

# - ON-LINE WITH 109 -

*A Newsletter for the New Millennium*

INDIAN SPRINGS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT #109 COMMUNITY  
 Bridgeview School • Brodnicki School • Lyle School/E.C.C. • Player Primary Center • Wilkins School

## Welcome Back for the 2006 - 2007 School Year



Board President James Duffek (left) reads the Oath of Office to new Board Member, Johnny Smith (right), at the June 20, 2006 Meeting of the Board of Education as Board Member Jean Derting (seated) and Superintendent Dr. Jon Nebor (central) look on.



6th Grade students Nariman Jaber, Heba Shuaibi, and Morghin Braxtan begin the school year in the Wireless Computer Lab at Wilkins School.

### From Your Superintendent...

As all of you are aware, the first day of school for our students was August 23rd, and I am happy to report that everything went well and that we are off to a good start. As always, we have many important plans for the coming year.

In the area of curriculum, this year we will be working on our K-6 Science Program. We will be implementing the Lakeshore Science Program for kindergarten students, and the Delta Science Program for first through sixth grade students. Both programs are scientifically research-based and provide a vast array of hands-on activities that are correlated to the National Science Foundation and Illinois Learning Standards.

Additionally, this year, we will be introducing a new process for teaching spelling in all of our kindergarten through second grade classrooms. The process was developed by a committee of our own teachers, reading specialists, and administrators to make sure that we are using the best practices and the latest research in spelling to ensure that our young students become successful readers and writers.

We will also be reviewing our vocabulary program this year. The K-8 Vocabulary Committee completed its vocabulary curriculum work this past summer, and now that work will be implemented in our classrooms. Our research-based curriculum identifies content area vocabulary terms that enhance academic background knowledge. Programs that follow this concept demonstrate impressive results.

This summer, we did several building renovation projects in the school district. Lyle School received a new asphalt playground and south parking lot. The playground also had new gutters installed and underground pipes put in to collect the rain water from the roof. Now, instead of all of the rain water going into the downspouts and then emptying onto the playground, the water goes directly into the underground pipes. The playground will now remain dryer for the children when it rains, and much freer of ice in the winter.

Brodnicki School and the Administrative Center also received new asphalt parking lots. They too had drains put in so surface water from

both the rain and snow runs off much easier. As most of you are aware, several years ago, we re-roofed all of our schools. With the completion of that work, the only remaining roof that needed to be resurfaced was the one at the district office. So, this summer, we had a new roof installed at the Administrative Center. Now, all of the district's roofs have been replaced and are in good order.

At Wilkins School, we replaced all of the original student desks. Now, all of the Wilkins students will have new desks and chairs. Please recall that over the last five years we have been replacing all of the student furniture at the rate of approximately one school per year. Now that Wilkins School is finished, all of the student furniture within the entire district has been replaced.

Next summer, we are planning on doing some extensive renovation work to the exterior of Wilkins School. New asphalt, landscaping, and outside lighting will be added to the building. We believe that the new work will significantly enhance the appearance of the building once it is completed.

Your District 109 Board of Education is absolutely and completely committed to provide a superior education for your children. Our class sizes remain low, as does the student/teacher ratio in our district. We also plan to continue updating our curriculum and renovating our buildings to make them more attractive and comfortable for our students, staff, and community members.

This year is already proving to be an exciting one as we continue to expand the opportunities we offer your children. Thank you for your continued support as we work together to make School District No. 109 the best that it can be.

Respectfully,

**Dr. Jon N. Nebor**

Superintendent

## Recognition of Bridgeview/Justice Emergency Services and Disaster Agency

District #109 is fortunate and grateful for all of the support it receives from the villages represented, as well as the police and fire departments of those villages. Collaborating with our school district in order to ensure a safe and secure learning atmosphere is the Bridgeview/Justice Emergency Services and Disaster Agency (ESDA). Communicating and working together with the professionals of this agency provide great benefits to our school system. Thank you for all you do!



