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**PROSPECT HEIGHTS SCHOOL DISTRICT 23**

700 N. Schoenbeck Road  
Prospect Heights, IL 60070

**SUPERINTENDENT**

Gregory P. Guarrine, Ed.D.  
Phone: (847) 870-3850

**BOARD OF EDUCATION**

Martha Olsen, President  
Jeff Bowes, Vice President  
Carol Botwinski, Secretary  
Randy DeCoursey  
David Hess  
Mari-Lynn Peters  
Judi Zimmerman

**DISTRICT WEB SITE**

www.d23.org

**Betsy Ross Elementary School**  
(847) 870-3868

**Sullivan Elementary School**  
(847) 870-3865

**Eisenhower Elementary School**  
(847) 870-3875

**MacArthur Middle School**  
(847) 870-3879

**Scholarship Available to District 23 Graduate**

For the third year, the William P. Caputo Scholarship Fund will award \$1,000 to a District 23 graduate this June. High School seniors who graduated from MacArthur Middle School in Prospect Heights and are going on to a university, college, vocational, technical, or training school are invited to apply for the scholarship.



Applications are available at the college counseling offices of Hersey, Wheeling, and Saint Viator high schools, at the business office of District 23, and online at d23.org. Submit applications to School District 23, 700 North Schoenbeck Road, Prospect Heights, IL 60070, to the attention of the Scholarship Committee by April 15, 2010.

The scholarship recipient will be selected based on academic performance or improvement during high school. No minimum grade point average is required to apply. To be considered, complete the Scholarship Application Form, submit a high school transcript, and write a short personal response to one of three essay prompts. Letters of recommendation are optional. The scholarship recipient will be notified in May. The award presentation will take place at the District 23 promotion ceremony in June.

The William P. Caputo Scholarship Fund was established in 2007 to honor the memory of long-time District 23 Board Member Bill Caputo.

"In order to honor my father's commitment to scholastics,

**Upcoming Events**

- March 8 . . . . . Choir Concert 7 p.m. @ MacArthur
- March 9 . . . . . Band Concert 7 p.m. @ MacArthur
- March 10 . . . . . Board of Education Meeting 7 p.m. @ Betsy Ross
- March 11 . . . . . Orchestra Concert 7 p.m. @ MacArthur
- March 18 . . . . . **No School**, Parent/Teacher Conferences (1-8 PM)
- March 19 . . . . . **No School**, Non-Attendance Day
- March 22 . . . . . **No School**, Spring Break Begins
- March 29 . . . . . **First Day of Classes**, Spring Break Ends
- April 2 . . . . . **No School**, Non-Attendance Day
- April 14 . . . . . Board of Education Meeting 7 p.m.
- April 30 . . . . . Half Day Student Attendance (Morning)
- May 12 . . . . . Board of Education Meeting 7 p.m. @ MacArthur
- May 31 . . . . . **No School**, Memorial Day
- June 4 . . . . . Last Day of Early Childhood Classes

culture, and the academic environment, we continue his efforts towards educational availability and awareness through this scholarship donation," said Jennifer Caputo, Bill's daughter and spokesperson for the Scholarship Committee.

In 2009, Christina M. Ferraro, MacArthur Class of 2005, received the \$1,000 award to pursue a career in genetics with a major in molecular and cellular biology from the University of Illinois. The Scholarship Committee plans to award the scholarship annually. •

**Student Test Scores Make the Mark**

While many school districts struggle to meet the standards of No Child Left Behind (NCLB), District 23 test scores continue to make us proud.

To fully understand the impact of our students' achievements, it is important to note that District 23 was one of only five Northwest suburban districts to make adequate yearly progress (AYP) according to the State Board of Education. In fact, two thirds of districts came up as "failing." In addition to District 23, those that passed are Arlington Heights 25, River Trails 26, Mount Prospect 57, and Rosemont 78.

As reported in the Daily Herald newspaper on October 30, 2009, 96.6 percent of District 23 eighth graders meet or exceed state standards in Reading earning our District the number two rating among all Northwest suburban districts. In Math, the results were even better with 97.2 percent

of District 23 eighth graders meeting or exceeding standards and placing them in the top spot among all other Northwest suburban districts.

The Illinois State Board of Education documented that 93.7 percent of District 23 third graders meet or exceed standards placing them fifth



among all Northwest suburban districts. "Students and staff deserve all the credit for their hard work," said Dr. Greg Guarrine. "But the other remarkable aspect of this story is how efficiently we use our resources.

While District 23 posts top scores, our per-pupil expenditure is less than surrounding districts."

