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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

<b>Betsy Ross Elementary School</b> (847) 870-3868	<b>Sullivan Elementary School</b> (847) 870-3865	<b>Eisenhower Elementary School</b> (847) 870-3875	<b>MacArthur Middle School</b> (847) 870-3879
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## Employee Awards and Retirements

Fifth Grade Special Education Teacher at Anne Sullivan School, *Marlys Jenkins*, has been named District 23 Teacher of the Year. *Carol Henrikson* and *Susan Koepke* are sharing the title of Employee of the Year. They are both Teaching Assistants at Sullivan. *Judith Velan*, Special Education Teaching Assistant, is the lone retiree this year. They will be honored at the annual employee recognition dinner Friday, May 29, along with:

- 🍷 **35 Years** *Margret-ann Haas, Nancy Hyrczyk, Celina Watts*
- 🍷 **30 Years** *LuAnn Casurella, Michele Henry, Scott Mayer*
- 🍷 **25 Years** *Donna Arkenberg*
- 🍷 **20 Years** *Pam Bernstein, Greg Guarrine, Bonnie Komie, Pam Lilly, Tara MacTavish*
- 🍷 **15 Years** *Athena Kalaras, Tammy Kaspari, Shelly Kutcher, Rachel Matthews, Lisa Wright*
- 🍷 **10 Years** *Inge Bennett, Kim Brunner, Ron DeGeorge, Vicki Hehn, Jan Lange, Ginny Nelson, Susan Pennell, Marcus Sabo, Pragna Shah, Kim Strachn*
- 🍷 **5 Years** *Colleen Awbrey, Kristen Bearwald, Debra Crask, Amy Mailloux, André Poisson, Carolyn Ranieri, Lora Robertson* ●

## Judith Velan Retires

Judith Velan, special education teaching assistant, is retiring after four years of service to District 23. She started working at Ross School in 2005 and was a special education aide at Ross in first grade during the '06-'07 school year and in second grade during '07-'08. This year she was at both Eisenhower and Ross schools. Thank you for being an important member of our District 23 family, Judith. We wish you all the best in your retirement. ●

## Upcoming Events

May 29 . . . . .	Last day of Early Childhood Classes
June 10 . . . . .	MacArthur Eighth Grade Promotion
June 10 . . . . .	Last day of Kindergarten
June 11 . . . . .	Board of Education Meeting 7 PM
June 11 . . . . .	Last day of Classes (Students dismissed in AM)
June 15 . . . . .	First day of Summer School
July 3 . . . . .	<b>No Summer School</b>
July 8 . . . . .	Board of Education Meeting 7 PM
July 15 . . . . .	Last day of Summer School
August 12 . . . . .	Board of Education Meeting 7 PM
August 24 . . . . .	<b>No School</b> , Teacher Institute Day
August 25 . . . . .	First day of Classes
August 31 . . . . .	First day of Kindergarten and Early Childhood
September 7 . . . . .	<b>No School</b> , Labor Day
September 9 . . . . .	Board of Education Meeting 7 PM
September 28 . . . . .	<b>No School</b>
October 9 . . . . .	1/2 day student attendance ●



Betsy Ross

Anne Sullivan

Dwight D. Eisenhower

Douglas MacArthur

# The School Scene

Spring 2009

The Schools of Prospect Heights District 23

## Board of Education Reorganizes

After completing a canvass of all votes cast for the School District Board of Education in the April 7 Consolidated Election, the Cook County Clerk's office certified that Judith Zimmerman, Martha Olsen, and Randall DeCoursey were elected to serve four-year terms. On Monday, May 4, a special meeting was held for the purpose of reorganization. The newly-seated Board nominated and voted on an Executive Board that includes Mrs. Martha Olsen as President, Mr. Jeff Bowes as Vice President, and Mrs. Carol Botwinski as Secretary. Board policy limits the offices to one-year terms with a two consecutive year limit on the offices of President and Vice President.

Mrs. Zimmerman was recognized for her service as Board President. "Being President of the Board for the past two years was a wonderful experience," said Mrs. Zimmerman. "During this time five new members joined the Board and it has been a privilege to work with them and Martha Olsen. It's also been a lot of

fun getting to know Dr. Greg Guarrine and the administrative staff better. I am proud of the work we've all done and feel very fortunate to have had this opportunity to serve both the Board and community."

In accordance with policy, President Martha Olsen appointed Board members to serve on standing committees.

