Veteran’s Day a Time for Reflection and Thanks

Joseph Bowen peeks over the shoulders of some of his students, intently watching them troubleshoot a computer’s motherboard problems. As much as he wants to jump in and help, he simply asks one question: “Tell me what’s wrong here.”

His students eventually tie up the loose ends on their own and, just like that, magic happens.

“That’s cool, isn’t it,” Bowen says.

Bowen, an Enterprise Computer Service teacher at Pickens Technical College, loves his craft, and when he sees the light bulb come on in students’ heads, he can’t help but smile. It was this premise of helping others that he learned while serving in the United States Army.

Bowen is one of many former military personnel working in APS, and with Veteran’s Day approaching, he steadfastly praises the holiday’s significance and far-reaching importance.

“The missions our military undertakes are meant to improve the circumstances of those who cannot fight effectively for themselves,” Bowen said. “It is important. Making a difference in the education and lives of the students we are charged with at APS is also important, and I am proud to be part of it.”

Saluting America

As part of the Saluting America program, APS students are joining others from several Colorado school districts to honor our nation’s veteran and active duty military. This includes participating in a tribute contest, sending special tribute cards and hosting various school activities.

To learn more about Saluting America, visit salutingamerica.org.

Coat Drive Keeping Aurora Kids Warm

Aurora Public Schools is again partnering with the Aurora Police Department to provide warmth to students in need. Community members can donate their children’s outgrown, gently used coats to the “Cops, Coats and Kids” drive. Schools are in need of all sizes, from kindergarten to eighth grade. Gloves, hats and scarves are welcome as well.

Please use any of the following drop-off locations:

**APD Police Station Lobbies**
District 1, 13347 E. Montview Blvd.
District 2, 15001 E. Alameda Parkway
District 3, 23911 E. Arapahoe Road

**Aurora Municipal Center**
15151 E. Alameda Parkway

**Aurora Public Schools**
15701 E. 1st Ave.

**Aurora Association of Realtors**
14201 E. Evans Drive

The “Cops, Coats and Kids” coat drive runs through Dec. 9. For more information on how you can help, call 303-739-6346.