

- 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

District #109 Welcomes the Spring of 2004



Pictured above is the Indian Springs School District #109 Board of Education. Around the table, from left to right: Stacey Ziccardi, Deborah Barnish, James Loughlin (Secretary), Gary Lewis (President), Dr. Jon Nebor (Superintendent), Dr. Blair Nuccio (Assistant Superintendent), Jean Derting, James Duffek (Vice-President), and Pamela Madonia.

From Your Superintendent...

As I do each year at this time, I want to update you on what our Board, administration, and teachers have been doing to make our school district an even better learning environment for your children. I hope that you will be pleased.

In the area of curriculum, we are continuing to update the programs we offer at both our junior high school and our elementary schools. At Wilkins Junior High School, we are researching the best teaching practices for our Social Science and Science Programs so that they align with the Illinois Learning Standards. Textbooks and supplemental materials are being reviewed by our faculty to identify those materials that will best meet the learning needs of our students.

We are also going to be substantially upgrading our junior high school technology programs. Additional computers are being purchased for the children to use as they integrate their core subject areas such as language arts, science, and mathematics

with computer science. Wilkins Junior High will also be receiving two new technology labs next year. These will be state-of-the-art technology laboratories centered on family living and the physical sciences. The family living segment will focus on teaching the children the various life skills they will need to acquire in order to function successfully at home and within their community. The science lab will center on mathematics and the physical sciences based around themes such as aerodynamics, automobile design, weather patterns, and electricity. The children will have many options from which to choose.

At the elementary level, we are currently working on our social studies curriculum with reading being integrated throughout all of the lessons. We also continue to work on aligning our entire district curriculum with the Illinois Learning Standards established by the State Board of Education. It is our sincere desire that by aligning our curriculum to these standards, our students' achievement will continue to improve. Throughout all grade levels, teachers administer progress-monitoring

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assessments to all children in order to identify academic difficulties before they become more serious learning issues. The district will also be offering a variety of intervention programs for those students who exhibit learning difficulties.

This summer, we will be having several extensive construction projects going on within the district. At Wilkins School, we will be renovating all of the restrooms and re-piping the entire building. Wilkins School will also be getting all new interior classroom doors, new drop ceilings and lighting, and two new technology labs. Restrooms will also be renovated at Lyle and Brodnicki Schools along with the installation of new plumbing. When these projects are complete, all of the original restrooms at Wilkins, Lyle, and Brodnicki Schools will be brand new and patterned after the restrooms at Bridgeview School, which were renovated two years ago.

Player School will be getting a new roof this summer, and both Lyle and Brodnicki Schools will be getting new boilers. Several years ago, all of the other boilers in the district were upgraded. With the addition of these two boilers, all of the boilers in the district will be new.

We also will be replacing the outdated student desks at Wilkins School. Over the last several years, we replaced all of the student desks at each of our other schools. With this final desk purchase for Wilkins, all of the students' desks will now be new. We are constantly working to improve the buildings where our children spend so much of their time.

As you can see, our Board of Education is absolutely committed to assuring that the education our children receive is second to none. Thank you for your continued cooperation as we work together to make District #109 the best that it can be.

Respectfully,

Dr. Jon N. Nebor
Superintendent

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FROM OUR SCHOOL DISTRICT REGISTERED NURSE

The State of Illinois requires a complete physical examination for all children entering a childcare facility, pre-school, kindergarten, and fifth grade. The physical examination must be completed within one year prior to entry into these grades. Updated information for all new students must be presented upon their initial entrance to school. District #109 requires a dental examination at registration for all new students and those in the previously mentioned grade levels.

Children entering kindergarten or pre-school programs for the first time need documentation of a lead assessment or screening and a TB skin test, or a note from the doctor stating that the child is not in a high-risk group. Immunizations must also be up-to-date, including a Varicella (Chickenpox) immunization or proof of the child previously having had the disease.

For entrance into kindergarten, children should have four or more doses of DTP/DtaP, with the last dose being a booster after four years of age. Also needed are three or more doses of polio vaccine, with the last dose being a booster after four years of age, and two MMR's (or two doses of measles, one dose of mumps, and one dose of rubella). In addition, a Varicella immunization is needed.

