

JAGUAR TRACKS



D'EVELYN JUNIOR SENIOR HIGH

10359 WEST NASSAU DRIVE • DENVER, COLORADO 80235

FEBRUARY 2010

- Colby's Commentary 1
- Steering Committee. 2
- SC Survey Results 2
- Jaguar Tracks Survey 2
- Accountability News 3
- What a (Country)
Community! 4
- Washington D.C. Trip 4
- "Bells Are Ringing" 5
- Rodeo Roundup Dinner &
Silent Auction 5
- Mu Alpha Theta Math
Tutoring Returns 5
- DPA Wants You! 6
- Honor's History 6
- Jaguar Tracks Editor 6
- J.B. Wilson's Spirit Continues
On at D'Evelyn 7
- SAT and ACT Test Prep . . . 7
- The Admission Game 8
- Alumni Survey Results 8
- GT Seminar: Where Have
All the Girls Gone? 9
- Senior Photo Montage 9
- Baseball Camp 9
- Swim Team 9
- Poms Squad 9
- Track & Field 9
- Upcoming Events 10

Colby's Commentary

Economics of Education

I was asked to serve on a district budget workgroup to represent the secondary option schools. Our task was to find \$11.8 million in cuts from high schools and athletics for the next two years. While my charge was to think about the broad picture of all high schools, I couldn't help thinking about how these pending cuts would affect D'Evelyn specifically. It is more obvious to me now than ever that the relatively easy days of sufficient funding are long gone.

I wrote a year ago that the negative outcome of the mill and bond elections would have a disastrous impact on the financial status of the district, and that prediction is now coming true. Because cuts have occurred over most of the past decade that have reduced funding for programs, materials, equipment, facilities and technology, the only cuts left to be made at this time are people and jobs. The list that my workgroup produced (and that has been considered by the district-level committee to be sent to the School Board) contains cuts in almost every position at the school level—administrators, teachers, counselors, secretaries, campus supervisors, instructional coaches, clinic aides, and paraprofessionals. These carefully constructed lists from all the workgroups will be given to the Board for their final decision on what to reduce.

Cuts that are specific to D'Evelyn will not be known for many weeks, but I feel certain that, like every other school in the district, we will feel the pain of losing people upon whom we have come to depend for their day-to-day work with our students. We will have to find new and different ways to accomplish the work we have been doing so well for so many years. Like people in every type of business in the country, we will have to be creative in finding ways to "do more with less."

But at D'Evelyn it's not all "doom and gloom" like it may be at some schools. We are fortunate to have a community that fully supports the education we provide, and with the expert help of the D'Evelyn Education Foundation (DEF), we are able to fund many of the programs and improvements we feel are necessary to maintain our excellent program. In recent years the DEF has raised tens of thousands of dollars that have been used to buy textbooks, technology, athletic equipment, and essentials for the performing arts that would otherwise have been financially out of reach for us.

So, what can we do to reduce the pain of the pending cuts? At the school level we can be flexible and creative when faced with personnel cuts that leave us short-handed. We can look at the school as a whole community and make our decisions about staff allocations based primarily on what is truly in the best interest of our students and their education. And at the family level, people can be understanding when it's obvious that "business as usual" just isn't usual any more. In addition, I encourage all D'Evelyn community members to support our Foundation to the best of their personal ability to do so. With our textbook-based curriculum it just costs more to keep materials available to all our students than it does in a school where a student may only see texts inside the classroom. And, as our computers age and instructional technology improves, our need to fund these items continues to grow. These are just a few examples of where the DEF has helped in previous years and will continue to do so. But they can't do it without the help of the whole community.

On a fun note—here are a few ways you can help with the fundraising job of the DEF. First, plan to attend the Dinner Auction on Saturday, March 20. The theme this year is "Rodeo Roundup"—break out your cowboy boots and wild rag, and join the fun! Many of the auction items are gathered at community get-togethers where the price of admission is an article of value for the silent auction. Please take the opportunity to attend one of these fun events if you can. One chance you will have to contribute will be on Friday, Feb. 5 when you can attend a Pancake Breakfast in the D'Evelyn cafeteria for the price of an item for the silent auction. From 6:30 to 7:30 a.m. you can eat pancakes flipped especially for you by the school's administrators. Come let us cook for you, and support your school too!

*Jill Colby,
Principal*

The D'Evelyn school community relies on volunteers to provide opportunities for our students to have a broad spectrum of experiences that enhance the rigorous academic foundation that is provided by our liberal arts curriculum. Please find your niche in this community and VOLUNTEER today!

The Jaguar Tracks is funded by the D'Evelyn Education Foundation and is prepared and distributed through volunteer efforts. Extra copies are available in the main school office.

