



**Community Consolidated
School District 15**

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CONNECTIONS

News From Our Schools

January 2006

The mission of School

District 15 is to produce

world-class learners by

building a connected

learning community.



Fourteen District 15 students earn perfect ISAT scores in math, reading

Fourteen District 15 students were honored by the District 15 Board of Education on December 14 for having earned perfect scores in the math and reading portions of the Illinois Standards Achievement Tests (ISAT tests) given in spring 2005.

The students and their schools are: **Natalie Holbrook**, **Kevin Hur**, **Rebecca Wight**, and **Jennifer Winberg**, Thomas Jefferson School; **Phillip Shih**, Hunting Ridge; **Sean Lee**, Lincoln School; **Mikaela Boldt** and **Elizabeth Jackson**, Pleasant Hill School; **Rebecca Yount**, Virginia Lake School; **Nancy Chen**, **Hannah Kuhl**, **Alaina McCaffrey**, and **Megan Ramsland**, Frank C. Whiteley School; and **Stephanie Mackey**, Willow Bend School.

ISAT measures the extent to which students are meeting the Illinois Learning Standards. Third, fifth, and eighth graders across the state took the standardized ISAT reading and math tests last spring, while students in grades four and seven took ISAT tests in science. Test results were reported to the district, schools, and parents by the Illinois State Board of Education earlier this school year.

District 15 students earn perfect WordMasters scores

Student teams from gifted classes in several District 15 schools earned top scores in WordMasters Challenge, a national competition for students in Grades 3-8 designed to encourage growth in vocabulary and verbal reasoning. In addition, 12 students had perfect scores.

Pleasant Hill School teacher Megan Schlobohm's team placed first in the nation in the fourth-grade gold division and Linda Parr's team at Hunting Ridge School placed sixth in the nation among 269 teams competing at this grade level and division, the most difficult division. In the sixth-grade gold division, Marcia Rydquist's team from Hunting Ridge placed ninth in the nation out of 203 teams.

Seven third and fourth graders earned perfect scores: **Jacob Shereda**, **Denae Gerasta**, and **Michelle Ling**, all Pleasant Hill third graders; **Susan Szuch**, **Josh Vorick**, and **Robbie Ng**, all Pleasant Hill fourth graders; and fourth grader **Sam Corzine**, Hunting Ridge. They were among just 27 students nationwide to earn perfect scores of the 7,390 students who competed at that grade level.

In the sixth-grade division, five students earned perfect scores: **Elizabeth Tokarz**, fifth grade, and **Lia Pagones** and **Maya Trilling**, sixth graders, all from Hunting Ridge; fifth grader **Kevin Krout**, Thomas Jefferson; and **Amanda Engel**, fifth grade, Marion Jordan. Nationally, 111 students at this level had perfect scores.

Inside:

Helping others ... page 2

Family reading nights
... page 3

Making a difference
... page 4

Student accomplishments
... page 5

Foundation mini-grants
... page 6

PTA Healthy Kids Fair
... page 7

Parent input on new
textbooks ... page 7

Around the schools
... page 6

Helping Others



Sundling fund drive raises money for student

Students and staff of Walter R. Sundling Junior High recently conducted a fund drive to assist a seriously ill Sundling student and her mother. The school's "Earnings for Ellen" drive raised more than \$10,000 in just one week.

Ellen, an eighth grader at Sundling, suffers from lupus, a chronic illness. The medications she regularly receives weaken her immune system, and as a result, she developed pneumonia. She was admitted to Children's Memorial Hospital on December 17, where she continues her treatment. Ellen's mother has been unable to work during her daughter's hospitalization. The school's Building Leadership Team decided to take action. In a letter to students and parents, principal Craig Winkelman said: "As a school, we feel that it is a priority that Ellen receives as much care and support as possible from her mom during this difficult time. Therefore, we are raising money so that Ellen's mom can focus on caring for Ellen now and during her long recovery process."

Ellen's chronic condition makes her extremely sensitive to light, so she is the only Sundling student regularly allowed to wear a hat to school. But on January 13—"Hat Day"—most students and staff members showed up in hats to express their support for Ellen. Students enthusiastically supported the effort, creating special posters and promoting the event on the school's televised "Morning Announcements."

On behalf of Ellen's mother, the principal expressed appreciation to the entire Sundling community. "She wanted me to share with everyone how incredibly grateful she is for the donation as well as all the kind words, thoughts, and support that everyone has provided them during this time."

