



181

*Community Consolidated
School District 181*

Annual Report

2010-2011



CHMS • 301 Chicago Ave. • Clarendon Hills



HMS • 100 S. Garfield Ave. • Hinsdale



Elm • 15 W. 201 60th St. • Burr Ridge



Madison • 611 S. Madison St. • Hinsdale



Monroe • 210 N. Madison St. • Hinsdale



Oak • 950 S. Oak St. • Hinsdale



Prospect • 100 N. Prospect Ave. • Clarendon Hills



The Lane • 500 N. Elm St. • Hinsdale



Walker • 120 S. Walker Ave. • Clarendon Hills



www.d181.org

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Photo: Arbor Day at Madison was a celebration of trees by students in Mrs. Pat Brody's and Mrs. Linda Lewis' first-grade classes. Students planted a tree, learned from the village arborist, and read tree-themed poetry, led by Mrs. Lewis.

On The Cover: In November, over 200 Hinsdale Middle School eighth graders toured Washington, D.C. sites, including the Capitol, the Smithsonian, Arlington, the Washington Monument and Ford's Theatre.

Message from the Board President

Dear District 181 residents and staff:

Welcome to the District 181 Annual Report to the Community on the 2010-11 year. In the pages to follow, we have provided an overview of our operations, goals, and events. We hope you can spend some time with this publication, and we welcome your feedback.

I am writing on behalf of your elected Board of Education members. As 2011 was a Board election year, we had a change at the table in April. Terms of Linda Rio Reichmann, Roseanne Rosenthal, Mark Monyek and Andrew Schmidt ended, and Brendan Heneghan, Marty Turek, Glenn Yaeger and I joined the group. The current board also includes Sarah Lewensohn, Yvonne Mayer and Russell Rhoads, who are mid-way through their terms. We are all so very grateful for the work of our predecessors, who hired our new superintendent, Dr. Renée Schuster. Hiring a superintendent is one of the major tasks of the Board of Education.

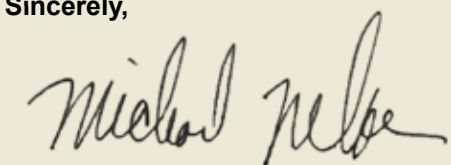
We also set policy for the district in a process that invites community input. Additionally, we provide strategic direction and focus for the district.

The 2010-11 school year saw many points of pride in District 181. In this report, you will see coverage of the following:

- All nine schools received the Academic Excellence Award from the Illinois State Board of Education.
- The Early Childhood Education Center opened at Oak School and drew nearly 50 preschool students.
- The Board presented a record number of Ambassador of Excellence Awards to students and staff for stellar accomplishments.
- Eight teachers from four of our schools earned certification from the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards.
- The District embarked on a process to solicit feedback from staff, parents and other residents at four Community Engagement sessions.
- Forbes Magazine listed Hinsdale as one of 25 "Top Education Towns" for best return on educational tax dollar investment.
- The Lane School was selected to apply for U.S. Department of Education Blue Ribbon School designation.
- The District launched a series of informational podcasts and implemented a paperless Board book.

And those are just a few of the highlights. I would like to welcome you to our meetings, our website, and our schools.

Sincerely,



Michael Nelson
District 181 Board of Education President
boe@d181.org




Photo: Prospect first-grade students Olivia Zelenka (left) and Elise Walch are catching butterflies at the Morton Arboretum for Mrs. Henry's butterfly science unit.

Photo at Right: District 181 Board
Standing, from left:
Sarah Lewensohn - 2013
Brendan Heneghan - 2015
Superintendent Renée Schuster
Yvonne Mayer - 2013
Marty Turek - 2015
Seated, from left:
Russell Rhoads, Secretary - 2013
Michael Nelson, President - 2015
Glenn Yaeger, Vice-President - 2015



Engaging the Community

Residents, Staff Share Views on District 181's Future

More than 200 residents and staff members offered their perspectives on challenges and priorities for the future at a series of Community Engagement meetings during the 2010-11 school year.

Two meetings in October 2010 covered the topics of student achievement and finance and asked participants to consider the continued relevance of the district's mission and vision statements. Two meetings in March 2011 asked participants to help determine expenditure reductions and revenue enhancements and to offer opinions on foreign language instruction.

All sessions were open to district residents, business owners, and staff. Each meeting began with a presentation by Superintendent Renée Schuster.

"We are very pleased that more than 200 people gave up an evening to help shape the future of our elementary school district," Dr. Schuster said.

