

The Board Bulletin

A Report to the Community from the Glencoe Board of Education

A Quality Education for Each Child

Dear Community Members,

As we prepare to begin the 2010-2011 school year, there are many reasons to be optimistic, confident, and encouraged. Our school district is able to avoid large class sizes, maintain strong ISAT scores, and attend to the maintenance and repair of facilities, all while remaining fiscally sound. While the news we hear regarding the financial condition of the State of Illinois is pessimistic at best, we remain confident this will be another positive school year for District 35 students, staff members, and families. This certainty is based upon the continued support we receive from our school community.

In the coming school year we will continue to emphasize Social and Emotional Learning (SEL). In addition to the specific, research-based curriculum taught in all kindergarten through sixth grade classes and piloted in 7th and 8th grades, we are calling upon the adults in our schools and community to serve as models. Research shows SEL becomes real and transfers into daily practice when the adults in a child's world serve as positive role models. We ask you to join the adults in your school district in setting an SEL goal for the coming year (see story on page 5).

Enjoy the final days of summer and know that we are prepared for another outstanding school year in District 35. I thank the Board of Education, staff members, and administrators for their hard work and continued focus on providing a quality education for each child who comes through the District 35 schoolhouse doors on August 24th.

Cathlene A. Crawford

Superintendent, Glencoe School District 35



Caution: Children Crossing

One of the surest signs the new school year has begun is the appearance of crossing guards at intersections around the Village before and after school. This fall Glencoe Public Safety is making a few changes to the locations of intersections where children are protected while crossing.

The principal change is the **elimination of the Green Bay Road crossing at South Avenue**. Instead, children will be instructed to **cross under Green Bay Road on Hazel Avenue**, which provides a direct and much safer route for student pedestrians. Glencoe Chief of Police Mike Volling points out that at the former Green Bay/South crossing, which is not protected by a light, crossing guards were struck by cars on two different occasions and one was involved in a physical altercation with an irate motorist.

Another new guarded crossing is **Dundee and Vernon, replacing Dundee and Greenwood**, which required the crossing guard to step out on Dundee into traffic that would often not stop.

During the 2010-2011 school year, crossing guards will be posted at the following intersections, at the following times:

- **Green Bay & Harbor** 8:30-9:15 a.m. and 3-3:30 p.m.
- **Jackson & Lake** 8:30-9:15 a.m. and 2:45-3:15 p.m.
- **Jackson & Vernon** 8:30-9:15 a.m. and 2:40-3:20 p.m.
- **Vernon & Hazel** 7:45-8:15 a.m. and 3:15-4 p.m.
- **Dundee & Vernon** 7:45-8:30 a.m. and 3:15-4 p.m.
- **Dundee & Forestway** 8:05-9 a.m. and 3-3:20 p.m.
- **Forestway & Willowtree*** 8:15-9 a.m. and 3-3:20 p.m.

* Here students are only allowed to cross Willowtree, not Forestway.

Crossing guards are hired by Glencoe Public Safety, and Illinois State Law requires motorists to obey them. Chief Volling also points out that Illinois law prohibits the use of cell phones while driving in school zones and adds that it is illegal to text while driving at any time in any location. He also reminds drivers of the 20 mph speed limit in school zones.

To Glencoe motorists, he adds: "Thank you for your support in keeping our children safe."



No, West School Principal David Rongey will not be assuming additional duties this fall, but he will make sure crossing guards make good use of this new flashing stop sign.

Budget Hearing Scheduled for Sept. 13, 2010

The District 35 budget for fiscal year 2010-2011 will be reviewed in a **public hearing on Monday, September 13, 2010**, beginning at **7 p.m.** in Young Auditorium at Central School. The regular monthly meeting of the Board will follow at 7:30 p.m. A tentative draft of the budget was approved at the June 14, 2010 Board meeting and has been available for public review since that date.

The tentative budget identified operating revenue for our school district as **\$24,114,175**. The sources of these funds are

- **local (97%),**
- **state (2%), and**
- **federal (1%).**

Operating expenses for the fiscal year 2011 are budgeted at **\$23,415,734**. As in past years, the largest operating expense is employee salaries and benefits (71%), with purchased services, supplies, capital outlay, tuition and contingency ranging from 8% to 1% of the total operating expenses.

