

School Connections

Spring 2010

Volume 1

Number 3

Superintendent's Farewell Message

Dr. Candis R. Donicht, Retiring Superintendent



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School Connections is posted to our Website www.msd281.org three times a year to keep parents, faculty, staff and the general public informed of District happenings.

It has been an honor to have served Moscow School District and this fine school community for the past eight years. In that time, I have had the opportunity to work with incredibly talented educators, supportive parents and a community committed to education. We have seen accountability increase, technology demands triple, revenues decline and the state economy crumble. Nonetheless, our teachers, staff and students have continued to strive for excellence, do more with less, and maintain a positive attitude. Moscow High School and Paradise Creek Regional High School graduations will be the capstone events in the proud history of our District this year.

As I retire in July, it gives me great hope and comfort to know that the District will be in the capable hands of Dale Kleinert, incoming Superintendent. Dale has served Moscow School District for 28 years as a teacher, assistant principal and principal.

He has a positive, upbeat attitude and approach to work while at the same time understanding the history and issues the District faces. He is familiar with the challenges ahead, including increased requirements for middle schools and high schools. He knows our facilities and our constituent groups. He knows the policies and the expectations of our Board and community. Lastly, he is competent with finances. In fact, he can squeeze a dollar better than most!

Thank you all for your friendship, collegiality, and support during my tenure in the District. Please join me in giving a warm welcome to incoming Moscow School District Superintendent Dale Kleinert.



The Final Quack

by Laurie Austin, Retiring McDonald Elementary Principal



I remember my first day at A.B. McDonald Elementary School like it was yesterday! My impressions of the school, some 26 years ago, were the ones that helped formulate the philosophy that we have continued to live by. The site was beautifully maintained, there was art work displayed everywhere, all the staff and teachers were smiling, parent volunteers abounded, and the children were happy.

There were students actively moving in PE, singing in music, reading in the library, and totally engaged in the classrooms. The adults in the school knew each individual student, called them by name, and demonstrated a love for each one. I knew immediately I was home and this is where I wanted to stay.

Since 1991, it has been an honor and a privilege to be McDonald School's Head Duck and be able to lead the flock. We have worked very hard to continue to live by the vision that was established at McDonald School years ago.

As I prepare to bid farewell to my Moscow School District family, I am confident that my wonderful replacement, Dr. Cindy Bechinski, will lead in new and exciting ways, while maintaining many of our McDonald traditions.

I sincerely thank the entire school district community for the tremendous support I have felt. I will hold close to my heart many wonderful memories, especially those of my McDonald School family!

Goodbye Wolverines

by Tony McDonnell, Retiring Lena Whitmore Elementary Principal

As I look forward to my retirement at the end of the current school year I wish to thank all of you for the wonderful support, friendship and guidance you have given me over the course of the past sixteen years.

I have thoroughly enjoyed working for the Moscow School District and believe that we have a wonderful educational system thanks to your generous patronage and support.

Our District's programs and the quality of our teachers reflect the incredible value that you place upon an educated populace and our responsibility to the many students of our community. I certainly trust that you have done so with the realization that our children are Idaho's best hope for the future and indeed, for the future of this great country.

I thank you for your involvement in our schools and especially for the wonderful support that you have given me over the years.

I wish you all the best!





A.B. McDonald Elementary is getting a new roof!

Adventure Club and *Extended School Year* students
will be at Lena Whitmore Elementary this summer.

*Paradise Creek Regional High School
Class of 2010
Graduation Commencement
Wednesday, June 9, 2010
7:00 p.m. at Moscow High School*



Reception to Follow at the 1912 Building

Dear Parents and Guardians:

Moscow High School will hold the **Class of 2010 graduation commencement at the Kibbie Dome** on the campus of the University of Idaho on **June 11, 2010, at 7:30 PM**. I would like to invite you to this celebration of completion and success for our graduates. It is free to the entire community. The Kibbie Dome is a wonderful venue for our ceremony and most importantly can easily seat as many parents, relatives and community members who want to join in the commencement celebration. The Class of 2010 has filled us all with so many positive experiences and the graduation will be a fulfilling conclusion to all the successes that they have accumulated. They are an outstanding group of young adults and I am honored to have been their principal during their high school years. Mark your calendars for the graduation celebration of the Class of 2010.

I want to thank you for the tremendous support you have given the staff, students and administration at Moscow High School this year. It is a privilege to work with the students and staff at Moscow High School because this is an outstanding school district that provides great opportunities for our students from kindergarten through twelfth grade.

Bob Celebrezze, MHS Principal



District-wide Cost Savings

During the 2009-10 school year, Moscow School District received its first reduced state appropriation. The District reduced staffing and discretionary spending as you will note below. In order to help the overall effort to conserve resources, every building and department also instituted their own strategies to save dollars and resources. District-wide savings were \$748,519 and the following is a recap of that effort to reduce spending.

