

# District



# News

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES: 114 West 144th Street, Riverdale, Illinois 60827-2703

Phone (708) 841-2290 • FAX (708) 841-5048

*Building Bridges to Success*

## Dates to Remember:

- Dec. 21**  
Winter Break Begins
- Jan. 4, 2010**  
School resumes after Winter Break
- Jan. 18**  
Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday Observance, No School
- Jan. 22**  
Report Cards sent home
- Feb. 2**  
Election Day, No School for students
- Feb. 12**  
Bring Your Parent to School Day
- Feb. 15**  
Presidents' Day Observance, No School
- Feb. 18**  
Parent Advisory Committee Meeting
- March 2-12**  
ISAT Testing

## Inside this issue:

- Superintendent, School Board receive Partner Awards .....2
- Alternative teacher certification program benefits everyone.....2
- District monitors spending .....2
- Schools get more upgrades .....3
- Nurses, support programs offer healthy guidelines ....3
- Great things are happening in District 148 .....3
- Uniforms help promote learning .....4

## A Message From the Superintendent

It seems hard to believe the 2009-10 school year is nearly half over! With this year's motto of "United in Achieving Success" in mind, we opened our schools in August eager to see what our students and staff would accomplish. So far, we have had numerous successes to celebrate, many of which are noted in this newsletter.



The district is moving forward with the Response to Intervention (RtI) approach to providing high-quality instruction and scientifically, research-based interventions tailored to individual student needs. This year, every District 148 school has the RtI process in place in the area of reading and the majority of schools also have RtI in math.

The Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) program, which is the behavioral component of RtI, also is currently being used in most of our schools. By the beginning of September 2010 every school will have PBIS along with RtI for reading and math.

Once again, the district addressed facility needs such as those at Washington and Franklin Elementary schools and at the Early Childhood Center.

Aside from physical improvements to our buildings, the teaching staff at Riverdale and Washington schools has grown via Governors State University's Alternative Teacher Certification Program. Fifteen resident teachers are co-teaching with veteran educators in selected third through sixth grade classrooms at the two schools, enriching the education of our children and the program participants themselves.

Meanwhile, as we struggle with the same type of financial challenges facing the rest of the country, the district continues to monitor its spending and is taking proactive steps to remain financially sound. The district received \$2.8 million in federal grants this year along with \$700,000 in federal stimulus funds which came in the form of General State Aid.

Finally, with Illinois Standards Achievement Test dates approaching in March, we urge you to review the information and helpful tips schools have been providing regarding these important exams and ask that you encourage your children to do their very best.

Wishing you a safe and happy holiday season,

*Dr. Jayne E. Purcell*

## From the Board President

As 2009 comes to a close, the Board of Education celebrates having accomplished many of the projects proposed for this school year.

We purchased new SMART Boards and completed the second phase of the renovation projects at our schools. We know the environment in which a student learns is just as important as what they learn. I would like to thank parents and staff for their patience during the construction and offer a special thanks to the custodial staff.

The Board also welcomes Dr. Patricia Moore as our new assistant superintendent and Mr. Lamont Bennett as our new director of building and grounds.

Happy Holidays to all,  
-Joyce Jackson



# District 148 Superintendent, Board Honored

Dolton West Elementary District 148 Superintendent Dr. Jayne E. Purcell, along with the Board of Education, are recipients of some special awards from a local community organization.

Community Partner Awards were presented by the Halfway House Committee, Inc./Sadie Waterford Manor to Dr. Purcell and School Board President Joyce J. Jackson, on the board's behalf, during Sadie Waterford Manor's 35th year celebration on Saturday, November 21st.

"Everyone in the community is responsible for the education of our children. It's not just about me," Dr. Purcell said. "It's about everybody who is a part of the educational successes of all children. It is because of those partnerships that all children have opportunities."

"From our very first meeting, it was readily apparent that Dr. Purcell is deeply committed to improving the quality of education for our young people. She has been open to exploring and developing new solutions to address this critical issue," said Lester Harris, executive director of Sadie Waterford Manor. He also commended the Board of Education for its support.

"It is through the collaborative efforts of administrators, educators, and community partners that we can begin to improve the quality of education and subsequently the lives of our youth, and strengthen our communities," Harris said.

Sadie Waterford Manor in Crestwood provides residential treatment for adolescent and young adult females.



## Alternative certification program benefits all

A one-year, non-precedent setting initiative offered through Governors State University's Alternative Certification program has paired aspiring educators with some experienced Riverdale and Washington school teachers this year.

The co-teaching partnership in select Grades 3 through 6 classrooms at both schools is benefiting everyone: teacher candidates, veteran educators, and students, District 148 Induction/Mentor Coordinator Michael Hurst said.

Eleven resident teachers are assigned to Washington School and four are at Riverdale School. Each resident teacher is receiving on-the-job experience and a nominal, annual salary paid from the district's Title 1 funds. They also will be able to receive their initial teaching certificates after the school year ends - saving them at least three years of teaching preparation time, according to District 148 Superintendent Dr. Jayne E. Purcell. "Best of all, this program allows our students to get the additional instructional support they need for academic achievement," she said.