The FY11 tentative district budget is on the district web page www.glencoeschools.org.

2010-2011 Board of Education Meetings

The public is invited and encouraged to attend the monthly meetings of the District 35 Board of Education. Meetings are held the second Monday of each month (except for October and April), begin at 7:30 p.m., and take place in Young Auditorium at Central School. The agenda is posted on the District 35 web page (www.glencoeschools.org) under "Board of Education."

Time is provided at the beginning and conclusion of each meeting for public comments. During this portion of the meeting, citizens have the opportunity to address the Board.

Meetings are scheduled on the following dates in the 2010-11 school year:

- **Monday, Sept. 13, 2010**
- **Monday, Oct. 18, 2010**
- **Monday, Nov. 8, 2010**
- **Monday, Dec. 13, 2010**
- **Monday, Jan. 10, 2011**
- **Monday, Feb. 14, 2011**
- **Monday, March 14, 2011**
- **Thursday, April 7, 2011**
- **Monday, May 9, 2011**

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.

Move-In Day and the First Day of School

Monday, August 23rd is the annual Move-In Day for District 35 students in grades 1 - 5. This is a day for students to stop by school and drop off supplies, find their classroom, and locate their locker. Those moving to a new school (grades 3 and 5) will have an opportunity to meet the teacher and principal(s) of their new school.

The schedule is as follows:

- **South and West Schools, 1 - 2 p.m.**
 - **3rd Grade Open House at West School, 2 - 3 p.m.**
3rd grade students: Bring in supplies and meet your teacher and the Principal
 - **Central School 5th Grade Open House, 1 - 2 p.m.**
5th grade students: Bring in supplies and meet your teacher, the Principal, and the Assistant Principal
- The first day of school is **Tuesday, August 24** (1/2 day).
First day of school for kindergarteners is **Monday, Aug. 30**. There is a kindergarten Go-to-School night at South School on **Monday, August 23, from 6 - 7 p.m.**



Summer Building Projects Completed

Summer 2010 provided an opportunity for several maintenance projects in District 35. The majority of work was completed at South School, with tile flooring replaced in two rooms, drywall replaced in the auditorium, drainage work completed in the crawlspace, several segments of roof replaced, and restrooms in two kindergarten classrooms renovated.

Additionally, the mechanical components of the 30-year old Central School elevator were replaced and upgrades completed. Funding for these maintenance projects was made possible through the refinancing of bonds completed in the 2009-2010 school year.



Workers up on the rooftop of South School

Changes in Bus Transportation Program

Several modifications in District 35's transportation program go into effect with the start of the 2010-2011 school year. The following guidelines apply as the District puts priority on student safety:



- Only students who have registered for bus service and paid transportation fees are allowed to ride the school buses to and from school. Students who are not registered and paid bus riders will no longer be able to ride a school bus. (For example, children who are not registered and paid bus riders may not accompany another bus rider on the bus home.)
- If there is a change in the mode of transportation for a child (for example, bus rider being picked up by car, bus rider with a play date being picked up by car, car rider being picked up by different individual, etc.), parents must notify the School Office by 10 a.m. For PM kindergarten students, please notify the office staff by 1 p.m.

A family wanting flexibility and options throughout the school year for their child to walk, be driven, or ride the bus home with another child will need to register and pay for full-year bus service. A child who has registered and paid for transportation may ride a bus that is different than the one assigned, assuming his or her parents have completed the necessary transportation form.

These revisions were put in place for numerous reasons, including:

- Simplification of the growing complexity of managing the many requests for student changes in their regular mode of transportation.
- Improved safety by reducing the number of changes on a bus, thereby making the emergency system more effective if riders' families must be contacted.
- Enhanced on-time bus departure at South School and arrival time at West School.

New Transportation Clerk at South School

The new school year will see a new transportation clerk at South School. She is Sue Grabowski, who has worked and supervised in the areas of customer service and logistics for over 25 years. In addition to her skills in the area of technology, training, and the business world, Sue was an elementary teacher for seven years. We welcome her back to the world of education. She replaces Colleen Schwind, who was the South transportation clerk for the past nine years. We wish Colleen only the best as she and her husband move to a warmer climate.

Local New Trier Freshmen Give High Marks to Their Glencoe Experiences

In May 2010, the New Trier High School freshman class completed a survey regarding their elementary school experiences and preparation for high school. Included in that survey were the responses of 134 Glencoe District 35 graduates (Central School Class of 2009).

