



EAGLE EYES

Volume 17, Number 1

News From Winter/Spring 2009 Trimester



QUACK QUACK, THE DUCK RACE IS COMING!

Julien Durand, Eagle Rock School Student

*Reprinted with permission form the March 13, 2009 edition of
From Under the Rock. ER-47, Volume 3*

Every year, Eagle Rock and the community of Estes Park put together a race of rubber ducks to raise money for different organizations. This year will be Estes Park's 21st annual Duck Race fundraiser that attracts hundreds of people crowding the streets of Estes Park. The event will begin on May 2nd with plenty of fun to be had including a marching band, face painting, circus acts and plenty of food.

The ducks begin at Nicky's Resort on the Fall River and are raced over to the Wheel Bar, behind MacDonald's Book Shop. Every year on average between 5,000 and

See "Quack Quack" - Continued on Page 11

NATIONAL EXHIBITION MONTH & EAGLE ROCK SCHOOL'S INVITATION TO YOU

by Dan Condon, Associate Director of Professional Development

We're so excited to celebrate National Exhibition Month this May (<http://tinyurl.com/CESNEM>) at the nationally recognized Eagle Rock School & Professional Development Center (<http://www.eaglerockschool.org>) located in Estes Park, Colorado.

At the end of our trimesters, Eagle Rock students prepare a presentation that displays evidence of their learning during that trimester. The presentations are made before members of the Eagle Rock community and a panel composed of guests who may be teachers, administrators, community members, representatives of participating school districts and higher education, and others who are interested in alternative assessment, education renewal & the progress of Eagle Rock School & our students.

Each student prepares for a 30-minute discussion of her/his learning: 15 minutes for a formal presentation and 15 minutes to answer questions from the panel.

Would you consider being a part of our panel for our summer trimester? The Presentations of Learning will take place on **Monday, August 4th and Tuesday, August 5th 2009**. We would be pleased to have you participate on a panel for a morning, an afternoon, or a full day. A reply form may be found here (print and return by mail or fax): <http://tinyurl.com/EXHIBITIONSatERS>

Because of the scheduling involved, we would like to have your reply by **Wednesday, July 1, 2009**. If the form is not returned by then, we will assume you are unable to join us for our celebration of learning this trimester. Additionally, we may be able to provide overnight accommodations and meals, with prior reservations made with Carter Cox (ccox@eaglerockschool.org)

Please learn more about our exhibitions here (including viewing video samples online): <http://tinyurl.com/WHATarePOLs>

We hope to see you in August!

Feel free to forward this information to others who may benefit from learning about schools that promote and celebrate exhibitions as a preferred form of student assessment!



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and Professional
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ASSOCIATION OF EXPERIENTIAL SCHOOLS ACCREDITED PROGRAM

By Kirsten Kindt, Association of Experiential Education

Portions are being reprinted with permission from the January, 2009 AEE eNews Update

Eagle Rock School is one of the proudest examples of the work that Association of Experiential Education (AEE) members do. I have twice had the privilege to visit this AEE accredited program and to participate in the trimester end "Presentations of Learning" (POL's) given by students at Eagle Rock in Estes Park, Colorado. Doing so has provided me with first hand knowledge of the challenges of the Eagle Rock staff and the powerful results their program has on youth that have not found success in traditional educational settings.

All students enrolled at Eagle Rock are required to present what they have learned at trimester end to a group of adults from outside the school community. They are given 15 minutes to give their presentations and then panel members, peers and Eagle Rock staff, ask questions. The POL's often include the use of props, art, technology, and interaction with their peers. One of the students baked some doughnuts for us to try. Another student had a peer do some acting and intentional interrupting in order to make a point really hit home with the audience.

In speaking with other panelists, one of the most interesting things about the Eagle Rock students is their ability to weave academic content into their personal growth in a very authentic way. We really get a sense for where they have been and where they are going, and the depth of their self-knowledge. In fact, Jeff Liddle, Director of Curriculum, said, "POL's are a reflection of both what a student is learning and where they are with their personal growth."

What struck me most as a panel member was how these students come to Eagle Rock with extreme challenges and yet, their growth is extensive enough that they are able to bare those issues to an audience of unfamiliar



adults. ER students have often experienced catastrophic circumstances and yet they demonstrate skills, knowledge, and coping mechanisms that many adults do not possess.

