

2013 Annual Report to the Community



Downers Grove Grade School District 58
We Envision. We Seek. We Believe.

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jwaldorf@dg58.org!



Dear District 58 Community Member,



Thank you for your continued partnership and your support for the outstanding educational services of District 58! Throughout my first year as Superintendent of Schools, I have been inspired by District 58's unwavering commitment to keep kids first in all that we do. With the support of our parents and community, we are truly able to live our mission of challenging and engaging each child by providing quality educational programs and support services in a safe, nurturing, and child-centered environment.

The projects undertaken by staff and district leaders during 2012-13 reflect the vision and mission articulated by our community, and we have made substantial progress towards accomplishing the goals set forth in our stakeholder-driven Strategic Plan. We worked to align our curriculum and instruction with the new Common Core Standards, which will help ensure the continued high achievement of our students while further increasing the rigor and robustness of our curriculum. We provided innovative, individualized educational experiences through instructional technology, which sparked students' creativity and fostered collaboration and critical thinking. Our efforts to enhance student well-being and social-emotional learning have gained state and national recognition, while nurturing and strengthening the youth of our community. Our scheduled capital improvement projects will continue to ensure safe, nurturing, child-centered environments for all students while maintaining the capital investments of our community. Our conservative budgeting and responsible spending will help sustain District 58's outstanding educational services for our students and community for many years to come.

As you will see in the pages of this annual publication for our community, we are proud of our collective accomplishments and of our plans for the future. More importantly, though, we are proud of our incredible students and staff. Throughout this school year, our students have demonstrated leadership and compassion, as well as consistently high academic achievement. They have inspired service and cultivated social awareness, excelled in fine arts, performing arts and athletics, and given back to our community through local, regional and national service projects. Our students have started chain reactions of kindness and caring and, together with their teachers, have helped to strengthen our child-centered communities of learners. District 58 truly is a wonderful place to learn and grow, and we thank you for the opportunity to continue our tradition of excellence in service of our community.

With Sincere Gratitude,

Kari Cremascoli, Ph.D.

Superintendent of Schools,
Downers Grove Grade School District 58



District 58 partnered with the Village of Downers Grove and the Downers Grove Park District for delivery of this publication. Please share your feedback by e-mailing newsletters@downers.us.



Our Vision

We Envision a school district that inspires children, sparks creative and innovative thinking, celebrates diversity, and builds visionaries.

We Seek an education that excites minds, touches spirits, challenges abilities, and prepares our children for life.

We Believe every child should be expected to grow, stretch, evolve and embrace the challenges of the future in a global environment.

Our Mission

The mission of District 58, in partnership with parents and community, is to challenge and engage each child by providing quality educational programs and support services in a safe, nurturing, and child-centered environment in order to prepare all students to be lifelong learners and contributing members of a global society.

District 58 at a glance

Downers Grove Grade School District 58 serves approximately 5,000 preschool through eighth grade students from Downers Grove and portions of Darien, Oak Brook, Westmont and Woodridge, in its 11 elementary schools and two middle schools.

Administrative Service Center
1860 63rd Street, Downers Grove
(630) 719-5800

Longfellow Center (technology, curriculum, buildings and grounds)
1435 Prairie Avenue, Downers Grove
(630) 719-5867

The District 58 Board of Education:

- Sallie Lupescu**, President
- John Cooper**, Vice President
- Elizabeth Davis**
- Roberta Diehl**
- John Miller**
- James Paul**
- Doug Purcell**

Detailed information about the Board of Education, including meeting dates, committee descriptions, policies, meeting minutes and member biographies and photos, is available at www.dg58.org. Board meetings and workshops also are recorded and uploaded as streaming audio files, and posted on the District 58 website.



Rachel's Challenge comes to District 58

Herrick and O'Neill both started Friends of Rachel clubs this year as part of a Rachel's Challenge initiative sponsored in part by a grant from the District 58 Education Foundation. Throughout this school year, the Friends of Rachel clubs participated in a variety of activities designed to foster a positive school environment, including the creation of paper chains, each link of which represented an act of kindness a student performed or witnessed. During the cross-town track meet May 10, Herrick and O'Neill joined their chains of kindness, and they stretched all the way around the track at Downers Grove North several times over. Use the QR code to the right to check out a video about Rachel's Challenge in District 58.



District 58 on track to complete variety of capital projects, including security enhancements

District 58 is on track to complete a variety of Life Safety projects, Operations and Maintenance projects and security upgrades at its 13 schools during summer 2013 and summer 2014. These projects are the result of years of careful planning and needs assessments, including a comprehensive facilities study conducted last winter by consultant Wight and Co.

"We are excited to be taking the next steps towards implementing our plans to upgrade our facilities in a way that is both fiscally responsible and student centered," said Superintendent Kari Cremascoli. "These improvements will help us continue to achieve our mission of providing top-quality services to our students in safe, nurturing and supportive learning environments."

Projects planned for the summers of 2013 and 2014 include much-needed asbestos abatement and carpet/tile replacement, asphalt projects, fire alarm and HVAC upgrades, and security upgrades to buildings throughout the district. This summer's phase one district-wide security upgrades will include secure front entrances, a new swipe card system for staff and updated security/burglar alarms, accompanied by the district's ongoing commitment to continuous review of safety protocols and lock-down procedures.

The district has issued approximately \$5 million in Life Safety bonds to address the identified and eligible Life Safety and security needs of its school facilities, and will use an additional \$3 million of its own funds to pay for other prioritized projects throughout the district, including a three-classroom addition and other upgrades at Pierce Downer School.

Over the past several years, the district addressed the majority of its significant school roofing needs, as well as key Life Safety projects, including pavement repairs, curtain wall replacements and plumbing replacements.

