



Betsy Ross Anne Sullivan Dwight D. Eisenhower Douglas MacArthur

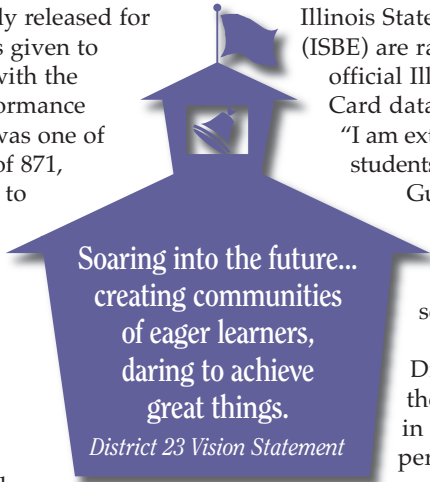
The School Scene

Winter 2009 The Schools of Prospect Heights District 23

District 23 Named Tops in State

School District 23 earned the Bright A+ Award in the SchoolSearch rankings recently released for 2008. The distinction is given to those school districts with the highest academic performance in Illinois. District 23 was one of only 60, out of a total of 871, Illinois school districts to receive this designation, placing the test scores of District 23 students among the top five percent in the State.

The elementary criterion for Bright A+ status is based on the overall percentage of the third-, fourth-, fifth-, sixth-, seventh-, and eighth-grade 2007 Illinois Standards Achievement Test (ISAT) meets or exceeds percentages of reading and math. Those elementary school districts with a percentage of 93.33 or above qualified for the award. The Illinois State average for this percentage is 78.57. In order to judge fairly, all school



districts in Illinois with complete test data sets as determined by the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) are ranked according to the official Illinois School Report Card data sources.

"I am extremely proud of our students and staff," said Dr. Greg Guarrine, Superintendent of District 23. "I know that great things are happening in our schools every day."

According to the ISBE, District 23 had some of the area's highest scores in third-grade math at 96.7 percent, eighth-grade reading at 95.2 percent,

and eighth-grade math at 95.8 percent. SchoolSearch, an education research

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and consulting firm, publishes the online rankings of school systems. The Bright A+ Award list is used by families looking for schools with rigorous academic environments. SchoolSearch was established in 1991 to provide comparative school district information for corporations, homebuilders, school districts, libraries, real estate professionals, and relocating families. •

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SchoolSearch 2008 Bright A+ Awards to Illinois School Districts Serving Elementary Students in Cook County:

- Arlington Heights District 25
- Avoca (Wilmette) District 37
- Glencoe District 35
- Kenilworth District 38
- Northbrook District 27
- Northbrook District 28
- Northbrook/Glenview District 30
- Pleasantdale (Burr Ridge) District 107

PROSPECT HEIGHTS DISTRICT 23

- River Forest District 90
- Sunset Ridge (Northfield) District 29
- West Northfield District 31
- Western Springs District 101
- Wilmette District 39
- Winnetka District 36

Top Reading, Math Scores in the Northwest Suburbs

(As published in the Daily Herald 10/31/08).

3RD GRADE READING % MEETS/EXCEEDS

Northbrook/Glenview D30	.96.0
Rosemont D78	.94.8
Arlington Heights D25	.89.9
Barrington D220	.88.6
Mount Prospect D57	.87.7

8TH GRADE READING % MEETS/EXCEEDS

Arlington Heights D25	.95.2
Northbrook/Glenview D30	.95.2
Prospect Heights D23	.95.2
Mount Prospect D57	.94.0
Northbrook D27	.94.0

3RD GRADE MATH % MEETS/EXCEEDS

Niles D71	100.0
Northbrook/Glenview D30	.99.2
Mount Prospect D57	.98.2
Prospect Heights D23	.96.7
Barrington 220	.95.8

8TH GRADE MATH % MEETS/EXCEEDS

Northbrook/Glenview D30	.98.4
Northbrook D27	.96.0
Prospect Heights D23	.95.8
Rosemont D78	.95.7
Arlington Heights D25	.93.5

Techno-Wiz Keeps District Connected

If an organization's computer network is only as good as its Information Technology professional, District 23 is well connected.

Donna Strollo, Network and Data Manager, has kept the computers in District 23 humming since last June. In addition to overseeing the PowerSchool student information system database and server, she is responsible for maintaining and troubleshooting the network infrastructure, handling all network administration tasks, staying on top of all hardware issues, and managing staff development.

"I enjoy the challenges and diversity in my day that managing a medium-sized network entails," said Mrs. Strollo, "everything from individual user support issues to maintaining or providing solutions for network infrastructure and relational databases."

Mrs. Strollo holds an Associates Degree in Information Technology from the State University of New York and completed various IT training programs including Cisco VoIP Administration, Crystal Report Writing, and Apple Leopard Server Administration. She has over 25 years of IT experience, the past 17 years in primary and secondary education. She was a Systems Analyst for a large K-12 suburban district near Rochester, New York, and, more recently, a Network Technician at Fremont District 79 in Mundelein. Prior to her years in education, she worked as a Programmer/Analyst for the former Ragu Foods.