For more information or to make a donation to the special fund, contact the Sundling office, 847-963-3700.

Virginia Lake donates to Palatine Food Pantry

The student government at Virginia Lake sponsored a schoolwide food drive, with each classroom collecting non-perishable items. The drive resulted in three carloads of food which were donated to the Palatine Food Pantry to serve needy families in the Palatine area.



Focus on Reading

Lake Louise holds Family Reading Night

More than 200 Lake Louise families enjoyed an evening of literacy activities with a sports theme on January 19 during the school's Family Reading Night, sponsored in part by the Chicago Fire soccer team.

Classrooms were turned into "sports stadiums," and families followed paths of sport balls to find their stations. Students and families participated in a variety of activities including sports bingo, sports "Jeopardy," and a raffle of donated merchandise from various Chicago area sports teams. "Sparky," mascot for the Chicago Fire soccer team, was on hand for the event. A donation from the Fire provided a book for each student to take home and voucher tickets for a 2006 game for all students.

The event was planned by the Lake Louise reading committee with guidance from Nicolle Mallon, reading specialist.



Children's author speaks at Virginia Lake

Children's author W. Nicola-Lisa spoke to a rapt audience of Virginia Lake first- through sixth-graders about what it means to be an author. He read several of his books, explaining how books move from the idea stage through discussions with a publisher, and he talked about revisions, including some galley proofs he brought to show the students. He also autographed six of his books for the school's Learning Resource Center: *American My Land, Your Land, Our Land*; *Can You Top That?*; *My Teacher Can Teach ... Anyone!*; *Setting the Turkeys Free*; *Summer Sun Risin'*; and *Shake Dem Halloween Bones*.

Booking with the Pirates

Third- and fourth-grade students from Virginia Lake participated in "Booking with the Pirates," a reading incentive program. Students who read 720 minutes or more in a six-week period earned tickets for themselves and their families to attend a Palatine High School Pirates basketball game. Pirates players, cheerleaders, coaches, and the high school principal were on hand at a special assembly to present the tickets.



Central Road families celebrate reading

A family tradition at Central Road School is the annual Family Literacy Night—an opportunity for students and families to enjoy reading and storytelling in a relaxed environment. Students even wear pajamas and bring a favorite stuffed animal for the occasion!

The November 17 event featured local "celebrity" readers, including Scott Boucher, Board of Education president; Ken Nelson, Rolling Meadows mayor; Central Road and District 15 staff members; and representatives from the Rolling Meadows Public Library and Rolling Meadows Fire Department. A highlight was an appearance by actor/storyteller Chris Fascione, who entertained with a lively combination of storytelling, mime, clowning, and juggling.



Making a Difference

Pleasant Hill 'Make a Difference Club' to assist soldier's family

The Make a Difference Club of Pleasant Hill School is planning a benefit for the family of Army Pfc. Christopher Alcozer, who was killed November 19 while on duty in Iraq.

Just five weeks after his death, his family was left homeless when a fire destroyed their home in Elmhurst. Although all family members escaped without injury, they did not have renter's insurance to cover their belongings.

Profits from a school raffle of themed baskets, set for January 27, will raise money to be donated to a fund set up at the Community Bank of Elmhurst to assist the Alcozer family. Area merchants are contributing items for the baskets. For more information or to make a donation, contact the school at 847-963-5900.

Candy collected and donated to troops

Among other activities, the Make a Difference Club collected donations from Pleasant Hill families which were contributed to four Palatine families through the Palatine Township holiday drive. Students took the gifts to the Palatine Township office. Earlier, the club collected 337 pounds of Halloween candy for donation to the Palatine-based Yellow Ribbon Support Group. This group forwarded candy to U.S. troops stationed around the world.



Schools participate in recycling/reuse

Five District 15 schools have signed on to collect used athletic shoes for the seventh annual shoe recycling program sponsored by the Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County (SWANCC) in cooperation with Nike's Reuse-a-Shoe program.

Participating schools are Lincoln, Pleasant Hill, Thomas Jefferson, Willow Bend, and Winston Campus.

The shoes collected by the schools will be delivered to SWANCC's Glenview Transfer Station on April 28-29. They will be recycled by Nike into Nike Grind, a substance used for new sports courts and surfaces such as running tracks.

Willow Bend's efforts on America Recycles Day, November 15, were featured in the January issue of SWANCC's *Waste ED* newsletter. To encourage students to bring in plastic bottles for recycling, teachers John Mihovilovich and Joan Thomas supervised a group of students who created a video commercial that aired several times during the school's televised "Morning Announcements." Nine large garbage bags of plastic bottles were collected for recycling.

