District 89 Students and Staff Return to Improved and Enhanced Schools

District 89 students and staff members are settling into an exciting 2009-10 school year. The energy and enthusiasm in the schools is contagious, and all of the students are off to an excellent start to this new school year.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the District 89 community once again for their support of the 2008 bond referendum that financed the school improvement projects. Because of the support of the District 89 community, students and staff returned to their schools to find the following improvements:

Technology Infrastructure: High speed fiber optic connections are now available to all classrooms and improved connectivity will allow for high speed transmission of multi-media data.

Life Safety: Asbestos abatement projects were completed, and sprinkler systems, exit lighting and emergency lighting were installed.

Improved Security: A new entrance has been constructed at Westfield Elementary School, and security cameras and other security improvements were installed district-wide.

Building Improvements: Tuck pointing, window replacements, roof replacements, ceiling and lighting improvements and parking lot resurfacing projects were completed district-wide.

Mechanical, electrical and plumbing: Classrooms now have upgraded electrical systems, and students at Arbor View, Park View, Westfield and Glen Crest will now enjoy a climate-controlled setting due to the installation of air conditioning at those schools. Briar Glen, District 89’s newest school, was already air conditioned.

Thank you for your commitment to the students of Community Consolidated School District 89, and thank you for supporting our mission of Learning for Life.

Sincerely,

John S. Perdue,
Superintendent

Fall Curriculum Nights Offer Community Members an Opportunity to View Building Improvements

Parents and other community members are invited to tour District 89 schools during Fall Curriculum Nights at each building. Come and see the finished projects that were made possible by the support of the District 89 community!

- Arbor View: Monday, Sept.21, 6:30-8:00 PM
- Briar Glen: Thursday, Sept.17, 6:30-8:00 PM
- Park View: Tuesday, Sept. 22, 6:30-8:00 PM
- Westfield: Wednesday, Sept. 23, 6:30-8:00 PM
- Glen Crest: 6th Grade: Thursday, Sept. 24, 7:00-9:00 PM
- Glen Crest: 7th-8th Grade: Thursday, Oct. 1, 7:00-9:00 PM
District 89 and the Board of Education continue to address declining enrollments and financial issues. The Board and Administration have listened to many parent concerns regarding the prospect of the paired schools model. While this idea, generated from the Enrollment Study Group, originally addressed providing more balance to class sizes and sections, it does not now fully address our declining enrollment and how this corresponds to the District budget. Therefore, the paired schools model has been abandoned as a viable solution.

However, the District has implemented an administrative transfer policy for new enrolling students where class sections in a home school will be closed due to capacity limits. These students may be transferred to other schools where class openings remain. While this policy will help to balance student population across the district, it will not eliminate the problem of overall enrollment decline and the subsequent negative effects on the equity of educational services, staffing, and budgets. District 89 loses approximately 45 students per year (or approximately 471 students in the last ten years). The District will continue to monitor this decline on a building and district-wide basis. Maintaining neighborhood elementary schools is a community desire that the District has acknowledged. However, a sustained decline in students will ultimately result in difficult, long-term decisions regarding the number of elementary schools the District can support.

**District 89 to Receive Special Education Funds through ARRA**

The American Recovery & Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009 provides federal stimulus funds to states and other municipal entities. While much of this stimulus money is being channeled directly to states, some funds are being dispersed to public school districts based on qualifying criteria. District 89 does not qualify for any stimulus funds in the federal entitlement programs such as Title I, but the District is expected to receive approximately $450,000 to help fund special education programs.

“The ARRA funds provide District 89 with a one-time opportunity to enhance the services it provides to its special needs population,” said Peggy King, Director of Special Education for District 89. “Through this program, we will be able to better serve our students by supplying them and their teachers with additional tools that will help them be successful in their classrooms.”