Steering Committee

By Jennifer Tompkins, Steering Committee

As an English teacher here at D'Evelyn, students frequently complain that they have to read "these boring classics" when their peers at other schools are reading The Road, or Harry Potter. It is often difficult to convince a teenager that the canon of great literature, the poems and stories that have shaped Western civilization, are still undeniably important today. My hope is that in later years they will recall my repeated justifications and remember how the great works that we teach at D'Evelyn showed them a way of understanding themselves in relation to the larger powers of the human soul. Classics allow us to experience in an intimate way, the greatest mistakes as well as the greatest successes of human history. It is chiefly through books that we enjoy intercourse with the great minds of the past, or in the words of William Ellery Channing, "In the best books, great men talk to us, give us their most precious thoughts, and pour their souls into ours."

At a time when the Western cannon and the very notion of "literary greatness" have come under increasing disparagement, it is imperative that we convince our graduates of the power one attains through familiarity with the classics. Without knowledge of Greek mythology, the Bible, ancient history, the world's folktales and fairytales, Shakespeare, Milton, and Chaucer, one can never fully understand the visual arts, most opera, and half of the literature of later ages. Homer tells us about Ulysses in *The Odyssey*; then Dante, Tennyson, Joyce, and Wallace Stevens add to, enrich, and subvert that story in great works of their own. The classics are important not only because they have survived the test of time, but because they are continually being renewed.

The classics have been found to enhance and elevate the consciousness of all kinds of people who study them, to lift the reader out of narrowness or provincialism into a wider vision of humanity. Further, they guard the truths of the human heart from the faddish half-truths of the day by challenging the mind and imagination and enabling their readers to make educated, thoughtful decisions. In summary, they lead those who will follow into an understanding of the fullness and complexity of life.

With this said, I challenge those of you who have not read the D'Evelyn literature canon to do so. Not only will it allow you to see how the selected works connect and inter-relate thematically from the seventh grade through the senior year, but it will also provide you a wealth of enjoyment while expanding your own understanding of what it means to be human. Without a doubt it will heighten your appreciation for the rich literary history your children are experiencing at this outstanding school.

Steering Committee Survey Prompts Changes

By Cindy Gee, Steering Committee Secretary

In October, Steering Committee (SC) conducted a survey for parents and faculty regarding our performance and effectiveness as the governing board of the school. We would like to sincerely thank each of you who took the time to give us your feedback. SC reviewed and discussed the survey results and came up with action items in response to your comments. In particular, we would like to strengthen communications and enhance a relationship of mutual respect/trust with parents and faculty. To this end, SC will be represented by a parent committee member at all faculty meetings (in addition to the SC faculty members already in attendance). SC will also be re-formatting our meeting minutes to emphasize decisions that are made. SC will begin email notification to all faculty members of upcoming decisions, along with the meeting dates for those decisions. As always, SC meetings are held the second and fourth Mondays of every month from 5 to 7 p.m. in the front office conference room. Everyone is welcome. Meetings begin with public comment. If you have a lengthier subject, please contact a SC member to be added to the agenda. Finally, SC is welcoming candidates for the upcoming election. This election will have openings for both parent and faculty members. All applications are due in the main office mailbox of the SC Chair by 3 p.m. on Feb. 16. Please consider volunteering your time to support our work in maintaining the founding documents and philosophy of the school.

D'Evelyn Jaguar Tracks Survey

Please watch for your opportunity to participate in a 5-minute online survey about readership of the *Jaguar Tracks*, D'Evelyn's community newsletter. In previous years, the school published and mailed paper copies of the *Jaguar Tracks* to each home. In 2006, distribution of the *Jaguar Tracks* changed from paper to electronic, which represents an approximate savings of \$6000 annually. The purpose of this survey is to determine how readership has been impacted. The survey is anonymous and your feedback is important for the decision making process. We appreciate your prompt response as access to the survey will be closed on Feb 28. Please respond once per household. Thank you for participating in this survey.

Accountability News

By Priscilla Flanders - Accountability Committee 1st Vice-Chair

“We rate ability in men by what they finish, not by what they attempt.” Author unknown

With the fall semester on the books, Chair Lisa Papke opened the January Accountability meeting with another thought provoking question: "As we head into the spring semester, how will you support D'Evelyn to finish well?" Responses included how people intend to volunteer these next few months (library/office assistance, prom committee, completing and filing the foundation books), habits they hope to hone and nurture in their students (organization, stop the habit of procrastinating, keeping kids on track), and how they intend to interact with our community (stop grumbling and share the good things, practice grace, make a conscientious effort to acknowledge teachers for their excellence). The question was a terrific ice breaker and an even better opportunity to contemplate past and future decisions and routines. Why not take a stab at the question yourself, and then commit to following through?

