Building Improvement and Renovation Projects Help Minimize Energy Usage in District 89

School improvements with renovations that were made possible through the successful 2008 bond initiative are now complete and projects were completed on time and under budget by about $500,000. In addition to serving the educational and safety needs of our students and staff for many years to come, several of the projects should result in significant energy cost savings for District 89. Some of the projects included:

- Replacing existing windows at Glen Crest, Park View, and Westfield schools with new energy efficient window systems containing low-E glass
- Increasing the roof insulation thickness at all schools, which doubled the R value of the roof systems
- Replacing black tar roofs at Park View and Briar Glen with highly reflective white membrane roof systems to minimize heat gain
- Replacing existing exterior light fixtures with new compact fluorescent exterior light fixtures District-wide
- Replacing existing interior lighting with new energy efficient interior light fixtures in most schools
- Replacing high-bay gymnasium lighting with energy efficient fluorescent fixtures District-wide
- Installing long lasting LED light fixtures at specific locations
- Installing building automation systems, which gives the District the ability to turn off mechanical equipment and lights when buildings are unoccupied
- Installing occupancy sensors in all rooms that turn off lights and mechanical equipment automatically when rooms are not in use
- Replacing existing boilers with new high efficiency boilers at multiple schools
- Installing battery free hydro-powered flush valves in restrooms at Glen Crest

All of these initiatives aid in our attempt to be wise and resourceful users of energy in our schools. The District 89 community can be proud of the many “green” initiatives being achieved in the operation of its schools. When cost saving numbers become available, we will share them with our stakeholders.

Sincerely,

John S. Perdue,
Superintendent

Glen Crest Middle School 6th grader Nicholas Sabri and his brother, Park View Elementary School 5th grader Sean Sabri, practice their solos with assistant orchestra director Jeff Teppema at the Douglas Marier Orchestra Solo Festival on March 20.
Arbor View Celebrates 50th Birthday

Students and staff from Arbor View Elementary School celebrated the school’s 50th birthday this year with special activities throughout the month of February.

On February 19th, a school photo was taken with all staff and students wearing the school’s colors of royal blue and white. The picture (shown below) is on display in the foyer area of Arbor View.

On February 24th, students were treated to a visit by “Mr. Freeze” of Fermilab in Batavia. Mr. Freeze (Fermilab’s Jerry Aimmerman) used his entertaining blend of comedy and science to demonstrate the wonders of liquid nitrogen during a school-wide assembly. Afterward, the entire school enjoyed treats and sang Happy Birthday to Arbor View. A giant paper cake with 50 bright candles was created and is still on display in the gym.

To complete their celebration, students are participating in a time capsule project. Each grade level will decide which pieces of Arbor View history will be placed in the capsule. The capsule will be sealed so that a future generation of Arbor View students and staff members can rediscover the school’s history.

“The Arbor View community really came together for this celebration,” said Principal Dave Bruno. “The celebrations marked an important part of the school’s long and rich history.”

District 89 Enjoys New Partnership with Glen Ellyn’s Bells & Whistles Snackery

Bells & Whistles in Glen Ellyn is featuring some new artwork on the walls of the snackery. Each month, two-dimensional artwork created by District 89 students is framed and displayed for the enjoyment of the restaurant’s patrons.

The idea for the partnership came from District 89 art teacher Helen Shafton, who serves on the Park View and Westfield Elementary Schools’ Action Teams for Partnerships. Through the partnership, student artwork is displayed and rotated on a monthly basis. According to Tracey Kreiling of Bells & Whistles, it’s a perfect partnership because the restaurant likes to encourage local organizations and artists and showcase local talent.

Shafton said the new partnership is working out very nicely. “This is truly a win-win scenario,” said Shafton. “The partnership has brought new customers into the restaurant and our kids are honored and excited to have their artwork displayed publicly.”

According to Superintendent Dr. John S. Perdue, District 89 is committed to strengthening partnerships at all schools. “Partnerships like the one with Bells & Whistles enhance our educational program while building important relationships with our local business stakeholders,” he said. “We appreciate Bells & Whistles’ willingness to work with our students on this exciting project.”

The partnership with Bells & Whistles is one of many partnerships between District 89 schools and businesses from the Glen Ellyn, Wheaton and Lombard communities. Bells & Whistles Snackery is located at 405 North Main Street in Glen Ellyn.
As District 89 continues to plan for the 2010-2011 school year, a “perfect storm” is brewing with regard to State funding for education.

