

The 128 Report

News and information for residents of Community High School District 128

November 2004

Ribbon-cutting ceremony held at new addition to Libertyville High School



Nearly 100 people gathered for the Oct. 26 ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new addition at Libertyville High School. Among those present were District 128 Board of Education members, staff, students, parents, retirees, elementary school district representatives and elected officials. The event included tours of the new facility and refreshments. *(photo by M. Todoric)*

Tickets available for annual District 128 senior holiday dinner and concert



rehearsal of the school's holiday concert at 5:00 p.m. in the Auditorium. Seating for the dinner is limited, and tickets are required. Tickets are available at the senior centers in both Libertyville and Vernon Hills, and at the District 128 Administration Center, 940 W. Park Ave., Libertyville. Those wishing to attend the concert only do not need a ticket. For further information, call 847-327-7185.

Senior residents of Community High School District 128 are invited to attend the District's Annual Holiday Dinner and Concert. The event will be held on Monday, Dec. 6 at Libertyville High School. Dinner will be served in the school's cafeteria beginning at 4:00 p.m., followed by a dress

31 seniors honored in National Merit Program

Seven seniors from Libertyville and Vernon Hills High Schools have been named semifinalists in the 2005 National Merit Scholarship Competition. Nearly 1.3 million juniors nationwide entered the 2005 program by taking the 2003 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test. Of those, 16,000 were selected as semifinalists.

District 128's semifinalists are (LHS) **Alison Duffy, Ellen Marra, Caleb Ng, Raj Patel, James Pessin, (VHHS) William Rothstein, Gordon Scharf.**

Finalists will be announced next spring.

In addition to the semifinalists, 24 District 128 students were named commended students in the competition. District 128 commended students are (LHS) **Brian Arnold, Xin Chen, Peggy Chiou, Christopher Girardo, Kristina Grenier, Terrence Hanlon, Christine Headley, Brian Herman, Ronald Hsiao, Mitchell Ji, Nora Krinitsky, Todd Labrum, John Liu, Meghan McGrath, Ahmad Parvinian, Stephen Revis, Kevin Ross, (VHHS) Alina Bogdanov, Vanessa Bordo, Thomas Ginakakis, Peter Ling, Kathleen McDonnell, Lisa Moritz, Elizabeth Zellner.**

Seniors among country's top student writers

Four Community High School District 128 students have been named recipients of the 2004 National Conference of Teachers of English (NCTE) Achievement Awards in Writing. LHS seniors **Dennis Hoyle, Raj Patel** and **Kathleen Paul**, and VHHS senior **Vanessa Bordo** were four of only 2,587 students nominated for the honor this year. According to the NCTE, the winners are "among the best student writers in the country."

Construction projects give new look to both District 128 campuses

The new addition at Libertyville High School and concession/wash room/storage building at Vernon Hills High School were two of the many projects completed during the summer months in District 128. Utilizing existing District funds, the following construction projects have been completed in District 128 since 2002:

Libertyville High School

Classroom addition
 Band Room addition
 Emergency generator
 Line-set curtains added to Auditorium stage
 Replace curtains in Auditorium and Studio Theater
 Upgrade pool mechanicals
 Improve water pressure to pool showers
 Replace domestic water pipes
 Replace pool lighting
 Protective netting at ball fields
 Library improvements
 Replace domestic water heater
 Replace white boards in 8 classrooms
 Remodel staff cafeteria
 Renovation of existing space
 Security and access control systems
 Life Safety Projects: HVAC improvements; visual strobes, exit signs; ADA compliance improvements; window and door replacements; extend west corridor
 Irrigation and upgrade to varsity football field
 Replace running track
 Roof replacement/gas pipe replacement
 Sprinkler system added between new additions
 Locker room renovation
 Life Safety study



Above: The new entry and addition at LHS. At left: The rest room/concession/storage building at VHHS (photos by M. Todoric)

**Community High School
 District 128
 940 W. Park Ave.
 Libertyville, Illinois 60048
 847.367.3159
 www.d128.org**

Board of Education

Jan Foreman, President
 John Snow, Vice President
 Anne Landgraf, Secretary
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Student Representatives
 Tom Ginakakis (VHHS)
 Madeline Tebon (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@d128.org

