



# District 203 highlights of the 2003-2004 school year

## **Beebe Elementary**

- More than 70 students benefited from Beebe's "Read Naturally" program again this year, coordinated by SFCP. Parent volunteers worked one-on-one with students to help improve their reading rate.
- Beebe's Fine Arts Team was nominated as district representatives to the Illinois Those Who Excel award program in the team category. Judy Herring (music), Laura Warren (physical education) and Mary Parks (art) have added their time, talents and passion to Beebe's fine arts program.
- Members of the Naperville Police Department and volunteer readers continued to partner with Beebe this year. Police readers met with their reading buddies weekly. An end-of-the-year luncheon was held with the police and their buddies at the Police Department.

## **Ellsworth Elementary**

- Through collaborative efforts of the Environmental Awareness Committee and School Family Community Partnership, an Outdoor Classroom will soon be created at Ellsworth. This setting will provide students with a fresh air location to participate in various learning activities.
- "Reading on the Reef," a K-5 reading at home project, was successfully coordinated by school personnel and the School Family Community Partnership to support the School Improvement goal in literacy.
- Third and fourth graders dedicated to increasing environmental awareness participated in "Community Builders," sponsored by third grade teacher Bruce Randolph. Their efforts provide various services to the community.

## **Elmwood Elementary**

- Over 300 students and their dads (and other significant males) participated in a Saturday Dad's Breakfast and Bird House Building event, sponsored by the Elmwood School Family Community Partnership Team in recognition of the importance of fathers' involvement in the school.
- A business partnership was signed with Borders Books & Music, which provides both partners with special event opportunities. Teachers will enjoy a discount on books, while Borders will benefit from access to articles on student and staff development.
- A team of fourth grade students received special recognition for volunteering during their lunch recess time to read to the Early Childhood students with special needs.

## **Highlands Elementary**

- With the goal of designing better lessons and increasing quality teacher collaboration, sixteen Highlands teachers engaged in the Japanese Lesson Study process where groups worked together to plan, teach, observe and refine a single lesson that is part of a larger unit of instruction.
- Teacher instruction and student involvement in learning were enhanced this year by the acquisition of a ceiling mounted data projector and ELMO (visual presentation device) for each classroom, through funding from the Highlands Home & School and parent-paid technology fees.
- For the third year in a row, Highlands Elementary won a Partnership School Award from the National Network of Partnership School at Johns Hopkins University. The school was honored for its excellence in sustaining a strong and comprehensive program of School Family Community Partnerships in 2002-2003.

## **Kingsley Elementary**

- During a year-long focus, students who performed acts of Kindness, Nobility, Involvement, Generosity, Honesty, Thoughtfulness and Sincerity were recognized as "Kingsley Knights of the Day." More than 300 students were recognized for their attributes of good citizenship.
- Kingsley teachers and parents successfully submitted a record number of grants this year, including proposals to the Naperville Education Foundation and the Jeanine Nicarico Memorial Literacy Fund. These grants will enhance student use of technology, provide innovative literacy resources and help support Kingsley families.
- Students proudly hosted community members and friends from around the country at the HURRAH (Happy Upbeat Retirees [& other] Residents Actively Helping) luncheon and Grandfriend's Day.

## **Maplebrook Elementary**

- Maplebrook parents and staff formed a Peer Relations Committee to oversee school climate and evaluate program initiatives.
- In support of their new literacy program, the School Family Community Partnership Committee implemented "Breakfast with Books," inviting parents and community members to read to the students.
- Faculty has been exploring the 6 + 1 Traits of Writing Framework for better writing through ideas, organization, voice, word choice, sentence fluency and conventions via models presented by the teachers.

## Meadow Glens Elementary

- Meadow Glens students were hailed by the *Chicago Tribune* as tops in a six-county region, with the best overall ISAT (Illinois Standards Achievement Test) reading results.
- In conjunction with the annual International Night and efforts of the School Family Community Partnership, Meadow Glens families and friends donated monies to provide new flags to the school that celebrate the rich diversity of the many cultures which form the Meadow Glens family.
- This year students have contributed to their community by participating in service projects for U.S. armed forces and for children less fortunate than themselves.