In the seven months since she's been with District 23, Mrs. Strollo has worked on several major projects including the installation of four new servers and operating system upgrades to three servers which host the District's network services; completion of a new PowerSchool server and two major database and system upgrades; establishment of an internal mailing listerv and archive for the Teacher Mentors group to exchange and collaborate information; configuration of a new upgraded SonicWall Internet firewall at Eisenhower; creation of system images for student and staff workstations and installation of 60 new iMac computers. She is currently deploying 40 new MacBook laptops to replace cycled-out

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Tammy Duckworth Tells Her Story



Tammy Duckworth came to MacArthur Middle School last month to let the students know what an impact their handmade quilts have had on the lives of disabled veterans.

The current Director of the Illinois Department of Veterans Affairs told her personal story to illustrate the point.

On November 12, 2004, the helicopter Major Duckworth was co-piloting on a

combat mission in Iraq was hit by a rocket-propelled grenade. Seeing the fireball beneath her, she attempted to right the damaged aircraft. Then she blacked out and woke up 10 days later in the hospital in tremendous pain from the severe injuries she sustained. She discovered her combat wounds had cost her both of her legs and damaged her right arm. The one thing she did have was the lap quilt adorned with a reproduction of the American flag on it that she received from MacArthur students. She took it with her to surgery; it continued to bring her comfort throughout her 13-month recuperation at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D. C., and, to this day, remains one of her prized possessions.

Standing on her artificial legs at a podium in the Mac gym, the decorated U.S. soldier talked to the all-school assembly about the importance of community service and presented the 16 students who are currently participating in the quilt-making project with special certificates.

Since May of 2003, MacArthur students, under the direction of Home Economics teacher Joanne Bina, have made 240 quilts and 225 coordinating pillow cases and 64 pillows for the State's disabled veterans. This year, seventh graders in Home Economics class work on the quilts in their spare time between their class sewing projects. Eighth graders in the Community Outreach Elective work on the quilts almost exclusively. The quilts are designed and cut by Mrs. Bina and given to students according to their sewing abilities. The patriotic designs vary from simple to more difficult and time consuming; students work on those that match their particular skill level.

When finished, the quilts are shipped to the Illinois Department of Veterans Affairs Office where they are earmarked for Illinois veterans. The quilts are then personally delivered to injured active service members at Walter Reed Army Medical Center, as well as Edward Hines Hospital in Maywood, IL, and Jesse Brown Medical Center in Chicago. Some quilts also have made their way to the Illinois Veteran's Home in Manteno and others across the State.

A display of Veterans Quilts will be available for public viewing on Tuesday, April 21, 2009, from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the District 23 Art Show at MacArthur Middle School.

If there was ever a doubt about whether this work was worthwhile, Duckworth put those to rest and stood as living proof that Mac students are making a difference in the world. •

Interactive White Boards Inspire

Our children are growing up in a digital world. Many of their activities both in and outside school involve electronics and technology—from cell phones and text messaging, to using the Internet for information and making social connections, to playing a variety of interactive video games. We live in a digital age and our children are "digital learners".

District 23 is committed to addressing the needs of students and preparing them for the digital age. Recently, the Board of Education approved a pilot program for what are generically termed "interactive white boards". These large, touch-controlled screens work with a projector and a computer to transfer the computer's desktop

image onto the white boards which serve as both monitors and input devices. The components are connected wirelessly or via USB or serial cables. Users can write on the interactive white boards in digital ink or use a finger to control computer applications by pointing, clicking, and dragging, just as with a desktop mouse. Buttons launch a pop-up keyboard and a right-mouse-click menu for more input options. The interactive white board can be mounted on a wall or a floor stand and used face-to-face or in virtual settings in the classroom.

"As technology is moving forward, we're moving along with it to excite kids and keep them involved," said Dr. Greg Guarrine, District 23 Superintendent.

Help for Limited English Speakers

The student body of District 23, like so many others across the United States, is defined by a wide range of abilities and needs. One of District 23's goals is to effectively meet every child's individual educational requirements by making the most of the available resources. A number of programs have been created to address this objective. Some are mandated by State and Federal governments like No Child Left Behind and Bilingual education. In an effort to keep the community informed about these programs, periodically the District will publish information about them (*i.e.*, the report on *Gifted Education in the Summer 2007 School Scene*).

Currently District 23 is providing education support for 162 limited English-speaking students. This represents about 12 percent of the school population. Fifty-one children are enrolled in Bilingual Spanish classes and 20 students are enrolled in a Polish Bilingual program. There are an additional 91 students who receive support through the District's Transitional program of instruction. These 91 students reflect some 16 different languages. The District employs seven certified teachers to teach the Bilingual and English Transitional programs.

