



Administrative Offices

50 Lakeview Pkwy., Suite 101
Vernon Hills, Illinois 60061
847-247-4500

Libertyville High School

708 W. Park Ave.
Libertyville, Illinois 60048
847-327-7000

Vernon Hills High School

145 N. Lakeview Parkway
Vernon Hills, Illinois 60061
847-932-2000

<http://www.d128.org>

Board of Education

Anne Landgraf, President
Judy Sugarman, Vice President
Jan Foreman, Secretary
Alexander Delli Paoli, Jr.
Pat Groody
Ellen Mauer
Marsha Oberrieder

Student Representatives

Tia Ginakakis (Vernon Hills High School)
Rohan Taneja (Libertyville High School)

Administration

District

Prentiss G. Lea, Superintendent
Dr. Marina Scott, Associate Superintendent
Yasmine Dada, CPA, Assistant Superintendent
for Business
Deborah Larson, Assistant Superintendent for
Curriculum and Instruction
Mary Todoric, Director of Communications

Libertyville High School

Michael Stevens and Dr. James Whittington,
Co-Principals
Eric Maroscher, Assistant Principal
Diane Phillips, Assistant Principal
D. Ole Stevens, Director of Student Support Services

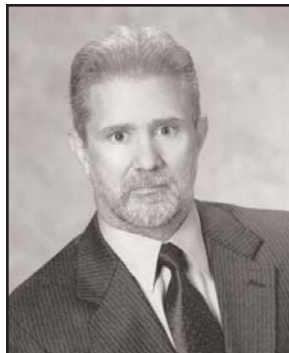
Vernon Hills High School

Dr. Ellen Cwick, Principal
Jean Aucutt, Assistant Principal
Jon Guillaume, Assistant Principal
Sue Butler, Supervisor of Guidance

Community Education Program

Dr. Lester "Buzz" Perry, Director of
Community Education and Grants

Paw Prints is published five times a year for District 128 families. Questions and comments should be addressed to *Paw Prints* Editor Mary Todoric, Director of Communications, at 847-247-4513 or mary.todoric@d128.org.



Superintendent's Message Welcome to a New School Year!

Greetings from District 128! I trust that you have had a great summer. I am excited to begin the journey as superintendent of what I believe is the best high school district in the nation, District 128. Our two high schools, Libertyville and Vernon Hills, continue to provide all students with excellent opportunities to learn and grow in academics, athletics, fine arts, and student activities. Our District's continued partnership with students, parents, and the communi-

ty will ensure that all students have access to the finest teaching, curriculum and instruction, and programs, and as a result, the greatest opportunities for success.

Former superintendent Dave Clough developed and nurtured excellent District and building leadership, high-quality teaching, and critical support systems for students. As a result, students succeeded at ever higher levels during his tenure. Our broad challenge moving forward is to build on that legacy of increasing student achievement. As your new superintendent, I accept and embrace that challenge, and I look forward to working with you to ensure that all of our students continue to learn and grow at the highest levels.

With that said, it is my pleasure to welcome you to the 2008-2009 school year. In the coming year, District 128 will usher in the Classes of 2012 and graduate the Classes of 2009 at Libertyville and Vernon Hills High Schools. For those of you who are new to District 128, we are excited to have you join our family, and for those of you who are returning to the District, we are excited to welcome you back. I encourage you to take some time as a family to review this issue of *Paw Prints*, which will provide you with invaluable information regarding opening school events and activities, policy and procedural changes, and an overview of the breadth and depth of activities and athletics available to District 128 students. As research continues to demonstrate, there is a significant relationship between higher student achievement and involvement in activities and athletics. So, we strongly encourage all of our students to get involved with school related activities and athletics beyond the regular school day. You will not regret it!

Finally, I look forward to renewing acquaintances with those of you I have met over the past three years in my role as associate superintendent, and I also look forward to meeting those of you who I have not yet had the pleasure to meet. As your superintendent, along with other District and building administrators, teachers, and support staff, we are here to serve you and to ensure that your children continue to succeed. We take that mission seriously, and we will work with you to build on the legacy of excellence in District 128. Have a great school year!

Prentiss G. Lea
Superintendent

Stay Connected with **128eNEWS**

Community High School District 128 encourages parents to subscribe to 128eNews. Last fall, the District launched **128 eNews**, a news subscription service that provides subscribers with important news updates regarding the District via email. Watch for complete details at the school open houses in September and October, or visit the District web site, www.d128.org.



Ending One Course Means Starting a New One: **Meet New Associate Superintendent Marina Scott**

by Dr. Marina Scott, Associate Superintendent

When I ran my first marathon a few years ago, I couldn't wait for mile 26 because it marked the end of the race. In this, my 26th year as an educator, my race is changing course rather than ending. Although I don't feel the same exhaustion at year 26 as I did at mile 26, there is a striking similarity between the two experiences. In both cases, there is a definite sense of accomplishment along with a desire to use new strategies to improve upon past success. This reminds me of a definition of success offered by Alex Noble; he describes it as the spirit with which one undertakes and continues a journey rather than one's destination. Here, at year 26, I'm both thrilled to have the opportunity to continue my educational journey in District 128 and excited about the experiences that lie ahead.

As I prepare to chart this new course, I am drawing upon the experiences I gained in High School District 211 as a teacher, coach, assistant principal and principal. They have provided me with a broad base upon which to build. In addition, my teaching responsibilities as an adjunct professor in the School of Education at Loyola University-Chicago provide me with the opportunity to explore the latest research and network with passionate, knowledgeable teachers and administrators. I'm excited and honored to join the District 128 team where a tradition of excellence in academics, athletics, and activities is prevalent. As associate superintendent, I look forward to working with the Board, administration, faculty, parents, and most importantly, the students. Since my appointment, I have felt embraced by the welcoming spirit of the District 128 community. I look forward to meeting you personally and beginning our work in bringing a great place to new heights.



Student Achievement: **What We Learned During Our Summer Vacation**

by Deborah Larson, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction

While summer is a time to renew and refresh, the work of school improvement never ends in District 128. The summer is an opportunity for our staff to have thoughtful and constructive dialogue on how we can continue to improve and help our students to achieve. I would like to share with you some of the conversations we have been having this summer.

Incoming Freshmen Summer Academy

As you receive this publication, we will have completed the first summer of a new program: the Incoming Freshmen Summer Academy. Seventy-two students enrolled and worked to improve their reading, math and English skills as they prepare to enter high school. A special thank you to administrative interns **Abbie Gutzmer** (VHHS), **Steve Korney** (VHHS) and **Dave Schroetter** (VHHS) for assisting with this program. They have supported, documented and evaluated this program throughout the seven-week period. We have gathered student achievement data and feedback from students and parents via a survey. We will be analyzing this in the fall and working to make this program meet the needs of our students.

Response to Intervention

Response to Intervention is a general education initiative which requires collaboration efforts from all District staff. It seeks to provide for a quality academic and behavioral environment which meets the needs of all students. A committee of staff has been meeting this summer to learn more and discuss what this looks like in District 128. We have submitted a self-assessment and will be discussing new interventions we may be considering for the future. All staff learned of this concept in May and all District administrators will be trained in August. Committee work will continue when school begins. All districts must submit a plan to the Illinois State Board of Education in January 2009.

Class Rank

During the previous school year, the administration and staff of CHSD 128 have discussed and carefully researched the growing trend of secondary schools eliminating the practice of listing a student's individual class rank on the academic transcript. As we studied this trend, we did the following:

cont. on p. 20

Making the Most of Each Moment: **Prentiss Lea is Ready to Lead District 128**

by Kelly Garrison and Sheila Russell

Prentiss Lea knows how to seize the day. It's a skill that he would like to share with all of the Community High School District 128 students and staff.

As the newly appointed superintendent of the District, Lea certainly will have the opportunity to bring his *carpe diem* panache to the entire community.