"I enjoyed interacting with residents and staff, and have learned in the process what our community values."

Key Results From the Fall Sessions

- Participants would like to see more emphasis on writing instruction
- All children in District 181 should be challenged academically
- Foreign language instruction should begin before grade 5
- All teachers should offer differentiated lessons
- The district should maintain high expectations of students in learning and behavior
- Parents expect District 181 to provide excellent curriculum and instruction
- Residents would like more information about district finances
- Opinion was mixed on considering a referendum
- Residents would like to see a larger role for the foundation and the district's PTO/A groups in the area of revenue enhancement as well as more aggressive pursuit of grant funds
- Cutbacks suggested: teacher compensation, busing costs, class size, staff and administrative reduction, increased efficiency of operations, program reductions in gifted, special education, and physical education

The March meetings further refined suggestions from the fall sessions. Expenditure reductions and revenue enhancements were reviewed and discussed.

Results From the March Sessions

75 percent or more of the participants supported:

- Reducing Buildings and Grounds Department supplies budget
- Using medical insurance reserves to reduce insurance costs
- Consolidating bus routes
- Establishing a four-day workweek during the summer to trim energy costs.

More than half supported:

- Eliminating an administrative position
- Reducing instructional assistants due to declining enrollment

94 percent favored:

- Implementing the Cook County Rate Increase Factor in Tax Year 2010, to generate \$450,000.

"Not only did we meet a Board of Education goal to promote community engagement opportunities and demonstrate transparency, we also gathered valuable feedback on many challenges facing the district," Dr. Schuster said.

Community engagement reports including patron comments and analysis of results are posted on www.d181.org, under Superintendent.



Superintendent Renée Schuster thanks residents for attending a Community Engagement session at Clarendon Hills Middle School.

D181 Expects to End 2010-11 with Operating Budget Surplus

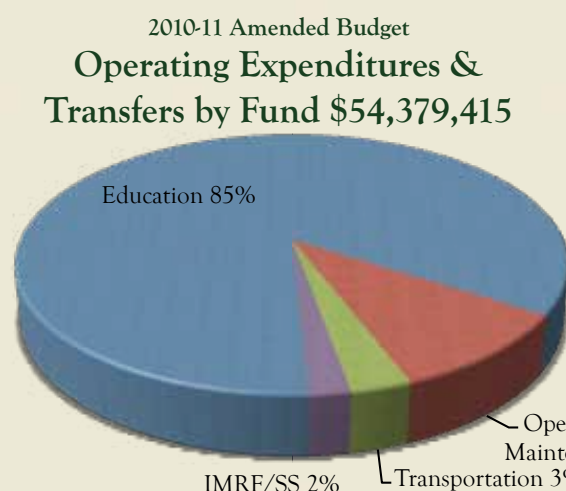
The 2010-11 school year presented many challenges for District 181 in its budget preparation, as the state's fiscal uncertainty made it difficult to forecast the level of funding that would be received.

The budget included a 75 percent proration of General State Aid and reductions in mandated categorical grants. The resulting budget included an overall operating deficit of \$664,808. Revenues for 2010-11 were budgeted to be \$53,722,109, with expenditures and transfers equaling \$54,386,917.

"The unexpected receipt of \$79,166 in federal ARRA Jobs funds coupled with the payment of prior year state grant funds caused a budget surplus at year-end of at least \$325,933," said Dr. Troy Whalen, District 181 Assistant Superintendent for Business.

This was reflected in the 2010-11 Amended Budget approved in June 2011. The actual June 30 financials, which will not be available until the annual audit is completed in the fall of 2011, may vary from what is illustrated in the charts below.

The district's fiscal year ended June 30. To meet its operating needs, the district maintains five funds, including: the Education, Operations and Maintenance, Transportation, Municipal Retirement, and Working Cash Funds.



Revenues & Expenditures

Three Years of Reductions

2009-10
\$1,850,000

2010-11
\$2,600,000

2011-12
Projected \$661,000

Cost Containment Continues

During Community Engagement sessions, meetings with staff at each school, parent and resident surveys, and input from the Board of Education, the district has trimmed expenditures for the upcoming budget by \$661,000.

In addition to cutting spending, the district has pursued ways to increase its revenues.

"We have tried to reduce in ways that will not directly affect the educational product, which draws so many to our community," said Dr. Renée Schuster, District 181 Superintendent. "I appreciate the input from our taxpayers, both those with children in our schools and those who are not currently using our services. These are not easy economic times for anyone, and we are committed to continued fiscal responsibility."

