



A Community of LEARNERS

Crow Island School • Greeley School • Hubbard Woods School • The Skokie School • Washburne School

Message from the Superintendent

We are well underway in the 2008-2009 school year. Our students are busy exploring, questioning, discovering, creating and constructing new knowledge – they are learning and growing each day and are always at the center of our work as educators.



Our buildings are also transforming with the beautiful new construction coming to a close at Greeley and the second significant phase of renovation continuing at Washburne. Consistent with our new construction at these buildings, we are also in the process of designing new visitor management and safety structures at Hubbard Woods, Crow Island and Skokie Schools, to promote security while at the same time preserve the warm, inviting climate and integrity of our schools.

This year we opened the school year with the theme, "Winnetka Public Schools, 150 Years of Preserving and Progressing." This theme fosters wonderful opportunities for us to celebrate and thank our community. It also reminds us of our shared responsibility to continually assess and adjust our practices, as well as envision and plan for our future. With this in mind, our 150-year celebration will be followed by a new long range/strategic planning process.

This promises to be an exciting year and I look forward to working with you as we celebrate and shape the future of our schools together.

Mary B. Herrmann

Mary B. Herrmann
herrmannm@winnetka36.org

October 2008

Children's Voices Heard

Students at Greeley School – even the Kindergarteners – are registering to vote this month. These young learners are researching the candidates and learning all they can to make an informed choice in November. The excitement of this upcoming race is palpable in the halls of Greeley. Who will win?

No, the children are not voting for president. That's for grown-ups – not kids. The upcoming presidential election, however, provides the perfect rationale for the timing for this age-appropriate polling of children's opinions.

For 16 years now, coinciding with the presidential election every four years, Greeley students have this exciting opportunity to take part in an election that will select the Greeley School Mascot for the next four years. The sitting mascot, elected in the 2004-05 school year, is the Siberian Tiger, selected after a heated run with the Meerkat.



Every four years Greeley students register to vote for the Greeley School Mascot – an election process that mirrors the national presidential election and teaches valuable lessons.

The research component of this project takes a delegation of students to Lincoln Park Zoo to closely observe potential mascot candidates from a list of sixteen endangered species. Following this year's field visit, the list was narrowed to the following seven candidates for the 2008 election: African dog, meerkat, eagle, toco toucan, polar bear, gorilla, and African lion. Each animal candidate has been assigned to buddy classrooms of students who will run the campaign for their mascot candidate and consult the

many sources of information about their candidate carefully gathered by the teachers and the school's Resource Center Director.

The roots of this delightful, child-centered experience that mimics the presidential election are found in The Winnetka Public Schools' philosophy of
(continued on page 2)

Inside This Issue

3 Thank You Winnetka Community: Upcoming 150th Anniversary

4-5 Inside Our Schools

6-7 Welcome New Teachers, Teacher Associates & Staff Members

Children's Voices Heard, continued from page 1

teaching and learning. Learning through projects has been an integral tool of instruction for many years. Project-based learning is a comprehensive and dynamic teaching method in which students explore real-world issues, problems and challenges through the lens of an age-appropriate project or experience and develop skills and knowledge across curricular areas while oftentimes working in small collaborative groups.

Respecting and honoring children's ways of knowing and thoughtfully preparing classroom lessons and projects that provide children with age-appropriate and relevant experiences are hallmarks of our instructional philosophy. Its intent is to build naturally on the skills children will need to participate meaningfully in their adult lives as citizens and community members.

The Greeley School Mascot Election is one of a long-list of instructional experiences based on these ideals. Four years ago Hubbard Woods School hosted a first all school election between the "Fairy Tale Characters" and the "Tall Tale Characters" and the students are preparing for their second election in



Above: 1st graders register to vote for the Greeley School Mascot.

Right: Crow Island students meet with the principal at monthly birthday lunches. A 4th grade student explained this tradition as a time "you can meet the principal and she asks you questions about how things are going in the school so that she can make things better."

Right: A Greeley 4th grader registers to vote for the school's new mascot while another Greeley student checks to be sure his registration is complete.

Below right: Citizenship has been a consistent focus at Skokie School. In the 1940s, a committee of Skokie students sells war stamps to raise funds.



early November. In addition to structured classroom lessons, every interaction with students is viewed as an opportunity to reinforce the underlying value of the importance of hearing children's thinking and encouraging their comfort in voicing their emerging opinions and ideas. Sitting down with the principal on your birthday provides just that kind of experience (see below).

Inside Our Schools (pp. 4 – 5) highlights additional traditions, rituals and projects in our schools that serve as vehicles and forums for children's voices to be heard.

In this issue of *Learners* we celebrate our schools' upcoming 150th Anniversary. For a century and a half, teachers have been designing curricular projects that provide opportunities for



fundamental values of citizenship to be appreciated and expressed in age-appropriate experiences. Providing these opportunities and venues for children's voices to be heard continues to be a priority of our teaching. To learn more about the educational experiences offered in The Winnetka Public Schools, please visit the District website at www.winnetka36.org/.



150 Years

Thank you Winnetka Community!

