

The Cicero Elementary Schools • District 99

99 NEWS

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District Administration Building • 5110 W. 24th Street • Cicero, IL (708) 863-4856

Donna Adamic, Superintendent of Schools

www.cicd99.edu

Letter from the Superintendent

Dear Education Supporters,

As the school year comes to an end, I reflect on the parent and community involvement activities that have taken place at our schools this year. More than ever before, parents have had opportunities to get involved with their schools and I appreciate their involvement. Education is a partnership among the schools, parents, and community. While our individual schools have offered a variety of different activities, we have also held district-wide activities. On March 20, the district offered the second annual Parent University. Over 500 parents participated in an all-day workshop that offered a variety of helpful parenting topics. This participation is an indicator of the strong parental commitment to education in the district. Additionally, our Parent Patrol Program is stronger than ever! The Safety Committee of the Cicero Youth Task Force began this initiative that is an example of the great things that are happening in collaboration with our community partners. We now have parents who have been trained and are helping to patrol the grounds at all 16 schools. This is just a start of greater things to come! However, more volunteers are needed. Please contact Isabel Ramirez, Parent Coordinator, at (708) 863-4856 if you would like more information on how you can become a Parent Patrol volunteer.

I wish you and your children a safe and restful summer and look forward to the 2010-2011 school year!

Sincerely,
Donna Adamic, Superintendent

Parent Patrol volunteers receive training.



Greener Schools for a Greener World

District 99's custodians are known as the "Men and Women in Green" or the "Green Team" because of their green uniforms. The "Green Team" is creating greener schools by using more environmentally friendly cleaning products and



ing products and trash bags and by recycling. "Certified Green Seal" cleaning products are now being used. Green Seal

Certification indicates the product has completed a stringent process to show that it has a more positive impact on health and the environment. The majority of the district's cleaning products are now certified, and custodians use dispensers that automatically give the correct amount of cleaning solution for proper dilution. By using special trashcan liners with less plastic than traditional liners, the district has reduced its plastic waste by 35%. The



district also recycles items, including fluorescent bulbs, ballasts, computers, paper, aluminum, and plastic. The district is conserving energy and saving dollars during non-attendance hours by keeping lights off and temperatures lower. The custodians and maintenance staff are participating in training to learn all they ways they can help the schools be green. Be a Green Team player at home: reduce, recycle, reuse!

Sherlock third grade students' fund-raising efforts helped pay for their trip to the Adler Planetarium, Chicago. See article on page 4.



Inside Our Schools

Students Succeed at Regional Science Fair



On March 13, students from many school districts came to **Unity Junior High** to participate in the annual Region Nine Science Fair. They exhibited 578 projects. Building administrators, teachers and custodians helped make the event a pleasant and successful day.

Unity students presented 21 projects that achieved three Outstanding Awards—with two of the projects invited to compete in the State Science Fair—nine First Place Awards, and nine Second Place Awards.

Private companies, groups and individuals presented Special Judging Awards throughout the day. Two Unity projects were recognized, one with an “Outstanding Math” award from Upward Bound and the other with an “Outstanding Art Work on a Backboard” from 21st Century.

Congratulations to the students whose two group science projects were invited to the State Science Fair: **Julissa Garcia, Olivia Housman, Ashley Munoz, Jocelyn Peralta, Bianca Santoyo** and **Vanessa Valle**.

Disability Awareness Month

Throughout March, **Columbus West** students and staff participated in activi-

ties related to Disability Awareness Month. Third grade students listened to readings about disabilities. A great way for regular education students to learn about disabilities is to work with students with disabilities. All Special Education classes were paired with regular education classes to do activities together. Some classes read, some made projects, and others participated in science activities. A regular education first grade class and a class of first/second grade Special Education students worked together on activities that celebrated the birthday of Dr. Seuss, the famous children’s book author.

Students and staff were also encouraged to wear red on March 31 to support, “Spread the Word to End the Word Day,” in which students were educated about not using the word “retarded” in a derogatory way.