Job No. 1 as the new chief? Getting students and staff to adopt the "live life to the fullest" motto by setting the bar high.

"To start, you simply need to make sure you set high expectations and communicate those expectations," Lea says. "As superintendent, I will continue to foster a positive school climate by recognizing students for what they do well. Awards for accomplishments go a long way in creating a positive atmosphere.

"I have a passion for ALL students and believe that everyone can do well and that passion will guide me and guide the District as I assume the role of superintendent," Lea says.

Lea, however, realizes that student success hinges on one other crucial element: parental involvement. To that end, he plans on embracing many opportunities for parents to take part in the high school experience.

In addition to creating a positive culture, Lea plans on building upon the District's current culture of excellence which has been supported by community members who are willing to fund the educational system through their tax contributions, as well as their time and support.

"We will continue to look at what we do well and what we need to work on to make our schools better and then set two or three goals from there," Lea says. "Great districts, schools and teachers know what their goals are, know what their strategies are and know how to measure their progress."

The District's first job is to continue to serve our students and create a worthwhile experience for all across the entire learning spectrum. To do so, the District will continue to use the whole child philosophy, a guiding principle that promotes physical, intellectual and psychological well-being.

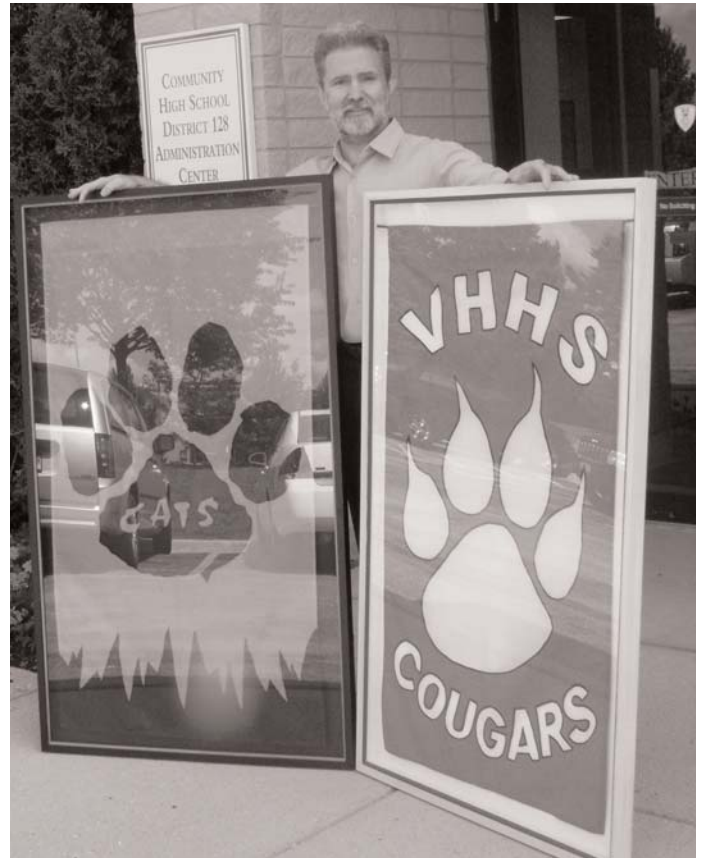
One of the main challenges facing Lea, however, is keeping this momentum going as District 128's personnel turns over.

"This year alone we have a new superintendent, new associate superintendent and director of student services, as well as new co-principals at Libertyville High School," Lea says. "Next year, we will have 12 retirements. We have had 60% new hires within the last 10 years in a district that has taken pride in the longevity of its teachers. Because of this turnover, we need to make sure that we continue to hire excellent teachers and that we have an excellent mentoring system in place that will support young teachers."

Making hay while the sun shines

If the past is any indication, Lea will help the District continue on its path toward success by making the most of every opportunity. Certainly, Lea has always done so in his own professional life.

Lea started his teaching career by working for several years at St. Francis de Sales High School in Chicago.



"It was an incredible experience. I worked at a very diverse school, both economically and racially," he says.

Lea then applied his zeal at various public school districts within the Chicagoland area. During this time, he served in a variety of positions ranging from teacher through principal. Lea's unbridled enthusiasm is not reserved for academia exclusively, however. One highlight was as the wrestling coach at Thornton Township where he coached three state champions.

Lea has always approached his personal life with the same gusto. For instance, he is currently very passionate about spending time with his wife and two daughters (ages 10 and 8), both of whom were adopted from South Korea. The adoption experience, itself, stands out as one of Lea's own most memorable moments.

"Going to Korea to get our daughters was a very compelling, profound and adventurous experience," Lea says. "The Korean/American community has been very supportive of Americans who have adopted Korean infants."

Lea plans to return to Korea with his daughters when his youngest daughter turns 10.

Although most of his time outside of work is spent with his family or pursuing his doctorate, Lea always has lived life to the fullest. During college, he quickly realized that it was his dream to be an educator, and he relished the college experience while participating in two sports - *cont on p. 20*

Community High School District 128 Board of Education Members 2008-09



District 128 Board of Education Members (seated) Secretary **Jan Foreman**, President **Anne Landgraf**, Vice President **Judy Sugarman**, (standing) **Alexander Delli Paoli Jr.**, **Ellen Mauer**, **Marsha Oberrieder**, **Pat Groody**. (photo by *M. Todoric*)



Tia Ginakakis
2008-09 VHHS
Student Board
Representative



Rohan Taneja
2008-09 LHS
Student Board
Representative

Community High School District 128 Board of Education 2008-09 Meeting Schedule

The Community High School District 128 Board of Education encourages parents and community members to attend its meetings. The following is a schedule of this school year's meeting dates. Additional information about the meetings, including agendas and minutes, can be found on the District 128 web site, www.d128.org.

Regular Board Meeting Dates 7:00 p.m. at the Vernon Hills High School Library 145 N. Lakeview Parkway, Vernon Hills

Monday, July 28, 2008
Monday, Aug. 25, 2008
Monday, Sept. 22, 2008
Monday, Oct. 27, 2008
Tuesday, Nov. 18, 2008
Tuesday, Dec. 16, 2008
Monday, Jan. 26, 2009
Monday, Feb. 23, 2009
Monday, March 23, 2009
Monday, April 27, 2009
Tuesday, May 26, 2009
Monday, June 22, 2009

Board Meetings Televised on Cable, Videotapes Available at Library

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

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

Vernon Hills
Channel 4
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.

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



Margaret Pither

Helping Teens Make Healthy Choices

by Margaret Pither, VHHS SAP Coordinator and Nancy Dick, LHS SAP Coordinator

Parents are the single most important reason teens don't do drugs and alcohol. Have you communicated your expectations about drug and alcohol use to your teens? Have you outlined the consequences that will occur if they violate your abstinence policy?

Do you and your teens have a PLAN? If your teens find themselves at a get together with friends and someone comes in with alcohol or drugs, do they know how to handle the situation? Have you talked to your teens about what they can do? It's best to know how to handle these situations before they arise. Perhaps you can devise a plan so they can call you and you'll know to come and pick them up - no questions asked! Make a plan that works for you and your family. This will empower your teens to know how to handle situations and they won't feel pressured into doing something they don't want to do.

Different Ways to Prevent Teens from Using Drugs and Alcohol:

- ◆ Know where your teens are when they aren't home, and make sure they have a destination.
- ◆ Make a list of events of your teens' day - know their schedule.
- ◆ Know your teens' friends. Make sure you approve of the people with whom they are socializing.
- ◆ Work together with other parents. E-mail and call them to make sure you are all aware of what your teens are doing.
- ◆ Keep your teens busy after school. If you cannot be home, make sure your teens are involved in extra-curricular activities.
- ◆ Develop a relationship with your teens. Talk with them about things that are important to both of you.
- ◆ Spend time enjoying activities your teens like.



