
RECOGNITION OF STUDENTS, STAFF AND COMMUNITY

POLICY ISSUE/SITUATION

Tonight, the Board recognizes the following individuals for their outstanding achievements and contributions to the Beaverton School District and the community.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Celebrate Literacy Award – Debbie Alvarez

Each year, the Portland Council of the International Reading Association recognizes literacy educators who demonstrate state-of-the-art teaching and dedication to developing literacy for all children. The council recently named Debbie Alvarez, Library Media Specialist at Ridgewood Elementary School, as one of five recipients of its distinguished "Celebrate Literacy Award" for her contributions to literacy.

As stated in her nomination: "Debbie has demonstrated leadership in the school community and across the state by serving as the chairperson for Oregon Battle of the Books and sharing new ideas to inspire school library staff to try new things and be leaders in our schools and districts. Debbie has spent countless hours leading the OBOB committee on behalf of students throughout the state. She reads all the books. She has the best lesson plans. She knows all the answers."

Debbie began her career in Beaverton in 1999 as a Media Specialist at Findley Elementary School, and has been the Media Specialist at Ridgewood Elementary School since 2000. Recently, Debbie accepted a position as a teaching librarian in Hong Kong.

Congratulations, Debbie, and best wishes on your new adventure.

2012 Presidential Scholars and most influential teachers – Nishant Karandikar, Pratyusa Mukherjee, Susan Holveck and Robert Stafford

Nishant Karandikar, senior at Southridge High School and Pratyusa Mukherjee, senior at Westview High School have been named 2012 Presidential Scholars by the U.S. Department of Education. Nishant and Pratyusa are two of 141 high school seniors selected from schools across the country to be named a 2012 Presidential Scholar, an honor that places them in the top rank of high school students nationwide. The White House Commission on Presidential Scholars appointed by President Obama selected the scholars based on their academic success, artistic excellence, essays, school evaluations and transcripts, as well as evidence of community service, leadership, and demonstrated commitment to high ideals.

Nishant and Pratyusa will be honored for their accomplishments during an all-expense-paid trip to Washington D.C. this month where they will be guests of the White House Commission on Presidential Scholars. Accompanying them will be their most influential and challenging teachers to be honored with a Teacher Recognition Award. Nishant chose Susan Holveck, Beaverton School District Science Specialist and Pratyusa chose Robert Stafford, Social Studies teacher at Westview High School.

Both Nishant and Pratyusa were also named 2012 National Merit \$2,500 Scholarship winners. National Merit Scholarship winners are the Finalists in each state, selected by a committee of college admissions officers and high school counselors, judged to have the strongest combination of accomplishments, skills, and potential for success in rigorous college studies. These Scholars may use their awards at any regionally accredited U.S. college or university.

Congratulations, Nishant and Pratyusa on receiving this distinguished award, and good luck in your future endeavors. Congratulations, Susan and Robert for inspiring and challenging two dedicated and ambitious future leaders.

2012 Mediators' Choice Award – Aloha High School Counseling Department

The Counseling Center staff at Aloha High School has been selected to receive the 2012 Mediators' Choice Award for their efforts in working with students, faculty, staff and the community as a series of tragic events unfolded.

Within a three-week timeframe there were four deaths in the community that shocked the school and community as a whole. Through all of these events the counselors and staff offered grief counseling and support for students and families in the Aloha High School attendance area. They also established after school sessions to assist faculty and staff through the grief process. Through all of the tragedy and turmoil, this group maintained not only a high level of professionalism but demonstrated incredible compassion and empathy. In addition, they continued to attend to their regular duties at the school - with a mobility rate of 38% and students being critically impacted by poverty and homelessness – a huge challenge in itself.

In 2011, the Oregon Mediation Association celebrated its 25th anniversary by introducing the Mediators' Choice Award to recognize people in Oregon who have made an extraordinary contribution toward peacemaking in Oregon's communities. The organization looks for individuals or groups who have made positive contributions by building understanding, healing communities, resolving complex problems, establishing trust, and/or enhancing relationships.

Congratulations, Aloha High School Counseling Department.

National MATHCOUNTS Competition – Ashwin Sah, Andrew Bai, Akshay Pulavarty, Raghav Prakash, Daniel Chiu, Markab Han, Andrew Yang

Ashwin Sah, seventh-grader at Summa at Stoller Middle School placed second in the National MATHCOUNTS Competition, after an intense one-on-one Countdown Round, in which the top 12 Mathletes vied for the title. Ashwin was awarded a \$6,000 scholarship. Three other Beaverton middle schoolers were among the more than 220 who competed in the multi-day competition held in Florida last month, Andrew Bai, Akshay Pulavarty, and Raghav Prakash all from Summa at Meadow Park Middle School.

The Stoller Middle School team, coached by Mr. Jin Yang, comprised of Daniel Chiu, Markab Han, Ashwin Sah, and Andrew Yang won first place for the state of Oregon. The top four scoring individuals at the state level made up the National team representing Oregon.

To advance to the national competition, students had to place in the top four of their peers during their state competition in March after advancing through local and chapter-level competitions.

Congratulations, Ashwin, Andrew, Akshay and Raghav, Daniel, Markab and Andrew!

Regional Math League Competition – Daniel Chiu, Markab Han

Daniel Chiu and Markab Han, seventh graders at Summa at Stoller Middle School, tied for first place in the 22-state regional Math League competition. Daniel and Markab each scored 34 out of 35, which makes them tied for having the second highest score in the U.S. across all regional Math League competitions, and tied for having the second highest score in the world across all the participating countries.

Because of their high scores, Daniel and Markab qualify for the Math Finals, to be held at Stanford University in August 2012, to compete against other top scorers from the rest of the world.

Congratulations, Daniel and Markab.

Flag of Learning and Liberty – Don Zehrung

Don Zehrung is being awarded The Flag of Learning and Liberty, which symbolizes the fundamental interdependency of public education and the democratic way of life enjoyed in the United States of America, in honor of his 37 years of dedication to the children of the Beaverton School District.

Don began his career in 1974 as a Physical Education teacher at Oak Hills Elementary School, and has been at his current school of Conestoga Middle School since 1994. During his long teaching career, he has inspired thousands of students to embrace a lifetime of fitness, activity and healthy practices. His dedication, contributions and service to Physical Education and Health curriculum development and implementation in the School District and statewide are significant. His list of awards is extensive and includes: the Robert J. Ritson, Lifetime Achievement Award, the Oregon Governor's Council on Physical Fitness and Sports Award, Middle School Teacher of the Year for the Oregon Alliance of Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance and the 2006 Beaverton Education Association Lifetime Achievement Award.

Thank you, Don, for 37 years of dedication and service to the students of the Beaverton School District.

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the School Board recognize Debbie Alvarez, Nishant Karandikar, Pratyusa Mukherjee, the Aloha High School Counseling staff, Ashwin Sah, Andrew Bai, Akshay Pulavarty, Raghav Parkash, Andrew Yang, Daniel Chiu, Markhab Han and Don Zehrung for their contributions to the School District.