Fiscal Year 2012 Outlook

Despite the 2010-11 year surplus, long-range projections indicate more deficit spending in the future. In preparation of the 2011-12 budget the Board approved nearly \$1.1 million

Enhance Revenue

- Increasing student fees for registration, clubs, interscholastic and intramural sports
- Enacting the Cook County Rate Increase Factor for Tax Years 2007-10
- Sale of surplus equipment

Trim Spending by \$661,000

- Eliminate Buildings and Grounds Director position
- Reduce Buildings and Grounds supply budget
- Reduce surplus in Health Plan Account
- Reduce transportation costs by consolidating bus routes
- Save energy with a four-day workweek during the summer

in additional expenditure reductions or revenue enhancements in order to balance the budget. This marks the third consecutive year the Board has approved expenditure reductions.

"The expenditure reductions approved in June will allow the district to balance its Fiscal Year 2012 Budget without a significant impact on student instruction," Dr. Troy Whalen said.

Financial Profile Score

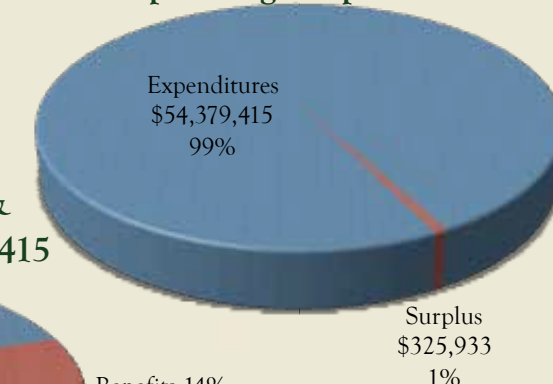
The state releases a financial profile score annually to report the fiscal health of each school district. District 181's financial profile designation for FY2010 was Financial Recognition, the highest of four categories assessing financial strength. The score is based on five indicators: revenue to fund balance ratio, revenue to expenditure ratio, days cash on hand, percent of short-term debt, and percent of long term debt available. The state uses a weighted scale to determine a district's designation as

Financial Recognition, Review, Watch, or Warning. The district has received a designation of Financial Recognition in five of the last seven years. For more information on the school district financial profile system, see www.isbe.net/sfms/P/profile.htm.

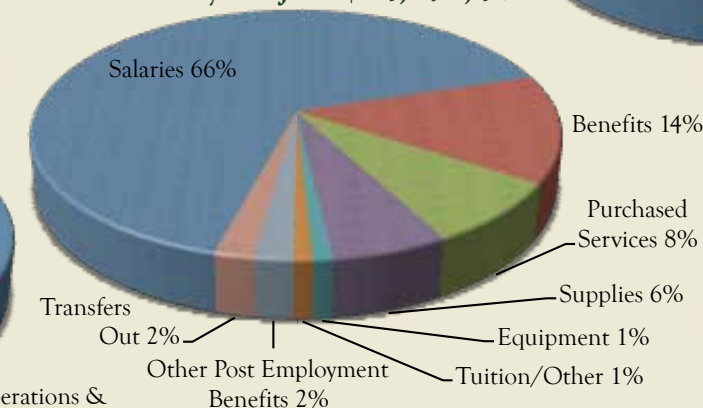
CAFR Award

The Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2010 earned the highest recognition for the school district's financial operations from the Association of School Business Officials International. The report is available at www.d181.org, under Business Department reports. It provides a 10-year overview of financial operations.

2010-11 Amended Budget Operating Surplus



2010-11 Amended Budget Operating Expenditures & Transfers by Object \$54,379,415



Curriculum

A Year-End Review

Education is a process of continuous improvement as textbooks, curriculum, classroom management and instructional techniques change to reflect research and effective practice. District 181 strives for continuous improvement in curriculum through regular review and updating of curriculum, training of staff, and collaboration with other districts to share ideas. Here are a few highlights of the 2010-11 school year:

- Selected writing instructional materials to pilot during the 2011-12 school year that will align with Common Core Standards
- Completed second year of using the InView assessment
- Continued to infuse technology into the classroom, aided by streaming video presentations of model lessons
- Earned AYP for the 2009-2010 school year
 - Received a state Foreign Language Assistance Planning Grant
 - Trained principals in differentiated instruction, classroom observation techniques, student data system
 - Implemented a new student information system and grade book

- Launched electronic elementary report card
- Trained teachers in brain-based learning activities, differentiation of instruction, writing, and interactive white boards
- Collaborated with District 86 on social emotional learning, curriculum, and student placement
- Aligned the MRC Learning Standards with the new Illinois Common Core Standards
- Hosted training on technology in the classroom for 300 art, music and PE teachers from area districts
- Connected HMS weather station with live video feed that is used by K-8 students
- Expanded SELAS (Social Emotional Learning for Academic Success)section on www.d181.org
- Sponsored a districtwide SELAS Week
- Posted student summer activities on www.d181.org
- Adopted software to monitor students' fitness
- Expanded mobile technology applications for student use
- Collaborated with the District 181 Foundation on science inquiry teacher training, the CHMS wind turbine, and screenings and discussion of "Race to Nowhere"
- Trained support staff in social emotional learning curriculum.

