

## JOHN ANDERSON VISITS PARKADE ELEMENTARY: PRESENTS DONATIONS TO DISTRICT



The Anderson Family Charitable Foundation (AFCF) has been and continues to be very charitable to Columbia Public Schools and the children of the Columbia community, presenting \$20,000 checks to the district and to the Food Bank for Central and Northeast Missouri during a visit to Parkade Elementary School in September.

The AFCF is in its second year of supporting running clubs at Parkade, Russell Boulevard and Blue Ridge elementary schools. The foundation started the running clubs at Russell and Parkade and supports the Blue Ridge club, which is in its fifth year.

John Anderson, University of Missouri graduate and star of ESPN's "Sportscenter" and ABC's "Wipeout", was on hand for the check presentations. Due to his television commitments this summer, Anderson did not have a chance to hold his annual golf tournament. It has been through that tournament that he and his wife and their foundation have been able to donate to the programs. However, his extra work this summer, including a "Wipeout" video game, came with increased royalties, which Anderson graciously used for the donations this year. "We wanted to make sure the community knows that we didn't forget," Anderson said, "and we will be back next year" with the tournament.

Anderson knows the importance of running first-hand, having been a runner during his time at the University of Missouri. As for the importance of running for kids, Anderson sees it as two-fold.

"It helps to get them ready and alert for the day and gets them to learn about the importance of health along the way."

In the running clubs, when goals are reached, the kids earn new shoes. Nearly 100 kids have earned new sneakers through the program. Students also end the year participating in a run, either the Mizzou Mile or Blue Ridge 5K.

“Because of you and your generosity, it is going to help us help that many more children.”  
- Peggy Kirkpatrick

Two checks were handed out that afternoon. The Food Bank for Central and Northeast Missouri was the other recipient and the food bank's director, Peggy Kirkpatrick, thanked Anderson and his wife for the donation, saying, "Because of you and

your generosity, it is going to help us help that many more children." The money will assist the Buddy Pack program, which sends food home for more than 6,000 students each weekend.

Amy Watkins, Parkade's principal, talked about the school's focus of being a champion. "Champions of life and wellness is such a critical part," said Watkins.

"Back in my home community in Wisconsin is where I started this program," Anderson said. "I was looking for ideas and in working with the schools we came up with the running clubs. I think it helps promote health and wellness in schools and we hope the end product is that the kids come to school and are energized."

## 2010 BOND UPDATE: NEW PROJECTS NOW IN USE

One aspect of the voter-approved 2010 bond has come to fruition and is being used by the district and its patrons as the bulk of the work on the Hickman High School gym, stadium, and career education classroom project has been completed.

"Hickman is a large high school and most high schools close to its size have two gyms," said Chris Belcher, Columbia Public Schools superintendent. "It is not just sports, but extracurricular activities like cheerleading. With the focus on childhood obesity, physical education also needed adequate space."

Space concerns were just one part of the need for new buildings, as the old gym, football stadium and vocational agriculture building were becoming inadequate in their own ways.

"Hickman's gym is also not a regulation-sized gym, it is too short," Belcher said. "It is not a good place for competitive events. Hickman's vo-ag building was built in the 1950s and was falling down. The football stadium was not handicapped accessible and was eroding, becoming a liability."

Due to the limited amount of available space at Hickman, creativity had to come to the design meeting.

"We had money to fix the roof of the vo-ag building and to build a gym," Belcher said. "Architect Chris Davis saw we were landlocked and thought about razing the old building - building a gym and classroom space to replace the vo-ag building and then using the outside wall as the back of a new stadium. And we could do it cheaper as a combined project."

Another factor pushing the project is the secondary reorganization, which will occur at the start of next school year and will add freshmen to the district's high school campuses.

"Without adding in the freshmen, the gyms at both high schools were being used from 6 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. Now we can be a bit more time-friendly for students and parents. We can also host bigger tournaments as well as have two teams play at once."

The building portion is complete and the wall was in place to be used as the back of the bleachers at the start of the football season. The career education classrooms are the piece not done yet, and Belcher is looking at a December completion date for those. Basketball will be able to be played in the new spaces this season.

Rock Bridge High School's gym project is on a slightly smaller scale. Its new practice gym did not involve razing any buildings and is not its main playing space. The refurbished building will include the gym and underneath space for a weight room and locker rooms.

