

- 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



Nisha and Kaitlyn, 5th grade students at Lyle Elementary celebrate reading with a "read-in" in Ms. Stanton's class.



First grade students Rachel and Eric display their K-W-L chart for learning about the sun in Mrs. Piatkiewicz's class at Bridgeview Elementary

From Your Superintendent...

Now that we are well underway into our second semester, I wanted to update you on the state of the school district and what we have been doing to make District 109 an even better place for your children to attend school. I hope that you will be pleased.

This year, we will again be offering mail-in registration to all eligible residents with students in kindergarten through seventh grade. You can expect to receive your mail-in registration packet with your child's third quarter report card on April 5th. Please remember that it must be returned in good order to your child's school no later than Friday, April 28th. As most of you are aware, last year was the first time we offered district-wide mail-in registration, and we had a 23% successful mail-in registration rate. We are hoping that percentage will increase this time around.

In the area of curriculum, we will be formally reviewing our K-6 music and science programs this year for implementation by our teachers in the classroom next year. Our faculty Science Committee has partnered with the Fermi Laboratory and the Lederman Science Center in Batavia, Illinois, to ensure the adoption of a high quality science program for all of our students.

Beginning this March, students in grades 3-8 will be taking the Illinois Standards Achievement Test (ISAT). The ISATs are tests

written by the State and administered to all children attending Illinois public schools.

This will be the first year for all students to be tested in grades three through eight. Previously, it had been given only to children in grades three, five, and eight.

This summer, we will be ordering new student desks and chairs for the children at both Wilkins Elementary and Wilkins Junior High Schools. Over the last several years, we have replaced all of the student desks and chairs in all of our other schools. With the completion of this order for Wilkins Elementary and Junior High, all of the student desks and chairs will be new.

This year, we will also be replacing the asphalt playground and south parking lot at Lyle School, and the asphalt on the east side of Brodnicki School. Next summer (2007), we plan to landscape and put in new asphalt at Wilkins School.

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.

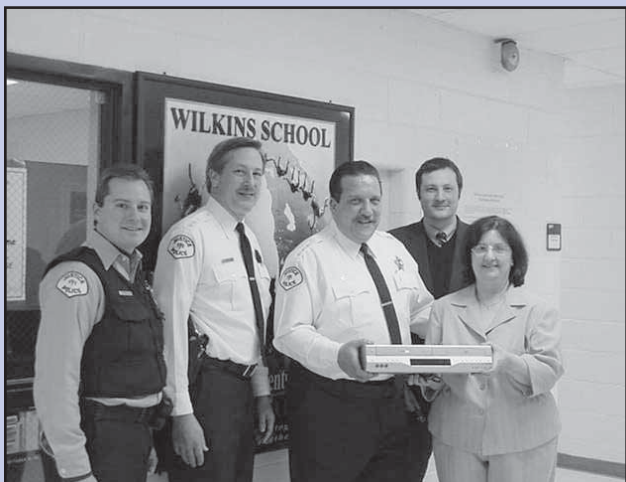
Respectfully,

Dr. Jon N. Nebor

Superintendent

DVD/VCR MACHINES DONATED BY THE JUSTICE POLICE DEPARTMENT

On behalf of the Village of Justice Police Department and the Drug Abuse Resistance Education (DARE) Program, a DVD/VCR combination machine was donated to each school within School District # 109. The machines are being put to good use as tools to educate students at all grades in various curricular areas, including the DARE Program. Students and staff alike are very appreciative of these donations. We are proud of the positive relations we share with our local village officials.



On behalf of Wilkins School, Mrs. Royer and Mr. Serdar gladly accept the Justice Police Department DVD/VCR donation.

From left to right: Officer Tony DeBella, Deputy Chief Tom Bockman, Chief Carmine Gioiosa, Mr. Rob Serdar, Assistant Principal, Wilkins Jr. High School, and Mrs. Miriam Royer, Principal, Wilkins Elementary School.

SCHOOL BOARD RECOGNIZES NEAL POLITT'S YEARS OF SERVICE AT SCHOOL



James Duffek, School Board President, presents a plaque to Neal Politt, former Computer Services Director, upon his retirement.