For entrance into grades 5-8, all immunizations must be up-to-date and the series of three Hepatitis B immunizations must be completed.

Kindergarten parents will receive packets with the physical and dental forms at pre-registration for kindergarten and parents of fourth graders will receive their packets sometime in early spring.

Please make your child's doctor appointment early. This can save time and prevent difficulties during school registration. Everyone's cooperation is much appreciated.

DISTRICT #109 PILOTS A MAIL-IN REGISTRATION PROCEDURE FOR THE 2004-2005 SCHOOL YEAR

Indian Springs School District #109 will be piloting a mail-in registration process during the spring of 2004 in preparation for the 2004-2005 academic year. One of the several goals of this process is to lessen the congestion we commonly experience during the general registration period in August. In turn, this new procedure, if found to be of benefit to all those involved, will make the registration process more convenient for our parents/guardians, as well as members of our staff.

Since the 2004-2005 school year will be a pilot (i.e., trial run) year, we will be conducting the process with only one of our district's schools, Brodnicki Elementary School. Brodnicki School was chosen because it would give us the appropriate sample needed in order to determine as to whether our results are a success. If we find that this new procedure produces the positive results anticipated (via a follow-up survey of participants), we'll broaden its use for the entire school district. Furthermore, it is important to note that all schools will continue to conduct the traditional general registration period at each of the buildings in August.

As our efforts progress, we will continue to keep you informed along the way. We look forward to a successful and beneficial mail-in registration procedure for all of our school district attendance areas in the future.

DISTRICT #109: GIVING THE GIFT OF LIFE

Our Third Annual District #109 Blood Drive was held on Wednesday, February 25, 2004. Since this school year's blood drive took place in the spring instead of the fall, the results of our school district's total donation are not yet available. However, each year we hope to surpass the total donation from the previous year. In an effort to achieve our goal and respond to the current shortage of blood, we extended an invitation to our district families and all families in the surrounding communities. During the Second Annual Blood Drive, 32 faculty and staff members participated and 24 pints of blood were donated. We expect those figures to come in significantly higher this year. Three people benefit with each pint of blood collected. Giving blood saves lives. Thanks to all who participated!

It is important for everyone to be aware that there is still an urgent need for blood. Please consider donating. Scheduling an appointment is easy. To schedule one for yourself, simply call (800) 486-0680.

MAYOR STEVEN LANDEK AS A GUEST READER AT LYLE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

It was a very exciting day for Ms. Monahan's third grade class at Lyle Elementary School on Monday, December 15, 2003. The Village of Bridgeview's Mayor Steven Landek paid them a visit as a volunteer reader. Ms. Monahan's third graders organized themselves in the school library for Mayor Landek's 9:30 am. arrival. Chris Van Allsburg's *The Polar Express*, arguably the most appropriate book for the season, was the Mayor's book of choice. The selection was read aloud by Mayor Landek via a high-tech projector, which displayed each page of this holiday classic on a large projection screen. Ms. Monahan, Mrs. DuPraw (Lyle School Principal), and most importantly, the third grade students were delighted with the Mayor's attendance as a guest reader.

Thank you for sharing a part of your busy day with us, Mayor Landek!



Mayor Steven Landek of the Village of Bridgeview discusses *The Polar Express* in Lyle Elementary School's library with students of Ms. Monahan's (standing) third grade class. Accompanying the Mayor was Ms. Debbie Augle, Bridgeview's Village Treasurer (seated).

HELPING CHILDREN TO ENJOY READING: TIPS FOR PARENTS FROM THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

When parents help their children learn to read, their children do better in school. When parents involve themselves with schools, the schools they go to are better. Here are some tips for parents from the United States Department of Education (LiteracyConnections.com, the National Education Association).

For Younger Children:

Make reading aloud a daily habit. It's a wonderful routine to help your child prepare for bedtime. Like all habits, this one may take a while to get established, but hang in there until it's a daily (or nightly) routine.

