

2011

Annual Report to the Community

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.



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

Our Core Beliefs

- Each student is capable of learning and deserves to be educated and challenged to reach his/her highest potential.
- Education is the foundation for success, both in academic achievement and social emotional development.
- Within each child, we will cultivate the social awareness, self-management, and responsible decision-making skills necessary to be a contributing member of society.
- Educators, students, families, and community members should work together to support the healthy development of all students.
- The school environment should be stimulating and engaging, with opportunities for creative, collaborative, and meaningful learning experiences.
- The school environment should be safe, friendly, and nurturing, where everyone comes to learn, grow, and develop.

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.



Dear District 58 community member,

We thank you for your continued partnership in providing the best possible learning environment for the students of District 58! There is much to be proud of as we reflect on the 2010–11 school year and look ahead to the 2011–12 year that is now underway. Our students are very fortunate to be educated and engaged by staff who are second to none, and to live in a community that truly cares about and supports education.

Only when educators, students, families and community members work together are students truly served. During the 2010–11 school year we affirmed and strengthened these partnerships by working with the community to develop a new Strategic Plan, which was approved by the Board of Education in July and will guide our planning and goal-setting. The high level of stakeholder involvement was gratifying, as was the high level of support indicated for District 58’s current programs and services. Further details about District 58’s Strategic Plan can be found at www.dg58.org/district-58-strategic-plan.

This Annual Report is designed to provide an overview of the programs, people and places in District 58 that work together in service of our mission, vision and core beliefs. You’ll see how we live out our commitment to meet the needs of each child who comes through our doors, each day. While it is impossible to include all of the wonderful things that happened in District 58 during the past year, many are highlighted in this report.

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 publication, District 58 or any of its programs, policies or procedures, please don’t hesitate to e-mail our Communications Coordinator, Jennifer Waldorf, at jwaldorf@dg58.org, or call **(630) 719-5805**.

HERE’S TO ANOTHER GREAT YEAR IN DISTRICT 58!

Paul C. Zaander
 Superintendent of Schools
 Downers Grove Grade School District 58

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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.

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

Superintendent of Schools | **Paul C. Zaander**
 Secretary to Superintendent | **Pamela A. Osika**
 Assistant Superintendent for Personnel | **Jayne Yudzentis**
 Asst. Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction | **Cathie Pezanoski**
 Controller | **James Popernik, Ed.D.**
 Asst. Superintendent for Special Services | **Terrence J. Martin**
 Director of Business Services | **Lorie M. Pilster**
 Coordinator of Grove Children’s Preschool | **James R. Swade**
 Coordinator of Communications | **Jennifer Waldorf**

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

Director of Technology | **Scott Meech**
 Director of Buildings & Grounds | **Rick Bubula**
 Supervisor of Maintenance | **Ken Young**

Websites

Downers Grove Grade School District 58: www.dg58.org
 Education Foundation of District 58: www.dg58ef.com



District 58 schools:

BELLE AIRE SCHOOL

3935 Belle Aire Lane
 (630) 719-5820
 Principal: Michael Mitchinson
 Built in 1969, named after a street
 Mascot: Bulldog

EL SIERRA SCHOOL

6835 Fairmount Avenue
 (630) 719-5825
 Principal: Lucille Carney
 Built in 1969, named after a subdivision
 Mascot: Bobcat

FAIRMOUNT SCHOOL

6036 Blodgett Avenue
 (630) 719-5830
 Principal: Anthony Coglianese
 Built in 1959, named after a street
 Mascot: Falcons

HENRY PUFFER SCHOOL

2220 Haddow Avenue
 (630) 968-0294
 Principal: Todd McDaniel
 Built in 1937, named after early settler Henry Puffer, whose family was very active in school affairs
 Mascot: Panthers

HERRICK MIDDLE SCHOOL

4435 Middaugh Avenue
 (630) 719-5810
 Principal: Jason Lynde
 Assistant Principal: Matt Neustadt
 Built in 1953, named after board member W.D. Herrick
 Mascot: Spartans

HIGHLAND SCHOOL

3935 Highland Avenue
 (630) 719-5835
 Principal: Judy Kmak, Ed.D.
 Built in 1952, named after a street
 Mascot: Huskies

HILLCREST SCHOOL

1435 Jefferson Avenue
 (630) 719-5840
 Principal: Paula Thomas
 Assistant Principal: Brent Borchelt
 Built in 1952, named after a street
 Mascot: Hound dogs

INDIAN TRAIL SCHOOL

6235 Stonewall Avenue
 (630) 719-5845
 Principal: Robin Bruebach
 Built in 1967, named after the Indian Boundary line
 Mascot: Stallions

KINGSLEY SCHOOL

6509 Powell Street
 (630) 719-5850
 Principal: Charles Purdom, Jr.
 Assistant Principal: Elynn Cunningham
 Built in 1963, named after Downers Grove settler Giles Kingsley
 Mascot: Lions