As part of the Strategic Planning Process completed in 2011, District 58 community members, parents and staff indicated that one of the district's top priorities over the next 5 years should be to ensure that its schools and other facilities are safe, welcoming, positive environments that support and enhance student learning. To that end, the District committed itself to carefully analyzing building needs and developing plans to address both short- and long-term facilities needs. With careful planning and prudent budgeting, the District has made tremendous progress toward accomplishing its goals in this regard while continuing to sustain its fiscal integrity via a balanced budget and healthy fund balances. Upon the conclusion of the projects planned for this summer and next, District 58 will be well on the way to addressing many of its most pressing capital improvement needs.

"I am very proud of the work accomplished by the District 58 Board and our community over the past several years with regards to facility planning, and look forward to sharing our progress with our students, staff and community," Cremascoli said.

Visit our [Facilities Planning Page, www.dg58.org/domain/734](http://www.dg58.org/domain/734), for more information and a full list of projects by school! The QR code is to the right.



District 58 teachers speak on Capitol Hill

Two District 58 teachers visited Washington, D.C. this past fall to address lawmakers, educational advocates and national news outlets. El Sierra sixth-grade teachers Patricia Incrocci and Lindsay Shea, selected by a national nonprofit to speak at the Capitol Hill briefing, helped to promote awareness about social and emotional learning, also known as SEL.

SEL, which has been implemented district-wide, helps children develop the skills to handle themselves, their relationships and their work. Incrocci and Shea accepted an invitation to

speak at the Washington event from the Collaborative for Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning (CASEL), which helps school districts design and implement systems that support SEL. CASEL invited Incrocci and Shea after experts at the nonprofit visited El Sierra School and witnessed the use of Responsive Classroom, a program that helps schools support social-emotional development in children.

"We were so pleased by how receptive everyone was to our message, and how open they were to hearing about what we are doing in our classrooms," Shea said.



El Sierra sixth grade teachers Lindsay Shea (left) and Patricia Incrocci visited Washington, D.C., this past fall to speak about Social Emotional Learning.

District 58 expands 1:1 student device initiative

USE THIS QR CODE TO WATCH A VIDEO SPOTLIGHTING HOW iPADS HAVE BEEN TRANSFORMING TEACHING AND LEARNING IN DISTRICT 58!



Technology is transforming how students learn, explore, and make connections, and District 58 is excited to be exploring the impact of a 1:1 device initiative on teaching and learning.

“Today’s classroom is focused on ensuring that each student develops the ability to gather, comprehend, evaluate, synthesize, and report on information and ideas, as well as solve problems and work through an extensive range of challenges,” said Director of Technology Scott Meech. **“District 58 focuses on helping all students learn and grow, and our 1:1 initiative empowers teachers and students to engage in learning the district’s curriculum through traditional and digital materials.”**

Since January, District 58 has been conducting a series of Learning Labs across the district to learn more about the power of technology to improve teaching and learning. Each building and each grade level within District 58 hosted at least one Learning Lab, which provide each student with a technology device for a unit of study. Teachers have discovered that student engagement is boosted through new and authentic opportunities to create diverse, individualized products to demonstrate their understanding of concepts, to facilitate their own learning, to make connections, to dig deeply into concepts, and to extend their learning beyond the classroom.

The vast amount of resources available on the devices enable staff to quickly provide additional support, assistance or challenges to students as needed. Devices also assist with executive functioning skills such as reminders and calendaring, and promote a quick workflow for learning, collaborating and sharing information. Additionally, they significantly decrease the time that staff spend on tasks such as making copies, allowing them to use that time on tasks that have a direct impact on teaching and learning.

“Traditional materials will always have a place in our classrooms, but through technology, we are able to open up the walls of those classrooms to an amazing world of learning opportunities.”

— Dr. Matt Rich, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction

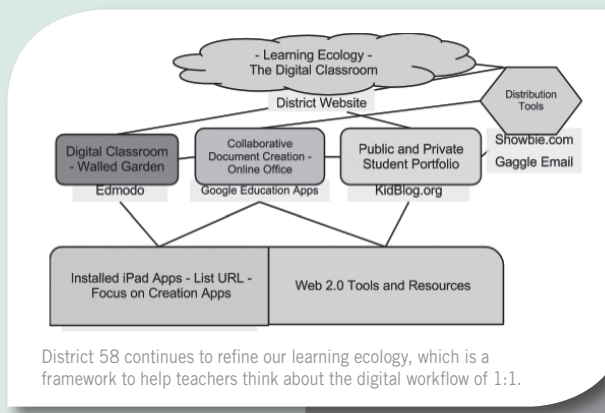
The district is expanding to a one-year pilot in 2013-14, with at least two full grade levels per elementary building beginning the 1:1 experience this coming year. Each student in the pilot classes will receive an iPad Mini to use throughout the day and take home in the evenings, for use in all subject areas. Children who are not in the 1:1 program for 2013-14 still will gain a greater level of access to the technology in their building. During the pilot year, the benefits to students of a 1:1 device program will continue to be studied and analyzed. The plan would be to refine and expand the initiative during the following two years, primarily through repurposing and reallocating existing funds.

Teachers in pilot classrooms will be given new classroom management strategies to help maintain focus in classroom activities. They also will be trained in the Learning Ecology (see graphic), a set of tools that allows children to gather and distribute resources, analyze instructional materials, and create products.

“Eventually, the technology will be completely integrated into the district learning experience. For students in participating classrooms, the 1:1 device, just like any textbook, pencil, or paper, is a key instructional tool, as educational resources and content will be delivered via the iPad,” Meech said.

To promote student safety online, the district has contracted with Gaggie.net to provide each student with a unique district e-mail address and also is creating a K-8 digital citizenship curriculum, with topics ranging from iPad basics to Internet safety. The district already has experienced great success in utilizing technology to enhance teaching and learning. In addition to the Learning Labs, a weekend iPad take-home program has been in place in several elementary schools for two years, and O’Neill Middle School piloted a Bring Your Own Device program this year. District 58 also has extensively increased its bandwidth over the past two years to accommodate these new learning experiences.

