Ron Kuschel, Director
Patty Polster, Director
Ralph Stahlhut, Director

Making News

Special recognition of Pattonville students, staff and volunteers

Pattonville Heights Middle School Chess Champion

Isaiah Gadson, an eighth-grader, won the 2009 Missouri Scholastic Chess Tournament 8th and Under Division Championship on Feb. 28. He won the state title by defeating the former division champion and finishing with a perfect 6-0 record.



Isaiah Gadson

International Knowledge Master Open

Two teams of seventh- and eighth-grade students in the SIGMA gifted program recently participated in the Knowledge Master Open (KMO), an online academic bowl consisting of 200 timed, multiple-choice questions. Students competed against 639 teams throughout the U.S. and the world, including teams from Egypt, France, Hong Kong, Singapore and the United Arab Emirates. The eighth-grade team placed second in Missouri and 51st in the world, placing them in the Top 10 percent of teams in the world. The team consisted of Christopher Aman, Ming Fai Chan, Cassandra Chandler, Sara Conroy, Joseph Copeland, Anjali Fernandes, Nicholas Huber, Michael Kopecky, Ethan McClain, Sierra Plume, Abigail Prueitt, David Shi, James Sorsen, Suzanne Taylor and Benjamin Trochtenberg.

The seventh-grade team placed 22nd in Missouri and 475th in the world. The team consisted of Amanda Barringhaus, Maisy Bowden, William Chaney, Kimberly Edwards, Madison Farrar, Shane Harris, Harley Hughes, Jared Hunsaker, Nilsha Khurana, Julie Knight, Marshall Leek, Angela Lindner, Tara Lowry, Jesus Mejia, Rachel Murphy, Samuel Renshaw, Danielle Siegel, Ryan Stringer, Dylan Trochtenberg, Megan Vaughn, Samuel Wellman and Alexander Welter. The students are coached by Lori Kappler.

Pattonville High School National Merit Finalist

Mary Chou, a senior, was named a National Merit Scholarship Finalist after scoring in the top half of one percent in the country on the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT), test her junior year. The test serves as the screening of program entrants. Finalists were also required to submit a substantial amount of information and fulfill additional requirements, including having an outstanding academic record, being endorsed by a school official, and providing an essay describing activities, interests and goals.



Mary Chou



Above, the eighth-grade team from Pattonville Heights placed in the Top 10 percent in the world on the Knowledge Master Open. The team included Ben Trochtenberg, Ethan McClain, Michael Kopecky, Chris Aman, Anjali Fernandes, David Shi, Cassie Chandler and Ming Chan. Below, seventh-graders who competed in the Knowledge Master Open included Kim Edwards, Harley Hughes, Sam Renshaw, Angela Lindner, Julie Knight, Jesus Mejia and Dylan Trochtenberg.



Pattonville High School Swimming/Diving State Finalist

Senior Michelle Bell qualified to compete at state and placed eighth in Missouri at the state diving competition.

State Wrestling Qualifiers

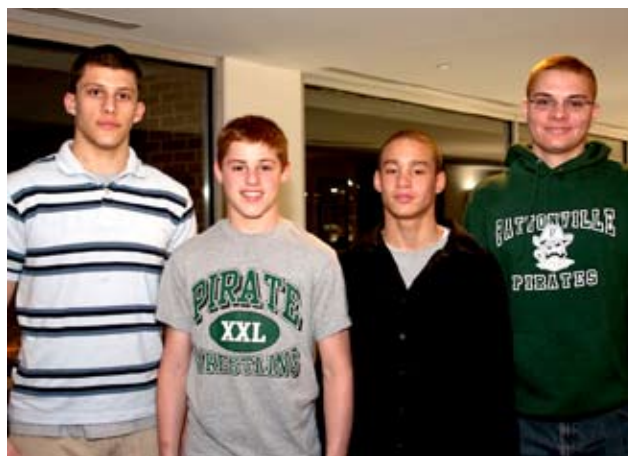
Sophomores Nick Fiquette and Austin Walls and Seniors Shane Katzler and Shane Floyd all qualified for state in wrestling.

