



The School Scene

Winter 2008

The Newsletter for Prospect Heights District 23

Making the Most of Our Resources

As a community, we can take pride in how well our students are mastering the State of Illinois educational standards.

As the page reproduction from the November 2, 2007, Journal newspaper illustrates, the Illinois State Achievement Test (ISAT) results for District 23 were high for all core curriculum areas at all grade levels. For example, our seventh graders were ranked 19 out of 235 area school districts in science with 96.2 percent passing. For eighth grade math, District 23's rank was 26 with about 96 percent passing. For third grade reading, we ranked 36 with 90.3 percent passing.

It is interesting to note that academically District 23 outranked many area schools who spend much more per pupil. To put it another way, while the seventh grade science score places

District 23 in the top 10 per cent among area schools, the per-pupil expenditure for the District is in the 50th percentile. For average administrator salaries, District 23 came in at 124.

"Over the years, the Board of Education, administration, and staff have made it a priority to use our resources wisely and make the most of every dollar," said Dr. Greg Guarrine, Superintendent. "I think the ISAT results reflect this dedication." ●

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Soaring into the future...
creating communities
of eager learners, daring to
achieve great things.

District 23 Vision Statement

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PAGE 14A, THE JOURNAL, FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2007 www.journal-topics.com

Local ISAT Test Results Released

The following represents Illinois State Achievement Test (ISAT) results and other scores and rankings among local school districts released this week.