"All training is designed to support instruction, improve our learning environment, and give staff tools to assess student performance," said Assistant Superintendent for Instruction Janet Stutz. "We want every child to attain his or her highest level of achievement in District 181."

D181 Nets a 'Three-peat' All Schools on Honor Roll

For the third consecutive year, all nine District 181 schools were named Illinois Honor Roll Schools. The 2010 Honor Roll recognizes 834 schools in 364 Illinois school districts for making progress toward or maintaining academic excellence.

All District 181 schools received the Academic Excellence Award, the

highest designation. In this category, 90 percent or more of elementary students met or exceeded state testing standards in reading and mathematics for at least three consecutive years. The 2010 Academic Excellence Award Schools include 6 high schools, 90 middle schools and 363 elementary and K-8 schools.

"Having every school represented on the Illinois Honor Roll reflects



State Top 10

1	Bartelso 57
2	Butler 53
3	Avoca 37
4	Northbrook/Glenview 30
5	Kenilworth 38
6	CCSD181
7	Limestone Walters 316
8	Lincolnshire 103
9	Western Springs 101
10	Winnetka 36

DuPage County Top 10

1	Butler 53
2	CCSD181
3	Gower 62
4	Benjamin 25
5	Naperville 203
6	Elmhurst 205
7	Cass 63
8	Glen Ellyn 41
9	Indian Prairie 204
10	Bloomington 13

Metro Area Top 10

1	Butler 53
2	Avoca 37
3	Northbrook/Glenview 30
4	Kenilworth 38
5	CCSD181
6	Lincolnshire 103
7	Western Springs 101
8	Winnetka 36
9	Kildeer Countryside 96
10	Deerfield 109

the hard work and achievement of every student, teacher, and parent within our District and is evidence of District 181's vision that every child will experience success and exhibit excellence," said Superintendent Renée Schuster.

Seven District 181 schools are among 43 in Illinois that achieved the Academic Excellence Award for seven years: Clarendon Hills Middle School, Elm, Madison, Monroe, Oak, Prospect and Walker. The Lane is one of 40 schools that achieved the top rank for the past six years. Hinsdale Middle School is one of 159 schools earning it for the third time.

For a listing of all Honor Roll Schools, go to www.ilhonorroll.niu.edu.

Scores Place D181 in Top Tier of State, County, Metro Area

To precisely focus teaching and learning, students in District 181 are assessed in many ways each school year. The one measurement common to all Illinois elementary school districts is the Illinois Standards Achievement Test (ISAT). Taken by students in grades 3-8, the ISAT measures reading, math, science, and social studies knowledge. These scores receive press and ranking agency attention annually. One such agency is SchoolSearch, a research and consulting firm that released its 2011 rankings in May.

SchoolSearch compiles rankings from the overall average percentage of students in grades 3-8 who earned

"Meets" or "Exceeds" levels on the April 2010 ISAT. The District 181 score, 97.59, is based on reading and math tests. The state average is 81.11 percent.

School Search Awards

District 181 again received the *Bright Red Apple Award* from SchoolSearch in February 2011. Only 73 of 868 school districts in Illinois earned the 2011 award, which is based on five categories. These include: academic performance, pupil/teacher ratio, expenditure per pupil, educational level of teachers, and average teacher salary.

More than 900 students and guests joined in the September dedication of the Clarendon Hills Middle School wind turbine. The District 181 Foundation-funded turbine generates electricity and data used by science classes.

Curriculum Cont'd

District 181 also earned the *Bright A+ Award* in September 2010. Only 57 school districts in the state, those in the top 5 percent, were selected.

Elm School received the SchoolSearch *Best of the Best Award* because 100 percent of its students in grade 3 met or exceeded state testing standards.