*Captain Robert E. Welter, Bridgeview and Justice Emergency Services and Disaster Agency*

## NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND (NCLBA): REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION

The federal law entitled the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLBA) requires us to inform you that parents/guardians may ask for information about the professional qualifications of any teacher that is instructing their child. You may request information regarding the following:

- Whether your child's teacher has met state certification requirements;
- Whether your child's teacher is teaching under emergency or provisional status;
- The bachelors degree major of your child's teacher, any other certifications or degrees held by the teacher, and the subject areas of the certifications or degrees; and
- Whether your child is provided services by teacher aides/paraprofessionals and, if so, their qualifications.

District #109 hires and maintains a teaching staff that is appropriately and fully certified. Should you have such requests, please contact our District #109 Personnel Office at (708) 496-8700.

## 6TH GRADE POETRY NIGHT

Indian Springs District 109 and Justice Public Library hosted their annual 6th Grade Poetry Night on April 25, 2006. Twenty-one young poets were featured at the event that took place at the Justice Public Library. Students were able to invite their families to celebrate their accomplishments. In addition, students were presented with a plaque of their poems to keep as a memento. Students submitted their poetry in March after which District 109 Junior High Language Arts teachers judged the work submitted based on creativity, age-appropriate language, sensory/figurative images, structure, and poetic techniques. Of the hundreds of submissions, these youngsters were selected to have their poetry displayed at the Justice Public Library throughout the spring. Special thanks to Richard Anderson, District 109's poetry liaison, for his time and continued support of the project.



*Pictured left to right: Kathleen Scholten, 6th Grade Teacher, Cynthia Ramirez and her mother, Mrs. Ramirez.*

## RECOGNITION OF TECHNOLOGY PROFICIENCY STATUS

Twelve staff members were presented with Level IV Technology Certification Awards at our recent August 21st teacher institute. This award represents the successful completion of four distinct levels of technology training. The recipients have demonstrated their technology proficiency by incorporating a sustained technological learning environment in the classroom for our district's students.

District #109 congratulates the following 12 staff members on their recent accomplishment. From Brodnicki School: Kim Weimer, Patricia Malfeo, Jill Borst, Kathy Walczak, Mary Lou Wyderski, and Bernadette Richards. From Wilkins Junior High School: Jennifer Webb, Elizabeth Farnesi, Nicole Thurzo, Laurel Martin, and Joy Boettcher. From Lyle School: Annamaria Romano.



*Level IV Technology Recipients*

## Gary Lewis Re-elected as South-Cook Division IASB Chairperson

Congratulations are in order to our District #109 Board Secretary, Gary Lewis, for being re-elected as the Chairperson for the South-Cook Division of the Illinois Association of School Boards (IASB) in the spring of 2006. South-Cook is the largest division of IASB in the State. His re-election as Chairperson to this organization is a great honor to Mr. Lewis and our school district as a whole.



*Gary Lewis, District #109 Board Secretary and South-Cook Division IASB Chairperson*

## Deborah Barnish Recognized for her Service to Indian Springs School District 109

Deborah Barnish was recognized for her 11 years of service to the Indian Springs School District and its communities at the March 21, 2006 Meeting of the Board of Education. Due to Mrs. Barnish's residential relocation, it was necessary for her to retire from her post. We will all miss her active participation as a Board member and wish her all the best with her future endeavors.



*Pictured left to right are: James Loughlin, School Board Member, Stacey Ziccardi, School Board Vice-President, James Duffek, School Board President, Deborah Barnish, School Board Secretary, Jean Derting, School Board Member, Gary Lewis, School Board Member*

## Village of Justice Vehicle Sticker Contest

The students of the sixth grade at Brodnicki Elementary School and the sixth, seventh, and eighth grades at Wilkins School participated in the Village of Justice Vehicle Sticker Design Contest. The top three designs received a United States Savings Bond of \$100 for 1st Place, \$75 for 2nd Place, and \$50 for 3rd Place.



*Vehicle Sticker Design Contest winners from left to right: Adrianna Walkuska, Monika Halon, and Aneta Borowicz*

## Wal-Mart's Teacher of the Year Award Claimed by School District 109 Teacher, Toni Hotzfield.

The Wal-Mart Teacher of the Year program is one of the largest teacher recognition programs in the country. On May 25, 2006, Wal-Mart named one of our very own, Toni Hotzfield from Bridgeview Elementary School, as the local Teacher of the Year. Bridgeview Elementary also received a \$1,000 educational grant from Wal-Mart.