Auditorium air handler unit
 Dectron pool unit
 Additional smoke detectors
 Roof survey
 Auditorium ceiling replacement

Vernon Hills High School

Bleachers added to Gymnastics Gym
 Bleachers added to Wrestling Gym
 Electric screen/projector in Auditorium
 Climbing wall and high ropes system
 Improvement to fields/water wheels/hosing
 Security Gates at Nike Site
 Protective netting at ball fields
 Catwalks in Studio Theater
 Rest room/Concession/Storage building
 Athletic under bleacher area storage
 Security and access control systems
 Carpet replacement
 Additional landscaping

Districtwide

Sonnet Ring to provide continuous connectivity between buildings for data and voice transmission

Brainerd Update

With the closing of the Brainerd Building, the District is faced with new considerations for the future. While LHS teams are still able to use the playing fields at Brainerd, the Board of Education must look at options for a new gymnasium at LHS while also deciding the ultimate fate of the Brainerd Building itself. The Village has established a Brainerd Preservation Committee that is investigating possible ways to keep Brainerd as a functioning part of the community. The District 128 Board is awaiting the next proposal by the Village committee. At time of publication, the next steps are not known.

ISBE--NCLB--AYP: Alphabet Soup in CHSD 128

by Dr. Catherine Finger, Associate Superintendent

The federal No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act of 2001 was designed to support education in this country by requiring high standards and to create a system of accountability. The federal NCLB act states that all students will:

- Reach high standards
- Be taught by highly qualified teachers
- Be educated in environments that are safe, drug-free and conducive to learning
- Graduate from high school

Once the NCLB priorities were identified and communicated, all states were directed to create their own individual plan to address these priorities. The NCLB act calls for all students in this country to meet or exceed standards by the year 2014, and yet, no common student performance standards or assessments were identified! Each state was left to develop independent plans to improve student achievement, staffing and funding.

In response to the NCLB act, the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) identified three priorities that are considered critical to meeting the vision for Illinois education:

- Eliminating the achievement gap
- Eliminating the educator gap in quality and quantity
- Eliminating the funding gap

The ISBE developed a plan-The Illini Plan-to address these critical priorities. The Illini Plan was presented by the ISBE and approved by the Federal Department of Education in July 2003. The Illini Plan calls for all students to meet standards at incremental rates annually, using 2002 test data as the baseline.

A last minute aspect of the Illini Plan, unique to the state of Illinois, has caused quite a stir everywhere-including here in Community High School District 128. This calls for schools to be identified as making "Adequate Yearly Progress" (AYP) based on the performance of all student subgroups, not just on the overall composite school scores. The ISBE designated student subgroups include any subgroup with a minimum of 40 or more students from any one of the following student subgroups: American Indian; Asian; Black; White; Hispanic; Students with Disabilities; Low Income; Limited English Proficiency. Schools were identified as not making Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) if less than 40% of the students in any one subgroup did not meet or exceed standards as reported in the 2002 and 2003 PSAE school report card data, regardless of the school's overall achievement.

In District 128, one of the student subgroups did not meet the 40% requirement at Libertyville High School for the 2003 testing year. Therefore, LHS was designated as a school that failed to make AYP for the first time in December 2003. We are in the midst of reviewing the 2004 student testing data this month. Our preliminary review of the data suggests that although LHS will likely make AYP in all student subgroups, this year Vernon Hills High School will likely not make AYP due to one of its student subgroups not meeting the 40% requirement for the 2004 testing year. If the ISBE continues to use student subgroup achievement data to determine its AYP designation and does not change the annual increments as listed on the Illini Plan for student subgroups, I would predict that

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District 128 welcomes new staff members

District 128 welcomed nearly 40 new members to the staffs of Libertyville and Vernon Hills High Schools for the 2004-2005 school year.



