

The Board Bulletin

A Report to the Community from the Glencoe Board of Education

Change Ahead in 2009

Dear Community Members,

Looking at the New Year, I see changes for District 35, exciting and some bitter-sweet. On April 7th School Board elections will be held and we will say good-bye to Mr. John Myefski. John has been a member of the Board of Education since 2001. We thank him for his service and dedication to Glencoe students, staff, and families. John is a candidate for the New Trier High School Board of Education and our loss will be their gain.

We are most fortunate to have incumbents Mr. Eddie Chez (Board member since 1993), Mr. Rob Bailey (Board member since 2005), and Mr. Keith Stauber (Board member since 2008) slated as candidates for reelection to the Glencoe Board of Education. The School Board Caucus has also selected Mrs. Nancy Shaw to run for the Glencoe Board of Education (*see story on page 2*).

Our school district will experience a staffing change when Dr. Jay Howe retires at the end of this school year. During his 11 years as an administrator in Glencoe District 35, Dr. Howe has served as the South School Principal and the Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction. We will sadly say farewell and be grateful to Dr. Howe for all he has brought to our school district. At the January Board of Education meeting, Mrs. Catherine Wang, current South School Principal, was approved to fill the vacancy created by Dr. Howe's retirement. For the past 13 years Mrs. Wang has served District 35 in the following leadership roles: Director of Technology, West School Principal, and most recently South School Principal. We are most fortunate to now work with Mrs. Wang in this district-wide position. The process to name a new South School Principal is underway.

Technology changes will also continue to alter the face of education for Glencoe children. The way in which we teach, learn and assess has been dramatically impacted by the inclusion of SMART technologies in the classrooms. This issue of *The Board Bulletin* highlights some of the ways students and staff members use this tool (*see story on pages 4 and 5*).

Additionally, the financial landscape of the district is changing with each school year. Notwithstanding the global economic crisis, a recent audit confirmed the strong financial position of District 35. While our Board of



Anticipating the Kindergarten Class of 2009

South School's 2009-2010 kindergarten registration will be held in the South School Library on **February 25** and **February 26** from **9 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.** and **1 p.m. - 3 p.m.** on both days.

Students must be **5 years of age** on or before **September 1, 2009**. An original birth certificate and proof of residency in District 35 must be presented at the time of registration. Information on residency documentation is found on the **South School page** of the District 35 website **www.glencoeschools.org**. Please call the school office at 847-835-6400 with any additional questions.

Education continues sound fiscal management of the district, this task is carried with an awareness of the vagaries of Illinois school funding. This issue of *The Board Bulletin* highlights the 2008 tax levy, five-year financial projections, and the district's financial profile score (*see story on page 2*).

Over my career as an educator I have learned to embrace change and realize it is inevitable. District 35 is a better school district today because of continual, systematic change. Our students, staff, administrators and Board Members invite you to join us in our continuing quest for excellence in 2009.

Sincerely,

Cathlene A. Crawford

Superintendent, Glencoe School District 35

From the District 35 Financial Front

2008 Tax Levy

In a 2008 Tax Levy hearing held before the Board of Education meeting in December, District 35's Director of Finance and Operations Michael Tanner reported that the increase of the 2008 levy to existing taxpayers is estimated at 3.29 percent.

Mr. Tanner explained that the levy is a request for dollars converted by the county clerk into actual amounts once the value of all old and new property in a school district is determined. Tax cap laws limit the increase to 5 percent, or the Consumer Price Index, whichever is less.

The estimated 3.29 percent increase equates to approximately \$119 on a \$10,000 tax bill.

Five-Year Financial Projections

District 35's financial foundation is strong, according to a review of five-year financial projections provided to the Board of Education at its December meeting. Mr. Tanner reported on the following information:

- Five years of audited annual financial reports
- The current budget
- Tax levy and extensions
- Equalized assessed valuation
- Maximum tax rates
- Enrollment
- Student/teacher ratios
- Staff compensation and benefits.