## Mill Street Elementary

- Mill Street Elementary saw the formation of two after-school initiatives for students at risk: the M&M Homework Academy, where high school students serve as tutors, and the Mustang Club, formed to help students learn social competencies and improve their decision-making process.
- Mill Street School has been working with the community to extend and enhance the School Improvement goals through a Multicultural Festival, a new partnership with the Xilin Academy and a new BP America Inc. partnership, which takes the form of a mathematics tutoring program.
- Mill Street students contributed books and school supplies to area shelters and community centers this year, in order to both support and demonstrate the importance of reading. This effort was organized by the School Improvement Plan's (SIP) Literacy Team.

## Naper Elementary

- Naper School's business partnership with The Downtown Retail Council gave fifth graders an opportunity to work for several hours after school one day in some of the downtown stores. The students were able to practice the skills they have used to run the School Store in a larger retail setting.
- Sharon Weber and Marcia Mackenbrock, two recently retired Naper School teachers, have become published authors. They have written and published their experiences as they interacted with Naper students. Their book, *Postmark Naperville – An A to Z History*, contains several Naper School connections.
- Naper students took their parents on a journey through two African villages that they had created in the gym. The art curriculum objectives for the year were taught through a study of African culture and history. This culminated in an end-of-the-year art fair that transformed the gym, complete with huts, masks and tribal walls.

## Prairie Elementary

- Prairie School established a business partnership with MidAmerica Federal Bank and created "Little Bank on the Prairie" for students to make deposits into their own savings accounts every Wednesday.

- Prairie advanced the implementation of technology by having LCD projectors and document cameras installed in classrooms at grades 2, 3, 4 and 5 and by serving as a pilot site for the subscription push e-mail system known as Talk203.
- Evening events for families such as the Science Fair, Poetry Slam and Family Math Nights were organized and facilitated by parents to support learning beyond the school day.

## Ranch View Elementary

- Ranch View staff members increased their knowledge of the components of a balanced writing program by identifying current best practice, participating in a learning partnership with Scott School, reading professional resources and articulating with colleagues about the writing process.
- Staff members utilized the results of the Manners Matrix (a study of school "climate") and collaborated to create a common set of rights and responsibilities for all students.
- Two evening social events provided opportunities to involve parents in creating decision making and social emotional School Improvement goals. "Connecting with Cultures" and "Empowering Parents to Help Kids Deal with Bullying" helped bring different perspectives into the school, as well as provide information that will assist parents at home with their children.

## River Woods Elementary

- Student Council members involved students in helping others by sending shoes and school supplies to children in Iraq. Students, families and other members of the community, including the media, got involved in the cause.
- River Woods students are being taught early to establish a healthy daily activity of walking. With the help of parent volunteers, students were able to use their lunch recess time to walk  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile. They used punch cards to keep track of their mileage; after 20 punches students received a token recognizing their completion of five miles.
- The new Home & School Beautification Committee has created a children's garden for students and parents to view while at school. New "kid friendly" benches have also been added.
- River Woods parents and students participated in the Talk203 self-subscribing e-mail communication system that allows the administration to communicate with subscribers (parents, grandparents, guardians and community members) in a timely manner.

## Scott Elementary

- Scott School celebrated its 25th Anniversary by hanging banners, wearing commemorative shirts, hosting an Open House and performing a historical play highlighting the school's name-sake, the Scott family.
- The Scott Home & School hosted a Comedy Night fundraiser to provide money to build a climbing wall in the gym.
- The "Be a Buddy, Not a Bully" campaign was launched to raise awareness of what bullying is and to teach students strategies to deal with bullying behaviors.

## Steeple Run Elementary

- The Steeple Run Home & School Association, in collaboration with the District 203 Buildings and Grounds Department, funded and constructed an entirely new, and greatly improved, playground for students and the school community.
- Steeple Run teacher Sue Seymour and the fifth grade team received a grant from the Naperville Education Foundation to fund a poet in residence, Julia Durango, for “Storytelling Using Free Verse.” The grant culminated in a poetry slam.
- Steeple Run parents received a Naperville Education Foundation Grant to fund “The Book Grabbers,” a fourth grade book club.

