

South Berwyn School District 100

April, 2009

Did You Know...



Emerson –

- For the 4th year in a row, Emerson School has been recognized as an Illinois Spotlight School! Congratulations to the staff and students of Emerson for achieving this honor once again!
- Emerson's Title One Teacher, Diane Fator, has been elected President of the Illinois Title 1 Association for the second year in a row. Congratulations to Mrs. Fator for achieving this honor.
- The following Emerson students represented their school at the district Spelling Bee: Favian M. and Jonathan G. The alternates were: Amanda A. and Edith M. Congratulations for qualifying!
- In celebration of the 200th anniversary of President Abraham Lincoln, Emerson School joined other District 100 schools in reciting the Gettysburg Address. Students, staff members, and witnesses from the Berwyn community took part in the reading. 241 names will be added to the Guinness Book of Records list from Emerson School.
- Emerson first graders have been reading Flat Stanley, and have mailed Flat Children to visit family and friends. This lesson teaches geography as well as letter writing.
- In February, Emerson School hosted the District 100 Bilingual Parent meeting. It was informative as well as well-attended.
- On February 27, The Morris Brothers entertainment group presented a humorous assembly to prepare the 3rd-5th graders for their ISAT tests.
- Students at Emerson are learning how to play chess! The Renaissance Knights are hosting a Chess club at Emerson School on Friday afternoons for Emerson students. Even on the first meeting day, the library was packed with enthusiastic future chess players!
- Emerson School is featured in the upcoming Illinois State PBIS newsletter. Statistics are highlighted that display a decrease in office referrals due to PBIS practices.

Heritage –

- Heritage students and staff had three successful fundraisers in the past few months. In February, we collected school supplies and raised \$500 to help two former students working with Habitat for Humanity to build a school in New Orleans. In March, we raised \$500 to support research into the causes and treatment of Autism. Then in April, we collected \$495 in our "Pennies for Patients" fundraiser to help in the fight against Leukemia.

- Heritage students and staff also participated in Alderman Ramos's Easter Food drive by collecting almost one thousand cans that were donated to local food pantries.
- One of our 8th grade students, Andy C was selected to be the recipient of the HFS Chicago Scholars program and is receiving a full scholarship for four years to Nazareth Academy.
- Vince LaPaglia, a teacher and coach at Morton East High School, spoke to our 8th grade students about being the best they can be in High School. Our students were inspired by his presentation.
- Heritage sponsored an SEL (Social Emotional Learning) table at the District 100 Wellness Fair and conducted a parent survey about the environment at Heritage. The results were overwhelmingly positive!
- On March 27th, we had our tenth annual Fine Arts Coffee House. Heritage students displayed their many talents in the areas of singing, dancing, instrumental, and dramatic performances. The coffee and desserts were delicious, and we raised over \$2,900 for our Fine Arts department.
- Fifteen Heritage Middle School Band students, under the direction of John Durachta, performed at the Illinois Grade School Music Association Solo and Ensemble contest on February 21st. Once again, all of our students received a Division I superior rating.

Pershing –

- Mrs. Senese's 5TH grade class sent letters to the Berwyn Police Dept. to thank them for the school safety checks that take place several times each week. The students had many questions about the Police Department so Mr. Kushner, Chief of Police in Berwyn will be out for a visit to their classroom to personally answer those questions.
- Pershing students, with the help of Mrs. August, contributed over \$200 to the South Berwyn Education Association Bowling Fund Raiser. All the proceeds come right back to District 100 students as in the recent technology purchase for our schools
- Our kindergarten students will be helping planet Earth as they join in a tree planting activity with the Berwyn Park District at Freedom Park.
- Freedom Middle School Band and Chorus gave a fantastic assembly for the Pershing students. Our students have much to look forward to as they join the middle school.
- Pershing 2nd grade students have made a book of Dinosaurs in their computer class with Ms. DiGilio. Each student drew a picture and completed research to design a "web" of fascinating facts about each dinosaur, all on the computer!!!
- The Pershing PTA held a student talent show with everything from comedy acts to music and dance. Our students love performing on stage for an audience!!!!