Another bonus of being a panelist is experiencing the deep sense of respect and support these students of give to one another. Said Jeff, "It is the culture of the school. There is a significant amount of diversity among the students, geographically, culturally, economically, and that becomes fuel for them to learn about, and respect one another."

To learn about serving on a Presentation of Learning panel please find the story entitled "National Exhibition Month & Eagle Rock School's Invitation To You"

To learn more about AEE visit: <http://www.aee.org/>

EAGLE ROCK RECEIVES 2009 HIGH FLYING SCHOOL AWARD

by Dan Condon, Associate Director of Professional Development

The National Youth-At-Risk Conference in collaboration with The National Network for Educational Renewal hosted by the College of Education at Georgia Southern University recognized winners of its 2009 High Flying Schools Award this past Spring.

The awards were presented to Eagle Rock School and four other schools during the opening ceremonies of the 20th annual National Youth-At-Risk Conference being held in Savannah, Georgia from March 1 – 4, 2009.

The following criteria were used in selection of the “High-Flying School” awards for national recognition:

- **High Achievement** – The school ranks at the 67th percentile or higher in at least one academic subject in at least one grade level.
- **High Poverty** – The school’s student population is comprised of at least 50% of students living at or below poverty level.
- **Diversity of the Student Body** – The school’s student population is comprised of 50% or more minority students. Please describe the diverse composition of the student body.
- **Community Collaboration** – The school demonstrates high levels of collaboration with community and/or university in addressing youth-at-risk issues within the school and community.
- **Citizenship Development** – The school provides opportunities for students to develop citizenship skills.
- **Democratic Education** – School curriculum includes objectives and activities related to the growth of students as individuals who are successful members of a democratic society.

Eagle Rock received an honorarium of \$1000, one double-occupancy hotel room for two nights, and paid registration fees for Robert Burkhardt, Head of School & Dan



Condon, Associate Director of Professional Development to attend the National Youth-At-Risk Conference. Eagle Rock and four other schools were recognized at the opening session on Monday, March 2, 2009, and shared their school successes in a special High Flying Schools Award Winners poster session immediately following the opening session.

Burkhardt stated, “I believe Eagle Rock was honored because for fifteen years students from across America have been impelled by this

community to take charge of their lives and their learning. Eagle Rock challenged them to rise, and they responded with hope, hard work and solid results. Where before a high school diploma seemed out of reach, now a college degree is their expectation.”

To watch a short video of the award ceremony visit: <http://tinyurl.com/high-flyingschools>

Mark Dougherty
Sous Chef

Cynthia Elkins
Arts

Beth Ellis
Learning Resources
and Information

TBA
Wilderness & Outdoor
Education

Mike Glowacki
Head Cook

John Guffey
Service Learning

Karen Ikegami
Mathematics

Sheri Jackson
Business Administration
Specialist

Janet Johnson
Science

TBA
Registrar

Jeff Liddle
Director of Curriculum

Denise Lord
Life After Eagle Rock

Susan Luna
Director of Operations

Dave Manzella
Language Arts & Literature

Mark Palmer
Public Allies

L’Tanya Perkins
Admissions Associate

Tim Phelps
Chef Instructor

Scott Rashid
Second Chef

Russ Rendón
World Languages

Anthony Ruiz
Society and Cultures

Kirstin Sizemore
Human Performance

Philbert Smith
Director of Students

Michael Soguero
Director of
Professional Development

Terry Tierney
Assistant Facilities

Jesse Tovar
Health and Wellness
Counselor

GRADUATE PROFILE – WHERE IS SHE NOW?

by Carter Cox, Public Allies Fellow in Professional Development

Every Wednesday Robert reads letters from former students and staff. The letters often offer advice and insight, and they always let us know what they are up to in the world. When I wrote Rachel, asking what she's been up to, the response I got reads like a highlight reel. Rachel graduated in December of 1998. In her time since then she has "fought fires for the US Forest Service as a Hotshot, taught beginning swimming to kindergartners, volunteered in a homeless teen program, worked to raise public awareness about the benefits of bats, made phone calls to help get Obama elected president,



*Rachel Curran Miranda,
ER-9 (Summer, 1996)
Graduated ER-16 (Winter, 1998)
Geography: Flagstaff, Arizona*

Rachel Curran Miranda – Rachel Curran, when she was an Eagle Rock student – grew up in Boulder, Colorado, the only child of a single parent. Before coming to ERS, Rachel's high school experience was wanting. Her school was 20 miles away from her house, there were over 500 students in her grade alone, and many of her classes lacked enough books and desks with too many students for the teacher to learn everyone's name. She told me, "I applied to Eagle Rock to attend a school that offered smaller class sizes, experi-

ential education, valued both healthy personal growth and academic success, allowed me to live with students my age and have friendships with adults."