Since the funds are temporary stimulus revenue, District 89 plans to spend the funds on technology hardware and software, as well as on professional development for special education staff. “While we wait for the receipt of these funds, we will continue to plan for the most appropriate funding strategy that will maximize opportunities for students,” said Superintendent Dr. John S. Perdue.
School Supply Program Benefits Kids in Districts 89 and 41

This year, District 89 partnered with the Glen Ellyn Chamber of Commerce and with neighboring School District 41 on a fundraising effort to supply the more than 500 low-income and/or homeless children in the Glen Ellyn area with the school supplies they need to be successful in school.

The project, initiated by the District 41 Community Outreach Committee, involved a large fundraising effort. Volunteers reached out to local businesses, charitable organizations, churches and residents, and successfully raised the necessary funds to provide kids with a Supplies 4 Success Kit which included required school supplies and a backpack. The funds supplemented existing local grants and resources provided each year by DuPage County and the Regional Office of Education.

Thank you to the District 89 PTCs and the District 41 PTAs for their support, and thank you to all who donated so generously to this effort! Additional information about Supplies 4 Success can be found at www.supplies4success.net.

School, Family and Community Partnership Plans Coming to all District 89 Schools in 2009-10

The most successful environment for student learning exists when schools, families and communities work together with the best interest of students in mind. To that end, Park View Elementary in 2008-09 piloted a goal-oriented plan for school, family and community partnerships. An action team for partnerships consisting of parents, and certified and non-certified staff members met throughout the year to create and implement a plan framed around the following six types of involvement:

- Parenting
- Communicating
- Volunteering
- Learning at Home
- Decision Making
- Collaborating with Community

“The response this first year at Park View was phenomenal,” said Principal Amy Warke. “We put some valuable programs in place that increased our parents’ involvement in their kids’ educations. We also put measures in place to improve communications from school to home, and just as importantly, from home to school.”

Research shows that successful partnership programs boost student achievement, reduce truancy and improve students’ opinions of their school experience. “This initiative has been a part of the District 89 strategic plan for three years,” said Superintendent Dr. John S. Perdue. “As we continually strive to improve our students’ performance and provide them with the most advantageous educational environment, these partnerships will go far in helping us offer our students real-world applications of knowledge.”

Due to the success of the pilot program at Park View, all four other District 89 schools will be putting partnership plans in place during the 2009-10 school year. Parents and community members who are interested in serving on the committee should contact their child’s principal or contact the District Office at 630-489-8900.

We Want to Hear From You!
Superintendent Dr. John S. Perdue
Community Consolidated School District 89
22W600 Butterfield Road, Glen Ellyn, IL 60137
District 89 Says Farewell to Two Principals and Other Valued Staff

At an employee retirement luncheon held in the spring, District 89 bid farewell to Arbor View Principal Kevin Diehl and Glen Crest Principal Dr. Scott Stevens. Diehl served as Arbor View’s principal for 22 years, and Stevens served as Glen Crest Middle School’s principal for 15 years. Taking over as principal at Glen Crest is Todd Schrage, who had been the school’s assistant principal for 10 years. Prior to becoming Glen Crest’s Assistant Principal, Schrage taught 6th and 7th grade science at Glen Crest and 4th grade at Arbor View. Taking on the role as principal at Arbor View is David Bruno, who has worked as Glen Crest’s Dean of Students and as a Glen Crest special education teacher.

Also leaving District 89 at the end of the 2008-09 school year were:

- Barbara Allord, Science, Glen Crest
- Karen Bean, ELL, Briar Glen
- Kathlyne Casiello, Special Education, Briar Glen
- Cindy Bilek Halik, Guidance, Glen Crest
- Ann Jendryk, 1st Grade, Briar Glen
- Douglas Marier, Orchestra, Glen Crest
- Margaret Kaye Schultz, Library Media Specialist, Arbor View
- Shirley Zeigler, Home School, Park View

District 89 wishes our departing employees the very best, and also welcomes many new staff members to an exciting 2009-10 school year!