As freshmen these students were asked to respond to questions regarding curricular areas, activities, and other aspects of their elementary school program. A rating scale was used with 4 representing "strongly agree." The average rating reported by Glencoe graduates for our school district follows each statement:

As a student in my elementary school district, there were community service opportunities to use my talents and skills to help others.

Glencoe students responded **3.61**

I feel my elementary and middle school experiences prepared me to be successful in high school.

Glencoe students responded **3.95**

When I was an elementary and middle school student there was an adult I felt comfortable going to when I needed help or wanted to talk with someone.

Glencoe students responded **3.93**

The amount of homework I received in middle school was appropriate to prepare me for high school expectations.

Glencoe students responded **3.52**

In middle school I learned adequate skills to be organized and study appropriately.

Glencoe students responded **3.81**

This was the second year New Trier freshmen took the survey at school. Each sender school district received its own results plus the combined results for all freshmen. Additional information regarding the survey results is available on the District 35 website www.glencoeschools.org.

Race to Nowhere Showing on Sept. 30

The documentary film ***Race to Nowhere*** is raising awareness, igniting dialogue and inspiring parents, educators, students and policy makers to work together to transform current educational policies and practices. ***Race to Nowhere*** examines the high price students pay for the achievement-obsessed way of life that permeates the American culture. Join the Glencoe PTO on **Thursday, September 30, at 7 p.m.** as we screen ***Race to Nowhere***. Look for registration information on the Glencoe PTO website, www.glencoepto.org.

Curriculum Enhancements in the New School Year

Throughout the summer break staff members worked on enhancements to the district curriculum. Examples of this work include changes to the 4th grade ecosystems unit and 2nd grade word study program.

A Fascinating Ecosystem Within Sight of West School

During the summer, West School Principal David Rongey, District 35 Director of Curriculum Catherine Wang, and the 4th grade teachers kayaked on the Skokie Lagoons in preparation for revisions and enhancements to West School's ecosystem science unit. The 190 acres and seven different lagoons provide an opportunity for incorporating outdoor education into the curriculum—practically at the school's back door.

Partnering with the Chicago Botanic Garden and Backyard Nature Center offers additional opportunities for enriching this unit of study. (Backyard Nature Center is a not-for-profit organization that advances and enables the process of connecting children and adults with the wonders of nature in the New Trier Township.)

West School students will be involved with sampling water from the same areas of the lagoons at various times throughout the school year. Students will determine the pH level of water samples and record this data. Students will discuss the impact water quality has on this ecosystem as they address the essential question: How do parts of a system work together?

Mr. Rongey elaborated on this summer's preparation for the new curriculum: "Through the personal connection and experience that each of the teachers has made with the Skokie Lagoons, new information has been gathered and incorporated into the ecology curriculum for the 4th graders. While kayak trips are not yet practical for a classroom of 4th graders, the teacher connection is a foundation to the expansion of the study of this wonderful eco-system that is within walking distance of West School. We are fortunate to have the largest lake in the country just to our east, the Chicago Botanic Garden to our north and the Skokie Lagoons to our south."

The Word Wall at South

Ask any South School student about the classroom's "World Wall," and he or she will tell you they have one. A Word Wall includes a collection of high-frequency words, pattern words, and sight words. This dedicated classroom space is used to:

- support the teaching of important general principles about words and how they work;
- foster reading and writing;
- provide reference support for children during their reading and writing;
- promote independence as children work with words in writing and reading;
- provide a visual to help children remember connections between words and the characteristics they share; and



A Word Wall helps South School students build their vocabulary.

- develop core words as part of the child's reading and writing vocabulary.

The 2nd grade team and members of the support staff worked together during summer break to revise the group of words and the schedule for introducing these words. Throughout the school year, students in each of the 2nd grade classes will use the same word families for their Word Wall. These interactive collections of words are used to teach vocabulary, spelling, and letter-sound correspondence.

"Word walls are more than decoration," says Molly Cinnamon, South School Principal. "They promote group and individual learning."



Fourth grade teacher Shelly (Schwetz) Gavenda explored the lagoons she'll soon be including in her curriculum.