## Jefferson Junior High School

- Jefferson students benefited from a “professional growth” opportunity outside of District 203 when North Central College students volunteered their time and expertise to train 25 future seventh and eighth grade JJHS peer mediators.
- Many students took an active role in revitalizing the Jefferson character education program, working with the staff to help develop “Patriot’s Character.”
- WWII veterans were hosted by eighth graders and treated to a performance by the class of an old USO Show called “Our Greatest Generation.” Students also had the opportunity to learn about WWII first hand through the veterans’ sharing of their stories.
- Jefferson students continued to contribute to community service organizations, such as Families Helping Families, Loaves and Fishes and the American Cancer Society.

## Kennedy Junior High School

- KJHS was recognized by the Illinois Association of Middle Schools by being named an “Illinois Horizon School, A School to Watch.”
- Students participated in the Future Problem Solvers Scenario Writing Competition as the state level. Two students took first place in the state and went on to compete at the International level. One eighth grader took 4th in the state in individual competition.
- Kennedy’s Illinois Science Olympiad team finished 2nd in the state for the second consecutive year in AA competition. The team was also sent to the Illinois Math Counts event, where they placed 3rd in state.
- Sixth, seventh and eighth graders participated in the Word Masters Challenge. This year, the sixth grade team took 1st in Illinois and 6th in the nation. The seventh grade team also advanced to 6th in the country, while the eighth graders captured 7th at that level.
- Kennedy students entered the Dupont Challenge Science Essay Contest, ranking an honorable mention as one of the top 30 teams in the U.S.

## Lincoln Junior High School

- A beautiful castle motif mural was painted on the LJHS rock climbing wall, featuring a visual reminder of the character education initiative, Lancer PRIDE.
- The school’s courtyard was completed through volunteer work (students, parents and teachers) and generous donations (corporate donations and a successful buy-a-brick campaign). It is now used for outdoor learning activities.
- LJHS celebrated its 40th anniversary, culminating with an Open House in May, attended by hundreds of present and former teachers, administrators, students and parents.
- Eighth grade student Jennifer Laspisa earned the top award from the National Council for Teachers of English for her writing submission to the NCTE contest.
- To enhance fitness through the Physical Education curriculum, an outdoor Fitness Trail has been planned, as well as a new circuit featuring strength and cardiovascular equipment, which will be added to the School Fitness Center.

## Madison Junior High School

- Through the ongoing partnership between the Madison PE department, PE4LIFE and the Home & School association, the students of Madison have enjoyed using new strength training equipment in physical education classes. This new equipment, additional climbing stations and new cardio equipment, are the foundations to an excellent well-rounded approach to health and fitness.
- Working with the School Family Community Partnership, a pilot email system was established. “Madison Mail” was implemented during the second half of the year. Families could sign up for daily announcements to be delivered electronically. This tool provided a wonderful opportunity to reinforce a variety of school events, share late-breaking information and highlight special efforts of students and staff on a daily basis.
- Community service facilitated by students was a focus of the goal of Madison students becoming community contributors. Through many service-based organizations, the students of Madison collected money, donated shoes to the Reuse a Shoe program with Nike and collected school supplies for communities in need.

## Washington Junior High School

- Primarily funded by Home & School, WJHS installed a climbing wall that is used by all of the students. This new activity in the gym compliments the already outstanding physical education program.
- The character education program continued to expand this year with programs developed for the seventh and eighth grades. The programs emphasized personal responsibility and decision making. The YWCA presented the program to the seventh grade, while the DuPage Sheriff’s Department presented to the eighth grade class.
- The “Get Acquainted” sixth grade picnic continues to be a highlight for students and families. Teachers are working with parents to organize this fall event, which will bring families and staff together.