Try to select an enjoyable core of books from which your child may choose. Do they have bright, colorful pictures? Does the language flow in an enjoyable way as you read it, or does it sound unnatural and halting? Are the stories about topics in which your child might be interested?

Remember to keep it fun. Try to allow your child to select the books to be read. Yes, it's hard to read a book for the *umpteenth* time (we've been there!), but your child

will gain a lot from these repeated readings – both emotionally and in preparation for his/her own reading development.

Previewing books with your children is part of the fun. Look at the pictures and talk about them. As you chat about the pictures, you prepare your child to enjoy the book, and you can explain some words or names they will hear when you begin reading.

For All Children:

Help your child to understand that reading is important. Suggest reading as a free-time activity. Make sure your child has time in his/her day to read. Set a good example for your child by reading newspapers, magazines, and books.

Set up a reading area in your home. Keep books that interest your child in places where they can easily reach them. As your child becomes a better reader, make sure that you add more difficult books to your collection.

Talk with your child as you do daily activities together. When you take your child

places, talk with him/her about what you are doing and ask questions. If your child cannot hear, use whatever form of communication he/she usually utilizes.

Ask your child to describe events in his/her life. Talking about specific experiences will make your child think about them. Giving detailed descriptions and telling complete stories will also help him/her learn about how stories are written and what the stories they read actually mean.

Restrict the amount and kind of television programs your child watches. Watch educational television programs with your child that teach letter sounds and words, or give information about nature and science.

Finally, keep track of your child's progress in school. Visit your child's classroom to learn how he/she is doing in school and how you can help him/her become a better student. Also, ask about the school's reading program and where it is your child may need assistance.

Most importantly, enjoy your reading experiences and have fun!

District #109's

ALICE DUPRAW

Mrs. Alice DuPraw began her teaching career in District #109 at the start of the 1984-1985 academic year as a special education teacher at Wilkins Jr. High School. The school year following, she served as a developmental kindergarten teacher at Doshier School. To start the 1986-1987 school year, she was assigned to Bridgeview Elementary School as a second grade teacher and assistant principal. Since that time, she has served our school district as the pupil personnel services (PPS) coordinator, the principal of Doshier School, the Early Childhood Center director, and the principal of Lyle Elementary School. Mrs. DuPraw is retiring from District #109 as Lyle School's principal, which she has been since the 1998-1999 school year.



Mrs. DuPraw was recently asked:

What has been your greatest satisfaction working in District #109?

"I consider myself very fortunate to have had the opportunity to serve the families and students of District #109 for the past 20 years. As an administrator and teacher, I have worked with special education, early childhood, English as a Second Language (ESL), and elementary children. It has been a pleasure to see them grow academically, socially, and physically. I am also grateful for the lasting friendships I have made with the many dedicated professional and classified staff members with whom I have worked throughout the years."

Your future retirement plans may include:

"My specific plans for retirement are uncertain; however, I would like to continue to work with children and adults in some capacity, which would enable me to continue to serve the families in both my community and church."

DIANE FARLEY

Mrs. Diane Farley has been employed by District #109 since the 1971-1972 school year. From the 1971-1972 through the 1978-1979 school years, she was an elementary school teacher at Brodnicki School. From the 1979-1980 through the 1993-1994 school years, she assumed the responsibilities of both assistant principal and elementary school teacher at four of our district schools: Bridgeview, Player, Doshier, and Wilkins Elementary Schools. Ms. Farley then spent three years as the district's coordinator for curriculum and technology. Since the start of the 1997-1998 academic year, she has worked in the capacity of assistant principal of Brodnicki Elementary School.



Mrs. Farley was recently asked:

What has been your greatest satisfaction working in District #109?

"My greatest satisfaction has been working with the many dedicated staff members in their efforts to provide a quality education for all of our district's students. I have learned so much from all of them over the years."

Your future retirement plans may include:

"My plans include redecorating and remodeling my home, traveling, and pursuing other hobbies and interests."

