

# South Berwyn School District 100

October, 2009

Did You Know...

Volume 4 Issue 1



## Emerson –

- On September 3<sup>rd</sup>, Emerson staff, parents, and community gathered on the Emerson field to celebrate the start of school for our 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Emerson School Picnic. Emerson School provided hot dogs, and parents brought picnics and blankets. Games, music, frozen treats, and good company rounded out the evening.
- Ms. Optie, our Kindergarten teacher, recently had her 3<sup>rd</sup> Donor's Choose project funded for her classroom! She will be receiving new chairs to go with her new kidney shaped table. The table will work great for reading groups in Ms. Optie's class.
- Emerson School has five SMART rooms, with more on the way. Staff members who travel are learning SMART room techniques, and bringing them to Emerson School as well. Student engagement is on the rise with this new technology.
- Mrs. Olsen's reading group is using sign language to help learn the alphabet. This helps with visualization.
- On October 21<sup>st</sup>, Emerson 5th graders enjoyed the Donizetti Opera at Morton High School.
- Mrs. Towner ran in the recent Chicago ½ marathon.
- Emerson kindergarteners will be starting to make their first movie!
- The ESL classes are enjoying their interactive academic bulletin board, used to illustrate concepts and teach needed vocabulary.
- In October, the 4<sup>th</sup> grade will host Urban Worm Girl ([www.urbanwormgirl.com](http://www.urbanwormgirl.com)). She will help them set up their own composting station. In addition, 4<sup>th</sup> grade will host the Cook County Farm Bureau's "agriculture in the classroom" program.



## Heritage –

- The combined Heritage and Freedom Middle School seventh and eighth grade band marched at the annual Berwyn-Cicero Houby Day Parade on Sunday, October 4<sup>th</sup>, 2009. Eighty-three band students dressed in full uniform marched to "This Land is Your Land" and "Hot, Hot, Hot." Many community members and parents cheered the band on as they marched the two mile parade route down Cermak Road. The combined marching band is co-directed by John Durachta from Heritage Middle School and Carolyn Schneider from Freedom Middle School.
- On August 29<sup>th</sup>, our students had an afternoon of PBIS kick-off activities. The best part of the day were the skits the staff presented to students on how to be responsible, respectful, and safe in all areas of the school. The staff continues to reinforce these

expectations on a daily basis and students have an opportunity to earn weekly PBIS rewards.

- One hundred percent of the Heritage Middle School staff has joined our PTSA.
- Heritage Middle School began our after school program on October 13<sup>th</sup> with over 60 students in attendance. All participating students will not only receive help in reading and help with homework, they will also have the opportunity to participate in a once a week fun club!
- Heritage now has a Parent University, which meets every other Tuesday night. From 6:00-6:30 PM, parents have the opportunity to use the computers and the Internet. From 6:30 - 7:30 PM, a workshop on a specific topic will follow. Check the HMS website for more details. All parents are invited and suggestions for future classes are welcome.
- Lit. Plus teacher Mrs. Nancy Simanek presented at a literacy conference at Dominican University in River Forest. The conference, titled *The Truth About Beginnings*, focused on the enduring impact of books on children and adolescents. Mrs. Simanek spoke of the power of illustrations to enhance and reinforce the meaning of the text in children's literature.
- In honor of Breast Cancer Awareness Month, students at Heritage were involved with learning about this disease and raising money to support the search for a cure. Student



announcers discussed facts about breast cancer, and students watched an inspirational video about the Race for the Cure. On Friday, October 2<sup>nd</sup>, students and staff raised \$615 for the Susan G. Komen Foundation, an organization which is involved in research and promotes quality care for those diagnosed with cancer.

