

South Berwyn School District 100

December, 2008

Did You Know...



Emerson –

- 4th grade teacher Dennis Puhr has earned the title of National Board Certified Teacher. This is a distinct honor and it is our privilege to celebrate this honor with Mr. Puhr.
- 2nd grade teacher Susan Bratta, and ECHO teacher Rosann Nicholson have been selected to participate in a district-wide opportunity (made possible through a grant) that involves incorporating fine arts into the classroom. The training process is ongoing, and within 3 years the number of staff members district-wide will increase. Emerson School is excited as well as honored to be a part of this program.
- November was a busy month for Emerson. The school hosted the community for Veterans Day, Hospitality Day, conferences, as well as Reading Night. Thank you to all who participated in our events.
- The 4th grade students at Emerson hosted a speaker again this year from the department of agriculture. They learned about real life agricultural issues, and were able to see science up close in real life.

Heritage –

- Heritage Middle School is hosting District 100's first High School Information Fair in December. Representatives from 12 local high schools including Morton West will be sending representatives to talk to both Freedom and Heritage Middle Schools' 8th grade students and their families. We think this will be an interesting and informative evening for all participants.
- All 8th grade students have been immersed in learning about the stock market through a simulation of the stock market at the turn of the 20th century. In addition, all 8th grade technology students had an opportunity to buy and sell stocks in their Technology Class. This will certainly help our students have a better idea of what is going on with our present economy.
- Heritage Middle School students and staff are adopting the La Charrue School in Port-au-Prince, Haiti. Students in this school are very poor and only get one meal per day, which they eat at school. Their teachers are paid only \$200 per year. We will have a fundraiser and hope to raise over \$500 to send to the school. We will also be sending them textbooks that we no longer use.
- Once again, our 7A team has sponsored a mitten tree. Over 150 hats, scarves, gloves, and mittens are hanging on a tree in our LRC. These warm items will be donated to the CBS (Cicero, Berwyn, and Stickney) Anti-hunger Organization so that local families in need will receive them.

Pershing –

- Pershing School said “Bon Voyage” to Mrs. Marge Garay, our dear Office Assistant of many years, with a wonderful retirement luncheon and an all school farewell assembly. Mrs. Garay was joined by current Pershing staff as well as alumni staff in celebration of her many years of service to Pershing School. She still plans to volunteer and will return to help out at a variety of events, such as Hot Dog Night, one of her favorites! We will miss our Margie.
- Our staff has again joined Ms. Diona Iacobazzi and her volunteer group to ensure that less fortunate families on our community have a happy and bountiful Thanksgiving. Pershing staff donations help provide food to many needy families in conjunction with the Berwyn Cicero Children’s Center. We are proud of the efforts of Ms. Bazz and her generous friends, who coordinate the project year after year.
- The average Little Brown Bat eats up to 600 insects an hour? Bats are very important to our environment and their habitats are being lost. The 2nd grade at Pershing raised more than \$65 and adopted 4 bats from the International Bat Conservatory. Way to help our earth 2nd grade!!
- Pershing School is currently holding a “Coin War” to benefit La Charrue School in Haiti. You may have heard recently that a school in Haiti, 10 miles away from La Charrue, collapsed with a loss of 90 lives and it is believed that at least some of these children will now attend La Charrue. We have already collected over \$600 to help them out.
- Pershing School held READ FOR 2009 Day on Friday, Dec. 5th to celebrate the joys of reading. Not only did the Pershing staff and students participate, but many community members were involved as well. We heard fabulous stories from parents, Mayor O’Connor, Dr. Fields, a Berwyn Police Officer, 4 Berwyn Firefighters, and many more. The day was a huge success and the children had a blast!

Freedom –

- Freedom Middle School students and staff raised over \$300 for a former student’s family to help out in a time of need.
- Our students and staff raised over \$350 dollars for a local animal shelter to help abandoned or abused animals.
- Freedom Middle School students lowered the amount of times they have been tardy to school in November 2008 when compared to November 2007 by 54% to post our lowest month of tardies to school in the last two years.
- We will be sending 11 students to compete on the district Speech and Drama team at the West 40 Speech and Drama Competition.
- 12 students are participating on Freedom’s Student Advisory Committee which will meet twice a month for the remainder of the year and is designed to give Freedom students an opportunity to have a voice in their education.