Junior high orchestra performs with high school orchestras

Members of the District 15 Junior High Orchestra string had an opportunity to perform with the Fremd and Palatine High School orchestras at a District 15/District 211 Festival Orchestra on January 7 at Fremd High School.

The junior high students rehearsed in sectionals led by the high school students before rehearsing with the entire group, approximately 160 string students. An evening concert was presented by the Fremd concert, philharmonic and symphony orchestras and the Palatine orchestra as well as the combined junior high/high school orchestra.

Participating students were:

Carl Sandburg

Violin—**Nina Allen, Heidi Calvillo, Nicole Ciemniak, Ameer Desai, Lida Kartashova, John Lee, Ruth Livi**; Cello—**Catie Burke, Albert Kim, Kristine Werling, Nicholas Zawada**; Viola—**Sid Muthal**

Winston Campus

Violin—**Anni Dai, Nikhil Dutta, Nikolina Povrzenic, Madeleine Thomas**; Viola—**Aninque Aburaad**; Bass—**Kevin Kersting**

Plum Grove

Violin—**Laura Bono, Katie Chen, Yale Cho, Michael Dohm, Alexandra Dowty, Tiffanie Duray, Jessica Feng, Bethany Foltz,**

Lucy Gallegos, Ashvin Illangovan, Clint Ko, Seo Hyun Lee, Alwina Liu, Stefanie Marra, Eunhye Oak, Janice Park, Anixh Ramanathan, Jenny Shao, Sarah Thio, Monique Valliere; Viola—**Kate Palmer, Rosako Wagner**; Cello—**JuHoon Ma, Christine Park, Jessica Rice**; Bass—**Tom Oakes**

Walter R. Sundling

Violin—**Chelsea Rilloraza, Sara Shoemake, Olivia Stout, Nancy Teran, Gina Yoo**; Viola—**Kristina Bilotas, Claire Shipton, Andrea Slora**; Cello—**Erin Blanchette, Jenny Cho, Emily Terzic**; Bass—**Callie Malone, Jerod Mikkelsen, Peter Purnyn**

Calendar features District 15 student artwork

Drawings and paintings by area students—including a number from District 15 schools—are featured in a colorful 2006 calendar created by the Palatine/Inverness Arts Council (PIAC). The artwork was selected from entries in the PIAC's annual Youth Art Calendar Contest.

Art reproduced in the calendar includes works by **Lisa Chen**, second grade, Central Road; **Ryleigh Wilson**, fifth grade, Virginia Lake; **Lija Hoffman**, third grade, Marion Jordan; **Jeremy Davis**, fifth grade, Hunting Ridge; **Sakura Watanuki**, sixth grade, Jane Addams; **Jiying Zou**, third grade, Frank C. Whiteley; **Tabitha Cottini**, eighth grade, Plum Grove Junior High; **Allison Leczycki**, second grade, Marion Jordan; **Jacob Sheffield**, sixth grade, Thomas Jefferson; and **Erica Kim**, second grade, Hunting Ridge.

Several other District 15 students received honorable mentions for their entries. They included:

- Jane Addams—**Kristen Cardoza, Cassie Kerlin, Andrij Kozych**
- Central Road—**Kelly Cai, Michelle Mitchell**
- Hunting Ridge—**Allie Oakes**
- Lake Louise—**Hannah Maslanka, Marlana Ruthe, Alex Zuback**
- Thomas Jefferson—**Yu Akiyama, Austin Matthews, Ed Park, Jackie Park**
- Marion Jordan—**Jake Duffy, Justine Kwiatkowski, Katie Murauskis, Addison Stremel**
- Plum Grove Junior High—**Katie Oakes**
- Pleasant Hill—**Alex Johnson, Aileen Jong, Doug Leatherman, Sakuko Sugawara, Allen Zhang, Diana Zheng**
- Gray M. Sanborn—**Joe Moslemian, Leo Moslemian, Kelsey Sobotka**
- Virginia Lake—**Rahul Kumar**
- Frank C. Whiteley—**Julia Csiky, Diane Kim, Emily Nemece**
- Winston Campus Elementary—**Molly Mensch**
- Winston Campus Junior High—**Hana Mansur, Jeevan Topgi**

Sundling Jazz Band earns 'Superior' rating

The Walter R. Sundling Junior High School Jazz Band, under the direction of Jeff Zilke, participated January 21 in the 29th annual Northshore Jazz Festival.