Mr. Tanner said that based on assumptions made in the above categories and expenditures, it is expected that aggregate fund balances will continue to exceed expenditures through fiscal year 2010. Expenditures will then begin to exceed the revenues and district reserves will be used. Auditors recommend that a school district

maintain reserves of three to six months, and District 35's projections indicate this can be accomplished through fiscal year 2014.

When Glencoe taxpayers approved the operating referendum in 2005, it was hoped that District 35 would not return to the community to request a new infusion of money for five years. The average in the State of Illinois, as reported by District 35 auditors, is a seven-year cycle of operating referendums. Current projections indicate that District 35 will meet and exceed both of these benchmarks.

District Receives Highest Financial Profile

District 35 has received a score of 4—the highest possible—in financial strength.

The Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) has a "School District Financial Profile" to help monitor the finances of school districts and identify those in or moving toward financial difficulty. The Profile includes indicators that are individually scored and weighted in order to arrive at a "Total Profile Score." The indicators include:

- Fund balance-to-revenue ratio
- Expenditure to revenue
- Days of cash on hand
- Percent of short-term borrowing ability remaining
- Percent of long-term debt margin remaining.

Each indicator is scored and calculated annually, and the results are given a score of 4, 3, 2, or 1, with 4 being the highest category possible. Indicators are weighted and the sum determines a district's overall "Total Profile Score." If a district receives a score of 3.54 to 4.0, it is placed in the highest category of financial strength, called Financial Recognition.

Board of Education Meeting Dates

The **April** and **May 2009** Board of Education monthly meeting dates have been changed to accommodate election timelines for canvassing of ballots and seating of elected Board of Education members.

Meetings will be held on **April 6, 2009**, and **May 4, 2009**. Meetings begin at 7:30 p.m. and are held in Young Auditorium at Central School, 620 Greenwood Ave. The public is invited to attend.

Candidates Chosen for School Board

The Glencoe School Board Nominating Committee has chosen candidates for the four positions that will be up for election on the April 7, 2009 ballot. They include incumbent Board members **Robert Bailey**, **Eddie Chez**, and **Keith Stauber**, as well as Glencoe resident **Nancy Shaw**.

Current board members whose terms do not expire this year include **James Burnham**, **Laura Malehorn**, and **Eric Sigurdson**.

Early Childhood Screening Offered Through District 35

Glencoe District 35 is offering **screenings for children aged 3 to 5 on Monday and Tuesday, February 2 and February 3**, at South School. The screenings are available for parents who have concerns about their child's development in the areas of speech-language, fine motor skills, concept development, and/or social or emotional growth. Vision and hearing screenings will also be provided.

Due to state requirements, parents must schedule their child for all components of the screening.

These screenings are conducted in an effort to identify children who may require special education services and/or consultation during the preschool years. Parents will be asked to describe their concerns regarding their child in the above areas. The screening does not determine a child's readiness for kindergarten.

Parents of a preschooler aged 3 to 5 who might benefit from the screenings—or know of a child who might—are asked to contact Kim Badie in the Pupil Services Office at **847 835-7838** to make an appointment. Please call by **Monday, January 26**.

A New Direction at West School

On December 1, West School introduced a new traffic flow for cars dropping off students in the morning and picking them up in the afternoon.

Drop-off and pick-up is now only allowed on Willow Tree, the street immediately south of West School, between the teacher parking lot and the bus lane. Willow Tree is now a one-way street from 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. The car line is accessible by driving west on Apple Tree, north on Cherry Tree, and east on Willow Tree.

Children enter and exit vehicles on the driver's side, or curb side. Students were trained how to enter and exit a vehicle from the curb side only. Staff were trained on how to monitor the car line while keeping the students safe.



West School Principal David Rongey lends a hand on the first day (a snowy one, of course) of West School's new traffic pattern.

"The first week was one of first experiences," says West School Principal David Rongey. "Each day we have managed to shave off a few more minutes, even during snow storms, so that by Friday, Dec. 12, the car line was finishing within the 15-minute window that we were accustomed to before the change."