Left to Right (back): Jerry Gresic, Bridgeview Chamber of Commerce, Pat Higginson, Bridgeview Chamber of Commerce, Kevin Kelly, WalMart Manager, Toni Hotzfield, Bridgeview Elementary School, Ginger Smith, WalMart Co-Manager, Kay Dugan, Director of Curriculum and Instruction. Left to Right (front): Tina Bibro, Bridgeview Chamber of Commerce, Diane Heimlich, Bridgeview Elementary School Principal.

## District #109: Giving the Gift of Life

Only 5% of the eligible U.S. population donates blood in any given year. Blood is needed for emergencies and for people who have cancer, blood disorders, anemia, and other illnesses. Some people need regular blood transfusions to live. District #109 recognizes the importance of blood donation and held its Sixth Annual District #109 Blood Drive on April 13, 2006.



Pictured left to right: Pat Lipinski, District 109 Nurse, Maria Martino, LifeSource, Tameyia Hughes, LifeSource, and Dee Noyes, District 109 Nurse.

## Summer School 2006

The Indian Springs School District #109 Summer School Success Program serviced approximately 150 students this summer. With a focus on fluency and fun, students and teachers engaged in literacy activities aimed at improving the skills needed for successful reading. Students engaged in Reader's Theater (a strategy in which the reader must get the message across with his/her voice and without using props, scenery, or costumes), performance poetry, and a variety of oral reading strategies. Intermediate and Junior High students participated in Scholastic's Read 180 program in which students took part in various literacy centers, including an independent reading center, a guided reading center conducted by a teacher, a listening comprehension center, and a computer software center. Each classroom was team taught, thus enabling two teachers to be present and working with students at the same time.

Teachers came together everyday after student dismissal both to analyze student data and to



Pictured Left to Right are students Niko, Dalal, and Anthony with Brodnicki Elementary School Teacher, Jennifer Wawrzyniak

discuss professional reading that focused on teaching practices and philosophies for all students. Parents and guardians had an opportunity to visit on Parent Day, where they were able to learn about the summer school program and how to better help their child with reading. Indian Springs Summer School Success was held from July 10 to August 4 from 8:30 to 11:30, Monday through Friday. In addition, transportation and nutritional snacks were provided daily at no additional cost.

## DISTRICT 109 MENTORS AND MENTEES MEET AND PREPARE FOR THE UPCOMING SCHOOL YEAR

In August 2005, the Illinois State Board of Education approved Indian Springs School District 109's two-year Induction and Mentor Program, whose overall goal is to provide support and services for new teachers that result in retention of new teachers, quality instruction, and student achievement. Under the new guidelines, mentors participated in a training process focused on leadership skills and collaborative and Cognitive Coaching strategies. This new program aligns with the district's vision and ongoing school and district improvement plans that identify collaboration, versus isolation, as the cornerstone for advancing student achievement.



*District #109's 2006 - 07 Mentor and Mentee Celebration*

The 2006-2007 *mentees and mentors* (respectively) are as follows: **Audrey Albanese - Brent Kittel** (Wilkins Elementary School), **Heather Broyles - Kate Loeffler** (Lyle School), **Molly Burdette - Peggy Paetsch** (Wilkins Elementary School), **Nicole Dabros - Suzy Anderson** (Brodnicki School), **Marcia Droeger - Anna Romano** (Lyle School), **Joanne Drozdowski - Marian Williams** (Lyle School), **Elizabeth Gibboney - Nancy Rockwood** (Wilkins Jr. High School), **Mary Beth Grill - Rosanna Patz** (Brodnicki School), **Dawn Koenig - Melissa Volkman** (Wilkins Elementary School), **Kathy Lelli - Susana Koulouris** (Brodnicki School), **Tracey Lio - Kate Loeffler** (Wilkins Elementary), **Jillian Moranetz - Nancy Calkins** (Wilkins Elementary), **Tiffany Novack - Angie Krejci** (Wilkins Elementary School), **Margaret O'Riordan - Joy Boettcher** (Wilkins Jr. High School), **Jacqueline Radnoti - Michelle Bruton** (Brodnicki School), **Matthew Schafer - Rebecca Schlachter** (Wilkins Jr. High School), **Hadeel Shaqildi - Kasia Konopka** (Bridgeview School), **Jamie Steyskal - Anna Revell** (Lyle School), **Karen Stocks - Karen Ward** (Wilkins Jr. High School), **Jean Ternes - Vicky Supalla** (Lyle School), **Candace Thurmon - Stacy Smola** (Wilkins Jr. High School), **Leane VanderKrabben - Stacy Berchos** (Brodnicki School), **Danuta Wierzbiak - Julie Knotek** (Wilkins Elementary School), **Sady Wootten - Kristy Kleckauskas** (Wilkins Junior High School)