Rachel's memories of Eagle Rock show how times do change here. She came to the school in 1996. Back then, of course, we older folks will remember, most people didn't have cell phones or laptops. Rachel remembers buying walkie-talkies so the girls in Lodgepole and Spruce could talk after bed checks. About staff, she has many memories: "I have so many great memories of lessons I learned from staff. These stand out: Robert Burkhardt taught me that everyone benefits when one person encourages the feeling of community in classrooms, work environments, apartment buildings, etc.; James Sherman inspired me to read history outside the classroom; Dan Condon gave me the confidence to ask a romantic partner for an STD test; Philbert Smith helped me reconnect with my mother; Travis Beck showed me world travel was within my reach; Tim Phelps taught me that processed foods fortified with vitamins are not as nutritious as whole foods; and Michael Soguero introduced me to Landmark Education." Rachel highlighted two pieces of her personal growth at ERS that she said have had the greatest impact on her happiness: First, she learned that she is responsible for her actions. "I have the power to be successful at the things that interest me and to behave in a way that makes me proud." Second, she learned how much there is to learn, and she learned that she has "the ability to seek the resources to obtain that knowledge."

Such learning stands out through the many experiences Rachel has had. She is currently living with her husband, Todd, and new her son, Booker, whom she gave birth to this last March, outside of Flagstaff, Arizona and still drives the same pickup truck she bought when she was 18. Rachel works for the Lowell Observatory as a supervisor in the visitor program. "I give basic astronomy lectures, historical tours of our campus and operate telescopes for public viewing." This coming year Rachel plans to spend a lot of time with her son, taking swimming lessons and learning baby sign language. She is planning some trips with her family and wants to plan a vegetable garden at her new house.

Congratulations to Rachel and Todd on the newest member of their family! We can all take a lesson from someone who has found so many ways to experience and learn from the world.

FOUR MORE GRADUATES TAKE FLIGHT

by Carter Cox, Public Allies Fellow in the Professional Development Center

There are some things that I think everyone who has participated in the Eagle Rock community takes away: Fat Tuesdays and Thanksgiving's in the Lodge, Wednesday morning gatherings, and Presentation of Learning week just to name a few. Experiences like these may mean different things to different people, but they always mean something.

That is why it is such a treat for me to take our graduates out to dinner and hear the stories that only individuals can tell – the details that define memory. Whether it is an embarrassing story from working at the Stanley Hotel, the battle plans drawn up late one night for a girls' wing raid, or the makeshift hot tub Philbert caught you lounging in one night, the memories that make people laugh are the ones that help me understand a student's time here.

On April 10th, four more students received diplomas from Eagle Rock, packed with memories, moving on to next steps and new experiences.

Yoni Fallik came to Eagle Rock from Boulder, Colorado. He came to ERS towards the end of his junior year in high school. "I came to Eagle Rock for a different kind of education. I wanted to make changes in my life." Many of Yoni's favorite memories come from Juniper house and his wing, but he said he would also miss seeing the sunrise during gate runs. With regard to his growth at ERS, Yoni says he has changed a lot: "I am less of a hap-

py go lucky kind of person. I was kind of a pushover. I would smile through everything. Smiling was my façade. Now I don't let people take advantage of me. I don't hide behind my smile. I address things seriously." After graduation Yoni is planning to spend time living and



taking classes in Israel before going to college.

"This is a special place," **Calvin King** told me when I spoke with him. Calvin came to Eagle Rock from Los Angeles after being out of high school for six months. "I came to ERS because I thought it was a cool idea: thinking of going to another state to go to school. Flying back and forth, just gaining that new experience." Calvin has had many new experiences in his time at Eagle Rock. He will remember all the people he has met and the different cultures, races, and ideas they have introduced him to. Calvin has grown a lot in his time at ERS. "I'm in better control of my temper, and I can communicate to a lot of different audiences," he said. Calvin plans to spend the coming

summer working at a camp in the San Francisco area, and then plans to attend college in the fall. Of Eagle Rock, he says, "it definitely requires some determination, and you've got to want it...and be open. There's going to be something that happens that turns your world upside down, and those are the moments that you grow."