LESTER SCHOOL

236 Indianapolis Avenue
 (630) 719-5855
 Principal: Carin Novak
 Assistant Principal: Justin Sisul
 Built in 1956, named after Downers Grove WWII Congressional Medal of Honor recipient Fred Lester
 Mascot: Leopards

O’NEILL MIDDLE SCHOOL

635 59th Street
 (630) 719-5815
 Principal: Matt Durbala
 Assistant Principal: Randy Janousek
 Built in 1957, named after Illinois’ first female state representative, Lottie O’Neill
 Mascot: Senators

PIERCE DOWNER SCHOOL

1436 Grant Street
 (630) 719-5860
 Principal: Lisa Mondale, Ed.D.
 Assistant Principal: Brent Borchelt
 Built in 1952, named after Downers Grove settler Pierce Downer
 Mascot: Panthers

WHITTIER SCHOOL

536 Hill Street
 (630) 719-5865
 Principal: Michael Krugman
 Built in 1928, named after poet John Greenleaf Whittier
 Mascot: Jaguars

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



STEPHEN G. FUNK,
PRESIDENT



SALLIE LUPESCU,
VICE PRESIDENT



JOHN COOPER



ELIZABETH DAVIS



ROBERTA DIEHL



JOHN MILLER



DOUG PURCELL

District 58 is served by a seven-member volunteer school board, whose responsibilities include policy making, budget approval and hiring/evaluating the superintendent.

The District 58 Board of Education typically meets on the second Monday of the month at 7 p.m. at Longfellow Center, 1435 Prairie Ave. Meetings in June, July and August are held at the Administrative Service Center, 1860 63rd St.

Meetings are recorded and uploaded as streaming audio files on the district's website, www.dg58.org. The District also maintains an online archive of audio recordings of past meetings.

Board meeting and workshop schedule, 2011-12

Regular board meetings:

| | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| September 12 | February 13 |
| October 11 (Tuesday) | March 12 |
| November 14 | April 9 |
| December 12 | May 14 |
| January 9 | June 11 (ASC, 1860 63rd St.) |

Workshops

- Curriculum workshop (school report cards) | **October 24**
- Financial workshop | **November 28**
- Curriculum workshop | **February 27**
- Workshop regarding tentative 2012-13 budget | **April 23**

More online

The District 58 website contains a variety of additional information about the School Board, including Board policies; meeting agendas, meeting minutes and the monthly Board Briefs report; and descriptions of the standing advisory groups serving the board: the Legislative Committee, the Policy Committee and the Financial Advisory Committee.

Gary Lester remembered for service to students

District 58 was saddened by the loss this past spring of board member Gary Lester, and is appreciative of his service to the District and its students. Lester, a retired educator, was elected to the District 58 school board in 2009. He had retired in 2008 after 33 years in education, first as a teacher and then as an administrator. Lester was also heavily involved in the Downers Grove community.

District 58 welcomes new staff members

District 58 welcomed nearly 30 new staff members for 2011-12.

New staffers spent five days in a comprehensive orientation program in mid-August. This included sessions on curriculum and technology, as well as welcome luncheons hosted by the Downers Grove Noon Lions Club and the District 58 Education Foundation.

For the full list of new staff members who joined the District in 2011-12, visit www.dg58.org!



Downers Grove Mayor Martin Tully addresses attendees of the 80th annual Lions Club new teacher welcome luncheon in August.

District 58, DGEEA approve new contract

District 58 began the 2011-12 school year with a new three-year contract in place with the Downers Grove Elementary Education Association, the result of a highly collaborative negotiations process.

The contract between District 58 and the DGEEA includes more than 330 certified staff members, including teachers, nurses, counselors and social workers.

District 58 welcomes new administrators

District 58 welcomed several new members to its leadership team for 2011-12.



SCOTT MEECH, formerly the technology coordinator/facilitator for Kenilworth District 38, was hired as District 58's new Director of Technology. He replaced Dr. Connie Hodson, who retired after 20 years of service.

***IN HIS WORDS:** Technology is an effective and essential tool for differentiation, data-driven decision making, and for allowing us to expand on a person's creativity. We are on the edge of transformation in schools because of technology, and that is very exciting to be a part of.*



MICHAEL KRUGMAN, formerly the principal at Mokena Intermediate School, took the helm as principal at Whittier School to fill the vacancy created by the retirement of Linda Welch.

***IN HIS WORDS:** Being able to positively impact both teachers and students is a goal of mine. I love to be in the classrooms and experience the learning taking place, and I am looking forward to continuing the high quality of education at Whittier by sharing my knowledge and experiences as a principal.*



Former Herrick Middle School assistant principal **BRENT BORCHELT** assumed the role of assistant principal at Hillcrest and Pierce Downer schools.

***IN HIS WORDS:** I start this year with a new sense of excitement and wonder. I look forward to helping establish a solid educational foundation; preparing students for future experiences; and working with parents to maintain a solid learning community.*



MATT NEUSTADT is now serving as assistant principal at Herrick Middle School, where he himself attended middle school. Neustadt previously taught eighth-grade math at O'Neill Middle School.