On the occasion of the upcoming sesquicentennial anniversary of The Winnetka Public Schools, we wish to express our gratitude and appreciation for a century and a half of generous support, dedicated service, and insightful guidance from the Winnetka community.

The Winnetka Historical Society website notes that in "1859 the first public school, District #2, a one-room structure that held 25 students was built near the southeast corner of Elm and Maple Streets – the site of the present-day Village Green." Since that first small grouping of 25 students a century and a half ago, The Winnetka Public Schools has grown not only in enrollment and excellence, but in its highly regarded reputation as a beacon for educators around the globe seeking best practices in teaching and an enduring philosophy.

In reflecting on the initiatives and accomplishments of the Winnetka Public Schools, former Superintendents Carleton W. Washburne (1919-1943) and Sidney P. Marland, Jr. (1956-1963) wrote:

"The story of a small public school system which for nearly half a century has been on the growing edge of education and has become widely known throughout the world is worth telling. It is the story of the way a community, Board of Education, teachers and administration have consistently worked together in an attempt to make the schools as good as possible for the individual children and for the potential contribution each can make to the well-being and progress of the community and society at large."

(The History and Significance of an Educational Experiment
by C. Washburne & S. Marland, Englewood Cliffs, NJ:
Prentice-Hall (1963) p. vii)

Tours of the schools, meetings, activities, and celebratory events are in the planning to be scheduled later this year. Consult the District's website at www.winnetka36.org/ and the Winter 2009 issue of *Learners* for specific events and times.



Crow Island School - 1940



Skokie School - 1921



Greeley School - 1912



Hubbard Woods School - 1915



Columbia School (1892) – later closed and rebuilt as Hubbard Woods School



Washburne School - 1969

Inside Our Schools

The “INSIDE OUR SCHOOLS” column focuses on this issue’s theme of “Children’s Voices Heard.” Our students’ voices and opinions are encouraged and included in meetings and decision-making forums that impact and shape their daily school lives with the larger purpose of providing rehearsal and feedback for their adult participation in civic life. Since the beginning of The Winnetka Public Schools, our students have been encouraged to make observations, evaluate, and voice their thinking through projects, events, and lessons that are appropriate to their age-level and serve to reinforce this democratic ideal.



Presenting at parent meetings: Crow Island 4th graders explain the school’s Peace Power initiative that shapes children’s many interactions throughout the school day. Last year, students engaged in class discussions and each classroom (Grades 1- 4) was assigned responsibility for one of the four Peace Power practices: 1. Recognize good works of others, 2. Work together, 3. Stop out downs, 4. Make peace. Students signed a Peace Power promise by class and posted them throughout the school.



Speaking to peers about problem-solving: Each Monday 50 or more students gather in the Crow Island School Auditorium for an open meeting to discuss issues related to their interest and life in the school. Rotating teams of 1st-4th grade leaders are selected at each meeting and given the charge of listening to peers and offering information and perspective to possibly resolve an issue or, at least, further an understanding.

Registering to vote: A 3rd grader helps a Kindergartener register to vote for the first time in the election that will select the Greeley School Mascot for the next four years.



Educating teachers: Two 6th grade students co-presented a session with their teacher at a national education conference in 2006. These student co-facilitators explained to an audience of teachers how students become leaders in their school community and beyond while the teacher serves as a coach.

Inspiring hopes & dreams:

A graduating 8th grade student is one of three selected to address the assembly of peers, parents, faculty, and administration at the June, 2008 commencement.



Photo by Pioneer Press photographer: Joel Lerner



Handing down wisdom: In the school's farewell assembly, Greeley 4th graders composed a skit of their fondest Greeley memories, hopes for the future and advice for younger students.

Voices on the air: Hubbard Woods 4th graders prepare and deliver a daily live broadcast program through their own TV station – WGST (www.winnetka36.org/Hubbard_Woods/TVstudio.html). This project was funded by The Winnetka Public Schools Foundation.



Speaking to the world: In a moving ceremony on a summer evening in July, 2007, a group of Washburne 8th graders under the guidance of their Social Studies teacher, addressed Winnetka residents and unveiled a plaque commemorating Dr. Martin Luther King's visit and speech on the Winnetka Village Green 42 years ago. This culminating event to a 6-month classroom Social Studies project not only taught invaluable civics lessons to the students but it also has done a great service to the community in which they live.



Welcome New Teachers & Staff Members

The 2008-2009 school year begins with many new faces. We welcome 16 new teachers, 24 teacher associates and 6 central office/district wide staff and interns to our school district.