NCLB is the federal legislation signed into law in January of 2002 that enacts the theories of standards based education reform, which is based on the belief that setting high standards and establishing measurable goals can improve individual outcomes in education. The Act requires states to develop assessments in basic skills to be given to all students in certain grades, if those states are to receive federal funding for schools. The Act does not assert a national achievement standard; standards are set by each individual state. •

**Administration**

**Dr. Gregory P. Guarrine**  
Superintendent  
847/870-3850 ext. 102

**Dr. Deb Wilson**  
Assistant Superintendent for Instruction  
847/870-3850 ext. 103

**Richard Ewanio**  
Business Administrator  
847/870-3850 ext. 107

**Jan Travis**  
Director of Technology  
847/870-3850 ext. 105

**Chrystyna Sroka**  
Special Education Coordinator  
847/870-3850 ext. 120

**Ron DeGeorge**  
Maintenance Supervisor  
847/870-3850 ext. 110

**In This Issue...**

Web Survey	2
Positive Environments	2-3
Alumni Make Us Proud	2-3
Scholarship for Graduate	4
Upcoming Events	4

**Top Scores in NW Suburbs**

(As published in the Daily Herald 10/30/09).

3RD GRADE READING	% MEETS/EXCEEDS
Rosemont D78	.92.6
Arlington Heights D25	.91.0
Mount Prospect D57	.90.6
Lake Zurich D95	.88.6
Barrington D220	.85.0

8TH GRADE READING	% MEETS/EXCEEDS
Arlington Heights D25	.97.2
<b>Prospect Heights D23</b>	<b>.96.6</b>
Barrington D220	.93.1
Lake Zurich D95	.92.7
Mount Prospect D57	.92.2

3RD GRADE MATH	% MEETS/EXCEEDS
Arlington Heights D25	.96.6
Lake Zurich D95	.96.1
Mount Prospect D57	.94.9
Barrington 220	.94.8
<b>Prospect Heights D23</b>	<b>.93.7</b>

8TH GRADE MATH	% MEETS/EXCEEDS
<b>Prospect Heights D23</b>	<b>.97.2</b>
Lake Zurich D95	.94.5
Arlington Heights D25	.94.0
Mount Prospect D57	.93.9
Barrington D220	.92.9



**"Cut a Million" Update**

The five groups, composed of representatives from the community, the Prospect Heights Education Association (PHEA), Principals, Central Office Administrators, and the Business Manager, who participated in the "Cut a Million" Project, have completed their work. Each group was charged with prioritizing \$1 million in reductions to the current 2009-2010 Education and Operations and Maintenance funds.

On January 27, the Finance Committee, along with Board President Martha Olsen, reviewed the lists of suggestions submitted by the groups and prepared a summary for the Board as a whole to consider. Two special board meetings were scheduled to incorporate the ideas into the budgetary plan. "I was very pleased with the way the exercise went," said Business Manager Rick Ewanio. "The groups educated me. Their input was really valuable and appreciated."

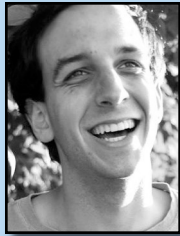
The District has been spending down its reserves and by the end of this school year will be very close to the minimum of 25-percent called for in the BOE-instituted planning principles. Brainstorming ways to resolve the budget deficit now is an effective way to remain proactive and plan for the future. •

## Alumni Make Us Proud!

Congratulations to these academic stand-outs who got their start in District 23!

### Daniel Malsom

When Daniel took the ACT as part of the Prairie State Assessment Exam as a Wheeling High School Junior last April, he scored a perfect 36. To understand the magnitude of his achievement, consider this statistic: Of the more than 1.4 million students to take the test last year, less than one-tenth of one percent earned a perfect score. His feat has been rewarded with acceptances from the University of Illinois in Champaign, University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, and his number one choice, Washington University in St. Louis. He's also waiting to hear from Stanford University. Along with it being a promising career choice, Wash U's environmental science program appeals to Daniel's love of the outdoors and respect for nature. A passion for writing led to his involvement with the Spokesman newspaper all four years of high school. In his capacity as Co-Editor and Chief this year, he attended a workshop about another of his interests -- green journalism. Dan is also in the process of getting his Eagle Scout project approved so he can begin updating the landscaping around Wheeling High School. A national Merit Semifinalist, he is also a member of the Math Team and has qualified for State the past three years. Daniel has fond memories of his years at Eisenhower and MacArthur schools. One that stands out is the Talent Show at Ike. "I'm happy now looking back that I had these great opportunities."