Jesse Reyes also came to Eagle Rock from Los Angeles. Jesse describes his life before ERS as "like living in a shoebox, nothing big. When I first came to Eagle Rock it was to get a high school diploma, but soon after that I decided it was more about bettering myself." Describing his personal growth, Jesse says he is more open-minded than

he used to be. "I feel like I have the tools to search for whatever it is I want in life, and now I know what I want." Jesse will remember the morning gatherings, intramurals, and the friendships he has had with ERS staff. After graduation Jesse plans to travel. He is particularly interested in seeing Latin America. "Eagle Rock creates leaders," Jesse told me. "If you feel like this school is too hard, remember that leaders who have gone down in history have had to face harder things than being a student at ERS."

Graduate **Ashley Trunck**, from Monument, Colorado, came to Eagle Rock looking for a place where she might care more about her education. "I just didn't really care about school," she told me. "I wasn't thinking about what it would do for my future. I was there, if anything, for the social

BIG SISTER, LITTLE SISTER

by Amy Vattuone, teacher coach and literacy teacher - Odyssey the Essential School

Big sisters – we all know the power and influence they have in our lives. They are smart and wise and a little tough on us. They want to help in times of need, they tend to be a whole lot of fun to be around, and they feel an endless sense of loyalty and pride in their younger siblings. Well, in the three years since Odyssey – The Essential School (a small high school near Seattle, Washington) asked Eagle Rock School to be our Coalition of Essential Schools (CES) mentor through the Small Schools Project, Eagle Rock has certainly earned its often used description as our “big sister school.” We call Eagle Rock our “big sister” school as a way to tell others how much we value and appreciate all that they have offered Odyssey—from the undying love and support to the constant challenging of our beliefs.

At the heart of our love for Eagle Rock rests two beautiful individuals, Michael Soguero and Dan Condon. Michael and Dan have been essential in our partnership and have consistently offered to be of assistance to us as we develop as a school. One reason we love Eagle Rock as our big sister is because they are always asking us what they can do for our school and they always say “yes” to our requests -- no matter what we ask for. As a new small school with many questions about who we want to become in our first few years, Eagle Rock has helped us in the following ways:

- They have visited our school and our classrooms on several occasions and always offer critical feedback about the teaching and learning in our classes.
- They arranged a fantastic visit to Chicago in which we observed in great schools had thoughtful conversations with experts in the field of teaching and learning, and engaged in essential conversations about Odyssey’s next steps as a school.
- They facilitated the beginning of our competency work as a school.
- They helped facilitate a two-day conversation between teachers and students about math learning at Odyssey.
- They helped Odyssey staff consider and settle

on two guiding educational philosophies to guide our development as a school.

- They facilitated a CES Conversion Summit at our school –planning the logistics, the conversions, and the reflections of participants over the course of two days.

We also love Eagle Rock like a big sister because the school (staff and students alike) is simply incredibly fun. Our time together is always a pleasure as Eagle Rock prioritizes the building of human relationships as central to our work together. Michael and Dan have huge hearts and always make time for our staff to connect with them when we work together. Not only are they compassionate human beings, Michael and Dan

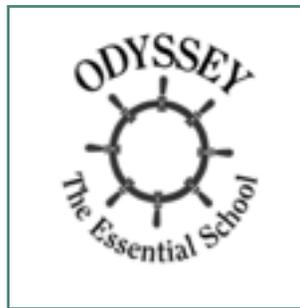
are always well prepared, planned and organized when we work together as they want to make the most of our brief time together. They are just so smart about what they do! This trusting and intentional relationship is key to the success for our partnership.

Like a big sister, Eagle Rock School doesn’t go easy on us as they are always pushing our thinking and asking us hard questions. Every time we col-

laborate, whether at a CES meeting or at one of our own schools, Eagle Rock encourages Odyssey to think about the big issues that relate to school success and are relentless in keeping the conversation focused on the issues that matter most. Whether it is about our belief about the purpose of education or about redesigning the school for the future to best meet the needs for our students, Eagle Rock wants us to delve deep. They ask hard questions of us and give us honest feedback our ideas and practices. We appreciate their action-oriented approach to our work as it is always balanced by very thoughtful ideas.