Building/Department	Item/Area	Cost Savings
District Level	Absorbed six teaching positions through attrition	\$ 350,000
	Reduced building/department discretionary budget by 13%	\$ 100,000
	Eliminated overtime and extra time	\$ 63,100
	Posting of district newsletter on Website	\$ 11,125
	Posting of district 12 month calendar on Website	\$ 2,020
<i>Total Savings</i>		<i>\$ 526,245</i>
Curriculum	Free student textbooks for recent math adoption	\$ 60,568
	Free student math manipulatives and kits	\$ 9,087
<i>Total Savings</i>		<i>\$ 69,655</i>
Transportation	Dropped vendor support for E-Link & RP	\$ 1,775
	Dropped four cell phones	\$ 1,392
	Dropped service contract on parts washer & went to will call	\$ 1,000
	Reduced cost for trips	\$ 2,156
	Hosting of SDE workshop & Regional Bus Driver Training Session	\$ 660
<i>Total Savings</i>		<i>\$ 6,983</i>
Maintenance/Custodial	Implemented new carpet cleaning technique	\$ 1,000
	Repairing/welding furniture	\$ 5,000
	Installed energy efficient boiler	\$ 9,800
	Installation of energy efficient lights	\$ 1,000
	Reduced dumpster service	\$ 5,220
	Purchase of whiteboards in bulk	\$ 337
	Use of atomic clocks	\$ 1,500
	Repair of damaged steam coils instead of purchasing new ones	\$ 6,000
Computer disposal/recycling	\$ 2,000	
<i>Total Savings</i>		<i>\$ 31,857</i>
Student Nutrition Services	Decrease of staff hours	\$ 6,026
	Decrease number of exchange meals offered	\$ 1,611
	Printing of menus	\$ 19
	Decrease most expensive entrée offerings from 5 to 3	\$ 975
	Change of bread vendor	\$ 580
<i>Total Savings</i>		<i>\$ 9,211</i>
Lena Whitmore Elementary	Transportation for field trips	\$ 1,600
	Change of venue for Walk-a-Thon	\$ 300
	Holdback from building budget	\$ 15,000
	Purchase of slightly used books for GT workshop	\$ 400
	Grants for activities	\$ 1,000
<i>Total Savings</i>		<i>\$ 18,300</i>

continued on next page

Cost Savings - continued from previous page

Building/Department	Item/Area	Cost Savings
McDonald Elementary	Cost of field trips/fees	\$ 1,516
	Contributions from various sources for classroom use	\$ 3,855
	Bake sale to support school garden	\$ 275
	Copy Costs	\$ 600
	School-wide recycling/reusing materials	\$ 800
	Classroom budgets reduced	\$ 3,000
<i>Total Savings</i>		\$ 10,046
Russell Elementary	Transportation costs for field trips	\$ 700
	Donation of various items/supplies for classroom use	\$ 2,150
<i>Total Savings</i>		\$ 2,850
West Park Elementary	Reduced or didn't use classroom supplies budget	\$ 16,100
	No replacement of CRT monitors	\$ 4,800
	Non-replacement /sharing of furniture	\$ 8,800
	Donations of various items for classroom use	\$ 4,600
	Recycling of paper	\$ 150
	Transportation for field trips	\$ 2,160
<i>Total Savings</i>		\$ 36,610
Junior High	Did not rehire lunch staff	\$ 720
	Creative use of substitutes	\$ 5,500
	Donations from individuals	\$ 285
	Conference/workshops	\$ 520
	Laundry costs	\$ 1,000
	Repair of weight/mat room equipment instead of replacement	\$ 2,000
	Transportation for field trips	\$ 2,750
	Classroom/program unit supplies	\$ 11,055
	Software/Technology support for programs	\$ 1,630
	Office Supplies	\$ 207
<i>Total Savings</i>		\$ 25,667
High School	Copy machine lease	\$ 5,760
	Non-replacement of furniture	\$ 800
	Postage for a variety of mailings	\$ 800
	Academic Guide/Student Handbook	\$ 950
	Electronic version of parent newsletter instead of printing	\$ 1,215
<i>Total Savings</i>		\$ 9,525
Paradise Creek Regional HS	Transportation for field trips	\$ 170
	Various donations for classroom use	\$ 1,200
	Substitute Costs	\$ 200
<i>Total Savings</i>		\$ 1,570

ASSESSMENT UPDATE: SPRING 2010

by Cindy Bechinski, Ph.D., Curriculum Director

Idaho Standards Achievement Test (ISAT):

April and May have been very busy months for ISAT administration. As you know, every third through tenth grade student now takes the ISAT via computer in the areas of reading, math, and language usage. Fifth, seventh and tenth graders also take the science ISAT.