Adds Mr. Rongey: "Coordination and communication between the school and Glencoe Public Safety is critical. This is a revived, and very positive, partnership, with the focus remaining on the safety of the students. Parents are an essential part of the home-school partnership as well. We need to have the vehicular traffic around West School to slow down and remain focused on safety. Our goal is to keep the students safe during pick-up and drop-off with minimal negative impact on our neighbors.

"We thank everyone involved for their patience and cooperation. Changing a car line isn't an easy task, and we remain committed to working out the kinks and keeping our students safe."

District 35 Teachers "Dig" To Strengthen Student Writing

"Writing is like digging in the sand for buried treasure: You have to be willing to do a lot of digging."

—James Howe, popular children's author

How can teachers encourage the very highest quality of writing from their students? All District 35 teachers of writing spent time earlier this winter addressing that question with Dr. Michael Heggerty, a veteran elementary educator, consultant, and author.

Together with the teachers, Dr. Heggerty examined student writing samples and compared them to rubrics in expository, narrative, and persuasive writing that are found on the Illinois Standards Achievement Test (ISAT) to be administered in 2009.

In March, students in grades 3 and 5 will write an expository essay within a 45-minute ISAT testing period. Students in grades 6 and 8 will write both narrative and persuasive essays, as they have in the past.

Glencoe students' writing scores have been improving since the writing test returned to the ISAT in 2007, which is credited to an adherence to instructional timelines developed by District 35 teaching teams and administrators and past meetings teachers have had with Dr. Heggerty.

Previously, teachers met with Dr. Heggerty in separate grade level teams, but this winter's sessions involved co-team meetings. Each grade level



team examined writing samples from their own grade, plus the grade above and below theirs. Teachers talked about the expectations at each grade level and the kinds of pre- and post-writing activities offered.

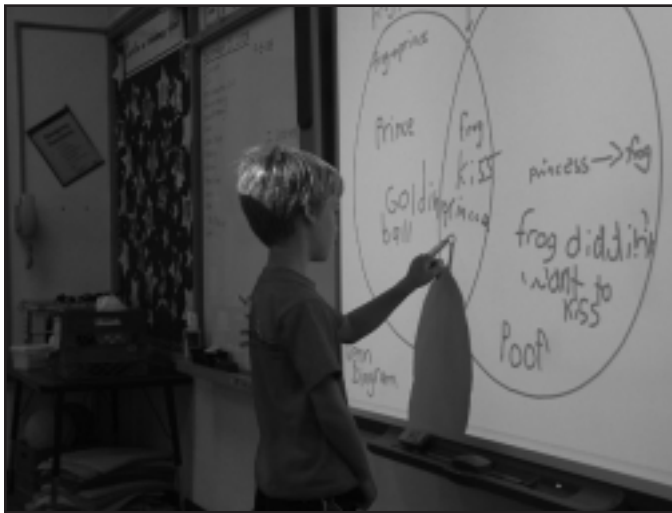
"A more cohesive, aligned instructional program is our goal, with teachers in every grade level agreeing on what good writing looks like," remarked Dr. Jay Howe, District 35's Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction.

At the meetings, student samples were selected by individual teachers and presented to teams anonymously. The samples were scored based on the writer's focus, support, and organization of their piece. This helps teachers to hone their instruction, become keen evaluators, and articulate needs and successes.

During this past summer, Glencoe literacy teachers rewrote curricular frameworks for writing instruction. According to Dr. Howe, one important change was ensuring more writing practice in each grade and every classroom.

A SMART Pathway to Learning

It all started in September 2002 with the renovation of science laboratory classrooms at Central School. Along with laptops and probes, a new technology called SMART Board interactive whiteboards was introduced to enrich the learning experience in the new labs.



In a 2nd grade classroom, students compared two stories using the overlapping circles of a Venn diagram on the SMART Board.

