



Academics

Wonder Dog

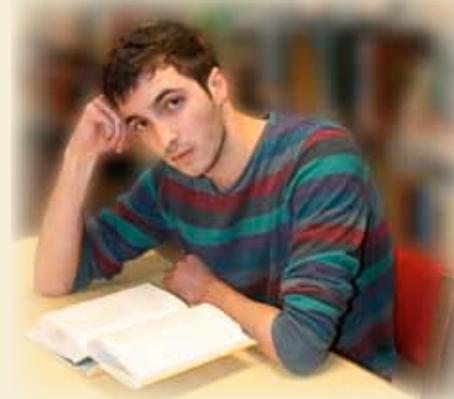
— by *Shelby Medina*

For recreational, environmental, and social health, senior **Paul Rastrelli** is the man to go to. The 18-year-old has made a lasting impact by establishing one of Centennial High School's newest organizations, FRESH Club. The club allows students to contribute through many different activities to make Centennial a better place.

Rastrelli has touched the lives of more than just one person. FRESH Club has recently gained membership of nearly 100 students at Centennial and has touched the community as well. Not only has Paul succeeded in establishing the club, but he's earned his good name as a role model for his peers through his involvement with the school.

Regarding what motivated the name, "It was a term I actually came up with by myself," stated Rastrelli. When asked the purpose of the new FRESH Club, Rastrelli replied simply, "I thought it would be good for our school."

Rastrelli's first project was an anti-bullying campaign known as, "Rachel's Challenge." It was showcased to the entire student body of Centennial. The presentation had an impact on every student. "After talking to the school's administration, I emailed the website and they did everything else," said Rastrelli. "It was amazing to see all these students signing the ('I Accept Rachel's Challenge') banners."



District Spelling Bee

Can you spell "catkin?"

While not quite producing a sibling rivalry, Pueblo City Schools' 35th Annual Spelling Bee certainly took on the look of a family affair on February 7 at Heaton Middle School. First-place honors went to Risley Middle School 8th grader Rosalia Aguilar who spelled the word "catkin" correctly after second-place finisher, 8th grader, Marc Santana of Heaton, misspelled the word. Third place went to Rosalia's sister Alicia Aguilar-Basurto, also an 8th grader at Risley.

Aguilar, Santana, Aguilar-Basurto and six other finalists qualify for the state competition to be held in Denver on March 16. According to event co-organizer, Cassy Taylor, the event was well attended, both in terms of participants and audience. "We had 30 bright middle school students in the contest and a great audience on-hand to watch a tremendous competition," cited Taylor.

David Ortiz of News 5 (KOAA Television) served as emcee and pronouncer of the event. Judges for the spelling bee were Dave Feamster of Little Caesars Pizza, Priscilla Lucero of Wells Fargo Bank, Art Stawski of Loaf'N Jug and Alice Birch of US Bank.



please see DOG continued on page 2

Maggie's Memo



by *Superintendent
Maggie Lopez, Ph.D.*

We welcome you to our newsletter...a monthly opportunity to learn the positive stories of our students, faculty, staff, and programs.

We look forward to your comments. Enjoy!

on the move!

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Dog...continued from page 1

Each student in the assembly that day took a pledge of anti-bullying, all standing with tears in their eyes. After the presentation, nearly the entire student body crowded tables with banners to sign to show their acceptance of the challenge. "It was really cool to see posters everywhere," said Rastrelli. "It was great to see that kind of impact from 'Rachel's Challenge'."

Paul has reached out to the community as well. Days after the Sandy Hook tragedy, Rastrelli organized a candlelight vigil in honor of the victims. Word of the vigil went viral locally and teens from almost every high school showed up. "I think I saw a letterman's jacket from every high school...about 80 people showed up," said Rastrelli. "I was really touched."

Rastrelli is among a select number of students who are part of the Centennial Ambassadors, who are looked upon as role models for the freshmen class. "You build a relationship and show them the value of an education," stated Rastrelli.

Paul Rastrelli is a prime example of an outstanding role model and high school student. He hopes to possibly attend the University of Colorado or Denver University. His name is well known throughout the Bulldog hallways and one that has made its way into the Pueblo community as well. Rastrelli's efforts as a student and leader have created a whole new level of achievement.