Believe it or not, we administered approximately 4,940 separate tests! The preparation and coordination for all of this testing is quite amazing!

As you know, the tenth grade ISAT counts for graduation. Students must pass the Reading, Mathematics, and Language Usage tests in order to graduate. Passing the science portion is a requirement that the state has scheduled to be in place for next year's sophomores - the class of 2013.

Here is an overview of general ISAT testing and graduation requirements for 2009-2010:

- The ISAT measures student achievement as aligned to the Idaho Content Standards.
- If a tenth grade student passes one or more of the spring ISAT tests in Reading, Math, or Language Usage, the student will not need to take the test(s) again. If a student does *not* pass one or more of these tests, the student can retake the ISAT in the fall or spring of the junior and, if needed, senior year.
- If a student does not pass the ISAT, our high schools offer interventions designed to address those skills in which students are deficient.
- Moscow School District also has alternative methods a student can utilize to demonstrate competencies in regard to the Idaho Content Standards. These alternative mechanisms were approved by our local Board of Trustees and the State Department of Education. Moscow High School and Paradise Creek Regional High School work to

ensure students can access the alternative mechanism(s) when needed to help them pass this state graduation requirement.

- Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) is determined based on the percent of students who score at the proficient or advanced level. This year, the Idaho State Department of Education received permission from the United States Department of Education to implement an indexing formula whereby students who score at the Basic level are counted as 0.5 proficient; while students at the Proficient or Advanced level score as 1.0 proficient. Partial credit for Basic students is given because many of the students scoring at the Basic level have shown strong growth and are moving steadily toward becoming Proficient. Unfortunately, the Basic designation does not help for the graduation requirement—only for AYP.

On the next page, please see the AYP targets for 2008-2009 through 2013-2014. It is important to remember that the *No Child Left Behind Act*, previously known for years as part of the *Elementary and Secondary Education Act*, is undergoing a reauthorization by President Obama and Congress, so changes will likely be forthcoming.



AYP Proficiency Targets

% Proficient or Advanced Needed Under Indexing				
	2008-09 and 2009-10	2010-11 and 2011-12	2012-13	2013-14
Reading	85.6%	90.4%	95.2%	100%
Mathematics	83.0%	88.7%	94.3%	100%
Language Usage	75.1%	83.4%	91.7%	100%

- **Students score in one of four proficiency levels: Advanced, Proficient, Basic, or Below Basic. A student must be in the proficient or advanced range to pass. ISAT score ranges by grade are as follows:**

READING									
	Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5	Grade 6	Grade 7	Grade 8	Grade 9	Grade 10	
Advanced	208 and up	214 and up	219 and up	223 and up	227 and up	229 and up	232 and up	235 and up	
Proficient	192-207	198-213	204-218	208-222	212-226	214-228	217-231	220-234	
Basic	187-191	193-197	197-203	201-207	204-211	207-213	209-216	211-219	
Below Basic	186 and below	192 and below	196 and below	200 and below	203 and below	206 and below	208 and below	210 and below	
MATH									
	Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5	Grade 6	Grade 7	Grade 8	Grade 9	Grade 10	
Advanced	204 and up	216 and up	224 and up	231 and up	237 and up	243 and up	247 and up	251 and up	
Proficient	190-203	201-215	211-223	218-230	223-236	229-242	233-246	238-250	
Basic	181-189	193-200	202-210	209-217	215-222	220-228	226-232	230-237	
Below Basic	180 and below	192 and below	201 and below	208 and below	214 and below	219 and below	225 and below	229 and below	
LANGUAGE USAGE									
	Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5	Grade 6	Grade 7	Grade 8	Grade 9	Grade 10	
Advanced	207 and up	216 and up	222 and up	227 and up	232 and up	236 and up	239 and up	242 and up	
Proficient	196-206	203-215	209-221	214-226	218-231	221-235	224-238	226-241	
Basic	188-195	195-202	201-208	206-213	209-217	213-220	216-223	218-225	
Below Basic	187 and below	194 and below	200 and below	205 and below	208 and below	212 and below	215 and below	217 and below	
SCIENCE									
			Grade 5			Grade 7			Grade 10
Advanced			216 and up			219 and up			230 and up
Proficient			206-215			213-218			219-229
Basic			194-205			206-212			213-218
Below Basic			193 and below			205 and below			212 and below

Adventure Club Summer Program

by David Garnett, Director

The Adventure Club of the Moscow School District provides after school enrichment for kindergarten through sixth graders during the school year and summer camp for children entering the kindergarten through seventh grades. The Adventure Club was originally established in 1992 by families interested in providing a safe, enriching after school environment for their children. The program serves over 200 children during the calendar year, or approximately 17% of Moscow School District's elementary school students.