The Sundling Jazz Band was awarded a "superior" rating and received an overall ranking of third place among 17 participating bands. Jazz Band members are:

Alto saxophone

Sarah Olles, Robert Prochaska, Brian Sund, Lora Weiss

Tenor saxophone

Kelsey Loden, Mark Long

Baritone saxophone

Kelli Burke

Trumpet

Ryan Ciesla, Patrick Duffy, Mark Froehling, Hannah Thomas

Trombone

Brad Ferris, Jim Hargrove, Nick Klein, Bobby Lee, Dan Quinn

Guitar

Ricky Georgen

Piano

Daniel Brottman

Bass

Daniyal Ahmad

Drums

Eric Freeburg, Josh Homan, Alex Wall

District Fifteen Educational Foundation awards Mini-grants

Teachers and teams from five Community Consolidated School District 15 schools will be recognized as recipients of the District Fifteen Educational Foundation's 2005-06 mini-grants at the Foundation's Fourth Annual Hearts of Gold Dinner Dance and Auction. This year the Foundation awarded more than \$14,000 in mini-grants.

The District Fifteen Educational Foundation is an autonomous 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, which supports programs not funded by the traditional tax-based education system. The Foundation's mission is to acquire resources for programs and projects that enhance and supplement educational experiences for District 15 students. Since its formation in 1989, the Foundation has invested more than \$1.6 million to support District 15 students.



The annual Hearts of Gold event is one of the Foundation's major fund-raising initiatives. This year's dinner dance and auction will take place beginning at 6 p.m. February 4 at Meridian Banquets in Rolling Meadows.

The 2005-06 mini-grant recipients, the awards and their planned projects are:

Kurt Saxama and Robert Taylor, Central Road School **Biomazon**

Students will have a hands-on learning experience by interacting, investigating and conducting research with a living replica of an Amazon biome.

Trish Devine, Virginia Lake School **Building Home Libraries ... Priceless**

A program to allow students in kindergarten through second grade to build a home library and work with their parents to help their children develop reading skills.

Patricia Vande Hey, Jaime Shanahan, Monica Sanchez, Theresa Smith, and Julie Shipton, Gray M. Sanborn School **Life on the Plains: A Living History of Native Americans**

A Native American educator will introduce students in grades three through six to the traditional lifestyle and culture of the Lakota Sioux tribe. The program will enhance the social studies and art curriculum.

Mark Tobin, Carl Sandburg Junior High **Science and Technology Modules**

Seventh- and eighth-grade students will investigate a fictional crime scene using science, math, and technology. Through hands-on activities such as collecting fingerprints, DNA samples, and other evidence, they will evaluate the "crime" scene. The project will increase student motivation by involving them in areas of current scientific practice.

Donald Sommerville, Conyers Learning Academy **Parent Group, "Understanding Family Anger and Its Impact on Children"**

This program will help parents of special needs children understand the impact anger has on families and learn effective methods for dealing with it. Parents will read three books on the topic and participate in-group discussions.

For more information about the Foundation, call 847-963-3160.

PTA plans 'Healthy Kids Fair' February 4

Illinois PTA District 37, in partnership with Health World Children's Museum in Barrington, is sponsoring a "Healthy Kids Fair" designed to help children learn the importance of a healthy lifestyle. The fair will be from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, February 4 at the museum, 1301 S. Grove Avenue, Barrington. With a PTA membership card, admission is \$5, or \$7 per person for non-members.

The Healthy Kids Fair will feature age-specific classes and programs on general health, nutrition, and life skills. A special hour-long program beginning at 11 a.m. will offer a roundtable discussion for parents on bullying, facilitated by Dr. Joe Novak, director of behavioral health programs and head of Northwest Community Healthcare's mental health network.

Also on the schedule are programs for Dental Health Week presented by Northwest Community Healthcare's mobile dental health unit; a Fitness Zone exercise program; and interactive programs promoting respect, diversity, inclusion, and tolerance of others sponsored by the Allstate Foundation. Train safety, fire safety, first aid demonstrations, and the new food pyramid will also be highlighted. Other groups scheduled include the Midwest Dairy Council to educate families on the importance of dairy products in a balanced diet and Canine Companions, assistance dogs for the disabled. All regular museum exhibits and programs are included with admission.

For additional information contact Health World Children's Museum, 847-842-9100.

