

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

Response to Intervention — by District 99 Superintendent Donna Adamic

During the 2009-10 school year, District 99 will focus on implementing the Illinois State Board of Education's (ISBE) program, Response to Intervention, or RtI. ISBE defines RtI as, "using differentiated curriculum-based instructional strategies for all learners, providing all learners with scientific, research-based interventions, continuously measuring student performance using scientifically research-based progress-monitoring instruments for all learners, and making educational decisions based on a student's response to interventions." RtI addresses the academic and behavioral needs of students with the goal of supporting them so that they don't fail.

RtI is an organizational framework for instructional and curricular decisions and practices based on students' responses. In order to prepare for RtI's full implementation, the district has slowly incorporated new initiatives. One of these includes testing. We are starting our third year of a universal assessment called the Measure of Academic Progress or MAP. We now are testing our third through eighth grade students in reading and math three times a year to collect data on how well we are teaching to the Illinois Learning Standards.

This year, we are beginning a new test for kindergarten through second grade students called the Illinois Snapshots of Early Literacy (ISEL) to measure reading fluency. Since these tests are universal and administered to all students, they are considered to be part of Tier I. Tier I can be defined as procedures used for all

students. Students who do not succeed with high quality Tier I instruction are referred to the RtI team that consists of teachers, administrators, and school staff.

Teachers analyze the MAP and ISEL test scores to identify students in academic need. These students receive additional help in a small group setting, called interventions, and are considered to be in Tier II. Periodically, Tier II students will receive more in-depth tests to determine their progress. This is referred to as progress monitoring.

Students who struggle after receiving interventions are considered to be part of Tier III, which may include a referral for

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Breaking News...

Chicago Bears' Star Asks People to Be Counted

Former Chicago Bears' Super Bowl XX star **Calvin Thomas** made a special appearance at **Liberty School** on September 24. (Mr. Thomas also played saxophone in the 1985 Bears' famous Super Bowl Shuffle video.)

A spokesperson for the 2010 census, Mr. Thomas explained to parents that the U.S. Constitution mandates that a census to count the entire U.S. population—including citizens and non-citizens—takes place once every 10 years. Census results determine each state's number of congressional seats, affect funding for local programs and inform the U.S. government where to distribute \$400 billion in federal funds to local and state governments each year. The U.S. Census has been held since 1790.

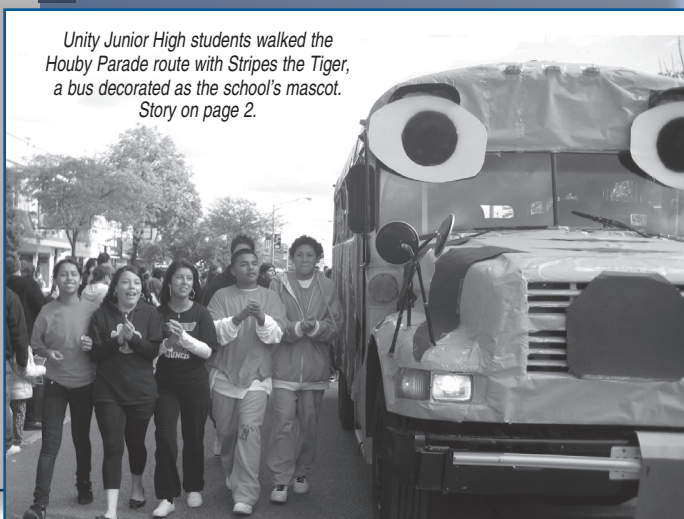
Every U.S. household will receive a census questionnaire next spring that will take about 10 minutes to finish. Participate in this important democratic process by accurately completing the questionnaire and be counted in 2010!

Lincoln School Expands

Lincoln School is expanding! Construction began August 31 on an addition that will have 17 new classrooms—including art and music rooms—and a new media center, computer lab, meeting room and cafeteria. More improvements will come when the existing building is renovated next summer. Students are interested in the addition's progress and excited about the new facilities. The addition

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Unity Junior High students walked the Houby Parade route with Stripes the Tiger, a bus decorated as the school's mascot. Story on page 2.



Parent and Community Corner

9/11 Remembered

McKinley students and staff held a 9/11 remembrance. They were joined by State Representative **Lisa Hernandez**, Cicero Police Superintendent **Lori Lelis**, Cicero Fire Commander **Jerry Chlada**, police officers, firefighters, parents, families and friends. Students presented the story of 9/11 and remembered the police and firefighters who sacrificed so much to help others. To honor local police and firefighters, each class gave notes of appreciation to Superintendent Lelis and Commander Chlada. State Representative Hernandez spoke, encouraging students to do their



State Representative Lisa Hernandez and Cicero Police and Fire Department officials joined McKinley students in a 9/11 observance.

best in school and in life. The ceremony closed with everyone singing America the Beautiful. The heartwarming ceremony gave students an opportunity to show their appreciation to Cicero police and firefighters and to remember 9/11.