“Traditional materials will always have a place in our classrooms, but through technology, we are able to open up the walls of those classrooms to an amazing world of learning opportunities,” said Dr. Matt Rich, District 58’s Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction. **“We look forward to continuing down the path of exploring the enhanced learning opportunities that a 1:1 device program would provide to our students and staff.”**



Visit the District 58 Tech Blog at www.dg58.us for examples of how teachers and students are using technology in the learning process. **Check out page 6 to see how we have been supporting parents, staff and the community along the 1:1 path!**

- Goals for the 1:1 initiative:
- Access ■ Authenticity
 - Equity ■ Choice ■ Collaboration
 - Communication ■ Creativity
 - Critical Thinking

A closer look at the Learning Labs

A peek inside a second grade Learning Lab

One of our activities/projects involved persuasive writing regarding transportation. As a class we brainstormed different modes of transportation, and created a web of ideas using Inspiration. Independently, the students made a web using Inspiration to come up with at least three reasons why the mode of transportation they chose was best. Then they had to create their project, using any app. Some students chose to use the basic notes app. Some made an iMovie, and several used EduCreations or Explain Everything to create a slide in support of each of the three reasons. They were given creative

freedom – they all met the end goal, but went through a different process in getting there.

During our science unit on balance and motion, the students used the Coach’s Eye app to record their marble moving through the track they created. They analyzed the video and talked about how the marble had moved, after which we watched those videos together and talked about what we were seeing.



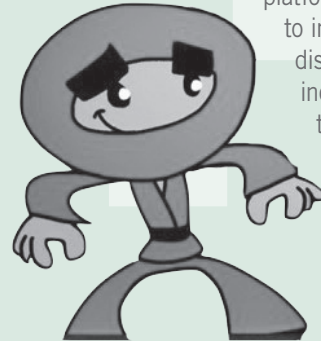
A third grade teacher’s reflections

The energy in the room was incredible during our Learning Lab. There was a buzz of activity as students worked together generating products to demonstrate their understanding. The sharing piece takes time, but it’s powerful. The students see each other’s work and strive to improve. For example, while sharing our writing (in Pages) I saw multiple students revising on the fly, inspired by what they saw shared by a peer. Or they critiqued themselves when it was their turn to AirPlay. “I think I need to add transitions.” “I forgot to indent my paragraphs.” “I don’t like how I kept using the same words over and over, I’m going to change that.”

1:1 Learning partners: Support for staff

Throughout 2012-13, District 58 has emphasized professional development focused on the SAMR (Substitution, Augmentation, Modification, Redefinition) framework for technology integration developed by Dr. Ruben Puentedura. This initiative in District 58 has been dubbed "Becoming SAMRi," and features its very own mascot designed by District 58 art teacher Jon Belonio.

Every faculty member was provided with an iPad and every classroom with an Apple TV for 2012-13, allowing teachers to explore the uniqueness of the new technology in an organized and scaffolded process. Every teacher had the opportunity to explore the device during the summer prior to the 2012-13 school year,



and teachers were also provided summer professional development opportunities on tools such as Google, iPads, and the new District 58 website. On March 11 the District 58 School Board approved the purchase of 65 additional flat-screen televisions so that Apple TVs can be utilized in small-group learning spaces throughout the district.

For 2012-13, the district also introduced a new collaborative digital platform, Google Education Apps, which teachers actively use to improve their collaboration and communication. The district also hired a second district technology facilitator to increase teacher support directly in the classroom when teachers need it and where they need it, and will be bringing on two additional instructional coaches for 2013-14.

and digital citizenship. The district also has created a Parent Tech Support page, which features video tutorials, latest news and app information (QR code below).

Prior to the launch of the 1:1 pilot, parents of students in participating classes will be asked to attend an orientation meeting that will serve as a starting point for the learning process and ongoing communication. Parents will be asked to sign a permission slip outlining rules and regulations that relate to the use and care of the 1:1 device handed out to their child, and also will be kept informed of changes and updates to the 1:1 program via the Technology section of the district website, www.dg58.org.



1:1 Learning partners: Support for parents

To support parents in the transition to digital learning, District 58 and the Downers Grove Public Library partnered this spring to host a series of workshops focusing on how digital devices can be used to support learning. Parents learned about the unique opportunities that digital tools provide, including executive functioning skills such as calendaring, task management, reminders, communication, and organization. Additionally, because of the partnership with the Downers Grove Public Library, parents got to learn more about accessing the library's digital materials, including ebooks, emagazines and online databases. The workshops also addressed Internet safety

Fun with Fitness comes to elementary, intermediate DLP classes

Last year, a new initiative in District 58 gave middle school students in the district's Developmental Learning Program a chance to get fit and have fun. Now, students in the primary and intermediate Developmental Learning Program are enjoying Fun with Fitness, as well. The focus is on fundamentals such as core strengthening, balance and stability, and cardiovascular exercise, and students are taught exercises, such as lunges, jumps, squats and core work, that are individually modified for them. One of the goals is to teach the students how to exercise independently and effectively with their individual modifications, with a variety of equipment, in hopes that they continue to be active and fit for a lifetime.

Any individual or business interested in providing support to continue enhancing the program, such as through an equipment donation, can e-mail District 58 Communications Coordinator Jennie Waldorf at jwaldorf@dg58.org.



District 58, District 99 partner to prepare students for mathematics success

New middle school pathways to support all students

District 58's Common Core Standards-aligned math program is designed to prepare students to become 21st century global problem solvers, and foster development of key mathematical practices and true concept mastery. Students are gradually guided from concrete lessons and examples to an understanding of more abstract concepts, such as solving for x in algebra problems.

This school year, District 58 added three new curricular resources to its mathematics program, all of which are aligned with the new, more rigorous requirements of the Common Core Standards: Math in Focus for grades K-5, Glencoe Common Core for grades 6-8, and IXL, a digital learning program that supports personal student growth on particular skills. The district also has provided professional development pertaining to mathematics, including Common Core half-day trainings by grade level and time to collaborate on instruction during Institute Days.