## ASBESTOS ABATEMENT EFFORTS

The Columbia School District continues the long-term task of monitoring all asbestos in district buildings. In order to comply with the Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act passed in 1978, the district has spent more than \$2 million removing asbestos-containing materials. Surveillance occurs every six months or less; a complete inspection happens every three years.

Copies of a school building's asbestos management plans are available for review at each school during regular office hours.

## CPS-TV ONLINE

You can now view Columbia Public Schools' cable-access programming and video, like special events and school board meetings, right at your computer. Stream CPS-TV from the Columbia Public Schools Web site live and on demand at [cpstv.columbia.k12.mo.us](http://cpstv.columbia.k12.mo.us).

## WHAT TO DO WHEN IT SNOWS

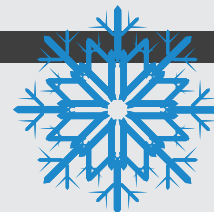
School will be cancelled only after roads are tested. Should cancellation or altered routes be necessary, efforts will be made to notify radio and TV stations by 6 a.m. Information will also be sent via ParentLink, CPS Alert, Key News, posted on the district Web site and on CPS-TV. Parents may make the final decision regarding a child's attendance. If the parent views the weather too severe or road conditions too dangerous, absences will be excused.

Difficulty in contacting parents usually prevents early dismissals, but under appropriate circumstances the district may dismiss early. On inclement weather days, please continue listening to local radio and TV stations for news of early dismissal. Altered bus routes for district buses will be run at times when inclement weather makes some roads too hazardous for safe travel. School bus snow routes are available through schools as well as school and the school district Web site.

## STAY INFORMED

- Check the school district Web site: [www.columbia.k12.mo.us](http://www.columbia.k12.mo.us)
- Subscribe to receive text message alerts from CPS Alert on the CPS Web site
- Subscribe to receive the district's electronic newsletter, Key News, on the CPS Web site
- Tune in to CPS-TV on Mediacom 81, CenturyTel 602 and Charter 16 or view the live and on-demand streaming on the CPS-TV Web site at [cpstv.columbia.k12.mo.us](http://cpstv.columbia.k12.mo.us)





## NEIL C. ASLIN DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION BUILDING DEDICATION



Neil C. Aslin's daughter, Pat Jackson, and son, Neil Jackson Aslin, cut the ribbon to dedicate the new Neil C. Aslin District Administration Building on Aug. 26

Dedication of the Neil C. Aslin District Administration Building early this school year placed the name of a very important figure in Columbia Public Schools' past on a building erected to solve a district issue now and into the future.



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That is both  
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- Chris Belcher



"Last year we looked at the Vandiver and Bernadette properties," said Chris Belcher, Columbia Public Schools superintendent. "They cost about \$500,000 a year to lease, plus utilities.

We had been in Vandiver for 20 years. It was old and not well insulated. The HVAC broke down. It was not an appealing place for people to work and Bernadette was starting to not meet our needs."

The new administration project does not utilize bond money from either of the two recent voter-approved bond issues. The district took out a loan to cover the addition, as well as improvements to the existing Worley building and some work on adjoining West Junior High School's track and football practice areas.

Belcher describes the savings the district will see, both year-to-year and in the long term, as significant.

"We estimate \$120,000-200,000 saved this year. That is both utilities and lease payments. We have \$15,000 less payment on this building than on the two leases. The district will save up to \$9 million over the next 25 years."

Those savings come in large part from the eco-friendly nature of the Aslin Building. Ground source heating and cooling, lighting, roofing and window components make the building environmentally friendly as well as saving the district money.

The project sprung from a World Café topic a few years ago. On the topic of the district's Comprehensive School Improvement Plan (CSIP), patrons responded that they wanted to see the district do two

things: get out of trailers and get out of leased properties. The bond issues are helping with the first part and the new Neil C. Aslin District Administration Building solved the second part permanently.

"There is a lot of good energy in the building," Belcher said of the space the district has occupied since the summer. "A lot of collaboration, workshops. It is the center of the district. Professional development gets a lot of space and for parents it is the center as well. We were busy this summer in this building. PAT, health, food service, all in this building."

Buildings need names, so the district originally formed a committee to name what eventually became Battle High School. Aslin's name was also put forth, but due to Muriel Battle's work at the high school level, her name was chosen. But the committee said that Aslin would be a good name for the administration building, given his work as superintendent, if the district were ever to rename the Worley Street building.

"Given what he did for the district, no better building could bear his name," Belcher said.