***IN HIS WORDS:** This is an exciting opportunity for me to help lead a school which I enjoyed while attending 27 years ago. I am looking forward to having a great year and doing whatever I can to help meet the needs of everyone who is a part of the wonderful Herrick community.*

More information about all of the new administrators is available at www.dg58.org.

Math Committee moving toward curriculum adoption recommendation

The District 58 Math Committee was hard at work during the 2010–11 school year and plans to recommend a new math curriculum for adoption by the School Board for the 2012–13 school year.

The Math Committee includes District 58 administrators, staff and parents, as well as the Math Department Chairs from Downers Grove North and South high schools.

An online database has been created for the math and Language Arts curricula, which align with the common core standards adopted by Illinois. By Fall 2012, teachers will be able to access the entire curriculum on the database, including objectives, materials, assessments, and a timeline for when particular topics are taught during the course of the school year.

One focus of the Math Committee will be to provide a continuum of instruction and a smooth transition from elementary to middle school and from middle school to high school with regard to math. During the 2010–11 school year, the committee surveyed staff, students and parents regarding the current math curriculum, and created a Vision Statement for math in District 58.

The Vision Statement is: We believe the District 58 Mathematics program will prepare students to become 21st Century global problem solvers by:

- Infusing current tools and technology into the curriculum
- Providing opportunities and support to allow all students to demonstrate mathematical growth
- Providing a foundation which leads to mastery of core concepts and skills
- Connecting the instruction of math to real world contexts to provide successful application beyond the classroom
- Fostering and maintaining a high level of confidence and success in mathematics

The committee will continue its work during the 2011–12 school year by reviewing potential curricula and evaluating them in areas such as differentiation, alignment to common core standards, technology, and communication with parents. The committee plans to pilot the chosen curriculum at the building level in winter and spring 2011–12, and recommend a math curriculum to the School Board in spring 2012.

Social-Emotional Learning continues to be priority for District 58

As part of its focus on educating the whole child, Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) continues to be a key component of a District 58 education. SEL is a process for acquiring the skills and competencies needed to be successful, including self-awareness, self-management and relationship skills.

District 58 has implemented teams at each building to lead SEL efforts and will continue to offer a variety of staff development activities related to SEL. In addition, District 58 has partnered with the Regional Office of Education and CASEL (Collaborative for Academic, Social and Emotional Learning), the benefits of which have included an SEL coach for staff.

Each school in District 58 is focusing on its own way of building school community through such measures as buddy programs, peaceful playgrounds, and class meetings where students can participate in team activities or sharing topics such as “tell us about when you were nervous about something.”

“We want every area of our schools, including the classrooms, the cafeteria and the playground, to be a positive place for kids,” said Jayne Yudzentis, Assistant Superintendent for Personnel.

District 58 also has focused on providing parent education and resources, including two SEL nights in partnership with the Downers Grove Area Council of PTAs, and surveyed all buildings regarding the school learning environment. For more information and resources regarding Social-Emotional Learning in District 58, visit www.dg58.org/sel.

Technology enhances student learning in District 58

Technology in District 58 continues to enhance and transform learning and instruction by providing students with creative, collaborative, and meaningful learning experiences; guiding students in making powerful connections; providing students with opportunities to develop social-emotional and collaborative skills; and serving as a springboard for lifelong learning and connectedness.

During the 2010–11 school year, resources available to District 58 students included iPods; iPads; digital cameras; computers; online resources; and interactive whiteboards.

“We are so grateful to our community partners, including our PTAs and the District 58 Education Foundation, for their continued support of technology,” said Scott Meech, District 58’s Director of Technology.

The iPad

Each building in the district will pilot a set of iPads during the 2011–12 year. Students throughout the district at all grade levels will have some access to these mobile devices, which will be used in a multitude of subject areas.



Students in Jill Henry’s science class at Herrick work on a lesson using iPads. Each building in District 58 will pilot a set of iPads this coming year.

“The iPad’s versatility allows our students to learn in new and interesting ways with engaging activities that are both creative and student-centered,” said Kristen Olsen, the District’s new Instructional Technology Facilitator. Olsen had been a classroom teacher at Highland School.

Tech department blog

Community members can now follow the District 58 Technology Department’s work with students and teachers — including how students are using iPads — by subscribing to the Department’s new blog, <http://www.dg58.us>. The blog’s purpose is to highlight the use of technology, help staff to more effectively use it in the classroom, and allow staff to reflect on what they learn.

Website

During the 2010–11 school year District 58 unveiled a re-designed website, which was developed to be more user-friendly and allow staff to more easily share information. A committee will review the website during 2011–12 with an eye at further improvements. To share feedback on the District 58 website, please e-mail jwaldorf@dg58.org, smeech@dg58.org, or mvivona@dg58.org.

