

# - 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

### **SCHOOL DISTRICT 109: WHERE CHILDREN COME FIRST**



#### **Board of Education Members**

(first row, left to right): Jean Derting, Pamela L. Madonia, Stacey Ziccardi, Vice-President  
 (second row, left to right): James B. Duffek, President, Johnny Smith, James J. Loughlin,  
 Gary D. Lewis, Secretary

#### **Model School District Board of Education**

Indian Springs School District #109 continues to be the sole public school district in the State of Illinois to achieve and maintain the recognition of a Model School District. Although there are several goals a school district must meet in order to acquire this level of recognition, the main component is the implementation of research-based instructional practices. It would be remiss of us not to recognize our dedicated Board of Education members for all of their support in leading our school community in making education a priority.



#### **Bridgeview Elementary students recognized for outstanding achievement in the Bridgeview Summer Reading Program.**

Second Grade students **Christopher Mock** and **Nora Majdoubeh** were recognized by Lori Wiser, from the Bridgeview Public Library, **Donald Ortale**, from The Chicago Fire Soccer Team and **Steven Landek**, Mayor of the Village of Bridgeview for reading the most books at their grade level throughout the summer of 2006. The students were given Chicago Fire t-shirts and reading certificates. Congratulations **Christopher** and **Nora!**  
 Keep up the reading!

#### **From Your Superintendent . . .**

The second semester is now well underway, and we are all starting to look forward to summer. It will be here before we know it. There have been many good things going on in our school district, and I wanted to bring some of those items to your attention. My sincere hope is that you will be pleased with the progress we are making to ensure that District 109 is an even better place for your children.

This year, we will again be offering mail-in registration to all eligible residents with students currently enrolled in kindergarten through seventh grades. You can expect to receive your mail-in registration packet with your child's third quarter report card on April 4th. Please remember that it must be returned in good order to your child's school for the 2007-08 academic year no later than Friday, April 27th. As most of you are aware, last year was the second time we offered district-wide mail-in registration,

and we had a 25% successful mail-in registration rate. We are hoping that percentage will increase this time around.

This summer we will be doing a major beautification project to the exterior of Wilkins School. When we are finished, the building will have more of a "campus" feel to it. All of the asphalt will be removed and replaced. Landscaping and new lighting will also be added. We will also be redoing the library courtyard. When the project is all finished, we expect that the building will look much nicer.

As many of you are aware, in 2000, we renovated the interior of the building, and now the entire campus will be updated and fresh. The school will have a new feel to it; one in which I hope you are very pleased to send your children to.

*(continued on page 2)*

## READING FLUENCY

**Kay Dugan, Director of Curriculum and Instruction**

The fall 2006 newsletter described the broad categories of assessment methods used in District 109 to monitor student progress and acquisition of critical skills in all content areas. This article focuses on the discipline of reading with an emphasis on reading fluency. It begins with a definition and concludes with a brief summary of how District 109 monitors fluency for all students to provide information for instruction and to document growth.

### Defining Reading Fluency

Reading fluency refers to the ability of readers to read accurately and automatically with meaningful expression. Fluent readers recognize words instantly on sight. Very little cognitive energy is expended in decoding the words on the page. As a result, the optimal amount of energy is spent to the all-important task of making sense of what is being read. In essence, fluent reading results in good comprehension while the lack of fluency often results in poor comprehension. Over thirty years of scientifically-based research reviews have established that reading fluency is a critical component of learning to read and that an effective reading program must include instruction in fluency. It is important to stress that fluency is more than simply reading fast, however. It is reading at an appropriately fast rate with good expression and phrasing that reflects a solid understanding of the text.

### Fluency Assessments

Because the finest classroom instruction comes from an analysis of carefully designed assessments, District 109 measures the three fluency components of accuracy, automaticity, and prosody (or expression) routinely. As is the case for many subject areas, fluency assessment is the foundation for individualizing the instruction for each child. Reading fluency assessments are administered to all grades 3-8 students three times per year (fall, winter, and spring). While the fluency of our primary students (K-2) is also monitored, a slightly different schedule is implemented in order to adhere to developmentally appropriate guidelines. Between the three benchmark periods, fluency measures are given to those K-8 students who have exhibited disfluent characteristics. In this way, we are able to track not only the progress of these students but also the effectiveness of the instructional interventions. All of this assessment information helps teachers to plan instruction throughout the year for all students, focus on those who need the most support and/or extension, and share strengths and challenges with parents.