"We are learning as a district what Common Core means – not only how to be more rigorous about the concepts we teach, but also how we are teaching and thinking about math," said Herrick Middle School Assistant Principal and Math Committee member Matt Neustadt.

The key, said Dr. Matt Rich, District 58 Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction, is supporting staff in helping all students to grow in mathematics understanding and achievement to meet the more rigorous

requirements of the Common Core. To that end, in addition to implementing the new Common Core-aligned curricular resources, the district next year will also:

- Implement middle school math pathways and course offerings that are directly aligned with District 99's new scope and sequence that will be phased in next year, and
- Work to ensure that assessments are connected to the curriculum ladder and resources in ways that help to guide and inform instructional practices.

The math department chairs from Community High School District 99 have participated in the math curriculum committee from its outset several years ago, and Districts 58 and 99 continue to work in close partnership to build a continuum of teaching and learning in mathematics from kindergarten through twelfth grade. Next year, several flexible mathematics paths, all of which are directly aligned with District 99's new scope and sequence for mathematics, will be available to District 58 middle school students. Options will be available for students who need additional assistance, as well as for students who need an extra challenge to continue on their path of growth, with opportunities for vertical movement between pathways as needed in order to best meet the needs of the student.

For more information about District 58's Common Core-aligned mathematics program, visit our Math Curriculum Overview page at <http://www.dg58.org/domain/608>. To watch a video about the IXL digital learning program, visit our Presentations and Videos page at <http://www.dg58.org/>.



Civil rights marcher speaks at Kingsley

Third-grade students at Kingsley School had been studying important figures in the civil rights movement, and Rev. David Bebb Jones, the grandfather of two Kingsley students, visited the classes to talk about hearing Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., speak; the events of the 1960s; de-segregation; and his own participation in the march in Selma, Ala. He encouraged the students to pick something they feel strongly about and work with others to make the world a better place.

Fairmount kindergarten students get help building birdhouses

Back in 1980, Brooks Ruyle's father, Robert, then a woodworking teacher at Downers Grove South, visited Brooks' kindergarten class at Hillcrest to help the students make their own birdhouses. Robert told Brooks later that he would love to do the same for a grandchild someday – and he recently brought that wish to life. Brooks' son, Will, attends kindergarten at Fairmount, and on April 19, Robert helped the classes build wren nesting houses.



Our staff and students give District 58 much to be proud of! Check out some of their wonderful accomplishments this year.

BELLE AIRE, FAIRMOUNT, HIGHLAND, HILLCREST, KINGSLEY, LESTER, PIERCE DOWNER AND WHITTIER SCHOOLS were among the 454 schools statewide to receive a 2012 Academic Excellence Award from the Illinois State Board of Education. To achieve this award, 90 percent of students must have met or exceeded state standards in both reading and mathematics for the three most recent school years.

A total of 58 eighth-graders – 29 from **HERRICK** and 29 from **O'NEILL** – were honored at the annual District 58 Education Foundation Select 58 banquet for their citizenship and contributions to school and community. Visit www.dg58.org/celebrate58 for the full list of 2013 honorees!



Fifteen projects by District 58 students represented the Downers Grove Area Council of PTAs at the state level of Reflections, a PTA arts recognition and achievement program for students. Visit www.dg58.org/celebrate58 for the list!

Two District 58 students earned Gold Awards at the Illinois State Science Fair competition in early May. **HERRICK MIDDLE SCHOOL** student Angelo Marra earned gold for his project, "Which Treatments Affect Radish Seeds?", and **O'NEILL MIDDLE SCHOOL** student Chandana Sooranahalli earned gold for her project, "Can a Parabolic Reflector Be Used to Strengthen Wireless Systems?" Their projects earned top scores at the Regional Science Fair March 9 and at the 32nd annual District 58 science fair Jan. 19.

Several **HERRICK** and **O'NEILL** students earned awards in the Downers Grove Junior Woman's Club's 2013 Junior High Art contest, which is open to all seventh and eighth grade students in Downers Grove. Visit www.dg58.org/celebrate58 for the list of winners.

Nineteen students from District 58's middle school music ensembles were selected by audition to participate in the Illinois Music Educators Association's District 1 Music Festival in November. Visit www.dg58.org/celebrate58 for the list.



Five bookmarks designed by District 58 students were chosen as winners in the Downers Grove Public Library Junior Room 2013 annual bookmark contest. Winners were selected based on originality, artwork and theme. Visit www.dg58.org/celebrate58 for the list.

BELLE AIRE sixth grade student Madalyn Quitter was chosen to be one of just 16 children to serve on the Youth Crew for the Avon Walk for Breast Cancer in June, based on an essay she submitted about how breast cancer has impacted her life, how much she loves encouraging and uplifting others, and what she hopes to gain from participating.

Third graders Megan Thompson of **BELLE AIRE** and Dominick Passo of **INDIAN TRAIL** rode to school on a Downers Grove Fire Department fire truck this winter, having won their trips by entering a Home Escape Fire Safety contest sponsored by the Downers Grove Fire Department.

FAIRMOUNT sixth-grader Aubrey Vernon created the winning design for the 2014 statewide Students Involved in Technology conference, which will be used for the logo, website design, T-shirts and other materials.

During her visit to Office Max headquarters as part of Take Your Child to Work Day, **HENRY PUFFER** third-grader Katie LaVere won \$1,000 in supplies for the classroom of her teacher, Katie Hurckes, through the company's A Day Made Better program!



