

COMMUNITY CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Learning for Life

www.ccsd89.org

89 update

A PUBLICATION OF DISTRICT 89

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As Summer Approaches, Excitement Builds in District 89

It is hard to believe that the 2010-2011 school year is coming to an end. Spring and warmer weather is here and summer excitement is building in the hallways of all five District 89 schools.

Registration materials were sent home in mid-April with students who will be entering grades 1-8 next year. By now those materials and student fees should have been returned to the students' appropriate schools. If you have not yet returned your child's registration materials, please do so right away because staffing decisions for 2011-2012 are based upon these enrollment numbers.

District 89 continues to respond to the challenging economy and to decreases in property values. Property values in District 89 decreased by 3.78% for fiscal year 2012. This decrease is reflected

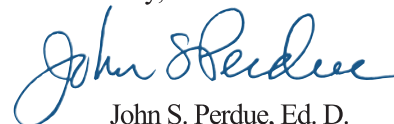
not only in the District's debt service levy but also in the overall tax rate. The District had previously projected the debt service levy for the 2008 bond renewal to be no greater than \$0.21. The unforeseen recession and its effects on property values will cause that number to increase slightly. These are factors determined by the school funding formula.

Teachers and administrators are working collaboratively to address budgetary shortfalls. Information about contract adjustments, budget reductions and other savings can be found inside this newsletter. The District has fulfilled every opportunity in renegotiating existing service provider contracts, employee group contracts including teachers and administrators, and sought efficiencies in all other District operations.

Through this difficult time, we are reminded of how fortunate we are to live in an area that is so supportive of education. From parents who volunteer in classrooms to community members who form valuable educational partnerships with the schools, it is evident that the District 89 community values education.

Thank you for your continued support with our mission of "Learning for Life."

Sincerely,



John S. Perdue, Ed. D.
Superintendent

Arbor View Student Wins NASA Essay Contest

Congratulations to Arbor View 5th grader Simona Kurdalievna on being named a winner in the Cassini Scientist for a Day contest sponsored by NASA.

The Cassini Spacecraft orbits and collects data from Saturn, and the science planning team at NASA designed three possible observation opportunities for next fall. The Cassini Scientist for a Day contest allows students to write essays about where they think the cameras on Cassini should be pointed during the upcoming observations. More than 1,000 students in grades 5-12 from 23 states wrote essays which were judged by top Cassini scientists, and Kurdalievna's essay was the winner for her category and age group.

"This was the first year Arbor View challenge students competed in this contest, so we were thrilled when Simona's essay was chosen," said Arbor View Principal David Bruno. "Her essay was a well developed and comprehensive piece, and it was evident that she worked very hard researching and writing a compelling argument for the topic she chose."



Simona Kurdalievna of Arbor View was a recent winner in the Cassini Scientist for a Day contest sponsored by NASA. She is pictured above with Arbor View Principal David Bruno.

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SPRING 2011

Board of Education Approves 2011-2012 Budget Reductions

District 89 continues to face difficult challenges with regard to financially supporting educational services for students. These challenges have intensified due to the current economy. The

Board of Education has a long history of being wise stewards with the community's resources, and budget reductions and cost containment initiatives have been an important part of the last three fiscal year budgets.

In 2009-10, District 89 reduced expenditures by \$672,228 and in 2010-2011 costs were reduced by \$552,298. From 2009-2012 administrative staff reductions and efficiencies totaling \$275,092 were also implemented. This included a superintendent salary freeze and

reduced compensation for administrators. On March 21 the Board approved \$576,571 in reductions and cost containment initiatives for the 2011-2012 school year. In total, the district has reduced expenses and achieved efficiencies totaling \$1,007,884 which will help address the projected deficit for the year.

When considering reductions, each potential reduction was assessed based on its potential impact on student achievement, stakeholder satisfaction and the

wise use of resources. Public input from last year's community forums was also considered. The budget reductions are beginning to lead to a decreased level of service that is provided to a student population which is increasing in diversity and learning needs.

"We've tightened the belt just about as much as we can without significantly altering the quality and structure of education here in District 89," said Superintendent Dr. John S. Perdue.

Teachers Association Agrees to Contract Adjustments

District 89 Board of Education members on May 16 approved a voluntary contract adjustment that was offered by the District 89 Education Association.

According to Association Co-Presidents Sally Dillon and Sandy Brenner, the contract adjustment was approved by association members last week and includes reductions in salary over the remaining two years of the current five-year contract. Other voluntary contract adjustments made earlier this year included reductions in budgets for teachers' extra-duty stipends and contract adjustments in areas such as benefits policies. "I am not surprised that our members were willing to open the contract for discussion," Dillon said.

Co-President Sandy Brenner agreed, and said the teachers recognized that addressing the District's financial challenges was important. "The teachers have a clear understanding of the financial challenges of the district, state and nation," she said.

Board of Education President Lori Gaspar said she too was not surprised to see the members of the teachers association offer to reopen their contract during this difficult economic time. "The teachers really stepped up and made significant contributions to improve our budget for the next two years," she said. "Their willingness to work together is an indicator of the long-time collaborative culture in our District."

Busing Costs Reduced Through Use of New Vendor in District 89

District 89 has negotiated a 27.78% reduction in busing costs for 2011-2012 through a collaborative bidding process for a three-year contract with a new vendor.

Illinois Central of Joliet will provide busing service next year at a rate that is \$216,653 less expensive than what was paid this year to First Student. Cost increases for years two and three of the contract are limited to 1%.

If the District decides to extend the contract be-

yond the initial three-year term, as allowed by the School Code, the increase in the rates will be limited to the CPI or 5%, whichever is lower, for the second preceding calendar year.

