



A Community of LEARNERS

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

September/October 2007

Message from the Superintendent: Building Our Future Together!

It is an honor and privilege to be a part of our Winnetka Public Schools community of learners and I feel humbled by the opportunity to serve our students, families and community.

When we opened our doors to the new school year we began this segment of an ongoing journey together. Our mutual challenge is to do our very best for each child every day.

As you read through this issue of our newsletter “Learners” you will discover how we are building our future together through facility construction and renovation, through the effective hiring and advanced training of staff, and through our ongoing efforts to examine and improve our educational practice. I am excited about the great work we have to share with you—in addition to what we can learn and design together.

Throughout the year I will be scheduling focus group meetings with students, staff, graduates, parents and community members to hear your thoughts and discuss together the future of our very special District.

Thank you for your warm welcome and ongoing support of our schools. I look forward to a great year together.

Warm regards,

Mary B Herrmann

herrmannm@winnetka36.org



The Winnetka Public Schools Board of Education (l to r): Van Barletta, Anne Kelly, Penny Lanphier, Nancy Fehrenbach, Susan Harris, Dr. Mary Herrmann (Superintendent), Becky Hurley and Jeff Hoch.

Dr. Mary Herrmann will be the guest speaker at the annual New Parent Coffee, hosted this year on Tuesday, October 2 from 9:30-11:00 a.m. at the home of Beth Ann and Tom Papoutsis (720 Prospect). The program is designed to provide insights for all parents new to the District—whether they’ve just joined through a new kindergartener, or are new to the district with older children—about the various groups that play a role in the district. The Superintendent,

School Board, Winnetka Public Schools Foundation, Parent Teacher Organizations, school-specific committees, and groups that support children who are too young to attend District 36 schools will provide short, informal and informative comments to help you make sense of the district as well as how you can get involved in your child’s education. Learn about the many different roles you can play throughout your child’s elementary school education.

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Building New Spaces for Learning: Progress on Expansion at Greeley and Washburne Schools

A Vote of Confidence

On April 17, 2007, a referendum for a \$47.3 million bond for facilities renovation and expansion was approved with a 61% passage rate. The District 36 School Board expressed appreciation for this vote of confidence from the community. The Board acknowledged the deep trust implicit in this voter approval and pledged to do their very best to bring the educational plans to fruition in an efficient and cost-effective manner.

Outstanding Credit Endorsement

In June, Dr. Shelley Clark, District 36 Business Manager, together with Liz Hennessey from William Blair, presented to Moody's Investor Service and Standard and Poor's Rating Group in New York to improve the district's bond rating. The district received a split rating, an Aa1 from Moody's and a AAA from Standard and Poor's—one of only 19 in the country and one of eight in Illinois. This outstanding credit endorsement will save interest costs for the taxpayers when new bonds are issued (in June '07 and January '08) for the Greeley and Washburne School facilities project.

Renovation Projects

A three-year facilities study of all five schools identified need for improvements to meet current life-safety and building codes, repair and replacement of deteriorating building elements, and upgrade of aging plumbing, mechanical and ventilation systems. Work on these projects at all schools began this past summer.

These renovation projects are scheduled to be completed over the next 3-4 years. This \$13.2 million investment includes repairs and upgrades for:

- **Crow Island School** – \$1.6 million for temperature control system, bathrooms and sinks, heat and ventilation, lockers, and classroom fans
- **Greeley School** – \$1.3 million for bathrooms, flooring, emergency lighting, energy-saving lighting, boiler room exhaust fan and classroom fans



Greeley teachers and staff welcome students on opening day.

- **Hubbard Woods School** – \$1.6 million for roof and gutters, classroom ventilation, temperature control, staff and student bathrooms, hall paneling, emergency lighting and classroom fans
- **Skokie School** – \$7.8 million for roof and gutters; classroom, gym, auditorium ventilation; windows, bathrooms, upgrade emergency lighting. This summer all the windows on the south side of the school (as well as windows in the curriculum room, gym, and lunchroom) were replaced with energy efficient glass and screens.