Rank is out of 235 Districts			Rank is out of 235 Districts			Rank is out of 235 Districts		
Third Grade Math % Passed			Seventh Grade Science % Passed			Average Teacher Salaries		
1	Rosemont Dist. 78	100.0	19	PROSPECT HTS. DIST 23	96.2	4	Northwest Sub. Dist. 214	\$86,243
27	Mt. Prospect Dist. 57	98.4	24	Arlington Hts. Dist. 25	95.9	6	Pal-Sch. Dist. 211	\$85,766
29	Arlington Hts. Dist. 25	98.3	31	Rosemont Dist. 78	94.7	9	Maine Twp. Dist. 207	\$84,657
69	Palatine Twp. Dist. 15	96.1	79	Mt. Prospect Dist. 57	91.7	50	Wheeling Twp. Dist. 21	\$69,359
80	PROSPECT HTS. DIST 23	95.5	85	Palatine Twp. Dist. 15	91.2	52	Palatine Twp. Dist. 15	\$68,883
96	Schaumburg Twp. Dist. 54	94.2	91	Schaumburg Twp. Dist. 54	90.5	53	Buffalo Grove-LG Dist. 96	\$68,466
105	Elk Grove Twp. Dist. 59	93.6	140	Des Plaines Dist. 62	85.3	54	Elk Grove Twp. Dist. 59	\$68,456
130	Wheeling Twp. Dist. 21	91.5	151	Elk Grove Twp. Dist. 59	83.6	77	Barrington Unit Dist. 220	\$64,979
142	East Maine Dist. 63	90.6	161	East Maine Dist. 63	81.8	81	Schaumburg Twp. Dist. 54	\$64,337
	State Average	86.7		State Average	79.3	87	Des Plaines Dist. 62	\$63,988
Third Grade Reading % Passed			Eighth Grade Math % Passed			Average Spending Per Pupil		
24	Arlington Hts. Dist. 25	92.3	26	PROSPECT HTS. DIST 23	95.3	20	Leyden Dist. 212	\$14,837
36	PROSPECT HTS. DIST 23	90.3	52	Arlington Hts. Dist. 25	93.1	22	Maine Twp. Dist. 207	\$14,695
47	Mt. Prospect Dist. 57	89.0	58	Palatine Twp. Dist. 15	92.7	24	Northwest Sub. Dist. 214	\$14,453
55	Palatine Twp. Dist. 15	88.2	65	Schaumburg Twp. Dist. 54	92.4	27	Rosemont Dist. 78	\$14,173
73	Rosemont Dist. 78	85.7	78	Rosemont Dist. 78	91.7	40	Stevenson Dist. 125	\$13,308
102	Elk Grove Twp. Dist. 59	82.2	85	Mt. Prospect Dist. 57	91.4	58	Wheeling Twp. Dist. 21	\$12,315
108	Schaumburg Twp. Dist. 54	81.9	126	Elk Grove Twp. Dist. 59	87.4	73	Elk Grove Twp. Dist. 59	\$11,727
109	Wheeling Twp. Dist. 21	81.7	126	East Maine Dist. 63	87.4	82	Barrington Unit Dist. 220	\$11,142
128	Des Plaines Dist. 62	78.7	129	Wheeling Twp. Dist. 21	87.1	90	Schaumburg Twp. Dist. 54	\$10,933
	State Average	72.9		State Average	81.3	99	Arlington Hts. Dist. 25	\$10,583
Fourth Grade Science % Passed			Eighth Grade Reading % Passed			ACT Rankings (High School)		
11	Arlington Hts. Dist. 25	97.3	40	Arlington Hts. Dist. 25	93.8	8	Stevenson	25.3
34	Mt. Prospect Dist. 57	95.5	46	PROSPECT HTS. DIST 23	93.2	15	John Hersey	24.1
46	Palatine Twp. Dist. 15	94.0	60	Mt. Prospect Dist. 57	91.8	15	Maine South	24.1
69	PROSPECT HTS. DIST 23	92.7	61	Rosemont Dist. 78	91.7	17	Barrington	24.0
80	Elk Grove Twp. Dist. 59	91.7	78	Palatine Twp. Dist. 15	89.9	21	Prospect	23.8
83	Schaumburg Twp. Dist. 54	91.3	95	East Maine Dist. 63	88.4	21	Fremd	23.8
99	Rosemont Dist. 78	90.4	105	Elk Grove Twp. Dist. 59	87.7	25	Buffalo Grove	23.7
100	Wheeling Twp. Dist. 21	90.3	115	Des Plaines Dist. 62	86.5	36	Conant	22.7
104	Des Plaines Dist. 62	90.0	121	Wheeling Twp. Dist. 21	86.0	46	Rolling Meadows	22.3
	State Average	79.7		State Average	81.7	51	Palatine	22.0
Fifth Grade Math % Passed			Average Administrator Salaries					
3	Mt. Prospect Dist. 57	99.5	12	Mt. Prospect Dist. 57	\$146,630	8	Stevenson	25.3
13	Arlington Hts. Dist. 25	97.3	17	Wheeling Twp. Dist. 21	\$142,448	15	John Hersey	24.1
23	Rosemont Dist. 78	96.7	26	Maine Twp. Dist. 207	\$137,288	15	Maine South	24.1
29	PROSPECT HTS. DIST 23	96.2	34	Northwest Sub. Dist. 214	\$134,318	17	Barrington	24.0
57	Elk Grove Twp. Dist. 59	94.3	39	Buffalo Grove Dist. 102	\$132,182	21	Prospect	23.8
60	Palatine Twp. Dist. 15	94.1	48	Leyden Dist. 212	\$129,700	21	Fremd	23.8
78	Schaumburg Twp. Dist. 54	93.0	49	Rosemont Dist. 78	\$129,342	25	Buffalo Grove	23.7
82	Des Plaines Dist. 62	92.5	62	Schaumburg Twp. Dist. 54	\$124,486	36	Conant	22.7
93	East Maine Dist. 63	91.6	76	Barrington Unit Dist. 220	\$121,496	46	Rolling Meadows	22.3
	State Average	82.2	82	Pal-Sch. Dist. 211	\$120,043	51	Palatine	22.0
Fifth Grade Reading % Passed								
8	Mt. Prospect Dist. 57	93.5	85	Arlington Hts. Dist. 25	\$119,326	60	Wheeling	21.6
24	Arlington Hts. Dist. 25	90.9	116	Elk Grove Twp. Dist. 59	\$113,749	62	Elk Grove	21.5
42	PROSPECT HTS. DIST 23	88.7	120	East Maine Dist. 63	\$112,724	68	Schaumburg	21.4
56	Palatine Twp. Dist. 15	86.2	124	PROSPECT HTS. DIST 23	\$112,087	69	Hoffman Estates	21.3
67	Elk Grove Twp. Dist. 59	85.0	146	Palatine Twp. Dist. 15	\$108,704	75	Maine West	21.1
88	Des Plaines Dist. 62	81.7	181	Des Plaines Dist. 62	\$103,382	79	Maine East	20.8
89	Wheeling Twp. Dist. 21	81.6		State Average	\$102,310		State Average	20.3
90	Schaumburg Twp. Dist. 54	81.5						
101	Rosemont Dist. 78	80.0						
	State Average	69.7						

