

EDUCATION

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ALASKAN RUMBLE

Geologists say that long seismic tremors produced by Alaska's unique, symmetrical Shishaldin volcano could be signs of an impending eruption.

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From the Top



WINSTON BROOKS
APS Superintendent

Celebrating a productive school year

It has been another very productive year for students and staff in the Albuquerque Public Schools. So, as the 2013-14 school year comes to a close, I want to talk about some of the highlights from the past year.

We started off the year with something that had not happened in more than 45 years in the district. We opened a new football venue for students — the APS Community Stadium on the West Side. The stadium, a 7,000-seat, \$38 million facility, also includes a 2,600-seat track and field area, and will serve as the anchor for an entire sports complex for residents living in the area as both the school district and the city of Albuquerque add other fields for recreational activities.

In terms of facilities, the district also recently broke ground for a new school that will serve students in kindergarten through the eighth grade and will also have a city-run pre-school program for children living in the Southwest area of the city.

Speaking of the Southwest, the school district joined with Bernalillo County to provide a learning center for students living on the Southwest Mesa, where many homes do not have running water, sewer or electricity. The new center is a place for students to study before and after school with the help of tutors funded by the district.

The dedicated teachers and staff in our schools also continued to shine. Just last week, the APS Board of Education honored 52 teachers who received National Board Certification over the past year. Teachers, students, parents and administrators also deserve credit for raising the district's four-year-graduation rate to its highest point ever, at 73.3 percent.

Laura Case received the New Mexico Nursing Excellence Award for her efforts as the director of nursing services for the district, overseeing the work of 136 school nurses.

On the national level, Andy Cook, a Spanish and Italian teacher at Manzano High School, received the Milken Family Foundation National Educator Award, the only teacher in New Mexico this year to win the honor and the \$25,000 cash prize that comes with it.

APS students Ceidric Platero of Del Norte High and Gabriel Reyes of Valley High were among the 1,000 students from around the country named Gates Millennium Scholars, which will allow them to pursue their degrees in any undergraduate major at any college or university without having to worry about the cost.

APS programs also received national recognition this year, starting with a visit by U.S. Sec. of Education Arne Duncan to Emerson Elementary as part of his back-to-school bus tour in the fall. Duncan heard about how APS and the Albuquerque Teachers Federation have worked together to transform Emerson into a Common Core State Standards Demonstration Magnet School. In the fall, Emerson also became the first school in the region to have a Boys & Girls Club on site to provide after-school programs for students.

The district hosted the national conference of the Council of the Great City Schools,

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STUDENT GALLERY



COURTESY OF APS

Kathy Tong, a fifth-grader at Mitchell Elementary, created this mixed-media horse mask. Kathy's art teacher is Rebecca Morgan.



JIM THOMPSON/JOURNAL

Haley Marshall, left, and Ruby Quintana are among the thousands of New Mexico high school students who have taken advantage of the state's dual-credit program, which allows students to attend free college courses so they can earn college credits before they graduate from high school, thus helping them achieve their career goals.

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Dual-credit program becoming increasingly popular



COURTESY OF APS

College and Career High School, an Albuquerque magnet school, graduated its first class this month. The students in dark blue are the magnet school students, while the others are Central New Mexico Community College students. The high school's focus is on dual credit.

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National Merit \$2,500 Scholarship Winners

Students from New Mexico are:

■ Albuquerque Academy: Sarah L. Blog, Jessica C. Grubestic, Raya Rivka Koreh, Nikolai L. Lawton, Eric H. Li, Geordan A. Majewski, Logan T. Meredith, Allison H. Ogawa and Mara Short.

■ Armand Hammer United World College, Montezuma: Otto Zhen.

■ Dora High School: Katie W. Bickley.

■ Eldorado High School, Albuquerque: Yaqoob Qaseem.

■ Los Alamos High: George M. Barnum and Colin F. Hemez.

■ Sandia Prep, Albuquerque: William Groff.

IN BRIEF

Class of '74 reunion

The West Mesa class of 1974 will hold its 40th reunion on July 18-19. A dinner and dance will be held from 6 p.m. to 11 p.m. July 18 at Ladera Golf Course. Tickets are \$100 per couple and \$50 for a single person.

A family picnic will be held the following day, priced at \$6 per adult and \$5 per child.

RSVP to 720-3666 or 688-9466.



Online

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