

# The Board Bulletin

*A Report to the Community from the Glencoe Board of Education*

## *Dear Community Members,*

When interviewing applicants for teaching positions, it is not uncommon for candidates to ask, "What makes District 35 a good school district?" Without hesitation our response includes reference to the students, staff, parents, Board of Education, and school community. We also identify two groups who support our school district both financially and with human resources. These two groups are the **Glencoe Educational Foundation** (GEF) and the **Glencoe Parent Teacher Organization** (PTO). During the school year, these organizations provide opportunities, materials, technology and renovation projects that are only possible due to their support.

During the upcoming summer break, 19 classrooms will receive SMARTBoards, which are interactive displays that connect with computers and are effective in enhancing instruction and motivating students. We thank the GEF for funding this classroom technology. We are appreciative for the opportunity to expand this teaching and learning tool to additional classrooms.

Last year the students at Central School were thrilled by a new playground funded by the PTO. This fall South and West School students will be excited to see the wood chips gone and new playground surfaces in place. Once again we thank the PTO for enhancing our school playgrounds. Every child in the school district and many in the community will benefit from this enhancement. The PTO also funds more than 30 before- or after-school clubs for students at each of the three schools, as well as cultural arts programs, author visits, parent education nights, family nights, and WE CARE projects.

While I believe we possess all of the components of a truly great school district, the support of our community and organizations such as the GEF and PTO places District 35 in the company of nationally recognized outstanding school districts.

Thank you for another wonderful school year. We extend our best wishes for a relaxing summer break.

Sincerely,

**Cathlene A. Crawford**

Superintendent, Glencoe School District 35

## **"Blue Ribbon" for Central School**

The U.S. Department of Education has honored District 35's Central School with a **No Child Left Behind Blue Ribbon**. The award was made in October 2007 and accepted in Washington D.C. by Central School principal Ryan Mollet. Presenting the award—consisting of a plaque and flag—was U.S. Secretary of Education Margaret Spellings.

The No Child Left Behind Blue Ribbon Schools Program honors public and private K-12 schools that are either academically superior in their state or that demonstrate dramatic gains in student achievement.

"We are very proud of our staff, students, and principals," said District 35 Superintendent Cathlene Crawford. "This award is a tribute to their hard work and dedication."

Adds Mollet: "Although Central School was recognized with the Blue Ribbon Award, this acknowledgment is truly a compliment to the entire District 35 community. The students, teachers, and parents of all three schools should be very proud."

Central School, located at 620 Greenwood, serves Glencoe students in grades 5 - 8. Its 2007-2008 enrollment is 617 students.



*Hoisting the flag: Central School Principal Ryan Mollet and Assistant Principal Molly Cinnamon proudly display Central School's "Blue Ribbon" flag.*

## Farewell Dr. Makoul



It is with sadness and gratitude that the Glencoe school community bids farewell to Board of Education member **Dr. Greg Makoul**. At the close of the school year, Dr. Makoul and his family will be moving away from Glencoe and District 35.

Dr. Makoul has served on the Board of Education since 2005 and for two of the three years has served as the

Board Vice President. Best wishes to Dr. Makoul and his family in their new community.

## Board of Education Member Applications Being Accepted

The Glencoe Board of Education is currently accepting applications and will conduct interviews to fill the vacancy created by Dr. Greg Makoul's resignation. One year remains in Dr. Makoul's term. The Board will take action to fill this vacancy at the regular monthly meeting scheduled for June 9, 2008. The appointee will begin his or her role as a Board of Education Member at that meeting.

For more information, please contact Dr. Cathlene Crawford, Secretary to the Board, at 847 835-7810 or [crawforc@glencoeschools.org](mailto:crawforc@glencoeschools.org). Applications can be downloaded at the District 35 website [www.glencoeschools.org](http://www.glencoeschools.org), or copies are available at the Glencoe Public Library, Village Hall, and offices at South, West, and Central Schools.

Application materials must be completed and filed with the Board of Education by the close of business on May 30, 2008.

## Parent Orientation Meetings Set

For many Glencoe parents, the start of the **2008-2009** school year will mean new steps in their child's school education. To help them get ready, several **Parent Orientation meetings** have been scheduled in May.

- **Tuesday, May 6, 7:15 p.m., West School:** Parents whose child will be entering 3rd grade at West School next fall.
- **Wednesday, May 7, 6:45 p.m., South School:** Parents whose child will enter kindergarten.
- **Wednesday, May 14, 7:15 p.m., Central School:** Parents whose child will enter Central School as a 5th grader next fall.
- **Wednesday, May 21, 7:15 p.m., Central School:** Parents whose child will become a 7th grader at Central School.