Next up on the agenda was a presentation from Girls Mentoring. Kelsey Berlinberg and Jessica Ledingham were inspirational and enthusiastic representatives of this worthwhile program. This year, there are a whopping 200 students involved, 100 junior high mentees matched with 100 senior high mentors! Can you imagine the energy? The program has been well received and has a successful track record of creating bonds between the two age groups, thus helping the Jr. High students adjust to D'Evelyn and feel accepted. Girls Mentoring meets twice monthly during 7th hour. With the guidance of Jessica Gerber (HS counselor), Kelsey and others on the leadership team develop discussion topics. The meetings provide the girls with a forum to talk about different "life" issues such as stress, support systems, dreams, boys, and who inspires them. Both Jessie and Kelsey shared that it has been fruitful for the mentors to think and talk through the various topics, and the time with their younger partner has been inspirational in helping them realize the impact they can have on younger students. The serious conversations are always coupled with fun activities, such as movie nights and cookie exchanges, making Girls Mentoring a D'Evelyn program truly worthy of praise! The enthusiastic pair also shared a unique experience they were privileged to participate in when Michelle Obama visited Denver in November on a mentoring initiative. Thirty D'Evelyn female students were selected by Ms. Gerber and AP Science teachers to attend an inspiring presentation and Q&A conducted by Maggie Fox Udall (Chief Executive Officer of the Alliance for Climate Protection) and Lisa Jackson (EPA administrator) that focused on the impact that goals and mentors can have in life. I know I was not alone in my positive assessment of these impressive, confident, passionate young ladies. The world is certainly their oyster! All this to say, if you have a daughter in junior high, encourage her to either sign up for the first time or re-up next year. These mentors are most certainly the kind of people you want influencing your daughter.

The meeting continued with Jill Colby's Principal and Accreditation report and update. Jill shared that the staff enjoyed two very productive days of professional development on Jan. 4 - 5. Jill then distributed the 2008/09 Middle Level and High School Accreditation score cards and walked through the various sections and subsequent scoring, which led to D'Evelyn's rating of accredited and high performing for both junior and senior high. This information may be found on the CDE website under "school view". The Jeffco Make Your Voice Heard Survey (MYVH) was conducted in December, and time during a future A/C meeting will be set aside to review midyear MYVH results.

As you read through this article and others in the *Jaguar Tracks*, please take some time to reflect on all the GOOD, no, make that GREAT, things going on in our D'Evelyn community. Then be attuned to those precious teaching moments, those times when you can help your student see and appreciate the D'Evelyn distinction, spurring them on, and encouraging them to recognize why they can consider themselves fortunate to be a Jag! Speaking of encouraging moments, the A/C officers will again feature “*Gratitude Stations*” at the Feb. 11 parent teacher conferences. We will provide the note cards, pens, and baskets. All you need to provide are the encouraging words of thanks. If you don't think and write well while standing in line, plan ahead and bring your thank you notes with you to drop in the basket and we'll make sure they are delivered. This is one way you can most definitely and tangibly support D'Evelyn to finish well.

Next month we are looking forward to a presentation by the math department. The A/C officers encourage you to join us at our next meeting on Tuesday, Feb. 9 from 7 - 9 p.m. in the Library.

What a (Country) Community!

By Ralph K. Spencer, Treasurer, D'Evelyn Education Foundation Board of Directors

At the risk of showing my age, allow me to borrow a line from the most famous Ukrainian-born American comedian, Yakov Smirnoff. Who doesn't recall Yakov entertaining us on TV with the foibles of American society and then, in his best Russian accent, adding the phrase, "What a country!" I would like to amend that familiar line just a tad by saying, "What a community!" Yes, I am talking about the D'Evelyn community and its incredible response to the Annual Giving Campaign letter that most of us received (via bulk mail, of course) around the first week of December. As of Jan. 6, the first day back to school for all D'Evelyn students following Thanksgiving break, our amazing D'Evelyn community had donated over \$31,100 to the D'Evelyn Education Foundation (DEF)! At this same time last year, this figure was just over \$28,800. And it's not over yet, believe me! The Board will be getting an update on these donations towards the end of January and the feeling among Board members is that our community will continue to show their support for our amazing school. As Principal Jill Colby said so well in her Colby's Commentary column in the December 2009 – January 2010 edition of the *Jaguar Tracks*, "A great education is a priceless gift for your children, but delivering and ensuring the continued delivery of this education does have a cost and one that we need your support in funding." I could not have said it better. As you can see, our community has responded generously. However, the Board of Directors is very concerned about the items they may be asked to fund next year. The textbook budget alone could very well be in the neighborhood of \$60,000. Ms. Colby will be able to apply a portion of her 2010-2011 District allocation to this textbook requirement but will be extremely fortunate if she can come up with even half of the necessary funds. However, as noted above, our community continues to show their support. The Board will continue to keep you informed of the Foundation's fundraising efforts. We will not rest until we have collected enough money to ensure yet another successful year for D'Evelyn Jr/Sr High School. To those of you who have already donated, we sincerely thank you. For those who have not, please consider doing so. The amount really does not matter as long as everyone participates in the effort. Our goal, as stated in the Annual Giving Campaign letter, is \$60,000. Based on the numbers reported above, this goal is very attainable. Remember, your students are getting a private school education at public school prices! Finally, allow me to repeat what I know Yakov would say if he was here instead of in Branson, Missouri, "What a community!"