Irving –

- Students at Irving brought in food for our annual Thanksgiving Food Drive. As a school we collected enough food to fill 17 boxes. All of the food was donated to the Christian Life Center in Berwyn.
- The 2nd graders have started a Weather Unit from our brand new Inquiry Based Science Curriculum.
- ACE, the mascot for our ARAMARK food service came to Irving School, visited our lunch room and mingled with the students.
- The Irving PTA presented a night at the movies with “Kung Fu Panda” – it was a pajama party run by the PTA Fathers’ Club. Over 200 children and adults attended and all had a great time.
- Santa’s Secret Workshop was presented by the Irving PTA again this year. Students in all grades participated and purchased holiday gifts for family and friends.
- The Holiday Music program was presented at Morton West High School this month – Grades 1-5 all sang wonderful and traditional holiday songs. The auditorium was packed with parents and family members. Everyone was put in the Holiday spirit by the evening event.
- The Irving PTA put on a “Flu buster Day” where students and their families could obtain a flu shot at minimal cost.
- Mrs. Bednar’s class had a visit from a musician. Mr. Paul Crowe – Crusty. The students enjoyed his songs which were very silly and fun. Crusty talked with 6 students at a time and answered all their questions. The students were able to learn about the guitar and even played it a bit.

Hiawatha –

- Our Green Team has developed a video entry for a contest to win a \$100 Green makeover for Hiawatha School. Students researched, wrote the script, and developed a storyboard prior to videotaping. Students on the team recorded the 7 minute video in different areas in and outside the school demonstrating the need for geo-thermal heating and cooling.
- Our Running Club held a one mile run after weeks of rigorous training. Students have built their skills including doing 100 crunches. The fastest student ran a 9 minute mile!
- 1st graders saw “A Christmas Carol” at Drury Lane as part of a literature and social studies unit.
- 3rd grade students have discussed and seen videos of the Aborigine people of Australia and their art. The students have been drawing in x-ray style and dot painting, both Aboriginal techniques.
- Our 4th grades celebrated and learned about birds through a variety of activities throughout a school day. They researched, developed visual art, conducted science experiments, and built nests and feeding stations for birds.
- 1st through 5th grade students have worked on the technique of writing Haikus to improve their word choices when writing. The works are displayed throughout the school.
- To excite students about the PTA sponsored book fair, a door decorating contest was held. Classroom doors were all decorated around the safari theme.
- Five of our students submitted visual entries for the PTA reflections program.

Komensky –

Komensky teachers are committed to mentoring future educators.

We are always pleased to have energetic, creative, dedicated student teachers at Komensky. During the past year we teamed up with students to mentor them in gaining professional educational experience.

- We worked with over 17 students or future educators.
- They were placed in grades K through 5th grade.
- Additionally, two worked in special education classes.
- Computer class was another area of interest in students.
- Equally exciting is that we have two signed on to start in January.
- The universities that have provided these quality future educators to us include: Concordia, Elmhurst, Northern and Dominican Universities.

All of them should be proud of their accomplishments and contributions to students, fellow teachers and the Berwyn community. The Komensky staff is thankful to have such a fine opportunity to mentor these future educators and for all they have given us in return.

Piper –

- Piper's 4th and 5th grade students participated in the National Geographic Geography Bee. Ten finalists competed for the "Geography Champion" gold medal with the student body cheering them on.
- Piper was visited by Staley the Bear. Staley is the official mascot of the Chicago Bears and he helped our students "Tackle Reading" through a PTA sponsored assembly. Students learned the parts of speech, elements of a story and even wrote a story for Staley to perform. Go Bears and Reading!
- Piper's big heart was evident this holiday season. Student Council led an initiative that collected 500 food items for a local food pantry. Piper's staff donated enough funds to pay the yearly salaries of an entire teaching staff at the La Charrue School in Haiti and sent a shipment of rice for the children.
- Ms. Lockman and Ms. Soger's 4th grade classes participated in the "Agriculture in the Classroom" workshop. Students learned how things grown on the farm help to make our lives better in many ways beyond the food we eat and about job opportunities connected to agriculture.
- Piper homerooms are competing to win "Buzzy the Attendance Bear" for display in their classroom as a reward for the best school attendance for the week. Congratulations to Ms. Maggos' 1st grade class for being Piper's first two time winner.
- Our PBIS team is focusing on "Respect" this month. Classes "caught" being respectful in all areas of Piper School receive a "Snowball Bee". Our goal is 100 of these special bees to earn a "snow day" for the student body.
- Over 80 parents and grandparents attended Piper's Hospitality Day. This number was an all time record. Thank you to all our families for their continued support of Piper School.