Response to Intervention continues to meet needs

District 58 is currently in its fifth year of using Response to Intervention (RtI) to meet the needs of all students.

“RtI is not a pull-out program, special education, or even a dramatic shift in how services have been provided. Rather, it is a comprehensive system for assessing students and collecting data to identify those who may need extra assistance or challenges to be successful,” said Terrence Martin, Assistant Superintendent for Special Services.

Data is collected three times a year for all students with regard to various reading skills, such as phonemic awareness and fluency. This allows staff to determine who is struggling and in need of intervention, who might be on the cusp and need some support in a specific area to continue being successful, and who might need extra challenges.

The 2010–11 school year was the first year all schools were using the same data collection program, so they now have a full year’s worth of data to help with problem-solving efforts. Staffs’ ability to identify and support children in the area of reading, whether it’s with extra help or an additional challenge, is greater than ever.

Beginning with the 2011–12 year, a specialized daily 30-minute instructional block focusing primarily on reading is part of the school day at every elementary building, at every grade level. During this time, each student is provided with a specific, targeted prevention, intervention or extension, depending on what the data shows is needed for success. The two middle schools are providing strategic reading support for students identified as having this need.

All of the assessments and interventions are based on scientific research. District 58 staff indicated in a survey conducted during 2010–11 that they feel students are getting the help they need, when they need it, because of RtI. For more on RtI, visit www.dg58.org.

There was much to celebrate in District 58 during 2010-11. Below is just a sampling of the many accomplishments of our students and staff!

- **Belle Aire, Highland, Hillcrest, Pierce Downer, Whittier and O'Neill** earned Academic Excellence Awards for 2010.
- **Lester** student Nate Pautsch was the youngest person to have his head shaved at the St. Baldrick's fundraising event at Downers Grove South High School last winter. He was one of nearly five dozen students, teachers and family members to raise funds for children's cancer research by collecting pledges to shave their heads. Nate took part in honor of a friend who was diagnosed four years ago.
- **Belle Aire** first-grade teacher Tara Fulton and **O'Neill Middle School** science teacher Dr. Meg Van Dyke, who earned her doctorate in instructional technology this past spring, netted Kinder Morgan technology grants for their buildings during 2010-11.
- Four District 58 projects from **Herrick** and **O'Neill** represented District 58 at the Regional Science Fair. **O'Neill** student Akila Shanmugham's project took first place at regionals and was chosen to advance to the state level of competition.
- **Herrick** student Emma McDonnell took second place in the 2010 DuPage County spelling bee.
- Fifty-eight District 58 eighth-graders were honored in April for citizenship and service during the annual Select 58 awards sponsored by the District 58 Education Foundation.
- The 2011 **Herrick** eighth-grade boys volleyball team captured the first-ever conference title in the program's 15-year history.
- **Whittier** student Esther Farley choreographed a contemporary dance that was chosen as the national advancer from the 2010-11 state Reflections competition. Earning honorable mentions at state were **Whittier** student Isabella Giuliano for photography and **Lester** student Lincoln Peckenpau for music composition.
- **El Sierra** honored nearly 300 students for Exemplary Behavior during the 2010-11 year.
- Two dozen bookmarks designed by District 58 students earned prizes in the Downers Grove Public Library Junior Room 2011 annual bookmark contest. Of those, seven won the top award for their grade level, and one earned the Librarians' Choice Award.
- Through a variety of activities, including a dodgeball tournament and costume days, students and staff throughout District 58 raised a total of \$8,852 to be donated to the Red Cross for Japan's earthquake and tsunami relief efforts.
- **Kingsley** again participated in a Math-a-Thon during 2010-11 to benefit St. Jude's Children's Hospital, adding to the \$100,000 the school has raised for St. Jude's during the past 20 years.
- As part of **Fairmount's** book club, students were invited to participate in StoryTubes, a nationwide video booktalking contest. Of the 13 groups that entered, eight made it to the semi-finals.

School Snapshots: The 2010-11 Year in Photographs



Ronald McDonald visits Belle Aire to accept pop tab donation

Students at Belle Aire School spent the 2010-11 school year collecting pop tabs to donate to the Ronald McDonald House — and Ronald McDonald himself stopped by to thank them and accept their donation of nearly 16 gallon milk jugs' worth of pop tabs.



El Sierra students share talents during annual variety show

Dance routines, martial arts demonstrations, piano performances — even a Chicago Blackhawks kick line — took center stage at the annual El Sierra variety show. A particularly moving presentation came when the sixth-graders performed a song they had learned in sign language in honor of one of their classmate's mothers, who is deaf.



Fairmount students honor WWII veteran during Honor Flight

When 94-year-old former Marine Stanley Horonzy's day visiting the WWII Memorial with other veterans was over, he had a wonderful surprise waiting. Horonzy flew to Washington, D.C. through Honor Flight Chicago, and during Mail Call he was presented with hundreds of letters and cards written by students at Fairmount, where his granddaughter is a student.