Nancy Dick

Vernon Hills Parent/Guardian Passive Consent Form - Drug Use and Perceptions Survey

Vernon Hills High School is asking you to allow your child to fill out the Drug Use and Perceptions Survey that will be administered at VHHS in the fall (November 2008). This survey will serve as an assessment for the school, guiding future programming decisions in the area of substance abuse prevention. The survey, developed by Northern Illinois University, takes approximately 20 minutes to complete, and will be administered during a First Class lesson.

The survey is voluntary and anonymous. If there are any questions your teen does not wish to answer, he/she may skip those questions, or stop taking the survey altogether. Students will be reminded of these options before the survey is administered.

The questions included in the survey will address the following: personal alcohol and drug use, perceptions of peer alcohol and drug use, and perceptions of the school environment.

If you DO NOT want your child to participate in this survey, please sign and return this form by October 1, 2008 to: Margaret Pither, SAP Coordinator, Vernon Hills High School, 145 Lakeview Parkway, Vernon Hills, IL 60060. Your decision will not, in any way, influence you or your child's relationship with Vernon Hills High School.

If you have any questions regarding this survey, please contact Margaret Pither at 847-932-2158.

Your signature below indicates that you DO NOT want your child to participate in this survey.

My signature below indicates that I have read and understand the above explanation and I DO NOT want my child to participate in the Drug Use and Perceptions Survey that is being administered at Vernon Hills High School.

Student's Name

Parent's Name

Date



The Application Season Begins

by Scott Birtman, VHHS College and Career Counselor

Welcome back! Within the next few weeks we should be in the full swing of college applications. The months of September and October will be the height of this time. Somewhere between 200 and 300 applications per month will travel through the CRC! We will process between 1,200-1,400 applications for the entire school year. The number of applications per student is on the rise. We averaged nearly five college applications per student for the Class of 2008. That does not mean each student applied to five different schools; it was an average of all who applied.

Be aware of deadlines. There are application deadlines, priority filing deadlines, early decision and early action choices. Each college or university has a preferred method, including the "near insistence upon" electronic filing. Applying on-line is approaching 90% of all applications submitted.

The Common Application is now being accepted by more than 300 different schools. The common application is rapidly growing in popularity and can help streamline the application process. The "Common App" will include an individual college supplement for each school.

Just as a reminder, Vernon Hills High School does not send official scores to colleges. Colleges want to see "official" test scores from ACT or SAT. Therefore, it is your responsibility to send the scores! If you included the colleges (up to four) when you took the test, you will not need to do it again.

If you have any questions regarding the admissions process, feel free to make an appointment to see the college counselor. The first few weeks of school will be a very busy time. Please remember... This is your future and the longer you delay, the harder it is to get admitted to the college of your choice!



LHS Welcomes New CRC Counselor

by Patricia Finnerty, LHS College and Career Counselor

It is with great enthusiasm that I welcome the 2008-2009 academic year, as I assume the role of CRC Counselor at Libertyville High School. I have been a counselor for the past 18 years and thoroughly enjoy working with students as they engage in the post-secondary planning process. Since kindergarten, students have attended the prescribed elementary, middle, and high school based on the school district within which they reside. However, as graduation from high school becomes more of a reality, students for the first time are faced with college and career choices, and they are plentiful. I encourage you to work together as a family throughout the process by communicating not only with each other, but also with the counselor, coaches (if appropriate), and the college counselor.

The CRC is available to all students and their parents, and individual appointments are available as well. College representatives will be visiting the CRC regularly to meet prospective students and answer questions you may have, so be sure to check the schedule! Evening programs have been scheduled throughout the school year to assist families at various milestones, and I invite you to attend whenever possible. Post-secondary planning can be exciting and at times, anxiety provoking considering the details that are involved. The most common mistakes are a result of not reading the application thoroughly, therefore missing deadlines or filing an incomplete application. I look forward to working with you throughout the year, and I am confident that as we work together you will find this process to be rewarding and the beginning of an exciting future.

Wed., Sept.17
LHS Faculty Recital
7:30 p.m., LHS Auditorium

Tues., Oct. 14
LHS/Jr. High Choir Festival
7:30 p.m., LHS Auditorium

Thurs.-Saturday, Oct. 23-25
VHHS Fall Play
7:30 p.m., VHHS Studio Theater

Thurs., Oct. 30
VHHS Choir Festival (w/Hawthorn
Schools)7:30 p.m., VHHS Auditorium

Thurs.-Sat., Nov. 6-8
LHS Musical - West Side Story
7:30 p.m., LHS Auditorium

Thurs., Nov. 6
VHHS Orchestra Festival (w/Hawthorn
Schools)7:30 p.m., VHHS Auditorium

Thurs., Nov. 13
VHHS Band Festival (w/Hawthorn
Schools)7:30 p.m., VHHS Gymnasium

Fri.-Sat., Nov. 14 & 15
VHHS One Act Plays
7:30 p.m., VHHS Studio Theater

Thurs., Nov. 20
LHS/Jr. High Band Festival
7:30 p.m., LHS Gymnasium

Wed., Dec. 3
LHS/Jr. High Orchestra Festival
7:30 p.m., LHS Auditorium

Tues., Dec. 9
LHS Holiday Music Festival
Dress Rehearsal
5:00 p.m., LHS Auditorium

Wed., Dec. 10
LHS Holiday Music Festival
7:30 p.m., LHS Auditorium

Thurs., Dec. 11
VHHS Holiday Music Festival
7:30 p.m., VHHS Auditorium

Tues., Dec. 16
LHS Holiday Band Concert
7:30 p.m., LHS Auditorium

Wed., Jan. 21
District/Jr. High Jazz Festival
9:00 a.m., LHS Auditorium
7:30 p.m., Concert

Fri.-Sat., Feb. 13-14
LHS Winter Play - TBA
7:30 p.m., LHS Auditorium

Thurs.-Sat., Feb. 19-21
VHHS Winter Musical
7:30 p.m., VHHS Auditorium

Thurs., Feb. 19
LHS Band Concert
7:30 p.m., LHS Auditorium

Wed., Feb. 25
LHS Winter Orchestra Concert
7:30 p.m., LHS Auditorium

Thurs.-Fri., Feb. 26-27
LHS One Act Plays
7:30 p.m., LHS Studio Theatre

Thurs., Feb. 26
VHHS Band Concert
7:30 p.m., VHHS Auditorium

Wed., March 4
LHS Cabaret
7:30 p.m., LHS Auditorium

Thurs- Fri., March 12-13
LHS Orchesis Dance Recital
7:30 p.m., LHS Auditorium

Thurs., March 17
LHS Bands of America Preview Concert
7:30 p.m., LHS Auditorium

Thurs., March 19
VHHS Jazz Concert:
Jazz Strings & Jazz Band
7:30 p.m., VHHS Auditorium

Wed., March 25
VHHS Orchestra Concert
7:30 p.m., VHHS Auditorium

TBA
North Suburban Conference Art Show
TBA - location

Thurs., April 16
VHHS Choir Concert
7:30 p.m., VHHS Auditorium

Fri.-Sat., April 17 & 18
IHSA Organizational Music Concert
Fri-- 3:00 p.m. -10:00 p.m.
VHHS
Sat., 7:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Fri.-Sat., April 24-25
LHS Spring Play - TBA
7:30 p.m., LHS Auditorium

Wed., April 29
LHS Spring Band Concert
7:30 p.m., LHS Auditorium

Wed. April 29
VHHS LISA Art Show at the Great

Frame Up
6:30 p.m.