According to Dr. Deb Wilson, District 23 Assistant Superintendent, providing services to limited English-speaking students is a complex issue for states and school districts to address. State law requires that students whose parents speak a language other than English in the home be given a skills assessment to determine if extra educational support is required. If a student qualifies as Limited English Proficient (LEP), then the student is provided services through either a Bilingual program or Transitional English program. A Bilingual program supports the educational objective in the native language and in English. In a Transitional program, English is typically the only spoken language. A variety of instructional models have been identified for Transitional English programs. A school must provide bilingual educational support in the native language if 20 or more students of one language in a school qualify for services.

In District 23, the Polish Bilingual program is conducted at Eisenhower. At Ross and Sullivan, a Spanish-speaking Bilingual program is provided. All schools offer a transitional English program for all other limited English-speaking students.

Each year school districts are required to administer the ACCESS test (Assessing Comprehension and Communication in English State-to-State) to all students who have qualified for services. The test measures a student's progress in English for reading, writing, speaking, and listening. A child must reach a certain score to be exited from the program. A district must show that the students they are educating are progressing. Each year, District 23 students have tested successfully in the measure of annual growth (AMO).

Dr. Wilson also pointed out that the unique background, experiences, and perspectives of a diverse student population bring special resources to the classroom including information about other countries and their cultures and customs. •

Twelve different models of interactive white boards are currently available. After extensive research, District 23 chose to pilot two of the brands to determine which best fits students' needs both educationally and functionally. Ross, Sullivan, and Eisenhower schools are using Smart Technology White Boards while MacArthur is piloting Mimio Interactive White Boards. Both companies provide virtually the same product through different modes of operation.

"Using interactive white boards addresses the growing need to infuse the use of technology in the classroom for our students who are digital learners," said Steven Lee, MacArthur Middle School Principal. "So far, the reaction of both staff and students has been very positive. Both



students and staff have been very excited about these products."

As teachers become more familiar with the technology through professional in-service, collegially networking, and practical experience, they will use the interactive white boards more and more as instructional tools in the classroom to inspire all our digital learners. •

Techno-Wiz from page 2

equipment throughout the District.

"I anticipate future projects will include a summer reading blog, a PowerTeacher Web gradebook update and PowerSchool customized student registration pages," said Mrs. Strollo.

She and her husband Tom moved to the Chicago area from western New York two years ago when he was offered a new position within his company.

They have two children—a son Jason, 22, and a daughter, Shannon, who is 20.

Next time you see a report card or a mailing from District 23, think of Donna Strollo behind the scenes making it happen without a glitch. •

Vote Tuesday, April 7

Three positions on the Prospect Heights School District 23 Board of Education will be on the ballot

Tuesday, April 7, in the consolidated election. Four candidates are vying for these three posts. Three

of the candidates are incumbents who are currently serving on the District 23

Board. They are Board President Judi Zimmerman, Board Vice

President Martha Olsen, and Randy DeCoursey. Also running is first-time candidate Leonard Walker.

The District 23 parent-teacher organizations are planning to hold a Candidates Forum in March at the MacArthur Theater to help voters become more familiar with those who are running and make an informed decision.

The School Board election is nonpartisan and candidates do not run under any party affiliation. Board members are elected to four-year terms. The Board's powers and duties include the authority to adopt and enforce all necessary policies for the management and government of the public elementary schools in Prospect Heights. The Executive Board positions are not voted on in the general election but are determined when the board reorganizes after the election. The newly-seated Board will then nominate and vote on an Executive Board including President, Vice President, and Secretary.

For more information about the election or the Candidates Forum, please contact the Superintendent's Office. •





PROSPECT HEIGHTS SCHOOL DISTRICT 23

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SUPERINTENDENT

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BOARD OF EDUCATION

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

DISTRICT WEB SITE

www.d23.org

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Palatine, IL 60095

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
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Scholarship Available to District 23 Graduate

The William P. Caputo Scholarship Fund will award a \$1,000 scholarship to a District 23 graduate again 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, 2009.

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.

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

Upcoming Events

February 16 . . .	No School, Presidents' Day
February 23 . . .	No School, Parent/Teacher Conferences (1-8 p.m.)
March 5	Choir Concert 7 p.m. @ MacArthur
March 10	Orchestra Concert 7 p.m. @ MacArthur
March 11	Board of Education Meeting 7 p.m.
March 12	Band Concert 7 p.m. @ MacArthur
March 23	No School, Spring Break Begins
March 30	First Day of Classes after Spring Break
April 8	Board of Education Meeting 7 p.m.
April 9	Half Day Student Attendance (Morning)
April 10	No School, Non-Attendance Day
April 21	District Art Show 7 p.m. @ MacArthur
May 13	Board of Education Meeting 7 p.m.
May 25	No School, Memorial Day
May 29	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 2008, Mubeen Khan, MacArthur Class of 2004, received the \$1,000 award to pursue a career in medicine at Lincoln College in Lincoln, Illinois. The Scholarship Committee plans to award the scholarship annually. •