## Naperville Central High School

- Ten NCHS students were named National Merit Scholarship Finalists, while 37 were awarded Commended Student status by the National Merit Scholarship Commission.
- Staff members of the Central yearbook, *Flight*, received three awards from the Journalism Education Association: an Excellent for Yearbook Layout, as well as two Honorable Mentions, one for Yearbook Copy/Caption and one for Computer Design/Photoshop Art.
- Nine members of Central's Business Professionals of America chapter advanced from State champions to national competition; seven placed in the top eight or better. Kate Hiipakka not only ranked first in the country in Presentation Management, she was elected the national BPA historian.
- *Central Times*, the NCHS student-run and student-produced newspaper, has been named a "Gold Medalist" with four Columbian awards by the Columbia Scholastic Press Association at Columbia University. The *Central Times* earned All-Columbians in the areas of coverage, writing and editing, graphic presentation and business operations. In addition, the *Central Times* took third place in the "Best of Show" competition at the Journalism Education Association/National Scholastic Press Association national convention. Seven students won national Write-Off Awards. The newspaper was also awarded a Silver Crown from the Columbia Scholastic Press Association, with three staff member named winners of Gold Circle Awards.
- Elizabeth Lumpkin won her fourth consecutive IHSA Girls Singles Tennis Tournament, as well as an award for outstanding sportsmanship throughout her four-year career.
- Candace Parker was named the Naismith Prep Player of the Year, as well as leading the Lady Redhawks to their second State Championship title in Girls AA Basketball.
- The Redhawk Math Team finished 6th at the State Finals.
- *Chronicles of the Orange Door Hinge*, the NCHS 2003 Literary Magazine, received bronze medalist ranking from the Columbia Scholastic Press Association at Columbia University.
- Kenny Baker received a bronze medal in music composition at this year's ACT-SO (Academic, Cultural, Technological Scientific Olympics) awards ceremony. Additionally, Kenny was named a Discover Card Tribute Award Scholarship winner.

## Naperville North High School

- Twenty-three NNHS students were named National Merit Scholarship Finalists, while 38 were awarded Commended Student status by the National Merit Scholarship Commission.
- North's Chess Team won its first IHSA State Championship, boasting an exciting undefeated season.
- NNHS Social Studies students were involved in activities surrounding Holocaust education, including: a student-created Holocaust museum, interdisciplinary activities between the Art, Music and Social Studies departments, as well as Holocaust survivor presentations.
- Sophomore swimmer Katie Stratton earned State Championships in both the 200-yard individual medley and the 100-yard breaststroke.

- Three faculty members of the North Humanities Department were selected from a competitive pool of candidates to travel to Beijing, China and Kyoto, Japan this summer. When they return, the teachers will participate in summer curriculum work to incorporate all they have learned into the classroom.
- Five students competed in and won the regional Motorola Science Bowl, which qualified them to compete in the National Science Bowl in Washington, D.C. sponsored by the Department of Energy.
- Agriscience students won 1st place in Hand-Drawn Design and Computer-Aided Design divisions of the Illinois Landscape Design competition.
- The WYSE (World-wide Youth in Science and Engineering) Team and the JETS (Junior Engineering Technical Society) JV Team both earned State Championship titles. This is the sixth year in a row the WYSE team has captured the State crown.
- The Naperville North Huskies won the Combined All-Sports Award in the DuPage Valley Conference.
- Three NNHS graduates – Joseph Curran, Stephen Tangen and Christopher Westrom – have received military appointments and will attend West Point in the fall. Due to the extensive application, recommendation and endorsement processes, it is very rare to have three students from the same high school in the freshman class, according to one West Point representative.

## District 203

- For the first time, District 203 was represented in Special Olympics competition by "Team 203," thanks to an endowment made to the Naperville Education Fund in the name of the late Richard Brassington. Not only did the team, comprised of students from Naperville Central and Naperville North High Schools, earn medals at the regional meet, five members advanced to the Special Olympics Illinois Summer Games where they earned three gold medals, two silvers, two fourth places and one fifth.
- *Expansion Management* magazine again awarded District 203 a "Gold Medal" ranking in an evaluation of more than 2,800 metropolitan secondary school systems in the U.S. Only six school districts in Illinois were so recognized. Published in December of 2003, the 13th annual Education Quotient™ report states that Gold Medal schools rank in the top 17% of those evaluated.
- District 203 earned its fourth annual Partnership Excellence Award from the National Network of Partnership Schools (NNPS) at Johns Hopkins University. Only three other school districts across the country were so honored this year. There is not a set number of winners. The award is given to applicants the Network feels meet the criteria of an *excellent* and *permanent* program of partnership.
- Talk203, a self-subscribing email notification system, was launched this year. It was piloted at the district level, as well as at four District 203 schools – Naperville North, Lincoln Jr. High, Prairie and River Woods Elementary Schools. As of the end of the 2003-04 school year, over 2,000 people had subscribed to the free service, which provides timely information on a variety of topics. Plans call for the expansion of Talk203 to all 21 schools during 2004-05.