Wed., May 6
LHS Spring Choir Concert
7:30 p.m., LHS Auditorium

Thurs.-Sat., May 7-9
VHHS Spring Play
7:30 p.m., VHHS Studio Theater

Thurs., May 14
LHS Spring Orchestra Concert
7:30 p.m., LHS Auditorium

Thursday, May 14
Orchesis Dance Recital
7:30 p.m., VHHS Auditorium

Tuesday, May 19
Student Art Show
6:00 p.m., VHHS Lobby
7:15 p.m., Awards in Theater

Tuesday, May 19
Choir Cabaret Concert
8:00 p.m., VHHS Auditorium

Thursday, May 21
LHS Art Show
7:00 p.m., LHS Gym

Thursday, May 21
Spring Band Concert
8:00 p.m., VHHS Auditorium

Friday, May 22
LHS Art Show
8:00 a.m. - Noon, LHS Gymnasium

Friday, May 22
LHS Collage
7:30 p.m., LHS Auditorium

Wednesday, May 27
Spring Orchestra Concert
7:30 p.m., VHHS Auditorium

Thursday, May 28
Pops Concert
TBA, Independence Grove

For more information, call the Fine Arts offices at LHS 847-327-7058, 327-7057 or VHHS 847-932-2283, 932-2282. Changes and updates will be posted on the District 128 web site - <http://district128.org>.

From the Principals' Desk . . .



by Mike Stevens and Dr. James Whittington, Libertyville High School

Just a few weeks ago I was making plans to return to retired life after a year as an interim administrator in Grayslake. Then I received an interesting call from a District 128 administrator asking if I would consider returning to the District to serve as an interim principal at Libertyville High School. The offer peaked my interest to the point that I was willing to talk to **Prentiss Lea** about his expectations. After careful consideration, I told him I thought it would work if I had a compatible partner to assume the other half of the assignment. I contacted Mr. **Mike Stevens** with whom I had shared a similar assignment in Waukegan a couple years ago. He agreed, and we began to learn as much as we could about LHS. Since it has been five years since I retired as the principal of Vernon Hills High School, I had some catching up to do. During that time I have returned to the educational arena on three occasions. In addition to Grayslake and Waukegan, I worked in the District 128 central office during the 2004-05 school year.

I am looking forward to my return to District 128 with a great amount of excitement. I am honored to assume this important responsibility. Furthermore, I am delighted to be working with the outstanding staff in our exceptional District that is committed to providing the best possible education for our students, parents and the community.

Sincerely,

Dr. James Whittington



It's funny how things usually start with a phone call. The call I received was from Jim Whittington, informing me of a tremendous opportunity to continue my contributions to the field of education. As Jim described the interim position at Libertyville High School and the outstanding reputation of District 128, it didn't take long for me to commit to yet another rewarding year in high school.

I began my career, like Jim, in High School District 214 as a Biology teacher and coach, and moved into administration via student services. I served as an associate principal in two different high schools and was the principal of Prospect High School for eight years. In my semi-retirement, I was on the staff of Aurora University as a student teaching supervisor. I also shared the role of principal of Waukegan High School with Jim in the 2005-06 school year. The role of principal is a tremendous responsibility, and Jim and I will take our charge very seriously. Our previous experience as co-principals enabled us to develop communication and organizational systems so that the high school didn't "skip a beat." LHS and District 128 have a rich tradition of excellence in all aspects of high school programming. Working with an exceptional staff and a committed school community, we will continue to build on that tradition.

Sincerely,

Mr. Michael P. Stevens

Attention LHS Class of 2012!

Freshman Orientation
Tuesday, Aug. 12
9:15 a.m. - Noon

Freshman will be introduced to LHS and become familiar with their classroom locations. Bus transportation will be provided to and from orientation for students who would normally take the bus.

More information will be mailed home in August.



Student Activities Update

by Jennifer Paul, Student Activities Director

Freshman Orientation will take place on Tuesday, Aug. 12, 2008 from approximately 8:45 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Freshmen will be introduced to LHS and become familiar with their classroom locations. Bus transportation will be provided to and from orientation for students who would normally take the bus. Buses will be running on the "late start" school day schedule for morning pickup. Buses will depart from orientation at approximately 12:15 p.m. More information will be mailed home in early August.

Get Involved... There is a club or activity for everyone! Here is a list of the current student activities. Watch the daily bulletin for times and locations of club meetings or call the sponsor directly. LHS Director of Student Activities **Jennifer Paul** can also be reached at (847) 327-7258 or jennifer.paul@d128.org

Academic Decathlon: The Academic Decathlon team is composed of students from different academic levels who compete in 10 academic disciplines: math, science, literature, economics, music, art, speech, essay, interview and super quiz. Advisor TBA

Amnesty International: Amnesty International is dedicated to making the world aware of human rights abuses around the world and actively petitioning governments and working in other ways to free political prisoners and oppressed peoples. Members work to spread this mission by informing the school community of issues and inviting all to participate. Advisor: **David Widzisz**

Art Club: Art Club is for anyone interested in the many fields of art such as: ceramics, painting/drawing, and photography. Some of the group projects this club takes part in is painting the Spirit Store and creating artworks displayed throughout LHS. Advisors: **Ray Gossell** and **Julie Johnson**

Athletes Committed to Excellence (ACE): ACE is for any athlete, cheerleader or pom committed to a drug-free lifestyle. The club's goals are to promote being good role models for our school and community, and to raise awareness of drug-free living. Members participate in service projects and promote drug-free living to our feeder schools. Advisors: **Sean Ferrell** and **Nancy Dick**

Athletic Clubs: Clubs available include: Girls' and Boys' Lacrosse, and Ice Hockey. Athletic Director: **Briant Kelly**

Belle Choir: The new "Belle" Choir is LHS's first-ever auditioned women's ensemble. Auditions are held in the fall and are open to all female LHS students. The Belle Choir sings advanced choral literature for women and performs at the Holiday Music Festival, Cabaret, and Spring Concert. Advisor: **Dr. Jeff Brown**

Best Buddies: Best Buddies High Schools pair students with learning disabilities in one-to-one friendships with high school students. High school students with learning disabilities often walk the same hallways as their peers, but are left out of social activities. Best Buddies crosses the invisible line that too often separates those with disabilities from those without. Advisor: **Lynda Ward**

CAT-TV: Students learn as much about television production as they are willing to pursue. Explore the use of digital equipment in a hands-on learning environment. Connect with industry professionals and CAT-TV alumni that can help provide an awareness of student and career opportunities. Advisor: **David O'Hara**

Cleftomaniacs: If you are a male and like to sing 70s, 80s and 90s pop music, this group is for you. The Cleftomaniacs meet once a week after school and is open to any male LHS student.

No audition required. They perform at the Holiday Festival, Cabaret and Spring Choral Concert. **Dr. Jeff Brown**

Cosmetic Club: The Cosmetic Club is open to students interested in developing personal care products. Members pay for the raw materials they use to develop products. The cost, usually around \$5, includes the container and label. The club focuses on learning the basics of chemistry used in developing personal care products. Advisor: **David Kreutz**

DDR: DDR is open to anyone who enjoys playing Dance Dance Revolution. Members meet once a week after school to compete against each other or practice by themselves. This is a relaxed club and we enjoy new students! Advisor: **Katie Hyla**

Debate Team: The Debate Team competes at the conference, regional and state levels in two-person debates. Each year from September through March a problem of significant social impact is examined. Coaches: **Craig Schmidt** and **Amy Marske**

Dramatic Events: The Fine and Performing Arts Department produces a fall musical and two dramatic productions each year. Any LHS student may audition for a production or sign-up to work on the "Tech Crew," which includes scenery construction, painting, costumes, lighting, props, and house management. Fine Arts Supervisor: **Dan Patterson**

East Asian Cultural Organization: The club furthers students' interest in the languages, history, and cultures of China, Korea and Japan. The club is open to any students interested in expanding their knowledge about the societies and traditions of currently one of the most dynamic regions of the world. Members will have the opportunity to compete at the National Japan Bowl Competition in Washington, DC. Advisor: **Wendy Verkler**

***Fellowship of Christian Athletes:** FCA allows student/athletes the opportunity to strengthen their Christian faith through their athletics.

