



### Arts Matter

Rob Hess, assistant superintendent, and Kim Hanson, an art teacher on special assignment working on Arts Matter for the District, reported progress on the Arts Matter initiative. The report was divided into three categories: 1) Arts Integration Projects at Brattain, Springfield and Thurston high schools, Walterville, Briggs, and working with core/content teachers; 2) Arts Disciplines of Instructional experiences for all students in the arts; and 3) Art Pathways, such as Art in Motion (video, photography, painting and drawing), A<sup>3</sup> Internships, and Student Exhibitions.

A staff committee has established three goals for arts in Springfield Public Schools: 1) develop a strong articulated arts core curriculum in the visual and performing arts for the students in Springfield Public Schools, 2) create powerful arts experiences for students through art integration, and 3) offer career pathways in the arts through internships, volunteering, and civic engagement. Funding for planned projects for the coming year includes instruments and music method books, visual arts technology, and Art in Motion.

### TAG Initiative

A report to the Board divided talented and gifted (TAG) progress into Direct and Administrative Services. **Direct Services:** expanding TAG math support groups in elementary schools; implementing year one of SHS Math and Science Academy; and expanding Lego Robotics Competition Teams and integrating robotics into curriculum. **Administrative:** completing revised TAG coordinators' handbook; implementing revised identification protocol; progress check on revisions of TAG program based on input from the 2007 Summit discussions of TAG concerns and ideas with parents, teachers, and students; professional development opportunities for all staff; correct identification of TAG students and making sure the census is correct in student records.

**Future Plans** for further TAG implementation include finalization of a districtwide TAG plan to include a revision of mission/vision statements and articulation of programmatic goals, as well as study and possible implementation of a plan to host student learning plans electronically.

### Virtual Schools

In a recent meeting with the Oregon Department of Education (ODE), Superintendent Nancy Golden and Information Technology staff investigated the concept of virtual schools.

Virtual schools would provide access to online courses offered by a variety of private and government educational organizations. Often, these online courses are not offered at physical school location. Additionally, some students may take courses that they are unable, due to conflicts, to schedule on-site. Advanced Placement online (or virtual school) courses are among the most requested by high school students.

ODE recommends that every district have virtual school opportunities accessible as curriculum options, part of a planned program and monitored closely.

To learn more about online school opportunities, Superintendent Golden will represent SPS on a Virtual Schools Committee comprised of Oregon school superintendents.

### Recognition

#### SAfER Award

As the recipient of the Springfield Alliance for Equality and Respect (SAfER) award, **Janet Beckman** was recognized for her service to Springfield Public Schools and the community as the liaison for homeless students of Springfield Public Schools and a volunteer with the District's free Clothing X-Change. The periodic SAfER award is meant to recognize people in the community who demonstrate the values of social justice.

A fifth-generation Oregonian, **Beckman** attended Moffitt Elementary, Hamlin Middle, and Springfield High schools. At the Brattain House she is beginning her fourth year as the District's homeless liaison. **Beckman** stated, "... I hope administrators and principals will continue to encourage parents like me to stay involved."

#### State Report Card Results

Rob Hess shared with the Board a State Report Card Comparison Chart, as well as information published by the Oregon Department of Education (ODE) about districtwide and statewide student comparison data for reading and mathematics in grades 6 and 9. Data highlights showed Springfield Public Schools student improvement, and how the District compared with state percentages. State data was derived from the average of all districts across the state that use Mastery in Motion (an achievement tracking tool for teachers).

State school report cards will be mailed to parents by mid-December and are available online at: <http://www.ode.state.or.us/data/reportcard/reports.aspx>.

Changes are coming to school report cards to increase accountability of schools and to ensure that the right schools would be identified as needing improvement. While these changes will bring the Oregon rating system into closer alignment with the federal rating system under No Child Left Behind, Hess suggested that our best strategy will continue to be progressing toward our vision of "Every Student a Graduate Prepared for a Bright and Successful Future," with a focus on continuous improvement, where are we, and what interventions are helping students improve.

Next Board Meeting:  
November 10, 2008, at 7 p.m.

Visit the [SPS website](#) for more details about any of the above information. Minutes are made available after Board approval at the next meeting.