On a related fundraising note, permit me to introduce Mr. Tom Yearout, D'Evelyn's very own Raffle Master extraordinaire! Tom is a member of the DEF Board of Directors and has successfully completed all the stringent requirements placed in his path by the State of Colorado in his quest to become our very own Raffle Master. The Board of Directors is determined to put some fundraising spice into some of D'Evelyn's extracurricular events this year and will begin with a 50-50 raffle on Friday, Feb. 19, during the next to last performance of this year's musical, "Bells Are Ringing." In a 50-50 raffle, which our Raffle Master will of course oversee, tickets are typically sold for \$1 each with 50% of the money raised being returned to one lucky winner that same evening. The good news is that winnings of less than \$600 to any one person are not considered a taxable event so no IRS paperwork will be required. The Board is planning a second raffle during the Annual Dinner Auction, where the proceeds will hopefully be split between three lucky winners – 10%, 15%, and 25%. Our third 50-50 raffle is planned during the Jr. High play at the end of April. All money raised will go into the DEF general fund to help fund the many requirements faced by the school each year. The DEF Board members are convinced that Tom's success at passing the Raffle Master exam and completing all the necessary paperwork can only be explained by his law school training of many years ago. Regardless of how he did it, we are very proud of Tom, or 'Romeo Mike' as we are starting to call him. Hey, what can I say, he's just a phonetic kind of guy. See you all at the musical!

Washington D.C. Trip

By Cindy Fisher, Social Studies teacher

- Attention Junior High students and parents. Did you mean to sign up for the Washington, DC trip, but
- forgot? GREAT NEWS! There are still seats available on the bus. Don't miss out on this amazing educational
- opportunity. Reserve your spot TODAY! Go to www.worldstrides.org/timetotravel and click on the "Register
- Now" button and we'll see you in June!



D'Evelyn High School Presents "Bells Are Ringing" Feb. 11, 12, 13, 19, and 20 at 7 p.m.

By Monte Murphy, Social Studies and Drama teacher

Come join over 110 D'Evelyn performing arts students as they take you back to a time before answering machines and voice mail, when a real person answered your telephone if you were unable answer it yourself. Welcome to Susanswerphone, where the lines between performing a job and eavesdropping are blurred as employee Ella tends to get involved in the lives of the customers while taking and delivering phone messages. She even gets involved with playwright Jeff Moss, though she has never actually met him. Ella's cousin and boss, Sue, also falls in love, with the owner of Titanic Records, Sandor. The record company, however, turns out to be a book-making scheme placing illegal bets on horse races, but operating out of the office of Susanswerphone. As the plot twists and turns between mobsters, dentists, actors, and New Yorkers, the ensemble cast sings and dances to songs such as *Mu-Cha-Ch*, *Just In Time*, *Drop That Name*, and *The Party's Over*.

Come see and hear the talents of a cast of 56, stage crew of 31, and orchestra of 35 D'Evelyn students. Tickets go on sale to the general public starting on Wednesday Feb. 3 during both lunches. Advanced reserved seating sells for \$9.00, or you can buy tickets at the door for \$12.00.

Rodeo Roundup Dinner & Silent Auction

By Cymantha Higgins, Dinner Auction chair

Have you recently received an invitation from a D'Evelyn parent asking you to attend a dinner auction gift gathering party? If so, I hope you'll say "yes"! For the second year, the Dinner Auction Committee is organizing gift gathering parties as a way for D'Evelyn parents to get to know one another and build community spirit, while gathering items for our annual silent auction.

If you are unable to attend a gift gathering party, then we hope you will join us for the all-you-can-eat pancake breakfast on Friday, Feb. 5. Jill Colby, Tony Edwards, Kevin Kolasa and Jerry McWhorter will be flipping delicious pancakes for your consumption from 6:30 to 7:30 a.m. Everyone is invited - parents, students, family and friends! Your ticket to the pancake breakfast is a donation for our silent auction. DEF appreciates all types of auction donations - from practical to extravagant, including handmade items, gift certificates or gift cards to a favorite restaurant or retail shop, vacation home rentals, jewelry, and tickets to sports events, plays, concerts, etc. Please remember that all donated items must be new.