At the time, it was intended that the SMART Boards would facilitate collaborative learning in science. The boards' large touch-sensitive display screens connected to a computer and showed images prepared by the teacher. Special software allowed students and teachers to interact with the projected material.

The initial use of SMART Boards was so successful that a year later District 35 increased its investment in interactive whiteboards by placing one in each of the three schools' library learning center computer labs.

The Blackboard Is Now a WhiteBoard

How does an interactive whiteboard work?

A SMART Board interactive whiteboard connects to a computer and draws the power it needs from the computer. The SMART Board driver automatically starts when the computer is turned on, and the interactive whiteboard becomes active once the driver is running.

When a digital projector is connected to a computer, the computer image can be projected onto the SMART Board interactive whiteboard.

The SMART Board driver converts contact with the interactive whiteboard into mouse clicks or digital ink. This feature enables teachers and students to use their finger as a mouse or write over the top of applications.

"The response to this technology by teachers was overwhelmingly positive," recalls Dr. Jay Howe, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction. "A new demand for adding the interactive whiteboard system to create powerful multimedia general classroom environments began!"

Today, Glencoe teachers are utilizing SMART Boards in 38 classrooms and labs across the district. Thanks to the Glencoe Parent Teacher Organization, which added the original hardware to new science labs in 2002, and ongoing support from the Glencoe Education Foundation for adding SMART Boards into as many classrooms as possible, students now have opportunities to use the technology in their general studies or in special areas such as music.

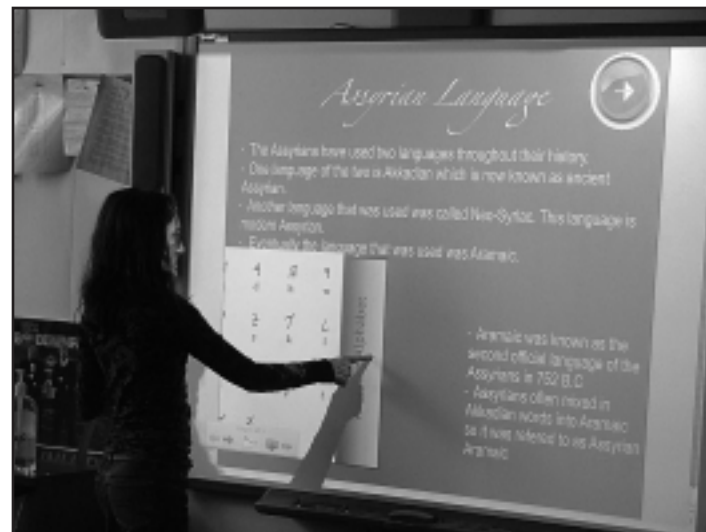
Significant Benefits to Students and Teachers

Catherine Wang, South School principal and Tech Team leader, states: "To facilitate learning, some children require a large visual representation in the classroom. A big-screen SMART Board, with its ability to save images that can be accessed and used repeatedly, significantly benefits both students and teachers."

The whiteboard software plays a key role in freeing students and teachers from laptops. As Mrs. Wang explains, "It is a comprehensive application that allows our teachers to do the simplest act of writing on the board, with handwriting recognition, all the way to much more complex functions with a high level of interactive objects on a page."

District 35 teachers profit from being able to "stack" learning levels they are creating. The software offers a myriad of technical possibilities with few limits.

Says Dr. Howe: "Today's innovative, technologically savvy educators and students greatly benefit from a SMART past, present, and future."



SMART Boards in Use... in Teachers' Own Words

Every day we open our math lesson with the SMART Board. We write down the number of school days we've had so far. We take that number and represent it using virtual base 10 blocks on the SMART Board. We represent it again using coin combinations on the SMART Board. The children are able to come up to the board and move the images of base 10 blocks and coins around to represent the number. They enjoy the activity immensely, and I have never had a class learn place value and coins so quickly. I believe this is the direct result of our daily SMART Board use.

—Kate Kooi, 1st grade teacher

SMART Boards are used every day for...