More Outdoor Education at West School

West School staff members will expand their outdoor learning spaces when landscape work currently underway around the school is completed. Included in the plans are planting areas in front of school, which will provide dedicated spaces for classes to expand life science inquiry. Rain gardens are planned for the area adjacent to the West School main entrance. Terracing and planting by the playground will help prevent erosion, a problem in the past.

The District 35 Board of Education continues to discuss ways to incorporate outdoor learning options and environmentally sound practices that connect curricular units and conservation.

Social and Emotional Learning Update

As another new school year begins, District 35 continues to emphasize the integration and expansion of Social and Emotional Learning (SEL). The adults in the District have been working on various activities during summer break. Educational support staff and custodial staff participated in SEL training sessions. Teams from each school continued their work with curriculum materials, and explicit instruction will be a part of the educational program for each kindergarten through 6th grade student. In 7th and 8th grade, several staff members are piloting specific instructional materials and will bring recommendations for materials and scheduling options to the full team.

In the coming school year, staff training sessions are scheduled as well as opportunities for parent participation. The Glencoe PTO has scheduled Linda Lantieri, author of *Building Emotional Intelligence: Techniques to Cultivate Inner Strength in Children*, to work with staff members and speak to school community members on February 16, 2011. Please watch for further information regarding this speaker.

A constant reminder in the coming school year is that SEL efforts are most effective when the adults at home, school, and in the community model the skills students are expected to learn and practice. We encourage you to set a goal with our students and staff.

To help build a healthier SEL environment, I will

SEL Goals

District 35 began instruction in the area of social and emotional learning during the 2009-2010 school year as a way to promote a climate that ensures all students and staff feel safe and cared for while learning in school.

SEL stresses the development of skills associated with five key competencies:

- Self-awareness
- Responsible decision-making
- Relationship skills
- Social awareness
- Self-management



Office staff (below left) and janitorial staff (above) also participated in SEL training sessions over the summer.



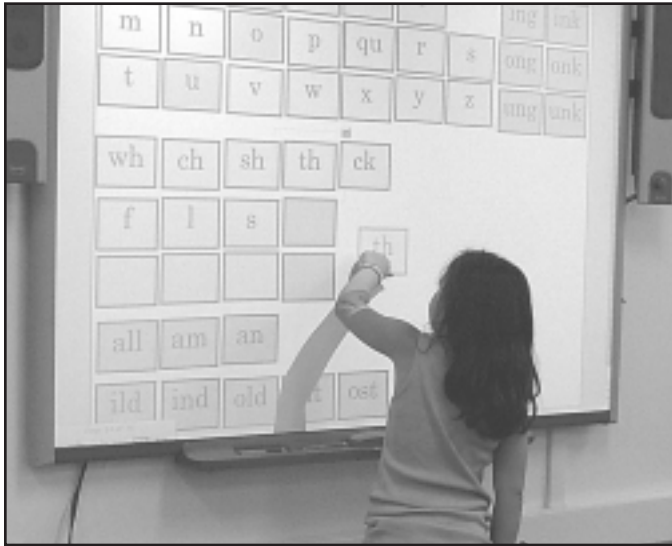
SEL in Action

During the 2010 Summer Explorations summer school session, one class put social and emotional learning into action. In *Reach Out: Teaching Kids Compassion through Community Service*, students started each class by writing in their "Reach Out" journals. They described what they had done since the previous day's class to reach out and help someone. Class activities included a bake sale, lemonade stand, and making welcome packets for new students moving to South and West Schools. Students used funds earned to make care packets for students with disabilities and students with diabetes. They also made sandwiches for the homeless and donated funds to an animal shelter. Congratulations on a job well done!



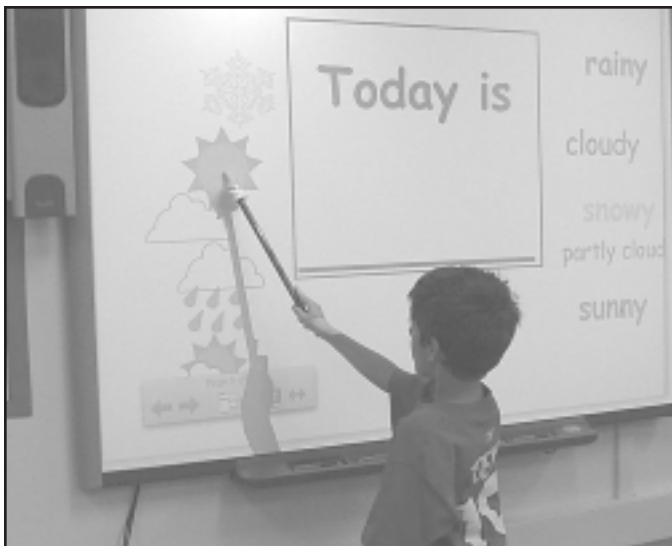
Thank You, GEF and AT&T...