- **Washburne School** – \$900,000 for concrete and brick, windows, plumbing and emergency lighting

Expansion at Washburne and Greeley Schools

The need for additional instructional space at Greeley and Washburne Schools was among the significant findings of the facilities study. Greeley School opened in 1913 and was last expanded in 1968. Washburne School was completed in 1969 and the most recent building addition to Washburne was in 1982. Changes in educational practice, the different size and shared use of classrooms at Greeley, and increased enrollment at Washburne, are issues that could not be resolved with the accustomed relocations and adjustments of past years. More space is needed.

The addition to Washburne School will be located on the east side, extending approximately as far as the outdoor basketball courts and will include a multi-purpose gymnasium to accommodate all-school gatherings and is divisible into three separate and flexible-use areas, two academic classrooms, and a special education classroom. A new entry and office area over the existing plaza, will provide critical building security and accessibility for disabled students and visitors. The current gyms will be renovated to be used as four full-size science labs and also to create space for Band and Orchestra practice rooms and storage.

At Greeley School the 1960's Resource Center one-story addition to

Greeley and Washburne Expansion, continued

the building has been torn down and will be replaced with a two-story addition, closely matching the 1913 architectural



Temporary construction road that circles the site of Washburne School's new addition.

style of the original building. This addition will contain classrooms and a multipurpose room that will serve as much needed space for teachers and students to work on large projects, an inclement-weather alternative activity space, and a location for many day-time and evening meetings held at the school. The original corner entry-way will be restored and undersized classrooms will be transformed into administrative office space. The first floor will now be handicapped accessible to meet ADA standards.

Project on Schedule

The construction work at both schools progressed over the summer and followed the anticipated schedule:

- **Mid June** — Demolition of Greeley School 1960's Resource Center addition
- **Mid July** — Site preparation evident for Washburne, Greeley additions
- **End July-August** — Washburne and Greeley foundations framed and concrete poured

Anticipation and Planning Result in Smooth School Opening

On September 5th schools re-opened with fenced addition construction sites at Greeley and Washburne Schools. Principals Susan Hugebeck (Greeley) and Dan Schwartz (Washburne) have monitored the construction work all summer and anticipated the many adjustments to ensure a smooth opening of school. Last school year, faculty and parent committees were convened at both schools to refine design plans and to anticipate issues and impediments.

Greeley School's end of year assembly with students in June highlighted some of their concerns as they left for summer vacation. Among the changes this year noted by students is that, due to the smaller available playground space, the outdoor recess schedule has been adjusted to accommodate one grade level at a time. Also, the library and computer

lab are now housed in two classrooms on the first floor.

Washburne students have new drop-off and pick-up locations this year. Students and parents have been notified of the specifics of these new plans and that safety monitors will be present as needed to assist students in crossing streets. Outdoor Kinetic Wellness classes will use the Winnetka Park District fields north of the park district offices.



A new 2-story addition to Greeley School is under construction.

Click on the Facilities Review section of the website <http://www.winnetka36.org/District/boe/facilities/> to learn more about the facilities review process including Building Facts & Figures, Enrollment Studies, the Referendum Process, FAQs (Frequently Asked Questions).

KUDOS

In a moving ceremony on the evening of Wednesday, July 25th, a group of **Washburne eighth graders**, under the guidance of their Social Studies teacher, **Ceci Gigliolo**, dedicated a plaque commemorating Dr. Martin Luther King's visit and speech on the Winnetka Village Green 42 years ago. A number of speakers addressed a crowd of approximately 150 residents to formally unveil the plaque. This six-month project that was culminated with ceremony has not only taught invaluable civics lessons to the students involved, it has done a great service to the community in which they live. You can learn more about this event by following this link to a story in the *Winnetka Talk*: <http://www.pioneerlocal.com/winnetka/news/492596.wn-mlkplaque-080207-s1.article>

The School of the Art Institute of Chicago Alumni Calendar for 2008 will feature a work by **Lillian Johnston** (Crow Island School's Art Teacher). Lillian received a Bachelor's degree from De Paul University in 1995 and a Professional Certificate in Art Education from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago in 1996. In 2001, she traveled to Japan with the Fulbright Memorial Fund Teacher Program. In 2005 Lillian was awarded a Master in Fine Arts from the Maryland Institute College of Art in Baltimore. Lillian's most recent exhibitions include: *15 x 15: A Benefit Alumni Exhibition*, Maryland Institute College of Art, June 2007; *Opt In: Revisioning America*, Chicago Music Garage, June 2006; *Juried Graduate Exhibition*, Maryland Institute College of Art, May 2006. The work selected as one of the 12 images to be featured in the calendar is titled "Banana Seat Bike" and is from Lillian's Master's Thesis show series.

