

The 128 Report

News and information for residents of Community High School District 128

March 2004

District 128 proactive regarding life safety issues at LHS and VHHS

Student safety is a high priority in Community High School District 128. In November 2002, the District commissioned its architects, STR Partners, LLC, to perform a Ten Year Life Safety Survey. The survey was performed three years earlier than required by code. The District submitted the survey to the Regional Office of Education and to the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) in the Spring of 2003, followed by ISBE approval in the summer.

The District initiated its survey earlier than required for several reasons. First, due to recent building additions and renovations, it was important to ascertain if there were any compliance issues. Second, identified life safety projects could be included in capital projects planned for the 2003-04 school year and beyond. Third, the District needed to know the cost of any required life safety work in order to know its impact on available funding for projects identified in the Five Year Capital Plan. And finally, the SPACES Committee strongly recommended that life safety issues at LHS be addressed in any capital planning.

A summary of life safety items scheduled for completion at LHS can be found on page 3. The list includes items that will be completed, as well as those already completed. The total estimated cost for the entire list of projects is \$976,650.

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Bush named Illinois outstanding physics teacher

Libertyville High School teacher **Mike Bush** has been named the Illinois Outstanding High School Physics Teacher of the Year by the Illinois Section of the American Association of Physics Teachers (ISAAPT). He will be honored at the ISAAPT Spring Meeting that will be held next month at the University of Illinois.

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Bond refinancing to save taxpayers \$1.7 million

At its March 22 meeting, the Community High School District 128 Board of Education voted in favor of refinancing \$38,185,000 of its 1997 bonds. By doing so, the Board will save taxpayers \$1.7 million in interest on the bonds over a period of 13 years.

The District recently was informed by Moody's Investor Service that its bond rating stands solid with a rating of "Aa2" and a positive outlook.

The 1997 bonds were issued for the construction of Vernon Hills High School and renovations at Libertyville High School.

Capital plan progress

The District 128 Administration proposed a Five Year Capital Plan to the Board of Education in February. The plan would cost approximately \$7 million over five years, and would be funded by the lease levy and reserves in the District's operations and maintenance fund.

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Seniors enjoy reception and "Joseph"



Vernon Hills High School National Honor Society students helped serve seniors at the District's second annual "Tea in the Hills" event on Feb. 25. More than 150 senior residents of District 128 attended the light reception followed by a performance of "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat" at VHHS. *(photo by M. Todoric)*

Sachs appointed to fill Board of Education vacancy

Lake County Regional Superintendent of Schools **Roycelee Wood** has named **George Sachs** to fill the vacancy on the Community High School District 128 Board of Education. Sachs will fill the remainder of the unexpired term ending April 2005. The seat was vacated by **Holly Jauch** who resigned from the Board in December. Sachs, a Vernon Hills resident, practices law in Libertyville.

A parent of both LHS and VHHS graduates, Sachs has been a District 128 resident for more than 20 years. His involvement with the District has included working on referendum campaigns, as well as assisting with parent organizations. In addition to his familiarity with the schools, Sachs brings experience to the Board, having served on the boards of the United Way of Lake County, the Vernon Hills Police and Fire Commission, and the LMV Chamber of Commerce.

"I was very impressed with the caliber of the candidates' commitment to and their involvement with District 128," said Wood. "Mr. Sachs' strong involvement with District 128, as well as in both communities represented in the District, makes him the best qualified candidate to complete the necessary work and to interact with Board of Education members."



Board of Education President **Jan Foreman** (right) congratulates **George Sachs** after he was sworn-in as a Board member on Feb. 23. (photo by M. Todoric)

District 128 construction projects on schedule



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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@d128.org

All District 128 construction projects are progressing on schedule. At left, LHS Principal **Dr. Joe Wojtena** leads board members and administrators on a tour of the LHS addition project. The addition is scheduled for completion this summer. At right, (left to right) VHHS Principal **Dr. Ellen Cwick**, Assistant Principal **Deborah Larson** and Assistant Principal **Jonathan Guillaume** visit the rest room/concession/storage area project that is underway at the VHHS athletic fields. The project should be completed for use by next fall. (photos by M. Todoric)

Board meetings on cable

Community High School District 128 Board of Education meetings are televised on cable on the following days:

Libertyville: Thursdays at 7:00 p.m. on Channel 19

Vernon Hills: Wednesdays following the 6:30 p.m. airing of the District 73 board meeting (approximately 8:00 - 8:30) and Sundays at 2:00 p.m. on Channel 4.

Videotapes of the meetings also are available at both locations of Cook Memorial Public Library.

Capital plan

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The Board is currently studying the plan and will likely reach a decision this spring.

The capital plan is largely an outgrowth of the District's 2002 SPACES (Space Planning and Curriculum Enhancing Solutions) Committee. A major component of the plan will include a long-term solution to the future of the Brainerd Building.