## Pershing –

- The fourth and fifth grade Bilingual/ESL students worked very hard on their projects in the 2008-09 school year. Awesome projects were exhibited in the Berwyn Main Public Library. The projects were:
  - The Solar System and the Planets were exhibited for four weeks. The students used plastic milk bottles and wrote facts and interesting things about planets they chose.
  - The Photosynthesis Dioramas showed photosynthesis stages in the four seasons.
  - The ABC's for Christmas had vocabulary for the Christmas holidays. Stories of how the students celebrated their holidays with their families were creative and touched cultures around the world.
- The second graders and the fourth and fifth grade Bilingual/ESL students worked together to exhibit the presidents, President Obama, and the voting system. The second graders worked on very creative projects in which they researched about the presidents from Washington to Obama. The fourth and fifth graders worked on similarities and differences between Abraham Lincoln and George Washington.

- The library received a lot of positive feedback. It was a joy to know that the work of the children was highly appreciated by the Berwyn community.
- Pershing School's Open House and Hot Dog Night was such a huge success that we sold over 450 hot dogs! Many families came out to this fun event to have their dinner served by the Pershing Staff. It was a fun evening for all who enjoyed their dinner in the gym. Families enjoyed touring the classrooms and hallways filled with fantastic student work. What a great evening!
- The Kindergarten students and co-teaching team at PERSHING worked this month on carving pumpkins using 6-step directions, sequencing the Life Cycle of a Pumpkin, and made pictures using pumpkin seeds!
- Several Pershing staff members attended a Paula Kluth workshop to learn of more ways to assist students in the classroom!
- Pershing Parent Club meets once a month. We bring representatives from the community to inform our parents of the services that are available to them. In addition, we provide information on issues such as domestic violence, gangs, and bullying. The presentations and information given to our parents are always in Spanish and English.
- Ms. DiGilio's 3rd grade reading movie stars have been very busy creating weekly fluency videos using our new Flip Cameras. We practice fluency using original writing, reading favorite authors, and responding to literature. We put on quite a show for Parents at Open House using MS Movie Maker to present our hard work. Thank you, District 100, for the wonderful new technology that has helped to make STARS out of each one of us!

## Komensky –

- 45% of our 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> graders participate in after school activities
- One of our 5<sup>th</sup> graders, entered her poem entitled, "I Hear Edgar Allen Poe" in the Berwyn ARTs Poe Fest competition. Viewings of all writing entries are at the Berwyn Public Library
- Congratulations to the top four Komensky Brain Bowl contenders; they will represent Komensky School at the Brain Bowl on October 27th



- Komensky is so honored that our district is dedicated to the fine arts enrichment in the education of our students. Our 5th graders went on a field trip to Morton East High School to see the opera "Elixir of Love" composed by Gaetano Donizetti. This field trip was a part of the Lyric Opera's "Opera in the Neighborhoods" program. The students really enjoyed the experience. The 4th graders developed dances that represented music vocabulary and concepts through the ARTS Berwyn Grant.
- Mrs. Coughlin's 4<sup>th</sup> grade class and the fifth grade ECHO students as part of their Art, Music and/or Computer class are fortunate this year to partner with artists from the Chicago Arts Cultural Center, to enhance their curricular studies with fine arts! Mrs. Coughlin's 4<sup>th</sup> grade, Mr. Martin's 4<sup>th</sup> grade along with Mrs. Pierscionek, and Mrs. Nicholson's 5<sup>th</sup> grade ECHO class and their artists visited the National Museum of Mexican Art in Chicago to give our students an opportunity to explore and view art in different forms and cultures

- Parent University began with great success! Many parents came after school to learn about the working of Komensky, and many more are showing interest in attending future meetings. On Thursday, October 22, a safety presentation was made by Principal LaSalle and Nurse Diane. The next meeting will be held on Thursday, November 5<sup>th</sup>. The topic is yet to be determined.
- We have 63% of our families signed up as members of our PTA
- PBIS is working!! Student discipline issues have decreased in all major categories of infractions.