Hillcrest marks solar panel installation with day-long Solar-bration

Hillcrest hosted a day-long Solar-bration to shed light on the installation of solar panels on their roof. This past spring they became the first school in Downers Grove to use the alternative energy source. Representatives from EarthWind&Solar Energy, LLC, the company that donated the installation, shared information regarding alternative energy sources, and O'Neill's Energy Kids set up a series of stations in the gymnasium.



Herrick H.O.P.E. club waffle breakfast raises funds for charity

The halls at Herrick Middle School were filled with the delicious scent of waffles cooking every morning the first week in March — for a good cause. Herrick's new H.O.P.E. club — which stands for Helping Ordinary People Everyday — hosted waffle breakfasts to raise funds for Feed my Starving Children. The club's other activities during the 2010-11 year included collecting canned goods for the FISH pantry and bringing Valentines and decorated cookies to Oak Tree Tower.



Highland School celebrates 'The Power of One'

Highland School spent the 2010-11 school year celebrating "The Power of One." Every month, one student was recognized for his or her positive contributions to the school community. These included reaching out to a classmate having a bad day, going above and beyond with lunchroom cleanup, welcoming a new family to the school, and spending recess cleaning the playground.

- Three District 58 staff members were honored with 2011 Outstanding Teacher Awards by the Downers Grove Junior Woman's Club. Students write essays nominating a current or past teacher for the honor. This year's winners were **Lester** first-grade teacher Rosemary Zolnierowicz, **Belle Aire** resource teacher Linda Vandeyacht and **Fairmount/Pierce Downer** speech therapist Jane Ingersoll.
- Seventeen District 58 staff members with a variety of job titles and responsibilities were honored at the annual Distinguished Service Awards ceremony sponsored by the District 58 Education Foundation. **Hillcrest** first-grade teacher Leslie Walker was the winner in the classroom teacher category, and **Lester** secretary Tamea Mochel was the winner in the non-classroom teacher staff category. For the full list of honorees, visit www.dg58.org.
- **Herrick** band teacher Jonathan Ball and **Hillcrest** fourth-grade teacher Pamela Williams earned the designation of 2011 Teacher of the Year from the Downers Grove Elementary Education Association. For the full list of nominees, visit www.dg58.org.

- **Hillcrest** student Dillon Kohls performed an a cappella solo of The Star-Spangled Banner during the Downers Grove South Mustangs boys volleyball senior night festivities.
- **Lester** student Dylan Tlusty was honored with the Chief's Award from the Downers Grove Fire Department this past spring, for saving his father's life when he choked on a piece of steak.
- Representatives from Karyn Vanko's third-grade class at **Pierce Downer** participated in TECH 2011: Students for the Information Age at the Capitol Rotunda in Springfield. The class had transformed Beverly Cleary novels into hypothetical movies, created movie posters using a web-based application and podcasted commercials to advertise their movies.
- Elaine Boyer's fourth-grade class at **Highland** was honored at a Village Council meeting last spring for submitting the winning cover design and First Aid tips for the 2011-12 Downers Grove Fire Department brochure.

- **Henry Puffer** sixth-grader Laura Stallter was honored for having perfect attendance all seven years.
- More than 150 students earned top scores in the Band and Orchestra Solo Day competitions at **Herrick** and **O'Neill** in February.
- Several dozen **Herrick** and **O'Neill** students were selected by audition to participate in the Illinois Music Educators Association's District 1 Music Festival last fall, representing orchestra, concert band and chorus.
- A team of students from District 58 took first place at the state Destination ImagiNation creative problem-solving tournament, earning them the right to compete at the Global Finals in Tennessee. **Herrick** students Beth Jensen and Annie DeCero, and **Whittier** students Abby Murphy, Hannah Krusenoski, Natalie Raden and Erin DeCero, competed as a team for more than six years.

- **Fairmount** student Faith Barr composed a song that was performed by the Downers Grove Children's Choir.
- Inspired by a lesson learned through the Junior Achievement program, four **Indian Trail** students — Emma Gannaway, Jessica Davenport, Jessica Windischman and Katie Anthony — spearheaded a collection of nearly 200 new and gently used books. Some were placed in the school's LRC and classrooms at **Indian Trail**, while others were given to Hesus House Inc., a shelter in Aurora.
- Pieces by several **Herrick** and **O'Neill** students earned awards in the Downers Grove Junior Woman's Club's annual Junior High Art Contest this past spring. Honored were Haley Beube, Emily Wilson, Meghan Eubeler and Ryan Kolb.



Puffer dodgeball tournament raised funds for earthquake relief

The battle was on at Henry Puffer this past spring — and it was all for a good cause. The student council organized an after-school dodgeball tournament to raise funds for earthquake relief in Japan. About 125 students participated in the event, which raised \$639 to donate to the American Red Cross.