Houby Parade Roars

On October 4, **Unity Junior High** students participated in the Town of Cicero's 41st annual Houby Parade. Students decorated a school bus to look like Stripes, the school's tiger mascot. The school district's transportation director, **Rich Grindel**, drove the tiger bus while teachers walked the parade route with students.

A Busy Fall for Families

Warren Park families enjoyed many events in fall. At Movie Night in September, families watched the movie *Wall-E*. October brought the annual Reading Night, with fall-themed stories and crafts. Second and third graders

Save Box Tops for Education

All District 99 schools participate in the Box Tops for Education Program. General Mills and its partners give rewards to schools whose families collect "Box Tops for Education" logos that are printed on packages of many common foods and household products, including Cheerios, Old El Paso foods, Betty Crocker baking mixes, Hamburger Helper, Kleenex, Huggies diapers, Avery office supplies, Hefty products and many others. Parents: save logos from these products to help your child's school! Get a complete product list at www.boxtops4education.com/earn/clip/.



brought their parents to two Family Math Nights to learn math activities to do at home, and more. Many additional family events will take place this year.

No Hibernating During Bears Night

On the evening of October 6, more than 75 **Sherlock** students and their families came to the school for a night of "Bears." But this wasn't a sports night; it was a literacy event with a bears' (the big, furry kind) theme. Events included a dramatic presentation of the book

"Goldilocks and the Police" by second and third graders in English and in Spanish, discovering how teddy bears are manufactured, and more. Participants enjoyed the night of storytelling and fact finding.

Action Figures

A new volunteer organization, "Parents in Action," is helping **Goodwin** students. The group held a successful taffy apple sale and is leading the school's parent volunteer program. A remarkable group of women have made this organization possible. They accomplished a great deal after just one month of school!

Grant Funds After-School Program

Unity students were the recipients of a TEEN Reach grant that funds an after-school program. The grant was written by Youth Crossroads with District 99

and Corazón Community Services as partners. In August, Youth Crossroads learned that the grant was funded and worked with the district so that the TEEN Reach program could begin in October. A parent orientation was held October 1. Parents and students were eager to begin the program that provides academic improvement, life-skills training, positive adult role models, community service projects, sports, recreation, and educational field trips. The program meets four days a week for three hours a day after school at Unity. On Saturdays and holidays, Corazón provides programming at their facility.

Family Fun and Games

The **Goodwin** school year began with a Family Fun Night. The School Improvement Plan Parent Involvement Committee organized the event that included art projects, outdoor games, food, and lots of fun! Many families participated. Goodwin teachers look forward to beginning every school year in such a great way.

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Cicero East students learn the rules of PBIS, a behavior program.

Inside Our Schools

Program Promotes Good Behavior

Cicero East, Burnham, Roosevelt, Lincoln and **Liberty Schools** are incorporating the Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports Program (PBIS) this year as part of the district-wide Response to Intervention (RTI) plan. (See RTI article on page 1.)

Schools throughout the country use PBIS to reinforce students' appropriate social and emotional behavior. During the school day, learning time increases when it is not disrupted due to inappropriate behavior. PBIS identifies what appropriate behavior "looks like" throughout all physical areas of the school day (inside the school, outside, in class, at lunch, at recess, in the library, in the halls, on the bus, etc). Throughout the district, all staff members will be trained in PBIS this year. Learn more about PBIS at www.pbisillinois.org.

Student Council Works

At **Unity Junior High**, the school's eight separate floors are represented by four Student Council officers and one representative from each homeroom. The Student Council sponsors fund-raising activities to supply special school items and events. This year, the Student Council's main focus is to purchase two display cases for trophies won by Unity students since the school's opening in 2003.



All Together

In honor of fall, a class of third and fourth grade **Columbus West** students teamed with a fifth grade class to work together on a reading and writing project. They listened to a story about autumn, then helped each other to understand the story, thought of words that represented autumn, and used the words to write poems. Students also created autumn trees from tissue paper. They will continue to meet and learn together at events throughout the year.



New Mascot

Cicero East has a new mascot, the wolf. Students are participating in a drawing contest based on the new mascot. Go Cicero East wolves!

