

## Superintendent's Message to Parents, October 1, 2009

Welcome to the 2009-10 school year! We hope that you and your children are entering the new school year with a high degree of enthusiasm and excitement. This year I will continue to provide District 89 parents with a monthly newsletter as well as other periodic communications as needed. The electronic version of the newsletter originates with your giving the school your email address or enrolling yourself on the district's web page.

### School Start Transportation

As school began this year, we experienced several busing issues. First Student, District 89's contracted transportation provider, used new routing software this summer in an effort to make the routes more efficient. In the end, several routing problems and other concerns became quickly apparent. We appreciated your patience as we worked through these concerns. A meeting with First Student is being scheduled with other Glenbard school districts to review and problem solve these topics for the future.

### H1N1 Virus

So far, our students have been healthy, although we are seeing a slight increase in coughs and sore throats. There has been an enormous amount of news about the H1N1 virus, and you may find additional information on our web site. District 89 is in close communication with the DuPage County Health Department from where we receive our direction. Pandemic Flu information for individuals and families may be found at [www.pandemicflu.gov](http://www.pandemicflu.gov) and at [www.protectdupage.org](http://www.protectdupage.org). Please take a moment to familiarize yourself with information about the H1N1 virus and how you can keep your children healthy. If you have questions, please contact your building school nurse.

### Annual Legislative Breakfast

Residents from school districts 41, 87, and 89 are invited to enjoy a light breakfast and discuss education-related legislative issues at the annual Legislative Breakfast on Saturday, October 3 from 8:30 – 10:30 a.m. Hosted this year by Community Consolidated School District 89, the breakfast will be held in the Glen Crest Middle School Library Media Center, 725 Sheehan Avenue, Glen Ellyn. Specific topics to be discussed include the economy's impact on school districts, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, and comments from a local state legislator and education lobbyist. This year's speakers include:

- State Representative Sandy Pihos
- District 89 Assistant Superintendent for Finance & Operations, Susan Caddy
- District 41 Assistant Superintendent of Finance, Facilities & Operations, Bob Ciserella
- District 87 Assistant Superintendent for Business Services, Chris McLain
- LEND Executive Director, Peg Agnos

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**Superintendent**

John S. Perdue, Ed.D.

**Assistant Superintendent  
for Finance & Operations**

Susan J. Caddy

**Assistant Superintendent  
for Learning**

Jamie Reilly, Ed.D.

**Board of Education**

Lori Gaspar

Gene Glauddell

Mary Kataura

Terry Lacheik

Mike Nelson

Jody Selenica

Frank Zak

**Arbor View School**

David Bruno, Principal

**Briar Glen School**

Emily Tammaru, Principal

**Park View School**

Amy Warke, Principal

**Westfield School**

Peggy Marhoefer, Principal

**Glen Crest Middle School**

Todd Schrage, Principal

Shalagh S. O'Neill, Assistant Principal

A question and answer period will also be a part of the day's agenda. We hope you can attend this informative session.

### **New Literacy Series: Reading Street**

This year, grades K-5 teachers are implementing the Reading Street Literacy Program published by Pearson/Scott Foresman. This research-based, balanced literacy series includes a wealth of resources for teachers to meet the diverse needs of our students including: assessments, basal and leveled readers, trade books and big books, decodable readers, phonics and word study, and language arts materials. All units are focused around a concept question, which enables students to make connections to the real world. All lessons are aligned with Illinois Literacy Standards. Furthermore, there are multiple strategies for meeting the needs of our English Language Learners.

Multiple digital components are included giving students, parents, and teachers access to materials at home. Additionally, reading specialists will be utilizing a component of the program, My Sidewalks, as an intervention for those students needing extra literacy support. Elementary classroom teachers may answer your questions about these new instructional materials.

### **Briar Glen Fire Report**

A report was recently made to the Board of Education about the Briar Glen roof fire from July 2008. The total cost of damage resulting from this fire was \$2,267,611.18. The district's insurance carrier has covered the loss, and the district has been made whole for any outstanding financial loss. The process has now entered subrogation with the district's insurance carrier attempting to recover its loss from the roofing contractor. Litigation is eminent. The district continues to be vigilant in recovering any and all loss from this fire.

### **School District Finances**

District 89 continues to be challenged by diminishing federal, state, and local revenue most all connected to the recession. Chief among these factors is the loss of some \$800K in local tax revenue from a lowered Consumer Price Index (CPI) for the 2010-11 school year. Because the district does not recoup this loss, the four-year loss is expected to be in excess of \$3.4M. The district has trimmed expenses and will continue to do so for 2010-2011. The Board of Education has been strategizing various tax increase scenarios in response to these factors over the last six months. In September, the Board reached consensus on the following:

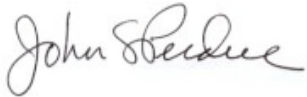
- The community expects the district to be cost efficient and to reduce costs where possible.
- In light of the economic recession and its effects on area residents, wait until 2010-11 to consider a voted tax increase question before the community.
- Conduct community meetings to enlarge the conversation about district "needs" and "wants" for current and future planning.
- Minimally, consider a proposal to increase the CPI by approximately 7% to cover the loss of CPI revenue and mandated educational program costs.

With the February 2007 referendum of \$24.8M, it is important to understand that these bond funds were used exclusively for infrastructure improvements and NOT operational or educational programming costs. I will be visiting with each PTC and other groups in the coming months about these topics. We hope you will attend a session when you see it announced by either your PTC or by the district.

**Voices for Illinois Children**

Voices for Illinois Children is helping to organize a series of community events on the state budget crisis and the need for fair and adequate new revenues. These forums are being hosted by local community leaders. The focus of the events is education and training on budget and tax issues. These advocacy-training events are for community members. An event has been planned for Thursday, October 8, 2009, 6:30 p.m. at the Westin Yorktown Center, 70 Yorktown Shopping Center, Lombard.

If you have questions or comments, please contact your building principal or myself. Thank you for supporting *Learning for Life* in District 89!

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John S. Perdue".

John S. Perdue, Ed.D.  
Superintendent