Building New Knowledge: 10th Anniversary Winnetka Summer Institute explores students' diverse learning styles

"Celebrate, Captivate, Cultivate and Collaborate" was the theme of the 2007 Winnetka Public Schools Summer Institute held June 19th and 20th. With a goal of exploring the research and different models for understanding and activating students' diverse learning styles, some 60 teachers, administrators and Board members participated in the program that also marked the tenth anniversary of the renewal of the Summer Institute format (see next page).

Differentiating instruction for students

Dr. Gara Field (University of Georgia) led teachers in exploring a blueprint of the *Schoolwide Enrichment Model* as an umbrella under which many strategies for differentiating instruction are made available to students. Her presentation was based on the work of Joseph Renzulli

and Sally Reis (University of Connecticut), co-founders of this research model (<http://www.gifted.uconn.edu/sem/>). Dr. Field engaged the Institute participants in hands-on activities to acquire ideas, lessons, and websites to involve students with in-depth independent and group projects, find extensions to the regular curriculum, and motivate students to work independently both in and outside the classroom.

Understanding students' assets and weaknesses

Dr. Craig Pohlman (author of *Revealing Minds: Assessing to Understand and Support Struggling Learners*) worked with teachers in developing strategies and techniques to gain a deeper understanding of students' assets and weaknesses in order to support them with effective learning plans.

Dr. Pohlman's presentation is based on the work of Mel Levine, M.D. Pediatrician, Professor, and co-founder of *All Kinds of Minds*, a non-profit Institute for the study of differences in learning (<http://www.allkindsofminds.org/>). Our Central Board PTO sponsored an evening program for parents when Dr. Levine visited District 36 in 2002.

Thanks to planning committee

Headed by **Maureen Cheever** (Hubbard Woods Principal) and **Julie Pfeffer** (District Curriculum Coordinator), this year's Summer Institute planning committee included Sidney Dechovitz from Crow Island School; Kris Clendenin, Dan Miller, Kathy Powers and Chi Quach from Greeley School; Marija Cetnik from Crow Island (and Greeley School); Hubbard Woods teachers Kate McLellan and Phyllis McMillan; and Skokie teachers Louisa Erickson and Kathy McDonough.

(Right) Dr. Gara Field presents material based on the "Schoolwide Enrichment Model" research.



Curriculum Coordinator Julie Pfeffer (left), Hubbard Woods Principal Maureen Cheever (right), and members of the Summer Institute Planning Committee review comments from participants in the 2-day meeting.

(Left) Teachers discuss ideas, strategies, and lessons for differentiating classroom learning.

The Winnetka Summer Institute

The Winnetka Public Schools Summer Institute is rooted in the district's decades old commitment to staff development. In 1928 The Winnetka Public Schools conducted a six-week summer training course for new teachers at the University of Minnesota. The course proved to be so successful, that for the following 12 or more years, the training was held

here in Winnetka and titled "The Winnetka Summer School for Teachers." Following a hiatus of some years, with other staff development events and summer curriculum writing projects filling those summer months, the Summer Institute format, now a biennial event, was revived in 1997 following the re-evaluation and revision of the district's

guiding philosophical document, "Winnetka: A Community of Learners."

Funding of the Summer Institute over the years has included grants from the Winnetka Public Schools Foundation (WPSF) (<http://www.wpsf.org/>) and the Winnetka/Northwestern University Urban/Suburban Consortium (<http://www.sesp.northwestern.edu/usnc/>).