The Glencoe Educational Foundation (GEF) recently received a \$25,000 grant from AT&T to support staff development efforts with SMART Technologies. These grant funds will be used to support training of teachers and staff working with new and existing SMARTBoard equipment. Activities include curriculum development, after-school or weekend training sessions, mentoring opportunities, and summer training sessions.



During the summer break, 29 additional SMARTBoards were installed in District 35 classrooms. This educational technology was made possible through the generosity of the Glencoe Educational Foundation and two family foundations. During winter break, six additional SMARTBoards will be installed, completing this multiyear project spearheaded by the GEF.

“We are most grateful for the GEF’s generosity,” said Catherine Wang, District 35’s Director of Curriculum and Instruction. “Each SMARTBoard will impact learning for uncounted numbers of District 35 students. Jon Knouse (GEF President) has been a driving force in seeing this project to completion.”



SMARTBoard interactive whiteboards are used to facilitate learning across the curriculum in all three schools. During the summer break, 29 additional SMARTBoards were installed in District 35 classrooms.

...and Thank You, Glencoe PTO

From Scribble Jim’s kindergarten visit to the 8th grade trip to the Illinois Holocaust Museum, the Glencoe PTO funds a variety of educational enhancements. In addition to the parent education programs, cultural arts opportunities, instructional materials, before and after school clubs, and family events, the PTO is assisting the school district in an initiative to acquire interactive student response systems for classrooms.

These systems work in conjunction with the SMARTBoard and look like little tiny remote controls. They are easy to use and provide quick feedback to students and teachers.



These small remote control response systems work with SMARTBoards.

Individual students or small groups of students respond to questions or statements and the assessment software automatically summarizes the results in a pie chart or bar graph. The student knows instantly if his or her answer is correct and the teacher determines if further review is required.

At a recent Board of Education meeting, Catherine Wang, Director of Curriculum and Instruction, demonstrated the system while Board members, administrators, and audience members answered questions about the district technology program. She explained that students using the systems can answer multiple choice, true-false, yes-no and survey style questions.

“This technology is a tool teachers use to engage learners, offer instant feedback, and modify instruction based upon the learners’ needs,” said Mrs. Wang. “There are endless opportunities for integrating this technology into all curricular areas, including Social and Emotional Learning.”

New Look for District 35 Website



The District 35 website has been refreshed and has a new look. We encourage families and community members to visit the site at www.glencoeschools.org to obtain information about the school district and events.

The website also offers access to information from the WeatherBug weather station located at Central School, which reports the current temperature, humidity, barometric reading, wind direction and speed, and rainfall in Glencoe.

Recognizing Veteran Staff

Each year the Board of Education recognizes staff members who have reached significant milestones in their District 35 careers. Celebrating their twentieth year as Glencoe staff members during the 2010-2011 school year are **Jill Moss**, school nurse at West School; **Joab Oberlander**, 1st grade teacher at South School; **Wendy Roth**, special education teacher at Central School; and **Nancy Boggs**, teacher associate at West School.

Staff members who will be celebrating 25 years of service to the school district include: **Greg Thelen**, District Maintenance; **Sue Briggs**, 6th grade teacher at Central School; **Susan Knowling**, special education teacher at Central School; and **Carol Wolfe**,

6th grade teacher at Central School.

This year also marks a significant milestone for another District 35 staff member. **Dale Blitz**, a 5th grade teacher at Central School, will be retiring at the end of the 2010-2011 school year.



