



Connections

News From Our Schools

December 2002

Walter R. Sundling eighth grader to perform at White House

Walter R. Sundling eighth grade student Sarah Hong recently performed in Washington, D.C. at the White House. Hong, part of a violin ensemble known as the Betty Haag Magical Strings of Youth of Roosevelt University, performed two concerts during the Holiday Festivities at the White House.

The first concert took place in the historic East Room of the White House, and the second performance was held in the intimate surroundings of the First Ladies indoor Garden. This select group of students has traveled around the world and has been honored by Presidents and dignitaries throughout Europe and Asia.

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Thomas Jefferson third graders attend manners banquet

Third grade students from Thomas Jefferson recently attended Chandler's Banquet Hall in Schaumburg for their annual manners banquet. For the past four weeks, third grade students have been studying and learning proper manners from members of the Chandler's staff. At their session, students had the opportunity to display everything they learned during the four-week program.

Students at The Learning Academy give back to their community

Since the beginning of October, Tracey Wrobel's class at The Learning Academy (TLA) has been working hard on a service project for students to collect books for the homeless. The class selected Journey from PADS to HOPE, a homeless shelter located in Palatine. For the project, Mrs. Wrobel's students, along with TLA Social Worker Don Somerville, have been cooperating with HOPE Center Program Director Adam Rappaport to create a miniature library by setting a goal of acquiring 500 books through private donations. The students created posters to promote the drive and also created a "drive meter" which measures their progress. The students staged a number of activities in hopes of meeting their goal. The students have arranged successful fund-raising visits to District 15 elementary schools, the Palatine Public Library, the Palatine Rotary, and the Marriott Church Creek of Arlington Heights. During these visits, students have the opportunity to explain why they are collecting books, what they have learned thus far as a result of the project, and finally, what steps they have taken to reach their goal.

Winston Campus sponsors Math-a-thon

More than 200 kindergarten through eighth grade students at Winston Campus recently participated in the St. Jude Children's Research Hospital Math-a-thon. The program is an educationally based program designed to strengthen basic math skills and also provide students with the opportunity to help children with cancer and other pediatric diseases. Winston Campus students find sponsors to pledge 4, 5, and 10 cents per problem completed. Each student completed approximately 250 math problems in a seven-day period. Last year, the project raised more than \$8,800 for St. Jude Research Hospital.

Around the

- **Walter R. Sundling** recently received a \$200 grant from the Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County. The grant will be used for the schools Field Museum “Soil Mobile” program.
- **Carl Sandburg Junior High School’s** Wildcat Chorus recently performed at the Rolling Meadows High School Choral Pops Concert. The Chorus, led by Ryan Eikmeier, performed “From This House.”
- **Stuart R. Paddock’s** fifth/sixth grade Chorus and Chimes group recently performed at the Museum of Science and Industry in Chicago. The group performed “Christmas Around the World” as part of the museum’s holiday celebration.
- The **Winston Campus Elementary** Student Council recently donated 22 boxes of food to the Palatine Township “Needy Family Fund.” The fund provides assistance in four areas: emergency assistance to families, the Adopt-a-Family Program, the food pantry, and the Apple Tree Campaign (school supplies for children). At **Willow Bend School**, throughout the month of December, the students will be collecting cans of food to be donated the Palatine Food Pantry. To date they have collected more than 1,500 cans in the “Can 4 Kids” food drive. The **Kimball Hill** Student Government sponsored “Fill a Grade Level Cart” in which each grade level was asked to fill a shopping cart as part of a food drive. Approximately 10 filled grocery carts will be going to the Rolling Meadows Community pantry for their “Feed the Needy” program.
- **Frank C. Whiteley School** was the recipient of a \$500 grant from the Mobil Oil Corporation to benefit the schools Environmental Club.
- More than 80 **Virginia Lake School** students recently performed a version of Peter Pan for parents and the community.
- The **Frank C. Whiteley School** fifth- and sixth-grade Chorus recently presented a holiday concert at the Randhurst Mall.
- **Pleasant Hill School** recently held their eighth annual Holiday Help Tree. The Holiday Help Tree is located in the front entrance at Pleasant Hill and has stars which have an item that a child wants or needs. All of the gifts go to Pleasant Hill families who may not otherwise have the same opportunities as some of the other families have during the holidays. The staff choose stars from the tree, purchase the item, wrap it, attach the star to the gift and place the gift under the tree. The Holiday Help Tree is part of the school’s ongoing Cougar Character program is designed to teach the children the importance of having compassion and kindness for all people.
- **Winston Campus** recently held the 20th annual “Winston Campus Charity Auction.” All proceeds from this highly successful event go towards scholarships as well as to Palatine Township’s

