



# COMMUNITY CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT

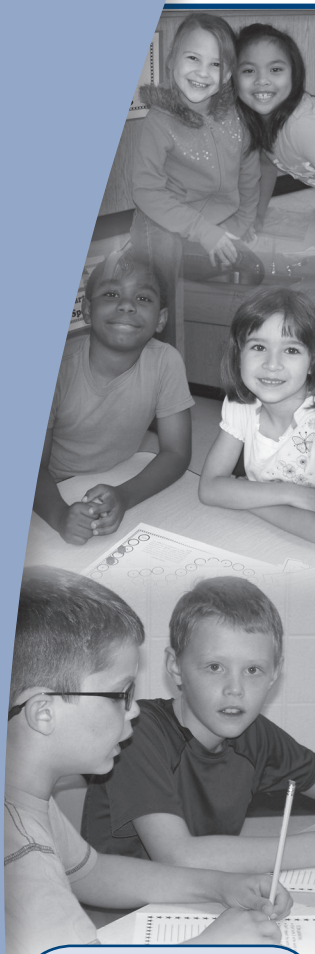
*Learning for Life*

# 89

# update

[www.ccsd89.org](http://www.ccsd89.org)

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After an extremely cold winter, the severe weather is finally behind us and everyone is now enjoying milder temperatures. By using four emergency weather days this school year, students' last day of school becomes Tuesday, June 10. Temperatures like those we endured in December, January and February take a toll on school buildings. Director of Buildings & Grounds Tim Tomazin and his staff are to be commended for the outstanding job they did making sure the schools were warm and the sidewalks and parking lots were cleared after many heavy snows. Other than a frozen pipe burst at Park View Elementary and the weather's impact on the budget, District 89 schools endured the winter very well.

Kindergarten registration for the 2014-15 school year is under-way. If you have a child who will

be five years of age on or before September 1, 2014, please contact the child's elementary school to ensure timely enrollment. Registration packets are available at each school. An official birth certificate, proof of residency, and a physical examination with documentation of immunizations are required for enrollment in kindergarten. Per state law, a vision exam will need to be completed by October 15, 2014 and a dental exam will be required by May 15, 2015 for all kindergarten students. If you are not sure which school your kindergartener will be attending next year, please contact the District Office at (630) 469-8900.

During the summer we encourage our students to keep their minds sharp by reading. This summer, District 89 will be offering summer library hours at Park View Elementary from 9:00-11:30AM,

Monday through Friday, from June 30 until July 25. Park View is located at 250 S. Park Boulevard in Glen Ellyn.

Looking ahead to fall, students will return to school on August 25. The 2014-2015 calendar has been approved by the Board of Education and can be accessed at [www.ccsd89.org](http://www.ccsd89.org) on the District page. I hope everyone has a wonderful summer. As always, I thank you for your commitment toward our mission of *Learning for Life* in District 89.

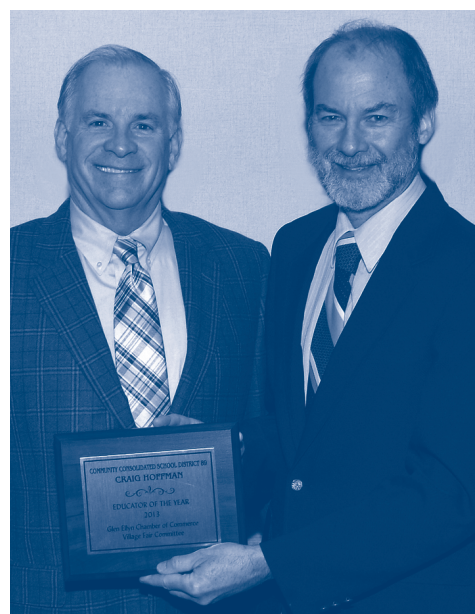
Sincerely,

John S. Perdue, Ed. D.  
Superintendent

## Glen Crest's Craig Hofmann Named District 89 Educator of the Year

At the Glen Ellyn Chamber of Commerce's annual Community Awards Breakfast held March 8, Glen Crest teacher and coach Craig Hofmann was named District 89 Educator of the Year.

Hofmann teaches social studies and coaches basketball at Glen Crest. He also serves as the faculty sponsor of the school's Builders Club, a youth service learning outreach of Kiwanis International. Through the Builders Club, Hofmann has helped hundreds of middle school students become involved in service learning in the community. Outside of District 89, Hofmann teaches confirmation classes at his church, conducts summer trips throughout the United States for students, and coaches summer basketball camps for boys and girls from 4<sup>th</sup> grade and up.