## Can You See Our Vision and Values?

Glencoe residents need no special glasses to view the Glencoe School District's "**Vision and Values**" strategic planning goals. This edition of *The Board Bulletin* has several examples of activities in action.

"**Soaking up Languages**" (page 4) shares an activity from the strategic theme of "*Climate of Exploration*." This curricular revision was identified as a target for the present school year. Another example reveals itself on page 3, "**It's Easy Being Green**." Forming an environmental impact group and hosting a family event were activities prescribed by the theme, "*Ethical Conduct and Responsible Global Citizenship*."

The remaining themes within the District 35 "Vision and Values" document are "*Connections Among Experiences*," "*A Healthy, Balanced Life*," and "*Financial Strength and Stability*".

- *Connections* are made through teacher meetings in various grade levels on topics such as writing.
- *Balancing* the whole child's education shows in workshops conducted for differentiating the curriculum. Also, to meet individual student needs, Writers' Theatre hosted acting workshops for 1st-8th graders.
- *Financial* information demonstrating the district's stability was shared in the Fall 2007 edition of *The Board Bulletin* and with staff members through a December Glencoe University class designed by Director of Finance and Operations Michael Tanner.

These are examples of many reasonable and meaningful goals that will cross over into the coming school year 2008-2009.

The Vision and Values Committee includes three Board of Education members, teachers from all three District 35 schools, and district administrators. Each spring, members identify goals and activities under each of the five strategic themes. In the fall, activities are reviewed and concrete plans for meeting the goals are shared. The winter meeting convenes to share the actual activities. This process brings specific district goals and activities full circle, from planning and implementation, to evaluation and completion.

Look for more information about Vision and Values on the district web curriculum page at [www.glencoeschools.org](http://www.glencoeschools.org) (under "Documents").

### The Five Strategic Themes of "Vision and Values"

- **Climate of Exploration**
- **A Healthy Balanced Life**
- **Connections Among Experiences**
- **Ethical Conduct and Responsible Global Citizenship**
- **Financial Strength and Stability**

## It's Easy Being Green in Glencoe Schools

Where else could you greet Ricky Recycle, turn a raw garbage composter, meet a real butterfly, play a game called "Oh, Deer!" and plant seeds in recycled milk cartons—all in one evening? Those attending the "Going Green" Family Night at West School on April 3 enjoyed all of these features during a high-energy, interactive and educational evening.

Planning began last July for this family night, which involved teachers, students, administrators, and parents from all three District 35 schools. The program was held at West School, where hallways, the multipurpose room, library learning center, and gym were all transformed into areas for engaging activities and informative booths.

West School Principal David Rongey remarked: "This evening was to educate and inform families about our 'Going Green' efforts. We are proud of the high level of community involvement and support."

Joining in the festivities were:

- SWANCC (Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County) educational programs, "Ricky Recycle" and Leslie Handler's "Taking Care of Our Earth" presentations
- Discovering Wildlife's butterfly gardens and disposing of waste properly
- Simply Green products
- Whole Foods
- EPA (Environmental Protection Agency)
- Rishi Tea
- Backyard Nature Center
- AmSan, displaying environmentally safe cleaning products used by District 35
- Members of the South and West Recycle Club and Central Green Team
- 20 district teachers and administrators

### "Green" Is Growing in Glencoe Schools

Throughout the school year, "green" programming has increased by leaps and bounds. South, West, and Central Schools have recycle clubs that serve their schools with special "wasteless" lunch days and recycling pick-up.

"We see a change in attitudes and behaviors across the district," said Superintendent Cathlene Crawford. "From worm composting at Central, a new website at West, and the theme for the second grade musical at South, students are getting and spreading the message. We are well beyond 'awareness' here!"

District students, their families and staff members came together during the year to generously support African village Play Pumps. These water pumps, disguised as playground merry-go-rounds, bring precious water to African communities. West School has its "green corner" in the main hallway as a visual display of how quickly plastic bottles accumulate once discarded. Students at South are reusing classroom scrap paper and have instituted new environmentally friendly eating utensils in the lunchroom.

## Community Participation

The Glencoe Garden Club and Backyard Nature Center joined forces with District 35 staff to form the first "Going Green" Committee. With more than 30 community and staff as members, the committee's four goals include the following:

- sharing school activities,
- expanding each school's foundation for "green" citizenship,
- keeping the message alive among parents, students, and staff, and
- building continuity among schools for successful programming.