District 89 collaborated with nearby Districts 16, 41 and 87 to obtain the favorable rate. Per the bid requirements, all busses will be less than ten years old and outfitted with a GPS tracking system capable of internet-based location at all times. Approximately 50% of their busses are currently outfitted with security cameras.

"Collaboratively bidding the transportation services with the other Glenbard districts was a worthwhile effort that demon-

strates the ways that districts can work together to save money for their taxpayers without consolidating," said District 89 Assistant Superintendent for Finance & Operations Maureen Jones. "It is important to note that transportation is one of the three employment outsourced service contracts. With the approval of this new contract, District 89 has now successfully renegotiated and/or re-bid contracts for all three - transportation, food, and custodial services."

Board of Education President Lori Gaspar said the savings are a fine example of District 89's ongoing efforts to be efficient in all areas of the budget. "The negotiation of this very favorable contract

is an excellent way to reduce costs without impacting teaching and learning," she said. "It definitely helps us address next year's budgetary shortfall."

In addition to the yearly savings on daily routes, Illinois Central has pledged to provide field trips at a cost that is identical to what was paid this year to First Student.

"Because of this partnership and the economy of scale in bidding these services, significant savings have been achieved not only for District 89 but for the Glenbard Cooperative," said Superintendent Dr. John S. Perdue.

Illinois Central will begin transporting students with the fall term.

Two District 89 Fourth Graders Earn Perfect Scores on WordMasters Challenge

Two District 89 students are among a select few students nation-wide who have received perfect scores on the WordMasters Challenge for kids in grades 3-8. More than 220,000 students from across the nation are participating in the challenge this year.

Arbor View Elementary School 4th grader Elizabeth Musto and Briar Glen Elementary School 4th grader Rafia Afzal both achieved the highest possible score when they took the first of three challenge tests this school year. Recently Afzal received a second perfect score on the challenge.

"This is the first year District 89 students have participated in the WordMasters contest, and I am very impressed with how well our students are doing with this challenge," said Arbor View Challenge

(gifted education) teacher Mary Lou Andacht. "Parents have done a great job working with their kids at home on the words and their great support is evident with the success the kids are having."

The WordMasters Challenge consists of three separate meets held at intervals during a school year. The competition is an exercise in critical thinking that first encourages students to become familiar with a set of vocabulary words that are much more difficult than grade-level words, and then challenges the students to use the words to complete analogies expressing various kinds of logical relationships. Working to solve the Challenge analogies helps students learn to think both analytically and metaphorically.

Throughout the school year, students completed their meets and those who achieved and/or improved the most received medals and certificates.



Arbor View 4th Grader
Elizabeth Musto



Briar Glen 4th Grader
Rafia Afzal

District 89 Partners with COD to Offer Summer Enrichment Programs

District 89 is once again partnering with College Of DuPage to offer summer school for students. The cost of the summer school was offset by grant funds and a facility rental agreement with COD. Classes for students in grades K-8 include math and reading support as well as a variety of other electives. The courses will be held at Park View and will be taught by District 89 staff. "Extending the school year for learners is an excellent strategy in closing learning gaps from age-like peers," said Assistant Superintendent for Learning Emily Tammaru.

In addition to its summer school offerings, District 89 is excited to offer library programming this summer. The library at Park View Elementary School will be open from June 13 - August 12, 2011 on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 9:00-11:30am. A schedule of summer library events can be found on the District 89 web site home page at www.ccsd89.org.

Tim Jedlika Joins Board of Education

On May 2, District 89 teachers, administrators and community members welcomed a new face to the Board of Education and bid farewell to a member who has served since 2005.

A reception was held honoring outgoing board member Mary Kataura of Glen Ellyn, who has made many valuable contributions during her tenure on the board. "Mary will be missed but we all wish her the very best," said Superintendent Dr. John S. Perdue.

In the April 5, 2011 Board of Education election, incumbents Lori Gaspar and Terry Lachcik and newcomer Tim Jedlicka were elected to four-year terms.

At the meeting on May 2, the new Board elected Lori Gaspar as President, Frank Zak as Vice President and Jody Selenica as Secretary Pro-Tem for the next two years. They also voted to continue meeting the third Monday of every month.



Mary Kataura



Tim Jedlicka

Glen Crest Builders Club Promotes Community Service and Helping Others

A group of students from Glen Crest Middle School is donating their time and talents to help improve the community and the world around them. Through volunteerism associated with the school's Builders Club, 6th, 7th and 8th graders are learning at a young age the value of giving back.

The group is sponsored by the local Kiwanis club and the group includes 25-30 students who meet regularly with 6th grade Social Studies teacher Craig Hoffmann. Together they plan events and hear from guest speakers who help the students understand the various kinds of community service that are available to kids their age.

Service activities vary from month to month. According to Hoffman, some favorite activities were packaging and sorting food items for food pantries, visiting with the elderly at The Meadows

and the DuPage Convalescent Center, participating in community clean-up activities, making cards for servicemen and women and helping with book drives.

"Like Key Clubs at high schools, Builders Clubs are sponsored by Kiwanis organizations," said Hofmann. "They call the middle school clubs Builders Clubs because they are building our future leaders. My favorite part about leading this group is seeing the students experience the joy that comes from serving others."

Superintendent Dr. John S. Perdue pointed to the Builders Club as a prime example of the valuable partnerships that enhance the educational experience in District 89. "Our partnership



The Glen Crest Builders Club is sponsored by the Kiwanis Club.

with the Kiwanis Club extends learning into a whole new arena," said Perdue. "As we aim to create lifelong learners who are positive contributors to society, organizations like the Builders Club help

teach important lessons about selflessness and helping others."

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