Fund-raiser for Haiti

Cicero East classrooms closely followed the stories of relief efforts by international organizations that provided aid to the victims of the earthquake in Haiti. Students were touched by the stories and photographs of children and wanted to help. The students collected \$775 for the American Red Cross. Congratulations to **Laura Holtz’s** class for donating the most money. A special thank you to **Maria Cardona’s** class for initiating this gracious effort.

Reading Club Rocks

The **Columbus East** sixth grade After School Reading Club had 24 students this year. As of mid-April, the students had read six books. The Book Club meetings consisted of lively discussions that were followed by a snack. The students also helped select books for the group. An unexpected benefit of the program occurred when students shared books they had read in the club with many students outside of the club. The club members served as catalysts for other students to discover the pleasures of reading! Fifth grade students came to the last meeting of the year to learn about next year’s club.

Behavior Earns Rewards

Cicero East’s Best Dance Crew was the theme of the school’s third quarter Positive Behavior and Intervention Supports (PBIS) celebration. **Cicero East** is one of the schools that implemented PBIS, a program that teaches and reinforces positive behavior. Cicero East teachers began the celebration by demonstrating their best dance moves to a medley of Michael Jackson songs. Students enjoyed dancing with their classmates while learning the Cha Cha Slide, Cupid Shuffle, and other line dances. Students who use correct PBIS behaviors are invited to attend quarterly celebrations.



Beyond Our Schools



Math Champs

In March, **Unity Junior High** sent a team of 22 eighth grade “Mathletes” to compete against four other local junior high schools in the annual Morton West Junior High Math Competition. The students participated in two team and two individual contests. Unity’s Mathletes had a very

successful day, with the majority of students earning a first, second or third place ribbon.

School Citizens of the Year

West 40, the state Educational Service Center for the West Cook County region, hosts the annual School Citizen of the Year Awards. The awards recognize compassionate, caring students from grades two through twelve who are good role models for other students. Only one School Citizen can be selected from each participating school. On March 17, at an awards ceremony held in Melrose Park, these District 99 students were recognized as School Citizens of the Year: **Silvia Vazquez, Burnham School; Diego Gutierrez, Cicero East; Luke Paradela, Cicero West; Ismael Gutierrez, Columbus West; Itzel Castaneda, Drexel School; Emily Ronces, Goodwin School;**

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District Inclusion Initiative is Underway

District 99 has established the long-term goal of integrating and serving more students with disabilities within the general education classroom setting at their home school. This year, the Special Education Department worked with five of the district’s elementary schools on this initiative: **Cicero West, Cicero East, Liberty, Roosevelt** and **Woodbine**. The focus was to identify primary grade students with learning disabilities, speech and language impairments, and with other health impairments, who would benefit by being included within the general education setting. In addition to identifying students, the Special Education Department worked with the faculty to develop the appropriate supports for the placement of these students in general education classrooms. During the next school year, the Special Education Department will continue to work with the five schools on this initiative. The Special Education Department is dedicated to giving students with disabilities supports that will allow them to meet with success in these placements.

Parent and Community Corner

Parents Participate

Parents participated in many **Burnham School** events with their children and teachers this year including Ornament Night, Storyteller Night and Bingo Night. Many families enjoyed *Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs* at the January movie night. The Valentine's Day dance was a family favorite.

Parents also participated in daytime activities including Math Problem Solver, in which students taught their parents the processes they learned to complete a math problem. Question Answer Relationship (QAR) was the school's focus this year. Parents came to the classroom to learn how QAR is used in reading. Math Day included a variety of math games and activities. Parents were invited to celebrate Fine Art Academic Night on May 18.

Home-School Connection Strengthens

Roosevelt School focused on strengthening the home-school connection. Family events included Hispanic Heritage Month in October, with cuisine and music from different countries; curriculum nights; a holiday presentation in December; and the school's first family dance in February. Families were invited to celebrate the completion of the school year with the annual Roosevelt Talent Show on May 18.