### Parent Involvement

What can you do to promote literacy and ensure fluency? First and foremost, read with your children! Amidst the flurry of friends, homework, and hormones, even pre-teens like to be read to. In addition, talk to your children about what they are reading. Ask them questions about how the characters or ideas in the book connect to their own life. Finally, model reading. Your children will follow your reading habits (although your pre-teens will never let you know it!). Let them see you reading, make comments, and share interesting passages with them.

Curriculum is the main focus of all that we do. The curriculum we offer your children is second-to-none. In our constant battle to stay in the lead, we have been working on many items. This year, the K-6 Science and K-8 Vocabulary Committees have monitored our new science and vocabulary programs implemented last fall. Both committees will convene during the spring to analyze staff feedback in order to make any necessary program modifications for fall 2007. Thus far, students and staff have been very positive.

On the horizon for next year, a K-8 Writing Task Force will be assembled. The charge of this fact-finding teacher committee is to collect, analyze, and review the research regarding the Best Practices of writing. The outcomes will guide future decision-making for developing a K-8 district writing program that best meets the needs of our students.

As you can see, our Board of Education is absolutely committed to assuring that the education your children receive is second-to-none. Thank you for your continued cooperation as we work together to make District No. 109 the best that it can be.

Respectfully,

**Dr. Jon N. Nebor**

Superintendent

### Mail-In Registration

#### 2007-2008 SCHOOL YEAR

For the past two school years, District #109 has offered a district-wide mail-in registration option in preparation for the upcoming, new academic year. In both cases, the process was very well received. Twenty-five percent (25%) of the district's student body successfully registered for the current 2006 - 07 school year during the spring of 2006! We will again be offering the same mail-in registration option this spring to all of our schools in preparation for the 2007 - 08 school 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 will make school registration as a whole more convenient for our parents/guardians, as well as members of our staff. It is important to note that all schools will continue to conduct the traditional general registration period at each of the buildings in August.

We look forward to another successful experience with regard to our district-wide mail-in registration process as we prepare for the upcoming 2007 - 08 academic year. Mail-in registration packets will be sent home with students in eligible grade levels along with the third quarter report cards (Wednesday, April 4, 2007).

# District 109 Pop Top Collection

District 109 has been participating in the collection of pop tops for the building of a new Ronald MacDonald House in Oak Lawn. All of the children and families of our school district were invited to donate pop tops for this event. The pop top collection began early in the school year and continued through early February. Collection containers were located in each building where children and families dropped off their pop tops. We are proud to announce that approximately 470 pounds of pop tops were collected! District 109 is proud to be a part of this endeavor and is very thankful to all of the students, families, and community members that helped with the donations of the pop tops.



Lyle Elementary Student Council Members (left to right) Ryan Peterson, Daniel Al-Tahter, Keanu Smith, and Danielle Brock.



Player Primary Center students (left to right) Anna Szuba, Aleksandra Jonalik, Kathryn Iwan, Sarah Hasan, Ashiah Herring.



Bridgeview Elementary School students (left to right) Melissa Regep, Zamira Slana, Wojciech Szwagiel, Nick Martinez and Nick Navarro.



Brodnicki Elementary students: Row 1 (Back) = Kyle Zimmerman, Cassandra Carmody, Matt Wesolowski, Tyler Lewis, Alex Sikora, Joe Sugarman, Tarik Abdullah, Michael Tomasko

Row 2 (Middle) = Amber Brindley, Jenny Biel, Brandi Lee, Sonia Korszla, Jennifer Gonzales, Andrew Flick, Monica Ortega, Natalie Doogan

Row 3 (Front) = Kelsey Stemmons, Nikki D'Adam, Nicholas Winningham, Anthony Martinez, Nicolette Moore, Jessica Madden, Claudia Macialek



Wilkins Junior High students (left to right) Ian Gaines and Jason Sullivan with Mr. Robert Wojcik, Science Teacher (center).



Wilkins Elementary students (left to right) Arianna Lynch, Naseem Abdallah

# DISTRICT # 109'S



Cheryl Adams

**Cheryl Adams was recently asked:**

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

My greatest satisfaction while working in District 109 came about when I unexpectedly saw a former student at the airport. Danielle Pinkston was leaving to begin her sophomore year at a Christian college in Alabama where she had been given a full basketball scholarship. Danielle said her success all began at Lyle School in the 4th grade when I taught her basic basketball skills, and when she joined our after-school sports program. What a blessing to hear her say that, and what a reward to see where life was taking her. For me, that's what teaching has been all about, seeing the success of my students!!