From left to right: Deborah Barnish (School Board Secretary), Dr. Jon N. Nebor (Superintendent), Pamela L. Madonia (School Board Member), James B. Duffek (School Board President), Neal Politt (Retired Director of Computer Services), Jean Derting (School Board Member), Gary D. Lewis (School Board Member), James J. Loughlin (School Board Member)

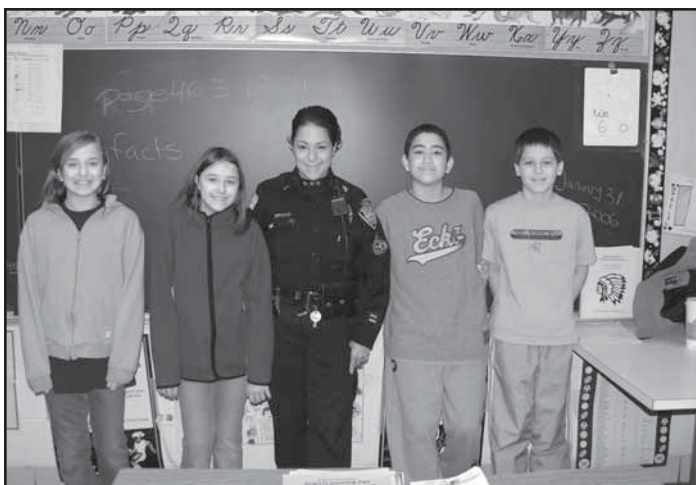
BRIDGEVIEW POLICE/D.A.R.E. OFFICER PATRICIA PRINCE

School District #109 would like to thank Officer Patricia Prince for her continued dedication to our children and schools.

Officer Prince has been providing Drug Abuse Resistance Education (D.A.R.E.) and Violence Education Gang Awareness (V.E.G.A.) Instruction to students at Bridgeview Elementary and Lyle Elementary for seven years.

Officer Prince conveyed her feelings about working in the classrooms stating how crucial D.A.R.E. and V.E.G.A. programs are to helping children build positive relationships with the police.

The students feel very much at ease with Officer Prince and eagerly await each visit. She truly is a great inspiration and role model for our children.



Officer Prince with 6th grade students at Bridgeview Elementary.

Pictured left to right: Kimberly, Kinga, Officer Prince, Joudeh, and Jordan.

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.

MAIL-IN REGISTRATION: 2006-2007 SCHOOL YEAR

You may recall that District # 109 initiated its first district-wide mail-in registration option last spring in preparation for the 2005-06 academic year. The process was very well received. Therefore, we will be offering the same mail-in registration option this spring to all of our schools in preparation for the 2006-07 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 2006-07 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 5, 2006).

RESULTS OF OUR IOWA TEST OF BASIC SKILLS (ITBS)

GRADE LEVEL	OBTAINED AVERAGE SCORE	EXPECTED AVERAGE SCORE
3	3.2	3.0
3*	3.4	3.0
4	4.3	4.0
5	5.3	5.0
5*	5.5	5.0
6	6.1	6.0
7	7.1	7.0
8	7.9	8.0
8*	8.2	8.0

** in district since kindergarten*

ASSESSING STUDENT PROGRESS

At some point each year, millions of school-age children throughout the United States sharpen their No. 2 pencils and prepare to take a battery of tests. While standardized testing has been part of schooling in the United States for the last four decades, recent legislation has added features that can leave parents bewildered about the various tests schools use as well as the purpose for administering them. The intent of this article is to provide clarity about the assessment instruments implemented in District #109 and the function of each. It is important to begin by defining the difference between Summative and Formative assessments.

Standardized Summative assessments are large scale, multiple choice, once a year assessments. They may be helpful in providing a big picture of student achievement and an academic health report about a district's instructional program. However, they have limitations. Scores may vary depending on the testing environment or how a child is feeling on the particular day of testing. Often, standardized tests are not aligned with state and district content standards, causing considerable disconnect between what is taught and what is being tested. Additionally, standardized tests are not perfect measures of what individual students can or cannot do on a day-to-day basis since student scores are interpreted in a predetermined manner by comparing them with scores earned by a previous group of test takers known as the "norm group."