The Adventure Club Summer Program is open to all children entering kindergarten through seventh grade in fall 2010 and runs from 7 am to 6 pm, Monday through Friday, June 14 through August 27.

Examples of activities include:

- Computer access for Web design, publishing, and educational games.
- Outdoor science and field trips to regional public lands.
- Visual and performing arts.
- Sports such as rock climbing and gymnastics.
- Small-scale inventions and space exploration.
- Exploring music and creative musical instruments.
- Afternoon swimming.
- Optional weekly field trips .
- Materials available during free play include age-appropriate books, building toys, games, arts and crafts, and toys.

- The school site includes an elementary playground, and we provide outdoor recreation equipment and program activities.

For more information about upcoming activities and field trips, please go to www.msd281.org/adventure and click on *Calendar*.

The Adventure Club staff members have academic training in elementary or early childhood education. The program maintains a staffing ratio of at least one staff member per ten children. Staff are trained in first aid and CPR, have been fingerprinted and had their backgrounds checked by both the Idaho Department of Education and the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare.

Summer Enrollment Forms are available at: district elementary schools (McDonald, Russell, Lena Whitmore, and West Park), the Moscow School District Office, and online on the enrollment page of the Adventure Club Website www.msd281.org/adventure. A half day, from zero to five hours, costs \$11.45/day, while a full day, more than five hours, costs \$23.40/day and includes snacks. Families pick their days of enrollment to meet their specific summer scheduling needs.



**MOSCOW SCHOOL DISTRICT
SCHOOL CALENDAR 2010-2011**

Approved 12/15/10

	<u>Mon</u>	<u>Tue</u>	<u>Wed</u>	<u>Thu</u>	<u>Fri</u>
Aug.	16	17	18	19	20
	23	24	25	26	27
	30	31			
Sep.			1	2	3
	6	7	8	9	10
	13	14	15	16	17
	20	21	22	23	24
	27	28	29	30	
Oct.				1	2
	5	6	7	8	9
	11	12	13	14	15
	18	19	20	21	22
	25	26	27	28	29
Nov.	1	2	3	4	5
	8	9	10	11	12
	15	16	17	18	19
	22	23	24	25	26
	29	30			
Dec.			1	2	3
	6	7	8	9	10
	13	14	15	16	17
	20	21	22	23	24
	27	28	29	30	31
Jan.	3	4	5	6	7
	10	11	12	13	14
	17	18	19	20	21
	24	25	26	27	28
	31				
Feb.		1	2	3	4
	7	8	9	10	11
	14	15	16	17	18
	21	22	23	24	25
	28				
Mar.		1	2	3	4
	7	8	9	10	11
	14	15	16	17	18
	21	22	23	24	25
	28	29	30	31	
Apr.					1
	4	6	7	8	9
	11	12	13	14	15
	18	19	20	21	22
	25	26	27	28	29
May	2	3	4	5	6
	9	10	11	12	13
	16	17	18	19	20
	23	24	25	26	27
	30	31			
June			1	2	3
	6	7	8	9	10

8/30-31 Teacher Work Days

9/1 First Day for Students

9/6 Labor Day - No School

10/7 Curriculum Day - No School

10/8-9 Professional Development - No School

10/15 End of High School 6 Week Progress Report Period

11/4-5 K-8 Conferences - No School K-8

11/4 9-12 in Session - End of Quarter

11/5 Teacher Work Day - No School K-12

11/23 End of High School 6 Week Progress Report Period

11/24 No School - Curriculum Day - 1:30 Staff Release

11/25-26 No School - Thanksgiving Vacation

12/20-31 Winter Vacation - No School

1/3 First Day Back for Students

1/18 Martin Luther King, Jr / Idaho Human Rights Day - No School

1/20 End of Semester

1/21 Teacher Work Day - No School

2/18 Curriculum Day a.m. School Improvement, p.m. - No School

2/21 No School - President's Day

3/4 End of High School 6 Week Progress Report Period

3/14-18 Spring Vacation - No School

3/31 Elementary Conferences - No School K-6

3/31 Junior/Senior High in Session - End of 3rd Quarter

4/1 No School K-12 - Teacher Workday/Conference Day

4/22 End of High School 6 Week Progress Report Period

5/5 School Improvement Day - No School (Snow makeup in needed)

5/6 Curriculum Day - No School

5/30 Memorial Day - No School

6/8 Last Day for Students/Paradise Creek Regional H.S. Graduation

6/9 Student Make-up Day(by appt.)/Teacher Workday - No School

6/10 GRADUATION! / Teacher Work Day

= Curriculum/Professional Development Day

= Vacation

= Conference/Workday