

# BRAVO!



March 2010

Kansas students, educators and schools are among the best in the nation and we want to salute their accomplishments. The Communications Office at the Kansas State Department of Education will regularly publish a list of happenings in Kansas schools. If you know of a specific award garnered by students, teachers, programs, schools, or districts, please let us know so that it may be included in our publication. Although it may not be possible to include all awards sent to us, we offer our congratulations and best wishes to the students and educators in our state.

Karla Denny, Director  
Communications and Recognition Programs

Congratulations **Sumner Academy of Arts and Science** in Kansas City for being named among the **100 Best High Schools** by **U.S. News and World Report!** Sumner received a Gold Medal, ranking 62<sup>nd</sup> in the country. Forty-two other schools in the state were awarded Bronze Medals.

Kansas schools once again demonstrated their generosity after Haiti's devastating earthquake earlier this year. Here are just a couple examples of what students are doing to help:

Students at **Central Kansas Christian Academy** held a Dress-Down Dollar Day to help the **relief effort in Haiti**. Each donation earned the students the right to forgo their uniforms for the day and wear their regular clothes, all while raking in an astonishing \$1,700! Donations were given to **Star of Hope International** which supports three children's homes in Haiti.

**Royster Middle School Student Council** raised **money for Haiti** by instituting a "Penny War" between the sixth, seventh and eighth graders. Donations were also collected at school basketball games and through raffles.

**Alex Bright, Ben Kamm** and **Rachel Peterson** of **Basehor-Linwood High School** were selected for the **Kansas Music Educators Association All-State Band** concert that took place in February. In addition, freshman **Ben Forshee** was also selected to perform in the **John Phillip Sousa Honor Band** concert that took place in early January.

The **Shawnee Mission South Academic Decathlon team** earned its tenth straight division one, first-place finish during a state competition in January. Led by coach **Stanley Stern**, students **Hope Jasperson, Paul Goodwin, Nikki Webb, Connor Crain, Varsha Subramanyam, Grant Clothier, Alex Foster, Shaina Winston, Hallie Baumann, Kavya Thyagarajan** and **Maria Taboada** earned their way to the national competition in April. Great work!

We'd love to hear what your students and faculty are achieving! Please send submissions to

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**Basehor-Linwood High School** teacher **David Svoboda** and **Basehor Elementary** teacher **Hillary Raple** got their **National Citizenship Education Teachers Award certificates**. The teachers were congratulated by Basehor-Linwood Superintendent **David Howard**, Basehor VFW Quartermaster **Daniel Stueckemann**, and Basehor VFW Commander **Fred Box**.

**Lawrence art teachers** have found a creative way to give back to their school by uploading student art to the online gallery **Artsonia** (with parental approval). Parents can easily view their childrens' masterpieces and buy items such as mugs and t-shirts with selected artwork. Fifteen percent of proceeds go back to the school in the form of **art supplies**. Great idea!

**Spelling Bees** are in full swing, and reports of champions are showing up at an incredible rate! Though the winners throughout the state are too numerous to mention by name, we'd like to offer one giant C-O-N-G-R-A-T-U-L-A-T-I-O-N-S to all the champs!



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