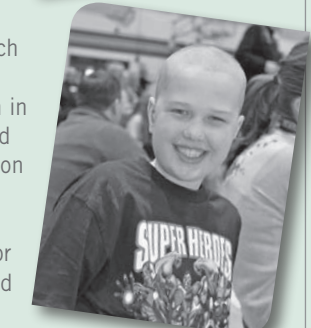
HENRY PUFFER third-grader Gabriella Frank, last year's Kohl's Kids Who Care contest winner, collected 117 pencils, 127 books, and more than 100 packs of crayons to donate to schools in Jamaica.

HILLCREST fifth grade teacher Joanne Fiene and third grade teacher John Smoke were honored with Outstanding Teacher Awards from the Downers Grove Junior Woman's Club, having been nominated for the award by students.

The FITKids Club at **INDIAN TRAIL** received an \$800 Get in the Action mini-grant from the DuPage Health Department's Forward Initiative to purchase four pieces of TRX portable training equipment. The FITKids Club meets after school every two weeks to walk, run, exercise, and talk about nutrition, and also have heard from guest speakers and taken field trips.

LESTER fourth-grader Nate Pautsch earned the 2013 Outstanding Youth in Philanthropy Award from the Association of Fundraising Professionals Chicago Chapter for his involvement and donations to the St. Baldrick's Foundation over the past four years, in honor of a friend.

Nearly 200 District 58 staff, students and parents attended the Education Foundation's Distinguished Service Awards ceremony at Ashyana Banquets April 25 to honor a record



20 nominees with a variety of job titles and responsibilities. Two award recipients were announced: **LESTER** fifth grade teacher Doreen Arlow in the category of classroom teacher, and **O'NEILL** social worker Charles Caton in the category of staff member working in a capacity other than classroom teacher. Visit www.dg58.org/celebrate58 for the full story and list of nominees!



On May 7, **HIGHLAND/LESTER** school nurse Kathleen Kelly, who retired at the end of this school year, was honored with a Recognition of Nursing Excellence Award through the DuPage County chapter of the School Nurse Association.

HERRICK student Emma Doak was this year's District 58 spelling bee champion, and represented District 58 at the DuPage County Spelling Bee.

A number of District 58 sports teams were conference champions this year. From **HERRICK**: The eighth grade girl's basketball team, seventh grade girl's volleyball team, eighth grade girls cross country, eighth grade boys basketball, eighth grade girls track and seventh grade girls track. From **O'NEILL**: The eighth grade girl's volleyball team.

On May 3 at its annual retirement dinner for staff, the Downers Grove Elementary Education Association recognized **O'NEILL** science teacher Meg Van Dyke as its 2013 Teacher of the Year. Van Dyke, who holds a doctorate in educational technology, was praised for her dedication, passion and commitment to science education

and inspiring her students. She won a Kinder Morgan grant to purchase classroom technology again this year, bringing the total she has received in grants from outside organizations for her department to nearly \$40,000. Visit www.dg58.org/celebrate58 for the full story and list of Teacher of the Year nominees!



Two teams from **O'NEILL MIDDLE SCHOOL** won third place trophies in the bridge-busting competition hosted over winter break by Purdue University and University of Illinois. A total of 18 **O'NEILL** students participated in the competition, which calls for teams to build bridges and test how much weight they can hold. Additionally, this fall a team of eighth-grade students from **O'NEILL** earned an Excellence in Design award in the Fluid Power Challenge, sponsored by the National Fluid Power Association. The competition challenges middle school students to solve an engineering problem using fluid power technology.

DISTRICT 58'S COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT earned an Award of Excellence, INSPRA's highest honor, for its 2011 Annual Report to the Community, as well as for its Strategic Plan brochure. District 58 earned an Award of Merit for its e-newsletter, Communicate 58. The awards were presented during a ceremony in Oak Brook on Sept. 21.

Celebrate 58

District 58 students continue high academic achievement

District continues work towards alignment with new Common Core standards

District 58 continues to be very proud of the academic achievements of its students, including on the Illinois Standards Achievement Test (ISAT). Nearly 94 percent of all students district-wide met or exceeded state standards on the ISATs in 2012.

Illinois is one of 45 states implementing new learning targets for K-12 students known as the Common Core State Standards, which are intended to better prepare students for success in college and careers within our increasingly global economy.

District 58's new Common Core-aligned Mathematics curriculum, developed in conjunction with representatives from Community High School District 99, was implemented throughout the district this school year. District 58 has also aligned curriculum for reading, writing, speaking and listening, and language (English Language Arts) with the new Common Core Standards, with continued improvements made each year. During the 2013-14 school year, the district will begin exploration of the newly released Next Generation Science Standards.

Beginning in 2014-15, students will participate in the new state-mandated, Common Core-aligned PARCC assessment, which will replace the ISAT in Math and English Language



Arts. To pave the way for the transition, the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) is recalculating the math and English Language Arts ISAT performance expectations. Students across Illinois will need to demonstrate greater proficiency than ever before in order to reach the threshold of "meets" or "exceeds" on a standard. School districts throughout the state will likely see a downward shift of where their students rank, beginning with the ISAT data collected in spring 2013.

"District 58 schools have historically performed very well on the ISATs, and our parents and community have high expectations. We want them to know well in advance of our 2013 ISAT scores being released this fall that the new norms will likely yield a reduced percentage of students meeting and exceeding the new standards," said District 58 Superintendent Kari Cremascoli. "This does not mean our students are less capable or prepared than they were in previous years. In fact, they are increasingly better prepared for the rigor of the Common Core as we have already taken steps to review and revise each of our curricular components and to increase our academic expectations of all students throughout our district."

Illinois also will be rolling out a new School Report Card to report data for 2013. This report card will incorporate climate data collected using a new survey tool, the Illinois 5Essentials Survey developed by the University of Chicago. District 58 administered the Illinois 5Essentials Survey to staff and to sixth through eighth grade students this spring.

For more information and resources on the Common Core standards, visit our Common Core standards page, <http://www.dg58.org/domain/153>.



