Tollgate Students “Buddy Up”

After receiving an $8 million bond-funded remodel during the summer, the Tollgate Elementary School of Expeditionary Learning started the year with a bright idea to match its brand new look. On the first day of school, every kindergartner was paired with a fifth-grade buddy to help ease the transition of starting school. The fifth-grade students helped their new buddies by showing them around the school, teaching them morning routines, and offering friendship and support.

The Tollgate buddy program reflects the Expeditionary Learning philosophy of leadership. “It’s important for students to learn from other students, instead of always from adults,” said Tollgate Fifth-Grade Teacher Scott Alverson.

When Tollgate held its grand opening in September, the fifth graders and their kindergarten buddies climbed onto the outdoor terrace and performed a fitting tribute to the school entitled “A Brand New Day.”

The student buddies will continue to meet at least once a week to read together or work on projects, such as learning new words and using iPad technology.

Board of Education Salutes Departing Members

The Aurora Public Schools Board of Education will soon say goodbye to three of its members who are completing their second terms in office. Jane Barber, Jeanette Carmany and Matthew Cook have served on the board since 2005 and have been instrumental in supporting the students and staff of APS.

Please join us for a farewell reception.

When: Tuesday, Oct. 15
5 p.m.
Where: Educational Services Center 4
Dr. Edward and Mrs. Patricia Lord Boardroom
1085 Peoria St.
Aurora, CO 80011