Film Society: The club offers students an opportunity to watch and discuss a variety of films from the 1930s to present day. We also talk about film history, important people, media messages, and other issues related to the film. Advisor: **Craig Schmidt**

Fishing and Outdoors Club: The fishing and outdoors club is open to all LHS students. Several outings are planned each year focusing on fishing and all aspects of outdoor education and activity, such as rock climbing, camping skills and conservation issues. The club promotes catch and release.

French Club: The club is open to students interested in exploring French culture. Members participate in International Language Week and are introduced to French cuisines, films, music, plays and more. Members can improve their French abilities, learn new phrases, and have fun! Advisor: **Christophe Guiard**

Freshman Class Council: This council is open to all freshmen and will represent the entire freshman class. The elected Freshman Student Council Class Officers direct this group, and meet bi-weekly to organize and plan homecoming activities, community service projects and dances. Advisor: **AnneMarie Hays**

Fret Boarders: Fret Boarders Acoustic Music Club is a regularly scheduled musician's jam. All skill levels and instruments are welcome. This club offers a safe place to learn to perform and meet others to share, practice and learn. The club chooses a music-related service project annually. Advisor: **Anne Malecki**

Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA): FBLA is a national organization providing youth with an interest in business a venue to share, network and compete with others on local, state and national levels. Advisors: **Kristen Shaw** and **Billy Pitcher**

Gay/Straight Alliance: The Gay-Straight Alliance promotes the celebration, awareness and advocacy of issues facing students of all sexual orientations and gender identities. Meetings include team-building activities, discussion of current events related to GLBT (gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender) issues, formulation of advocacy and awareness opportunities in our school and community, as well as out-of-school attendance at AIDS benefits, movie nights and GLBT organization activities. The club is open to all students. Advisor: **Sandy Pardys**

INTERACT - Co-sponsored by the Libertyville Sunrise and Noontime Rotary, INTERACT's primary focus is to provide volunteer services that fit area needs. Activities include helping at a home for women and children, volunteering at a senior center, working with the park district and other community-oriented activities. Advisors: **Jennifer Paul** and **Alice Leafblad**

Intramural Athletics - Intramural activities are offered to LHS students throughout the year. These include boys' and girls' weight lifting, basketball, coed volleyball, badminton, flag football and bowling. Listen for details of your favorite activity and get involved. Athletic Director: **Briant Kelly**

Junior Class Council: This council is open to all juniors and will represent the entire junior class. The elected Junior Student Council Class Officers will direct this group, and will meet bi-weekly to organize and plan homecoming activities, community service projects and dances. Advisor: **Marc Spacone**

LEAF: The Libertyville Environmental Action Force (LEAF) serves the Libertyville and Vernon Hills communities and the students and faculty of LHS. LEAF promotes environmental awareness and encourages environmental activities at LHS while networking with existing programs locally, nationally and globally. Advisors: **Dave Lapish** and **Susie Torrence**

Library/Anime Club: This group is more than a traditional book discussion club. Besides sharing ideas and reflections on books, this club views and discusses Japanese animated videos. Advisor: **Jodi McPhillips**

Master Singers: From the madrigals to vocal jazz, the Master Singers cover the musical spectrum. Auditions are required. The

group performs at the Holiday Festival, Cabaret, Spring Choral Concert, and the IHSA Solo & Ensemble Contest. Advisor: **Dr. Jeff Brown**

Math Team: Do you like to be challenged, to think in new ways, and to broaden your mathematical horizons? If so, you will fit in perfectly on the Math Team. The team participates in monthly competitions covering topics ranging from counting to calculus. Meetings are held weekly on Tuesday after school. Coaches: **Amanda Warfield** and **Rick Brenner**

Mock Trial: The Mock Trial Team prepares a case, either criminal or civil, and competes against other area schools. Team members serve as attorneys, witnesses, or both throughout the competition season. The year culminates with the state competition held in March in Springfield. In addition to the sponsor(s), local attorneys volunteer to help the members hone their litigation skills. Coaches: **Dennis Duffy** and **Amy Holtsford**

Model United Nations: This group trains students to understand the problems of different countries throughout the world. Students interested should apply and train for the annual excursion to a national Model United Nations Conference. Coaches: **Dennis Duffy** and **Lauren Rust**

National Honor Society: Membership into the LHS chapter of the NHS is one of the highest honors a student can receive in District 128. Membership is open to juniors and seniors with a minimum 3.4 GPA. A committee elects members. In addition to scholarship, members must show evidence of service, character and leadership. Advisors: **Sarah Kelly** and **Julie Held-Lyons**

Orchesis: This group is an audition-based dance company. Members perform a variety of dance styles including jazz, ballet, modern, tap, etc. They have the opportunity to choreograph their own dance in addition to learning other student, faculty, and guest artist choreography. Orchesis is open to all grade levels, and auditions are held in mid-November with performances in early March. Sponsors: **Eryn Smith** and **Susie Torrence**

Peer Mediation: Peer Mediation uses a process for students to listen, negotiate, and design a mutual agreement to promote peace among their peers. Members capitalize on their communication skills, and are involved in a variety of activities to work towards peace and cooperation among LHS students. The members monitor a website that students can email for advice about friendships, relationships and the school environment. Advisors: **Sharon Stevens** and **Sarah Kelly**

Physics Club: This team consists of students selected from the physics classes to compete in the AAPT Physics Bowl, the U.S. Physics Team Competition, and the Physics Olympics. The team sponsors several building competitions throughout the year that are open to the entire student body, as well as several outreach activities for feeder schools and parents. Advisor: **Mike Bush**

Ping Pong Club: Have fun playing ping pong once a week - no experience needed. Just come and hit the ball! Advisors: **Jeremy Marino** and **Christophe Guiard**

Production Services: Members are responsible for the technical work for most events at LHS, from set up for a meeting in the Studio Theater to special-effects lighting and complex sound systems for the Jazz Band concert. Its responsibility is to produce professional looking and sounding shows. Members are in charge of lighting and sound crews for the musical and plays.

Robotics Team: Students work with engineers to design a prototype, and build a robot for competition. Competitions are in the fall and spring. The team is open for all students. Advisor: **Sherri Rukes**

Scholastic Bowl: The team competes to answer questions in categories such as social studies, math, literature, science, language, and popular culture. This is an IHSA competitive activity. The season runs September through April. Watch the bulletin in September for tryout information for the varsity and freshman/soph. level teams. Coaches: **Karen LeMaistre** and **Kristi Robertson**

Senior Class Council: This council is open to all seniors and will represent the entire senior class. The elected Senior Student Council Class Officers direct this group, and meet bi-weekly to organize and plan homecoming activities, community service projects, dances, graduation and class gift. Advisor: **Sharon Crary**

SkillsUSA: SkillsUSA is open to all students involved in areas such as automotive technology, electronics, woodworking, graphic communications, computer repair, drawing, television production, photography, childcare, website design and advertising design. SkillsUSA students compete in their area of expertise at the state and national level. Advisor: **Harry Carlson**

Slant of Light: *Slant of Light*, the LHS literary magazine, is staffed and compiled by students of all levels who are interested in student-generated poetry, short stories, plays, artwork, etc. Advisor: **Matt Tooley**

Sno Catz: Sno Catz is a ski and snow boarding club that provides students at all ability levels with an opportunity to refine their ski and snow boarding skills at various resorts in Illinois and Wisconsin. Advisor: **Nikki Olszewski**

Sophomore Class Council: This council is open to all sophomores and will represent the entire sophomore class. The elected Sophomore Student Council Class Officers direct this group, and meet bi-weekly to organize and plan homecoming activities, community service projects and dances. Advisor: **Lauren Rust**

Spanish Club: Spanish Club is open to all LHS students interested in expanding their knowledge of the Spanish speaking world. Students will further explore the language and culture through music, movies, fiestas, food and crafts. Advisor: **Megan Gavin**

SPARK (Supporting Peers and Reaching Kids): SPARK is open to all students committed to living a drug-free lifestyle. Students participate in local, state and national conferences, and visit feeder schools relaying messages to youngsters. Advisor: **Nancy Dick**