Freedom –

- Freedom Middle School students raised over \$500 (so far) in loose change in our annual "Pennies for Peace" fundraiser which goes to support schools in the middle east with special emphasis to bring more opportunities for girls to receive quality education.
- Our staff members Joanna Moran, Eva Rosenblatt, Brigid Collins, Amanda Collins, and Lori Gentzle were responsible for bringing Freedom its first ever Career Day which provided students with the opportunity to hear from a wide range of local professionals

about their various careers. The Career Day was highlighted with a key note address given by Anita Padilla from Fox news.

- The Student Advisory Committee has been meeting on a regular basis and has worked with administration to ensure that students have a voice in decisions that are made at school. One area that they have specifically worked on has been ideas to provide a more motivating environment by working with a limited budget to purchase motivational posters that will be used to decorate our hallways.
- Freedom students just took part in the most successful fundraiser that our PTSA has ever organized. Over 950 items from World's Finest Chocolates were sold, which surpassed our goal of 620 items. Mr. Calabrese challenged the students to sell at least one item per student. By meeting and surpassing the goal, Mr. Calabrese is now sporting pink hair.
- Freedom Staff came out in full force to show our support for the SBEF at the inaugural BOWL-A-RAMA. We had over 40 staff members participate in an evening full of fun.
- One of Freedom's students was recently accepted into Whitney Young High School. Whitney Young is one of the most prestigious high schools in the city of Chicago.
- Freedom received a donation of 160 tickets for a Bulls game from a local community member. The tickets will be used to bring all Freedom athletes and Student Advisory Committee members to the Bulls vs. Raptors game on April 15th.

Irving –

- March 2 was Dr. Seuss Day at Irving School – All the students read Dr. Seuss books, drew pictures of the “weirdest place” that they have read, and Mr. Lane wore a “Cat in the Hat” hat all day and read stories to various classes.
- Motivational Productions made their yearly trip to Irving and played a movie-in-the-round to the students called – Attitude of Gratitude – This movie was based on accepting each one as an individual.
- “The Power of One” was a cultural arts presentation that all students attended. It had an anti-bullying message and showed the students how to recognize and handle a bullying situation.
- The 4th and 5th graders attended the Robert Crown Health Center as part of their health curriculum.
- The 4th grade classes enjoyed Linda Dunne from the state of Illinois who made a presentation about Illinois agriculture to all of the classes.
- The Irving PTA had a Cookie Dough fundraiser this month – Yummy.
- Two SMART boards have been installed at Irving School in grades 1 and 5 – they are being used daily and the teachers and students love them.
- Dr. Fields will substitute for Mrs. Kroll for ½ day – Mrs. Kroll won that prize at the Association Bowling Party.
- The Early Childhood and Pre-school classes at Irving are practicing for their end of the year celebration – they will perform songs and rhymes for their families.
- As a PBIS reward, the students will again participate in the program – “Are You Smarter Than Your Teacher” before spring vacation.
- Mrs. Brennan’s class and Mrs. Zaklan’s class finished making bar and pie graphs in the computer lab using the “mean” of averaged data. These classes are currently designing a floor plan for their very own pizza parlor. They are responsible for creating the

dimensions for the tables, restrooms, kitchen counters, soda fountain, and salad bar. They must lay it all out to make the restaurant functional.