- Routine daily edit lessons, during which students come up to the board to correct sentence grammar, math problems, social studies and science questions.
- Participating in interactive lessons about Chicago, or rocks and minerals, during which students come to the board to “drag and reveal” the correct answers to questions, click on pictures to link to educational websites and videos, “rub to reveal” whether they answered questions correctly, or to learn about a specific topic.
- The creation by students of their own slides about a Chicago topic they have researched. Each student will teach the class about the topic and call on others to come up and interactively answer questions the student has created for the specific topic.

—Lilly Arsenijevic, 3rd grade teacher

While focusing on a study of the U.S. northeast, students practice memorizing the states, capitals, and postal abbreviations by utilizing the interactive whiteboard. Using a large, colorful map, students “drag” the correct state name to its location. Then, capitals and abbreviations are practiced in the same manner. A blank map challenges students to use their SMART markers to write in what they know. The lessons end with a short clip from the Discovery Channel about natural resources found in this region.

—Shelly Schwetz, 4th grade teacher

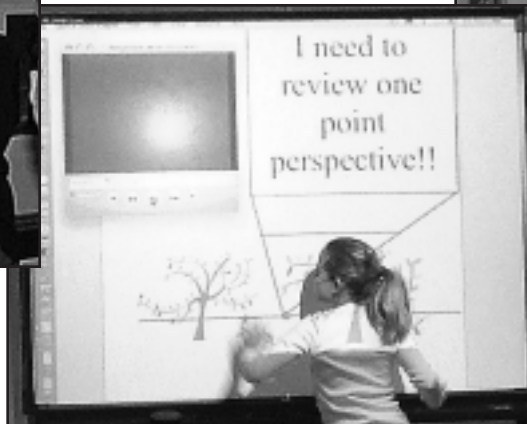
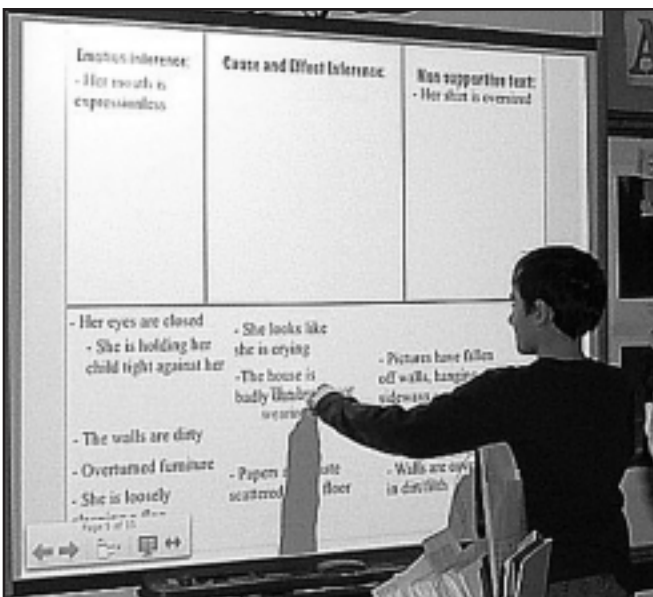
I use the whiteboard

- to show answers to math homework everyday, and it saves so much time.
- put together many presentations that include visuals for social studies.
- math website that is new to the school this year. It is very good and has wonderful visual explanations, worksheets, games, and number lines.
- to scan pages that were originally overheads and present them on the SMART Board.

—Sue Briggs, 6th grade teacher

On Veteran's Day, I created a SMART Board presentation, in Spanish, about the WWI poem, “In Flander's Field,” utilizing a First World War website, vintage photographs from Google Images, the poem itself from a website on its author, a copy of the original handwritten poem, and a map of Europe. One view flowed into another, and I used two of the SMART Technology's many tricks to highlight the countries I was speaking about during the explanation. The students were not only engaged in the significance of the lesson—learning Spanish words ranging from “poppy” to “world war”—but they literally “oohed” and “ahhed” at the dexterity of the Board.