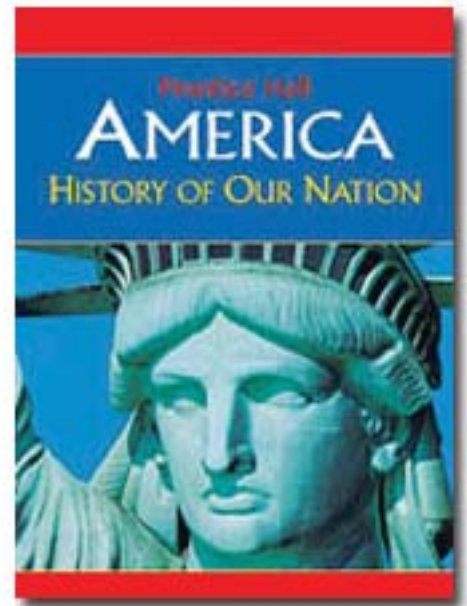
District 15 seeks parent input on new textbooks

Parents of seventh- and eighth-grade students in District 15 are encouraged to visit one of the district's four junior high schools, the Joseph M. Kiszka Educational Service Center, or the Palatine and/or Rolling Meadows libraries to preview a new social studies textbook, America: History of Our Nation, Prentice-Hall Publishing. Review copies will be available and parent feedback will be accepted through February 6.

This textbook has been recommended by the District 15 Textbook Adoption Committee, which includes representation from the district's social studies teachers, gifted and talented teachers, special education teachers, second language teachers, administrators, and the Board of Education.

If adopted, the textbook will be used for both seventh- and eighth-grade social studies. It is aligned to Illinois State Learning Standards and will provide consistency across the District 15 junior high curriculum, replacing outdated and worn texts and materials from a variety of sources currently in use. This textbook adoption would be the first for junior high social studies texts in District 15 in more than ten years. The cost of the new textbooks would be partially covered through the Illinois Textbook Loan Program, administered by the Illinois State Board of Education. This program, authorized by the Illinois Legislature in 1975, provides for the state to purchase curriculum materials and then loan them to pupils.

America: History of Our Nation is a just-published text. It covers time periods from pre-history of North America to current times. The series includes not only the textbook, but also both on-line and CD-ROM study guide, progress monitoring (self-tests) and skills tutor, map skills study both on-line and on CD-ROM, and related video lessons.



Around the schools ...

- Students at **Central Road School** created hundreds of cards and letters for students at Nichols Elementary School in Biloxi, Miss. Earlier in the year, Central Road conducted a school supply drive on behalf of Nichols, which was severely affected by Hurricane Katrina. Nichols students have just moved into Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA) classrooms. The greetings were personally delivered by Central Road second-grade teacher Maureen Quiery, who spent her winter break volunteering for Habitat for Humanity in the Biloxi area.
- Fifth- and sixth-grade students at **Hunting Ridge School** collected \$1,939.82 for the Heifer International project. This year's contribution nearly doubled the school's 2004 collection of almost \$1,000 for the charity.
- **District 15's Special Olympics** teams successfully competed in two events in December. In the state bowling tournament, **Robby Bryant** earned a gold medal, and **Joanna King** and **Tony Berrafato** earned silver medals. Bowling team coaches are Linda Gilles-Zirbes, Terri Storino, and Dee Backlund. Competing in the Special Olympics Holiday Basketball Tournament, the District 15 team earned a first-place trophy in the junior division. Team members include: **Tony Berrafato, Alin Steglinski, Jeremy Olson, Joanna King, Emily Jandura, Rachel Giagnorio, Joey Bisek, Lindsey Pazerunas, and Jake Lischewski.** Basketball coaches are Terri Storino, Linda Gilles-Zirbes, Justin Zirbes, Jillian Zirbes, John Carlson, Rachel Nelson, Gary Lischewski, Amanda Viohl, and Kevin Poczatek.

Student taste testers rate potato products

Student input on food products used in the district's school lunch and breakfast programs is critical to the selection process. Planning is now under way for 2006-07 product purchases, and recently Bobbie Desprat, director of School Nutrition Services, conducted a taste test at Lincoln School with the assistance of principal Vicki Kiviranta and teachers Cathy Troope, Jessie Kalinowski, and Janet Lenzini.

Third-, fourth- and fifth-grade students sampled a variety of trans-fat free potato products currently being evaluated for the coming school year. The taste test included a discussion about trying different types and different brands of foods, and why people like or dislike different food items. Student input will be factored into the final product selection.



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