Hiawatha –

- 1st graders in Ms. DeCaire & Ms. Avila's class are working with a visual artist to recreate the biography of President Obama's life with photos of their students posing in scenes similar to Obama's life.
- 1st graders in Miss Dyra's class have been observing two gecko eggs for the past two months and recording these observations in our "Leaping Lizards" journals. Well, last week the two gecko eggs hatched so we have been learning facts about our new pets. The class voted to name them Cubs and Sox!
- The second grade is discovering the prehistoric world, one fossil at a time! We studied the characteristics of dinosaurs and how paleontologists find and study fossils. We invited our parents to our Science Night, where they could "dig" for fossils, see life size measurements of dinosaurs, do dino centers, and take a picture in front of life size plants from the prehistoric world. Our unit finishes with a photo scavenger hunt at the Field Museum!
- All Hiawatha students wrote a cinquain last month. This month's poem was a lantern poem. The fifth graders helped their buddies in 1st grade. To really learn something, you need to teach it to someone else!
- The origami club has been creating birds, frogs, and other tiny creatures. They are currently on display at Hiawatha.
- The Technology Club has created characters and wrote a script called, "Weird Comedy News." The video that they filmed and edited debuted for their families and teachers at their final club meeting recently.
- 153 students met their Accelerated Reader goal for the 2nd trimester and were rewarded with a pizza lunch.
- Mrs. Siegler, the art teacher, and Ms. Jen, a theatre performer, are collaborating with Mrs. Flower's 3rd grade class on ancient storytelling from India. The students have been introduced to the art form, the country and its people along with theatre exercises. They recently visited the Art Institute of Chicago's art collection from India and viewed a dance performance called the Story of Rama.
- Ms. Patzke's class is working with a visiting artist. The artist is well versed in drama. They are learning about the tools an actor uses, and several games that actors use to help with focus, eye contact, and working together. They are also working on a unit about change. The students will be looking at Abraham Lincoln and the physical changes he went through during his years as president. They are also dealing with changes in the landscape by studying Hurricane Katrina and its effects
- Many staff members at Hiawatha have adopted individual student buddies. The students are unaware that the time and activity that the adult and child engage in together is being documented. The impact of that time is being studied and documented by the homeroom teacher and the PBIS team.
- Two Hiawatha students have PTA Reflections entries that are advancing to the state level. The students were honored at a recent PTA meeting.
- Third graders just completed a pioneer unit - integrating social studies, sciences, and reading-involved reading Twister on Tuesday (fiction) and Storm Chasers (non-fiction), created tornadoes in a bottle, took a trip to the Grove to experience a day as a pioneer-(each class took home a rope they built), created student research projects to

display at the fair ranging from sod houses to covered wagons, spent a class morning doing pioneer "centers" in the 3 different classrooms, and then played pioneer games and learned to square dance in the gym

- Hiawatha 5th graders may be seen on upcoming episodes of CSI. Our would-be forensic scientists completed a workshop at the Museum of Science and Industry. They are now beginning a new inquiry based unit. The students are learning about how to make healthier decisions to keep their body system healthy. After researching the body system, each student will develop a project that defends the system that they've chosen as most important.

Komensky –

Komensky Students are engaged in a variety of Extra Curricular Activities and or Clubs:

- 30% of our 5th graders are involved in Band.
- Chorus members at Komensky have seen record numbers this year. Our fall chorus had over 80 students and our spring chorus was more manageable at 55. They have been working hard at memorizing songs by Aaron Copland and a variety of other composers. They sound terrific :)
- Drama club has 28 students from 3rd-5th grade. We have been creating and developing new characters, working on improv activities, and voice exercises, as well as learning some fundamental elements of being onstage. We had 4 participants of the Drama Club make the district play, and one fifth grader was cast in a featured role. Students recently have worked with readers' theatre materials to feel more comfortable with performing in front of others.
- Komensky is pleased to continue with our Girl Scouts Program maintaining a menu of positive after school activities. On Wednesday afternoons, almost 100 girls from Kindergarten through fifth grade can be found laughing, enjoying snacks, crafts, and developing qualities that will serve them throughout their lives.
- Cooking Around the World Club has experimented with cuisine from all parts of the world. Some of the places we have cooked and sampled food from are Mexico, Italy, China, Ireland, Germany, Zimbabwe, and England. We also have learned some games associated with these countries. Mexico's Chorizo Quesadillas was by far our favorite!
- The Arts and Crafts Club has been busy this year. We made all kinds of Valentine's and Valentine gifts. We made spinning drums, and our biggest project was the construction of kites. For St. Patrick's Day, the students problem solved to make leprechaun traps. No one caught one, but several students found gold coins in their traps. We are now creating hatching-chicks Easter cards for our parents.
- Sports Club provides each student with the opportunity to participate in a sports activity and discover the benefits of an active lifestyle. The activities are varied in skill level so that there is an opportunity for every individual to participate. Sports Club is also a great way to meet new friends and stay active at the same time. We had 120 students in grades 1 through 5 participate in this club!
- Approximately 87 Komensky students in grades 1 through 5 participated in our school's Tech Club. The students enjoyed having the additional time to use the computers and practice their typing. They were also able to complete some additional projects such as making greeting cards and business cards using Microsoft Publisher. Our budding graphic artists presented the Komensky staff with their very own set of business cards which were very enthusiastically received. The Tech Club participants also had an opportunity to practice taking pictures with our digital cameras. Several of the members

of Komensky's Tech Club will be helping at the District 100 Tech Night on April 8 at Freedom Middle School. We are all looking forward to our new updated computers next year and learning even more about technology.