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Thomas Jefferson School Performs “A Connecticut Yankee”

The Thomas Jefferson School Drama Club recently performed the musical “A Connecticut Yankee” at the Prairie Center for the Performing Arts in Schaumburg. Alessandra Kennedy, a fifth-grade teacher, was the producer and director of the performance and was assisted by fellow teachers Lou Ann Ratajczyk, Rita Molepske, and student teacher Darcy Barnas.

The troupe was comprised of more than 70 fifth and sixth graders who rehearsed during lunch hour and after school. The musical is a charming tale of a modern-day boy in King Arthur’s Court. Last year, the Thomas Jefferson Drama Club performed the musical “Annie.” The students performed a morning “school show” and an evening performance for family, friends, and the community.

The Schools

“Adopt-a-Family Holiday” Program.

- Two students from **Walter R. Sundling Junior High** received grants from the Illinois Junior Academy of Science. Tom Wang and Dan Ragawiecki each received the President’s Research Grant for completing their science projects.
- The **Lake Louise** Student Council recently raised \$600 in the school’s “Make a Difference Day” to help fund a memorial monument in downtown Palatine that will honor five local fire-fighters who lost their lives in the line of duty.
- The **Kimball Hill School** Student Government recently sponsored a toy drive for children in Chicago. The collected toys were donated to two local churches and distributed by a local “not-for-profit” organization.
- **Hunting Ridge School** recently hosted a small reception for approximately 25 bus drivers/dispatchers to thank them and celebrate all they do for the students. The program included a poem, as

well as songs preformed by the students of Hunting Ridge. “Wheels on the Bus” and “Tomorrow” were big hits with the drivers.

- Students at **Jane Addams School** were recently treated to a one-woman performance titled “The Angel of Halsted Street.” Actress Mercita DeMonk portrayed Jane Addams, the American social reformer and Nobel laureate. The program was sponsored by the Cultural Arts Committee of the Jane Addams PTA.
- **Pleasant Hill** fifth/sixth graders recently performed “Scrooge” for the community.
- **Marion Jordan** Service Club members and parent volunteers recently aimed to “Fill a School Bus” in a Food drive for the Palatine Township Food Pantry. The service club members and parent volunteers collected nonperishable food items for at the Jewel Food Store in Hoffman Estates and attempted to fill the bus with food for later delivery to the food pantry. This is the second annual “Fill the Bus” event for Marion Jordan.

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Special Olympics Holiday Basketball Tournament