## District remains financially sound

District 148 continues to be watchful of its spending during these tough economic times and is being proactive to remain fiscally sound, Comptroller Carolyn Keith said.

The district received \$2.8 million in federal grants this year along with \$700,000 in federal stimulus funds which came in the form of General State Aid.

Federal grant money is being used for students with special needs, Keith said. Stimulus money that replaced State Aid was used for salaries to retain staff, she said.

The district is not required to submit a deficit-reduction plan, according to Keith.

### Did You Know?

District 148 has an Early Childhood program for students who qualify through screening. Two, half-day sessions which run from 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and from 12:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. are provided. To register for a screening call 708-841-2602.

# Schools get more upgrades

A second consecutive year of improvements to Dolton West Elementary District 148 schools brought security cameras, new drinking fountains, roof replacements, new flooring, lighting and more, to our schools.

Among the renovations and upgrades made this year by Chevron Energy Solutions are:

- Security cameras outside every building.
- New flooring, student and staff restrooms and new exterior lighting at the Early Childhood Center.
- Parking area paved, new exterior lighting, new water fountains, air conditioning throughout Franklin School.
- Gym floor striped and sections of roof replaced at Park School.
- New flooring and water fountains at Roosevelt Elementary and Junior High schools.
- New walkway at Harriet Tubman Elementary School.
- New flooring, windows, water fountains and air conditioning at Washington School.



## Great things are happening

The following are some of the positive happenings in District 148:

- Target Store in Calumet City donates time, books to Franklin School.
- Lincoln Avenue School eighth grade Science Teacher Erin Moore is the only Illinois teacher chosen to participate in Weightless Flight of Discovery out of Detroit, MI.
- University of Illinois Extension mobile science lab comes to Lincoln, Roosevelt Jr. High schools.
- IEA/NEA officials visit Lincoln, Washington schools and Early Childhood Center.
- Harriet Tubman School elects its first Student Council.
- Roosevelt Elementary and Junior High Principals Dot Weathersby and Shalonda Randle, respectively, were chosen to give input into the redesign for Principal Preparation programs for the State of Illinois during a workshop at Governors State University.
- District 148 partners with Dolton, Riverdale officials, park districts, libraries, community resource centers, local businesses, vendors, and state Rep. Will Davis to provide special events and activities to students and families.
- Lincoln School inducts NJHS members, receives donation from new Food 4 Less store in Dolton and Grade 4 students perform at store's grand opening.
- Riverdale School hosts First Quarter Honor Roll Breakfast.
- Washington School, Family Guidance Centers, Inc., stakeholders launch "Why Be Free?" anti-drinking campaign.

## Maintaining a safe/healthy school environment

Throughout this year's flu season, District 148's Support Programs together with school nurses are taking steps to limit the spread of illnesses in schools and classrooms.

The tops of desks and door handles are being cleaned daily. Instructions on germ hygiene are being provided throughout the flu season and adults and children are urged to stay home if they are sick.

In addition, parents should keep their child home if he or she has any of the following symptoms:

- Fever, temperature of 100.4 or greater
- Cough
- Headache
- Chills
- Vomiting/Diarrhea
- Sore throat

# District 148's uniform success

Throughout District 148's schools, students are dressed in navy blue and white for a reason.

The school system's uniform dress code has been in place for approximately 15 years and is aimed at maintaining a positive learning environment and helping to keep students safe.

Navy and white uniforms are expected to be worn to school on all student attendance days. Aside from an occasional exception, 100 percent of each school's students arrive at school every day in uniform.

Roosevelt Junior High School Principal Shalonda Randle, Franklin Elementary School Principal Lisa Davis and Lincoln Avenue School Principal Michael Winston said having students in uniform helps keep students' focused on learning, rather than on what others are wearing.

"With this (uniforms), they're all in the same outfit," Winston said.

Uniforms allow for consistency throughout the building and help equalize students, Davis said, because there is no room for cliques based on expensive brand name clothing.

"Having students in uniform is also a means of identifying elementary students when unfortunate circumstances occur in the neighborhood," Davis said.

District 148 asks parents/guardians to continue to make sure students are dressed appropriately, and are in uniform, each day.

## The Dress Code includes:

- Navy skirts, jumpers, slacks
- White, collared shirts which must be tucked in
- Navy or white socks or tights
- Inexpensive gym shoes or street shoes
- Navy or white sweaters or sweatshirts without hoods

For additional District information: [www.district148.net](http://www.district148.net)  
Visit District 148 on the Web at:

Postal Patron  
Dolton, IL 60419

Get to know your  
School Board

P.O. Box 160  
Dolton, IL 60419

Building Bridges to Success



Joyce J. Jackson  
President  
Faith E. Gunter  
Vice President  
Carmella Shumate  
Secretary  
James E. Bendell  
Rev. Lamar D. Collins  
William F. Gunter Jr.  
Willia Williams

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Permit No. 20  
Dolton, IL 60419