Top Town for Schools

Hinsdale was one of 25 villages and towns selected for a May 2011 Forbes Magazine listing of "Top Education Towns" where "your housing dollar buys the most in the classroom". The magazine teamed up with GreatSchools to analyze student standardized statewide test scores from 200,000 public schools in 17,589 towns and cities in 49

states, according to the article. Data from the National Assessment for Educational Progress also was used in the comparison. Hinsdale, which garnered an overall rank of 18 and a score of 92.25 of 100, appears in the list of homes with median prices between \$600,000 and \$799,999. To read "The Best Schools for Your Real Estate Buck", go to <http://www.forbes.com/2011/04/25/best-schools-for-real-estate-buck.html>. The online story was published April 26, 2011. The analysis eliminated towns with under 10,000 residents or fewer than five schools as well as large, unified school districts, such as Los Angeles, due to "difficulties of ranking schools by town or city".



Elm School's first-grade students shared their tour of Washington D.C. and musical performance with Congresswoman Judy Biggert. She answered students' questions about Washington and her job and praised their talent and knowledge of their country.

Pupil Personnel Services

Pupil Services supports the following groups: students with disabilities who have Individualized Educational Plans (IEPs); students with 504 Plans; students who receive Response-to-Intervention services; English Language Learners; students with health and medical needs; economically disadvantaged children, students who receive the benefits of Title I funds; and any student with a unique learning need. Pupil Personnel Services Department initiatives during 2010-11 included:

LADSE Withdrawal

District 181 submitted a comprehensive plan to the Illinois State Board of Education to withdraw from the special education collaborative, LaGrange Area Department of Special Education (LADSE). The plan explains how District 181 will provide services to students with disabilities when separated from the cooperative.

- The intent is to provide services aligned with district initiatives and under the district's supervision.
- The separation would result in a

significant increase in federal funds for students with disabilities sent directly to District 181.

- Funds would be used for the addition of staff to provide direct support to teachers, having a direct impact on the analysis of student performance data, instruction and interventions.

Inclusionary Practices

Responsible inclusion is the focus of the program. A continuum of services is provided to meet a variety of student needs in the least restrictive environment.

- The continuum of services for students with disabilities includes: inclusion in general education with supports; co-taught classes by a general education teacher who teams with special education teacher; pull-aside intensive instruction classes in addition to general education classes whenever feasible; specialized classes; schools and programs outside the district.
- A team of teachers for each school was trained in "high impact" classroom strategies, a scheduling model to maximize staff supports to children and instructional design tools.

- Coaching occurred for model classrooms that staff can observe.

Response-to-Intervention (RtI)

This is a multi-tiered support system for students who are identified for additional interventions through "benchmarking" assessments.

- Additional instruction and intervention is provided to selected students, enabling them to perform better immediately.
- RtI coaches for each school were trained to help lead intervention teams.
- Includes instructional and behavioral interventions. Staff received training in Applied Behavioral Analysis, a positive behavioral support program integrated into instruction in a flexible way.

Early Childhood Education (ECE)

The Early Childhood Program, which includes children with special needs as well as typical peers, moved to Oak School. Morning and afternoon sessions served over 45 students. The program's main objectives: foster early literacy skills, social skills development, and language communication development in a child-centered environment.



English Language Learner (ELL) students enjoyed a field trip to Blackberry Farm, a living history museum, during summer school.

District 181

FOUNDATION

The District 181 Foundation inspires community involvement in education through programs that enrich the educational experience of our elementary

and middle school students. Funding for these programs is made possible through the generous contributions of individuals and businesses in our community.

2010-11 Highlights

Believe in Green Exhibits, speakers, recycling, science showcase, recycled art contest, performances. Over 12 tons of electronics were recycled.

Rotary Run Chosen as a beneficiary of the run for the first time. Over 1,000 District 181 students and families participated. The Lane and CHMS had the highest participation percentages.

Race to Nowhere Over 2,000 students and parents watched this thought-provoking documentary. The Foundation funded screening fees.

Understanding Afghanistan Nationally recognized expert spoke to parents and students about the challenges in Afghanistan.

KIDS Grants Foster service learning with small grants students can use to put their community service ideas into action. This year 15 grants were awarded, supporting student initiatives including Link with Pink, Pakistan Flood Relief, and air cleaning plants. Funding provided by Hinsdale Bank and Trust.

Inquiry Grants A new program to support scientific inquiry methods in the classroom. Ten teachers attended a 5-day training program in June at Brookfield Zoo.

Teacher Grants Encourage classroom creativity and innovation. Recent grants include funding for Illinois History from A to Z, Boosting Brain Organization, a three-season green house.