Because of these limitations, District #109 places a heavier emphasis on Formative assessment. Formative assessments are short tests that are administered to individual students throughout the year at all grade levels for the purpose of guiding instruction and learning. Assessment becomes formative when the evidence is actually used to change the teaching to meet student needs. Teachers use the information from formative assessments to make necessary instructional adjustments such as reteaching, trying alternative instructional approaches, or offering more opportunities for practice. In contrast to summative assessments, teachers use formative assessments to collect information early and often on how their students are learning, so they can intervene quickly at the first sign of struggle.

While schools need both summative and formative assessments, over-reliance on a one time, single test score will not capture everything that's inside a student's head. The antidote lies in the use of formative assessment. When we go to a doctor for a physical, it's an indicator of overall wellness. We just don't want to know about blood pressure but also about cholesterol level and a variety of other indicators. A child's educational well-being is much the same. We need individual measures, multiple measures to gain accurate insights into the skills, abilities, and knowledge of a child.

In District #109, we have created a solid accountability system for learning that does more than audit student

performance once a year. It is deliberately designed to improve student performance all along the way. The types and purposes of the formative assessments used in District #109 vary across the grades. For more information, please speak with your child's teacher or building administrator. The list below describes the summative assessment instruments used in District #109.

ILLINOIS STATE TESTING

On January 8, 2002, President Bush signed the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 that requires States to test all children in grades 3 through 8 in reading and math and grades 4 and 7 in science. The purpose of state testing is to measure the performance of students and schools in meeting the Illinois Learning Standards. Each spring, students in grades 3 through 8 take the Illinois Standards Achievement Test (ISAT), the Illinois Measure of Annual Growth in English (IMAGE), OR the Illinois Alternative Assessment (IAA).

STANDARDIZED ACHIEVEMENT TESTING

Usually created by commercial test publishers, standardized tests are designed to give a common measure of students' performance. Because large numbers of students throughout the country take the same test, they give educators a common yardstick or "standard" of measure. Standardized tests can help teachers and administrators make decisions regarding the instructional program. They help schools measure how students in a given class, school, or school system perform in relation to other students who take the same test. Teachers and administrators can use the results to evaluate the school system, a school program, or a particular student.

Over the last three years, District #109 has used the Iowa Test of Basic Skills (ITBS) as its standardized testing instrument. It has been administered in the fall to students in grades 3 through 8. However, beginning in the spring of 2006, the Illinois State Board of Education will provide Illinois districts with an achievement testing instrument, the Stanford Achievement Test (SAT 10). It will be administered at the same time as the ISAT and IMAGE tests, eliminating fall achievement testing. The format for reporting student scores to parents will be similar as that used by ITBS.

STANDARDIZED APTITUDE TESTS

Standardized aptitude tests measure students' abilities to learn in school. Instead of measuring knowledge of specific subjects taught in school, these tests measure a broad range of abilities or skills that are considered important to success in school. The results from aptitude tests help teachers to plan instruction that is appropriate for students' learning levels. In the past, District #109 administered the Cognitive Abilities Test (CoGat) at grades 3, 5, and 7. In the 2006-2007 school year, CoGat will be administered at grades 2, 5, and 7 in the spring.

District #109's Retirees in 2006



Susan Collins

Sue Collins was recently asked:

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

"I really enjoy meeting former students and hearing how they are doing. My greatest satisfaction are those that I have maintained close friendships with and continue to be part of their lives. I am especially proud of former students who are now close friends and professional colleagues. One of the greatest joys of teaching is getting to know so many wonderful "emerging" adults each year."

Your future retirement plans may include:

"I will really miss the students but will use the flexibility to do more horse showing and horse camping. I may tutor math. I would like to get both our dogs certified as therapy dogs and volunteer at Senior Homes, especially with Alzheimer patients."



Terry Botsis

Terry Botsis was recently asked:

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

"Most of my 33 years of teaching have been in First Grade. Seeing the glimmer in my students' eyes when they read their first book or their first chapter book, gives me such satisfaction and a feeling of accomplishment. Also, students who continuously keep coming back to see me during evening events make me feel I have made a difference."