Good evidence of such continuity was the April 3 Family Event. Look to the district web page, [www.glencoeschools.org](http://www.glencoeschools.org), for evidence of a "green" emphasis in Glencoe Schools—and join our efforts!

### West School Earns Green Flag

Students in the West School Recycling Club worked together this school year to earn a **Green Flag** for their school. Together the club members identified existing school practices and those that will have a positive impact on their school environment. The Green Flag Program for Environmental Leadership is coordinated by the Center for Health, Environment, and Justice, a national environmental organization that has become the preeminent national leader among grassroots groups working to reduce the burden of toxic substances on our environment ([www.chej.org](http://www.chej.org)).

*Glencoe students, with the support of the community, have been "going green" this school year.*



## Soaking Up Foreign Languages

If children are like sponges, the cognitive, academic, and social advantages for learning a foreign language should begin early in their school career. After a recent foreign language review, educators in Glencoe agree! Research studies have proven that the implementation of foreign languages in K-8 schools have positive affects on standardized test achievement, greater mental flexibility, and the development of a sense of cultural pluralism. The earlier instruction begins, the better the child's success with the target language.



*Members were inducted into the Central School Chapter of Sociedad Hispanica de Amistad. This Hispanic Society of Friendship is sponsored by the Glencoe PTO and is under the direction of Seniors Sturtz.*

In a recent parent curriculum chat, Dr. Jay Howe, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment, shared the results of a professional review committee's four-month study that recommended a revision of the foreign language program in Glencoe schools. In question-and-answer format, he shared some of the findings.

### **Q. Why revise the foreign language program at this time?**

A. There were several compelling reasons to review the entire curriculum. Parent concerns about too much repetition, not having clear goals or assessments, and a weak curriculum, especially in the K-4 Spanish program, were heard. The district also faced a retirement and maternity leave within the small department's staff. There was a surge of general classroom teacher interest in improving and integrating the programming. And finally, with world language acquisition becoming more important, district staff members decided that we carefully examine what, when, why and how we teach foreign languages.

### **Q. What was part of the analysis?**

A. Gladys Lipton's practical handbook, which is a leading resource for foreign language programming; the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Language (ACTFL); a site visit to Chicago's Andrew Jackson Language Academy; comparisons of foreign language instruction in other New Trier Township schools; meetings with New Trier High School foreign language teachers; in-house surveys; and team interviews all contributed to a healthy bank of information. Parents have

also been talking to us about programming since the successful April 2005 referendum.

### **Q. What did you learn?**

A. We found Lipton's instructional models helpful in identifying our present programming and finding ways to strengthen them. We reaffirmed our belief that early instruction is valuable and that our community wants a choice of languages. The romance languages are easier to teach in the elementary/junior high setting, according to Foreign Service Institute ratings. We fall in the middle of the township schools for devoted instructional minutes and number of languages offered.

### **Q. What are concrete results of your analysis?**

A. We are optimizing instructional minutes and adding 5 minutes to K-2 class sessions. We are defining outcomes grade by grade, establishing goals and assessments. These will be framed within Gladys Lipton's curricular model. We are eliminating repetition throughout the K-8 programs. Classroom teachers will be reinforcing lessons between foreign language teachers' visits through the mutual sharing of unit goals, use of word walls, classroom object labeling, use of foreign language expressions and questions, and learning centers. Fifth graders will study Spanish exclusively in order to allow greater transition to Central School and to experience a richer, more conversationally based curriculum. In sixth grade, children may switch to French or continue with Spanish. We also hope to expand options for special needs students.

### **Q. What can parents expect next school year?**

A. There will be clear expectations through goals and assessment. We will formally evaluate programs and student progress throughout the year. A parent education night is planned for the 2008-2009 school year. This year's "Summer Explorations" summer school program offers three language experiences—including French, Greek, and Lithuanian—for students to explore other languages. All in all, there will be more attention paid to the foreign language programs with constant revisions and review based on needs of our students. Beginning this fall, look for more information about our exciting changes on the district web page under "Curriculum."



*Central School Spanish students studied the works of Diego Rivera. Copies of his artwork hung in the hallways outside the modern language classrooms.*

## Foreign Language Instruction and Goals for 2008-2009

<u>Grade Level/ Language</u>	<u>Minutes of Instruction</u>	<u>Times per Week</u>	<u>Goal Examples</u>
Kindergarten Spanish	25	one	Students are able to use basic greetings and farewells.
1st grade Spanish	25	two	Students can identify at least three farm animals using the expression "Mi animal favorito es _____."
2nd grade Spanish	25	two	Students can match at least five classroom objects.
3rd grade Spanish	30	two	Students can identify day and date in Spanish using a complete sentence.
4th grade Spanish	30	two	Students will be able to order a simple meal.
5th grade Spanish	42	two	Student can follow instructions In Spanish as given in multi-step segments of assignments and activities.
6th grade Choice of French or Spanish	42	five	<b>French:</b> Greet people and say goodbye in complete sentences. <b>Spanish:</b> Students will describe people and things.
7th grade French or Spanish	42	five	<b>French:</b> Tell someone what to do. <b>Spanish:</b> Retell a story.
8th grade French or Spanish	42	five	<b>French:</b> Given someone directions and allow him or her to follow them. <b>Spanish:</b> Demonstrate an understanding of manners/customs.