Julie Alt
Skokie School
Teacher Associate:
Special Education



Andrew Becker
Washburne/Greeley
Schools
Kinetic Wellness
Teacher



Leslie Brockley
Washburne School
Teacher Associate:
Special Education



Andrea Clark
Crow Island School
Teacher Associate:
Special Education



Alison Cohen
Skokie School
Psychology Intern



Jake Dury
Hubbard Woods School
Teacher Associate:
1st Grade



Nathan Dykes
Crow Island School
Teacher Associate:
Special Education



Kate Edwards
Hubbard Woods School
Special Education
Teacher



Teri Erickson
Washburne School
Math Teacher



Mark Evans
Washburne School
Technology



Annie Finlay
Crow Island School
Teacher - Grade 4



Matt J. Fuller
District
Director of Technology
& Communications



Katherine Golub
Skokie School
Teacher Associate:
Special Education



Laura Good
Greeley School
Teacher Associate:
Junior/Senior
Kindergarten



Jennifer Grubb
Washburne School
Teacher Associate:
Special Education



Kerri Harford
Crow Island School
Teacher Associate:
Special Education



Darcy Hill
Crow Island School
Teacher - Grade 4



Melissa Kahn
Greeley School
Teacher - Kindergarten



Christina Kerner
Crow Island School
Teacher Associate:
Special Education



Jo Ellen Kerwin
Hubbard Woods School
Teacher Associate:
Kindergarten



David Knauff
District
Technology Department



Darlene Larson
District
Human Resources
Director



Diana Lee
Skokie School
Teacher Associate:
Special Education



Katherine Lennon
Skokie School
Grade 6 Math/Science
Teacher



Allegra Magrisso
Crow Island School
Social Worker



Betty Manley
Skokie School
Grade 6 Language Arts/
Social Studies Teacher



Debbie Martin
Crow Island School
Teacher - 2nd Grade



Thomas Okon
Washburne School
Teacher Associate:
Resource Center/
Technology



Rebecca Parkinson
Hubbard Woods School
Teacher Associate:
2nd Grade



Peter Platten
Washburne School
Psychology Resident



Molly Pope
Hubbard Woods School
School Psychologist



Tiffany Rampey
Greeley School
Teacher - 4th Grade



Meredith Rice
Skokie School
Teacher Associate:
Resource Center/
Technology



Kaitlin Rorick
Crow Island School
Teacher - 3rd Grade



Lisa Schaff
Washburne School
Teacher Associate:
Special Education



Linda Seitzinger
Greeley School
Nurse



Sandy Snyder Pietz
Hubbard Woods School
Teacher Associate:
1st/2nd Multiage
Classroom



Joy Stacey
Washburne School
Teacher Associate:
Special Education



Collin Souter
Crow Island School
Teacher Associate:
Resource Center/
Technology



Karen Tzanetopoulos
Skokie School
Speech Pathologist



Bernadette Wach
Skokie School
Teacher Associate:
Special Education



Laura Walton
Washburne School
Teacher Associate:
Special Education



Linda Wehrheim
District
Secretary - Human
Resources



Liz Willard
Skokie School
Teacher Associate:
Resource Center



Paige Wilson
Washburne School
Teacher Associate:
Special Education



Timothy Winiczay
Skokie School
Teacher Associate:
Special Education

New Teachers Participate in 3-day Retreat and Mentoring Relationship
This past August new teachers came together for an annual 3-day meeting to learn about the traditions and history of The Winnetka Public Schools. New teachers are paired with an individual mentor for two years to guide them in understanding and teaching the curriculum, and becoming acquainted with the school's activities and traditions.

2008-09 District Dates for Everyone

OCTOBER

28 - Tuesday

Board of Education Meeting, 7:15 p.m.,
Greeley School

NOVEMBER

25 - Tuesday

Board of Education Meeting, 7:15 p.m.,
Skokie School Community Room

26-28

Thanksgiving Holiday (No School)

DECEMBER

16 - Tuesday

Board of Education Meeting, 7:15 p.m.,
Washburne School

22 - Monday

Winter Vacation Begins (No School)

JANUARY

5 - Monday

Schools Reopen

19 - Monday

No School – Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday

27 - Tuesday

Board of Education Meeting, 7:15 p.m.,
Crow Island School

FEBRUARY

16 - Monday

No School – Presidents' Day

24 - Tuesday

Board of Education Meeting, 7:15 p.m.,
Greeley School

MARCH

17 - Tuesday

Board of Education Meeting, 7:15 p.m.,
Hubbard Woods School

23-27

Spring Vacation (No School)

APRIL

28 - Tuesday

Board of Education Meeting, 7:15 p.m.,
Skokie School

WINNETKA COMMUNITY MEMBERS: Please join us for the meetings and events listed. For more information about Winnetka Public Schools events, visit www.winnetka36.org/calendar.php for the complete 2008-09 School District Calendar.

Editor: Beth Hebert • Newsletter Design: Lyric Kite • Photographer: Val Falstad



A Community of
LEARNERS

Non-Profit Organization

ECRWSS

U.S. Postage

PAID

Winnetka, IL

Permit #12

The Winnetka Public Schools

1235 Oak Street • Winnetka, IL 60093
(847) 446-9400 • www.winnetka36.org

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Penny Lanphier, *President*

Van Barletta, *Vice President*

Nancy Fehrenbach, *Secretary*

Susan Harris Becky Hurley

Jeff Hoch Anne Kelly

SUPERINTENDENT

Mary B. Herrmann, Ph.D.

herrmannm@winnetka36.org

Crow Island School

1112 Willow Road

Greeley School

275 Fairview Road

Hubbard Woods School

1110 Chatfield Road

The Skokie School

520 Glendale

Washburne School

515 Hibbard Road

Residential Customer

Local

Winnetka, IL 60093