Participants in McKinley School's book publishing event.

to participate in the school's book publishing event. Attendees received materials including a blank book to fill with stories about their families.

McKinley Publishing

On March 10, over 30 families came to the **McKinley School** library

For one hour, the authors wrote and illustrated their masterpieces. Pictures from magazines, stickers and photos from home were among the materials used to illustrate the books. Participants' hand-printed their stories about school days, memorable holidays, and new additions to their families. Many parents used their calligraphy talents, and also created amazing artwork. The families were proud to take home their books that were stamped "McKinley Publishing."

Making Wishes Come True

Drexel School's students, families, and staff helped make wishes come true for 10 Illinois school children who have life-threatening medical conditions. They generously gave \$1,910.55 to the Make A Wish Foundation on behalf of the school. Drexel students also created cards, care packages and collages for the children. To read about the 10 children that are benefiting from this contribution, visit www.jeansforwishes.org and click "Email a wish child."

Fund-raiser Fun

Parents and students lined up at **Liberty School** on the evening of March 16, waiting for the doors to open for a night of fun! They were eagerly awaiting the start of the *Parent and Child Second Grade Spring Dance Field Trip Fund-raiser!*

When the doors opened, parents and teachers joined in dances led by the school's gym teacher, Jared Boicken. Students and parents danced together. They enjoyed refreshments including cotton candy and popcorn. Families had fun at the picture booth. By the end of the night even the shyest child was dancing. The parents were so excited that they wanted to know when the next school dance would take place.

The proceeds from the dance are paying for the students' transportation to Morton Arboretum. The field trip is the culmination of a unit on science. Congratulations to all of the Liberty School second grade teachers whose hard work resulted in a great event and a successful fund-raiser.

Welcoming Special Guests

Visitors from Ghana

On March 1, six ministers representing the Ministry of Education of Ghana, Africa, came to **Warren Park School** to observe the school's successful early grade literacy bilingual programs. Warren Park was the only school in the entire state of Illinois selected for their visit and the first school they visited in the U.S. The Ministry of Education of Ghana plans to develop a national program in their country that will support 11 different languages through early literacy bilingual programs, and the ministers are visiting specific U.S. cities with high bilingual populations to observe and learn about successful educational programs.



FOX News meteorologist Amy Freeze with Liberty School kindergarten students.

The students, teachers and ministers all enjoyed learning about each other's schools.

Bike Champ Visits

Wilson School students were treated to shows by Matt Wilhelm, a three-time medalist in International BMX competi-

tions, on January 19. He performed amazing tricks with his BMX bike and also delivered a strong anti-drug message to the students. Mike Mellon, of Great American Fund-raisers, who is the school's fund-raiser representative, arranged Mr. Wilhelm's visit to the school. The kindergarten and first grade students who had the most sales during the school's fund-raiser earned a front row seat and received autographed pictures from Matt Wilhelm.

Guests Help Students Improve Vocabulary

At **Liberty School**, special guests visited the kindergarten classes. The guests supported the English as a Second Language (ESL) students by increasing their vocabulary through realistic experiences. FOX NEWS meteorologist Amy Freeze was

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Beyond Our Schools (Continued from p. 2)

Natalia Escobedo, Liberty School; Sabrina Aleman, Lincoln School; Eunice Guzman, McKinley School; Kamlesh Escobar, Roosevelt School; Angel Ruiz, Unity East; Andrew Aguilar, Unity West; Xareni Palacios, Warren Park; Despina Vrettos, Wilson School; and Gustavo Ortiz, Woodbine School.

Art on Display

Liberty School third grade students are participating in an amazing opportunity to learn about art, architecture, the environment and different cultures—and are exhibiting their artwork to the public—through a project sponsored by the *Do Your P'Art Art Foundation*. Working together with Baker Demonstration School in Wilmette, the students created 14 works of art using recycled materials they arranged inside cardboard boxes. The students' art boxes, and art boxes from more than 200 Chicago area classes, are on display at the Merchandise Mart from April 20-May 19. Illinois Institute of Technology architecture students assembled the exhibit. For

more information about the “Art Boxes” and the Do Your P'Art Art Foundation, visit <http://doyourpartfoundation.org/>.