Briar Crest Elementary Angel Character Award

First-grader Elise Thompkins recently earned the Angel Character Award from KidSmart and Mary Beth's Angel Foundation. The award recognizes and encourages the development of key character traits in students who attend one of KidSmart's eligible shopping schools. This program honors students who exhibit character traits such as cooperation, perseverance and respect and serve as role models to their peers. Thompkins was nominated by her teacher, Jeanne Gilbert, who described in detail how Thompkins demonstrates each of those traits. "Elise's kindness is authentic. Her heart is full of compassion. Whenever anyone needs help, she is beside him or her without any hesitation," Gilbert said. Thompkins was one of 10 St. Louis area students selected by an independent panel to receive the 2009 award.

Parkwood Elementary Do the Right Thing Award

First-grader Johna Hinnah recently earned a "Do the Right Thing" Award, which recognizes and encourages positive behaviors of St. Louis area children. Ten award winners are chosen each month from hundreds nominated by their parents, teachers, neighbors or friends. Hinnah received one of the February awards because of her compassion for other students such as a classmate who has Spina Bifida. Hinnah walks her to the nurse's office and to class and rides the elevator with her to keep her company. Her teacher, Julie Finder, said, "I can always count on Johna to do the right thing. She is a 7-year-old child with tremendous empathy and compassion for others." The Do the Right Thing Awards program is sponsored by KMOV Channel 4, the St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department, St. Louis County Police Department, Suburban Journals and Cooperating School Districts.



State qualifiers in wrestling are, from left, Shane Floyd, Nick Fiquette, Austin Walls and Shane Katzler. Pattonville senior Michelle Bell, shown below during a competition, placed eighth in the state in diving.



Employee of the Year Nominees

Note: A number of staff members were unable to attend the board's special recognition program on March 10 honoring the Employee of the Year nominees due to work-related conflicts. Pattonville extends our sincere appreciation for their dedication to our students and congratulates them on making the difference in the lives of another.

Teacher of the Year Nominees

The following individuals have been nominated for Pattonville Teacher of the Year:

- **Elementary/early childhood nominees**

- Tammy Anderson, Melva Arps, Sherrie Baris, Debbie Bicket, Stacey Bordes, Elizabeth Brisch, Angela Byrnes, Carmen Burrus, Rebecca Caldwell, Chris Cheatham, Sylvie Delannay, Kim Dannegger, Daniel Derby, Nancy Dixon, Joan Dobkin, Nicole Dye, Jaimyn Fairchild, Erica Farris, Tonya Ferretti, Johnetta Finley, Amy Fitch, Janet Fortune, Arlin Funk, Kristen Gartland, Julia Graham, Holly Hildreth, Christie Hillier, Michele Hopkins-Donald, Nicole Hubbard, Donna Hughes, Robin Ishmael, Lisa Kickbusch, Mary Kurth, Lisa Kraemer, Vincent Licameli, Rhonda McAfee, Pam McConnell, Gina McKelly, Patsy Middlebrooks, Phyllis Pasley, Tara Perks, Jackie Ramey, Nicole Rimell, Betsy Simpkins, Denise Simpson, Natalie Soaib, Mary Spitzmiller, Lisa Stahlhut, Karen Taylor, Jamie Volz, Ashley Weber, Amber Wolk, Kim Zuccarello and Jennifer Zurweller-Ballmann

- **Middle school nominees (Grades 6-8)**

- Claudia Benbow, Michael Blackwood, Pam Bradley, Jessica Brandenburg, Kerry Brown, Jennifer Calva, Susan Carr, Elizabeth Clauss, Jessica Coggins, Linda Cooper, Pam Cornwell, Jackie Decker, Alicia Dietz, Michelle Dodds, Ty Dunham, Tina Easton, Mary Enterman, Nancy Fischer, Lori Fisk, Dorothy Frick, Julia Gibson, Jeff Grass, Lisa Grissom, Irena Goren-Scheer, Adam Hall, Latoya Hildebrand, Les Jewell, Curt Jones, Melanie Judge, Lori Kappler, David Kim, Dave Klaus, David Knapp, Larry Knobel, Dodie Logue, Emily Lovercheck, Wendy Mathis, Jackie McDuffie, Jane McGuire, Tim McKinley, Claudia Miller, Alisa Neal, Kristian Nelson, Catherine Owens, Rebecca Reed, Montie Richter, Scott Roberts, Christine Sanford, Carol Scherer, Adam Seibert, Ryan Shea, Marcie Slawin, Joan Sowers, Edward Stevens, Patricia Stewart, Jonathan Striebel, Lara Sweda, Linda Whittemore, Abigail Williams, Kelly Williams, Travis Williams, Joy Yowell and Lisa Zangriles



Elementary Teacher of the Year nominees include, front row, from left, Nancy Dixon, Chris Cheatham, Tammy Anderson and Vince Licameli; middle row, Dan Derby, Elizabeth Brisch, Erica Farris and Nicole Rimmell; back row, Sherrie Baris, Phyllis Pasley, Nicole Dye and Arlin Funk.