Kingsley kicks it up a notch during National Healthy Lifestyles Month

Kingsley celebrated National Healthy Lifestyle Month last fall with a variety of PTA-sponsored activities, including a visit from Bears mascot Staley; an after-school Kid's Boot Camp; a Health Fair; and a 5K training program to prepare families to participate in the Bonfield Express.



Older adults partnering with Lester as Grand-friends

Want to be a Lester Grand-friend? The school continues to seek volunteers to participate in its new volunteer program, launched last year in cooperation with a special Downers Grove Township committee. The program is open to all Downers Grove adults age 55 and older, to work with children in any capacity. To inquire about volunteering, contact the school.



Artcot brings the world to Pierce Downer

Pierce Downer hosted its annual multi-cultural art festival, Artcot, in March, during which students had the chance to participate in a variety of art projects from around the world. This year the event showcased the art and culture from China, India, Egypt, Italy, France and the Netherlands, with a special lion dance performance by the Chicago Shaolin Temple.



Indian Trail participates in Pasta for Pennies

The chance to win a free lunch — and give money to a good cause at the same time — was just the motivation Indian Trail students needed to donate coins to support the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. Through the student council's new Pasta for Pennies program, the class that donated the most money per student won a lunch from Olive Garden of pasta, salad and breadsticks. The school collected a total of \$1,842.29 for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, with the winning classroom, Jennifer Barriball's fourth grade, collecting \$261.80.



Whittier wraps up nutrition unit with healthy breakfast extravaganza

They say breakfast is the most important meal of the day, so what better way for students in Debbie Krygeris' sixth-grade class at Whittier School to wrap up their nutrition unit than with a hearty breakfast at school? During a unit on nutrients, the students kept a food and activity record and set nutrition and activity goals for themselves. The students wrapped up the unit with a hearty breakfast at school, with some students even donning their pajamas for the occasion.

Students, staff, donations transform O'Neill courtyard into outdoor classroom

The O'Neill Middle School courtyard has gained a vibrant new life as an outdoor classroom, thanks to numerous grants and donations and the dedication of students and staff, spearheaded by O'Neill science teacher Sarah Pinkus. The Courtyard Classroom includes butterfly houses; a bird habitat made up of bird-friendly plants, student-created birdhouses and bird feeders; paver patios; student-decorated picnic tables; and vegetable and flower plots. Donors have included Lowe's; Ace Hardware in Downers Grove; The Wild Ones, a native plant organization; Hidden Gardens in Willowbrook; Wannemaker's in Downers Grove; Home Depot in Downers Grove; Vern Growers in Hinsdale; Boegggers; and the PTA and O'Neill Garden Club.

District 58 Education Foundation continues to give back



The District 58 Education Foundation was founded in 2002 as a vehicle for distributing financial and other resources to enhance the educational experience for District 58 students.

Over the past 9 years, the Foundation has donated more than \$350,000 back to the schools of District 58, including:

- Nearly \$200,000 in classroom grants, including \$35,000 in 2010-11 (see sidebar)
- More than \$60,000 in Reaching New Heights annual back-to-school gifts to each building
- Nearly \$6,000 in Distinguished Service Awards to staff, to be used in their classroom or building
- More than \$40,000 in other support

To date, the Foundation also has:

- Honored 522 eighth-grade students for being good role models through the annual Select 58 citizenship and service awards
- Honored 89 District 58 employees for their distinguished service to the district

- Prepared thousands of students for the middle school experience through the annual Sneak Preview program, offered free of charge to incoming seventh-graders at Herrick and O'Neill
- Welcomed more than 100 new teachers to District 58 by sponsoring an annual luncheon during New Teacher Week

Funding is made possible via Foundation events and programs such as the spring Entertainment for Education fundraiser, annual Cash for Kids staff contributions, registration donations, the fall fundraiser and online contributions.

District 58 wishes to thank the Education Foundation and its volunteer Board of Directors and liaisons for its tireless work on behalf of District 58 and its students: Greg Bedalov, Mike Busse, Laura Crawford, Elizabeth Davis, Deborah A. Drews, Todd Gallentine, Clifford Grammich, Bob Grogan, Marc Hausmann, Emad Isaac, Amy Kovacevic, Brian Krajewski, Paul Lueken, Jason Lynde, Laura Neiberg, Liz O'Toole, Rupa Raote, Jay Stocki, Stephen Upshaw, Tana Williams and Barb Wysocki.

For more information on the District 58 Education Foundation, including its programs and how to make a donation or get involved, please visit www.dg58ef.com.

District 58 Education Foundation awards \$35,000 in grants to schools

The District 58 Education Foundation gave away more than \$35,000 during the 2010-11 school year to benefit District 58 schools, an increase of more than \$10,000 over the amount the Foundation donated in 2009-10.

Staff were encouraged to apply for mini-grants (\$500 or less) and maxi grants of \$500 or more to enhance curriculum or technology innovations and staff development. The committee received a total of 37 grant applications for 2010-11.

"It was wonderful to see so many quality requests," said grants committee chair Laura Crawford.

