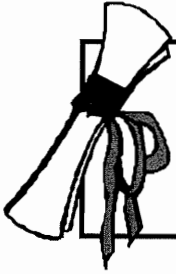




EAGLE EYES

Volume 9, Number 1

News From Winter Trimester 2001



FRIDAY, APRIL 13, LUCKY DAY FOR GRADUATES

Friday, April 13 was a lucky day for these students who graduated during ceremonies at Eagle Rock: Jena Argenta, Boulder, CO; Stephanie "Sweets" Baldwin, Trenton, NJ; and Abe Neas, Fort Collins, CO. Graduation of these students brings Eagle Rock to a total of 58 graduates.

SOCGER MAKES EAGLE ROCK PARTICIPATION IN NATIONAL SERVICE LEARNING CONFERENCE WORK

by Lois Easton, Director of Professional Development

It's a good thing that Instructional Specialist Dave Hoskins knows and likes soccer. He was charged with planning the logistics for the recent National Service Learning Conference which was held in Denver. What came to mind, naturally, was to organize the volunteers from Eagle Rock and several Denver-area schools into squads and goalies and deploy them as a coach might play his first, second, and third strings.

The National Service Learning Conference sponsored by The National Youth Leadership Council was held in Denver April 4-7. It attracted over 3000 adults and students engaged in service learning from across the country and around the world. Eagle Rock supplied the "backbone" to the conference by organizing the logistics and providing volunteers to carry them out.

The conference theme — Partnerships for a Civil Society — focused on "how service learning can create partnerships among educational, governmental and community-based organizations to assist in building a global society."

Students and staff served as greeters and

door monitors, site monitors, hall monitors, session monitors, meal and ballroom monitors, help desk attendees and VIP ambassadors. Their jobs were especially critical because the conference site was the Adams Mark Hotel in downtown Denver, a hotel in two buildings with underground, street, and bridge crossings linking the two buildings but providing a lot of confusion. The most common question students and staff were asked was, "How do I get to . . . ?"

Students and staff stayed overnight at PS-1, a charter school near downtown Denver and showered each morning at West High School, just across the street. They walked the many blocks to and from the conference site.

In addition to organizing the squads from Eagle Rock, Dave also organized volunteers from Foothills Academy, the Community Involved Charter, and PS-1. He was assisted by intern Eli Spanier and students Stephanie "Sweets" Baldwin, Vincent Davis, Monique Navarro, Hayla Delano-Nuttall, and Stacey Tennille. This team could be recognized by their impressive, high-tech ear phones and microphones and their serious strategizing about how to find a missing presenter or help a handicapped person get to a room that seemed inaccessible.

Keynote speakers at the conference included John Glenn, Jr., Kumi Naidoo, Jonathan Kozol, Buffy Sainte-Marie, Pedro Reyes, and Wokie Weah.

American Honda was one of the sponsors of the conference and, as part of its sponsorship, equipped all volunteers with a blue denim shirt that identified them as volunteers. Volunteers also sported "Ask Me" buttons.

The Eagle Rock Choir, composed of both students and staff, performed at the begin-



Sweets and Eli, two organizers of volunteers for the conference, as the conference nears its end.

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S.O.S. IS NOT A CRY FOR HELP; IT'S AN ANSWER

by *Christian Champagne, Intern*

Have you dreamed about trying a new sport or activity but never gotten the chance? For a group of lucky Eagle Rock students, this dream came true in the sport of snowboarding. The majestic mountains of Colorado were heaped with fresh snow this trimester and we got a great chance to frolic in this winter playground.

Eagle Rock partnered with a non-profit organization called S.O.S. (the Snowboard Outreach Society) in bringing a group of Eagle Rockers to learn to snowboard in the Colorado Rockies, an opportunity that was richly enjoyed by all those who participated.

The days were long: Imagine waking up at 5:30 am, driving 3 1/2 hours, snowboarding for 7 hours, and then driving back later that night. However, these long days were packed full of silliness and good times, making the drive more than worthwhile. Combine this with the fun of learning a new, exhilarating sport in a stunningly beautiful environment, and you have a bunch of friends having a heck of a good time.

S.O.S. is a non-profit organization that is dedicated to helping improve the quality of life for young people through the teaching of their five "core values" and through the sport of snowboarding. S.O.S.'s core values are Courage, Integrity, Compassion, Wisdom and Knowledge (8+5=10 anyone?). Snowboarding has an inherent "cool factor" that is attractive to many of the young people in our society; it is exciting, easy to learn (pretty easy, anyway), and is a truckload of fun. All these factors combine to make snowboarding a sport that most young people would want to learn.