## Showcasing Visual and Performing Arts at Central

Central School students recently displayed their talents at the annual Visual and Performing Arts Open House. Projects in digital design, computer graphics, ceramics, drawing, jewelry, and painting were viewed by family and friends. Student performances throughout the evening included string, vocal, brass, woodwind, and percussion ensembles. Congratulations to students and staff for a wonderful display of the arts.



*Students prepare their art and musical presentations for the Visual and Performing Arts Open House at Central School this spring.*



## **Six Retiring Educators, 97 Years in Glencoe, A Common Delight in Teaching**

No two teachers, like no two students, are alike. But ask the District 35 educators who are retiring this year what memories of their Glencoe teaching days stand out, and the common answer is—their students.

Six women who have spent a total of 97 years educating Glencoe children will be teaching their very last day of school this June, and their colleagues, school administrators, and the community salute them.

A special retirement tea honoring them is scheduled for **Tuesday, May 20, at 3:45 p.m.** in the South School courtyard. Glencoe residents, many of whom remember the retirees from years gone by, are cordially invited.

### **Early, Amazing Progress**



**Sue Hintz**, the retiree with the longest career in Glencoe, has spent 26 years teaching first grade and one year teaching second. Her year in second grade gave her the opportunity to take with her about half of her previous year's first graders—"an interesting experience that I never thought I would see."

She adds, though: "I do love first grade the most and feel so lucky to have been able to teach it for so many years."

Mrs. Hintz looks back on the refining and changing of the curriculum to address the needs of the children and meet state standards. "I think that our math program has been such a great addition," she says. "We see the children with such a great interest and understanding in the process of math thinking.

"Most of all, I love watching the children grow and change throughout the year. The progress in the early grades is so amazing and gives me such delight."

### **Highlight: Children and Their Families**



**Anne Healy** has spent the past 15 years teaching second grade and the four years before that as an associate in first and second grade classrooms. As a professional, her special interest has been the reading and literacy program in Glencoe schools. She's served on the Reading Committee during the selection

and adoption of the current series, The Wright Group, which features a guided reading program. Other involvements include serving on the spelling curriculum, as well as on math and recognition committees. At South School, she has been a part of the Social Committee and the School Improvement Plan.

"There have been so many special memories at South," recalls Mrs. Healy. "The true highlight each year has been the children and their families. Watching the children grow, acquiring so many skills, becoming independent learners who are ready for third grade and middle school has been wonderful. To share their special personalities and interests has been a delight for me."

### **Working in a Community that Values the Arts**



For **Terri Morrissey**, the art teacher at South School since 1989, memories that stand out include "working and collaborating with highly qualified colleagues and also working within a community that places great value on the arts."

"I am thankful," she adds, "for having had the opportunity to create a qualitative art program at South School, where it is safe for children to experiment, explore, and take risks with ideas. I have also been encouraged in my own professional growth as an art educator and as an artist during the time I have spent in Glencoe.

"The natural enthusiasm and wonder that is apparent in very young children makes every day and every project memorable in some way," says Ms. Morrissey. "Being able to participate in the creative process and observe a child's excitement about discovering a new color or the sense of accomplishment upon completing a project are things to be treasured and encouraged."

### **A Connection Between French and Everyday Lives**



**Barbara Kane**, French teacher at Central School for the past 16 years, is herself a Central grad who has also taught photography and had six advisories. She will cherish the memory of "when my students 'see the light' and get the connection between my class and their everyday lives."

"When I teach the word 'donner' and they realize it means 'to give' because of the English word 'donor' or 'donation,' the connection they make reaffirms my role as an educator."

Madame Kane enjoys seeing the progress her students make as they learn to communicate in another language. "When my students come back to visit, or email me to tell me how their lives have been enriched by their experience at Central, that is very gratifying to me," she says. She points out that some of her Central grads have gone on to junior year abroad programs in France and have majored or minored in French at college. One has even become a French teacher in middle school.