***Your future retirement plans may include:***

Traveling, golfing, enjoying my place at Kentucky Lake, spending more time with my family, visiting Florida in the WINTER, getting more involved in Bible studies and church activities, and going to lunch with the retirees!!



Henry Christianson

**Henry Christianson was recently asked:**

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

Having ex-students recall things we did in class during past years and teaching kids of students from years ago.

***Your future retirement plans may include:***

Retiring to my ranch in Idaho and traveling throughout North America.



Annette Grogan

**Annette Grogan was recently asked:**

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

My greatest satisfaction has been watching my students grow in both knowledge and self-confidence. Seeing their enthusiasm for learning has helped to keep my enthusiasm for teaching so strong. Knowing I made a difference in so many lives has given me a lifetime of memories. "Thanks for the memories"!

***Your future retirement plans may include:***

I hope to spend more time in my garden, read some good books, and do lots of traveling. One of my biggest dreams is to go to Arizona and watch the White Sox during spring training.



Sharon Hartz

**Sharon Hartz was recently asked:**

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

My greatest satisfaction in teaching in District 109 is the feeling I get when a former student comes back to tell me of their successes, and thanking me for helping them along the way.

***Your future retirement plans may include:***

I am looking forward to moving to our log home in Wisconsin, volunteering in the adult literacy program and at Boy Scout Camp, and achieving my Master Gardener certification.



Robert Wojcik

**Robert Wojcik was recently asked:**

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

My greatest satisfaction working in District 109 has been the diverse amount of friendships I've made during my past 34 years. I would like to thank the Board of Education for giving me the opportunity to work in their community. But the most satisfaction comes from the students I taught during my career. It is very rewarding for many of them to continually come back and visit. I'll also remember the trips to Springfield, Campsville, Trees for Tomorrow, Space Camp in Florida, Filming a PBS special with Bill Curtiss, and Chesapeake Bay.

***Your future retirement plans may include:***

I plan to do a lot of traveling with my wife, Susie, along with our horses and dogs camping in many of the state parks throughout the USA. This summer we'll be going to Nebraska, South Dakota, Wisconsin, Indiana, and Nevada. I'll also fish as much as I can along the way along with squeezing in golf. "I'm devoting my life to play." I hope I have touched many of my students' lives." And that's something worth leaving behind."



Anne Alfultis

**Anne Alfultis was recently asked:**

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

Thinking back and remembering all the students I have been fortunate to know and teach. Also, the wonderful staff members I have worked with have made me feel very lucky and blessed.

***Your future retirement plans may include:***

What plans!? Retirement means **No Plans**, doesn't it? But, yes, I do have some plans/ideas in mind. Number One is to be around my grandsons more, take some short trips, and catch up on things around the house. Then we shall see!!

# RETIREEES IN 2007



Linda Lavaretto

**Linda Lavaretto was recently asked:**

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

I am happy to have made so many wonderful life-long friendships. I have been blessed with talented work partners through the years and feel I can truly look at my time in School District 109 as a time which has yielded great and lasting friendships.

***Your future retirement plans may include:***

My future plans right this minute include a few classes on floral design. I hope to work as a florist assistant and expand my creativity. I also hope to travel and spend more time with my family.



Juanita Mailloux

**Juanita Mailloux was recently asked:**

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

My greatest satisfaction working in District 109 would have to be meeting my students on that first day of school and seeing all the hope and potential shining back at me in their eyes. Their excitement, smiles, hugs, and sometimes even tears as they begin their school adventure. Also, I have really enjoyed having so many of my former students come back and visit me; it makes me feel that I have made a positive difference in their lives.

***Your future retirement plans may include:***

I haven't made any definite plans for my retirement, but I do hope to do some traveling, hopefully Europe sometime next fall. However, I will definitely enjoy getting up a little later and relaxing over a cup of coffee in the morning.



Christine Miley

**Christine Miley was recently asked:**

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

I have been a reading specialist in the district for many years. During this time I have taught Reading Recovery to first grade students and have been a Title 1 teacher for grades 2 thru 8. My greatest satisfaction has been watching students become confident in their reading and writing skills.