RUTH BRAUN

Ms. Ruth Braun has served the children of District #109, more specifically, Wilkins School, for 33 years. In June of 1971, when she was hired by the Board of Education, she served as the school librarian. Since the start of the 1995-1996 school year, Ms. Braun has served as an elementary classroom and remedial teacher.



Ms. Braun was recently asked:

What has been your greatest satisfaction working in District #109?

"During my 33 years at Wilkins School, my greatest joy as a teacher has been bringing children and books together. As a librarian for the first 24 years, I had the opportunity to share the joy of reading with countless children. Assisting in the primary grades, I've been able to help children learn to read and/or improve their reading skills. Nothing has given me greater pleasure and satisfaction than helping children acquire this priceless skill."

Your future retirement plans may include:

"I hope to become a docent at Brookfield Zoo, which will provide me with the opportunity to learn and share information about the fascinating animals there. I'd also like to see more of our 50 states. I'll continue to teach Sunday School. In addition, I'd like to continue to help children learn as a teacher's aide. Finally, you'll find me reading many books!"

DIANE DELIA

Mrs. Diane Delia started with District #109 at the beginning of the 1970-1971 school year and served two years as a physical education teacher at Bridgeview Elementary School. From the 1972-1973 through the 1976-1977 school terms, she worked as an elementary school teacher at the same school. After parting from the district for a brief period, Mrs. Delia returned to our school district as a teacher's aide during the 1983-1984 school year, then once again worked as a teacher at Bridgeview Elementary School from 1984-1985 through 1998-1999. In 1999-2000, she worked as a sixth grade teacher at Lyle Elementary School. Since the 2000-2001 academic year, she has served our school district as a gifted program teacher.



Mrs. Delia was recently asked:

What has been your greatest satisfaction working in District #109?

"Within the last several years, I have been involved with the gifted program. It was a terrific experience working with these talented students. I also enjoyed my years as a second and sixth grade teacher. The students with whom I've worked have taught me many things and I hope they've learned as much from me as I've learned from them."

Your future retirement plans may include:

"My husband and I have built a Coach Home in Bonita Springs, Florida. It is a resort community. We will spend time in both Florida and in Illinois."

Retirees in 2004

PEG KALCHBRENNER

Mrs. Peg Kalchbrenner started in District #109 in August of 1972 as a speech pathologist at Lyle Elementary School. She remained in that position through the 1997-1998 school year. In 1998-1999, she moved from Lyle School to Brodnicki Elementary School, from where she will retire at the conclusion of our current school year (2003-2004). Mrs. Kalchbrenner has been serving the students of District #109 as a speech pathologist since August of 1972.



Mrs. Kalchbrenner was recently asked:

What has been your greatest satisfaction working in District #109?

"My greatest satisfaction working in District #109 has been helping children develop their communication skills. Also, I have made life-long friends among the staff."

Your future retirement plans may include:

"My retirement plans include traveling, expanding my hobbies, spending more time with my family, and perhaps working part-time."

ROSE KRAVITZ

Mrs. Rose Kravitz was hired in District #109 as a kindergarten teacher at Player School in August of 1971. She moved to Doshier School for one year (1981-1982) and is now retiring from Wilkins Elementary School at the conclusion of the 2003-2004 academic year. Mrs. Kravitz has served the students of Indian Springs School District #109 since her date of hire as a kindergarten teacher.



Mrs. Kravitz was recently asked:

What has been your greatest satisfaction working in District #109?

"My greatest satisfaction has been seeing the extraordinary progress the students make from September to May each school year."

Your future retirement plans may include:

"My future retirement plans may include traveling to Sicily to visit relatives and relocating to a warmer climate."

LORETTA MAYES

Ms. Loretta Mayes started with our school system at the beginning of the 1971-1972 academic year and has served our school district's students through her upcoming retirement in June of 2004. During her years in our school system, she has instructed in the area of physical education at both the elementary and jr. high school levels. When hired in 1971, she worked at Doshier School. In 1978, she started a four-year time period at Brodnicki Elementary School, and is now retiring at the end of our current school year (2003-2004) from Wilkins School, where she has served both the elementary and jr. high schools.



