



Community High School District 128
940 W. Park Ave.
Libertyville, Illinois 60048

Carrier Route Pre-Sort

Non-profit organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 84
Libertyville, IL 60048

Residential Postal Patron

District speakers available for community meetings

District 128 residents are fortunate to live and, in many cases work, in one of the nation's top high school districts. But how much do you really know about Libertyville and Vernon Hills High Schools? Why not consider inviting a representative from the Community High School District 128 Speakers Bureau to the next meeting of your business, civic or social organization. The Speakers Bureau was developed as an additional means of communicating with members of the District 128 community. District 128 administrators are available to speak on a variety of topics about Libertyville and Vernon Hills High Schools, including:

- Athletics
- Community Education Opportunities
- Community/School Partnerships
- Curriculum
- District 128 Overview
- Fine Arts
- LHS Overview
- Making the Transition from Jr. High to High School
- Federal "No Child Left Behind" legislation
- School Finance
- Student Activities
- Technology
- VHHS Overview
- And more . . .

Please contact **Mary Todoric** at 847-327-7186 or mary.todoric@district128.org for more information on this program or to schedule a speaker.

Excel *continued from page 3*

VHHS student named Tech Campus ambassador

VHHS senior **Alex Skryl** was named a Technology Campus Student Ambassador for first semester. Ambassadors serve as liaisons to the other schools and are recommended by their instructors.

Staff Honors

LHS teacher **Karen Gibbs** was named Teacher of the Year by the LHS Student Council.

LHS English teachers **Karen Schnobel** and **Tasha Fitzgibbons** were selected as program presenters at the annual conference of the National Council of Teachers of English held in San Francisco in November.

Congratulations to LHS teacher **Katie Hyla** who was named an Illinois Association of Family and Consumer Sciences 2003 Scholarship recipient.

Senior holiday dinner and concert set for Dec. 16



Community High School District 128 will once again host its annual holiday dinner and concert for senior citizen residents of the District. The event will be held on Tuesday, Dec. 16 at Libertyville High School.

Dinner will be served at 4:00, followed by the concert at 5:00. Admission is free, but seating is limited and tickets are required. Tickets are available on a first come first served basis through the Libertyville and Vernon Hills Senior Centers. For additional information, please call the District at 847-327-7185.

PLEASE NOTE: Due to construction at Libertyville High School, seniors are asked to arrive at the school after 3:30. Cafeteria doors will open at 3:45.

Information will be available after Jan. 1 regarding the senior event scheduled for February at VHHS.



District 128 receives award of excellence

Community High School District 128 continues to receive honors for its two outstanding high schools--Libertyville High School and Vernon Hills High School. The District is pleased to announce that it has once again received the SchoolSearch 2003 Bright Red Apple Award. The District is one of only 78 Illinois school districts out of 891 to receive this award of excellence.

The award is based on five key factors: academic performance, pupil/teacher ratio, expenditure per pupil, educational level of teachers, and average teacher salary.

Students and staff give back to community



Senior **Mike Baier** gives the thumbs-up sign after making a donation at the recent blood drive sponsored by the LHS Student Council. The November drive collected 172 pints which will benefit more than 500 individuals in need. *(photo by M. Todoric)*

This time of year is known as the season of giving. In CHSD 128 however, giving seems to be a way of life year round for the students and staff. From the annual record-breaking food drive at Libertyville High School, to the districtwide Adopt-a-Family program, District 128 is clearly committed to helping those in need in our own community and beyond.

During the months of November and December alone District 128 students and staff will support a number of worthy causes, including the canned food drive, Adopt-A-Family, Feasts for Beasts, and the senior class clothing drive.

For many years the District has hosted a complimentary holiday dinner and concert at LHS for District senior citizens. With the opening of VHHS, the District is pleased to now have an additional senior event in February at VHHS. Additional activities with seniors include "senior proms" in Libertyville and Vernon Hills hosted by students.

Throughout the school year, both LHS and VHHS host blood drives and provide mentoring and tutoring for local elementary students. Several student groups also read to elementary students, while others meet with eighth graders to help them make a smooth transition from junior high to high school.

continued on page 2

Real life comes to VHHS



Vernon Hills High School students had an opportunity to experience the real world of job interviews. Experts from the local business community visited the school in November and conducted mock interviews with students in the Business Internship and Consumer Education classes. Senior **Jessica Glees** (at right) is seen here interviewing with **Carol Lynn Coughlin** from **Rust-Oleum**.