Life Safety *continued from page 1*

Many of the life safety projects need to be done when school is not in session to avoid disruption for students. The bulk of the work was awarded to A.J. Maggio, the contractor who is currently on site constructing the LHS classroom and music additions, while a portion of the work is being done under the direction of the District. A.J. Maggio is projecting completion of most of its items by July 15, 2004.

In addition to the state-approved life safety items, the School Board has already funded or is considering the funding of numerous safety-related items at both campuses. Examples of items already funded include refurbishing the LHS track and stadium turf, security cameras and door locking systems at both campuses and the addition of a cat-walk in the VHHS theater. Currently, the Board is studying and discussing the feasibility of an administrative recommendation to phase in the addition of fire sprinklers throughout LHS.

LHS Life Safety Summary

Pending items

- Remove non-functioning exit doorway near the school's former main entrance
- Install self-closing devices at corridor doors
- Install 22 additional exit signs
- Remove all vinyl flooring and replace with non-slip vinyl tile or rubber tile with detectable warning feature
- Create a more direct exit from the wrestling room
- Replace ventilation and exhaust systems in all locker rooms, the pool area, wrestling room, and room 043
- Install a visual strobe fire alarm device in wrestling room
- Install coil unit to provide ventilation to room 125. Also connect to heating and cooling system
- Replace faucets on janitors' sinks with faucets equipped with a vacuum breaker
- Make bathrooms ADA compliant
- Install a handicapped-accessible water fountain
- Realign the exit in the northeast corner of the field house
- Remove and replace existing outdoor track

Completed items

- Install additional smoke detectors and connect to existing addressable fire alarm system
- Install cover plate on open junction boxes
- Install fire alarm pull station to exterior door of buildings and grounds office

The District's goal is to prevent urgent maintenance situations through annual reviews.

Special Olympians capture second place in state



The District 128 Special Olympians once again have brought home honors from state competition. The first-ever District 128 Special Olympics basketball team finished 2nd in the state tournament held at Illinois State University. The silver-medal winning basketball team members are pictured above at the awards ceremony. *(photo by D. Beagle)*

Bush *continued from page 1*

Fellow teachers and school administrators may nominate teachers for this annual award. Bush was nominated by Vernon Hills High School physics teacher **Steve Rietesel**.

Bush has been teaching at LHS since 1991. LHS Science Department Supervisor **Pat Somers** said of Bush's honor, "Every school would like to have the caliber of teacher represented by Mike Bush." He added that, in addition to being exceptional in the classroom, Bush also coaches the school's Science Olympiad Team and puts in many hours to prepare the students for competition. Under Bush's direction, last year's Science Olympiad Team captured the state championship.

The 3 Year Asbestos Re-Inspection Report and Management Plan Addendum for Libertyville High School and the Brainerd Building is available for public inspection at the District 128 Administration Office, 940 W. Park Ave., Libertyville.



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District 128 Physics students aim for national team

Ten students from LHS and two from VHHS were among the 207 students nationwide selected as semifinalists for the U.S. Physics Team. The District 128 semifinalists are (LHS seniors) **Steven Canning, David Hruska, Eric Meyer, Aaron Mowery, Douglas Moy, Jeff Moy, Jonathan Nipper**, (LHS junior) **Raj Patel**, (VHHS seniors) **Cosmin Stejerean** and **Stephen Heumann**.

With eight students named semifinalists, LHS not only set a new school record but also has more semifinalists than any other Illinois school. The school also tied with two schools outside Illinois for the most semifinalists from a single school.

Semifinalists will take two 90-minute exams in March. These exams, along with academic records and a recommendation, will be used to determine the 24 members of the U.S. Physics Team. The 24 students will attend training camp in May. Five students will be selected from the 24 to compete at the 35th International Physics Olympiad in South Korea in July.

District 128 Speakers Bureau

Looking for a speaker for your group's upcoming meeting? Why not consider a representative from the Community High School District 128 Speakers Bureau? 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, including athletics, community education opportunities, community/school partnerships, District 128 overview, fine arts, LHS overview, making the transition from junior high to high school, the federal "No Child Left Behind" legislation, school finance, standards, student activities, technology, VHHS overview, and more.

Please contact **Mary Todoric** at 847-327-7186 or mary.todoric@d128.org for more information.

Students bring creative comfort to Condell Medical Center patients



A VHHS student (left) was one of **Sandy Gerbasi's** family and consumer science students who took part in the class's creative kindness project. The students made fleece blankets and comfort caps in class. In February, three representatives from the class joined Gerbasi in delivering blankets and caps to patients in the oncology department at Condell Medical Center in Libertyville. *(photo by M. Todoric)*

Enjoy dinner while supporting the VHHS senior party

John's Garage located in Westfield Shoppingtown Hawthorn will host a fund raiser to benefit the senior party for the Vernon Hills High School class of 2004. John's Garage will generously donate 15 percent of all food sales from 5:00 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. on Thursday, April 15, 2004 to the VHHS Senior Party Committee. Stop by for some great food to help a great cause!