

# 2012 Annual Report to the Community

This Annual Report is designed to provide an overview of the programs, people and places in District 58 that work together in service of our mission, vision and core beliefs. You will see how we live out our commitment to meet the needs of each child who comes through our doors, each day. While it is impossible to include all of the wonderful things that happened in District 58 during the past year, many are highlighted in this report.

## What's inside

Superintendent's farewell .....	p. 2
New leader appointed .....	p. 3
New math curriculum .....	p. 4
Facilities assessment.....	p. 7
Common Core standards .....	p. 8
Celebrate 58.....	p. 10-11
Budget overview .....	p. 12
Education Foundation grants..	p. 13
Bilingual education program...	p. 15
School board information .....	p. 16

## Our Core Beliefs

- Each student is capable of learning and deserves to be educated and challenged to reach his/her highest potential.
- Education is the foundation for success, both in academic achievement and social emotional development.
- Within each child, we will cultivate the social awareness, self-management, and responsible decision-making skills necessary to be a contributing member of society.
- Educators, students, families, and community members should work together to support the healthy development of all students.
- The school environment should be stimulating and engaging, with opportunities for creative, collaborative, and meaningful learning experiences.
- The school environment should be safe, friendly, and nurturing, where everyone comes to learn, grow, and develop.

## Our Mission

The mission of District 58, in partnership with parents and community, is to challenge and engage each child by providing quality educational programs and support services in a safe, nurturing and child-centered environment in order to prepare all students to be lifelong learners and contributing members of a global society.



**Downers Grove Grade School District 58**  
We Envision. We Seek. We Believe.

**PLEASE SHARE WITH US YOUR FEEDBACK ON DISTRICT 58'S COMMUNICATIONS EFFORTS!** Visit [www.dg58.org](http://www.dg58.org) to participate in our communications satisfaction survey, or call (630) 719-5805 to obtain a paper copy. The survey will remain open until the end of August.

# Dear District 58 community member,

Thank you for your continued partnership in providing the best possible learning environment for the students of District 58!

The 2011-12 school year marked my final year as Superintendent of District 58, and I take with me so many fond memories. This is truly a unique and wonderful community, where the partnerships are strong and the support for our schools is unwavering. As I reflect on my time here in Downers Grove, I have many to thank.

It has been my privilege to work for the past few decades alongside a most dedicated, passionate, creative staff. District 58 staff not only stimulates and engages our students academically, but also works to provide a safe, friendly, nurturing environment where students can gain the social and emotional skills – such as problem-solving, critical thinking and cooperation – that they will need to be successful in life.

I have visited our 13 schools regularly over the years, and each time, I have come away with new hope for our future. I have seen staff work patiently with kindergarten students to master their alphabet, assist eighth-grade students with planning a service project, and everything in between. A big thank-you to our staff members for always doing whatever it takes to meet the needs of every student we serve, every day.

I have been privileged to work closely with a Board of Education whose commitment and leadership is second to none. The board members spend countless hours deliberating on behalf of our district, always keeping the best interest of the students in mind as they make their decisions. Their collective impact has been tremendous.

I have been continually amazed and humbled by the support and involvement shown by our students' parents, who demonstrate each and every day how highly they value education. They partner with our staff, volunteer in our buildings, help their children with homework and cheer them on in their extracurricular endeavors. In addition, the fantastic PTAs also support us in numerous ways, including planning educational activities and experiences for our students and fundraising for our schools. **Thank you.**

A key component in the strength of District 58 and its schools is the unwavering support of the community. I am so appreciative of our partners in education – our District 58 Education Foundation, our local government agencies and service organizations, our business community, and others – for all that they do to enrich the educational experiences of our students. It has been said that it takes a village to raise a child, and Downers Grove has taken that to heart.

Finally, and most importantly, I would like to thank the students of District 58, who helped me see things in new ways, made me laugh, and never ceased to amaze and inspire me. It has been an honor to serve them and to have an impact on their lives.

Sincerely,

**Paul Zaander**

Superintendent of Schools,  
Downers Grove Grade School District 58



# Introducing Dr. Kari Cremascoli, District 58's new leader



This spring, the District 58 Board of Education appointed Dr. Kari Cremascoli to succeed Paul Zaander as the district's Superintendent of Schools. Dr. Cremascoli comes to District 58 from DeKalb Community Unit School District 428, where she has served as Assistant Superintendent of Educational

Services since 2008. Prior to that, she spent three years as Executive Director of Student Services for District 428. She has also worked as a teacher and as a psychologist in the Chicago suburbs and in California.