You may drop off your donations in the front office from now until Feb. 20. A donor form will be provided at the time of drop off and will serve as a receipt for your tax deductible contribution and for identification in the auction catalog.

We are still seeking sponsors for this event. Sponsorship opportunities range from \$100 up to \$1000+. Event sponsors will be acknowledged during the dinner and silent auction, and their names will be included in the printed program and also on the DEF Dinner Auction website. If you are interested in learning more about becoming an event sponsor, please contact Cymantha Higgins at chiggins@infopipe.com.

Thank you for supporting our school with your donation and attendance at the annual Dinner and Silent Auction, to be held on March 20 at the Pinehurst Country Club. Your invitation will be arriving in the mail very soon. Feel free to invite your relatives and friends to this fun event. I look forward to seeing you at the D'Evelyn Rodeo Roundup. Giddyup!

Mu Alpha Theta Math Tutoring Returns

By Perio Lee Law, Math teacher

Keep those math grades up! Math tutoring is available. D'Evelyn's Chapter of Mu Alpha Theta, an international high school and junior-community college mathematics club, provides math tutoring during 7th Hour for students at D'Evelyn. Please encourage students who need some extra help in math or some practice with math study skills to take advantage of the opportunities for these outstanding tutors to assist them. Students should sign up in their math teacher's room or in Mrs. Law's room EI 15. The dates for second semester are:

Thursday, Feb. 4
Wednesday, Feb. 10
Thursday, Feb. 18
Tuesday, Feb. 23
Tuesday, March 16
Wednesday, March 24
Wednesday, April 7
Thursday, April 15
Tuesday, April 20

DPA Wants You!

By Dee Leh and Gail Woell, DPA parent volunteers

The spring musical "Bells Are Ringing" will be performed at DHS on Feb. 11, 12, 13, 19 and 20. All shows will begin promptly at 7 p.m. DPA supports this event in many ways, and so can you! Please attend the musical, and during intermission purchase a drink and snack. All proceeds benefit D'Evelyn Performing Arts. If you would like to recognize an actor, a member of the stage crew or a performer in the orchestra, DPA will be selling flowers for \$3 and \$10 per small and large bouquet. Look for a DPA representative in the lobby before and after each performance.

If you are curious about the DPA schedule of events, please go to the DPA website located on the school website under community groups. Not only will you find our schedule of events, but you will also find key contacts who can answer any questions you may have about DPA and volunteer opportunities. You will also be able to view our approved minutes from DPA meetings.

Go "green" and support DPA! We recycle all electronic devices including, but not limited to, cell phones, laptops, digital cameras, iPods, GPS devices, video games and consoles, PDA's, etc. Please drop off these items, along with DVD's and used printer cartridges, in the hallway near the east entrance of the school by the trophy cases. DPA can earn money to support all of D'Evelyn's Performing Arts programs by recycling your unwanted items!

A late word of thanks to DPA volunteers who did an awesome job supporting the hot chocolate socials in December. Thank you for supplying and serving delicious hot cocoa and cookies. The socials were well attended and would not have been successful without your continued support. Thank you to Susan and Alice for coordinating these events.

Is your child involved in Improv and Melodrama? The Chick Fil A Melodrama dinner is scheduled for April 9 and 10 – so mark your calendars! This event needs a coordinator! Come to a DPA meeting for more information.

DPA is seeking a president for the 2010-2011 school year. For details about this glamorous volunteer position, please contact Dee Leh at 303-949-9625 or at dee_leh@yahoo.com. The VP, Secretary, and Treasurer officers will remain the same, ensuring a smooth and effortless transition. The next riveting DPA meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 24 at 7 p.m. in the library.

Please support the dinner auction! Attend the Pancake Breakfast or have your child attend the breakfast on Feb. 5. This important fundraiser raises money that supports DPA, as well as many other wonderful D'Evelyn programs. DPA always accepts direct donations. Contact Christine Southcotts at southcotts@q.com if you would like to earmark your donation. Thanks again for your continued support of D'Evelyn Performing Arts!

Honors History

By Chris Baker, Social Studies teacher

Honors History is offered to all interested 8th and 9th grade students. The application and selection process began the week of January 25. During the first week of February, 8th grade students will complete a writing sample during 7th hour. Ninth grade students who are already in Honors are only required to fill out the application, and do not need to include a writing sample. Honor's History does not limit the number of qualified students who are accepted. Students who have earned A's and B's are especially encouraged to apply, but the more important requirement is for the student to have an interest in history. Contact Chris Baker at csbaker@jeffco.k12.co.us if you have any questions.