Eagle Rock, we hope you know how much we love and appreciate your influence in our lives. You should feel proud of our successes as a school because you have had a key role in our journey. You are the greatest big sister we could’ve ever asked for.

For more information about Odyssey – the Essential School visit: <http://tinyurl.com/odysseyCES>



BRINGING THE EARTH TO ESTES PARK, ONE COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP AT A TIME

by Mike Dunn, Public Allies Fellow in Service Learning

A cloudy damp morning awakened the students and staff of Eagle Rock on January 17th. The wind was whirling through the mountains and the sun began pushing its way through the clouds and peeking over Armadillo. The biting cold hit the skin of John Guffey, Service-Learning Instructional Specialist and Mike Dunn, Public Allies Teaching Fellow in Service-Learning as they arose to meet the day.

In Estes Park, more than 250 community members arose to a day filled with anticipation of the second annual Estes Earth Fest. They knew that more than 50 community partners, including private, non-profit and individual business members were coming together to participate in a convening of sorts. They knew that the convening was to surround healthy choices and community action in Estes Park. What they did not know was that the convening would boast some of the most widespread knowledge on actions that citizens could take to improve their lifestyles.

Early that morning, the various community partners arrived at the Willome Center at the YMCA of the Rockies. They found an open space of tables and chairs and slowly assembled their information booths in hopes of an eager crowd. John Guffey was waiting at the Willome for the guests' arrival:

Guffey stated, "I was feeling a certain amount of anticipation for the day. That morning, I was rushing around to arrive before the guests. When I arrived and no one was there, I was relieved. As people began pouring into the door, I



braced myself because I knew I was going to be there late that night. I knew it was going to be a good day."

For Eagle Rock's Service-Learning team, the second annual Estes Earth Fest represented the culmination of many months of work. John Guffey, Mike Dunn, and student leader Kyle Pelleg began work on the Earth Fest in early October. The early planning processes included contacting local community partners from around Estes and eventually expanded into Boulder, Ft. Collins and the Denver area. Newspaper, radio and television stations also shared news of the event to people around the region. Perhaps the most significant piece of the planning came with the communication and later partnership with the YMCA of the Rockies. This partnership was the foundation for the event's success. The YMCA supplied four buildings, multimedia equipment, a stage, and generous support in many other areas, all at no cost. Without the YMCA's support, the event would

hardly have been possible.

The day of the event included, among the above mentioned, a slow cooked dinner spearheaded by Tim Phelps, Eagle Rock's head chef, a plenary of six keynote speakers, a community circle in which residents of Estes Park explored ideas surrounding sustainability, and a talent show anchored by Eagle Rock students.

For Eagle Rock's students, the day was exhausting but rewarding. Each house on campus was asked to put together their own informational booth for the event. The ideas ranged from eco-monopoly in a 'kids' corner' presented by Spruce House, to recycled art by Ponderosa House to composting by Piñon House. But the Earth Fest was much more than a one-day event for the Eagle Rock community.

On the evening of January 14, guest speaker and activist Jim Merkel arrived from Vermont. Originally from New York, where he worked as a military engineer, Merkel was invited to Eagle Rock

EAGLE ROCK WEB 2.0

by Dan Condon, Associate Director of Professional Development

Eagle Rock is keeping up with all the new Web 2.0 infrastructure out there including YouTube, Twitter, Facebook, MySpace, Picassa and LinkedIn. The term “Web 2.0” refers to a second generation of web development and design, that aims to facilitate communication, secure information sharing and collaboration on the World Wide Web.

Here are a few of the places where alumni and friends can interact with Eagle Rock’s Web 2.0 presence:

Photos don’t belong cooped up in your email’s inbox, they belong on the web where you can share them with family and friends. Google’s **Picasa** now supports the ability to upload photos to Eagle Rock’s web album using email. To share your favorite ERS snaps with the ERS family please email the photos to pdrooms.ERSphotos@picasaweb.com. You can then view them at <http://tinyurl.com/ERSsnaps>.

Twitter is a free service that lets you keep in touch with Eagle Rock School through the exchange of quick, frequent answers to one simple question: What are you doing? Join today to start receiving Eagle Rock School updates. View our tweets at <http://twitter.com/EagleRockSchool>.

YouTube is a free online video streaming service that allows anyone to view and share videos that have been uploaded by members. Subscribe to our YouTube page at <http://www.youtube.com/EagleRockSchool>.