Speech / Forensics Team: The LHS Speech / Forensics Team is a spirited group of individuals interested in communication, acting and performing skills. All are invited. Competition runs from October to February. Advisor: **Tom Bizosky** and **Alice Leafblad**

Sports Medicine Club: This program is for students interested in being a Student Athletic Trainer. The program offers students seeking a career in any medical profession, (athletic training, physical or occupational therapy or physician) the chance to experience and assist in the area of sports medicine. **Ron Russ**

Stageplayers: Every year the Stage Players participate in the

Illinois High School Association Theater Festival where over 240 schools participate. Advisor: **Tim Frawley**

Student Ambassador Services: This group helps students new to LHS successfully transition into the LHS community. Students are utilized throughout the school year on an as-needed basis. All students are welcome. Advisors: **Shelly Stoiber** and **Joe Cragan**

Strategy Club: Provides members the opportunity to try a variety of strategy games ranging from traditional (chess, backgammon) to contemporary (role playing, card games). Advisor TBA

Student Council: Student Council represents the entire student body. The council consists of four elected officers along with five elected representatives from each class. Students may petition to join the Council as non-elected "walk-on" members. The student body elects a five-member Executive Board to supervise and plan all Council events. The council serves to relay student concerns and opinions to the administration. Advisors: **Chuck Beach** and **Sherri Rukes**

Topcats/Big Brothers/Big Sisters Afterschool Program: Topcats will provide opportunities for LHS students to mentor "at-risk" elementary students one afternoon a week at the elementary school. Topcats is open to all students who will commit two hours weekly after school from 3:00 to 5:00 to this activity for the duration of the school year. Advisors: **Anne Singleton** and **Audrey Glenn**

Treblemakers: If you are a female and like to sing 70's, 80's, & 90's pop music, this group is for you. The group meets once a week after school and is open to all LHS female students. No audition required. The Treblemakers perform at the Holiday Festival, Cabaret and Spring Choral Concert. **Dr. Jeff Brown**

Voices in Prevention (VIP): VIP reaches out to the youth and teen communities through skit performances that teach about healthy and real life experiences. Advisor: **Nancy Dick**

Wildcat Guard: The Guard is comprised of aquatic enthusiasts who want to help the school and community through our swim program. Members help teach at the learn-to-swim program and are lifeguards for weekend/evening programs. **John Fischl**

Worldwide Youth in Science and Engineering (WYSE): WYSE has several competition teams. The Academic Challenge Team participates in competition offered in seven subject areas. The TEAMS group works cooperatively to solve engineering problems. The Science Bowl is a tournament-style academic competition. Coached by **Pete Dawson**

Young Investors: This club is for students interested in investing, especially in the stock market. The group meets weekly to discuss latest stock market and big business news. Veteran members and the club sponsor also help explain stock market trends and information to less-experienced members. Members select stocks to buy and sell, and compete against fellow club members and student groups from other schools. Advisor: **Billy Pitcher**

Wildcat Birding Club: (Trial club 08-09) The Wildcat Birding Club helps students become more familiar with the natural areas near Libertyville and to have fun with the challenging pastime of bird identification. Advisor: **Beau Schaefer**



News from the Hills

Principal's Report

by Dr. Ellen Cwick

We hope staff and students have all rejuvenated over the summer as we look forward to the opening of our 2008-09 school year. We are ready to go and are looking forward to a fun, challenging and successful school year.

The Cougars of VHHS extend a warm welcome to **Dr. Marina Scott**, our new Associate Superintendent. Dr. Scott comes to us from Fremd High School, where she has been the principal for the past five years. Secondly, we want to say best of luck to the new co-principals at Libertyville High School, **Dr. Jim Whittington** and **Mr. Mike Stevens**. All three individuals are strong, innovative leaders and we are looking forward to working with them.

I invite all parents to become involved with their teen's life at VHHS. We want you to be an integral part of life at VHHS and partner with us to make school a special place for all students.

The Vernon Hills High School parent group organizational structure was developed to ensure communication, support and continuity among the three parent organizations. Cougar Council is comprised of the presidents, vice presidents, and treasurers of Cougar Parent Connection (CPC), Cougar Athletic Boosters (CAB) and Cougar Art Support Team (CAST), along with the principal of VHHS and directors of fine arts and athletics.

Our philosophy is that all students, parents, faculty and the community benefit from active participation in the school community. Each of our parent organizations serves a specific purpose and group of school interest. The CPC serves as the VHHS main parent organization and supports the activities and needs of the high school. CAST provides assistance and support to an excellent fine arts department at VHHS. CAB promotes the interscholastic program at VHHS and boosts participation and school spirit at athletics events and activities.

Cougar parent groups are continually evolving. Bring your ideas and a friend to a CPC, CAST, or CAB meeting.

Any questions can be addressed to the presidents of the organizations by contacting:

Jackie Monteith (CPC)- jacqueline.monteith@grainger.com or 847-549-0347

Bruce Mahrenholz (CAB)- Bruce.A.Mahrenholz@us.ul.com or 847-816-9559

Jim Batson (CAST)- jim@jimbatson.com or 847-918-1984

Ninth graders, welcome to your new Cougar home! Don't forget to attend the Freshman Orientation on Tuesday, August 12th at 8:00 a.m. (see specifics on this day on page 15). As with all of our students, I want to encourage you to become immersed in student activities, fine arts and athletics as well as with your studies. Remember, your first semester grades as a freshman count the same as your last semester grades as a senior. Start your freshman year off on a positive note by studying hard!

VHHS Student Activities Update

by Deborah Beagle, Student Activities Director



Start the school year off by getting involved in Student Activities at Vernon Hills High School. The best time to get involved is the beginning of the school year. Participation in Student Activities allows you to develop leadership skills. VHHS offers Student Activities that provide for (1) an extension of interest provoked in the classroom, (2) an opportunity to develop special interests and abilities and (3) social and service activities in the school and community. Following is a representative list of the various activities presented to the student body, along with the advisor for the 2008-2009 school year.

Please direct any questions to Deborah Beagle, Student Activities Director, deborah.beagle@d128.org

<u>Student Activity</u>	<u>Advisor</u>
Academic Bowl:	Paul Kemp
Anime:	Monica Tolva
Art Club:	Jim Savage, Stefanie Dahlstrom
Athletes Committed to Excellence (ACE):	Paul Brettner
Backlight Theater Company:	Kevin Phelan, Stephanie Freichels
Best Buddies:	Karen Martin
Choir-Voicemail (Men's Choir)/Chord on Blue (Women's):	Jeremy Little
Cougar Guard:	Jim Pardun
Cougar-TV:	tba
Creative Cougars	Leslie Nardini, Madeline Powell
DECA:	Sheryl Olson
Family Career & Community Leaders of America (FCCLA):	Kelley Whitescarver
Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA):	Student led organization
First Class:	Tom Chinske
Freshman Class Council:	Janet Kovarik
Future Business Leaders of America:	Amanda Carroll
GSA (Gay Straight Alliance):	Craig Bomgaars, Jennifer Denis
Interact:	Sean Kelly
International Club:	Jodie Cusick-Acosta
	Megan Geltner
Intramurals:	Chris Curry
Junior Class Council:	Ellen Macias, Emily Kline

<u>Student Activity</u>	<u>Advisor</u>
Junior State of America	Eileen Orzoff
Math Team:	Cheryl Ballenger
Model United Nations:	Jim Seward
National Honor Society:	Wendy Meister-Louria
Outdoor Adventure Club:	Jerry Miceli
Robotics:	Jay Walgren
School Newspaper:	Melissa Malmed
Senior Class Council:	Ben Horwitz, Rebecca Austin
Sophomore Class Council:	Jaime Meyer
S.P.A.R.K. (Supporting Peers and Reaching Kids):	Margaret Pither
Special Olympics:	Andy Compton
Speech Team:	Sean Conroy
Spotlight (Fashion Club):	tba
Strategy Club:	Sean Conroy
Student Council:	Leslie Nardini, Jane Wine
VH20 (Environmental Club):	Karen Day, Ellen Macias, Nancy Skeffington, Chris Wolf
VICA – SKILLS USA:	Kip Baxter
V.I.P. (Voices in Prevention):	Margaret Pither
Whispers of Immortality (Student Literary Magazine):	Eileen Orzoff, Sean Conroy
Worldwide Youth in Science and Engineering (WYSE):	Josh Ravenscraft
Yearbook:	Patricia Nora

cont. on p. 15



Attention VHHS Class of 2012:

Mark your calendars for Freshman Orientation

Tuesday, Aug. 12, 2008

**8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.
(Buses will be provided)**



Presentation Entertainment Tours

**More information regarding Freshman Orientation
will follow in the August mailing.**

**Questions? Call Marla Pierce at
847-932-2002**

Student Activities cont. from p. 14

Congratulations to the 2008-2009 Student Council Class Officers and Representatives. Students are encouraged to contact their class representatives to get involved, offer suggestions, help organize the class charity event or be a part of planning the next dance. Walk-ons are welcome.