Superintendent Dr. John S. Perdue congratulates Glen Crest's Craig Hofmann for being honored as District 89 Educator of the Year.

# SPRING 2014



## Academic Spotlight: English Language Learners Program (ELL)

As the student population in District 89 continues to become more diverse, an increasing number of students who speak little or no English are part of the student demographic that is served. District 89 values the linguistic and cultural diversity these students bring to our schools. The English Language Learner (ELL) program is designed to support students so they can be successful for college and career readiness.



*Left to Right: Bonnie Garcia, Tonia Hardtke, Kathy Kron, Mary Krajcir, Catherine Hornig, and Sara Nemeth.*

The district employs six certified staff members across the district's five schools to meet the needs of the 170 students who currently receive ELL services.

While there are currently 32 lan-

guages represented in the program, Spanish and Urdu are the most prevalent languages spoken.

Westfield ELL teacher Tonia Hardtke said working with students and families who speak languages other than English is very rewarding and enjoyable. "The ELL teachers work diligently to understand and embrace the cultural backgrounds and needs of our students and families," she said. "We collaborate with staff on program instruction and professional development."

The guiding principles of the ELL program are to:

- develop English skills while learning grade appropriate academic content;

- develop academic English language proficiency to assist students in meeting Illinois Learning Standards as well as the Illinois English Language Proficiency Standards; and

- aid in the development of both social and academic language in all language domains: Listening, Speaking, Reading, and Writing

Depending on students' skills and level of English, they may receive ELL instruction for 30 – 45 minutes a day. All students participate with English speaking students for physical education, art and music.

Every fall, ELL families are invited to a diversity celebration where they can meet and network with other ELL families. A variety of community-based service organizations are also on-site with information about bilingual and other assistance programs. In addition to this event, individual schools provide groups and clubs to assist ELL students with homework, study skills and social interaction.



*Daina Resendiz, 5th grade student at Westfield, and her parents at the district ELL family event.*

Students who qualify for ELL services must participate in all of the same assessments as their English-speaking peers. In addition, ELL students must take ACCESS, an assessment that measures language acquisition in the areas of reading, writing, speaking and listening. Students continue qualifying for and receiving ELL support until they are deemed as proficient according to the ACCESS assessment standards.



*Angel Molina-Flores and his mom creating a family project during Westfield's FLAG Club*

## Have You Activated Your Account on the New CCSD89 Website?

In February, after a year of research and design work, CCSD89 launched a new website for students and families. The new website, which remains at [www.ccsd89.org](http://www.ccsd89.org), provides a simple single point of access to information that students and families need, including class newsletters, homework, attendance, lunch menus, calendars, school news and more. The site features personalized navigation and a uniquely customized view for each parent so families have easy access to their children's specific information.

At the end of January, each CCSD89 family should have received, via U.S. mail, the activation codes required to connect to the new CCSD89 website. If you still need to activate your account, please go to [www.ccsd89.org](http://www.ccsd89.org) and view the step-by-step directions that are provided in a video available on the home page. If you did not receive activation codes or have misplaced them, please contact your child's school office. Once you are connected, you'll find that our new website provides you with easy access to all of the key information needed to remain an involved participant in your child's educational success.



## What is Common Core?

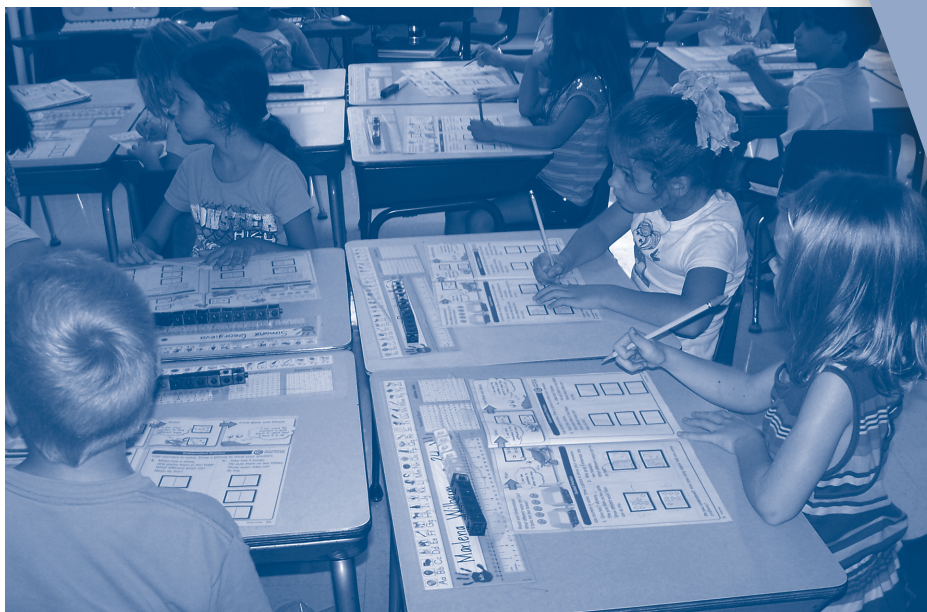
The Common Core State Standards in Illinois represent a higher, clearer and deeper set of learning standards for English/Language Arts and Math. Forty-four states (including Illinois) plus the District of Columbia have adopted the Common Core as the new set of guidelines for K-12 education. Prior to the adoption of the new Common Core State Standards, learning standards in Illinois had not been updated since 1997. The new standards will ensure that students are better prepared for college and the workforce by emphasizing more complex content and the development of real-world skills. District 89 has worked diligently to embed the Common Core State Standards in the curriculum with balance and commitment to student learning. The Common Core State Standards include the following qualities:

- Fewer, clearer, deeper and based on what students must learn at each grade level to succeed in college and modern careers;
- Create the same expectations for all students so families can understand exactly what every student should be learning no matter where they live;
- Emphasize skills students will need for the modern workplace: collaboration, critical thinking, communication and creativity; and
- Build upon strengths and lessons from the highest-performing states and countries.

The recently-approved Next Generation Science Standards identify content and science and engineering practices that all students should learn from K-12. States have previously used the National Science Education Standards from the National Research Council (NRC) and Benchmarks for Science Literacy from the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) to guide the development of their current state science standards. These documents are 15 years old and many significant scientific advances are not included.

The new standards were created through a collaborative, state-led process and are rich in content and practice. They are arranged in a coherent manner across disciplines and grade levels to provide all students with an internationally-benchmarked science education. The disciplinary ideas are grouped in the domains of physical sciences, life sciences, earth and space sciences and engineering, technology and applications of science.

For more information about the Common Core State Standards, visit <http://www.corestandards.org> and for information specific to the Next Generation Science Standards, please visit <http://www.nextgenscience.org>.



*First graders from Kelly McManus' class at Park View Elementary work on a classroom assignment that is tied to the Common Core State Standards for math.*

## District 89 Students Take Final Round of ISAT Tests

Illinois school districts are in the process of transitioning from the Illinois Standards Achievement Test (ISAT) to a new assessment tool called the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC).

Illinois is preparing for this change by raising performance expectations for elementary and middle school learners. As a result of the higher expectations, some students who previously met or exceeded standards are now being classified as needing improvement. The drop in cut scores does not mean our students know less than they did before or are less capable than they were in previous years. Instead, it means the state is expecting more of students so they can be on track for post high school, college and career success. The new PARCC assessment is designed toward college and career readiness.

Like the ISAT, the PARCC assessment provides teachers, parents and students with a snapshot of student achievement. With the recent adoption of Common Core State Standards for English/Language Arts and Mathematics, the PARCC assessment aligns to the new standards that ensure students are mastering the appropriate skills and content necessary for college and career readiness. Because the college and career readiness standards are more rigorous than the previous standards, the expectations and performance levels for testing are also increasing.

Some Illinois schools participated in a pilot of the PARCC assessment this spring. Results from this pilot will help guide final changes that will be made prior to the full rollout of PARCC in the 2014-15 school year.



## Four to Retire at End of 2013-2014 School Year

At our end of school retirement luncheon, District 89 will be bidding farewell to Glen Crest Principal Todd Schrage, who is retiring after 35 years of leadership and teaching service in District 89. Before being named Principal at Glen Crest, Schrage served as the school's assistant principal for ten years. He taught 6th and 7th grade science at Glen Crest and 4th grade at Arbor View Elementary prior to becoming an assistant principal.

In addition to Schrage, three other retirees will be honored at the luncheon. Sue Brown, Speech Pathologist, started her CCSD89 career 33 years ago as the therapist at Wagner School and Glen Crest. She has provided speech/language therapy to students from age 3 to 14 at all District 89 schools except Briar Glen. Denise Olton has spent 28 years teaching science at Glen Crest. Prior to coming to Glen Crest she taught five years in New York. Twenty years of grammar instruction has kept Teri Pehta busy at Glen Crest. She has taught 7th grade Literacy throughout her entire CCSD89 career.

District 89 wishes all of the upcoming retirees the very best!



*Todd Schrage*



*Sue Brown*



*Denise Olton*



*Teri Pehta*

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