"The District 58 schools have a rich tradition of providing world-class educational services to students, while serving as beacons of pride and distinction throughout the community," Dr. Cremascoli said. "I am impressed by the

collective achievements of the Downers Grove schools, and I am thrilled to have the opportunity to join such a vibrant and student-centered community."

Dr. Cremascoli earned a Bachelor of Science degree in psychology from Loyola University Chicago, where she graduated summa cum laude and minored in Business Management and Spanish. She earned a specialist level Masters of Education degree in school psychology from Loyola University Chicago, and her Doctorate of Philosophy in Leadership in Education Administration from Capella University in Minneapolis. She and her husband, Brian, have three young children.

"I look forward to getting to know the students and their families, the District 58 staff, and the Downers Grove community," Dr. Cremascoli said.

For more about Dr. Cremascoli, visit [www.dg58.org](http://www.dg58.org).

# District 58 at a glance

Downers Grove Grade School District 58 serves approximately 5,000 preschool through eighth-grade students from Downers Grove and portions of Darien, Oak Brook, Westmont and Woodridge.

**Longfellow Center** (technology, buildings and grounds)  
1435 Prairie Avenue, Downers Grove  
(630) 719-5867

**Administrative Service Center**  
1860 63<sup>rd</sup> Street, Downers Grove  
(630) 719-5800  
[www.dg58.org](http://www.dg58.org)



Director of Technology | **Scott Meech**  
Director of Buildings and Grounds | **Rick Bubula**  
Supervisor of Maintenance | **Ken Young**

Superintendent of Schools | **Kari Cremascoli, Ph.D.**  
Secretary to Superintendent | **Pamela A. Osika**  
Asst. Superintendent for Personnel | **Jayne Yudzentis, Ed.D.**  
Asst. Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction | **TBD**  
Controller | **James Popernik, Ed.D.**  
Asst. Superintendent for Special Services | **Terrence J. Martin**  
Director of Business Services | **Lorie M. Pilster**  
Coordinator of Grove Children's Preschool | **TBD**  
Coordinator of Communications | **Jennifer Waldorf**



## Find District 58 on social media

District 58 continues to utilize social media as part of ongoing efforts to communicate with its stakeholders in a variety of ways. Ways to connect:



"Like" District 58's Facebook fan page,  
[www.facebook.com/district58](http://www.facebook.com/district58)



Follow District 58 on Twitter,  
[www.dg58.org/DGDistrict58](http://www.dg58.org/DGDistrict58)

Get the latest District 58 news delivered right to your inbox... visit [www.dg58.org](http://www.dg58.org) or e-mail [jwaldorf@dg58.org](mailto:jwaldorf@dg58.org) to sign up for the Communicate 58 e-newsletter today!



# New District 58 math curriculum to promote mastery, growth, real-world problem-solving

Connor, a first-grade student at Belle Aire, carefully maneuvered two “logs” and eight “cubes” into place on the board to represent the number 28.

**“Connor showed us that we have two tens and eight ones – great job, Connor!” said his teacher, Tara Fulton. “Now, here are three tens and seven ones. How do we read that? 37! Great!”**

Once the students had completed their review of the previous day’s lesson, Fulton divided them into groups and gave each one a plastic baggie containing several dozen sticks and some rubber bands. She read out numbers and asked the students to represent them on their place value placemats using the sticks. Each group took turns using the class’s document camera to demonstrate how they had arrived at their answer.

That same day in Dawn Magliola’s math class at O’Neill Middle School, students were discussing problem-solving strategies that could help them figure out which of two stores had a better deal on renting a karaoke machine.

**“Why would you want to include the deposit?” Magliola asked. “Because it’s part of the overall cost,” a student answered. The students then paired up to solve a series of real-world problems involving topics ranging from plants to fitness.**

## A SAMPLE PROBLEM:

**Sophia and Scott each open a bank account. Scott’s initial deposit was \$62, and he saves \$15 a week. Sophia’s initial deposit was \$27, and she saves \$20 a week. After how many weeks will Sophia’s balance be greater than Scott’s?**

What do the first-grade and eighth-grade math lessons mentioned above have in common? They both come from the new math curriculum that will be in place in District 58 for the 2012-13 school year.

