APS Students Make Their Mark In and Out of Classroom

It’s been a very busy and productive year for students in Aurora Public Schools. In case you missed it, here are some outstanding student highlights from the 2011-2012 school year:

Aurora Central High School student Joseph Soto qualified for the National Forensic League Speech and Debate Competition, a week-long high school tournament to be held this June in Indianapolis. This is the second consecutive year that Joseph will participate in the national competition as a senator in the “Congress” event.

Joseph also competed as a member of Aurora Central’s Mock Trial Team, which shined at the Colorado Bar Association’s Mock Trial regional and state competitions. The talented group of debaters- and lawyers-to-be earned Most Professional Team and Sportmanship honors. Brandon Ames was named Most Outstanding Attorney and Shiva Sapkota won the Most Outstanding Witness honor. To see a complete list of the mock trial award winners, visit http://bit.ly/HAzXUu.

Aurora Quest K-8 student and geography wiz Pranit Nanda won first place in the annual Colorado Geographic Bee. His victory earned him a $100 cash prize, a $7,500 scholarship to the University of Denver and a spot in the May national competition in Washington, D.C.

Gateway High School freshman and elite boxer Andrew Strode recently punched his way to a National Silver Gloves boxing title. Andrew defeated a three-time national champion to win the crown, and he earned an invitation to the U.S. Junior Olympics in May.

Our students are doing great things inside and outside of the classroom. Keep up the good work!

Graduations Begin May 21

The APS class of 2012 will graduate May 21-24. This year’s ceremonies are as follows:

**May 21**
- Hinkley – 9 a.m.
- Rangeview – 1 p.m.
- Pickens Technical College – 7 p.m.

**May 22**
- Aurora Central – 9 a.m.
- Gateway – 1 p.m.
- William Smith – 7 p.m.

**May 23**
- APS Online – 4 p.m.

**May 24**
- Rebound – 4:30 p.m.

For locations and other information, visit aurorak12.org/students/graduation-dates.