## Freedom –

- Some 8<sup>th</sup> grade students are currently running a nonprofit business out of their Careers class. This particular unit gives the students real life opportunities to see how businesses are run while still raising money to support the Susan G. Komen For the Cure Organization. So far this month we have raised well over \$675.
- 8<sup>th</sup> grade Science and Lit Studies teacher, Lindsey Lahr, has developed and is actively using, her own website to help instruct her students in class every day. Miss Lahr archives daily posts about classroom discussions so students can go back and look over topics that they might have questions on. Also students know where to go to find information when they are absent. The class also finds and submits homework entirely on line which is helping our environment since students do not have to use paper to complete those assignments. Please go to <http://www.misslahr.com/> to visit Miss Lahr's outstanding website.
- Freedom Middle School's National Junior Honor Society (NJHS) is just getting off the ground as a new club this year. NJHS is a club that requires students to demonstrate academic excellence while being committed to being positive leaders and completing service to our community. We are extremely excited about the opportunity this club will present to our students.
- Freedom Middle School currently has over 120 students participating on its Girls Basketball and Coed Cross County teams which for the first time ever, includes 6<sup>th</sup> grade students. Last year at this time, we had approximately 50 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade girls participating without any athletic teams for our 6<sup>th</sup> grade students or boys since their basketball season started during the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter.



## Irving –

- Eight of our classrooms currently have SMART Board technology and four more are on the way!
- The Irving PTA sponsored Walk to School Day! The students received morning snacks donated by local businesses and were served by some special guests including Mayor Robert Lovero, Alderman Nona Chapman, School Board President Joanne Zendol, and former principal Dan Lane. The celebration ended with some walk to school safety tips presented by the Berwyn Police and Fire Departments.

- Irving is continuing our partnership with the Calm Classroom Program. Our students learned some new techniques to help them focus on learning and enhancing their level of engagement.
- We have over 70 students in the Running Club. Dr. Fields even joined our students one afternoon in running the mile!
- Mona Towner ran the Chicago Half Marathon and Lauren McDonald completed the Wisconsin Iron Man last month!
- Many of our students are participating in a Reading Buddies Program each week where older students read with their younger buddy. This will become a school-wide program this year.
- There are workshops once a month for our pre-school parents. The next one is scheduled for November 19<sup>th</sup>.
- Our students are busy with all the new clubs available at Irving. The Service Club did some planting of tulip bulbs out in front of the school and they are currently working on a fundraiser for Breast Cancer Awareness. The Girls' Basketball Club is coming to an end and we will begin Boys' Basketball Club next month.
- Our PBIS focus for September was Playground Behavior. The students celebrated their success with a chalk and bubbles party at the end of the month.
- Four of our students were winners in the district's Bilingual Program Art and Essay Contest. Our 1<sup>st</sup> place winners were from Kindergarten and First grade.



## Hiawatha –



Kindergartners are thrilled with the new hands on science curriculum. They are singing and dancing along to songs about how living things grow and change. They are working together cooperatively to observe and explore living things in the environment and in their Classroom “Lab.”

- Mr. Guevara's 1<sup>st</sup> grade class and Ms. Chlumsky are working with a theatre artist. She is helping to teach the students music and theatre vocabulary of “Tempo” and how it affects music, theatre, and dance in the classroom.
- Ms. Dyra's first grade class is working on patterns with a theatre artist using their bodies, voices, and imaginations. They have been using theatre games to understand the concept of repetition. They are moving towards studying patterns in literature.
- Ms. O'Donnell's and Ms. Lazzaretti's class is working with a visual artist to help their students learn the six classifications of animals. They are studying details of animals to use in the paintings they are creating. Students are also using the color wheel to create their own colors.
- Third grades at Hiawatha “geared up” for their open house by creating their own simple machines on “Ed Head.” Their parents had to follow clues to solve their neighborhood map mysteries and set up a speedway of force and motion.
- Ms. Siegler has been working with 4<sup>th</sup> graders and a dance artist who has been helping the students understand balance, weight, mass, and movement. Students will use their knowledge to design and construct a mobile in the style of Alexander Calder. Students will be seeing their artist perform soon at the Harris Theatre.