"You build a relationship and show them the value of an education."

- Paul Rastrelli

TCAP

It's TCAP time! This is year two for TCAP (Transitional Colorado Assessment Program), having replaced the previous standards-based assessment, CSAP.

P-A-R-E-N-T-S... here are some good TCAP tips to remember:

PARTICIPATE: Participate in your child's learning activities. Studies have shown that parent participation and influence have long-term positive effects on student performance.

ASSIST: Assist the educational process by discussing with your child the importance of being actively engaged with learning activities and working to his or her highest possible potential.

REASSURE: Reassure your child that this assessment measures learning and will be used by teachers to better improve instruction.

ENCOURAGE: Encourage your child to get a good night's rest, not just before the assessment but daily, in order to receive optimum benefits from educational opportunities.

NOURISH: Provide opportunities for your child to grow physically, mentally and emotionally.

TEACH: Teach your child to do his or her best in all settings, not just assessment situations.

SUPPORT: Support your child's continued educational progress by modeling the discipline needed to maintain good work habits.

Volunteers In Pueblo Schools (VIPS)

Superintendent Dr. Maggie Lopez has placed an emphasis on additional support for schools, students, and families of Pueblo City Schools as a part of her "Responsive Classroom" initiative. She implemented the VIPS program this year to involve the community. Pueblo City Schools welcomes the community to help provide children with an enriching educational experience.

The VIPS program encompasses a variety of opportunities. Volunteers are needed for mentoring, tutoring or providing needed items for our schools and families. To date, over 300 volunteers are working in our schools this year. Many children and families are reaping the benefits of these people giving so generously of their time, talents and resources.

For more information, contact:

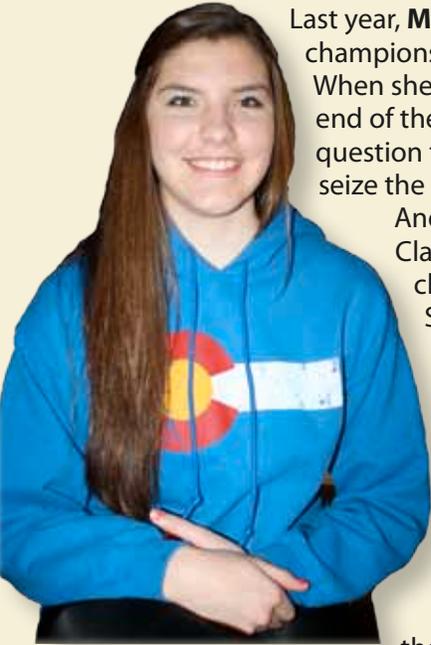
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High School Athletics

Continuing to make waves

— By Emily Maglia



Last year, **Mary Saiz** took the individual Class 4A girls state championship title in the 100 backstroke and the 50 freestyle. When she dominated the backstroke and powered to the very end of the 50 freestyle, it solidified her 4th state title. The big question for this year was whether or not Saiz would be able to seize the prestigious title of state champion once more.

And she did that, Saturday, February 9, at the Class 4A section of the state swimming and diving championships, at Veterans Memorial Aquatic Center, Saiz won the 100 backstroke in the state record time of 56.49 seconds.

Saiz was aiming at maintaining her reputation as a state champion this year, which she did. She was even more hyped about beating the 100 backstroke record. "I'll admit, I was kind of upset last year when I was two-tenths of a second off the state record," said Saiz. But she walked away with a smile, knowing she did what she hoped to do.

As for the 50 freestyle, Saiz took second place, with the time of 24.08 –

her personal best. "I was nervous after I got second in the freestyle, but I was focused on the win and the ability to break a state record," said Saiz. South finished fifth as a team overall, with 146 points.

The 5-foot-11 swimmer recently signed with the University of Utah, where she hopes to continue her swimming career and eventually qualify for the NCAA, as well as the 2016 Olympic Trials.

"My hopes were to end my senior year good, and to hold a record setting time. I'm really happy for my team and everything I have accomplished," said Saiz.