Facebook is a social utility that connects people with friends and others who work, study and live around them. People use Facebook to keep up with friends, upload an unlimited number of photos, share links and videos, and learn more about the people they meet. At this time we are only approving individuals who have been a member of the Eagle Rock Community. Alumni, former staff & students may find our Facebook presence at <http://tinyurl.com/FBers>

LinkedIn is an online network of more than 20 million professionals from around the world, representing 150 industries. When you join, you create a profile that summarizes your professional accomplishments. Your profile helps you find and be found by former colleagues, clients, and partners. You can add more connections by inviting contacts to join LinkedIn and connect to you. Your network consists of your connections, your connections’ connections, and the people they know, linking you to thousands of professionals. At this time we are only approving individuals who have been a member of the Eagle Rock Community. Alumni, former staff & students may find our LinkedIn presence at <http://tinyurl.com/ERSlinkedin>

MySpace is a popular social networking website offering an interactive, user-submitted network of friends, personal profiles, blogs, groups, photos, music and videos internationally. At this time we are only approving individuals who have been a member of the Eagle Rock Community. Alumni, former staff & students may find our MySpace presence at <http://www.myspace.com/eaglerockschool>

Learn more about our Web 2.0 features at: <http://tinyurl.com/ERSWEB2POINT0>

“Earth” - Continued from Page 7

to frame the necessity of living simple. He took much of Friday and led the entire Eagle Rock community in a foot printing exercise where staff and students measured the carbon footprint of the school. Armed with this new knowledge, the community entered Friday the 15th and shared their hopes for reducing their environmental impact. Many students stated that they hoped to reduce their shower times, eat less meat and turn lights off when leaving buildings. Each resolution was following by a hearty cheer of support from the rest of the community. By the morning of January 17th, students and staff alike were prepared and anxious for the day’s activities.

“Initially I was feeling very pessimistic about the event. I wasn’t entirely sure what to expect. There

were a lot of community organizations coming together and things could have been crazy,” stated student Scott Forrester. “But, when the day began and I saw all the ideas for sustainable living, I became very excited. It was great to see so many people composting and promoting these ideas!” Forrester wasn’t alone in his thoughts, as many students echoed similar feelings.

All things considered, the event was a fantastic success that has led to plans for the 3rd annual Estes Earth Fest. Possible Hosting partnerships include the Stanley Hotel, Holiday Inn and Convention Center, and YMCA of the Rockies. Ideas are already in the mix for the dining experience, plenary and timing of the event. With the thought of improving year to year, the 3rd Annual Estes Earth Fest promises to be bigger and better than ever!

FROM THE ROCK TO THE HILL

by Dan Condon, Associate Director of Professional Development

On February 24th, Dan Condon visited legislative offices in Washington DC to share his thoughts on the future of federal education policy. He joined a delegation of 75 students and educators from 18 states representing 30 different schools, all of whom shared insights from their experiences in schools and the field of education. Condon, who serves as the Associate Director of Professional Development, was honored to be able to further Eagle Rock's mission of influencing education renewal and reform.

Condon visited with staffers from Senators Michael Bennet & Mark Udall's offices as well as staff from Congresswoman Betsey Markey and Congressman Jared Polis.

In addition to sharing information about Eagle Rock School & Professional Development Center Condon entered into conversations about the following legislation:

TEACH grants - created in 2007, provide up to \$4,000 per year to college and graduate students who intend to teach in a public or private elementary or secondary school that serves students from low-income families. Yet, the College Board estimates average costs at public, 4-year universities at \$6,585.

Student Bill of Rights - would hold states accountable for providing all students access to the fundamentals of educational opportunity to ensure that all students receive educational opportunities that enable them to be participating, responsible citizens and to compete and succeed in a global economy. Defines such fundamentals as: high-quality teachers and principals; rigorous academic standards, curricula, and methods of

instruction; small classes; quality facilities, computers, textbooks and materials; up-to-date libraries; and qualified pupil services personnel. States would have to ensure that all schools have at least adequate access to each fundamental within 12 years.

Teacher Quality Enhancement Grants - help foster partnerships between districts and teachers' colleges to train new educators, allowing for successful models like urban teacher residencies to be replicated.

ESEA Title II - deals with teacher quality, providing funds that can be used to enhance teacher quality or lower class size.