Last year’s record low Consumer Price Index (CPI) of 0.1% significantly impacted the new budget with approximately $800,000 less revenue available for 2010-2011. Because each subsequent year’s funding is based on the prior year’s level, the $800,000 loss compounds annually and is never recovered. The estimated four-year loss from the 0.1% CPI is $3.2 million.

At the same time, the Illinois legislature is contemplating significant decreases in General State Aid and categorical grant programming (i.e. Bilingual education, Reading Improvement, etc.) that is provided to Illinois public schools. It is possible that District 89 may see as much as a 10% decrease in the amount of state aid it will receive next year. A 10% decrease in funding from the State of Illinois would translate to a reduction of another $800,000 for next year’s budget.

All Illinois school districts are making difficult budget decisions. In District 89, the Board of Education in March approved a cost-containment and budget reduction plan to trim almost $600,000 from next year’s budget. Every effort was made to find reductions and efficiencies that had a minimal impact on student learning. While the administrative transfer policy will be reviewed, the Board felt strongly that class sizes should not be increased. Similarly, differentiation coaches, which train teachers in best practices on how to reach and teach all learners at all levels, were preserved.

Cost-containment and budget reductions for District 89 include personnel savings of almost $442,000, and delayed expenses, program and operational efficiencies of approximately $154,000.

“The District 89 Board has worked very hard over the years to operate with balanced budgets, establishing healthy budget reserves,” said Superintendent Dr. John S. Perdue. “This budget reserve will be used to absorb some of the budgetary shortfall. The Board and Administration feel the cost containment and budget reductions will maintain District 89’s motto of Learning for Life and its imperatives of high student achievement and efficient use of financial resources.”

A full list of the approved cost-containment measures and budget reductions can be found on the District 89 web site at www.ccsd89.org.

**New Strategic Plan to Guide District 89 through 2013**

A group of 25 teachers, administrators and parents from the District 89 Leadership Council (DLC) recently helped create a new strategic plan which will serve as a road map for District improvement through 2013.

In October and November, members of the DLC worked with Perry Soldwedel, Director of Continuous Improvement at the Consortium for Educational Change, to determine what strategies for improvement should be in place over the next few years. The updated plan was modeled around the District 89 mission, which is to prepare students for a successful future through continuous improvement of learning, satisfaction and resource utilization. With Soldwedel’s guidance and facilitation, the new plan was finalized early in 2010, and it focuses around three main goals:

- Ensuring student progress by increasing the number of students meeting and/or exceeding growth goals as measured by achievement indicators
- Ensuring high levels of stakeholder satisfaction as measured by satisfaction indicators
- Protecting the trust and confidence of our community and staff by making the best use of resources as measured by resource indicators

In addition to carrying forward strategies that have facilitated improved student achievement, stakeholder satisfaction and financial practices in the past, new strategies are also incorporated into the new plan. “A new focus for the future is exploring the requirements of Race to the Top, which relates to the reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act or No Child Left Behind,” said Assistant Superintendent for Learning Dr. Jamie Reilly. “Additionally, there are strategies targeted at ensuring that our students are prepared with the skills they need to be successful in the twenty-first century.”

A copy of the new strategic plan can be found on the District 89 web site at www.ccsd89.org.
District 89 Wellness Program Wins National Award

District 89 is one of only nine school districts across the country that was recently recognized as a 2009 BRONZE School Employee Wellness Program winner by the national Directors of Health Promotion and Education (DHPE).

As a BRONZE winner, District 89 will:

• Receive a $250 grant to use for their School Employee Wellness program
• Receive a banner recognizing their achievement
• Be featured on DHPE’s school employee wellness web site, and
• Be invited to National Conferences to make presentations about their successful School Employee Wellness program.

Community Consolidated School District 89’s school employee wellness program was created after staff members in all buildings were surveyed about what wellness initiatives they would like to see available. Based on the survey, District 89 staff members now have an opportunity to enjoy:

• Healthy snacks in vending machines (Fall 2010)
• Healthy food tasting events sponsored by Trader Joe’s and Whole Foods
• A Tuesday afternoon Walking Club
• Yoga and dance classes
• Reduced-cost health club memberships at the Wheaton Sports Center and Health Track
• Organized social events, including a softball game
• Standardized information about maternity/family leave processes for employees

District 89 Nurse Sandy Lawinger said the program is based on best practices for healthy work environments. “The School Employee Wellness guide states that programs that emphasize physical activity, stress management, and nutrition increase teacher morale, reduce absenteeism, and result in higher levels of general well-being and ability to handle job stress among teachers,” Lawinger said. “It was with this point in mind that an Employee Wellness Committee was established.”