Dale Blitz

Welcome to Glencoe Schools

District 35 has six new faculty members this new school year, although several will be familiar faces at their schools. An introduction and welcome to:

- **Dana Biesterfeld**, new Spanish teacher at Central School, comes to the District from Tefft Middle School in Streamwood, where she taught 7th grade Spanish and Spanish for Native Speakers. She received her undergraduate degree from the University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana and also studied in the Dominican Republic and Spain.
 - **Maggie Boyer**, new District occupational therapist, is a graduate of Central School, New Trier High School, Columbia College Chicago, and Rush University. She has served as an occupational therapist with the Chicago Public Schools and volunteered and served as a special events coordinator at Lambs Farm. She has previously worked as an occupational therapist at NSSED, working with ELS (Education Life Skills) students at Central School.
 - **Stephanie Bultnick**, speech/language pathologist at West and Central School, spent last spring as the speech/language pathologist at West School. She is a graduate of Vanderbilt University and received her master's degree from Northwestern University.
 - **Andrea Kohler**, special education teacher at Central School, was a long-term substitute teacher in Central School's 8th grade resource program. She also assisted on a long-term basis in the resource program at South School. She is a graduate of Indiana University.
 - **Talia Nathan** this fall becomes the social worker at West School after spending the second semester of the past school year at West as the long-term substitute social worker. She is a graduate of Skidmore College and has an MS from Erikson Institute and an MSW from Loyola University. She was a long-term social work substitute at Glenbrook North High School and an early childhood social work substitute at the Jewish Community Center of Chicago.
 - **Jonathan Valentino**, language arts and social studies teacher at Central School, taught 8th grade language arts and social studies at Scullen Middle School in Naperville and 6th grade English and math at Antilles School in St. Thomas, Virgin Islands. He is a graduate of Northern Illinois University. He has also served as assistant coach for freshman baseball at Nequa Valley High School and assistant coach for football and baseball at Antilles School.
- Also new to the District are the following teacher associates, student teachers and interns:
- **Mora Arnold**, teacher associate at West School
 - **Beth DeJong**, student teacher at Central School with Rosie LaLonde and Katie Geier
 - **Bailey Estabrooke**, teacher associate at South School
 - **Marissa Palmer**, social work intern at South School with Julie Malen
 - **Lindsay Resis**, student teacher at South School with Kelly Rose
 - **Leane Snyder**, teacher associate at South School
 - **Matt Wasson**, student teacher at Central School with Sue Briggs.

2010 Fall Calendar



August	23 Monday	Move-In Day (see schedule, p. 2) Kindergarten Go-to-School Night, 6 – 7 p.m.
	24 Tuesday	First day of school (1/2 day)
	30 Monday	First day of school for kindergarten
September	1 Wednesday	Go-to-School Night, 5th grade, 7 p.m.
	2 Thursday	Go-to-School Night, 1st and 2nd grade, 6:45 p.m.
	6 Monday	Labor Day – NO SCHOOL
	7 Tuesday	Go-to-School Night, 3rd and 4th grade, 7 p.m.
	9 Thursday	Rosh Hashanah – NO SCHOOL
	13 Monday	Board of Education meeting, 7:30 p.m., Central School
	16 Thursday	Go-to-School Night, 6th – 8th grades, 7 p.m.
	23 Thursday	Kindergarten Fall Open House, 6 p.m.
October	1 Friday	Picture Day, South/West/Central
	8 Friday	Teacher Institute Day – NO SCHOOL for students
	11 Monday	Columbus Day – NO SCHOOL
	18 Monday	Board of Education meeting, 7:30 p.m., Central School
	29 Friday	Halloween parades — 9:15 a.m. K – 2 — 12:40 p.m. K p.m. — 2 p.m. West
November	8 Monday	Board of Education meeting, 7:30 p.m., Central School
	11 Thursday	1/2 day of student attendance — Parent-Teacher Conferences 1- 9 p.m.
	12 Friday	Parent Teacher Conferences – NO SCHOOL for students
	18 Thursday	Fall Music Festival, 7th and 8th grade — Band, Chorus, Orchestra, 9:40 a.m., 7 p.m.
	24 – 28 Wed.-Sun.	Thanksgiving break
December	8 Wednesday	6th grade Dinner and Concert, 6:30 p.m.
	9 Thursday	West School Chorus Club Concert, Misner Auditorium, Central, 7 p.m.
	13 Monday	Board of Education meeting, 7:30 p.m., Central School
	20 Monday	First Day of Winter Break School resumes Monday, Jan. 3, 2011



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