S.O.S.'s founder, Arn Menconi, recognized this fact and began S.O.S. roughly seven years ago. His vision was to create a non-profit that could pool the resources of the large corporations involved in winter sports (i.e., Vail Resorts and various snowboarding companies)

and help get kids out to try snowboarding, especially those kids who might not otherwise have the chance to get into this sport. Through the hard work and dedication of the S.O.S. staff and a crew of volunteers, S.O.S. now teaches its core values through the sport of snowboarding to thousands of young people across the West.

Eagle Rock has been very lucky to have

worked with S.O.S. over the past two years. We snowboarded with S.O.S. last winter, mountain biked with S.O.S. over the summer, and even partnered



The Eagle Rock S.O.S. Team

with S.O.S. in a math class focused on non-profit organizations. This winter, their hard work and dedication provided us with five day-passes at Keystone, free instruction from three excellent guys, Scotty "Scarecrow," C.D., and Danny the Kiwi, and free equipment. The effort put forth by all those involved shows their faith in the effectiveness and importance of S.O.S.'s message and in the joy of snowboarding. We definitely owe them our gratitude.

There are many good memories to take away from the S.O.S. experience this trimester: the time when Paul went flying a little too high or watching Darren and Ian come screaming down the slopes. Seeing Ashlyn's smile as she rode on the last day, realizing how far she had come, was excellent. Certainly the cheesebox (our affectionately nicknamed bus) was memorable...and stinky. Snowboarding with S.O.S. was a blast; however, it was more than simply snowboarding that made it great. S.O.S. brought us together as a group; we all now share a common memory and a common experience. It helped us to strengthen our friendships and build our community which, as we all know, is vital to the sense of family we feel at Eagle Rock.

(Special thanks go out to Susan Bronzino and the S.O.S. staff, whose flexibility and determination made all this possible.)

EAGLE ROCK INVITED TO TRANSFORMATIONAL EDUCATION CONFERENCE

by Lois Easton, Director of
Professional Development

"This Conference is by invitation only. You were invited because your program is recognized as exceptional. You provide young people with an alternative to traditional education that has proven both successful and somehow life changing. Yes, of course, you provide academic instruction so that these young people can achieve their scholastic and professional goals, but you are also providing supportive services of some sort. You are inspiring them to get their lives in order and stay focused. You are helping them transform their lives."

These words were included in a letter to Eagle Rock inviting the school to participate in a conference entitled, "Alternatives to a Broken System: Identifying Best Practices in Transformational Education and Youth Development." The conference was a project of the Los Angeles Conservation Corps and funded by the Walter S. Johnson and Mott Foundations.

The focus of the conference was on the participants — students and educators —

who had something to share on three "big picture" issues: academic standards, guiding principles, and best practices.

Robert Burkhardt, Instructional Specialist Dave Hoskins, and two students, Amy Sedillo and Sandy Rivera, attended the conference in Los Angeles May 9-12, 2001. In early April they completed a set of Pre-Conference Reflection Questions, such as "What is your mission? How does your program achieve your mission?" and "What is your vision for what 'transformational education' could be for vulnerable youth? What is good education? How would you know a young person is well-educated?"

Responses from each of the invited schools were distributed to all participants. Conference organizers reported that the questions were "our first attempt to engage you in the Conference mentality of thinking about, talking about and sharing information about your program, and your responses represent the first step towards our work in addressing best practices."

Other organizations involved in the conference were the National Association of Service and Conservation Corps, American Youth Works, the National Center for Education and the Economy, YouthBuild USA, Youth Opportunity Initiative in Philadelphia, and the National Employment Coalition.

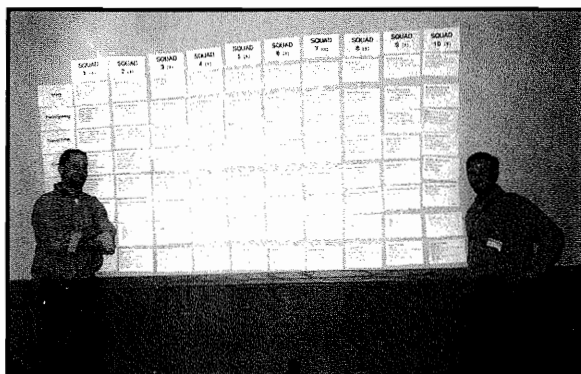
"Service Learning Conf." -- Continued

ning of the opening plenary session. ERS dancers, rappers, musicians, and singers brought repeated applause. According to Robert Burkhardt, Head of School, "It was a remarkable performance, highlighted by Junior Garcia's strolling through the crowd as he performed an original rap piece fo-

cus on service, backed by trumpets, organ, drums and guitar." The Eagle Rock Choir was approached after the performance by a leader in service learning and asked if they would go on the road, next stops Fort Lauderdale and Seattle!

Burkhardt commented in an email to parents, "This exemplary service did not go unnoticed. The National Youth Leadership Council and Youth Service

America, organizers of the conference, paid a special (and unexpected) tribute to Eagle Rock at the closing banquet. Sweets, who had opened the conference by singing



Eli and Dave display the organizational strategies that helped make the conference a success.

