

It's Great to Be a Wildcat!

The Latest BUZZ from Mrs. B



Wildcats are Roaring with good news....

There are so many things to be proud of when we talk about all our kids in the district! After reading, please let all our kids and staff know you are proud of them too!!!!

- **Young Authors** District Winners: K: Joseph Caracheo, Lydia Robeza, Neveah Mavis; 1st: Sandra Quiroz, Camryn Heiden, Dylan Eimer; 2nd: Hannah Vanaman, Bradley Pelszynski; 3rd: Kyian Smith, Mickey Pienta, Grant Plym; 4th: Caleb Savitch, Kiersten Shevokas, Kierra Wozniak; 5th: Haylie Steele, Maddison Gentry, Zoey Morris; 6th: Abigail Draper, Regina Scarpaci, Kendall Hansen; 7th: Alana Flores, Ayrianna Thompson, Hailey Newton; 8th: Mande Kunkel, Jocelin Islas, Daphane Ahrens.
- Thank you to the parents, staff and students of PAWS (Positive Active Wildcat Supporters). Remember to check the BCR alerts for meeting times to get involved in planning. Thank you for the opportunities of family fun, especially at Dodge Ball Nite on May 2nd.
- Do you know of a student who will be 3 or 4 by September 1st? Pre-school screenings are June 2nd—4th at Lincoln. The days are filling up, please call 815-663-5631 immediately to sign up. Also, please note, PreK will be at JFK next year.

LINCOLN CELEBRATION

On Sunday, May 18th, please join us at Lincoln School to celebrate what this school has done for the Spring Valley Community, as we prepare to close it this summer. We will have a pancake breakfast, sponsored by PAWS, and an opportunity to relive memories as you walk around the building. Please watch for more details.



Due to the bad weather days, the last day of school for the 2013-14 school year is June 4th. From May 25th – June 4th dismissal will be at 1:50/2:00 pm.



Reminders:

- Pre-K graduations are on May 30th. Your child's teacher will be sending more information.
- 8th grade graduation is on Friday, May 23rd. There is a 1:50/2 pm dismissal this day.
- The first day of the 2014-15 school year is ***tentatively*** set for September 3rd, 2014.
- If you know of any students that will be 5 by September 1, 2013 and have not registered for Kindergarten yet, please have them call JFK at 815-664-4601.



You will be ***MISSED!!!***

At the end of this school year, Mrs. Sue Kusek, Mrs. Jane Stoner and Mr. Bruce Gualandri will be retiring. How blessed we all have been by their presence in this district!!! When you see them, please wish them well on the next endeavor of their lives.

JFK Showcase: A Day at JFK

Please attend the JFK Showcase: A Day at JFK on May 15th. You will be able to tour the building and see examples of all kinds of activities, from biographies to on line demonstration of our solar system. In addition, we will have a book fair and a Pie Toss. Please watch for additional information.

**Wildcats' three key words:
RESPECT, RESPONSIBILITY, and SAFETY!!!!!!**

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SV99 in Times of Great Change

Curriculum: One of the major changes in education in Illinois is the move to Common Core. Unlike the past system, Common Core will provide a curriculum transition into high school. Problems occurred since the State's implementation of Common Core was across the board at each grade, which creates gaps in information being covered. Common Core simply has teachers teaching topics that were being taught at different grade levels in the past. Starting in kindergarten and progressing a grade level each year, would have been a more logical approach. What has SV99 done to prepare? The School Board changed the administrative structure and created the Curriculum Coordinator position. Mrs. Nauman's main duty is to focus on curriculum during this critical phase. We also look to educate parents on our transition at the District Open House next year. Here is what we have done to date:

- **June 2010:** ELA & Math Common Core Standards were adopted by the State.
- **2010-11:** The District provided in-District training on Differentiation, 21st Century Learning and Singapore/Common Core Math with the Pippens (both husband & wife are math professors). The Pippens came back twice to work with grade level teams. Apple training was also provided to enhance the 1:1 setting.
- **2011-12:** The Pippens were back for the 1st two days of teacher in-service and one more time during the school year. We also hosted a workshop on team teaching. Schools countywide attended the program at JFK.
- **2012-13:** \$15,000 in math manipulatives were purchased and the Super Source on-line math lesson plan resources for teachers teaching to the Common Core was purchased. Teachers also were given access to the Ed Leaders Network, which is an on-line tutorial on Common Core and all mandated trainings. In the summer of 2012 teachers worked 12 hours to prepare for ELA (English Language Arts). With the Science Common Core Standards coming out in January, six teachers were sent to the ROE for training. Those six will present what they will learn to their grade level teams. In Math Bruce Gualandri will work with K-2 teachers and Mark Abbott will work with 3-5 teachers. Mark and Bruce will work with the grade levels and visit them during math to offer support. Bruce and Mark have been trained extensively in Common Core through the Pippens, IMSA and NASA.
- **2013-14:** Donna McCaw, WIU professor and worldwide consultant, presented the shifts that came with the new ELA standards and what it means for teaching and learning. She also refreshed the teachers training on 4-square and 6-trait writing. This led to creating rubrics for writing across the curriculum that will be used at all grade levels. This will ensure a higher quality of writing from our students. Nine teachers attended

grade level Common Core workshops at the LaSalle County ROE. Tech Tuesdays have been implemented to help teachers with any technology related questions and training. A team of four teachers and two administrators attended a standards-based report card workshop. The team will attend a second one in Spring 2014. The entire certified staff attended an in-service held by IASA's Rich Voltz on the topic of SB7. Teachers have also had the opportunity to work with the new science standards and have been introduced to the social studies standards that are up for adoption. Teachers created a common vocabulary based on when academic words are introduced in the New Learning Standards. Teachers have also mapped the PreK, social studies and started mapping the general music curriculum based on the new national standards that were adopted in January.