Student Council Executive Board

President.....**Cliff Nelson**
Vice President.....**Jenna Veren**
Corresponding Secretary**TBA**
Treasurer.....**Meghan Wilgus**
Recording Secretary.....**Andrew Wood**

Senior Class Officers

President.....**Sarah Milligan**
Vice President.....**Billy Tabrizi**
Secretary.....**Gordy Skeoch**
Treasurer.....**Stephanie Borgman**
Representatives**Karthic Chandran,
Megan Kubacki, Samantha Lee, Sonal Singh**

Junior Class Officers

President.....**Steven Sprieser**
Vice President.....**Mansi Kathuria**
Secretary.....**Lavanya Iyer**
Treasurer.....**Jessica Block**
Representatives.....**Angela Cao, Lindsey
Davis, Laura Emery, Danie Feld, Juliana McLain,
Eddie Rumzis**

Sophomore Class Officers

President.....**Alexander Guletsky**
Vice President.....**Andrew Abarca**
Secretary.....**Rachel Wells**
Treasurer.....**Kori Cotteleer**
Representatives.....**Nitya Bhagavatula,
Jennifer Camello, Liezl Jacobson, Shruti
Kumar, Jinyoung Lee, Bryan Sanoshy**

Freshman Class Officers

(Elected during the first few weeks of school)



Athletic Director's Corner

by *Briant Kelly, Athletic Director*

Libertyville High School Athletics

Libertyville High School believes that athletics are an integral part of the educational program for the students. LHS will provide every opportunity for the student-athlete to participate in athletics, and also provide the proper facilities and educated coaches.

Athletics are a part of the developmental process for high school students, as the athletes will grow physically, mentally and socially. In athletics, the athletes are provided with the opportunity to participate in physical fitness daily. The athletes are developing their mental skills through practice and competition, and also learning proper ethics and morals. In athletics, the athletes are also exposed to many different social situations with teammates, opponents, and coaches.

The LHS Athletic Department will be conducted under the rules and regulations of the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS), the Illinois High School Association (IHSA), the North Suburban Conference and Community High School District 128. The athletes will be expected to conduct themselves in the proper manner and that participation in the athletic program is a privilege. Athletics are an educational-based activity that provides another learning opportunity for students.

Athletic Paperwork and Fees

The Athletic Participation Card is new for 2008-2009. The IHSA Consent Form for Steroid Testing is also new for 2008-2009 and must also be signed by all athletes and parents. The Athletic Code of Conduct and the Parent/Guardian Code of Conduct should be reviewed and read by the athletes and parents. Your signature on the Athletic Participation Card is confirmation that you have read, understood and agreed to the Code of Conducts. The paperwork is available on the Athletic website, www.lhswildcats.org. Athletic fees are \$40 for each sport and will be billed after the first contest. There will be no refunds.

Athletic Department Personnel

Briant Kelly - Athletic Director

Chris Trzyna - Assistant Athletic Director

Michelle Jones - Athletic Department Secretary

Jim Schurr - Physical Welfare Department Supervisor

LHS Athletic Program Start Dates

Fall Sports

	Starting Date
Girls' Cross Country	Aug. 13, 2008
Football	Aug. 13, 2008
Boys' Golf	Aug. 13, 2008
Girls' Golf	Aug. 13, 2008
Boys' Soccer	Aug. 13, 2008
Girls' Swimming	Aug. 13, 2008
Girls' Tennis	Aug. 13, 2008
Girls' Volleyball	Aug. 13, 2008
Boys' Cross Country	Aug. 18, 2008
Cheerleading	Teams already selected
Pom-Pons	Teams already selected

Winter Sports

	Starting Date
Boys' Bowling	Oct. 27, 2008
Girls' Basketball	Nov. 3, 2008
Girls' Bowling	Nov. 10, 2008
Boys' Basketball	Nov. 10, 2008
Girls' Gymnastics	Nov. 10, 2008
Wrestling	Nov. 10, 2008
Boys' Swimming	Nov. 24, 2008
Cheerleading	Teams already selected
Pom-Pons	Teams already selected

Spring Sports

	Starting Date
Boys' Gymnastics	Feb. 16, 2009
Baseball	March 2, 2009
Girls' Soccer	March 2, 2009
Softball	March 2, 2009
Boys' Tennis	March 2, 2009
Boys' Track	March 2, 2009
Girls' Track	March 2, 2009
Boys' Water Polo	March 2, 2009
Boys' Water Polo	March 2, 2009
Boys' Volleyball	March 9, 2009

Club Sports

	Starting Date
Ice Hockey	Fall
Boys' Lacrosse	March 2, 2009
Girls' Lacrosse	March 2, 2009

Fall Athletics Starting Date Information

<u>Sport</u>	<u>Level</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Place</u>	<u>Coach</u>	<u>Email</u>
Boys' X-Country	All	8/18	3:10 p.m.	Track	Mark Buesing	mark.buesing@d128.org
Girls' X-Country	All	8/13	8:00 a.m.	Track	Harry Carlson	harry.carlson@d128.org
Football	V,So	8/13	7:30 a.m. 9:30 a.m. 2:00- 4:00 p.m.	Report to game field Team Meeting Practice	Randy Kuceyeski	randy.kuceyeski@d128.org
	Frosh	8/12	1:00 p.m.	Studio Theater	Parents do not attend this meeting. Dale Eggert	dale.eggert@d128.org
		8/13	8:00 a.m.	Organizational meeting. Field by Lake		
Boys' Golf	All	8/12	8:00 a.m.	Cafeteria (meeting)	Sean Matthews	sean.matthews@d128.org
		8/13	6:00 a.m.	Village Green GC		
Girls' Golf	All	8/14	2:00 p.m.	Village Green GC	Billy Pitcher	william.pitcher@d128.org
Boys' Soccer	Frosh Soph	8/13	8:30-10:30 a.m. 10:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m. 4:00-5:30 p.m.	Rte 176 & Dymond	Andy Bitta	andrew.bitta@d128.org
	Jr/Sr		9:00 - 10:30 a.m. 4:00 - 5:30 p.m.	Dymond Field		
Girls' Swimming and Diving	All	8/13	9:00 a.m.	Pool - meeting Varsity - come prepared to lift	Maggie Casteleyn	maggie.casteleyn@d128.org
Girls' Tennis	All	8/13	9:00 a.m.	Tennis Courts	Dan Kiernan	dan@club-net.com
Girls' Volleyball	All	8/13	Jr/Sr 8:00-9:30 a.m. Soph 8:00-10:00 a.m. Fr. 10:00-12:00 p.m. Jr/Sr. 12:00-1:30 p.m.	Butler Lake Gym	Chris Trzyna	chris.trzyna@d128.org



From the Cougar Den . . .

by Brian McDonald, Athletic Director, VHHS

We hope you are enjoying the last few days of summer break and are looking forward to another terrific season of Cougar Athletics. This past summer, most of our Cougar Athletes worked hard in the summer perfecting their game, improving their skills and enjoying the time together with their coaches and teammates. We look forward to seeing what they can do this fall, winter and spring. It should be another great year.

