



Superintendent's Honor Roll – Feb. 12, 2008

At the Feb. 12 board meeting, Superintendent Chris King honored two members of the BVSD community who exemplify the character and public spirit that are at the core of the characteristics contained in our New Century Graduate profile. One is an educator who, in teaching her third graders to write, also showed them how to be effective and helpful members of their community. The other is a young man who rose to a challenge most of us will never face and came through with flying colors.

Foothill Elementary School Third Grade Teacher Holli Hoskins was nominated by Foothill Principal Melissa Zahn and Foothill parents Julene Thom, Jenni Tierney, and Kelly Hildebrandt. They described her as a “creative, deeply devoted teacher that has a special talent of making every child in her classroom feel respected, appreciated and valued.” According to her nomination, Holli integrates creative writing assignments into the daily life of her classroom. She seeks out unique writing assignments, which become personal works of accomplishment and empowerment for students.

During the 2006-07 school year, Holli gave her class the assignment to answer the question, “What would you do to better the world if you had \$1000.” She led the class in thoughtful discussions and inspired them to believe that small people could make a difference. She submitted these writing papers to CBS4 in Denver, entering them into that station’s “Pay it Forward” contest. To her students’ surprise, they won. They received \$1000 to be used to as they wished to make a positive difference in the world. The students decided to split the money to help two often forgotten groups, senior citizens at Sunrise Assisted Living Center in Boulder and animals at the Boulder Valley Humane Society. Holli continued to foster relationships with those senior citizens by encouraging her students to continue writing to them as pen pals, making Valentine’s and holiday cards. This project became a tremendous learning experience. These friendships continue still.

This year, Holli guided her third graders as they wrote letters to executives at Kellogg’s, suggesting new cereal flavors they’d like to see created. Last week, the response arrived in a big box with Kellogg’s t-shirts

and snacks for the entire class and a letter back to thank them for their suggestions. Her students were excited that executives at a big company would take the time to respond to them.

Louisville Middle School Eighth Grader Jared Vigil was honored for the following heroic act:

Last Wednesday, Jared felt sick and was excused and sent home from school. About the same time, the mother of a classmate of Jared's was in Louisville's Cottonwood Park near a frozen lake. Her dog ran onto the lake's ice and it cracked under the dog's weight. The dog was having trouble getting out. Because she did not have her cell phone, the woman went onto the ice after her dog only to have the ice crack under her as well. The dog made it out of the lake but the woman could not. Jared's route home took him by the lake where he heard her calls for help. He responded by calling 911 on his cell phone and then used his school backpack from thicker ice near the lakeshore to assist her out of the lake just as paramedics responded.

Jared never mentioned the incident to Louisville Middle School administrators. However, the mother, Connie Ostwald, who is fine now, telephoned school principal Adam Fels to tell him what Jared had done for her.

"Character gets tested everyday," said LMS Assistant Principal Ginny Vidulich. "In a crisis situation like this, for Jared to respond so perfectly is a testament to his character and courage. We're all so proud of Jared and grateful for his heroism."

At a school assembly last Friday, all of LMS turned out to honor their friend and classmate for his calm and courageous handling of this life-threatening situation. The Louisville Fire Department awarded Jared a Certificate of Valor (only the fifth in their 127-year history) and Adam Fels presented him with a plaque as the Louisville Middle School "Hero of the Year."



Jared Vigil with David Auday, a counselor at Louisville Middle School, speaking at a special assembly that was held Feb. 8 to honor Jared. Four local television news stations were there to cover the event.