Thanks go to the following companies for partnering with VHHS for this program: **Rust-Oleum, Allstate, C&M Auto, CHSD 128, CDW at Play, and American Hotel Register.** *(photo by V. Paulson)*

District 128 students and staff excel

October Cougar Class Act Award Winners

Twelve VHHS students were named Cougar Class Act Award winners for October. The award recognizes students who make a difference by going above and beyond expectations. The recipients were **Mitchell Koziol, Nicholas Klahs, Rachael Blanton, Amanda Gentile,**

continued on page 3

Board of Education news

At its Nov. 17 meeting the Community High School District 128 Board of Education took action that will help facilitate much needed capital improvements districtwide. The Board approved a lease tax levy of five cents for projects to include debt service, life-safety and building projects as identified by the administration for tax year 2003, and approved by the Board.

"The lease levy is possible because of the phase-in of the 2001 tax rate increase," explained Assistant Superintendent for Business **Yasmine Dada**. Dada further explained that the levy increase is only for one calendar year. Each year the Board must re-evaluate its progress and vote whether to extend the levy or not. "It will allow the District to complete many needed projects, such as critically important life-safety issues that were identified by the recent citizens committee, SPACES," said Dada.

Capital Projects Update

Also at the Nov. 17 meeting, the Board approved bids for replacement of the track and renovation of the football field at Libertyville High School. The current condition of both the track and the field have led to safety concerns. Work will begin on both of these projects following the conclusion of this year's football season. At its October meeting the Board also approved bids for construction of the Vernon Hills High School rest room/concession/storage project.

LHS Addition

Construction of the LHS addition project is on target. Passersby will soon see work begin on the roof and on the school's new main entrance. Watch the website for monthly photo updates at lhs.district128.org/construction.



Construction continues on schedule for the LHS addition. (photo by M. Todoric)

Brainerd Forum

Approximately 100 District 128 residents gathered at the Brainerd Building on Oct. 20 for a forum hosted by the District 128 Board of Education. The Board sought input from the community with regards to the future of Brainerd. The Board has a difficult decision to make. There is no easy solution, nor one that does not involve considerable cost. While the Board has not set a deadline date by which to make its decision, it will continue to communicate information to the community as it becomes available. The Board thanks all community members who made time in their schedules to attend the forum, as

well as those who have shared their thoughts via written communication.

PAWS Program

Representatives from the District 128 PAWS Program presented an update to the Board at its November meeting. PAWS--which stands for Program Assisting With Success--is a program designed to help freshman and sophomore students succeed by providing a positive learning environment in which students can strengthen skills and move toward positive learning outcomes. Now in its second year, PAWS continues to provide powerful support to students at LHS and VHHS.

Giving back *continued from page 1*

In addition to planned activities, students are also ready to lend a hand in times of special need. From gathering cards and supplies for military troops and volunteering at local PADS shelters, to providing shoveling service throughout the community during heavy snows, District 128 students are always available to help.

At a recent Board meeting, District 128 Board of Education members noted another worthy cause that many District 128 staff and parents, as well as community members, can contribute to without any cost and with just a simple touch of your computer keyboard: Operation Hero Miles. By simply logging on to www.Heromiles.org you will be linked to the participating airlines who are allowing frequent flyer members to donate unused miles to help soldiers fund trips home during their R&R periods.

**Community High School
District 128**
940 W. Park Ave.
Libertyville, Illinois 60048
847.367.3159
www.district128.org

Board of Education
Jan Foreman, President
John Snow, Vice President
Anne Landgraf, Secretary
Scott Adams
Holly Jauch
Dennis Ryan
Judy Sugarman

Student Representatives
Brittany Muller (VHHS)
Jenny Byelick (LHS)

David L. Clough, Ph.D., Superintendent

The 128 Report is published quarterly for residents of the District 128 community. Comments and questions should be directed to Mary E. Todoric, director of communications, at 847-327-7186 or at mary.todoric@district128.org

109 receive AP honors in District 128

The College Board has released the names of students who have earned 2003 Advanced Placement Scholar Awards on the basis of their outstanding academic performance. District 128 to pleased to announce that 109 seniors and members of the LHS and VHHS classes of 2003 received the following honors:

2 National Scholars -- Receiving an average grade of at least 4 on all AP Exams taken and grades of 4 or higher on eight or more of these exams on full-year courses or the equivalent.