"I retire from teaching with a feeling of fulfillment and satisfaction," she says. "Thank you parents, colleagues and administrators for your support through my career at Central."

### So Many Special Moments



West School's lone retiree is **Ann Meyers**, who has taught third and fourth grade for 14 years. She, too, has enjoyed the professional collaboration with her colleagues. "We have worked hard over the years to enhance and improve the curriculum. I will remember all the wonderful support of the administration, as well. I will remember feeling supported and respected."

She is unable to single out any one special moment, "because I have had so many. They all have involved the kids in my class—whether it was a sweet smile, a laugh or giggle or the looks of excitement when a particularly hard concept was finally understood. I can say I have truly loved teaching in Glencoe. I will miss all of my students."

### Each Day, a New Set of Challenges and Rewards



**Patti Rosenbaum** retires this year after 11 years as a special education teacher at Central School. Reflecting on her Glencoe career, she points to the dedication, quest for academic excellence in children, and psychological awareness of child development expressed by the Central staff. "These qualities

and characteristics constitute the ultimate professionalism of the staff in their daily efforts to teach and support the children and parents of the Glencoe community."

To Mrs. Rosenbaum, each day brought "a new set of challenges and rewards, laughter and thoughtful planning with the children, staff, and administration."

"I am truly going to miss the relationships made over the years with my students and their parents," she adds. "Thank you, Central, for all the wonderful and meaningful memories. I shall cherish my years here."

GLENCOE  
SCHOOL DISTRICT



*The mission of the Glencoe School District is to provide each child with the soundest possible educational foundation for life-long learning as a socially responsible member of a global society by dedicating resources toward the development of the whole child within a secure school environment.*

### New Faces in 2008-2009

Glencoe District 35 is currently in the process of filling a number of teaching vacancies for the upcoming school year 2008-2009. Glencoe families will be seeing new faces in these positions:

- Kindergarten - Grade 2, one art teacher
- Grade 1, one teacher
- Grade 2, one teacher
- Grade 3, one teacher
- Grade 4, two teachers
- Special Education, West School, two teachers
- Foreign language, Central School, two teachers
- South School, one speech/language pathologist

The Fall 2008 issue of *The Board Bulletin* will introduce the new faculty members.

### Looking Back at 2007-2008



***Eighth graders built and launched hot air balloons in science class.***

***Sixth graders helped teach second graders the concept of air pressure.***



***Second graders dressed up as famous persons and presented information to help classmates discover their identity. (Recognize a young Vincent van Gogh?)***

***Third and fourth graders showed their art works at a Board of Education meeting.***



## Glencoe School Calendar 2008-2009

<b>August</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>Monday</b>	First day of student attendance (1/2 day)
<b>September</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>Monday</b>	Labor Day—NO SCHOOL
	<b>2</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	First day of kindergarten attendance
	<b>30</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	Rosh Hashanah—NO SCHOOL
<b>October</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	Yom Kippur—NO SCHOOL
	<b>10</b>	<b>Friday</b>	Teacher Institute Day—NO SCHOOL for students
	<b>13</b>	<b>Monday</b>	Columbus Day—NO SCHOOL
<b>November</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>Monday</b>	Student attendance in the morning—1/2 Day Parent/Teacher conferences in afternoon, evening
	<b>14</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	Parent/Teacher conferences—NO SCHOOL for students
	<b>26-28</b>	<b>Wed.-Fri.</b>	Thanksgiving Break—NO SCHOOL
<b>December</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>Monday</b>	Winter Break begins
<b>January</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>Monday</b>	School resumes after Winter Break
	<b>19</b>	<b>Monday</b>	Martin Luther King Jr. Day—NO SCHOOL
<b>February</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>Friday</b>	Parent/Teacher conferences—NO SCHOOL for students
	<b>16</b>	<b>Monday</b>	Presidents' Day—NO SCHOOL
<b>March</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>Monday</b>	Spring Break begins
	<b>30</b>	<b>Monday</b>	School resumes after Spring Break
<b>April</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>Friday</b>	Good Friday—NO SCHOOL
	<b>13</b>	<b>Monday</b>	Teacher Institute Day—NO SCHOOL for students
<b>May</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>Monday</b>	Memorial Day—NO SCHOOL
<b>June</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	8th Grade Graduation
	<b>4</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	Last Day for kindergarten
	<b>5</b>	<b>Friday</b>	Last Day for grades 1 - 7
	<b>8</b>	<b>Monday</b>	Summer School begins
<b>July</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>Friday</b>	Summer School ends



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*Our schools  
are only as  
strong  
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GLENCOE, IL 60022**