Science Initiative This year's grants included funding for Prospect School's water retention system and software to provide data from the CHMS wind turbine districtwide. Other science initiatives: Elm's Prairie Garden and the Weatherbug Station at HMS.



Your donations inspire students & teachers to innovate. www.d181foundation.org

Board Honors 220 as AMBASSADORS OF EXCELLENCE 2010-2011

Through the Ambassadors of Excellence program the Board of Education recognizes students staff and community members. The 2010-11 Ambassadors were:

Art & Creative Writing Nikola Andrejevic, Jane Cashman, Meghan DeJong, Eric Foley, Claire Graham, Julia Guglielmo, Matty Guglielmo, John Hofmann, Alexandra Hughes, William Johnson, Daniel Kramer, Kenna Lovelace, Alexandra Martinez, Samantha Moriarty, Emmanuelle Newlin, Garrett Oakey, Alexander Ritter, Nathalie Wight; **Band & Orchestra** Grace Blankenburg, Marc Gozali, Katherine Harrison, Fengling Hu, Stephanie Jamilla, Dominique Kokoszka, Sophia Liebert, Katherine Monson, Melissa Oskouie, B.J. Ryan, Matthew Seikel, Shelly Teng, Jordan Witzel, Daehan Yi, Friedrich Zoells; **Basketball** Kelsey Bogdan, Kathryn Callahan, Christopher Chute, Michael Claussen, Meredith Dodson, Lyneth Dressler, Riley Farra, Evan Floersch, Lauren Fuller, Spencer Garnett, Lauren Graeme, Taylor Gray, Morgan Gusmano, Andrew Gutman, Alexander Herbst, Allison Hetke, Aaron Hoffman, Daniel Holland, Joseph Hynan, Brooke Istvan, Conor Johannessen, Carly Jones, Dani Jones, Payton Katich, Munesah Khan, George Kiernan, Kelly Kinahan, Molly Leahy, Bryan Loebig, Michael Lohmeier, Zachary Marinko, Eamon McMahon, Nicole Moore, Neven Mulc, Shafer Nelson, Tristan Nevotne, Zachary Panos, Audrey Pound, Jordan Quick, Caitlin Reedy, Megan Reilly, Gabrielle Rush, Jake Ryder, Austin Schwartz, Regan Serwat, Suzanne Skibicki, Patrick Sullivan, David Swank, James Thompson, Hashem Wafai, Brian Zilis; **Chess** Jake Adams, Luke Adams, Trevor Batastini, Dov Chen, Matthew Daly, Sri Sai Dinesh Jaliparthi, Daniel Leung, Andrew Lim, Peter Mercurio, Andrew Petravicus, Matthew Propp, Michael Propp, Misha Rhodes, Nikolai Rhodes, Nathan Rohn Saltzman, Kiyan Rismantab-Sany, Christian Schloegel, Trevor Tompkins; **Cross Country** Matthew Anderson, Jennifer Ayres, Jack Baderman, Wes Bergevin, John Clancy, John Clark, Blake Evertsen, Tyler Faison, Kevin Gaffney, Allayna Gagnard, Joseph Griffin, Camila Horowicz, Austin Kleber, Christopher Klimkowski, Sanjay Kottapalli, Patrick Leahy, Sophie May, Hannah Murray, Mac O'Donnell, Jonathan Randell, Kevin Schranz, Nicholas Tandle; **French** Alex Blacketer, Rebecca Bower, Katherine Bulin, Jillian Hanley, Camila Horowicz, Olivia Jeannin, Elizabeth Morris, Katherine Nordstrom, Melissa Oskouie, Gianna Spiega, James Walker, Molly Walsh, Adam Winiecke, Eleanor Winiecke, James Zhou, Friedrich Zoells; **Future Problem Solvers** Clare Caruso, Megan Draddy, Elena Frizzell, Brigid Mulligan; **Geography Bee** B.J. Ryan; **Knowledge Master Open** Martin Berg, Michael Chadwell, Allayna Gagnard, Gillian Gagnard, James Gee, Shannon Ging, Elisa Jennings, Charles Kallas, Julianne Knott, Carolyn Warner; **Math** Michael Chadwell, Alexandra Lithgow, Beatrice Makdah, James Zhou; **S.A.T. Score** Steven Botsoe, Shannon Sinwell, Michael Su; **Special Olympics Track and Field** May Ahmed, Joseph Franco, Nicholas Frasca, Margaret Jacob, Rose Kuckertz, Madeline Maturino, Maria Meyer, Darius Richardson; **Spelling Bee** Sanjay Kottapalli; **Track and Field** Elle Bergevin, Courtney Cash, Maya Cave, Julie Culler, Grace Filer, Ginger Gerhold, Lucy Grundberg, Yasmain Hamood, Brooke Istvan, Alexa Lagestee, Shafer Nelson, Chloe Palo, Aiden Quirini, Kelly Renahan, Margarite Schwarz, Anna Skaredoff, Susan Spencer, Emma Stapleton, Madeline Sullivan; **WordMasters Challenge** Ann Kuckertz; **Volleyball** Kelsey Bogdan, Claire Cornell, Kaia Friends, Lauren Fuller, Nikki Hilbrich, Brooke Istvan, Katie Murphy, Shafer Nelson, Margaret Parks, Megan Reilly, Riley Schlais, Regan Serwat; **WGN Teacher of the Month** Nancy Grapenthien; **VFW Teacher of the Year** Theresa Wilkie; **National Board Certification** Jeffrey DeGraff, Kara Kennedy, Ruth Ann Korwel, Beth Kunesch, Eric Lovitsch, Bethany Martino, Joanne Trumbull, Michelle Woodring **Those Who Excel** Meg Cooper, Janet Lebeck, Mary Ticknor; **Art Educator of the Year** Theresa McGee; **Outstanding Junior High Music Educator** Terry Melbourne; **I.A.H.P.E.R.D. Highlight School Award** Melissa Marshall; **Service Award** Marianne Biedrzycki