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Working Parents Rely on EDP

Where can a parent whose work hours extend beyond their child's school day find reliable child care? Many have discovered the answer in District 23's Extended Day Program (EDP).

Open to District 23 students in grades K through 5, the program operates from 7 a.m. to 8:15 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. to 6 p.m. on all days school is in session. Children in morning kindergarten attend before-school care; those in afternoon enroll in after-school care.

EDP is held in the Ross and Sullivan gyms. The Ross teacher's lounge is used for homework during the first hour of each day. Children in EDP who attend Eisenhower School are bussed from Ross to Ike in the morning and back to Ross after school.

Betsy Ross Principal Sharon Warner oversees the EDP program along with Judy Swiech who has served as Director for the past two years.

"The positive changes we've made to the program are really making a difference," said Mrs. Swiech. "We are engaging kids and getting them involved. As soon as they check in with staff, they are given three or four choices of activities. By offering the kids more variety and something to do right away, we've seen a huge decrease in behavioral issues."

On average, about 150 children enroll in EDP each year. Parents pay a monthly fee based on the number of days of school in a particular month. The fee covers the cost of salaries for the supervisors and director as well as supplies for program activities.

"Our children enjoy a variety of crafts, board games, and games in the gyms and on both the Ross and Sullivan playgrounds," said Mrs. Warner. "Games are often organized according to the ages of the children. That helps us manage the numbers of children in the program and be sure that our games are age-appropriate."

As a convenience to parents, Mrs. Swiech began working with a food service supplier to provide healthy snacks for the children every day. Some of the snacks and activities revolve around a theme. The recent Super Bowl party included a cheer-leading challenge for girls and a touch football game for boys. In addition, children have the option of attending a few field trips during the year.

To maintain the ratio of one staff person for every 15 children, it takes 16 additional employees to run the program.

"My staff has really pulled through," said Mrs. Swiech. "They are contributing their talents and creativity to the program. It makes it better for everybody. I look forward to more of that. It's fun." ●

District Doesn't Take Grants for Granted

According to the official 2007 audit, 14 per cent of District 23's revenue, or \$3,370,465, came from Federal and State government grants and aids. This figure includes monies for regular and special education transportation reimbursement, Medicaid outreach, special education personnel, and other reimbursements. Of this, \$155,219 was for specific federal grant IDEA funds and Title programs and specific state grants for bilingual, reading, and library programs.

These non-competitive grants are part of the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) categorical funding. For the most part, District 23 qualifies, and routinely applies, for the same grants each year.

The State Web site lists the various grants, application requirements, and timelines. Surprisingly, the most time-consuming part of the process comes once the grants are secured.

"Once we get the money, we need to prove we've used it appropriately," explained Superintendent Greg Guarrine. "That means collecting data and putting it in the appropriate forms or format. We have to substantiate our compliance. For instance, if we say we will use the money to hire three teachers, we must submit the financials to provide evidence that we have done what we said we would do."