We strongly encourage all of our students, especially incoming freshmen, to get involved in the extra-curricular programs at Vernon Hills. Play a sport, join a club, play an instrument or better yet, do all of these things and more. Every study that has ever been done regarding future successes of high school students, shows that the more activities you get involved in while in high school, the greater your level of success in your future. Win or lose, you will learn lots of things that will lead you to future successes! Get Involved. Do something. Do Lots of Things! We have lots of opportunities for you!

We have changed our Athletic Department paperwork to make it simpler for all to sign up for a team. You need to complete a single Athletic Permit Card which incorporates all the signatures you need to get started. Your doctor signs it (verifying you are fit for competition - this is good for one calendar year), your parents sign it and the student/athlete signs it. Once you have all your signatures, please write in the Fall, Winter and Spring sport you want to participate in and you are all set. If you change your mind about a sport, just stop in the office and we will change it to whatever sport in which you want to participate.

Fall photo day will be held on Saturday Aug. 16 and we have a make up day on Friday Aug. 22. Freshman Athletic Orientation will be held on Wednesday Sept. 3, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. in the Auditorium. Homecoming will be the week of Sept. 29-Oct. 4. It should be a fun week for the kids, coaches, alumni and parents.

We have some new coaches joining our staff this year. This fall, current Assistant Baseball Coach **Brett Hill** joins the Freshman Football staff. Our Boys' Soccer program welcomes two new coaches. **Alex Stavropoulos** will serve as the Varsity Assistant and Cougar graduate **Ramez Hoveydai** adds the role of Freshman Boys' Soccer coach in the Fall, to his Freshman Boys' Tennis coaching duties in the Spring. Another Cougar graduate, **Kyle Gehrke** joins the Cheerleading staff as the JV coach. We have added a JV level to our Pom Pon program and the new level will be coached by **Michelle Sawicki** who will also be teaching Spanish in our International Languages Department. **Shona Moeller** will be joining our Girls' Swim staff this fall. She will continue as our Head Girls' Water Polo coach in the Spring and she will join our Physical Education teaching staff this year. Our Girls' Volleyball staff welcomes **Amir Emso** as one of our Freshman Girls' Volleyball coaches.

This winter, we welcome two Cougar graduates to the basketball programs. **Tom Bhanick** has joined the Boys' Basketball staff and **Rachael Blanton** has joined the Girls' Basketball staff.

This spring, Coach **Marshall Erickson** will join our Varsity baseball staff as the pitching coach and he already serves as the proud father of current varsity baseball assistant coach, **Kurt Erickson**.

Starting Dates for VHHS Fall Sports

Listed below are some important fall dates to remember for fall sports. Please be advised that the athletic teams get started before school starts, so please check the dates and times carefully.

<u>Sport</u>	<u>Level</u>	<u>Coach</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Place</u>	<u>Notes/Inclement Weather</u>
Cheerleading	Varsity	Nicole Neuhengen	Aug. 13	9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.	Gymnastics Gym	Choreography clinic per schedule
	JV	Kyle Gehrke	Aug. 13	3:45 p.m.	Gymnastics Gym	
Cross Country – Boys'	All	Michael Roberts	Aug. 13	3:00 p.m.	VHHS Track	Northeast Gate/Foyer
Cross Country – Girls'	All	Suzanne Richert	Aug. 13	3:00 p.m.	VHHS Track	Northeast Gate/Foyer
Football	Varsity	Tony Monken	Aug. 13	8:00 a.m.	Field house	
	Soph.	Joe O'Brien	Aug. 13	8:00 a.m.	Field house	
	Fr.	Kip Baxter	Aug. 13	8:00 a.m.	Field house	
Golf – Boys'	All	Shawn Healey	Aug.. 12	10:00 a.m.	Room 0211	Pre-Season Mtg. (Var. & F/S) Questions, call Coach Healey @ 847-644-7544
	Varsity	Shawn Healey	Aug.. 13	6:30 p.m.	White Deer Run	Golf Course, play 18 holes
	Fr/Soph	Vic Capron	Aug..13	9:00 a.m.	White Deer Run	Driving Range
	Fr/Soph	Vic Capron	Aug. 13	4:30 p.m.	White Deer Run	Golf Course, play 9 holes
Golf – Girls'	All	Sean Crevier	Aug. 12	10:00 a.m.	Room 2408	Pre-Season Mtg. (Var. & F/S) Questions, call Coach Crevier @ 847-372-2738. Tryouts begin Aug. 13 9:00 a.m. Location TBA
Pom Pons	Varsity	Brittany Henley	Aug. 14	8:00 a.m.	Wrestling Room	
	JV	Michelle Sawicki	Aug. 18	3:30 p.m.	Field house	
Soccer – Boys'	All	Shannon Etnyre	Aug. 13	8 a.m. - 9:30 a.m. & 1 p.m.-3 p.m.	American Hotel Register Field	In case of rain, Room 0222. Athletes are to attend both sessions
Swim/Dive – Girls'	All	Kedric Greenawalt	Aug. 13	8:00 a.m.	Pool Balcony (stands)	Returning Varsity and those trying out for Varsity should come prepared to swim. JV will not swim.
Tennis – Girls'	All	Doug Gerber	Aug. 13	10 a.m. – 2p.m.	W. Entrance Foyer	Going to VHHS courts. In case of rain, 10:00 - noon
Volleyball – Girls'	All	Abbie Gutzmer	Aug. 13	2:30 p.m. - 5p.m.	Gym/Field house	Wear proper volleyball attire, including knee pads

Superintendent Lea *cont. from p. 4*

wrestling and football. During and after college, he also pursued his passion for music and performed with a rock band called Slingshot.

Certainly, if the students of District 128 look to Lea as an example, they will quickly learn the value of passionately pursuing their interests and of making the most of each and every moment of their days. And, that, in and of itself, will go a long way in helping the District reach its goal of helping each student reach his or her full potential.

Student Achievement *cont. from p. 3*

*Held many meetings and had discussions with representatives from colleges and universities

*Attended sessions which have addressed this issue at local, state and national conferences during the past year

*Surveyed schools in our area and those with similar demographics as District 128

*Collected feedback from various committees and groups in our organization, including the Program and Personnel Committee of the Board of Education and our staff

We have decided to continue our discussion of this topic during the coming school year and have some information we would like to share with our community. We will be inviting students and parents to join our conversation in the coming months. Watch for more information on this topic as school begins.

Our dedicated staff continues to work to provide the best curriculum and instruction for our students. During the summer months, many staff members work on department curriculum projects to enhance student learning. They anxiously await the return of our students to share what they have learned and developed during the summer.

Prentiss Lea: A Snapshot

Job: Superintendent of Community High School District 128

Previous Jobs: Associate superintendent, principal, assistant principal, dean, director of student activities, department chair, business education teacher, head wrestling and assistant football coach and student council advisor, bus boy, waiter, construction worker, and singer/guitarist.

Education: B.S., Secondary Education, Manchester College; M.A., Educational Administration, Governors State University

Sports Allegiance: Sox fan, but cheers for all Chicago teams

Food Preferences: McDonald's over Burger King

Favorite Drink: Diet Coke

Favorite Book: *Good to Great* by Jim Collins

Favorite Saying: "It is what it is"

Favorite Holiday: Christmas

Wildcat or Cougar? Loves all cats

Most Inspirational Person in his Life: His mother

Interesting Facts: Has a Mickey Mouse watch; would like to meet Abe Lincoln; if he had a million dollars he would make sure his family was taken care of and then start a scholarship for needy students.



Community High School District 128
50 Lakeview Parkway, Suite 101
Vernon Hills, Illinois 60061

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