Future Staff Development: Common Core, technology, PBIS and providing mentoring to our young staff will continue to take place next year. We look to strengthen our relationship with the CHLDS districts and possibly look to do joint in-services. CHLDS faculty has been invited to participate in all the workshops presented by Donna McCaw. We are also planning to work together to create common assessments.

- With a change in staff the focus on developing healthy students has been more prevalent. The expectations have been raised for our students in both PE and health and the home assignments. Childhood obesity is a national problem and starting health in kindergarten instead of 6th grade makes sense. Students develop bad habits at an early age so our work is cut out. Widening our curriculum range to incorporate life-long fitness habits will help this concern. Having 3 gyms and a multi-purpose room will alleviate any scheduling conflicts. PE and all other classes will no longer revolve around the lunch schedule.

Scheduling: We look forward to the new building. Lunch, PE and available space now bind our schedules. Multiple teachers sharing rooms will no longer be an issue. Staff commuting between two buildings will also be eliminated.

PBIS: With the move to one building the transition to one PBIS system is our goal as well as PBIS evolving into the community. For Spring Valley it could mean involving the police and the library.

Parent/Community Support: District 99 relishes the opportunity to work with parents and community members, which helps in communicating and improving the goals of the district. Those interested can be active with the Foundation for Educational Enrichment, the PAWS group, the curriculum committee and the handbook committee. Classroom volunteers are always welcome.

Communication: Calendars are available on TeacherEase and SV99.org. Email alerts are available through TeacherEase and text alerts are generated through the BCR

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Alerts program. SV99.org has administrative email links and also a listing with all staff members addresses. The staff email addresses are not linkable to avoid Internet spiders that seek addresses and cause system problems. Homework is found on TeacherEase or SV99.org under the teacher's page. A District App will soon be available.

Textbooks: Spending a significant amount of money on a textbook series that ISBE will make obsolete as common core is rolled out would not be productive. Common Core has changed the expectations at each grade level by demanding change to the way lessons are taught and how homework is assigned. Curriculum isn't worksheet driven. Textbooks have become a resource and a supplement, but not a tool that can be given to the student as the entire curriculum. Our teachers follow the Common Core approach by supplementing the curriculum by finding creative hands-on, 'student discovery' ways to teach, present and assign. Relying solely on a textbook is simply poor teaching. The State has done a good job of creating a site to help teachers and administrators transition into the Common Core. This site includes the standards for each grade level, learning strategies, tutorials, teacher toolbox, resources, rubrics and frameworks. There is a strong emphasis in non-fiction reading and writing in each subject. This is very different than in the past. Our goal is to provide time for our teacher to collaborate among the grade levels and make sure that a common understanding of expectations and vocabulary is established.

Technology: Another challenge is educating staff on incorporating technology in an effective manner. The District has made a bold commitment to a new approach to reaching today's students. Input continues to be sought to address the ever-changing technology needs in the classrooms. There is a constant search for creative apps that will meet our curriculum needs. ebooks are on our radar, but ISBE must give their seal of approval since ultimately they choose the way our students and district are assessed. This hasn't occurred yet for any eBook or textbook. The District's commitment to technology is to also make sure we are not inhibiting teachers and students from being able to successfully use the tools. Technology must be readily available and working with Common Core and assignments focusing on project based learning and teachers presenting lessons via Eno/Smart boards, computers/iPads and Apple TV's.

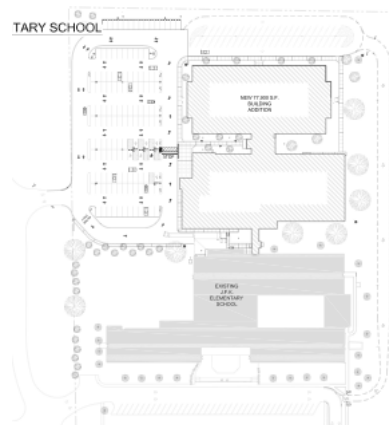
Struggling Learners Support: SV99 has provided a successful Title I program for many years. This year the District created two new RtI positions helping those struggling K-8th graders help in both reading and math. We have created links on the website where extra help is available. There are also staff members who stay after school, during lunch, and study hall to assist our students. All upper grade students have a study hall where they can get extra help from any of the teachers. Kindergarten has included an RtI time for reading in addition to their Title I time. Next year, we will increase

RtI time for math and reading.

Staff Openings: SV99 posts job openings on the statewide IASA job bank. We typically receive over 100 resumes each summer. We currently are looking to hire 2 English/Language Arts teachers. We have two staff members retiring and we are creating an additional position in the upper grades to help lessen the class sizes in the areas of math and reading.

State Testing: Legislators look to study the impact and effectiveness of standardized testing. The computerized PARCC testing begins in 2014-2015. The good news is that AYP will be determined by student growth instead of the current one test in one week ISAT approach. The District has had great overall success since the ISAT inception. Last year was troublesome for the district as the State changed the testing format.

New Construction: Fall of 2014 will open with the new addition on the JFK building, allowing for all students to be housed on one campus.



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