Middle School Teacher of the Year nominees include Claudia Benbow, Patricia Stewart, Dorothy Frick and Linda Whittemore.

Continued on the next page...

Employee of the Year Nominees

- **High School nominees** - Amie Bemke, Edna Brown, Ryan Brueckmann, Joseph Carena, Jeri Clarence, Lara Corvera, Scott Dickinson, Kelli Dornfeld, Christian Dornhoefer, Nathan Dwyer, Catherine Fogarty, Tracy Gibson, Karen Gentile, Diane Gozdziwski, Craig Gregory, Gene Grimshaw, Sarah Guilfoyle, Vann Hahn, Alysia Harris, Twila Harris, Scott Hauser, Linda Herhold, John Hopkins, Vicki Huff, Nwannediya Ibe, Angela Ivie, Dan Juenger, Richard Klosterman, Juli Kobielusz, Janet Kuhn, Melynda Lamb, Rob Lamb, Jason Lammert, Stacey Leonard, Ken Lopinot, Brent Mueller, Erin Mulanax, Julie Newman, Doug Newton, Cheryl Niehaus, Tracie Olson, Trenay Overall-Wallace, Shaun Patrick, John Patterson, Mike Peoples, Lauri Radican, Mike Reuscher, David Reynolds, Diane Richardson, Ginger Roberts, Karen Sabourin, Ben Schamber, Amy Schwendemann, Brian Schwendemann, Leslie Scoopmire, Kathleen Shearrer, Robert Simpson, Melissa Sparkman, Lori Statler, Trudy Steins, Stephanie Waldrop, Emily Werner and Tara Willen



High School Teacher of the Year nominees include Alysia Harris, Lara Corvera, Trenay Overall-Wallace, Rob Lamb and Melynda Lamb.

Support Staff of the Year Nominees

The following individuals have been nominated for Support Staff Employee of the Year in the Pattonville School District:

Lisa Anderson, Teisha Ashford, Raymond Barsh, Donnie Boenker, Nancy Bush, Eva Braden, Denise Cavanaugh, Glenn Changer, Tina Clark, Dawn Cockrell, Lori Connors, Neil Daniels, Vernita Enloe, Ken Farrell, Ruth Farrell, Malissa Fedrick, Carrie Gausling, Becky Gillming, Serena Graves, Valerie Guetschow, Roger Harlan, Chereen Hawes, Tammy Holzschuh, Van Huynh, Cora Johnson, Mary Kent, Rosellen Knapp, Mary Beth Kretschmer, Heidi Lanham, Bettye Leonard, Donna Lombardo, Terry McCune, Rommel McDonald, Sandy McIntyre, Toby Meyer, Kim Miller, Ann Montague, Mike Mooney, Sheila Moore, Barry Nelson, Libbyanne Nguyen, Cathy Nordgaarden, Jennifer Ogle, Patty Patrick, Julie Purviance, Terry Raby, Mike Ratanasitee, Marcia Riganti, Tony Riggio, Charlie Roach, Greg Schnatmeier, Mickey Schoonover, Steve Schrader, Kim Shine, Chaun Tate, DeAndre Thomas, Susan Tindell, Nina Vogel, Lois Warner, Angie Watkins, Phyllis Whitten, Kristina Wilkerson, Michelle Williams, Mike Williams, Pam Williams and Carole Williamson



Support Staff of the Year nominees include, from left, front row, Mary Kent, Sandra McIntyre, Pamela Williams and Ann Montague; middle row, Serena Graves, Denise Cavanaugh, Lori Connors, Jennifer Ogle, Vernita Enloe, Cathy Nordgaarden and Michael Williams; back row, Kristina Wilkerson and Lisa Anderson.