Fulton and Magliola were among dozens of Math Curriculum Committee members who piloted the program in District 58 during the second half of the 2011-12 school year.

The committee, which consists of District 58 staff, parents and administrators, as well as the math department chairs from Community High School District 99, recommended the adoption of Math in Focus for kindergarten through fifth grade and Glencoe Math for sixth through eighth grade.



Students in Dawn Magliola’s math class at O’Neill Middle School work together on a story problem.



Students in Tara Fulton’s first-grade class at Belle Aire work on a place-value lesson with the incoming Math in Focus curriculum.

Glencoe Math has been in use in sixth through eighth grade in District 58 for many years with much success, while Math in Focus is the United States version of Singapore Math.

Singapore has been a top-performing nation on the Trends in International Math and Science Study for many years, and studies conducted in the United States have shown that Math in Focus significantly boosted student achievement in math.

The goal of the District 58 math program is to prepare students to become 21st

century global problem solvers by infusing current tools and technology into the curriculum; providing opportunities and support to allow all students to demonstrate mathematical growth; providing a foundation that leads to mastery of core concepts and skills; connecting the instruction of math to real-world contexts to provide successful application beyond the classroom; and fostering and maintaining a high level of confidence and success in mathematics.

In addition to excellent alignment with the more rigorous Common Core standards (see page 8), Glencoe Math and

Math in Focus also boast strong technology components and emphasize the development of number sense, understanding, and flexible mathematical thinking in real-world contexts. This helps students to truly connect with their work in math class.

“Students who don’t normally enjoy math have been excited about solving problems about certain real-world topics, such as skateboarding, or music,” Magliola said.

The curriculum is designed to gradually guide students from concrete lessons and examples to an understanding of more abstract concepts, such as solving for x in algebra problems.

District 99’s participation in the Math Committee will facilitate a smooth transition from math instruction in District 58 to math instruction in District 99, all closely aligned with the Common Core Standards.

For more information about Math in Focus, visit [www.hmheduaction.com/singaporemath/](http://www.hmheduaction.com/singaporemath/)

For more information about Glencoe Math, visit [www.glencoe.com/sites/maryland/student/mathematics/index.html](http://www.glencoe.com/sites/maryland/student/mathematics/index.html)

## What’s next?

District 58 will begin a review of its reading curriculum in 2012-13.

## District 58 maintains high performance on ISATs

District 58 students performed at a very high level again this past year on the Illinois Standards Achievement Test. The overall percentage of students in District 58 that met or exceeded the state standards in reading and math increased from 92 percent in 2010 to 92.7 percent in 2011. The ISAT results for District 58 and its 13 schools are available for viewing at [www.dg58.org](http://www.dg58.org).

## Guided reading leading to success

Reading instruction in District 58 follows a balanced literacy approach, which leads students to more and more independence and self-directed learning. As part of this comprehensive approach, students at all buildings participate in daily guided reading in small groups at their instructional level.

Guided reading is designed to focus on the specific needs of individual students and support them in becoming proficient readers. The staff member working with that group models reading strategies for the students, such as making inferences, summarizing and finding the main idea, then monitors them as they read a leveled text independently. Once the students have finished reading, they participate in activities to assess their comprehension, fluency and word study.

## District 58 offers Chinese program again this summer

Fifth- through seventh-grade students in District 58 were offered the opportunity again this summer to participate in a 60-hour Chinese language immersion program. The feedback from parents of students who participated in the inaugural program last year was overwhelmingly positive. The classes were taught by staff from STARTALK, a federally subsidized language program that provides a rigorous but fun Chinese language immersion program. Participants learned about Chinese culture through a variety of cultural activities, and developed skills in reading, writing, speaking, listening and typing Chinese.

## Differentiated instruction helps District 58 meet learning needs

District 58 continues to maintain its focus on effectively meeting the learning needs of all students at all ability levels through differentiated instruction.

During the 2011-12 school year, District 58 provided targeted staff development during which teachers had the opportunity to work with a specialist within District 58 to gain additional instructional strategies in this area. This will continue in the 2012-13 school year, during which the specialist will visit each building in the district to work with teachers at set times on a quarterly basis.

## New administrators appointed in District 58

The District 58 Board has approved several new administrative appointments for the 2012-13 school year.



**JUSTIN SISUL** was appointed principal of Pierce Downer School to replace Dr. Lisa Mondale, who retired after nine years at the helm. Sisul spent seven years as a music teacher at Herrick Middle School, followed by four years at Lester School, first as an administrative intern and most recently as the Assistant Principal.