Assignments are: Judi

Zimmerman and Mari-Lynn Peters on Finance, Jeff Bowes and Dave

Hess on Policy, Randy DeCoursey and Dave Hess on Buildings and Sites, Mari-Lynn Peters, Jeff Bowes, and Carol Botwinski on School/Community Relations, and Martha Olsen and Judi

Zimmerman on Negotiations. Martha Olsen will represent District 23 at meetings of the Northwest Suburban Special Education Organization (NSSEO) Executive Board with Carol Botwinski serving as the alternate. Randy DeCoursey will be the liaison to the Illinois Association of School Boards (IASB).

These committees meet at various times and report back to the Board. Advisory in



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nature, the committees are essential to accomplishing the work of the Board and keep the Board informed of actions taken by other organizations that could affect the School District. Board committees do not take final action on behalf of the Board; they may only make recommendations to the Board. ●

## District 23 Schools Earn Excellence Awards

In February, District 23 was notified by the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) that MacArthur, Eisenhower, and Sullivan schools earned the Academic Excellence Award for 2008. Ross School was not eligible because Ross students do not take the Illinois Student Assessment Tests (ISAT).

To earn this recognition, 90 percent of students must have met or exceeded state standards in both reading and mathematics for at least three consecutive years. Schools also must have made Adequate Yearly Progress in 2007 and 2008 which requires that at least 62.5 percent of students meet and exceed standards in both reading and mathematics; a 95 percent participation rate in state assessments for all students in each subgroup, and an attendance rate of at least 90 percent.

The schools in District 23 also were given the SchoolSearch 2009 Bright Red Apple Award for educational excellence. District 23 was one of only 81 Illinois school districts chosen for this honor. In Illinois, 868 school districts are considered for the award. Criteria are based on report card data including academic performance, pupil/teacher ratio, expenditure per pupil, educational level of teachers, and average teacher salary. District 23 was determined to be strong in all five areas. ●

## 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

**Amy Walter**  
Special Education Coordinator  
847/870-3850 ext. 120

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

## Fast Facts...

...about the Board of Education

- The Board consists of seven members elected to serve terms of four years.
- School Board elections are held at the Consolidated Election on the first Tuesday in April of each odd-numbered year.
- Terms of members are staggered so there are three or four seats contested at each biennial election.
- State law requires that the School Board reorganize within 28 days after each school board election by seating new members, electing officers, and setting a time and place for regular meetings.
- Board Members are volunteers and are NOT compensated for their time.
- The School Board meets on the second Wednesday of each month at 7 PM.
- Board meeting agendas are posted on the District Web site, d23.org, prior to the meeting date. ●

## Students Help Others

District 23 students have been busy helping others this year. Here's a sampling of some of the causes they've adopted and the great things they've accomplished.

At Betsy Ross School, students participated in the Pennies for Patients program on behalf of the Illinois Chapter of the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society (LLS). In February, Ross students donated their spare change to the collection boxes in their classrooms. After three weeks, they had amassed a total of \$600.15. Mrs. Murray's first-grade class collected the highest amount of donations and won a classroom lunch from the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. The cause was especially close to Mrs. Murray's heart as she lost her mother to leukemia three years ago.

"Our goal was to raise \$500 and we surpassed our goal by \$100!" said Principal Claire Kowalczyk. "We are very proud of our students for their generous outpouring of support towards this worthy cause."

Debbie Gardiner, Principal of Sullivan School, reported that students discovered lots of creative ways to help the community. Fourth Graders organized a hat day to raise money to purchase hats for people undergoing treatment for cancer. The Third Graders sent spring cards to the Lutheran Home to brighten the lives of the elderly. The O Ambassadors, a student group, organized a card sale for the entire school; the cards were sent to recovering soldiers during December. For Earth Day, the whole school fashioned vases, each with two flowers, from recyclable items that will be given to a few local nursing homes.

On March 6, the Eisenhower Student Senate held the fourth annual Dance-a-thon, "Have a Heart of Gold". Their goal was to raise money to help the Cardi family purchase a custom van with a lift to transport their 12-year-old son, Mikey, who has Cerebral Palsy and is dependent on a wheelchair. Ken Murphy, a former Ike student, acted as D.J. at the well-attended event. Students also sold t-shirts with paid advertising from various businesses on the backs and collected donations. Large sugar cookies were sold during lunch on February 24 and 25 for \$1. All the hard work and efforts of the students, staff, and parents paid off and, according to Principal Luke Lambatos, a check for a little over \$4,600 was presented to the Cardis.