Jaguar Tracks Editor

The *Jaguar Tracks* is looking for an editor beginning with the 2011-2012 school year. If you are organized, computer-savvy, and have good knowledge of writing and grammar, being editor of the school's community newsletter may be a great D'Evelyn volunteer opportunity for you! The time commitment is approximately 8 hours per month during the school year. To help you learn the job, you would work as assistant editor during the 2010-2011 school year. If you are interested, please send an email to jaguartrax@yahoo.com or call Cymantha Higgins at 303-979-4303 for more information.

J.B. Wilson's Spirit Continues On at D'Evelyn

By Ralph K. Spencer, Treasurer, D'Evelyn Education Foundation Board of Directors

As many of you know, Jamin B. Wilson, a 1999 D'Evelyn graduate, died in an auto accident while commuting to his Air Force job in Germany in December 2006. A National Merit Scholar and President of D'Evelyn's National Honor Society Chapter, J.B. was awarded a ROTC scholarship upon graduation, subsequently graduated from Harvard, and went on to fulfill his military obligation in the U.S. Air Force. Two years ago, J.B.'s parents, Charlie and Becky, notified the D'Evelyn Education Foundation of their desire to endow the \$20,000 Jamin B. Wilson Excellence in Education Awards as a charitable fund within the DEF. This fund was established for the purpose of improving public education by recognizing and rewarding individuals who have demonstrated an extraordinary commitment to inspiring belief in the importance of education and learning, encouraging good citizenship and personal responsibility, and fostering high standards of achievement in learning among the young people at D'Evelyn Jr/Sr High School. The Wilson family is hopeful that D'Evelyn community members will also contribute to this tax deductible fund so that it may continue to award deserving D'Evelyn educators for many years to come. Two \$1,500 Excellence in Education Awards will be presented to D'Evelyn educators at the May 19 Senior Banquet at the Denver Marriott West hotel.

If you are interested in nominating a D'Evelyn educator for one of these two awards, please stop by the Counseling Office beginning Feb. 1 or later and pick up a nomination form and the additional information sheet which explains the purpose, eligibility guidelines, and selection criteria. Please read these documents carefully and comply with all the instructions. Completed nominations must be returned to the Counseling Office no later than Wednesday, April 7, 2010, the second day of school following spring break.

Let's honor J.B.'s enthusiasm and love for education again this May by presenting the Third Annual Excellence in Education Awards to two deserving D'Evelyn educators. For your information, Ms. Janet Shibly, Vocal Music Instructor, and Mr. Chris Baker, Social Studies teacher, were the recipients of the very first Awards in May 2008. At last year's Banquet, Mr. Briant McKellips, Physics teacher, and Mr. Pierre Habel, Latin teacher, took away the coveted trophies and the \$1,500 awards. I know Jamin would be deeply honored to have his name associated with these awards, an honor that will no doubt carry tremendous significance for the 2010 recipients.

High School ACT and SAT Prep Information: Key Dates

By Karen Horn, High School Counselor

This year we have again contracted with RMASS, a private test prep company, to provide test preparation for our juniors for the ACT and SAT.

- The **ACT test prep** will be held on **April 12 and 13** from 1:45 – 4:15 p.m., to help prepare students for the state **ACT on April 28**.
- The **SAT test prep** will take place on **May 17 and 18**, from 1:45 – 4:15 p.m., to help prepare students for the **SAT on June 5**.

Each five-hour seminar familiarizes the student with the style of each test and includes strategies and techniques that reduce test anxiety. Study guides and practice tests are provided with a critical analysis of incorrect answers.

I will be mailing all juniors a flyer on the RMASS test prep seminars. **RMASS test prep registration is online at www.rmass.com**. The cost is \$89 for one workshop, or \$170 for both workshops. If your child is on free/reduced lunch, have the student let me know and I will try to obtain a scholarship for their workshops.

Both of the test prep classes are optional but we would encourage some type of test prep for the ACT and SAT. Research shows that students who take these tests with no preparation are at a distinct disadvantage.

Although all juniors will take the ACT at D'Evelyn (which is paid for by the state of Colorado), **SAT registration has to be submitted at www.collegeboard.com**. The **deadline for registration for the SAT is April 29**, but those who register early will have a better chance of testing at a test site near their homes.

D'Evelyn High School presents ...THE ADMISSION GAME®

An interactive presentation of the college admission process

Featuring

Peter Van Buskirk

Sunday, Feb. 14 - 2:00 p.m.

Students and Parent

Author, Motivational Speaker, and Former Dean of Admission

Featured in The Wall Street Journal, The Los Angeles Times, USA Today,

Family Circle, and "Oprah and Friends" with Jean Chatzky

Learn what will happen to your application behind closed doors!

- ✓ Become a member of an admission committee
- ✓ Review four candidates' credentials
- ✓ Debate their strengths and weaknesses
- ✓ Vote to determine who gets in

All D'Evelyn students and parents are invited and strongly encouraged to attend!