Aslin was a life-long educator, beginning in his home area of southeast Missouri. After 10 years working as a teacher, principal and superintendent, he came to the University of Missouri in 1942 and two years later was named principal of Hickman High School. Two years after that, he became superintendent, a position he held for 16 years. After he moved on from the district he taught at MU and then worked as chairman of the Department of Educational Administration until his death in 1976.

"The family is very proud and think it is well deserved," said Pat Jackson, Aslin's daughter. "We are humbled by the recognition of his accomplishments. It is a fantastic addition to the district. It is many steps up from the building he operated from."



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Aslin's superintendent office was first located at Lee School. In 1948, the district purchased a house next to Field School on Rangeline, from which the administration worked in what was seen as a temporary home. That temporary home lasted

until 1981 when the Worley Street building was built.

"The new addition makes the building even more functional," Jackson said. "The district has grown so much, it pulls everyone from the outlying buildings into one community to be much more efficient. He would have been very happy with that."



## WORLD CAFÉ: TRANSPORTATION DISCUSSION

The most recent World Café discussion was held at Stoney Creek Inn on October 10 and centered on school transportation. Chris Belcher, Columbia Public Schools superintendent, called the night “a chance to talk about the possibility of going to a three-tiered bus plan. We wanted to engage the parents and community to see what subtleties are there.” Those attending received informational studies that looked into school start times and their affect on school children and then had two small table group discussions.



## NEWS YOU CAN USE

### ROCK BRIDGE STUDENT RECEIVES STATE AP SCHOLAR AWARD

Rock Bridge High School student **Ge Song** is one of 108 students nationwide, three in Missouri, to receive the College Board State AP Scholar Award for outstanding performance on 2012 Advanced Placement (AP) exams. The AP State Scholar Award recognizes students in each state and the District of Columbia who scored a three or higher, on a five point scale, on the greatest number of AP exams and who earned the highest average score of at least a 3.5 on all AP exams taken. The College Board's AP program provides students with the opportunity to take college-level classes while still in high school and potentially earn college credit if they receive a score of three or higher on the exam.

### BULLDOG BBQ TEAM EARNS HONORS AT ROOTS 'N BLUES 'N BBQ

The Douglass High School Bulldog BBQ team participated in the Roots 'n Blues 'n BBQ Festival on September 20-21, 2012, for the first time. Sponsored by The District, the team of BBQ gurus took on 64 other barbecuing teams in a four-part competition. The group went head-to-head in the categories of brisket, pork, ribs, and chicken. Out of a total of 65 teams, the Douglass High School Bulldog BBQ team took fourth place in the Chicken category. Team members included: **Kerry Hesse, Tina Bolton, A'ijania Christian** and Pitmaster **Kelly Anderson**.

### HICKMAN EDUCATORS RECOGNIZED BY YALE UNIVERSITY

Hickman High School teacher **Deanna Wasman** and Hickman High School Counselor **Maria McMahon** have both been awarded the 2012 Yale Educator Award by Yale University. The award recognizes outstanding educators from around the world who support and inspire students to perform at high levels. Matriculating students are invited to nominate high school educators, and a committee of Yale admissions officers reviews each nomination and designates recipients. Wasman and McMahon were among the 50 teachers and 40 counselors who were selected from 247 nominees from 33 states and 12 countries.

### STUDENTS QUALIFY AS NATIONAL MERIT SEMIFINALISTS

Thirteen Columbia Public Schools students have qualified as National Merit Semifinalists. To qualify for a National Merit scholarship, students must take the preliminary SAT, the first screening for entrants to the program. The number of semifinalists in a state is proportional to the state's percentage of the national total of graduating seniors. About 16,000 finalists will advance to the finalist stage, and 8,300 scholarships totaling about \$32 million will be awarded in the spring.

*Rock Bridge High School semifinalists include: **Jacob Fryermuth, Atreyo Ghosh, Nidhi Khurana, Rasheeq Nizam, Kun Qian, Megan Schulte, Charles Shang, Stephen Turban, David Wang** and **Morgan Widhalm**.*

*Hickman High School semifinalists include: **Susan Jenn, Maya Ramachandran, Daniel Shyu**.*

## CHINESE LANGUAGE PROGRAM TO ENRICH CPS STUDENTS

After more than two years in the making, Columbia Public Schools and the University of Missouri have partnered to bring a Chinese language program to CPS students. Three Chinese teachers from Shanghai Normal University and Yunnan University of Finance and Economics will pair with a CPS teacher to co-teach Chinese at the middle school level.