The Hinsdale Middle School Showstoppers Choir entertained guests at Disney World in February as part of a music department trip.



The May Ambassadors of Excellence presentation included an award for Darius Richardson of Hinsdale Middle School.



At the United Center in December, members of the Clarendon Hills Middle School eighth grade girls' basketball team played before the Bulls' game.

DI81 Teachers Receive National Certification

Eight more teachers in Community Consolidated School District 181 have achieved National Board for Professional Teaching Standards certification, considered to be the highest credential in the teaching profession.

The District 181 staff were among 771 Illinois teachers earning certification in December 2010. There are currently 91,000 board certified teachers in the nation.

The newly-certified District 181 staff and their areas of certification are:

Jeffrey DeGraff, Clarendon Hills Middle School, mathematics • Dr. Kara Kennedy, Clarendon Hills Middle School, exceptional needs specialist • Joanne Trumbull, Madison School, generalist • Bethany Martino, Madison School, generalist • Beth Kunesch, Madison School, literacy: reading-language arts • Eric Lovitsch, Madison School, exceptional needs specialist • Ruth Ann Korwel, Prospect School, music • Michelle Woodring, Walker School, library media.

"Educational research shows that the quality of the teacher has the greatest impact on student learning. Teachers who attain National Board Certification must demonstrate excellence in teaching," said Superintendent Renée Schuster.

"District 181 is proud of our teachers who have reached this highest level of teacher certification and we appreciate all they do for our students."

National certification is a voluntary process established by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS). It is achieved through a rigorous, performance-based assessment that requires between one and three years to complete. It measures what accomplished teachers and school counselors should know and be able to do. NBPTS is an independent, nonprofit, nonpartisan and nongovernmental organization.

"The NBPTS process really made me push myself beyond my comfort zone to try new methods and materials," said Ruth Ann Korwel. "It has helped me become more diverse in the approach, materials, and technology

I use in the music room. The best thing is, I'm confident to try new things!" she said.

A study conducted by the National Research Council links National Board Certification with increased student achievement, teacher retention, and professional development.

Since 2000, a total of 26 District 181 teachers have earned National Board Certification. Other national board certified teachers are: Rita Anderson, Elizabeth Bellinger, Jill Berry, Marianne Biedrzycki, Amy Grippando, Mary Jo Guzaldo, Yvonne Honings, Justin Horne, Jessica Houston, Susie Lebensorger, Theresa McGee, Terry Melbourne, Dr. Debbie Nederhouser, Brenda Sanders, Kathy Schram, Heather Scott, Steve Tabisz and Jennifer Wilton.