- Ms. Dastice's 4<sup>th</sup> grade class is writing letters to 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grade students in Lesotho, Africa. They are communicating with an all girls' school about community and interests. The class has studied the region with considerable excitement provided by their SMART board.
- Ms. Sabri's and Ms. Lukasiewicz.'s class is working with an artist who creates art out of nature. They are gathering things in nature to create collages and structures. The students have studied artificial and natural things and the changes that have taken place over time.
- Ms. DeCaire's and Ms Avila's 5<sup>th</sup> grade class is working with an artist and concentrating on how humans are affecting the land biomes and water ecosystems of the earth. Students will adopt an 'expert role' as geologist, zoologist, botanist, meteorologist, etc., in an assigned ecosystem to uncover all the information they can in their area.
- The Hiawatha Green Team has formed two units due to the overwhelming response of students who care about their environment and the planet. Green Team Unit 1 kicked off Recycling Day, Thursday, October 1, by setting up our Terracycle bins in the cafeteria and posting information around the school advertising this GREEN effort.
- Green Team Unit 2 will recycle plastic milk jugs into plant holders and plant GREENS. These GREEN gifts will be distributed to classrooms at Hiawatha and will surely improve air quality throughout the building.
- The Hiawatha Chorus performed with the Emerson Chorus at the Berwyn Arts Council Student Showcase.
- Many Hiawatha students are participating in various clubs and athletic activities: 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Athletics, Running Club, 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Soccer Club, and Dance Club.

## Piper –

- Piper's Student Council, under the direction of fourth grade teacher Cathy Theiss, raised \$200 for cancer patients during our "**Heavenly Hats Day.**" Students and staff who donated \$1.00 were able to wear their favorite hat during classes.
- **92%** of invited Piper families were in attendance at October conferences.
- First grade teacher, Jan Hebda, was honored by the Office Max Corporation as an excellent teacher who goes above and beyond to provide for her students' needs. The "**A Day Made Better**" program donated over \$1000 in technology and supplies to Piper School in Mrs. Hebda's name.
- Piper students earned "**A Class in the Park**" PBIS reward for demonstrating an outstanding level of respect during the months of September and October. Students walked to Janura Park in the afternoon where teachers conducted regularly scheduled classes in innovative ways.
- 196 students were met by Piper staff members at the corners on the way to Piper School as they participated in "**International Walk to School Day**".
- 116 people came to Piper to take part in our annual "**Family Reading Night**".
- **Piper's Parent Club** meets on the first Thursday of each month. The topic of October's meeting was technology. Parents were able to use the SMART Boards, tour the new Piper website, join our listserv, and sign up for email addresses. Piper counts over 100 members on its listserv. These families receive email updates from the principal on current school events and initiatives.



## Bilingual Department–

Our annual Hispanic Heritage Celebration took place from Sep. 15 - Oct. 15. Children in the bilingual program participated in a District Art and Essay contest. Students were awarded prizes and certificates of participation. Pictures and excerpts from the essays will soon be posted on our web site.

We recently received notice from the State that our District made AMAO (Annual Measurable Achievement Objectives) which is a criterion used for schools that receive Title III funds for ELLs (English Language Learners). We are very proud of the students. The three AMAO target criteria for 2009 were:

<u>Progress toward English Language Proficiency</u>	<b>State</b>	<b>District</b>
	85%	96.9%
<u>Attaining English Language Proficiency</u>		
	10%	30.1%
<u>Adequate Yearly Progress</u>		
	70%	74.2% (applying safe harbor)

The first Bilingual Advisory Committee Meeting will take place at LaVergne on October 28<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 AM. Everyone is invited to attend.