Students at MacArthur found fulfillment in the Pennies for People fundraising activity. Every year, students donate their pennies after lunch to help families in the

*continued on page 3*

## Summer School Benefits Kids

The Administration and Board of Education are sold on the benefits of Summer School. Those in kindergarten through seventh grade who have been determined to be "at risk" in the areas of reading, language, or math are recommended for attendance. Students who have not satisfactorily mastered current year curriculum material or have failed to demonstrate the necessary skill development can expect to receive an extended degree of strategy reinforcement with formative learning concepts before entering the next year's grade level. Current year teachers provide Summer School staff with detailed descriptions of each child's current academic progress to ensure that individual learning goals are met.

"Staff will start Summer School with identified goals for each child within their classrooms," said Dr. Luke Lambatos, Eisenhower Principal and Summer School coordinator for the District. "We believe that the maximum class size of 14 students allows our Summer School staff to hone in on each student's individual needs." In addition to Summer School materials, teachers will have access to several computers within each classroom and the school computer lab to support their objectives.

ELL (English Language Learner) students who have been in the Transitional Program of Instruction (TPI) and who have not made adequate progress in the areas of reading, writing, speech, and speaking will be recommended for additional instruction time, as staffing permits. "It is our hope that these students derive a marked degree of learning through a collaborative and highly expressive peer-based atmosphere," said Dr. Lambatos.

The 22-day schedule begins the week of June 15 and continues through July 15. The extended school year session times for grades 1-7 are 8:30 a.m. to 12 p.m., and 8:30 to 11 a.m. for Early Childhood (EC) students entering kindergarten. There is no Summer School on July 3 in observance of the Independence Day weekend. The cost of Summer School remains at \$100. Early Childhood student tuition will be waived; families of first-through-seventh-grade students may request a tuition waiver in writing.

Prospect Heights Park District will provide a before and after school recreational program including a provision for lunch following each Summer School day. Details and costs for the program will be available to parents when they enroll their children in Summer School. ●

## District 23 Finance Report

Board members Mari-Lynn Peters and Judi Zimmerman, Business Manager Rick Ewano, and Superintendent Greg Guarrine, representing the Finance Committee of the Board of Education, met on Thursday, April 23, to develop a report on District 23 finances.

The Committee determined that the downturn in the economy did not appear to be affecting District revenue for the 2009-2010 school year. However, the Committee's research led them to conclude that revenue from property taxes will be flat for 2010-2011. In addition, the status of any money available to District 23 from the proposed stimulus package remains uncertain because of the State of Illinois' current financial condition. The Finance Committee will closely monitor what the State plans to do with the money allocated by the Federal Government so as not to miss out on any opportunities but will not include any additional help from the State in budget projections.

It is the Committee's recommendation to the Board of Education to prepare for future shortfalls by making small adjustments now to the 2009-2010

budget. These include eliminating two teaching positions, discontinuing administrative travel stipends, scrutinizing material and supply costs for possible savings, and limiting travel for staff development to local area conferences unless specifically approved by the Board of Education. The Committee also is looking into the possibility of asking all non-contracted employees to pay a portion of their individual insurance coverage in future years.

Despite the difficult times, the Board is committed to keeping the best interests of students as a top priority and to approach these budget issues in a systematic and thoughtful way. Over the next year, the Board will analyze all programs and contracts for possible savings. This strategy was adopted in 2003 and 2005 when the Board was able to cut \$1.5 million from the budget. Since the District is drawing more and more from reserve funds to cover expenses, it is possible that significant cuts will need to be made during the 2010-2011 school year and beyond. The Board wants to make certain that

programs directly affecting children be the last to go and that the community be informed about budgetary matters. ●



## Read on the Wild Side

If the kids get half as excited as Mary Ann Duderstadt is about this year's summer reading program, it should be a very enriching time for District 23 students.

Duderstadt, the District's Reading Specialist, has been working for the last five years to have a Summer Book Review site on the District's Web site and it's finally happened. Students can submit reviews online of books on the recommended reading list. The reviews are screened by teachers and posted on the Web according to grade level. The student's first name, grade level, and star rating appear with the review.

"We are looking for kids to have a good time reading and sharing their books," said Duderstadt. The program will be evaluated in the hope that it will continue year round. Look for the icon at d23.org on the opening page and on each individual school's Web page to submit a book review, search book reviews, and view the recommended reading lists.

The District is promoting this year's summer reading program -- "Read on the Wild Side" -- through local libraries.