Twenty-one District 15 students recently participated in the Special Olympics Holiday Basketball Tournament held in December. The athletes competed in three individual skills tests: shooting, wall passing, and dribbling. All athletes demonstrated superior concentration, control, skill, courage, and everything that the Special Olympics oath stands for. Congratulations to the following Gold Medal winners: Audrey Brickwood (Winston Campus), Nicole Brickwood (Winston Campus), Rachel Giagnorio (Hunting Ridge), Katelyn Grunewald (Lincoln), Emily Jandura (Thomas Jefferson), Jimmy Kurpiel (Winston Campus), Owen Laatsch (Winston Campus), Andrew Penway (Winston Campus), Zoie Phillips (Marion Jordan), Jimmy Schmuck (The Learning Academy), and Erik Stenstrom (Jane Addams). Each of the above Gold Medal winners qualified for the state tournament to be held March 14-15, 2003 in Normal, Illinois. Congratulations to the eight Silver Medal winners: Joe Bisek (Winston Campus), Leo Bourdage (The Learning Academy), Anthony Donatelli (Winston Campus), Victoria Doulas (Winston Campus), Joanna King (Winston Campus), Tina Lanera (Winston Campus), Jose Nacho Lopez (Winston Campus), and Moriah Mackey (Winston Campus). Congratulations to Bronze Medal winner Tory Geraci (Marion Jordan) and Fourth Place finisher Laura Manda (Winston Campus).

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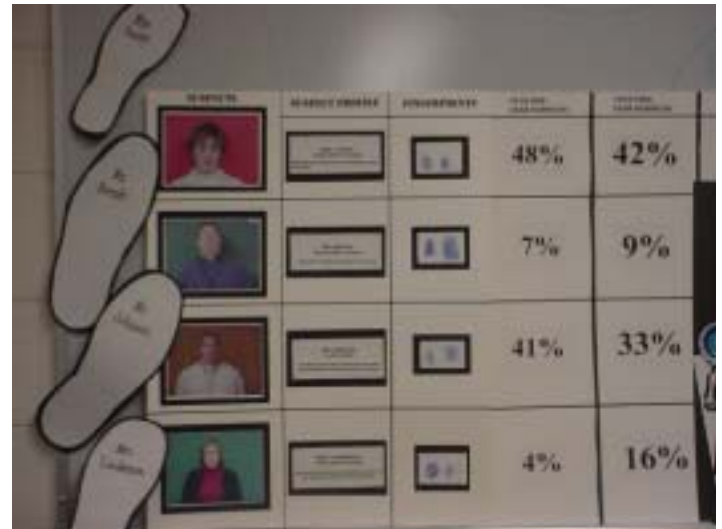
John G. Conyers, Ed.D.

Connections is published monthly throughout the academic year. Each month, we promote upcoming activities, recent accomplishments, staff and student news, academic accomplishments, and other newsworthy items from each of our schools in Community Consolidated School District 15. To contribute to **Connections**, please send your news items, including digital photos, to the attention of Bob Tenczar, Director of Communications, Educational Service Center. Staff members may submit their information by fax (847) 963-3200, e-mail: tenczarr@ccsd15.k12.il.us, or through standard mail. For all information, please provide a complete description of your news which includes who, what, where, when, and why and a contact name and number for follow-up. This will greatly aid us as we prepare the news for publicity. For more information, please contact Bob Tenczar at extension 3212.

Thomas Jefferson presents Mystery Family Reading Night

More than 300 people attended the recent Thomas Jefferson Mystery Family Reading Night. During the evening, students traveled to four different sessions and participated in activities. For example, students learned how forensic science is used and how it relates specifically to fingerprinting. They analyzed their fingerprints and tried to make a picture using the fingerprint. Throughout the evening, students gathered information, surveyed evidence, and tried to solve a mystery crime.

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The Double Tree Hotel and Winston Campus donate 2,002 cookies to PADS

If you could give 2,002 fresh baked chocolate chip cookies to a special group of people in the community, who would you give them to and why? That question was posed in a survey to third graders in more than 100 cities across the country. Cheryl O'Callahan's third-grade class at Winston Campus took the survey and voted for PADS (Public Action to Deliver Shelter). Members of the Double Tree staff and third graders from Mrs. O'Callahan's class personally delivered 2,002 cookies to PADS in November.

"The 2002 Great Community Cookie Giveaway allowed children the opportunity to experience how rewarding it can be to give back to the community in their own special way," said Mrs. O'Callahan. "The overall Teaching Kids to CARE program introduced how easy it is to be a caring kid, therefore building a foundation towards becoming good citizens."