**APS Wins BEST Grant**

Aurora Public Schools has earned a BEST matching grant for nearly $1.4 million from the Colorado Department of Education. The grant, one of 11 large project cash grants awarded to school districts this year, will fund upgrades to the fire alarm system and new fire sprinklers at Aurora Central High School. The district’s match for the project is approximately $394,000, for a total estimated budget of $1.8 million.

BEST (Building Excellent Schools Today) is a competitive grant program which is available to all Colorado public school districts and charter schools. The goal of the program is to provide first class, high performing, 21st century facilities and help alleviate health and safety concerns.

The Aurora Central grant is the second BEST grant awarded to APS. In 2010, the district earned a $334,000 grant for renovations to the Hinkley High School auditorium.

**Winter Break Schedule**

Students and staff members at APS schools will be on winter break from Dec. 24, 2012 to Jan. 4, 2013. Students will return to school on Monday, Jan. 7, 2013. APS students will also have Friday, Dec. 21 off for a Teacher Workday.

While students, teachers, and school staff have the traditional two weeks off for winter break, some year-round employees will continue to work during this period. APS administrative offices will be closed the week of December 24 – 28, Dec. 31 and January 1.

Have a safe and enjoyable winter break!