### Lauren Linzmeier

The economic simulation of real-world situations in the "World of Work" project at Eisenhower School made an impression on Lauren. She has taken that experience



*continued on page 3*

## Positive Environments Enhance Learning in District 23 Schools

Each of the four schools in the District has developed a system for fostering a positive learning environment for all students on a daily basis. To accomplish this, school staff set up a clearly-defined, consistently implemented plan to teach students behavioral expectations and to reward those who follow "school rules." Although the programs in each of the schools have different names, all define, teach, and support appropriate student behaviors. This proactive approach to discipline has proven to be much more effective than waiting for misbehavior to occur before responding.

**Betsy Ross School** started the STAR Values program last year to reinforce being respectful, responsible, and safe in all areas of school. All staff (teachers, program assistants, lunch helpers, substitute teachers, secretaries, nurse, etc.) carry STAR Values slips. When a student is observed following STAR Values, he or she is awarded a STAR slip. Helping another student, following the directions the teacher has given, and bringing back homework are all reasons to receive STAR slips. At the start of the school year, after winter break, and after spring break, all students participate in Station Rotation and move in

groups from one area to the next for a brief overview of the school expectations in that area. Children role play what it looks like to be respectful, responsible, and safe. For example, in the lunchroom, the students model how to listen to the lunch leader when she blows the whistle (respectful); how to clean up and throw out garbage (responsible), and how to use walking feet in the lunch room (safe). These exercises are repeated in each area of the school—both classroom and non-classroom.

This year, trading cards were added to the program to promote positive student/adult relationships. When children receive a STAR slip, they write their name and classroom number on the slip. The slips can be traded for staff trading cards every Thursday. Every staff member at Ross has a trading card valued at 10 slips (much like a baseball card) with their picture and name on the front. Principal Kowalczyk's card is worth 25 slips. Dr. Guarrine's trading card, released this past January, is valued at 50 slips. This way, the children get to know all the adults in the building and the jobs they do. Once the trade is completed, the slips are placed in a drum in the front office. Every Friday, 20 slips are picked for a prize. The names of the winners are announced and the children come down to the office to select a prize.

"The children have bought into this system," said Mrs. Kowalczyk. "They really work toward earning STAR slips. They save them up to be able to trade them for their next card. The students often stop me in the hall and tell me, 'I only need five more for your card!' The staff also really likes the system."

At **Anne Sullivan School**, expectations for positive behavior are carried out through a "You Rock" theme. Behavior in hallways, bathrooms, assemblies, lunchroom, recess area, buses, and at dismissal revolve around three expectations: Be Safe, Be Respectful, and Be Ready. "You Rock" was introduced at the beginning of the school year at a kick-off assembly. The teachers who created the concept unveiled the theme with a rockin', lip sync presentation. Students who exhibit positive behavior receive a "You Rock" ticket and get a chance to choose a space to place it on the big bingo board hanging in the hallway. The spaces on the board correspond to the letters that spell out "Sullivan" horizontally and "Rocks" vertically. Every Friday, the Sullivan Rockers (fifth grade volunteers) randomly pick one letter in the word Sullivan and one letter in Rocks. The students who selected the corresponding space on the bingo board become the "Rock Stars" for "You Rock Friday." On Friday mornings at 8:27 a.m., two Sullivan Rockers play the music of their choosing and announce the names of the Rock Stars for that week. Those students come to the office and choose a rock-themed prop and have their picture taken and hung on the Sullivan Hall of Fame. On Fridays, everyone wears their "You Rock" t-shirts which were student designed.

Sullivan Rockers meet once a month to plan the school-wide celebrations that are held at the end of each quarter. First quarter, everyone got to play board games in the hallway for a half hour one afternoon. Second quarter, relay races were held. Based on behavior issues that surface each month, Sullivan Rockers also teach lessons to students through role play.

"It's important for kids to do as much as possible for this program," said Principal Debbie Gardiner. "Sometimes that means it takes more effort to see the process through but it's a lot of fun and it unites the school and ultimately creates a better climate."

Last year, students at **Eisenhower School** began following the "IKE Path." In addition to verbal praise, students who exhibit positive behavior receive intermittent "IKE Path" tickets. These tickets are placed in a weekly classroom drawing. One ticket is chosen at the end of

each week. The name of one student from each classroom is announced over the intercom to receive a school pride souvenir. In addition to the weekly drawings, two students are chosen by each classroom teacher for demonstrating the best citizenship "IKE Path" behaviors for the month and best academic improvement for the month. Those students are called down to the office on the last day of the month to receive a medal and ribbon.