***Your future retirement plans may include:***

My plans for retirement include traveling, playing bridge, and reading.



Frosso Schneider

**Frosso Schneider was recently asked:**

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

My greatest satisfaction working in District #109, has been the opportunity to help children in dire need. It has also been satisfying to remember that during my entire span of work in the district, the job description "social worker" was not limited or impinged upon, and for that I feel grateful.

***Your future retirement plans may include:***

I have no firm plans at this time. The phenomenal amount of time available to me makes me so happy! Spending time with my grandchild and also painting are at the top of my list.



Regina Murphy-Murray

**Regina Murphy-Murray was recently asked:**

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

Meeting and working with so many wonderful children, families, and teachers.

***Your future retirement plans may include:***

Working, traveling, and having lots of time to enjoy my family and friends.



Joan Pawlak

**Joan Pawlak was recently asked:**

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

It warms my heart to have students return continuously and acknowledge the impact my second grade classroom had on their future success in higher education and life. They retell specific activities, emphasize the importance of discipline, appreciate inspiration and most of all – my belief that they are worthwhile and can do many things! Also, being recognized in "Who's Who in Education" multiple times lends to knowing that I've made a difference in a child's life!

***Your future retirement plans may include:***

Being a full-time grandmother, attacking novels that stand hip high, traveling, community involvement, and most of all being with family and friends for enjoyment and/or need. Also to get out of bed without being stiff and achy!



Angela Condos

**Angela Condos was recently asked:**

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

My greatest satisfaction was working with children and seeing them grow with knowledge. I also would like to mention that I have grown while working in District 109. I started teaching right out of school and felt that my fellow teachers and administrators became a part of my family.

***Your future retirement plans may include:***

Becoming a new grandmother and continuing to work with children.

## Teacher of the Year

In January, The Bridgeview Lions Club hosted an event at Toyota Park to honor a few local heroes. Each year, the club honors a local policeman, fireman, and veteran for their outstanding service to the community. This year's celebration also included a superior educator. Anna Revell, Third Grade Teacher from Lyle School, received the distinction of Teacher of the Year. We are surrounded by outstanding educators in District #109 and Mrs. Revell is the ideal person to represent all of them.



Lyle Elementary Staff pictured left to right: **Chris Shue**, Librarian and Sysop, **Vicky Supalla**, 3rd/4th Grade teacher, **Christine Baldwin**, Lyle Elementary Principal, **Anna Revell**, Teacher of the Year - 3rd grade teacher, **Jamie Steyskal**, 2nd Grade teacher, and **Crystal Skoczylas**, Lyle Elementary Assistant Principal and Early Childhood Center Director

## Blood Drive at School District 109

District 109 recently held its annual blood drive. Staff and community members were encouraged to donate blood on January 12, 2007. There are many local agencies where people can go to donate blood. If you are able to donate blood, here are some tips to help provide you with a great blood donating experience: get a good night's sleep, have a good breakfast or lunch, drink extra water and fluids to replace the volume you will donate (avoid tea, coffee, or other beverages with caffeine), and eat iron-rich foods. Once you have donated blood, drink plenty of fluids over the next 24-48 hours, and avoid strenuous physical activity or heavy lifting for about five hours after donation.



Assistant Superintendent, Dr. Blair Nuccio, rests after donating blood. Pictured with him from left to right: Sue Almendarez, Lyle Early Childhood Center, Debbie Tonika, Lyle Early Childhood Center, Lupe Murtado, Diane Simpson, Felicia Cheston, Amy Statler, and Tina Sifrer from LifeSource.

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION FROM OUR SCHOOL DISTRICT REGISTERED NURSE

The State of Illinois requires a complete physical examination for all children entering childcare, preschool, kindergarten, and fifth grade. These physical forms must be completely filled out including the diabetic screening. Updated information for all new students must be presented at the initial entrance into school. The State of Illinois is requiring a dental examination for all kindergarten, second grade, and sixth grade students. In addition, District #109 requires a dental examination for all new students.

Children entering kindergarten or preschool programs for the first time need documentation of a lead assessment or screening and a TB skin test (or a note from a physician excluding the child from a TB test). All immunizations must be up to date.

For entrance into kindergarten children need to have a minimum of four DTP/Dtap, three doses of polio, and two doses of MMR (or two doses measles, one dose mumps, and one dose of rubella). In addition, one dose of Varicella (Chickenpox) or proof of disease, and three doses of Hepatitis B is needed.