The Winnetka Summer Institute 1997-2007

- Summer, 1997:** *Winnetka: A Community of Learners Summer Institute*
This Institute followed the WACOL task force recommendation and convening of study groups around the three focus strands of: "Educating for a Democracy," "Teaching, Thinking & Learning," and "The Arts."
- Summer, 1998:** *Winnetka: A Community of Learners Summer Institute: The Brain*
This Institute followed up on the prior Summer Institute and explored current brain research and its implications for teaching and learning.
- Summer, 1999:** *Participating in Democracy: Educating for Human Dignity*
Co-sponsored by the Urban/Suburban Northwestern Consortium, this Institute recognized the place of the African Diaspora and the Holocaust in our shared memories and explored ways to translate our knowledge into classroom curriculum.
- Summer, 2000:** *Complex Identities: Developing Strategies for a Responsive Community*
Co-sponsored by the Urban/Suburban Northwestern Consortium, this Institute concentrated on the interplay of gender, ethnicity, and race to develop strategies for change in our school communities.
- Summer, 2001:** *Building an Educational Community Across Boundaries*
Co-sponsored by the Urban/Suburban Northwestern Consortium, this Institute explored the use of music as a vehicle to create community and to enhance teaching and learning.
- Summer, 2002:** *Charting Our Course: Keeping the Vision Alive & Growing – Examining Our Values*
The theme of this Institute gave teachers an opportunity to examine our values and explore the role of The Winnetka Public Schools in the history of progressive education.
- Summer, 2003:** *What Centers Us? The Children – Observing the Progressive Journey of Our Students*
This Institute was an exploration of our students' work through projects, portfolios and art utilizing structured processes and protocols.
- Summer, 2005:** *Reflecting Back and Looking Forward: Our Community of Learners*
During this 2-day Institute, participants focused on our progressive education roots and the contributions of Superintendent Carleton Washburne (1919 - 1943).
- Summer, 2007:** *Celebrate, Captivate, Cultivate, and Collaborate*
The current Summer Institute focused on the research and two different models ("Schoolwide Enrichment Model" and "All Kinds of Minds Framework") for understanding and activating students' diverse learning styles.

Inside Our Schools

Building Frameworks for Social-Emotional Safety

The June '07 issue of *Learners* reported on our schools' practices to ensure the physical safety of students. Another important component of our district wide Safety Plan is to provide for the social and emotional safety of our students, and staff members as well. Our Safe-to-Learn Committee, composed of teachers from all five schools, met throughout the 2006-07 school year to share strategies and build on the progress of each school's initiatives that are in compliance with the recent Illinois State Board of Education mandate to address this aspect of child safety. As a community, we strive to serve as the models in this endeavor.

"Our mission is to create a supportive environment where all members of our school community feel valued and safe. We hope to foster respectful interpersonal relationships by building character, developing strengths, and finding ways to cope with life's challenges."

(2007 Social-Emotional Learning Mission Statement - Winnetka Public Schools)

To address our district's mission statement, each building has developed an individual framework based on common themes. Our elementary schools have historically valued the importance of social learning with a focus on play in the early years that supports a spiraling emphasis on issues of friendship, respect, responsibility, cooperation, building community, and peace throughout the Kindergarten-4th grade years. The classrooms of **Crow Island, Greeley, and Hubbard Woods Schools** have long emphasized the practices of class meetings, buddy class relationships, and class projects that embed social-emotional learning into the academic lessons. Over the past two years, our elementary schools have begun to gather the learnings and successes from these classroom experiences and projects in order to create all-school frameworks that are compatible with each school's culture and a natural outgrowth of prior initiatives.

■ **Crow Island School's** "Peace Power" is incorporated into 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 putdowns, 4. Make peace. Students signed a Peace Power promise by class and posted them throughout the school.

Create a supportive environment where all members of our school community feel valued and safe.

■ **Greeley School's** "Kids Leading Kids" framework focuses on developing leadership abilities of 4th grade students who met in groups to discuss four types of bullying behavior and shared solutions to these situations. Through clever skits and songs presented to younger students in all-school assemblies, these 4th grade leaders shared their insights about courage, tolerance and compassion when faced with challenging social situations and peer pressure.

■ The "Families" framework at **Hubbard Woods School** encourages opportunities for mixed grade levels of children to form alliances around learning and social-emotional activities. Throughout the year 21 groups of 1st through 4th graders meet every two weeks with the goal of nurturing each child's respect for the people and property of our community. Following a training session, 4th graders were assigned jobs and served as leaders of the families.