New assessment to guide instruction at all District 58 schools

All District 58 schools will be using data from the Northwest Evaluation Association's Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) tests to guide instruction in reading, mathematics and language usage this coming year. The computer-based MAP assessments were rolled out at Title 1 schools using federal Title 1 grant funds during 2012-13, and a MAP coach helped staff learn to understand and use the data to meet student needs. The program will be expanded to all District 58 schools this fall.

The MAP assessment will be administered three times a year, with results available immediately for teachers to use. MAP adapts to student responses as they take the test, presenting more challenging items if a student answers correctly and a simpler item if a student misses a question. MAP will help staff develop meaningful differentiated learning opportunities and identify flexible groups for instruction, as well as create opportunities for students and parents to have greater levels of ownership in their own learning and growth, said Dr. Matt Rich, District 58's Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction.

Demographer conducts study for District 58

District 58 contracted with Cropper GIS Consulting to conduct a demographic study of the district this winter. The study aimed to examine enrollment trends throughout the district, as well as current and future building capacity needs.

As the district continues its pursuit of facility analyses and improvement efforts, the Cropper study focused on demographic trends within District 58 and the individual residency zones of each school that might help to predict schools that may be under- or over-utilized.

The firm analyzed current student enrollment data, 10-year enrollment trends, GIS data, the District 58 map,

data from the 2010 census, and input from district staff. A key finding of the study was that relatively stable enrollment is predicted for the district overall, including at the middle schools.

To ensure prudent future planning, administration and the board will continue to carefully monitor and analyze enrollment trends, building capacities and building usage. The board plans to revisit its discussion on enrollment trends once the 2013-14 enrollment data becomes available this fall.

Use the QR code to the right to view the full demographic study by Cropper GIS.



Highland School 'families' make blankets for Project Linus

Highland School students and staff worked together in their school families this spring to make dozens of blankets for Project Linus, which provides blankets to sick and hospitalized children in need of comfort. The school families at Highland were modeled after a program launched last year at El Sierra. First- through sixth-grade students have been divided into families that include at least one student from each grade level and one staff leader. The families participate in family meetings throughout the year, with students staying with the same school family until they move on to middle school and new students being added to existing families.



Caine's Arcade comes to life at El Sierra Fall Fest

El Sierra School's PTA hosted its own Caine's Arcade-inspired Cardboard Challenge in tandem with the school's Family Fun Fall Fest. El Sierra was one of more than 200 schools in 22 countries registered to be part of the first annual Cardboard Challenge, launched by the Imagination Foundation and inspired by the original cardboard arcade made by a nine-year old boy.



Whittier students share books with special guests

On Valentine's Day, students in Deb Krygeris' second-grade class at Whittier School celebrated "I Love to Read" day. Parents and grandparents visited and read books aloud – three grandparents even read stories to students via Skype. District 58 Technology Director Scott Meech and instructional technology coach Kristen Olsen shared books with the students, as well – iBooks, of course!



Objects become instruments in District 58 music classes

Water bottles, trash cans, milk jugs, spoons and spiral notebooks were among the items recently used by sixth-grade students in District 58 to create "found-sound" compositions, part of a new unit in the music curriculum this year. Students worked in groups to create their compositions, which needed to be eight measures long and demonstrate knowledge of basic compositional notation. Each student contributed to the rhythm with a different "found object" instrument – tapping soda cans, banging on buckets, even bouncing basketballs.

District 58 expects to adopt balanced budget for 2013-14

The District 58 Board of Education got its first look in April at the tentative \$60 million spending plan for 2013-14, which is anticipated to be in balance again for the year.

“District 58 continues to spend responsibly while at the same time achieving excellent results for our students,” said District 58 Superintendent Kari Cremascoli. **“Thanks to our conservative budgeting, proactive responses to economic conditions, and maintenance of fund balances, our financial position has remained solid despite continued cutbacks in state funding.”**



A student at O'Neill Middle School works on a project during a day-long technology workshop called OMSTechKnow this spring. District 58's 2013-14 technology budget includes funds for rolling out a K-8 Digital Citizenship curriculum next school year.

The district's 2012 Financial Profile placed District 58 within the Illinois State Board of Education's Financial Recognition category, a designation it has achieved every year since the ISBE began using the Financial Profile to evaluate districts 11 years ago.

“Since it is still relatively early in the budget development process, there are still some unknowns at this point in time. However, even with worst-case scenarios, it is anticipated that the operating budget for 2013-14 will again be close to being in balance,” said District 58 Controller James Popernik.

The 2013-14 tentative budget includes approximately \$60 million in normal operating aggregate revenues and expenditures, not including the Medical Reserve Fund or the Life Safety Fund.

The district recently issued \$5 million in Life Safety bonds, \$1.37 million of which is budgeted for Life Safety projects this coming summer (see page 3).

For details on the district's planned facilities projects during summer 2013 and 2014, visit www.dg58.org/domain/734.

Projects planned for the 2013-14 year include:

- Expanding the district's pilot 1:1 student device program toward a planned eventual implementation of the program district-wide, the majority of which would come from

repurposing and reallocating existing budgeted funds

- Developing curriculum ladders and supporting training in Common Core Mathematics and Common Core English-Language Arts
- Developing a digital citizenship curriculum
- Updating the network

The 2013-14 budget also calls for slight budget-neutral staffing changes based on program enrollments and service delivery changes. This will include the addition of two instructional coaches to support teachers.

“The plan is to maintain the same level of support for our students, restructuring and reallocating staff to best meet student needs,” said Jayne Yudzentis, Assistant Superintendent for Personnel.

In 2013, District 58 received one of the highest possible ratings, Aa1, from Moody's Investors Service. This is another indicator of the district's strong financial position.

What's next?