For entrance into fifth grade through eighth grade all immunizations must be up to date.

Next year's kindergarten parents will receive packets including physical and dental forms at pre-registration. Current fourth grade parents will receive packets for physicals in the early spring. Parents of current first and fifth grade students will receive dental forms in early spring.

It's always a good idea to make your child's doctor appointments for physicals early to save time and prevent difficulties during school registration.

Lastly, if your child's physician has requested medication, an EpiPen, and/or inhalers to be kept at school, please remember we need a completed medication administration form. These medications are critical to your child's well-being.

## Local Charities Benefit from the Generosity of the Students and Families of School District 109

Each school within District 109 participated in a charity event during the 2006-2007 school year. Bridgeview Elementary School collected 1,246 non-perishable food items that were donated to the Bridgeview Village Hall Food Pantry. Brodnicki Elementary School collected 12 full boxes of food that were donated to the Village of Justice for distribution within the community. Approximately 400 food items and 250 toys were collected at Lyle Elementary and Early Childhood Center from the Chamber of Commerce and other community members for families within our school district. At Player Primary Center, 117 food items were collected and donated to a local Food Pantry. 280 winter coats and other warm clothes such as scarves, mittens, and sweaters were collected at Wilkins Elementary School. These items were donated to a local shelter helping women and children. At Wilkins Junior High, 152 food items and \$82 were donated to the Justice Food Pantry. 322 toys along with student created activities, pictures, and cards filled four huge boxes for local children hospitals.

## BOARD OF EDUCATION

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**Johnny Smith**, Member

## DISTRICT SCHOOLS

Bridgeview School – K-6 . . . . . 450 students  
 Brodnicki School – K-6. . . . . 668 students  
 Lyle School – K-6 . . . . . 409 students  
 Early Childhood Center. . . . . 232 students  
 Wilkins School – K-8. . . . . 1085 students  
 Player Primary Center – K-1 . . . 108 students

## DISTRICT ENROLLMENT

Current K-8 Enrollment for the  
 2006-2007 School Year: 2, 755

## PUPIL:TEACHER RATIO

21:1

## PUPIL:ADMINISTRATO RATIO

201:1

## DISTRICT STAFF

School District #109 employs 394 individuals.  
 212 Certified Staff – 182 Classified Staff

## DISTRICT FINANCES

Budgeted Expenditures:  
 Education . . . . . 77.6%  
 Operations/Maintenance . . . . . 10%  
 Bond/Interest. . . . . 5.6%  
 Transportation . . . . . 4.8%  
 IMRF/Social Security . . . . . 2.0%

## ADMINISTRATION

**Dr. Jon N. Nebor**  
 Superintendent

**Dr. Blair S. Nuccio**  
 Assistant Superintendent

**Kay Dugan**  
 Director of Curriculum & Instruction

**Heath Brosseau**  
 Director of Special Education/PPS

**Linda Jeffers**  
 Assistant Business Manager

**Sarah Waddell**  
 Learning Support Services Team Coordinator

**Beth White**  
 Director of Computer Services

**Diane Heimlich**  
 Bridgeview School Principal

**Leah Wakefield**  
 Brodnicki School Principal

**Christine Baldwin**  
 Lyle School Principal

**Crystal Skoczylas**  
 Early Childhood Center Director,  
 Lyle Assistant Principal

**Dr. Kelly Doogan**  
 Player Primary Center Principal

**Miriam Royer**  
 Wilkins Elementary Principal

**William Caron**  
 Wilkins Junior High Principal

**Robert Serdar**  
 Wilkins Junior High Assistant Principal

**FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT DISTRICT #109, PLEASE CALL  
 (708) 496-8700 OR VISIT US ONLINE AT [www.isd109.org](http://www.isd109.org)**

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## CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

March 12 – March 23, 2007	ISAT Testing
March 21, 2007	School Improvement Day (Early Student Dismissal)
April 3, 2007	Creative Expressions Art Show
April 4, 2007	Report Cards Issued
April 6, 2007	Spring Break Begins (No Student Attendance)
April 16, 2007	Classes Resume
April 18, 2007	Poetry Contest at Justice Library
May 8, 2007	School Improvement Day (Early Student Dismissal)
May 28, 2007	Memorial Day (No Student Attendance)
June 5, 2007	Projected Last Day of Student Attendance (dependent on emergency days used during the school year)