Grants were awarded this past winter for the following projects/purchases:

- Math Manipulatives at O'Neill Middle School
- Interactive whiteboards at O'Neill, Whittier, Pierce Downer, Kingsley, Hillcrest, El Sierra and Highland
- IPEVO document cameras at O'Neill
- Social-Emotional Learning for All at Whittier and Pierce Downer
- ABC Picture Books Across the Curriculum at O'Neill
- LCD projectors at Highland
- Classroom clickers at Fairmount

District tackles capital projects

When school is out for summer, District 58's maintenance staff kicks things into high gear to complete a variety of projects and ensure that students are learning in safe, nurturing environments.

The roof at Henry Puffer School was replaced this year; other major projects included curb repairs, sealcoating, bleacher and boiler inspections. For a full list of the projects completed this summer, visit www.dg58.org.



Capital projects completed in District 58 this summer included replacing the roof at Henry Puffer School.

The Puffer roof replacement was the last of six to be completed using proceeds from a \$10 million bond issuance in 2010. The bonds were also used to complete roof replacements at Indian Trail, O'Neill, Kingsley, El Sierra and Belle Aire, as well as a variety of other Life Safety projects.

Next summer District 58 will complete the remainder of the currently identified Life Safety projects, including pavement repairs, door installations, a boiler replacement, masonry repairs, window replacements, plumbing replacements, curtain wall replacements, and corridor wall repairs.

For more information about the Life Safety projects planned for summer 2012, please visit www.dg58.org.

District 58 honors retirees

District 58 bid farewell to two dozen staff members at the end of the 2010-11 school year with nearly 500 years of combined service to the District and its students.

For the full list of 2010-11 retirees, visit www.dg58.org.



District 58 working with outside firm on comprehensive facilities assessment

District 58 is working with Darien-based Wight & Company to conduct a comprehensive assessment of the District's facilities.

The firm will study all 13 schools for their educational adequacy, and perform a physical assessment of all 15 District buildings, including the Administrative Service Center and Longfellow Center. Longfellow houses the district's maintenance department, technology department and Media Services Office, and also serves as a storage center for district materials.

The assessment will take into consideration student and community demographic data, previous community survey results, and capacity and utilization of all facilities. The goal is for the consultant to report on individual facility assessments; educational adequacy of district facilities; and a long-range plan related to facilities.

Now that District 58 is carrying out its plan to address its most immediate maintenance needs, including roof replacements, through the use of Life Safety bonds issued in 2010, the next step is to begin the development of a comprehensive long-range facilities plan. Some of the buildings within District 58 are more than 80 years old, and one or more of the district's facilities may be deemed inadequate for current or future use.

District 58 receives Preschool For All grant from state

This summer the state of Illinois awarded District 58 a \$120,000 Preschool for All grant to educate at-risk early childhood students during the 2011–12 year. This grant will benefit the 40 students in the Grove Children's Preschool program who have been identified as at risk for future academic difficulties due to socio-economic or cultural factors. The goal of the at-risk program is to ensure that those students enter kindergarten with a similar set of experiences and activities to other District 58 children.

"The families truly rely on this funding to provide their child access to early childhood education, which research has shown to be crucial in preparing at-risk students for a successful school experience," said Terrence Martin, District 58's Assistant Superintendent for Special Services.

The goal of the Grove Children's Preschool program is to meet the developmental and individual needs of all children in a safe, inclusive, and nurturing environment, while promoting educational success through engaging and collaborative learning experiences. Grove Children's Preschool is a blended program, meaning that tuition students, students identified as having special education needs, and at-risk students are taught in the same classroom. The success of the Grove Children's Preschool program prompted the state to choose it as a 2011 training site for Preschool for All program evaluators.

Grove Children's Preschool classes take place at Indian Trail School and Henry Puffer School. For more information, please call (630) 968-0454, e-mail jswade@dg58.org, or visit www.dg58.org/preschool to check out our Preschool Guide and watch our Education Foundation-sponsored informational video.

District 58 offers free preschool screenings

District 58 offers free preschool screenings designed to identify all children ages two years and 10 months to five years old who might benefit from special education prior to beginning kindergarten. Parents or guardians of children who are residents of the district but not yet in kindergarten are eligible to register their children for the screening. For scheduled dates and locations for 2011–12, please visit www.dg58.org/preschool_screening. To schedule an appointment, call (630) 719-5800.

D58 continues strong performance on ISATs

District 58 continues to be very proud of the academic achievements of its students, including on the Illinois Standards Achievement Test. More than 90 percent of all students district-wide met or exceeded state standards on the ISATs in 2010.

District 58 continuously looks for ways to improve to ensure it is meeting the needs of all of its learners. The 2012-13 math curriculum adoption will support this growth, as will the commitment to the RtI model.