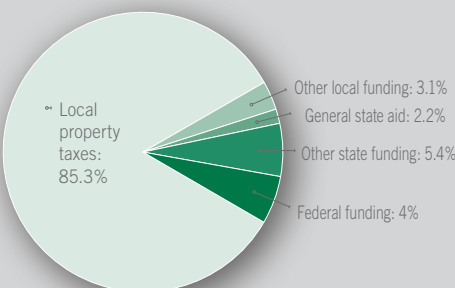
Tentative budget review and approval: **July 8**

Budget goes on public display

Public hearing, final budget adoption: **September 9**

Where the money comes from:

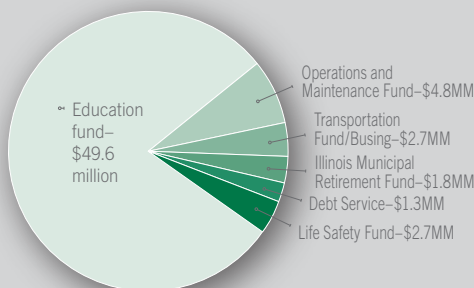
2010-11 revenues by source



**As reported in the 2012 Illinois school report card

Where the money goes:

2012-13 expenditures



For more information about District 58's budget and finances, visit www.dg58.org.

District 58 Education Foundation enjoys highly successful year



A “one school, one book” reading program, iPads, interactive whiteboards, a middle school initiative called Rachel's Challenge, IdeaPaint, bilingual books, a sensory center to support students in the Alternate Education Program at Kingsley, heart monitors, and a digital piano for the district's music program were among the nearly two dozen grant requests funded by the District 58 Education Foundation for 2012-13. Altogether the Foundation gave away more than \$35,000 in grants this school year.

The District 58 Education Foundation is an independent non-profit corporation, established in 2002 to obtain and distribute financial and other resources for the enhancement of education programs at the 13 schools of Downers Grove Grade School District 58.

Since its inception, the Foundation has brought in nearly \$400,000 for District 58 schools, which it

has donated back primarily in the form of classroom and building grants for technology innovation, curriculum enrichment and staff development.

The Foundation also sponsors the Select 58 awards honoring eighth graders for service to their school and community; Distinguished Service Awards for staff; Sneak Preview for incoming seventh graders; and the annual new teacher welcome luncheon.

The Foundation raises money for its programs through donations from staff, parents, businesses and community members, as well as through two major fundraisers. This year, the organization hosted:

- An evening of basketball and comedy, during which a team of District 58 administrators, students and staff, as well as representatives from the Downers Grove community, took on the famous Harlem Wizards. The event was supported by student

volunteers from each school, and the referees were Illinois Rep. Ron Sandack and Downers Grove Mayor Martin Tully.



District 58 Superintendent Kari Cremascoli high-fives a student during the player introductions prior to the Harlem Wizards game in February.

- An evening with Poi Dog Pondering, in partnership with WXRT and the Tivoli Theatre, which raised more than \$30,000 for the Foundation's programs.

For more information on the District 58 Education Foundation, including its programs and how to make a donation or get involved, please visit www.58foundation.org.

One Book, One School at Lester

Students, staff and families at Lester School participated in an all-school book club courtesy of a 2012-13 Foundation grant. Everyone received a copy of “The Lemonade War” by Jacqueline Davies, and families read according to a schedule. During their morning meetings students discussed topics from the story. Lester Buddies, a primary class paired with an intermediate class, worked together on various projects, such as using the titles of the chapters to create an economics picture dictionary or creating an advertisement for lemonade tasting. Teachers used the story to promote writing activities and figurative language lessons throughout the month. At the end, the students at Lester had their own Lemonade War, taste-testing various types of lemonade and voting for their favorite.



Sensory equipment at Kingsley

Through a grant from the District 58 Education Foundation, Kingsley School purchased a variety of sensory equipment, including a ladder, a swing, a weighted blanket, and rings. The equipment can be used in different ways depending on the needs of the student – for example, one student might need to use a piece of equipment to gain energy, while another might need to use a piece of equipment to calm him/herself. The students were provided training and given rules for safe use of the equipment, and have learned which pieces of equipment used in which particular way will help meet their needs.

New administrative team members



MATT RICH, ED.D., ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT FOR CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION

The hallways and classrooms of two of District 58's schools are very familiar to District 58's assistant superintendent for curriculum and instruction. Dr. Matt Rich, who was appointed to his post last August, is a Downers Grove native and an alumnus of District 58 schools, having attended Hillcrest School and O'Neill Middle School before moving on to Downers Grove South High School. Dr. Rich came to District 58 after six years as principal of Pleasant Ridge School in Glenview School District 34.

MARK STANGE, KINGSLEY SCHOOL PRINCIPAL

Mark Stange was appointed the new principal of Kingsley School to replace Charles Purdom, who retired at the end of June. Stange has been principal for the past 11 years at Wood View Elementary School in the Valley View 365U school district, having served as assistant principal for four years prior to that.



ADAM UBBEN, LESTER SCHOOL ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

Adam Ubben will assume the post of assistant principal at Lester School this July. Ubben holds a bachelor's degree from the University of Illinois and a master's degree in educational leadership from National Lewis University, and has served as an assistant principal in Plainfield District 202 for three years.



Puffer partners with village to plant tree

On April 26, Village of Downers Grove Forester Kerstin von der Heide visited Henry Puffer School for an Arbor Day planting. Members of the school's Earth Club assisted in planting a shingle oak near the corner of Belmont Road and Haddow Avenue. Six to eight trees along Haddow had to be taken down during the Belmont underpass project, and through grant funding, the village also will be planting 21 trees around the new underpass.

Preschool buddies

Students in District 58's Grove Children's Preschool program meet with their fifth grade buddies on a regular basis to read stories and work on projects together. Here, a set of buddies at Indian Trail writes a letter. The Grove Children's Preschool program also is housed at Henry Puffer School. For more information on the program, visit www.dg58.org/preschool.