Richard Gordon
*Learning Resources
and Information*

Colleen Graham
Human Performance

Linda Sand Guest
Director of Curriculum

Dick Herb
Director of Operations

Brandy Hodgson
Science

David Hoskins
*Environmental Science
and Service*

Sheri Jackson
*Business Administration
Specialist*

Janice Lee
Registrar

Jeff Lemon
Head Cook

Jeff Liddle
*Wilderness &
Outdoors Education*

Ted Long
Assistant Facilities

Chris Mason
*Health and Wellness
Counselor*

Mary McGuire
Arts

Karolee McLaughlin
Music and Performance

L'Tanya Perkins
Admissions Associate

Tim Phelps
Chef, Instructor

Tammy Quirk
Cook

James Sherman
*Society and
Social Studies*

Jeanne Sherman
Administrative Assistant

Philbert Smith
Director of Students

Lan To
Life After Eagle Rock

Alison Trattner
Language and Literature

NEW STUDENTS HAVE MUCH TO LEARN AT EAGLE ROCK, BUT VETERAN STUDENTS SHARE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THEIR LEARNING —

by Robert Burkhardt,
Head of School

Editor's Note: Robert shared this with parents and friends of Eagle Rock through an email. He wrote this list as a way of reminding veteran students how far they have come and how they needed to "make haste slowly" with new students (this trimester, ER 23).

WHAT ER-23 DOESN'T KNOW

ER-23 has never seen a Presentation of Learning.

ER-23 has never put out an issue of "From Under the Rock."

ER-23 doesn't have a single accomplished math portfolio.

ER-23 has never participated in EagleServe.

ER-23 has never studied AIDS with Dan Condon.

ER-23 probably doesn't have three pals named Gussie, Merlin and Jake.

ER-23 has never run the gate on a clear, cold winter morning.

ER-23 has never bought Girl Scout cookies from Carly or Nia.

ER-23 doesn't understand simple English: "I made a copy of my ILP in the PDC and went to the LRC looking for an IS to proof my POL packet. Couldn't find anyone so I went to the Dojo in the HPC."

ER-23 has never lost on the Field of Dreams and then walked slowly home.

ER-23 has never been on time for KP. Or late, either.

ER-23 probably thinks eight plus five equals thirteen.

ER-23 has never led a Gathering.

ER-23 has never willed its way to the top of Twin Sisters or Windy Peak.

ER-23 has never gotten a 3P (punctuality, preparedness, participation) ding — but just wait a few days.

ER-23 thinks "Salud" is what people say before drinks.

ER-23 has never heard a Second Chance letter or served on a Second Chance panel.

ER-23 has never experienced Explore Week.

ER-23 has never cleaned up the Lodge, the HPC or the LRC late at night.

ER-23 has never won an ERS Excellence medal.

ER-23 has no art or articles gracing ERS walls.

ER-23 has never carried a flag at graduation.

ER-23 has never had to sit on the Hearth and face this community.

ER-23 doesn't know about Aikido — yet.

ER-23 has never done on-site service with Eli.

ER-23 has never lingered over Sunday brunch.

ER-23 has never been to Writers Club.

ER-23 has never been to a Women's or a Men's meeting.

ER-23 doesn't know there will be a wonderful slide show on April 13.

ER-23 doesn't know who Karelle is or why Janice is so important.

ER-23 doesn't know what Saturday Seminars are.

ER-23 has never played hacky-sack on the Esplanade.

ER-23 has never sung "Lift Every Voice" at graduation.

ER-23 has not yet produced a 3P superstar.

ER-23 hasn't gone on break and returned to ERS with a new perspective.

ER-23 has never had lunch outside on the picnic table.

ER-23 doesn't know Shaman from Bonepipe.

ER-23 hasn't been on a Sunday Stroll — yet.

ER-23 doesn't know what Close-Up is.

ER-23 has never been on solo.

ER-23 hasn't sung in the chorus or played in the band.

ER-23 hasn't sat in the common room in quiet conversation, getting to know better a housemate from the other side of the country.

ER-23 has never been in a summer production at the outdoor amphitheater.

ER-23 has no idea why Diane Burkhardt and Rick Roberts are so beloved in this community.

ER-23 doesn't know that Donny and Brian are at CU, Jeremy and Erin at Maryville, and Davian has been accepted in grad school.

ER-23 has never earned money for the Graduate Higher Education Fund.

ER-23 doesn't know you can't be in the art building without permission.

ER-23 doesn't know why we have POL panels.

Robert concluded his presentation to veteran students (and his email to parents and friends) with this statement: "ER-23 may not know these things, but you do. How are you going to help them come into knowledge and understanding? Think about it."

