

2 0 1 3 F A L L / W I N T E R E D I T I O N

# DISTRICT 117

## *Chalk Talk*

NORTH PALOS SCHOOL DISTRICT 117: GOING FROM “GOOD TO GREAT”



## *Common Core State Standards*

*The new state standards are more rigorous than the old Illinois Standards Achievement Tests and are designed to better prepare students for college and the workforce. Emphasis will be on a deeper study of more limited topics in English, language arts and math as well as on critical-thinking, problem-solving and analytical skills.*

## Where Excellence Matters

*In District 117, we believe “excellence is the result of caring more than others think wise; risking more than others think safe; dreaming more than others think is practical and expecting more than others think is possible.”*

### INVESTING IN OUR FUTURE: ONE CHILD AT A TIME

North Palos District 117 has never shied away from a challenge. And we’re not about to start now. Even with students facing the new Common Core State Standards, which some are calling the ‘toughest state exam in 15 years,’ we’re facing it head on. We’re working harder than ever preparing our teachers to prepare our students for these tough tests. We’re confident in our students and our teachers and know all the hard work will continue to pay off. Twenty percent of the questions on the 2013 ISAT were related to the

new Common Core standards, and the 2014 spring test will be geared 100 percent to the new standards. The following year, 2014-2015, state schools are expected to use a whole new online test - the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC), which will measure student growth more than once a year. For example, the new math focuses on the process, not just the answer, and students will have to explain how and why they got the answer. It’s an exciting time to be in education and it’s exciting to be part of North Palos District 117.





## *Superintendent's Corner*



Communication is one of two goals outlined in our North Palos School District 117 Strategic Plan. Through our various communication platforms, we share with our learning community what is happening throughout our district. We hope the information included in ChalkTalk, on district and school websites and on Facebook is helpful. Please let us know if you have any questions or comments as we are always striving to improve our communication with our stakeholders. Since August, our students have been working hard to refine their skills in the classroom, on the field, on the court and in the chorus room and concert hall. As educators, we are charged with helping our students refine their talents and discover new ones. We meet them where they are and we help them grow. As a district, we set expectations for each and every one of our students and strive toward maximum achievement. We expect our students to practice. We expect our students to give their all. We expect this because we practice and refine our skills, and every day we give them OUR ALL --- Jeannie Stachowiak.

### *Commitment to Excellence*

Glen Oaks' Team Leader Kristen Morpew (left) and Principal Gaylyn Grimm hung a "Blue Ribbon School" award in the boardroom during a recent board of education meeting. The award recognized the Hickory Hills' school for being named a Blue Ribbon School, a national award that only a fraction of the schools across the country receive. Glen Oaks received the award based on "Exemplary High Performance," in which schools are recognized among their state's highest-performing schools as measured by state assessments or nationally-normed tests.





# Spotlight's (Always) on Education

There's something magical about school. The teachers, the staff, the learning, the camaraderie among the students. School just seems to inspire students. That's exciting to educators because educators love teaching kids and helping prepare them for bright futures. In District 117, we're constantly trying to inspire young minds and prepare them for the challenges that await them as they began their journey into an unknown future.

UPCOMING  
DATES TO  
REMEMBER

DEC 23  
WINTER BREAK  
BEGINS

JAN 6  
SCHOOL  
RESUMES

JAN 9  
REPORT CARDS

JAN 20  
NO SCHOOL -  
MARTIN LUTHER  
KING DAY



## Board of Education

Candy Kramer joined the Board of Education as its newest member. Mrs. Kramer (top right) resides in Hickory Hills with her family. She serves as curriculum director in Burbank School District 111. Dr. Tom Kostas is the board president, Ian Chafee is the board vice president and Ron Moran serves as the board

secretary. Deborah Groark, Kelly Pavloski and Chris Slowik are also members of the school board. The board, as well as the rest of the district and community, is excited about the opening of the new addition at Oak Ridge School. The addition, which also includes a new and safer entry, is expected to open in January.

# Faces of the District



Sorrick Unity Against Bullying



Conrady Softball Champs



Oak Ridge Literacy



Glen Oaks Readers



Dorn Community Volunteers



Dorn Feast

# *Faces of the District*



Conrady Security



District Workshops



Oak Ridge Fieldtrip



Glen Oaks Siblings/Colleagues

## **Oak Ridge School Addition Ready to Open**

The anticipation has been palpable. Students, parents, teachers and administrators have been waiting patiently for the addition to open at Oak Ridge School in Palos Hills. When students return from Winter Break, they will experience an addition featuring 13 half-classrooms (six-and-a-half full classrooms) and a new media center. Part of the project included a newly relocated and renovated entryway and front office that is much safer than the previous entryway and office. The new office is located immediately upon entering the building and requires visitors to enter the locked office before entering the actual school. That portion of the project was completed this past summer as well as increasing the size of the school's all-purpose-room and adding a new food serving area. Thank you for your patience and we hope you like the new improvements!

# District 117 Social Media

North Palos District 117 has added Facebook to its growing list of social media tools designed to engage its stakeholders in open discussion about issues related to the district. The district is excited about the response it has received from the community regarding its Facebook page and the various posts it has received. We're proud of the things we are doing here in the district and we hope you are too. We're always looking to improve and we would love to hear from you about how we might provide you with more timely, relevant and interesting information. Thanks for your support!



## INVESTING IN OUR FUTURE, ONE CHILD AT A TIME

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