■ The goal of the "REACH" Program at **Skokie School** is to enhance the social and emotional development of students through the teaching of specific life-long skills. REACH stands for Responsibility, Empathy, Appreciation, Confidence, and Hope. This well-developed

program has been in place at Skokie School since 2003. Examples of some units in the REACH curriculum include: Community Building, Team Building and Helping Others, Habits of Mind and Personal Goal Setting, Acts of Kindness, Relationships, Media Literacy, and Diversity. Lessons are taught on a regularly scheduled basis by a team of teachers that include the advisor and another faculty member. All school REACH assemblies and opportunities to practice specific skills in various activities enrich these lessons.

■ **Washburne School** has established a dynamic social emotional learning program to embed skills in existing curricular areas and simultaneously provide all students with common activities and vocabulary. The theme over the last several years has been that of *Building Community*. All students and staff have participated in activities that explore concepts of social justice, community, respect, courage, action, responsibility, and empathy. To implement the *Building Community* theme, a series of units grounded in the core-curricular and advisory areas were developed. Experiences include but are not limited to, "Superfest," a unit on adolescent depression and mental health, a program on substance abuse, decision-making and problem solving and a gender unit.

These initiatives have been funded, in part, by grants from the Winnetka Public Schools Foundation (<http://www.wpsf.org/>).



Welcome New Teachers, Superintendent, and School Board Members

The 2007-08 school year begins with many new faces. In addition to our new Superintendent and two new School Board Members, we welcome 18 new teachers to our schools:



Carrie Andalman, part-time Reading teacher, is already known at **Hubbard Woods School** where she was a substitute

teacher. Carrie holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science from the University of Illinois and an M.A. in Elementary Education from the University of Illinois at Chicago. Carrie has extensive experience in coordinating literacy programs with the Chicago Public Schools and has also worked as a Museum Educator at the Chicago Children's Museum, facilitating workshops and incorporating exhibits into curriculum.



Van Barletta, newly elected to the **Board of Education**, has been a resident of Winnetka since 1987. Van holds a

BA in economics from the University of Pittsburgh and an MBA in finance from the University of Chicago. A CPA with experience as a computer systems consultant (including fourteen years at Arthur Andersen), Van currently serves as EVP/Chief Information Officer for Baytree Bank in Lake Forest. Van was elected to the Winnetka/Northfield Public Library Board in 1997, was Board Treasurer for his entire 8-year service, and was on the Board when the voters approved an operating rate referendum for the library district in 2005. Van has also been actively involved with the Winnetka Public Schools, having

served on a District 36 ad hoc technology committee, on the executive committee of the Foundation, and on the Crow Island PTA, where his two children were enrolled.



Naila Bokhari teaches mathematics at **Washburne**. Naila earned a Bachelor of Science in Math & Computer Science

from the University of Southern Maine and an M.A. in Secondary Education Mathematics from Roosevelt University in Chicago. Naila has served as an educational consultant in promoting best practices in math, science, and gifted education. She served as the Director of Math/Science & Gifted Education at the North Cook Intermediate Service Center, conducting workshops for teachers and administrators.



Melissa Caldwell teaches 6th grade Math & Science at **Skokie School**. She holds a Bachelor of Science in Finance from the University of Illinois – Champaign/Urbana. After pursuing a career in banking, Melissa changed careers and is now completing a Master of Education degree from DePaul University. Melissa taught 8th and 9th grade algebra at The Latin School of Chicago this past summer.



Maggie Coyne is already a familiar face at **Washburne** where she has taught Language Arts since last January. Maggie

earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Education with a concentration in English/Language Arts from Northwestern University in Evanston.



Corrie Ebeling is new to **Skokie School** but not new to teaching. She joins the 5th grade team at Skokie and will

be teaching Language Arts & Math. Corrie received her Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education with a concentration in Middle School Mathematics from Bradley University in Peoria, IL. Most recently, Corrie taught 7th grade math at the Old Quarry Middle School in Lemont, IL.