Your future retirement plans may include:

"I plan to spend bountiful amounts of time with my grandchildren, teaching them everything I possibly can. I also plan on traveling, touring the U.S. as well as the rest of the world. I will just enjoy life with my husband John."



Marge Couden

Marge Couden was recently asked:

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

"I have had several positions in District #109, art teacher, 4th & 5th grade teacher and resource teacher. I feel my greatest satisfaction has been teaching departmentalized science. I felt I could spark an interest in science that had not been discovered previously."

Your future retirement plans may include:

"In my retirement I plan to help establish a co-operative for artists in the Western Suburbs. Plans are to have glass, painting, fabric and ceramic arts. I will direct the latter activity."



William Kraus

William Kraus was recently asked:

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

"I take great satisfaction in seeing how many former students have gone on to college and are now enjoying successful careers, particularly former students who have become teachers, especially in District #109. Of course, I also take pleasure in the many enduring associations with my colleagues."

Your future retirement plans may include:

"Traveling with my wife and playing golf. I also plan to find full-time employment in the parochial schools where I began my teaching career 36 years ago, at least until my wife retires from her teaching job."



Charlotte Brown

Charlotte Brown was recently asked:

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

"My greatest satisfaction comes from the students. Teaching is a great outlet for your creativity. Also, the wonderful and sometimes life-long friendships I've made have been an added gift."

Your future retirement plans may include:

"Baby-sitting our fist grandchild, traveling, taking a water-color course, and joining a book/discussion group."



Mary Finnegan

Mary Finnegan was recently asked:

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

"In an era in which neighboring schools have eliminated or cut back on music programs, the District 109 community has doubled its music staff, enlarged its band program, and established an orchestra. I feel blessed to have been able to see this happen, and to have worked here long enough to teach the children of my original students."

Your future retirement plans may include:

"Spending quality time with family and friends, writing, working in some capacity for the Alzheimer's Association."



Carol Cappetta

Carol Cappetta was recently asked:

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

"It has been very rewarding to take an active role in the education of so many students."

Your future retirement plans may include:

"Traveling, visiting out of town grandchildren and volunteering."

SCHOOL DISTRICT #109: EMBRACING TECHNOLOGY TO ENHANCE CURRICULUM AND ENRICH STUDENT LEARNING



Arthur and Kamila, first grade students in Mrs. LaRocco's class at Player spend time on Destination Success Reading, a software program designed around key literacy components.

Technological innovation has seemed to move at the speed of light in our society. Not only do we have computers, but we also have laptops, wireless laptops, tablet PCs, the World Wide Web, email, mp3 players, CD burners, DVD burners, USB drives, digital cameras, PDAs, not to mention hundreds of various software programs. Our students will graduate into a world that demands fluency and familiarity with media and technology. School District 109 believes that, in order to prepare our students to be successful, technology should be an integral part of every student's education.



Wilkins Jr. High Technology Club
Featured left to right: Ms. Farnesi, Ms. Martin, Mrs. Gutkowski, Mrs. Tromski with students Justin, Juan, Ryan, Paul, Maha, and Marvin



5th grade students Hernan, Greg, and Robert watch as fellow classmate Kinga demonstrates how to use the SmartBoard in the library at Lyle Elementary School.

The Internet itself has influenced the way our society as a whole lives, works and learns. This is especially profound among our students, many of whom do not remember life without the Internet. And, while information is instantaneously available almost everywhere, it often comes without structure and without guidelines. That is why we find it very important to arm our students with the skills necessary for living in today's digital world. Our goal is to help our children develop critical thinking skills such as knowing when to seek information, how to seek that information (framing questions that lead to appropriate information), how to evaluate that information (determining its quality, validity, relevance, and completeness), and ultimately, how to use it responsibly and ethically (integration leading to decision-making, problem-solving, critical thinking, and creative expression).



Morgan, Jim, Nick, and Yassmin (students of Ms. Hotzfield's multiage class at Bridgeview) work on the Read 180 program which incorporates rich media into reading.



Teachers Marge Couden, Andrea Moen, and Vicky Supalla fine-tune their technology skills at Computer Open Lab.