- 110 Kindergarten through fifth grade students at Komensky are participating in the school dance club. The students are learning a variety of dance routines focusing on team building and coordination.

Piper –

- 359 members of the Piper Family attended our Fine Arts Night on April 1st. They were treated to a living Wax Museum of Amazing Americans presented by Piper's fourth grade students. Each student dressed in costume and recreated the life of a famous American. At the push of a button, the character came alive to tell a short biography of the person who made America great. Fantastic art work from all grade levels was on display in the halls, and the famous Piper chorus performed along with members of our award winning Speech and Drama team. What a wonderful night!
- Piper's Student Council sponsored a "Pennies for Patients" fundraiser to support families struggling with childhood cancer, especially leukemia. Piper families donated over \$270 dollars in coins to this worthy cause. As a celebration, ten staff members volunteered to take a "pie in the face" from a lucky student raffle winner. Ms. Sweeney, Ms. Hebda, Ms. Maggos, Ms. Grimes, Ms. Bartley, Ms. Lockman, Ms. Soger, Ms. Petkus, Dr. Howard, and Mr. Fontanetta were excited to "take one for the team" to fund research to end this disease.
- Piper School is very proud to announce that our bilingual teacher, Ms. Lourdes Rodriguez, was invited to deliver the keynote speech at the Bilingual Education Conference and Cognate Tree Workshop in Chipas, Mexico. We are thrilled that Ms. Rodriguez was chosen to share the strategies for successful bilingual instruction we deliver to students at Piper with our colleagues from Mexico.
- Piper's third grade students took an internet trip around the world via our new Smart Classroom technology to watch "Earth Hour" celebrations. Students viewed video of the lights being turned off at various landmarks like the Eiffel Tower, the Pyramids, the Golden Gate Bridge, and many activities of common people around the world to support awareness of climate change.

Bilingual Department–

The children in the bilingual program have been very busy learning, doing homework, and above all, taking state tests. They took ACCESS in January and February which measures their progress in the English language; in March, the children in grades 3-8 took ISAT, which measures their academic growth.

We are now in April and also in spring and it's that time of the year to begin practicing for our annual Cinco de Mayo – Mother's Day Program. It will again take place at Morton West, 2400 S. Home Ave., on May 8, 2009 from 6-8pm. Entrance is free, come and join us in celebrating your children and the richness of the Hispanic culture.

English classes for parents have been taking place at the following schools: Pershing, Piper, and Komensky. Morton College is also holding classes for parents at Freedom Middle School.

Pershing School has also started a bilingual computer class for parents. Thank you for demonstrating your interest through your attendance at these classes.

Fine Arts –

Move over Judge Judy - Your Favorite Storybook Characters want to get EVEN!

Fifty seven District 100 students from grades four through eight will sing for justice in the District 100 Musical Play, *The Big Bad Musical*.

Come one, come all, and be part of the '*forest*' courtroom scene. **YOU** decide if the wolf is guilty or innocent on all accounts!

Forest Court (LaVergne Education Center) gathers on **Friday, May 15th & Saturday, May 16th**.

Hearings commence - 7:00PM Sharp!

Tickets are 7 Bucks and may be purchased, starting Monday, April 27th, through any cast member, or just send the bucks for tickets in care of Kathy Rokosz at LaVergne. Checks payable to District 100 Fine Arts.

THE DISTRICT 100 HEALTH AND WELLNESS FAIR

On March 19th, District 100 held its second Health and Wellness Fair at Heritage Middle School. The Fair was produced by our District Wellness Committee, which is composed of teachers, students, parents, and community representatives. The Fair was geared towards health promotion and disease prevention and was created in order to support the well being of everyone in the district.

The Fair was once again an outstanding success! We had representatives from 35 local agencies. Over 600 students and parents attended and almost 400 health screenings were performed. We especially appreciated all of the help provided by MacNeal Hospital.

The Fair offered all types of health care information. We had blood pressure, glucose, cholesterol, and glaucoma screenings along with BMI calculations, diabetes education, information on smoking cessation, nutrition education, etc. We gave out some great raffle prizes, had healthy cooking demonstrations, and had all types of healthy refreshments. We even had the Mascots from the PAV YMCA, the Chicago Fire, and Aramark attend our event. In addition, thanks to Aramark we published our own healthy eating cookbook with contributions from the whole District 100 community. It was a beneficial and fun evening for everyone and we look forward to doing it again next year!