"The libraries love our program because our extensive recommended reading list makes it easy for them," said Duderstadt. "Allowing for a broader range of reading materials is a much better way to encourage reading for pleasure."

Children entering grades K-4 receive a bookmark printed with the recommended reading list for the summer. Students going into grades 6-8 get a pamphlet explaining the program. "We've jazzed it up a little to make it more inviting," said Duderstadt.

Summer School students are given a book at the beginning of Summer School and encouraged to read it and exchange it for another book. This cycle continues through the end of Summer School when the students will be given the books to take home and keep.

Mrs. Duderstadt would like parents to remind their children to read over the summer. Studies show that a child's reading level can drop up to half a class grade without summer reading.

"You need skill and drill," explained Duderstadt. "If you don't practice, you get rusty." ●

### Students Step Up from page 2

community who are experiencing financial difficulty due to illness, job loss, or any number of occurrences. The pennies are collected over a period of two months and the money is used to buy holiday presents for the children of these families. The gifts are delivered anonymously to their homes. According to Principal Steven Lee, over the years, the number of needy families has grown and so has the amount of money donated. In addition to the donations, each grade level holds "penny wars" to see which Advisory can collect the most money. The result was over \$3,000 for gift certificates to various stores in the area purchased for needy families. In the 15 years Mac students have been donating pennies, over \$60,000 has been collected and distributed. ●

### Scholarship Winner

This year, Christina M. Ferraro of Arlington Heights has been selected as the recipient of the William P. Caputo Scholarship. A 2005 District 23 graduate, Christina will receive \$1,000 toward her college education at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. She plans to pursue a career as a genetics counselor.

Christina graduates from Hersey High School with a weighted GPA of 5.19. She is a National Honor Society (NHS) inductee, member of the Seven Semester Honor Roll and Foreign Language Honor Society, and both an AP and Illinois State Scholar. Christina is involved in a number of school clubs including Service Over Self and Latin American Student Organization as well as being a member of the Chamber Orchestra and Debate Team. She volunteers as an ACT and English tutor and devotes her time to the Fun and Special Olympics and Project Linus making quilts for children in local hospitals. She is currently the president of the Student Orchestra Board and an officer of the Latin American Student Organization and has led the leader workshop for Leaders Emerging and Developing the past two years. She also is the second chair viola in the Schaumburg Youth Symphony Orchestra.

Christina's teachers describe her as attentive, conscientious, and dedicated and believe her enthusiasm and passion for education will allow her to be successful in the medical profession. She will attend this year's MacArthur promotion ceremony to receive her scholarship award.

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

## She is One Accomplished Mac Grad

Stephanie Kaplan, a 1992 MacArthur graduate, has made quite a name for herself in political and academic circles. After matriculating from Wheeling High School in 1996, she went on to graduate Phi Beta Kappa and magna cum laude from Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service in Washington, D.C., with a Bachelor of Science degree in international politics.

After college, she worked for the Aspen Institute in Washington, D.C., organizing high-level domestic and international conferences on transatlantic relations, U.S.-India relations, homeland security, and global public health. She also worked for the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington, D.C. as Assistant Director of the International Security Program (ISP) where she served as principal administrator and adviser to the director, managing a 40-person staff and 30 research projects. She coordinated the Center's post-9/11 task force on terrorism which culminated in the edited volume, *To Prevail: An American Strategy for the Campaign Against Terrorism*.

Ms. Kaplan went on to serve on the 9/11 Commission as special assistant to the executive and deputy directors. As managing editor of the final report, which was a National Book Award finalist, she was in charge of the drafting, editing, and production of the document entitled *The 9/11 Report: Final Report of the National Commission on Terrorist Attacks Upon the United States*.

Currently, she is a doctoral candidate in political science at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in Cambridge, MA, where she is an MIT Presidential Graduate Fellow and a Pre-Doctoral Fellow with the National Consortium for the Study of Terrorism and Responses to Terrorism (START). An appointment as a Public Policy Scholar at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars brought her back to Washington, D.C., to conduct interviews with policy experts there and write her dissertation. Her research focuses on violent Islamist extremism and U.S. counter-terrorism policy. She has a number of published works including book chapters, articles, and reports. Stephanie is also proficient in Modern Greek and Spanish.

Even with all her successes, Stephanie remembers her elementary school days as inspirational. "Through my participation in Student Council, MacArthur nurtured my interest in government and public service," she said. ●