Alumni Survey Feedback

By the D'Evelyn Accountability Committee

An Accountability Subcommittee recently finished compiling results of the Alumni Survey, spanning a full decade of D'Evelyn graduates from 1998-2008. As our current students plunge head on into the spring semester, they might be feeling as though they have too little time and too many options. Stress and frustration can begin to mount as they try to strike a balance. By way of encouragement, consider sharing the following perspectives and wisdom offered by those who have "gone before...and lived to tell about it"! There are some interesting common themes that might even be played out in your own homes.

Question 41: Reflecting back on your experiences at D'Evelyn, is there anything you would have done differently?

1998 Female

"Worked just a little harder and cared less about boys. If I had buckled down a bit, I could have attended an Ivy League school, which I wish I could have done."

1999 Male

"Probably would have tried out for a play or musical. I felt like I expanded my horizons pretty well between sports and various electives, but I always enjoyed watching my friends on stage, acting and singing. It would have been fun to be a part of the production. Also, on a personal note, I wouldn't have been hung up on girls for so long. I would have definitely been less focused on relationships (or lack thereof) and focused more on friendships - though I'm probably better off for having gone through the fire in HS with that stuff, it would have saved a lot of teenage angst!"

2000 Female

"I would have focused more on my girlfriends. I really neglected them whenever I found a new boyfriend and in the end I think that is one of the reasons why I am not as close with my classmates as I'd like. I also should have tried playing sports."

2001 Female

"No, I was involved in many extracurricular activities which also made my experience very unique. Had I attended a different school,

I probably would not have been able to be involved in sports, drama and student council. I would have liked opportunities to take some elective courses such as photography."

2002 Male

"Started drama and sports sooner."

2003 Female

"I would have attempted to enjoy more of it. I spent a lot of time there (wasted a lot of time) being very stressed out and anxious. I truly wanted to do well, but I also wish I would have laughed a little more. Life seemed very serious during those years. I would never have preferred to go to another school, though. If I were to do it again, it being my choice, I would choose D'Evelyn. I think it's the best school in the state."

2004 Male

"I would have defined a career path for myself earlier in my DHS career to more effectively take advantage of the "leg up" that DHS provides in college."

2005 Female

"I would not have refused to take Honors classes because I was too busy. I would have grabbed opportunities to get involved and listened more intently."

2006 Male

"I feel fine with my choices, but if I would have just done the busywork and gotten a higher GPA, I could have had a full ride to any school in the nation. I feel that knowing what I do about college now, it would be nice to graduate debt free."

2007 Female

"I never really got involved in anything outside of academics. I wish I had joined a club or a sport."

2008 Male

"I would have joined the drama program in 7th grade rather than 10th. Also, I would not have quit the fall play in my senior year."

GT Seminar: Where Have All the Girls Gone?

By *Kathee Jones, Board Member, Jefferson County Association for Gifted Children*

On Monday, Feb. 22 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., JAGC (Jefferson County Association for Gifted Children), in cooperation with Jeffco's GT Department, will present globally renowned expert Dr. Linda Silverman. Her presentation, "Where Have All the Girls Gone", will address the tendency of gifted girls to hide their abilities in the face of social pressures (likewise gifted boys will "go underground" under certain circumstances). This presentation is not for parents of girls only; all GT parents are encouraged to broaden their understanding of GT gender issues! This free seminar will be held at Bell Middle School, 1001 Ulysses Street, Golden CO, 80401. In conjunction with the seminar, JAGC will hold a Book Fair in the lobby from 6 to 9 p.m., offering carefully selected, GT-relevant, parent and student guides, plus thought-provoking children and young adult books. Please RSVP for the seminar (or for more information) at rsvp@jeffcogifted.org. Direct all questions to Vicki Ray at 303-431-8054 (leave message) or to Kathee Jones at 303-279-3210. Visit the JAGC website at www.jeffcogifted.org.

Senior Photo Montage

By *Michelle Bervik, parent volunteer*

Senior parents, now is the time to start organizing and copying photographs for your senior's photo montage, a D'Evelyn tradition! The Senior Memory Wall is unveiled at After-Prom and also displayed in the Counseling Center for daily viewing and viewing on the evenings of the spring concerts.

Parents or students can pick up instructions and pre-cut poster boards from the Counseling office beginning Monday, Jan. 25 through Friday, Feb. 26.

Many parents surprise their seniors by keeping their montages hidden so they are surprised at After Prom. Typical pictures used include those from babyhood through the present. Your montage must be laminated or it cannot be hung. Also, the student's name must be clearly written on the back of the montage.

All montages must be completed and turned in to Counseling no later than Friday, April 9 and must be picked up from Counseling before May 28.

Get organized now, and watch the daily announcements for additional information and deadline reminders. The Senior Memory Wall is a long-standing tradition. You don't want to miss this opportunity to honor your senior. If you have any questions, please contact Michelle Bervik at 303-933-6772 or kmberv@msn.com. Best tip? Get started soon!