"We strive to ensure all of our students are meeting the Illinois Learning Standards. We also want to provide challenges to students who need that extra spark to move from meeting the standards to exceeding the standards," said Cathie Pezanoski, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction. "Our goal is for our students to not only master the standards, but be able to apply these skills and concepts in real-life situations, either currently or in their future."

District 58 offers Chinese immersion language program

District 58 partnered with District 99 and STARTALK to offer a 64-hour Chinese language immersion program for middle school students during summer 2011. District 58 was one of just seven area school districts, including District 99, to offer such a program.

District 58 maintains balanced budget

DISTRICT 58 ENDED THE 2010–11 FISCAL YEAR WITH A BALANCED BUDGET, AND THE SCHOOL BOARD HAS APPROVED A BALANCED SPENDING PLAN FOR 2011–12.

The 2011–12 budget includes approximately \$55.8 million in normal operating aggregate revenues, and approximately \$55.7 million in normal operating aggregate expenditures. This does not include the Medical Reserve Fund, the Life Safety Fund or the Debt Service Fund.

District 58's revenue sources have for the most part normalized following several years of state funding cuts and severely diminished funding from other revenue sources, including interest income from investments.

Projects planned for the 2011–12 year include adopting a new K-8 math curriculum, aligning the Language Arts curriculum to the new Illinois learning standards and purchasing a replacement truck and new diesel four-wheel-drive mower/snowplow.

The vast majority — 82 percent — of District 58's revenues come from local property taxes. State aid makes up approximately 10 percent of the district's revenues, which comes primarily in the form of categorical funding and reimbursements rather than general state aid.

How does District 58 spend its money?

EDUCATION FUND—\$47.3 MILLION

This is used for expenses related to providing educational and support programs for students in the schools. The majority of expenditures in this fund are salary and benefits related.

OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE FUND — \$4.4 MILLION

This fund is used to operate all District 58 facilities, including repair and utility costs, and to pay custodial and maintenance salaries.

TRANSPORTATION FUND—\$2.2 MILLION

This fund pays for transportation of students by bus.

ILLINOIS MUNICIPAL RETIREMENT FUND — \$1.8 MILLION

All non-certified employees are mandated by the state to receive retirement benefits through IMRF.

DEBT SERVICE—\$1.3 MILLION

This fund pays the principal and interest on bonds issued in 2001 for facilities and technology and in 2010 for Life Safety work.

LIFE SAFETY FUND—\$1.4 MILLION

This fund was established to account for revenues and expenditures related to the issuance of \$10 million in Life Safety bonds for roof repairs and other facilities needs.

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

District 58 earns financial recognition

District 58's 2011 Financial Profile, which is based on the 2009–10 school year financial data, places the district within the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE)'s Financial Recognition range, the highest category obtainable. The ISBE said that **"given the economic difficulties school districts are facing, the State Board realizes this is a**

significant accomplishment." All Illinois school districts receive an annual rating from the ISBE, which takes into account financial indicators including fund balance to revenue ratio; expenditure to revenue ratio; days of cash on hand; percent of short-term borrowing ability remaining; and percentage of long-term debt margin remaining.



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SPOTLIGHT ON COMMUNICATIONS

District 58 utilizes a variety of channels to communicate with the community, and makes a concerted effort to utilize electronic and online methods for convenience and cost savings.

Website

A re-design of District 58's website, www.dg58.org, was unveiled during the 2010-11 school year. Visit the page for a variety of information, including board policies and agendas; District news; Board Briefs board reports; curriculum information; parent resources; financial information; a District calendar; and photo galleries/stories from school, District and Education Foundation events and activities. Feedback on the website can be sent to jwaldorf@dg58.org.

District 58 on social media

District 58's brand-new Facebook page is a great way to keep up with the positive things going on in District 58, its 13 schools, and the Education Foundation. Check us out at www.facebook.com/district58. You can "like" our page to get the latest highlights directly in your news feed. You can also check us out at www.twitter.com/DGDistrict58, and/or follow [DGDistrict58](https://twitter.com/DGDistrict58) to get the latest news!



 Like us on Facebook

 Follow us on Twitter

Communicate 58 e-newsletter

District 58 distributes an e-newsletter to subscribers that includes Board of Education, District and Education Foundation news; upcoming events; spotlights on student/staff accomplishments; and more. To subscribe, input your e-mail address in the Communicate 58 sign-up box at www.dg58.org, or e-mail jwaldorf@dg58.org.

e-flyers

District 58 moved last year to an online-only e-flyer system for distributing information to students and families from the District's community partners in education. This eco-friendly distribution system saves resources, and also the time required for parents and staff to sort and handle materials. In the past, District 58 has distributed nearly half a million pieces of paper each year on behalf of community groups and organizations. Flyers are now available for viewing online only. Parents and community members can see the latest postings at www.dg58.org/e-flyers.

If you ever have a question or a comment about any of District 58's publications, programs, policies or procedures, please don't hesitate to contact Communications Coordinator Jennifer Waldorf at jwaldorf@dg58.org, or (630) 719-5805.