Nancy Fehrenbach, newly elected to the **Board of Education**, moved to Winnetka in 2004. Nancy holds a B.S. in economics

from the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania and is a Chartered Financial Analyst. She was a bond portfolio manager/analyst with Mutual of New York. Before moving to Winnetka, Nancy served as chair of the United Methodist Nursery School in Winchester, MA. She currently serves

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on the Board of the Winnetka Alliance for Early Childhood and is active in the PTOs. Nancy's four children attend Greeley and Skokie School.



Sarah Fleischer is teaching 5th grade Language Arts & Math at **Skokie School**. Sarah earned her Bachelor

of Science in Elementary Education degree from Indiana University and is completing a Masters in Education, focusing on Technology in Education, from Johns Hopkins University in Maryland. Recently, Sarah taught 4th and 5th grades in the Bethesda and Kensington, Maryland schools.



Steve Hartley joins the 5th grade team at **Skokie School** and teaches Language Arts, Science, and Social Studies. Steve

holds a B.A. in English Writing from Purdue University and a Masters degree in Instructional Leadership from the University of Illinois at Chicago. Steve has taught music through the Looking-Glass Theatre Children's Program. Most recently, Steve taught 6th & 7th grade students in the Chicago Public Schools at the National Teachers Academy and the Pulaski Fine Arts Academy.



Alison Hawley is already well known at **Skokie School** as a 6th grade Language Arts/Social Studies teacher since 2002.

Now Alison will be donning an additional hat as part-time Assistant Principal at Skokie School. Alison holds a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from Whitman

College in Walla Walla, Washington, a Master of Science in Early Adolescent Education degree from Bank Street College of Graduate Education in New York City, and a second Masters in Educational Leadership degree from Bank Street College of Graduate Education.



Mary Herrmann is our new **Superintendent**.

Mary received her undergraduate degree in Secondary Education, a Masters

in Counseling Psychology, and a PhD in Educational Leadership, all from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. In addition, she has participated in several executive programs at Harvard University's Graduate School of Education, Kennedy School of Government and Business School. Mary is a former high school (Grosse Pointe, MI and Middleton, WI) and elementary school (Appleton, WI) principal and served as Assistant Superintendent in Barrington as well as at New Trier. For the past seven years, Dr. Herrmann has served as the Superintendent of Schools in Barrington, IL.



Julie Holmbeck joins the Kinetic Wellness team at **Washburne and Greeley Schools**. Julie received a

Bachelor of Science degree in Physical Education with a Dance minor from Western Illinois University. Julie has taught physical education at New Trier and Elk Grove High Schools and also at Winkelman Elementary School in Glenview.



Sheri Johnston is teaching 5th grade Math & Language Arts at **Skokie School**. Sheri completed her Bachelor

of Science in Education from Bowling Green State University in Ohio and earned her Master of Arts in Education from Ohio State University. Sheri has extensive teaching experience at the elementary and middle school grade levels in the Ohio public schools and most recently as a 4th grade Reading, Math, and Social Studies teacher in Lubbock, Texas.



Jim MacAyeal is teaching the Modern Communications classes at **Washburne School**. Jim holds a B.A. in Radio-TV

Communication from Southern Illinois University and an M.A. in Video and Film Production from American University in Washington, D.C. In addition, Jim holds an M.A. in teaching from National-Louis University. Since 2000, Jim has been the Television Communications Teacher at Vernon Hills High School in Vernon Hills, IL.



Peggy McMorrow, an alum of Greeley and Washburne Schools, is already a familiar face at **Skokie School** where she has served

as a Teacher Associate the past school year. Peggy now teaches 6th grade Language Arts & Social Studies at Skokie. She holds a B.A. in Elementary Education from the University of Wisconsin - Madison, and is currently completing a Masters in Administration and Supervision at National-Louis University.

Welcome, *continued from page 8*

Christine Murray is our new Kinetic Wellness & Exploratory Subject teacher at **Skokie School**. Christine earned a

Bachelor of Science degree from Southern Illinois University and a Masters of Science in Education majoring in Kinesiology & Physical Education from Northern Illinois University where she was a recipient of the Women in Sport Scholarship. Christine has taught physical education in the Wilmette Public Schools (Highcrest Middle School and Wilmette Junior High).