Reaching for the Stars

Successful fund-raising efforts by **Sherlock School's** second and third grade students taught them to reach for the stars. In order to expand their classroom study of the solar system, the students asked the community to help fund a trip to Chicago's Adler Planetarium. The students' hard work met with success. On March 16, they traveled to Adler Planetarium to explore space and time. The exhibits allowed the students to become active learners and challenged each child to apply their knowledge of space through hands-on exhibits and demonstrations.

The field trip was an awe-inspiring learning experience for students and the parents and teachers who accompanied them.

Welcoming Special Guests (Continued from p. 3)

one of the visitors. She told students about the tools she uses for her weather forecasts, like Doppler radar, and other computers. Later, on the 9:00 PM News, she spoke about her visit to Liberty School! Visits to the Home Depot, the Cicero Fire Department, and other community locations are also enhancing the students' vocabulary acquisition.

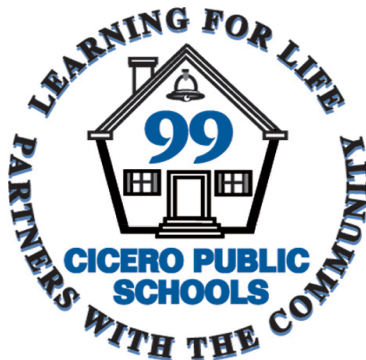


Celebrity Writers at Young Authors Conference

On April 15, three nationally renowned authors attended the ninth annual district-wide Young Authors Conference at **Unity Junior High**. Caldecott winning author Eric Rohmann, whose father attended Burnham School, Candace Fleming and Kevin Luthardt inspired and encouraged the student writers. Two Unity students achieved the Irene Hunt Award for excellence in writing. Miss Hunt, a former District 99 teacher, was also a Newberry Award-winning author. Each participating student received a certificate and a book written by one of the authors that could be autographed. Twenty-eight District 99 young authors were selected for recognition at the State Young Authors Conference in May.

Cicero School District 99 Board of Education

- Jorge Rueda, President**
- Larry Polk, Vice President**
- James Terracino, Secretary**
- Mario Lopez**
- Deborah Mikolajewski**
- Graciela Segura**
- Thomas Tomschin**



The public is cordially invited to attend District 99 board meetings, which are held at 6:30 PM. The remaining meeting date and location for the school year is:

June 10 - Columbus East

Cicero District 99 Facilities

Burnham School

1630 S. 59th Avenue
(708) 652-9577

Cicero East School

2324 S. 49th Avenue
(708) 652-9440

Cicero West School

4937 W. 23rd Street
(708) 780-4487

Columbus East School

3100 S. 54th Avenue
(708) 652-6085

Columbus West School

5425 W. 31st Street
(708) 780-4482

Drexel School

5407 W. 36th Street
(708) 652-5532

Goodwin School

2625 S. Austin Blvd.
(708) 652-5500

Liberty School

4946 W. 13th Street
(708) 780-4475

Lincoln School

3545 S. 61st Avenue
(708) 652-8889

McKinley School

5900 W. 14th Street
(708) 652-8890

Roosevelt School

1500 S. 50th Avenue
(708) 652-7833

Sherlock School

5347 W. 22nd Place
(708) 652-8885

Unity East Jr. High

2100 S. Laramie Avenue
(708) 863-8229

Unity West Jr. High

2115 S. 54th Avenue
(708) 863-8268

Warren Park School

1225 S. 60th Court
(708) 863-2220

Wilson School

2310 S. 57th Avenue
(708) 652-2552

Woodbine School

3003 S. 50th Court
(708) 652-8884

Warren Park EC Center

5631 W. 16th Street
(708) 652-1144

District 99 Service Center

5835 W. Roosevelt Avenue
(708) 863-3774