TIME Act - would authorize grants for expanded learning time initiatives, including expanded school days, expanded school weeks, or expanded school years, in order to increase student academic achievement and student engagement and success in schools. Grants would be used to provide students with more in-depth and rigorous learning opportunities in reading or language arts, mathematics, science, and other core academic subjects; more time for additional subjects and enrichment activities that contribute to a well-rounded education, which may include music and the arts, physical education, drama, service-learning, and experiential and work-based learning opportunities (such as community service, learning apprenticeships, internships, and job shadowing); and teachers with increased opportunities to work collaboratively and to participate in professional planning to improve instruction.

Graduation Promise Act - would 1) create a federal-state-local school reform partnership, focused

on transforming the nation's lowest performing high schools; 2) provide \$2.5 billion to build capacity for secondary school improvement, and at the same time provide states and local school districts with the resources to ensure that high schools with the greatest challenges receive the support they need to implement research-based interventions.

Feingold's Improving Student Testing Act of 2007 - would allow states to use growth models and multiple measures to assess student learning and school success, ending the over-reliance upon standardized tests given one day out of the year; allow states to return to the pre-NCLB requirement of statewide annual testing once in elementary school, once in middle school, and once in high school; and provide grants to states to significantly improve the quality of their assessments and place far greater emphasis on higher order and critical thinking skills, instead of rote memorization.

Yarmuth's Improving Student Learning and Classroom Performance Act - would provide \$200 million per year for grants to states to (1) improve the quality, validity, and reliability of State and local academic assessments, including the development or enhancement of State or local performance assessments that can be used for diagnostic purposes and as part of the State accountability system; (2) enable States to develop the capacity of local education agencies to validly and reliably assess student academic achievement using multiple sources of evidence, including school-based performance assessments; and (3) enable States and lo-

EAGLE ROCK STUDENTS RECEIVE OUTDOOR EXPEDITION SCHOLARSHIPS

Reprinted with permission from the March 29, 2009 edition of the Estes Park News



Students **Angel Flores, Rafael McCloud** and **Eric Harris** were recently awarded Outward Bound and National Outdoor Leadership School (NOLS) expedition scholarships for trips to occur this coming summer.

Angel and Rafael received the Outward Bound Pinnacle Scholarship that was established in 1992 and serves budding leaders who can benefit most from the kind of empowering experience Outward Bound provides. The program is, at its core, the opportunity for exceptional young people displaying marked leadership potential to develop the character and tenacity to make a difference for themselves and their communities. For over 45 years, Outward Bound has offered wilderness expeditions across the United States. Hundreds of these courses are available year-round and range in length from four days to three months. Outward Bound courses emphasize personal growth, responsibility, teamwork,

confidence, compassion, and environmental and community stewardship.

Eric received the NOLS Gateway Scholarship. It is designed to enable people to participate in NOLS courses that would not normally be able to attend due to financial or other life circumstances. Since 1965 NOLS has taken people of all ages on remote wilderness expeditions, teaching technical outdoor skills, leadership, and environmental ethics in some of the world's wildest and most awe-inspiring classrooms. What NOLS teaches cannot be learned in a classroom or on a city street. It takes practice to learn outdoor skills and time to develop leadership. The wilderness provides the ideal setting for this unique education. Courses range from 10 days to a full academic year. They attract highly motivated students who want to learn how to lead. Their hands on, learn-by-doing approach means that their graduates get the skills they need to be competent, responsible wilderness travelers long after their course is over.

Full value of the three scholarships totaled over \$10,000.

"From the Rock" - Continued from Page 9

cal districts to develop the capacity of teachers and school leaders to develop, use, and reliably evaluate the results of locally-administered performance assessments.

GRAD Act [Graduation Really Achieves Dreams] - would provide \$27 million for programs implementing integrated education reform services to improve secondary school graduation rates and college attendance for disadvantaged students.

Graduate for a Better Future Act - would establish a program

of competitive grants for districts with low graduation rates to offer (1) a college-preparatory curriculum aligned with rigorous secondary school studies; (2) accelerated remedial programs that allow underperforming students to become proficient in mathematics, reading and language arts, and science and thereby graduate in a timely manner; (3) systems to measure student progress in the core subjects and quickly identify students who are dropout risks; (4) a comprehensive college guidance program; (5) a pro-

gram offering students opportunities for work-based and experiential learning; (6) a program providing students with access to courses in which they may earn college credit; (7) a program providing each student with an academic teacher advisor with whom the student regularly meets; and (8) a program of teacher professional development and institutional leadership that includes diagnostic and formative assessments.