Vernon Hills High School new staff: (seated) Jay Walgren, Melissa Gulley, Victoria Reznicek, Robert Wilson, Elizabeth Bennett, Eryn Smith, (standing) Steven Korney, Jeremy Gerlach, Jodi Cusick-Acosta, Cheryl Ballenger, Abbie Willenborg, Tiffany Heinlein, Monica Tolva, Matthew Lonergan, Kathryn Wagner. Not pictured: Michael Mullaney, Marion Perkins (photo by M. Todoric)



Libertyville High School new staff: (seated) Jeremy Gerlach, Matthew Wiggins, Sara Hake, William Pitcher, Peter Schrenk, Eryn Smith (standing center) Steven Korney, Lorraine Loeb, Dana Brady, Monica Nordstrom, Julie Johnson, Debra Kellum, Cynthia Rowland, Scott Bogumil, Cameron Traut, Ben Snyder, (standing, back row) Maggie Casteleyn, Amy Marske, Megan Gavin, Kristin Krueger, Sharra Powell, Dawn Shannahan, Kristin Gumkowski. Not pictured: Robert Uliks (photo by M. Todoric)



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

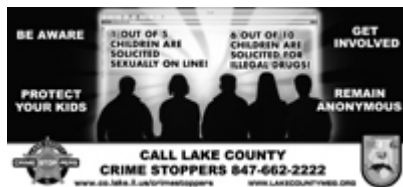
Carrier Route Pre-Sort

Non-profit organization
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Residential Postal Patron

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VHHS recognized for partnership



For the past two years, Vernon Hills High School has partnered with the Lake County CrimeStoppers and the Lake County Metropolitan Enforcement Group (MEG). VHHS recently was recognized by MEG for having contributed support and guidance with the groups' advertising campaign throughout Lake County. Two billboards were produced, one last year and again this year, which share information about the program. The two key focuses of the latest campaign are Internet solicitation of minors and the sale of illicit drugs. The newest billboard, shown above, is in Waukegan and shares statistics regarding Internet safety.

LHS honored by LifeSource



LifeSource Blood Services presented a \$500 award to Libertyville High School in recognition of the outstanding contributions of LHS students, faculty and staff to the

LifeSource Community Blood Donor Program. The money will be used for a student scholarship. Pictured above at the presentation are **Chuck Beach**, LHS Student Council sponsor, **Ellen Plotkin**, LifeSource account manager, **Dr. Joe Wojtena**, LHS principal, and **Diane Phillips**, LHS assistant principal and student activities director. *(photo by M. Todorici)*

Survey measures community satisfaction

Community High School District 128 residents recently had the opportunity to tell the District what they think about District 128. St. Louis-based research firm Unicom/ARC, conductors of the District's last community survey in 2000, once again developed and administered this year's questionnaire. The main purpose for the survey is to gain a better understanding of the community's perception of how we perform as a school district, and how that compares to the survey results from 2000. Another purpose was to gain community input regarding a number of specific District issues.

Thank you to all who gave their time to complete the telephone survey. Results of the survey will be reported and discussed at an upcoming Board of Education meeting.

NCLB *continued from page 3*

every school in the state with sufficient student numbers in the designated subgroups eventually will be designated as not making adequate yearly progress.

We have been analyzing student data and conducting program reviews rigorously for the past several months at both schools. New programs have been developed and implemented in response to our taking a closer look at student achievement patterns of both individual students and various student subgroups. Our PAWS program at both schools is designed to support 9th and 10th grade students as they prepare for and meet academic challenges in a small group setting on a daily basis. Intense tutorials are available during study halls and lunch study halls for select junior students in preparation for the PSAE and ACT testing process in April. Each department has begun to integrate the core academic themes and skill sets that students will need to experience success on the PSAE. We have expanded our testing program to include the EXPLORE test for all incoming 8th grade students and the PLAN test for all current 10th grade students to assist us in identifying students who may benefit from additional support as well as to give our students more experience with standardized testing. Our English, Mathematics and Science departments are conducting pilots on the use of diagnostic assessments designed to mirror both the ACT and PSAE in each subject area. Both schools are also working on motivational strategies to help students see the importance of these state and national testing initiatives.