Most of this work of applying for grants and following through on providing supporting data is the responsibility of Assistant Superintendent Deb Wilson and Administrative Assistant Nancy Sorensen. Due to the time-intensive nature of the process, the District does not apply for many competitive grants.

"Sometimes teachers will run across an available grant in a professional publication that we would qualify for and take the initiative to go after it," explained Dr. Guarrine. "The Physical Education Department was recently awarded \$1600 this way."

The grant application process has not changed significantly over the years. However, now some applications are available online.

Overall, the District has experienced a decrease in grant funding. "We're not getting as much money as we have in the past," said Dr. Guarrine. "Some things have dried up; some have consolidated, and we no longer qualify for some."

Due to declining enrollment and increased affluence, the District lost approximately \$50,000 in Title I funds it had received in prior years.

"In the past, we received between \$20,000 and \$30,000 in supplemental state aid," said Business Manager Rick Ewanio. "For fiscal year 2008, this fund was not appropriated by the State, so this year we got nothing."

One thing is certain. District 23 is not about to take grants for granted. "If we know we qualify for a grant, we'll go after it no matter how small the amount," insisted Dr. Guarrine. "The Illinois State Library Grant is only \$1,042 but we'll spend the time and effort to get it because it's important to us. It's \$1,042 we wouldn't have had." ●



Scholarship Available to District 23 Graduate

The William P. Caputo Scholarship Fund will award a \$1,000 scholarship 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, 2008.

The scholarship recipient will be selected based on academic performance or improvement during high school. No minimum grade point average is required to apply. Applicants must complete the Scholarship Application Form, submit a copy of their 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. The Scholarship Committee plans to award the scholarship annually. Donations to the Scholarship Fund can be sent to the attention of Andre Velazquez, Manager, Harris Bank and Trust Company, 215 E. Palatine Road, Arlington Heights, IL 60004. ●

Board Vacancy

Thomas Klingner resigned his position on the Board of Education effective February 14.

The Board is accepting resumes from District 23 residents through March 7. The Board expects to make an appointment by March 28 to fill the term which expires in 2009. For more information, please contact the Superintendent's Office at (847) 870-3850 ext. 101. ●

Alumni Make Us Proud!

Two Cross-Country Stand-outs Got Their Start at Mac



Kevin Havel

The future looks very bright for Hersey High School senior Kevin Havel. The Arlington Heights resident showed lots of promise back in his Mac days. In fact, his name appears four times on the Boys Track and Field Records for both 7th and 8th grades in the 1600M and 800M. In 2004, he secured the top spot in the 1600M with a time of 4:31.75.

Kevin also set a course record in 2003 at the USATF Region 16 Junior Olympics Cross Country Championships with 0:13:03 and followed that up with another first in 2004.

By 2005, he was ranked as one of the top sophomore distance runners in the country in the Class AA polls.

In October of 2007, he came in first at the Rolling Meadows Boys Cross Country Regional with a time of 14:42. One week later, at the Palatine Sectional, he took another first with a 14:10.

Kevin made it to the Class 3A State Meet in Peoria all four years of his high school career placing fifth as a freshman, fourth as a sophomore, runner-up junior year, and third this past year.

He placed fifth on November 24, 2007, at the Midwest Regional of the Foot Locker Cross Country Championship at Wisconsin-Parkside in Kenosha. He went on to the 29th annual Foot Locker Cross Country Championship at Balboa Park in San Diego, California, December 8. There he ran the 5K race in 15:18 to finish seventh out of 40 runners from across the nation.

"I don't think anybody at Hersey will ever match what Kevin did for our program," remarked Huskies Cross Country Coach Tim Phillips.

Kevin, who has a 5.55 grade-point average on a 5.0 scale, plans to attend Stanford University in the fall to study biology. He officially signed a letter of intent on February 12.