POMS

By *Leslie Berlinberg, parent volunteer*

What sport practices, competes and supports other sports teams year round? It's the varsity pom squad! The D'Evelyn squad is in the midst of basketball season where you can see their dances during basketball halftime. Also, mark your calendars for Friday, March 12 for the Mr. DHS Pageant. The pageant will be held in the auditorium and will include talent competitions, modeling and more! The admission fee is nominal so everyone can watch as the senior high males show off their stuff.

Junior high girls listen up! And listen to reminders on daily announcements. Poms is hosting a junior high dance group during 7th period on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month. Sign up to learn jumps, turns and dances from the pom squad. Plus you'll also perform in the annual pom recital in the spring. We wish the pom squad best of luck as they travel to Orlando, Florida to compete in Nationals in early February!

D'Evelyn Track and Field is Coming!

By *Micah Porter, coach*

All 9th through 12th grade students are invited to join the DHS Track and Field program this spring. Please check our team website for details about the upcoming season. To access our website from the D'Evelyn site, go to Our Program > Athletics > Team Websites > Track & Field. Please contact Lisa Porter at lporter@jeffco.k12.co.us or Micah Porter at mporter@jeffco.k12.co.us with any questions. We look forward to a great season!

D'Evelyn Men's Swim and Diving Team Hosts Swim Meets

By *Sandy Huntley, parent volunteer*

The D'Evelyn Men's Swimming and Diving Team, who won the 2009 Jeffco 4A League championship, are hosting the 2nd Annual D'Evelyn Invite on Saturday, March 6 and the Jefferson County Invitational Swim Meet on April 16 – 17. Our goal is to sell over 500 programs at the two meets. If you would like to advertise for your business or if you want to print a message in the meet program for your swimmer or team, the advertising rates are lower than last year and space is expected to go quickly! Please contact head coach Josh Griffin at 303-982-8278 or jvgriffi@jeffco.k12.co.us for rates and additional information

Baseball Camp

Baseball Camp for 7th and 8th grade boys will be Feb. 1 – 5 at DHS after school. Students may pick up forms from Coach Porreco or at the front office. If you have any questions you may call Coach Porreco at 303-982-2631.



D'EVELYN EDUCATION FOUNDATION
 Jill Colby, Principal
 10359 West Nassau Avenue
 Denver, Colorado 80235

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**Parent – Teacher
 Conferences
 Feb. 11 from 3 – 8 p.m.**

**No school –
 Feb. 12 and Feb.15**

DATED MATERIAL

Upcoming Events

February 2010 and beyond

| | | |
|---------|-----------------------------|-----------|
| 2/1-5 | Baseball camp | |
| 2/2 | DEF Managers meeting | 7:30 a.m. |
| 2/3 | Academic Letter Recognition | |
| 2/5 | Pancake Breakfast | 6:30 a.m. |
| 2/8 | Steering Committee meeting | |
| 2/8 | JAGS | |
| 2/9 | Jr. High Boosters | |
| 2/9 | Accountability | |
| 2/11 | Parent-Teacher Conferences | 3-8 p.m. |
| 2/12 | No School | |
| 2/11-13 | High School musical | 7 p.m. |
| 2/14 | College Planning | |
| 2/15 | Presidents' Day – No School | |
| 2/16 | DEF Board meeting | |
| 2/19-20 | High School musical | 7 p.m. |
| 2/22 | Steering Committee meeting | |
| 3/2 | DEF Manager meeting | |
| 3/2 | Jr. High choir concert | |
| 3/3-3/4 | CSAP | |

JAGUAR TRACKS

D'Evelyn Jr/Sr High School Contact Information

| | |
|---------------------|--------------|
| Main Office Number: | 303-982-2600 |
| Attendance Line: | 303-982-5771 |
| Bulletin Board: | 303-982-5770 |

The Jaguar Tracks is funded by the D'Evelyn Education Foundation (<http://www.develyneducationfoundation.com/>) and is prepared and distributed through volunteer efforts. Extra copies are available in the main school office.

All submissions are due by the 20th of the prior month. Due to space limitations, not all information may be printed and may be edited. All submissions for publication must be sent only by e-mail to the following address: jaguartrax@yahoo.com. No hardcopy or handwritten articles will be accepted.

Publication Staff:

Cymantha Higgins, Parent Editor/Publisher 303-979-4303

Monique Helfer, Parent Graphic Artist

Marianne Walthier, Parent Editorial Assistant

Email: jaguartrax@yahoo.com

Visit D'Evelyn's website for the most up-to-date information:
<http://sc.jeffco.k12.co.us/education/components/scrapbook/default.php?sectionid=188>