Jeffrey DeGraff

Dr. Kara Kennedy

Joanne Trumbull

Bethany Martino

Beth Kunesch

Eric Lovitsch

Michelle Woodring

Ruth Ann Korwel



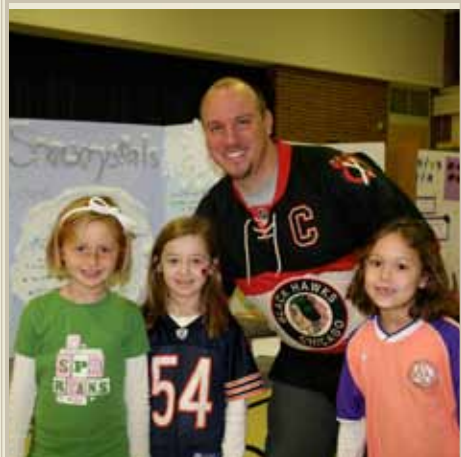
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Elm



The Lane



Elm



Walker



Madison



The Lane



Monroe



Prospect



Walker



Oak



For their final meeting of the year, the 2010-11 PTO/A Presidents gathered at KLM Lodge to introduce their successors and reflect on a successful year of fundraising, classroom support and programs. (Standing, from left) Dr.

Renée Schuster, Caroline Godellas, Janice Flood, Julie Liesse, Board of Education Liaison Yvonne Mayer, Lynne Bloomfield, Lee Ann Wright, Dayna Murphy. (Sitting, from left): Michele Goggin, Ann Lorenz,

Melanie Morrissey, Kim Williams, Devon Allen, Jen Secola, Marni Paulman. Not pictured: Tiffany Cruickshank, Teri Finley, Julie Hafner, Marcie Purcell, Stephanie Stapleton.

District 181 News Briefs

Staff Awards

Theresa McGee, Monroe's art teacher, has been named one of 12 national recipients of a PBS Teachers Innovation Award. The program recognizes creative use of public media to engage students and improve learning. The Public Broadcasting System named 40 first and second place winners in June. First-place winners represent 12 subject and grade level groupings. Mrs. McGee's category is Arts/Elementary Level.

Thanks to the efforts of a former student, Clarendon Hills Middle School teacher **Nancy Grapenthien** received the WGN Teacher of the Month Award in May. She and several students were interviewed by WGN's Muriel Claire. Matt Stockmal, who was in Mrs. Grapenthien's class in sixth grade, was inspired to nominate her.

Podcasts: District 181 Learning Together

District 181 launched a series of podcasts during 2010-11 with a goal of bringing the public into classrooms and providing an overview of education. Topics include: curriculum, programs, technology, finances and facilities. Five episodes are posted, with more in the works. View them on: <http://tinyurl.com/3epvj68>.

Hoping for a Blue Ribbon

The Lane School has submitted its application for U.S. Department of Education Blue Ribbon Schools designation. The announcement of the 2011 schools is expected in September. The Blue Ribbon Schools program honors public and private schools that are either academically superior or that show dramatic gains in student achievement to high levels.

BoardDocs

District 181's electronic Board book provides public access to Board of Education meeting agendas, reports, and presentations. The steps to follow are:

1. Log into www.d181.org.
2. From the home page, locate the "Board of Education" tab.
3. Scroll to "Current Agenda" to be taken to the BoardDocs site, where current and past materials are posted.

Board Meetings

The Board of Education Business meetings have moved to Elm School. Committee of the Whole meetings will continue to rotate among all district schools. For a schedule of Board meetings, visit www.d181.org, under Board of Education.

Photos from left-right/top-bottom:

Monroe School's Fine Arts Night in April showcased student art and choral performances and gave them the chance to serve as tour guides. • **Oak** School third graders visited a candy factory as part of a thematic unit on chocolate that combined science, literacy and media lessons. **Elm's** Halloween Parade included the Administrative Center, where Dr. Schuster donned medical garb to join in the spirit of the day. • **The Lane**. Emma Biegansky, Reese Edgewater, Mr. Eccarius, and Ellie Ranke show off their jerseys on spirit day

in front of several science fair projects. **Elm** grade 1 students made snow in a hands-on science unit on weather. **Walker** Mrs. Kastholm's grade 5 students partner up with their reading buddies from Mrs. Perkowski's grade 2 class in a cooperative learning opportunity. **Madison** Principal Mindy McMahon chats with students in grades 1-5 about the ways teachers "caught" them displaying kindness, safety and responsibility. **The Lane** School bulldog mascot led students in the "bunny hop" dance during their Hop-A-Thon in April. • **Monroe**

Students created enhanced podcasts integrating language arts, visual arts, and technology during art class. Podcasts were published in the iTunes Store. • **Prospect** Crossing Guard Walter Welninski made walking to school fun, even in December. **Walker** To culminate their volleyball unit in Mrs. Marshall's grade 2 PE class, students enjoyed a day at the beach and a friendly volleyball match with parents and staff. • **Oak** Student and Media Resource Center Director Mary Morgan Ryan using the new Smart Board, one of many donated by the PTO.

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