"They have a really good running program," said Kevin. "I'll run with some good guys and compete against some good guys. I'm looking forward to it." ●

Amber Stack

"The Village of Wheeling honors Amber Stack 2004 AA Cross Country State Champ Wheeling High School."

You may have noticed this inscription on one or both of the two signs in Wheeling touting Amber's accomplishments as a runner.

Even in her MacArthur days, Amber stood out in the crowd. The statistics support it. She is Number Five on the list of All-Time Greatest Mac Girls Cross Country Runners with firsts at State in both 2002 and 2003. At the USATF National Junior Olympics Cross Country Championship at Busse Woods in 2003, she set the course record in the 4000 Meters with a 14:48.3. And, Amber still holds the 1600 meter state record for seventh-grade middle school girls.

As a high school freshman, she took first at the Wheeling Girls Cross Country Regional at Heritage Park and, just like the signs in Wheeling say, went on to win the Class AA State Meet in Peoria with a time of 17:17.

Amber made it to State all four years at Wheeling High School and was all-state (top 25) three of the four years despite suffering a hip injury the end of her junior season.

Last summer, she placed second in the Stampede Run 10K, 31st overall, in the female 15-to-19-year-old category with a time of 44:24.2.

Amber, a Wheeling resident, considered offers from University of Alabama – Birmingham, University of Illinois- Chicago, and University of Iowa, but has committed to the University of Illinois-Urbana-Champaign. She plans to pursue a career in nursing. ●

Reports Form Basis for Five-year Plan

On October 10, 2007, the Board of Education accepted two reports regarding District 23's finances and facility safety that will have a major impact on the development of the five-year plan.

The annual financial audit of District 23 for school year 2006-2007, compiled by Evans, Marshall and Pease, confirmed that the District recorded a balanced budget for the third consecutive year. Also of note, the current District debt which includes Working Cash, Fire Prevention and Safety, Refunding, and Limited Tax School Bonds will be paid off December 1, 2008. The District has additional available bonding power in excess of \$34 million. A copy of the full audit can be viewed at www.d23.org.

The 10-Year Life Safety Survey Report, completed by Gillfillan Callahan Nelson Architects, lists recommendations to bring about compliance with Health and Life Safety Codes required by the State of Illinois. Issues that need to be addressed are prioritized according to potential impact on student safety. Life safety problems categorized as urgent items are considered to be those that present an immediate hazard. Required items are those that are necessary for a safe environment but pose less of an immediate hazard to the safety of students.

Items deemed urgent have been budgeted for and addressed. However, several million dollars more will be needed to rectify all of the required items. The Board of Education is pursuing the sale of \$5 million in Working Cash Fund Bonds to defray the cost of the required items. A public hearing will be held to discuss the issuance of these bonds at the regularly-scheduled Board of Education meeting March 12 at 7 p.m. in the board room at the Grodsky Administration Center.

Both of these reports are an integral starting point for achieving the Annual District Objective "To develop a comprehensive five-year plan for the District that encompasses the educational, financial, and physical plant needs of the District". In order to develop such a plan, figures from the District's financial audit are projected forward using a number of budgeting strategies. Results of studies, specifically the 10-Year Life Safety Survey Report, and input of staff District-wide also will impact the financial plan. Other District Objectives, including evaluating full-day kindergarten and investigating a foreign language program, must be taken into consideration for their potential expenditure of funds.

The comprehensive five-year plan will be presented at a future Board of Education meeting. Postings of all meeting agendas can be found at www.d23.org. ●

District 23 Graduates Lauded!

On Wednesday, January 9, the Daily Herald announced the 2007-2008 Leadership Team. Among the 11 teenagers chosen for exemplary volunteer activities from the nearly 100 area public and private high schools were two District 23 graduates.

Melanie Hoffman, currently a senior at Wheeling High School, is president of the DECA chapter, the national association of marketing students. She led the club's impressive fundraising efforts for the Make-A-Wish Foundation that resulted in two wishes coming true. She also has volunteered for five years at Camp SOAR for children with disabilities. Melanie lives in Prospect Heights.