—Sara Sturtz, 8th grade Spanish teacher



Glencoe Schools Going Green and Greener

Did you know that...

- **South, West, and Central Schools each have a Go Green Club** that meets before school or at lunchtime to promote awareness of waste and energy efficiency and service activities that contribute to a healthy environment?
- **Students at Central and West Schools compost organic materials from their lunches?** The resulting compost is used for landscaping on school grounds.
- **All three schools have “Waste-free Wednesday Lunches”?** Students bring their lunches in reusable containers they take back home and are encouraged to only bring food that they will eat.
- **All three schools recycle** toner cartridges, paper, batteries, plastic bottles, aluminum cans and top, transparencies, and more?
- **Class newsletters are sent paperlessly by e-mail?**
- **Weekly parents newsletters are also sent electronically?**
- **Staff members receive daily and weekly information via an intranet system?**
- **Attendance is taken electronically?**
- **Cleaning products are environmentally safe?**



On Waste-free Wednesdays, students bring their lunches in reusable containers.

Bringing “Lincolns” to School for a Worthy Cause

Glencoe schools’ all-district service project for 2008-2009 is a fundraiser for an international not-for-profit relief organization that delivers immediate aid of those suffering from natural disasters such as earthquakes, hurricanes, wars, floods, landslides, tsunamis, volcanic eruptions and typhoons.

During the month of February, students at all three schools are encouraging one another to “Bring Lincoln to School”—\$5 bills in recognition of Abraham Lincoln’s 200th birthday. The money will be used to support **Shelter Box USA**. This organization equips sturdy large, rugged plastic containers that provide shelter and warmth for an extended family of up to 10 people for a minimum of six months. In recent years, these boxes have provided disaster relief in the United States, as well as Pakistan, Peru, Mexico, North Korea, Bangladesh, Sudan, Indonesia, and elsewhere.

Typical contents include:

- A 10-person tent
- Thermal blankets and insulated ground sheets
- Waterproof ponchos and bin bags
- A multi-fuel stove
- Cooking pans, utensils, bowls and mugs
- Collapsible water containers and water purification tablets
- A basic tool kit
- A children’s pack with drawing books, crayons, pens, and more.

Contributions of any size can be made at each school or at the Board of Education office. Every \$1,000 in donations provides one Shelter Box.

Students Observe STAND UP to Bullying Day

Central School students were among thousands of kids from more than 25 countries who observed **International STAND UP to Bullying Day** on Friday, Nov. 21. Central students made a visible, public stance against bullying by wearing a special pink “pledge” T-shirt or other clothes in pink.

The campaign began in Nova Scotia, when a freshman boy was harassed because he wore a pink shirt on the first day of high school. Two senior boys decided to recruit all of their fellow classmates to wear pink as a way to send a message to the bullies. The campaign caught attention across Canada and spread internationally through the Internet. The two senior boys were honored by the premier of Nova Scotia.

Molly Cinnamon, Assistant Principal at Central, said the activity sent a loud, non-confrontational message of resistance to bullies and helped students identify themselves to victims as sources of support who are willing to help. “We wanted to draw attention to the effects of bullying,” said Ms. Cinnamon, “and motivate passive bystanders to become allies.”

Another STAND UP to Bullying Day is scheduled at Central School in February.



Proud of wearing pink: These Central students participated in STAND UP to Bullying Day.

The Board Bulletin is edited by Nancy Dreher, a freelance editor who has lived in Glencoe since 1985. She and her husband Chris raised four children in the community—all graduates of Central School and New Trier High School.

The newsletter is published by Folio Press in Glenview. Folio Press was founded and led for 37 years by Sue Baylin, a Glencoe resident who passed away in September. Sue raised her three children in Glencoe and was a life-long supporter of Glencoe schools. Glencoe District 35 extends its condolences to Sue’s family and Folio Press.