Several years ago a trip to Chicago's public school system planted the idea, but in order to work the program needs to be paired with the Confucius Institute, a non-profit educational organization funded by the Chinese Ministry of Education. When the University of Missouri's Confucius Institute was opened in April of 2011, the real work began.

"The district was intrigued by the possibility of expanding language offerings," said Sally Beth Lyon, Columbia Public Schools' chief academic officer, who worked on the project with Suzanne Yonke, CPS' coordinator of world language. She also counts Handy Williamson, MU's vice provost for international programs, and Wen Ouyang, co-director of the Confucius Institute, as key people to accomplishing the program.

One of the issues seen on the Chicago trip was the need to acclimate the incoming Chinese teacher to the American school atmosphere and culture, while also acclimating the American teacher to the Chinese culture. CPS is tackling

this by currently pairing each CPS teacher, six in all, with one of the three Chinese teachers. In addition, each of the CPS teachers will be taking Chinese classes at MU in the fall, spring and summer semesters leading up to the program's kickoff in the 2013 - 2014 school year. The scholars are also visiting CPS classrooms throughout the 2012 - 2013 school year.

The Chinese level 1 program will start next school year at Gentry, Smithton, Lange, Jefferson, Oakland and West, all of which will be middle schools when the secondary reorganization happens before the 2013 - 2014 school year. The expectation is that the program will be able to handle one or two sections at each school. Another expectation is that in year two, the CPS teacher will be able to handle teaching Chinese level 1 on their own while the visiting Chinese scholars will teach a new Chinese level 2 class.

The CPS teachers applied for the program and went through an interview and selection process. In addition to the Mandarin Chinese language, they will also teach Chinese culture, geography and other aspects of China and the Chinese culture.

"These are not student teachers," Lyon said of the Chinese scholars, who are not here permanently and are on two or three year placements. "They are extremely accomplished and at the top of their profession."

## NIGHT OF STARS RECOGNIZES EXCELLENCE AND RAISES FUNDS FOR CPS

The Columbia Public Schools Foundation honored 12 volunteers, retired educators and alumni at its annual Night of Stars ceremony, which took place October 18 at the Missouri Theatre. Since 1996, the CPSF has awarded almost \$700,000 to Columbia Public Schools to help fund programs, purchase books and assist in many other ways. This year they awarded nearly \$70,000 in grants:

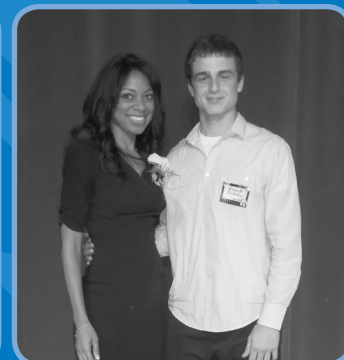
- \$24,640 - Digital Reading Partnerships with Blue Ridge and Parkade elementary schools
- \$20,000 - Creating Modern School Library Programs, upgrading libraries for grades six through eight
- \$24,449 - Mathematics FAST Math, Fraction Nation and SMI programs at West Boulevard Elementary and Smithton Middle School
- \$2,337.15 - Funding art and music education about the famous Columbian John William "Blind" Boone in all elementary schools
- \$19,950 - To Infinity and Beyond! - Providing media rights to allow kindergarten through fifth graders to use the planetarium
- \$600 - MAC Academic Leaders - Allowing gifted minority students access to community resources to promote and enhance their learning capabilities



2012 Winning Attendees



Kurt Ford with  
student attendant



Nischelle Turner with  
student attendant

## BLUES IN THE SCHOOLS

**T**J. Wheeler and his blues guitar returned this fall with the “Blues in the Schools” program, teaching Columbia Public School District children a diverse set of lessons via the blues.

“Artists in schools are great, no matter the genre,” Wheeler said. “When tied to a performance, it builds excitement in the whole school, no matter the forum.”

Wheeler’s work culminated with a performance featuring himself and student performing groups from Grant, Benton and West Boulevard elementary schools as well as the Center of Responsive Education (CORE) at the Roots’ n Blues’ n BBQ festival in September.

For over 35 years, Wheeler has been teaching how to use the blues in schools and he has been doing it in Columbia for the last six with the assistance of the Missouri Arts Council and the National Endowment For The Arts.

“The blues shows us how we can turn adversity into a positive and creative form of expression, relieve stress and build self-esteem. And it works as a window for under-recognized lessons in African-American history.”



# Quarterly Report

COLUMBIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

WINTER  
2012



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