Wendy Wingard, a senior at Hersey High School, has a passion for working with disabled children. She plans to pursue a career in special education. She is a counselor for two weeks every summer at Camp SOAR for kids with severe disabilities. Wendy lives in Prospect Heights and is captain of the girls Cross Country team at Hersey.

Congratulations, Wendy and Melanie! We are proud to see our District 23 graduates taking the lead and making a real difference in the lives of others. Keep up the good work! ●

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PROSPECT HEIGHTS SCHOOL DISTRICT 23

700 N. Schoenbeck Road
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Gregory P. Guarrine, Ed.D.
Phone: (847) 870-3850

BOARD OF EDUCATION

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DISTRICT WEB SITE

www.d23.org

Betsy Ross Elementary School (847) 870-3868 **Eisenhower Elementary School (847) 870-3875** **Sullivan Elementary School (847) 870-3865** **MacArthur Middle School (847) 870-3879**

2008-'09 Calendar Approved

It took just three meetings for the Calendar Committee to reach consensus on next year's school calendar. "It went very smoothly," said Jeff Bowes, Board of Education. "We met twice prior to winter break and once in January for the final input and no changes were made at the last meeting."

In addition to Board Member Bowes, the committee is made up of Sullivan teacher Kim Strachn, Mac teacher Susan Peckworth, Mac teaching assistant Carolyn Collins, Eisenhower Principal Bob Loranger and Superintendent Greg Guarrine. The Committee used the High School District 214 calendar as a starting point for discussions. Teacher institute days and parent/teacher conferences were placed throughout the year. The District 23 calendar totals 185 days including two half-days for staff development which, in the eyes of the State of Illinois, count as full days of attendance.

After each of the first two meetings, the Committee took the draft of the calendar back to their respective schools to get feedback from teachers, staff, and the Board. When the Committee reconvened, they shared the input they had received, discussed changes, and made adjustments as necessary.

"Agreeing to have students in attendance the Monday and Tuesday of Thanksgiving week made for an easier process," said Bowes. "I believe it will benefit us academically to have a shorter break over Thanksgiving. Sometimes it takes kids half a day to readjust to the school routine after being off for a week. This arrangement allows students to pick up where they left off and get right back into learning."

The first day of student attendance is Tuesday, August 26. Teachers report for their first day on August 25. New-teacher orientation will take place on Thursday and Friday, August 21-22. Columbus Day will be a student attendance day. "The response we've gotten about the calendar has been very positive," said Bowes. "Overall, I think the community will be pleased with it."

The Board of Education agreed and voted unanimously to approve the calendar as presented by the Committee at the February Board Meeting. To view the 2008-2009 calendar, go to www.d23.org. ●

Upcoming Events

- March 4 Orchestra Concert 7PM @ MacArthur
- March 5 Band Concert 7PM @ MacArthur
- March 12 Board of Education Meeting 7PM
- March 19 **Half-day** Student Attendance in AM
- March 20 **No School**, Parent/Teacher Conferences 8AM-3PM
- March 21 **No School**, Non-attendance Day
- March 24 **Spring Break Begins**
- March 31 **Spring Break Ends**
- April 9 Board of Education Meeting 7PM @ Sullivan
- April 22 District Art Show 7PM @ MacArthur
- May 14 Board of Education Meeting 7PM @ MacArthur
- May 15 Elementary Band/Orchestra Concert 7PM @ Mac
- May 26 **No School**, Memorial Day

Question of the Day...

WHAT DID YOU DO DURING THE SNOW DAY?



Regina Miller
(Kelly-2nd grade at Ross and Michael-at Mac)

We played in the snow.



Phyllis Huene
(Jeremy, Nicholas, Peyton and Ethan -all in the district)

Went to the bank, the library, and on a play date.