The 2009-2010 School Year

The Board of Education has approved the 2009-2010 school year calendar after the District Calendar Committee—composed of teachers, teacher associates, parents, and administrators—drafted a proposal. Major events and breaks for the school year include:

August	26	Wednesday	First day of student attendance (1/2 day)
September	1	Tuesday	First day of kindergarten attendance
	7	Monday	Labor Day - NO SCHOOL
	28	Monday	Yom Kippur - NO SCHOOL
October	12	Monday	Columbus Day - NO SCHOOL
	23	Friday	Teacher Institute Day - NO SCHOOL for students
November	12	Thursday	Students at school in morning - 1/2 day
	13	Friday	Parent/Teacher Conferences, afternoon and evening
	25-27	Wed.-Fri.	Parent/Teacher Conferences - NO SCHOOL for students
			Thanksgiving Break - NO SCHOOL
December	21	Monday	Winter Break begins
January	4	Monday	School resumes after Winter Break
	18	Monday	Martin Luther King Jr. Day - NO SCHOOL
February	12	Friday	Parent/Teacher Conferences - NO SCHOOL for students
	15	Monday	Presidents Day - NO SCHOOL
March	29	Monday	Spring Break begins
April	5	Monday	Schools resumes after Spring Break
	23	Friday	Teacher Institute Day - NO SCHOOL for students
May	31	Monday	Memorial Day - NO SCHOOL
June	1	Tuesday	8th Grade Graduation
	3	Thursday	Last day for kindergarten
			(if no Emergency Days are used)
	4	Friday	Last Day for grades 1 - 7
			(if no Emergency Days are used)
	8	Tuesday	Summer Schools Begins
July	2	Friday	Summer School ends

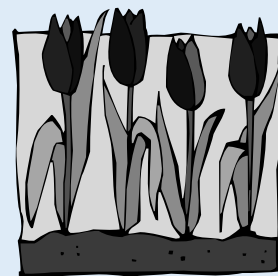
GLENCOE
SCHOOL DISTRICT



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.

School Calendar — January - April 2009

January	12	Monday	Board of Education Meeting, 7:30 p.m., Central Informal meeting with Board members, 7 p.m.
	19	Monday	Martin Luther King Jr. Day - NO SCHOOL
	22	Thursday	Modern Languages Night, Central, 7:15 p.m.
February	9	Monday	Board of Education Meeting, 7:30 p.m., Central
	13	Friday	Parent/Teacher Conferences - NO SCHOOL for students
	16	Monday	Presidents Day - NO SCHOOL
	25	Wednesday	Kindergarten registration, South (<i>see separate article</i>)
	26	Thursday	Kindergarten registration, South
March	ALL MONTH		MUSIC IN OUR SCHOOLS Month
	2-6	Mon.-Fri.	ISAT Testing
	9	Monday	Board of Education meeting, 7:30 p. m., Central
	12	Thursday	Music in Our Schools Concert, grades 6 - 8, Central 9:40 a.m., 7:15 p.m.
	23	Monday	Spring Break begins
	30	Monday	School resumes after Spring Break
April	6	Monday	Board of Education Meeting, 7:30 p.m.
	10	Friday	Good Friday - NO SCHOOL
	13	Monday	Teacher Institute Day - NO SCHOOL for students
	14	Tuesday	West School Chorus Club Concert 7:15 p.m. in Misner Auditorium, Central School
	16	Thursday	Jazz Band Concert, 7:15 p.m., Central
	23	Thursday	Visual & Performing Arts Program, 6 - 8 p.m., Central
	30	Thursday	Spring Sing, Grades 5 - 8, 7:15 p.m., Central



Board of Education
Glencoe School District 35
 620 Greenwood Avenue
 Glencoe, Illinois 60022
Phone: (847) 835-7800
Fax: (847) 835-7805
Web site: www.glencoeschools.org

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*Our schools
 are only as
 strong
 as the
 informed
 support of
 the people
 who com-
 prise the
 community.*

Carrier Route Presort

RESIDENT
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