Ms. Mayes was recently asked:

What has been your greatest satisfaction working in District #109?

"My greatest personal satisfaction has been to have the opportunity to build confidence, self-esteem, and team spirit in the lives of my students for the past 34 years. I am grateful to have been a part

of the continued enhancement of the physical education program at Wilkins School. Furthermore, I am grateful for having had the opportunity to work with the awesome physical education department and staff at Wilkins School. Although I am looking forward to retirement, I will miss the wonderful friends I have made working in District #109 for so many years."

Your future retirement plans may include:

"My future retirement will definitely be a new journey for me. I hope to be able to share my past, engage in the present, and look forward to my new future. I hope to do this by spending more time working at church, going to Bible Studies, visiting family, and of course, spending time at my condo in Florida."

MARY BETH PINGATORE

Ms. Mary Beth Pingatore began teaching for District #109 at the commencement of the 1970-1971 school year, when she was assigned to Brodnicki Elementary School. She remained there until the start of the 1986-1987 academic year, when she moved to Doshier School. In 1996-1997, she returned to Brodnicki Elementary School. Ms. Pingatore is now retiring from a career as a kindergarten teacher.



Ms. Pingatore was recently asked:

What has been your greatest satisfaction working in District #109?

"Teaching kindergarten for 34 years has taught me patience, given me a love for the little *kinders*, and kept me young inside and out. I have also made life-long friends whom I still see and enjoy. The friendships I have made will last forever."

Your future retirement plans may include:

"I still love children, so my plans include *teaching* my two granddaughters, Erin and Kelli, working with children in day care, volunteer work, and possibly substitute teaching. I want to travel with friends, read, go to the theatre, and enjoy fine dining. I can't wait to see what the next 34 years have in store for me."

JAMES WOJCIK

Mr. James Wojcik was hired by District #109 as an elementary school teacher in August of 1971 for the start of the 1971-1972 school year. He has served our school system in that capacity from 1971 through the 2003-2004 academic year, first at Lyle Elementary School and now retiring as a teacher at Brodnicki Elementary School.



Mr. Wojcik was recently asked:

What has been your greatest satisfaction working in District #109?

"My greatest satisfaction was working with a group of dedicated and hard-working professionals. Also, I enjoyed visits from my former students, knowing that I've had some positive influence in their lives."

Your future retirement plans may include:

"My future plans include woodworking projects, fishing, photography, and other leisure activities. Now I'll have plenty of time to spend with my family and friends."

RESULTS OF OUR IOWA TEST OF BASIC SKILLS (ITBS)

District #109 updated its standardized testing instrument for the 2003-2004 school year. The Iowa Test of Basic Skills (ITBS) was chosen based on multiple criteria that included, but was not limited to, content and process reliability and the use of simple, everyday language in reporting student scores.

The primary purpose of using a standardized achievement battery is to provide information that can be used to improve instruction. It is valuable to the extent that it contributes to better instructional decisions. Also, information from these tests can provide unique supplementary information for designing or choosing instructional materials in order to create an effective learning environment for our students.

GRADE LEVEL	OBTAINED AVERAGE SCORE	EXPECTED AVERAGE SCORE
3	3.2.	3.0
3 (in our Dist. since Kdg.)	3.3.	3.0
4	4.2.	4.0
5	5.3.	5.0
5 (in our Dist. since Kdg.)	5.5.	5.0
6	6.0.	6.0
7	6.8.	7.0
8	7.8.	8.0
8 (in our Dist. since Kdg.)	8.0.	8.0

VISIT US AT OUR WEBSITE TO LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR COMMUNITIES' SCHOOLS AND SCHOOL DISTRICT:
www.isd109.org

FROM THE PERSONNEL OFFICE . . .

District #109 is an equal opportunity employer. The district employs 354 workers. Of these, 200 are certified and 154 are classified employees. A large percentage of our employees reside within the communities of Bridgeview, Justice, and Hickory Hills. Applications for employment are available at our district office or may be requested by phone at (708) 496-8700, through the mail, or by e-mail at lkensik@isd109.org. All applications are kept on file for a minimum of

one year. Prospective employees may indicate on their application their desire for full, part-time, or substitute status. Our district web page can also be accessed for up-to-date information regarding all employment opportunities at www.isd109.org.