The "IKE Path" is explicitly taught with the intention of it becoming an implicit part of the Eisenhower culture. To that end, the students' behavior in all situations is a universal symbol of the pride they take in their school. Celebrating their success through the use of school spirit souvenirs and medals is a way in which to encourage one another and reinforce the positive behaviors and choices in all interactions.

"As part of our school atmosphere, we will also be tying in the idea and importance of the value of education," said Principal Luke Lambatos. "By using banners/flags/pennants representing all of our staff members' collegiate institutions, we will be adorning our hallways and classrooms with university paraphernalia. It is a great way to remind our students about their future and build in the expectation that no matter what occupation they pursue later in life they will always be learning along their lifelong path."

At **MacArthur Middle School**, students are asked to make PARR every day! PARR, an acronym for Productive ... Appropriate ... Responsible ... Respectful, emphasizes a proactive approach to school discipline. The purpose of PARR is to establish a climate in which appropriate behavior is the norm and then rewarded. The plan was devised two years ago when a school-wide committee was formed to address the issue of defining, teaching, and supporting the behaviors that create a positive school environment.

Once a quarter, students who have maintained the PARR expectations are rewarded with PARR celebrations either individually by class, as a grade level, or with an all-school activity. Students falling short of meeting PARR expectations attend a class where the teaching of PARR expectations are reintroduced; students are given the opportunity to reflect on their own behavior and the circumstances which got them to this situation. They set goals for future behaviors and strategies for handling them differently in the future.

They are then monitored during the next quarter. Students also can be recognized by staff individually by being nominated for a "MAC" nificent Marauder T-Shirt. Every couple of weeks, the names of these students are announced over the PA in the morning; they receive public confirmation and a t-shirt.

"I can talk all day about our PARR system," said Principal Steven Lee. "It came out of a need to apply a systematic approach for students in ALL areas of 'Mac Life'—both, within the walls of our great school, and outside these walls, but still on Mac time!"



## Web site Survey

On January 7, the Board of Education Community Relations Committee sent a memorandum via e-mail to District 23 Web site users inviting them to complete a 10-question online survey.

Linked to the District 23 Home page, the questionnaire focused on user habits and experiences regarding the Web site. Responses will be used to improve the Web site and make it more user-friendly. A report on the results is expected to be available in the spring.

"The input from the survey should help to highlight issues with the Web site from the various user perspectives," said Board Member Carol Botwinski. "From there, we can prioritize, determine the focus, set a budget, and develop some recommendations."

Web site improvements are part of the long-term goal defined in the District's 2009/2010 Communication Plan developed by the Committee. By implementing an attractive and easier-to-use format, the Committee hopes to draw new users and include additional information in a more timely fashion than printed materials. This concept also reflects the District's commitment to gradually "go paperless" in order to save both money and the environment. Some of the schools have started sending "green e-mails" on Fridays rather than copying newsletters for the students to take home.

Committee members include Jeff Bowes, Mari-Lynn Peters, and Botwinski. Access the District's Web pages at [www.d23.org](http://www.d23.org).



### Proud Alumni from page 2

to the next level and is currently pursuing studies in economics and public policy at Northwestern University in Evanston. Lauren graduated last year from Wheeling High School first in her class of 502. Her 5.75 weighted GPA is the highest ever recorded at Wheeling and set a new standard for academic achievement. How did Lauren accomplish this? She took 10 advanced placement courses and never received a grade below an A. Her counselor Rick Watson said, "She is probably the most focused, most self-directed student I have known in my 30 years in education." Her mastery of subject matter and uncompromising work ethic were reflected in her scores of 35 on the ACT and 2350 on the SAT. Lauren is a National Merit Finalist, AP Scholar with Distinction, and National Honor Society State Finalist. She also excelled in debate and was named the IHSA All-State Congressional Debate Team Captain. Lauren was recognized for her many achievements with a spot on the Daily Herald Northwest Suburban Academic Team.

### Sanjit Shah

When Sanjit went on to Northwestern University this fall to pursue a career in medicine, his reputation for excellence in academics preceded him. He graduated from Wheeling High School second in his class of 502. A National Merit Finalist, Illinois State Scholar, and AP Scholar with Distinction, he earned an amazing 5.7 weighted GPA and scored 35 on the ACT and 2220 on the SAT. Sanjit made Honorable Mention status on the Daily Herald Northwest Suburban Academic Team last year. He was awarded a National Merit Scholarship and a Northwestern University Scholarship, and was named the Cook County Byrd Scholar for outstanding academic achievement. Sanjit also distinguished himself on the soccer field and earned a place on the High School Soccer All-State All-Academic Team. He excelled at debate, too, and competed on the All State Debate Team.