"Quack Quack" - Continued from Page 1

6,000 ducks are raced. Last year, 6,506 rubber ducks were raced to the finish line. Over 800 people won prizes and the event raised \$128,000 for local groups and charities!

Eagle Rock School is one of sixty-six organizations that participate by selling tickets, which cost twenty dollars a piece. For every ticket Eagle Rock sells, the school receives nineteen of those dollars for the Graduate Higher Education Fund, also known as the GHED Fund. Currently, each graduate receives a total of \$14,000 in scholarships upon graduation. Eagle Rock is hoping to increase the Graduate Fund to allow students to receive additional monies towards their future education. As ERS raises more money, the amount available to each graduate might increase. Whenever the amount is raised, every graduate is retroactively eligible for that amount.

For the last few years, the Eagle Rock GHED Fund has been one of two major organizations that receive the highest number of proceeds. The other one has been a group of Estes Park 8th graders that raise money for a week trip to Washington, D.C. Clearly, this is for a good cause as well. "Both of my kids went, and had the time of their lives," said Robert Burkhardt. Despite this, Robert and others still prefer that the money go to the Graduate Fund. Every year on campus there are competitions among houses and individuals to encourage participation in the fundraiser. Last year's winning house was Lodgepole with a total of 51 tickets sold. The top selling individual Tracy Lewis, was also from Lodgepole and sold a total of 20 tickets.

This event is a fundraiser for local charities organized by the Rotary Club of Estes Park. The Rotary Club is an organization of business professionals who join worldwide to provide service, encourage high ethical standards in many different careers, and help build goodwill and peace in the world. The Rotary Club has been running this event since 1991. Robert finds the

club to be a great organization. He states, "I have been a member of the Rotary Club since 1993."

Thousands of people buy tickets for the race every year. You can buy a ticket from ERS staff on campus and look at the duck race's website for more information www.rotaryclubofestespark.org/DuckRace/. The duck race rewards winners with over \$6,000 in great prizes every year, including a Sony 52-inch LCD TV, a Samsung 42-inch LCD TV, an HP 17-inch Laptop Computer with selected software, a Panasonic Home Theater Kit, a Garmin Automotive GPS System, and two Nikon CoolPix Digital Cameras. There are also plenty of smaller prizes available to win. Jeff Liddle, Director of Curriculum states, "I won a \$20 gift certificate to an outdoor store in Estes Park once." Some people have never won but are hoping for a big package this year. Student Rafael McLeod said, "I would like to win a big screen television if I were to have a winning duck."

Here at Eagle Rock the intention is to raise ten thousand dollars this year. This is possible because last year the school raised eight thousand dollars. There is already a race between Robert and Dan Condon, Associate Director of Professional Development, for who will sell the most tickets. Diane Burkhardt, a friend and mentor of Eagle Rock School said, "I've been a participant in the race every year. If I could choose a prize to win it would be for world peace." Robert may win the title for most tickets sold unless it is Dan who does. Maybe this year will be different. In the end, the real winners will be Eagle Rock graduates.

To purchase your tickets please make out a check out today to be received on campus before April 30th to the ESTES PARK DUCK RACE and send it (multiples of \$20) to: Eagle Rock School, Attn: Duck Race, 2750 Notaiyah Road, Estes Park, CO 80517. If you would like to pay by credit card please email information@eagle-rockschool.org with "Duck Race Credit Card Purchase" in the subject line and we will send you an invoice for the number of tickets you request.

"Graduates" - Continued from Page 5

scene." When asked what memories she will take away from ERS, Ashley talked most about the classes that affected her. She was in a summer production of *The Boyfriend*. She also took a class called *Close Up* that took her to Washington, D.C., where she had the opportunity to meet Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton. "I came into the class not knowing a lot about politics. I didn't know about lobbying or the conflicts going on around the world that affect us." Ashley also had the opportunity to do research for an initiative of the W.K. Kellogg Foundation called New Options for Youth,

and traveled with a group to Michigan to present the results. Ashley says her time at ERS has helped her to value her education more and made her more confident. "I'm not as focused on materials things as I was, and I don't care as much about what [people] think of me." Ashley is looking for camps to work at over the summer and then plans to attend community college for a while before transferring into a university. She hopes to travel to Italy one day.

Congratulations to all the graduates and good luck with everything that comes next!