Our philosophy is a little different from the traditional approach of simply inserting a piece of researched information into a product. Our emphasis lies on the thinking processes involved when students use information literacy skills to draw conclusions and develop new understandings. Technology also provides our teachers with a unique opportunity to differentiate instruction and learning in their classrooms, thus meeting the needs of diverse learners with flexible grouping, project-based learning, and activities based on multiple intelligences and learning styles, with an emphasis on student collaboration.



Participants in SeniorTech create email accounts and surf the Internet at a Saturday Technology Workshop.



Demetrius, Alex, Aliyah, and Amber (6th grade students of Mrs. Kulovitz at Wilkins Elementary) demonstrate their use of wireless laptops to enhance their research in the library.

The most effective way to promote technology in the classroom is through our teachers which is why we are dedicated to continuing our Professional Development Workshops and Open Computer Labs where staff have an opportunity to learn and practice technology that can be incorporated into their classrooms and lesson plans.



Laura, Iwona and Jimmy (Ms. Gaeger's 5th grade students at Brodnicki Elementary) help each other learn to use digital cameras.

School District #109 also provides free technology workshops (SeniorTech) designed specifically for the needs of senior citizens in our community. These classes are held on Saturday mornings throughout the school year and cover topics such as computer basics, the internet and email, and digital photography. The response in regard to these workshops has been tremendous and because of this, the remaining workshops scheduled for this school year are at maximum capacity. Next year's workshops will be advertised in our Fall of 2006 109 Newsletter.

QUICK SNAPSHOT OF OUR SCHOOL DISTRICT

BOARD OF EDUCATION

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

DISTRICT SCHOOLS

Bridgeview School - K-6 433 Students
Brodnicki School - K-6 658 Students
Lyle School - K-6 407 Students
Early Childhood Center Pre-School 230 Students
Wilkins School - K-8 1,034 Students
Player Primary Center - K-1 134 Students

DISTRICT ENROLLMENT

Current K-8 Enrollment for the 2005-2006 School Year:
2,691

PUPIL TEACHER RATIO

20:1

PUPIL ADMINISTRATOR RATIO

192:1

8TH GRADE ACHIEVEMENT EXIT SCORES

Average Scores Achieved	7.3
All students enrolled in District since Kdg.	8.0
Expected Score	8.0

DISTRICT STAFF

The district employs 394 individuals.
212 Certified Staff – 182 Classified Staff

DISTRICT FINANCES

Budgeted Expenditures:

Education	78.1%
Operations/Maintenance	9.6%
Bond/Interest	5.8%
Transportation	4.5%
IMRF/Social Security	2.0%

ADMINISTRATION

Dr. Jon N. Nebor
Superintendent
Dr. Blair S. Nuccio
Assistant Superintendent
Kay Dugan
Director of Curriculum
Heath Brosseau
Special Education Coordinator/PPS
Linda Jeffers
Assistant Business Director
Sarah Waddell
Learning Support Services Team Coordinator
Beth White
Director of Computer Services
Missy Baglarz
Technology Trainer
Diane Heimlich
Bridgeview School Principal
Leah Wakefield
Brodnicki School Principal
Crystal Skoczylas
Brodnicki School Assistant Principal
Dr. Judith Docekal
Lyle School Principal
Christine Baldwin
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***

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

BOARD OF EDUCATION
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SCHOOL DISTRICT # 109
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JUSTICE, IL 60458-1168

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CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

- | | |
|-------------------------------|--|
| March 6, 2006: | Casmir Pulaski Day (No Student Attendance) |
| March 8, 2006: | Beginning & Intermediate Band & Elementary Orchestra Concert (7:00 p.m.) |
| March 9, 2006: | Junior High Band & Orchestra Concert (7:00 p.m.) |
| March 13 -
March 24, 2006: | ISAT Testing |
| April 4, 2006 | Creative Expressions Art Show |
| April 14, 2006: | Spring Break Begins (No Student Attendance) |
| April 24, 2006: | Classes Resume |
| April 25, 2006: | Poetry Contest at Justice Library |
| May 29, 2006 | Memorial Day (No Student Attendance) |
| June 2, 2006: | Last Day of Student Attendance (if no emergency days used) |

The Fall edition of our ON-LINE WITH 109 NEWSLETTER is scheduled for October, 2006.