22 Scholars with Distinction -- Receiving an average grade

of at least 3.5 on all AP Exams taken and grades of 3 or higher on five or more of these exams on full-year courses or the equivalent.

34 Scholars with Honor -- Receiving an average grade of at least 3.25 on all AP Exams taken and grades of 3 or higher on four or more of these exams on full-year courses or the equivalent.

51 Scholars -- Receiving grades of 3 or higher on three or more AP Exams on full-year courses or the equivalent.

Excel *continued from page 1*

Elisabeth Rutkowski, Renee Karmas, Jesse Schaar, Alyssa Eastman, Zachary Galaboff, Stephan Chatterjee, Chris Dozier and Jesus DeLao.

LHS October and November Students of the Month

The following LHS students were named students of the month for October and November: October: **Amy Baker, Jennifer Dietz, Aneta Kowalska, Jeff Norman, Josephine Chang, Colleen Pfiffner, Lauren Gilmore, Stefanie Alde, Steven Goff, Josh Becker, Ralphie Kaplan, Jeff Updegraff, Nick Boulrieris, Zack Marzec, Lauren Gilmore, Jeff Chapman and Jacqueline Hill.** November: **Heather Blazeovich, Theodore Needham, Brenna Nowak, Christopher Peterson, Callie Ryan, Nicole Schachner, Terry Mulligan, Alexander Rodriguez, Matthew Carlin, Patrick Engle, Matthew Phelan, Douglas Stuart, and Paul Karnstedt.**

National Honor Society names new members

The following VHHS seniors were named to the National Honor Society this fall: **Jessica Pardys, Sarah Schwartz, Gloria (Cho-Rong) Pak, Kyle Gehrke and Erin Hoadley.** The following Libertyville High School seniors were also selected for induction to the school's chapter of NHS: **Daniel Gibbons, Kelly Lazar, Krista Marchlewicz, Joanne Maves, Courtney Micksch, Lily Ortega, Daniel Petric, Kirsten Pfund, Mary Sturgeon, Andrea Vaswani, and Matthew Warren.**

Fine Arts News

Congratulations to the following students for being selected to participate in the IMEA (Illinois Music Educators Association) District 7 Festival: (LHS): **Hanah Stuart, Jennifer Nichols, Joanna Hui, Jessica Hui, Xin Chen, Ron Hsiao, Richard King, Peter Bowling, Doug Stuart, Eric Steffens, Scott Bakshis, Teresa Himmelsbach, Mallory Kruckman, Tracy Wood, Esther Liu, Kristina Grenier, Fran Smith-Fatten, Ryan Argall, Evan Williamson, Alison Duffy, Emma Kaplan, Natalie Douglass, Dan Close, Eric Steffens, Chris Goranson, Shaun Lowecki, Brian Paplaski, Brian Arnold, Matt Schory, Randy Turley-Plotner, Heather Lundstedt, Megan Rule, Jenny Blair, Katie Phillips, Lauren Schaefer, Jessica Holland, Tom Colao, Jay Fischl, (VHHS): Heidi Gosen, Carolyn Grieco, Christine Kim, Nathaniel Olson, Kyle Nuernberger, Nick Wrem, Sam Rothstein, Andrew Tamasauskas, Kevin Kunkel, Shaun Fernandes, Mick Paull.**

The LHS Band Program received a \$500 ExxonMobil Educational Alliance Grant. The money will be used for additional education opportunities for band students.

Two VHHS students were named finalists in the Glacking Concerto competition. **Christine Kim** and **James Spigner** will compete with six to eight students from other schools for \$500 and the opportunity to perform with the North Suburban Symphony Orchestra in Lake Forest.

VHHS junior **Hun Lee** won the Juror's Award at the Northern Illinois University High School Art Exhibition. LHS senior **Colleen Pfiffner** received an Award of Merit at the competition.

Panico to play in All-American Bowl

LHS senior **Santino Panico** was selected to play in the 2004 U.S. Army All-American Bowl. Seventy-eight athletes were selected to represent their schools and communities in the bowl that will be played on Jan. 3 at the Alamodome in San Antonio, Texas. The game will be broadcast live on NBC television.

Six inducted to VHHS Wall of Fame

Six alumni were named to the VHHS Athletic Wall of Fame during homecoming week. This year's inductees were **Keith Heerdegen, Hunter Sheldon, Matthew Leffler, Sherlenia Green, Ian Peckler, and Kim Rymer.**

continued on page 4