## RECOGNITION OF TEN, TWENTY, AND THIRTY-YEAR EMPLOYEES

Nine of our District #109 staff members were recognized during this school year's first teacher institute for reaching their tenth, twentieth, or thirtieth year with our school system. Those who have served our community's children for 10 years include Thomas Vondrak, Nancy LaRocque, Raymond Odekirk, and Theresa Potempa. Our twenty-year members include Constance Wojcik, Maryann Obrochta, and Mary Ann Hotzfield. Staff members with thirty years of experience include Nancy Rockwood and Linda Kensik.



*Ten-Year District #109 Employees:  
Thomas Vondrak and Nancy LaRocque*



*Twenty-Year District #109 Employees  
(from left to right): Constance Wojcik  
and Maryann Obrochta*



*Thirty-Year District #109 Employee:  
Nancy Rockwood*



# District #109 Welcomes New Staff Members



The start of the 2006 – 2007 school year welcomed twenty-four new staff members into the District #109 family.

**Mary Beth Grill**, School Psychologist, received her Masters from Chicago State and her Bachelors Degree from Northern Illinois University. District #109 also welcomes **Elizabeth Gaynor**, Social Work Intern at Wilkins Junior High and **Marilyn Cantore** at Lyle Early Childhood Center.

Our district's new certified teachers include the following:

**Joanne Drozdowski**, Kindergarten Teacher at Lyle Elementary School, earned her Bachelors Degree at Northern Illinois University. **Matthew Schafer**, 7th Grade Social Studies Teacher at Wilkins Junior High School, received his Bachelors Degree from Illinois State University. **Sady Wooten**, 8th Grade Latin and Social Studies Teacher at Wilkins Junior High School earned her Bachelors Degree at Knox College. **Jacqueline Radnoti**, 2nd Grade Teacher at Brodnicki Elementary School, received her Bachelors Degree from St. Xavier University. **Audrey Albanese**, 5th Grade Teacher at Wilkins Elementary School received her Bachelors Degree from the University of Illinois at Chicago. **Jamie Steyskal**, 2nd Grade Teacher at Lyle Elementary School, earned her Bachelors Degree at St. Xavier University. **Danuta Wierzbiak**, Bilingual Teacher at Bridgeview Elementary School, earned her Bachelors Degree at the College of Education in Poland and her Masters Degree at Northern Illinois University. **Tiffany Novack**, 5th Grade Teacher at Wilkins Elementary School earned her Bachelors Degree at Trinity Christian College. **Jillian Moranetz**, Art Teacher for Wilkins Elementary School, Player Primary Center, and Lyle Elementary School earned her Bachelors Degree at Northern Illinois University. **Hadeel Shaqildi**, Bilingual Teacher at Bridgeview Elementary School received her Bachelors Degree from Governor State University. **Karen Stocks**, 7th Grade Language Arts Teacher at Wilkins Junior High School, received her Bachelors Degree from Trinity Christian College. **Kathy Lelli**, Kindergarten Teacher at Brodnicki Elementary School, received her Bachelors Degree from St. Xavier University.