"I'm really happy for my team and everything I have accomplished."

—Mary Saiz

Christa McAuliffe
Planetarium

Violent Universe

The Christa McAuliffe Planetarium will present the program, Violent Universe, on **March 19, 2013 at 7 and 8 p.m.**

The program presents possible Earth destruction scenarios as they relate to the structure and composition of our galaxy. Prior to the program there will be a Science Today asteroid presentation.

Admission charges for the program are: \$5 for anyone over the age of 18 and \$2 for anyone between the ages of 5-18. The program narration is intended for grades four and above.

The Christa McAuliffe Planetarium is located at Centennial High School, 2525 Mountview Dr. The main entrance to the facility is on the west side of the building.

Student Health & Safety

Our schools are safe

The Sandy Hook Elementary tragedy of December 14, 2012 resulted in a heightened sense of safety and security in our schools. Across the country and throughout the world, schools are making improvements to their buildings and rethinking practices all to make their schools safer for students, faculty and staff.

Pueblo City Schools continues to make safety the number one priority in schools and district buildings. Randy Evetts, Safe Schools Director, says our schools are indeed safe. "We are doing everything possible to ensure our schools are a safe place," explained Evetts. "That safety is foremost in our minds and many programs are in place to increase that awareness."

Long before the Sandy Hook tragedy, Pueblo City Schools was practicing periodic, surprise lockdown drills at its schools. That practice continues, along with securing doors in buildings and allowing for only a single point of entry.

"Our schools are practicing their emergency plans on a consistent basis," reminded Evetts. "Add to that our great partnership with the Pueblo Police Department and you have schools committed to a safe environment for learning."

The School Safe™ radio system is also in place throughout the district, giving building officials the ability to communicate with one another, along with law enforcement and other first responders. Evetts said of the safety program, "It's a commitment that is on-going."



Safe Schools
Healthy Students

School Finance

Revamping school finance

The state's School Finance Act hasn't been significantly revised since 1994, but Sen. Mike Johnston, D-Denver, is crafting a bill that would change the way the state doles out money for education. The new formula would hinge on passage of a statewide tax increase and remains under discussion.

How it works now...

Step 1

The state starts with a base per-pupil funding of \$5,843 per 1-12 student and half of half-day kindergarten.

Step 2

The state adds weights for:

- Cost-of living
- At-risk (free lunch eligible)
- Size of district
- Online students

Step 3

District funds local share based on statutory requirements; state funds the rest.

Step 4

The state also pays a portion of certain categorical programs such as...

- English Language Learning (ELL)
- Gifted/Talented (GT)
- Special Education
- Transportation



Senator Mike Johnston

Sen. Johnston proposal *(subject to change)*

Step 1

The state starts with a base per-pupil funding for \$5,843 per student for 1-12 and full day kindergarten, plus additional funding for 9-12 online, blended and concurrent enrollment students.

Step 2

The state adds weights for:

- Small districts
- At-risk (both free & reduced lunch eligible)
- English Language Learners

Step 3

The state determines how much the local district is able to raise based on statutory regulations and ability to pay; state funds the rest.

Step 4

The state increases funding for:

- Special education
- Gifted and talented education

Step 5

The state offers additional support for:

- Mill levy increase match for districts with under 10,000 students
- Innovation funding
- State Education investment of \$600 per pupil additional revenue

SOURCES: Denver Post / Colorado Department of Education / Senator Mike Johnston



DATES to remember

State Basketball Tournament

"Great Eight": March 9
Denver Coliseum, Denver, CO

"Final Four": March 14-15
CU Events Center, Boulder, CO

TCAP Testing
March 4-22

MathCounts State Competition
March 9
Colorado School of Mines
Golden, CO

Destination Imagination Regional Competition
March 23
CSU-Pueblo

STUDENT Contributors

Shelby Medina — Centennial High School

Shelby is a Centennial High School senior, and is Centennial's yearbook editor this year. She enjoys photography and writing, but hopes to pursue a career in psychiatric nursing.



Emily Maglia — South High School

Emily is junior at South High School and is a Journalism 1 student. She is a tennis player for the Colts, and also enjoys writing and art.

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