Hands On

Visitors to **Drexel** may notice many helping hands on the bulletin board by the main entrance. Students put painted handprints on the board whenever they are nominated by their homeroom teachers for lending a helping hand. "It is our hope that people who enter the school will, in noticing the handprints, be inspired by all the good the students do and 'pay it forward'—by doing a good deed for someone," explained Assistant Principal Rita Kulaga.



Golden Students

Wilson School teachers give their students "Golden Tickets" when they show good behavior. The students use their tickets to purchase items at monthly sales. The items can include children's jewelry, exercise machines and even Godzilla masks—a very popular item last year. The school purchases the items at low cost. Golden Tickets are an effective part of the school's positive behavior program.



Columbus West students studied autumn through words, poems and a craft project.

Breaking News...

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tion will enable the school to have smaller class sizes and provide a contemporary learning environment. Watch the construction online via web cam: <http://icicicero.dyndns.org>.

Roosevelt Achievers

Roosevelt sixth grade students **Zireth Marin** and **Michael Frutos** earned scholarships to attend the Center for Gifted in Chicago, an affiliate of National-Louis University. During the three-week-long summer program they studied physics, chemistry and robotics. The program is open to students who typically have achievement test scores in the top 5% of all students in the nation. The students were also inducted into the United States Achievement Academy's All-American Scholars Program, which honors academically gifted students throughout the country. Congratulations to the two scholars!

Borders Books for Burnham

Burnham School received a generous gift from the Illinois Literacy Donation Program, sponsored by the Illinois Literacy Council, the Secretary of State and Borders®. From October 5 through November 1, patrons of the Oak Brook, Illinois, Borders bookstore were asked to contribute \$1 or more to the Literacy Donation Program. At the end of the program, Burnham School received all of the donations to purchase books for the school from Borders. "Burnham is excited to be selected for this program and to receive more books for the classrooms," stated Burnham Principal Carol Anderson.

Response to Intervention (Continued from p. 1)

special education services. The focus of Tier III is to provide even more individualized interventions.

Response to Intervention also applies to student behavior. Expected behaviors are taught at the universal level (Tier I). As with academics, students identified as being in need will receive additional supports. These supports make up Tiers II and III.

A program that will help us teach appropriate behaviors is Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS). Unity Junior High has used PBIS since the school opened in 2003. This year, the staff of all 15 of our elementary schools will be trained on how to implement PBIS. You will be hearing and reading more about PBIS and RtI in the future.

Parent and Community Corner (Continued from p. 2)



Book Talk

Columbus East sponsors a Family Book Club at least three times a year.

The club was off to a fantastic start when 25 families signed up. At the first meeting, attendees received copies of the book, learned about conversations and activities families can enjoy while reading the book, and shared ideas. Participants included parents, grandparents, students and teachers. One month later, lively discussions took place at a celebration meeting. The Family Book Club is a wonderful way for families and teachers to interact and share interests. With thanks to the Columbus East students, teachers, and family members who make this a successful event.

Curriculum Night Welcomes Parents

This year, at **Woodbine School**, the school's traditional September "Open House" for parents was changed to the "Curriculum Night." At the

event, parents learned about the school's curriculum, how data from student testing drives instructional decisions and other items of interest. Parents who attended Curriculum Night were asked to complete a survey. The results indicated that they liked the information and the overall change to the program. Woodbine educators were surprised to discover that nearly half of the parents did not know that the curriculum is identical in the English and in the Bilingual programs across all grade levels. In the future, Curriculum Night will lay the foundation for the entire school year and will include vital information on testing, programs and attendance.

Year of Events

Throughout the year, **Wilson School** will hold regular events for parents and for families. These will include Love of Learning Nights, Coffee with the Principal and the Literacy Fiesta.

Cicero School District 99 Board of Education

Ed Ziemba, President

Jorge Rueda, Vice President

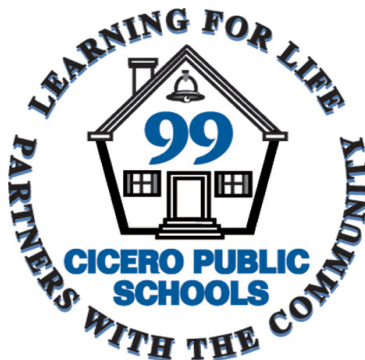
James Terracino, Secretary

Deborah Mikolajewski

Larry Polk

Graciela Segura

Thomas Tomschin



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

2010

- January 14 - McKinley
- February 11 - Drexel
- March 11 - Roosevelt
- April 8 - Woodbine
- May 13 - Lincoln
- June 10 - Columbus East

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