Victoria Nelson, an alum of Crow Island and Washburne Schools, is our new part-time Art teacher at **Skokie School**.

She earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Art Education and a Masters of Fine Arts in Art Education from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. This past year Victoria served as a Graduate Teaching Assistant in the Laboratory School of the School of Art & Design at the University of Illinois at Chicago.



Keely Norris joins the 5th grade team at **Skokie School** and is teaching Language Arts & Math. Keely holds a Bachelor of

Science in Elementary Education from Butler University in Indianapolis where she also served as captain of the Volley Ball Team. Most recently Keely has been teaching 1st & 3rd grades at Mount Carmel Academy, a parochial school in the Lakeview neighborhood of Chicago.



Jennifer Schulz, an alum of Hubbard Woods and Washburne Schools, is already a familiar face at **Greeley**

School where she took over a Kindergarten classroom last January and served as a Teacher Associate in the first semester of the school year. Jennifer is now on the 3rd grade team at Greeley. She holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Education from the University of Michigan.



Jenny Seeds is the newest member of the 1st grade team at **Crow Island**. Jenny has a Bachelor of Science in Education

degree with a Business Minor from Indiana University. She spent a semester abroad as part of the Spanish American Institute of International Education. Most recently, Jenny taught 1st grade at Romona School in Wilmette.



Kathy Siebel teaches Language Arts at **Washburne School**. Kathy holds a B.A. from Knox College as an English/

Writing major and a Masters in Fine Arts degree from the University of Iowa's Writers' Workshop. Kathy has eleven years of teaching experience at the elementary through university levels. She also works as a freelance writer and editor.



Katie Toth is already a familiar face at **Crow Island** and she now joins the 3rd grade team. Katie is a Crow Island and

Washburne alum and has served as a Teacher Associate and substitute teacher at Crow Island since 2004. Katie received her Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from Indiana University and a Master of Arts in Teaching from National-Louis University.

In addition to the new teachers, a few current Winnetka teachers are new to their schools this year. Crow Island School welcomes **Erika Keating** (3rd Grade) from Hubbard Woods School. Skokie School welcomes **Julie (Coombe) Chiaverini** (6th grade) this year from Hubbard Woods School and Hubbard Woods welcomes **Allison Greer** (Kindergarten) from Greeley School where she has been teaching since 2001.

New Teachers Participate in 3-day Retreat & Mentoring Relationship

This past August the new teachers came together for the New Teacher Retreat – an annual 3-day meeting when new teachers learn about the traditions of the Winnetka Public Schools and its significant history. This gathering has become a highly valued component of our district's staff development program. New teachers will be paired with an individual mentor – a colleague who will guide the new teacher for two years in understanding and teaching the curriculum, and becoming acquainted with the school's activities and traditions.

District Dates for Everyone

OCTOBER 2007

Monday - 10/8

No School – Columbus Day

Wednesday - 10/10

Winnetka Parents Institute (WPI) Program "District Math Teacher Panel," 7:00 p.m., Skokie School Community Room

Tuesday - 10/23

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

NOVEMBER 2007

Wednesday - 11/21

Thanksgiving Holiday Early Dismissal

Thursday & Friday - 11/22-11/23

No School – Thanksgiving Holiday

Tuesday - 11/27

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

DECEMBER 2007

Tuesday - 12/18

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

Monday - 12/24

Winter Vacation Begins - No School

JANUARY 2008

Monday - 1/7

Schools Reopen

Tuesday - 1/15

Winnetka Parents Institute (WPI) Program "District Language Arts Teacher Panel," 7:00 p.m., Skokie School Community Room

Monday - 1/21

Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday - No School

Tuesday - 1/22

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

FEBRUARY 2008

Monday - 2/18

Presidents' Day - No School

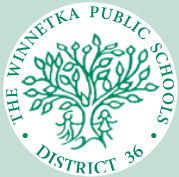
Tuesday - 2/26

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

*For Conference days and more
calendar information go to:*

[http://www.winnetka36.org/
District/calendar0708.htm](http://www.winnetka36.org/District/calendar0708.htm)

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A Community of
LEARNERS

Winnetka Public Schools

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