**Nicole Dabros**, 4th Grade Teacher at Brodnicki Elementary School, earned her Bachelors Degree at St. Xavier University. **Molly Burdette**, Title 1 Reading Teacher at Wilkins Elementary School,

earned her Bachelors Degree at MacMurray College and her Masters Degree at Illinois State University. **Marcia Droeger**, Special Education Teacher at Lyle Elementary School, earned her Bachelors Degree at Findley College. **Margaret O'Riordan**, 7th Grade Math Teacher at Wilkins Junior High School, received her Bachelors Degree and Masters Degree from Concordia University. **Candace Thurmon**, 7th Grade Language Arts Teacher at Wilkins Junior High School, earned her Bachelors Degree at Northern Illinois University. **Jean Ternes**, First Grade Teacher at Lyle Elementary School, earned her Bachelors Degree at the University of St. Francis. **Leane VanderKrabben**, 3rd Grade Teacher at Brodnicki Elementary School, received her Bachelors Degree from the University of Illinois at Chicago. **Tracey Lio**, Music Teacher at Wilkins Elementary, earned her Bachelors Degree at Illinois State University. **Heather Broyles**, Music Teacher at Lyle Elementary School, earned her Bachelors Degree at TN Technological University and her Masters at Illinois State University. **Dawn Koenig**, Second Grade Teacher at Wilkins Elementary earned her Bachelors Degree at Illinois State University.

**We welcome all our new staff members to the district and wish them a most successful and productive school year!**



District #109 New Staff Members

# FREE TECHNOLOGY WORKSHOPS

During the 2006 – 2007 school year, Indian Springs School District #109 will be offering free technology and computer workshops. Although the workshops are designed specifically for the needs of Senior Citizens in our community, they are open to any adults.

All of the following technology/computer workshops will be held at:

## WILKINS SCHOOL COMPUTER LAB

Located at: 80th Street and 82nd Avenue (Justice, IL 60458)

Please enter through the Cafeteria doors

TITLE OF WORKSHOP	DATE OF WORKSHOP	TIME OF WORKSHOP
Learn the 'Net – Part 1 Learn about the Internet and the World Wide Web. Create and use email, find out the best way to search for information and how to stay safe!	Saturday, February 3, 2007	9:00 am – 12:00 pm
Learn the 'Net – Part 2 We'll be checking out e-cards, newsgroups, chatting and even creating our own blogs!	Saturday, March 10, 2007	9:00 am – 12:00 pm
Digital Cameras and Photo Sharing – Part 1 Learn the terminology of digital photography. We will use digital cameras to take pictures, transfer to a computer, and print	Saturday, April 21, 2007	9:00 am – 12:00 pm
Digital Cameras and Photo Sharing – Part 2 We'll edit and transform our digital pictures into works of art. We will also explore online photo sharing sites.	Saturday, May 19, 2007	9:00 am – 12:00 pm

Community members interested in enrolling in any of these workshops are requested to call Mary Ann Hotzfield at the District Office at (708) 496-8700. The workshops are hands-on and are intended for individuals with little or no computer knowledge. Each session is limited to a maximum of 20 participants.



At the meeting of the Board of Education in February of 2006, several wonderful pieces of art were displayed throughout the Board Room. The artwork was a stained glass simulation created by 6th grade students of Brodnicki Elementary School who were studying the Gothic Period in Art History. Art teacher Nancy Calkins is shown with student Adrianna Walkuska.

All of our Board members appreciate the artistry that is displayed by each of our district's schools from month-to-month in the District Office Board Room. Keep up the great work!

RESIDENTIAL POSTAL PATRON  
BRIDGEVIEW, IL 60455  
HICKORY HILLS, IL 60457  
JUSTICE, IL 60458

INDIAN SPRINGS  
SCHOOL DISTRICT # 109  
7540 SOUTH 86th AVENUE  
JUSTICE, IL 60458-1168  
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## CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| November 8 & 9, 2006:                   | Parent/Teacher conferences – Report Cards Issued      |
| November 10, 2006:                      | Veterans Day (No Student Attendance)                  |
| November 23 & 24, 2006:                 | Thanksgiving Day Observance (No Student Attendance)   |
| December 25, 2006 –<br>January 5, 2007: | Winter Break (No Student Attendance)                  |
| January 12, 2007:                       | Teacher Institute                                     |
| January 15, 2007:                       | Martin Luther King’s Birthday (No Student Attendance) |
| January 24, 2007:                       | End of Second Grading Period                          |
| February 12, 2007:                      | President Lincoln’s Birthday (No Student Attendance)  |
| March 5, 2007:                          | Casmir Pulaski Day (No Student Attendance)            |

*The spring edition of our ON-LINE WITH 109 NEWSLETTER is scheduled for March, 2007.*