For additional information about Indian Springs School District #109, please call our main telephone line: (708) 496-8700.

QUICK SNAPSHOT OF OUR SCHOOL DISTRICT

BOARD OF EDUCATION

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James Duffek, Vice-President
James Loughlin, Secretary
Deborah Barnish, Member
Jean Derting, Member
Pamela Madonia, Member
Stacey Ziccardi, Member

DISTRICT SCHOOLS

Bridgeview School - K-6 418 Students
Brodnicki School - K-6 734 Students
Lyle School - K-6 418 Students
Early Childhood Center Pre-School 194 Students
Wilkins School - K-8 1,112 Students
Player Primary Center - K-1 139 Students

DISTRICT ENROLLMENT

Current K-8 Enrollment for the 2003-2004 School Year:
2,821

PUPIL TEACHER RATIO

21:1

PUPIL ADMINISTRATOR RATIO

201.5:1

8TH GRADE ACHIEVEMENT EXIT SCORES

Average Scores Achieved	7.9
All students enrolled in District since Kdg.	8.0
Expected Score	8.0

DISTRICT STAFF

The district employs 354 individuals.
200 Certified Staff – 154 Classified Staff

DISTRICT FINANCES

Budgeted Expenditures:

Education	79.7%
Operations/Maintenance	4.7%
Bond/Interest	6.8%
Transportation	5.0%
IMRF/Social Security	1.9%
Life Safety Improvements	1.9%

ADMINISTRATION

Dr. Jon N. Nebor
Superintendent

Dr. Blair S. Nuccio
Assistant Superintendent

Kay Dugan
Director of Curriculum

Kimberly Dryier
Director of Special Education/PPS

John Botsis
Director of Information Technology

Neal Politt
Director of Computer Services

Diane Heimlich
Bridgeview School Principal

Leah Mitiu
Brodnicki School Principal

Diane Farley
Brodnicki Assistant Principal

Alice DuPraw
Lyle School/Early Childhood Center Principal

Andrea Maslan
Lyle Assistant Principal/Director of ECC

Dr. Kelly Doogan
Player Primary Center Principal

William Caron
Wilkins Jr. High School Principal

Neil Chance
Wilkins Elementary School Principal

Miriam Royer
Wilkins Elementary Assistant Principal

*For More Information About
District #109, Please Call . . .
(708) 496-8700*

Stacey Ziccardi, Member
Pamela Madonia, Member
Jean Derting, Member
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James Loughlin, Secretary
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BOARD OF EDUCATION

INDIAN SPRINGS
SCHOOL DISTRICT # 109
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JUSTICE, IL 60458-1168

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FREE TECHNOLOGY WORKSHOPS FOR MEMBERS OF OUR COMMUNITY

Indian Springs School District #109 offers technology and computer workshops each academic year to adults living in our school district community. These workshops are free of charge. The workshops are designed to introduce our community members to the operation of computers.

The response we've been getting over the past couple of years from our community members in regard to these workshop offerings has been tremendous! Because of this, the remaining workshop scheduled for this school year is at maximum capacity and due to scheduling difficulties, additional workshops are not able to be scheduled. We are, however, looking to expand our program for the 2004-2005 school year. Look for next year's workshop offerings, which will be advertised in our fall of 2004 ON-LINE WITH 109 newsletter. We appreciate your interest in our workshop offerings!

As a reminder for those who have already registered, our final technology/computer workshop for 2003-2004 will be held at:

WILKINS SCHOOL COMPUTER LAB

Located at: 80th Street and 82nd Avenue in Justice

TITLE OF WORKSHOP	DATE OF WORKSHOP	TIME OF WORKSHOP
Introduction to Transferring Graphics & Fun w/ Pictures	Sat., 4/24/04	9:00 am. - 12:00 pm.