Hillcrest News Crew is on the job

Hillcrest students and staff who want the latest scoop on what's happening at their school now have their own news crew to keep them informed. About a half-dozen sixth grade students, recommended by their teachers to participate, comprise the school's brand-new News Team, which began working together several months ago. They conduct interviews, write and edit scripts, speak on-air, and record/edit their weekly broadcasts using a green screen, lighting and other equipment purchased by the Hillcrest PTA.



58 Doing Good shines a spotlight on District 58 service projects



District 58 students and staff participate in a wide variety of service projects throughout the year, which not only make a big difference for those on the receiving end but also cultivate a spirit of giving, civic responsibility, generosity and compassion in the next generation of leaders.

Visit www.dg58.org/58-doing-good to read more about these and many other projects from the 2012-13 school year.

District 58 students donate to help Sandy victims

After Superstorm Sandy hit the East Coast, students and staff in District 58 raised money through a variety of activities to donate to the American Red Cross for the relief efforts.



Lester students Katie Lyda and Parker McGuire made bracelets to sell to benefit Sandy victims, dubbing their fundraiser "Bandy for Sandy."

This activities included a "hats for hurricane relief" at various schools; a "Candy for Sandy" activity at El Sierra; jeans days for staff; and a donut hole breakfast at Henry Puffer. Lester students Katie Lyda and Parker McGuire made bracelets and sold them to raise money, in a campaign they dubbed "Bandy for Sandy." With proceeds from the bracelet sales, coupled with donations from Lester students and staff, Katie and Parker collected \$310 that was donated to the American Red Cross to help victims of Hurricane Sandy.

Other service projects featured on 58 Doing Good this year included:

- District 58 students, staff have heads shaved to benefit St. Baldrick's
- Belle Aire hosts raffle to benefit Read to Feed
- El Sierra Jump Rope for Heart event raises \$1,500 for American Heart Association
- Fairmount student council hosts packing event for Feed My Starving Children
- Henry Puffer Penny Wars raise almost \$1,000 for Almost Home Kids
- Hillcrest Green Team collects used shoes to donate to SCARCE
- Highland Giving Tree supports those in need
- Indian Trail donates toiletries to homeless, less fortunate
- Kingsley hosts all-school walk for Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation
- Lester students participate in winter break packing party for Muscular Dystrophy Association
- Pierce Downer collects candy for the troops
- Whittier students brighten seniors' days with Valentines
- Herrick vs. O'Neill dodgeball tournament benefits Herrick HOPE (Helping Ordinary People Everyday) Club
- O'Neill student council car wash raises funds for Leukemia and Lymphoma Society
- Herrick orchestra concert at Jewel raises funds for Oklahoma tornado victims

DISTRICT 58 HONORS RETIREES District 58 bid farewell to 13 staff members at the end of the 2012-13 school year with more than 250 years of combined service to the District and its students. For the full list of 2012-13 retirees, visit www.dg58.org.





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The Schools of District 58

BELLE AIRE SCHOOL

3935 Belle Aire Lane
Principal: Michael Mitchinson

EL SIERRA SCHOOL

6835 Fairmount Avenue
Principal: Lucille Carney

FAIRMOUNT SCHOOL

6036 Blodgett Avenue
Principal: Anthony Coglianese

HENRY PUFFER SCHOOL

2220 Haddow Avenue
Principal: Todd McDaniel

HERRICK MIDDLE SCHOOL

4435 Middaugh Avenue
Principal: Jason Lynde
Assistant Principal:
Matt Neustadt

HIGHLAND SCHOOL

3935 Highland Avenue
Principal: Judy Kmak, Ed.D.

HILLCREST SCHOOL

1435 Jefferson Avenue
Principal: Paula Thomas
Assistant Principal:
Brent Borchelt

INDIAN TRAIL SCHOOL

6235 Stonewall Avenue
Principal: Robin Bruebach

KINGSLEY SCHOOL

6509 Powell Street
Principal: Mark Stange
Assistant Principal:
Elynn Cunningham

LESTER SCHOOL

236 Indianapolis Avenue
Principal: Carin Novak
Assistant Principal:
Adam Ubben

O'NEILL MIDDLE SCHOOL

635 59th Street
Principal: Matt Durbala
Assistant Principal:
Christine Clavenna

PIERCE DOWNER SCHOOL

1436 Grant Street
Principal: Justin Sisul
Assistant Principal:
Brent Borchelt

WHITTIER SCHOOL

536 Hill Street
Principal: Michael Krugman

**To visit any of our school Web sites, go to www.dg58.org and hover over the Schools drop-down menu!*

**District 58's Grove Children's Preschool program is housed at Indian Trail and Henry Puffer. For more information, visit www.dg58.org/preschool.*



Pierce Downer participates in record-breaking event — Nearly 350 Pierce Downer students, staff and parents – along with students and parents from all over the world – participated in the Run For the Planet National Geographic World Record event in October. The goal was to help National Geographic Kids Magazine set two Guinness World Records: Most people to run 100 meters in 24 hours, and the longest chain of shoes (which will be recycled into athletic surfaces). The event at Pierce Downer was organized by the school's Healthy Kids Committee. Annette Bonfield of the Bonfield Express 5K, Community Bank of Downers Grove President Mike Busse, and District 58 Superintendent Dr. Kari Cremascoli helped to certify the course and count the participants.

Belle Aire hosts first-ever Kindness Connection Day — This spring, Belle Aire students participated in their first-ever school-wide Kindness Connection Day. During the morning-long event, provided through the non-profit organization The Kindness Connection and sponsored by the Belle Aire PTA, students decorated tote bags to fill with items for the FISH pantry, created braided fleece toys for animals up for adoption at the West Suburban Humane Society, and designed and decorated journals to be provided to hospitalized children.



We hope you find this annual publication to be informative and useful, and we welcome any feedback you might have. If you ever have a question or a comment about this or any other publication, or about District 58 or any of its programs, policies or procedures, please do not hesitate to contact our Communications Coordinator, Jennifer Waldorf, at jwaldorf@dg58.org, or call (630) 719-5805.