**CHRISTINE CLAVENNA** was appointed the assistant principal of O'Neill Middle School. She replaces Randy Janousek, who retired after more than three decades in District 58. Clavenna comes from Mokena School District 159, where she has served for the past two years as an administrator and for 10 years prior to that as a fifth-grade teacher.



**THEODORE KRILLIES** was appointed the assistant principal at Lester School to replace Sisul. Krillies has been teaching social studies at the middle school level for six years, most recently at Butler Junior High in Oak Brook.

## District 58 increases daily instructional time

District 58 has added 20 minutes to its school day for 2012-13, which brings it into better alignment with the average school day in surrounding districts. The change also supports recent enhancements to District 58's instructional program, such as the continued focus on meeting all students' needs through Response to Intervention; alignment with Common Core Standards for Math and Language Arts; teaching Social-Emotional Learning skills; and boosting literacy through guided reading, all of which are time-intensive tasks. Details about the change, including the start and end times for the school day, have been posted at [www.dg58.org](http://www.dg58.org).

# 431

The years of combined service of the 19 staff members who retired from District 58 this year.



For the full list of 2011-12 retirees, visit [www.dg58.org](http://www.dg58.org).

## Consultant completes comprehensive facilities assessment

This past fall, the District 58 Board of Education retained the services of Darien-based Wight and Co. to conduct a comprehensive assessment of the district's 15 facilities. This assessment was the first step in addressing the strategic plan goal of creating a long-term facilities plan for District 58, in partnership with its citizen-driven Financial Advisory Committee.

Wight and Co. presented its findings to the board this spring and discussed its analysis process, which included site visits, data and document reviews and conversations with staff.

**“The time has come where you might need to make a significant financial investment into your buildings to get them where they need to be looking towards the future.”**

—Wight and Co. representative Craig Siepka

The firm assessed the physical conditions of the District's 13 schools, as well as the Administrative Service Center and Longfellow Center, in relation to their useful life over the

next 15 years; looked at how the facilities support education; and came up with recommendations for the best long-term use of the facilities.

One overarching challenge is that the



*Students at Kingsley School work together on a lesson. In support of its mission is to maintain safe, nurturing, child-centered environments, District 58 commissioned a comprehensive facilities study this past fall, and the results were presented this spring.*

District's buildings range in age from 42 to 84 years – the average age being 57 years – and were all built at a time when education was delivered to students in a way that is vastly different from how it is delivered now.

All aspects of the physical components of the building were included in the assessment, including the quality and type of materials used in construction, and the mechanical, electrical and

plumbing systems. Each component was ranked on a scale of 1 to 4, 1 being poor and 4 meaning the District can simply maintain that aspect. District 58's buildings generally fall in the 2-3 category.

To accomplish the educational alignment portion of the study, the firm considered aspects such as how approachable the building is, the configuration of the building (how close are classrooms to the library, gymnasium and office?), and square footage per student as compared with recommendations.

The report included conceptual budget costs, and the total estimated cost to address all of the firm's recommendations would be approximately \$39 million. The consultant said that number is very low for a district this size, which is a testament to the hard work and dedication of the buildings and grounds staff.

With the findings in hand, District 58 is well-poised for more in-depth discussion regarding its facilities. The full report is available for viewing at [www.dg58.org](http://www.dg58.org).

## Board awards final Life Safety contracts

Life Safety projects totaling approximately \$3 million are slated to be completed this summer. These are the final projects being funded with \$10 million in bonds that were issued in January 2010.

Life Safety projects completed during the past two years using the bond proceeds include roof replacements at Henry Puffer, Indian Trail, O'Neill, Kingsley, El Sierra and Belle Aire; light pole replacements; asphalt repair/replacement; heating and ventilation work; and chimney repairs.

The Board of Education awarded contracts in February for the following work:

- Replacement of plumbing piping at O'Neill and Pierce Downer

- Boiler work at Fairmount
- Door security/fire safety work at Henry Puffer, Highland, Indian Trail and O'Neill
- Ceiling, wall and floor work at Hillcrest and Whittier
- Masonry repair at Herrick and O'Neill
- Window replacements at Herrick and O'Neill
- Curtainwall replacement work at O'Neill (artists' rendering below)
- Paving work at Belle Aire and Henry Puffer



## District 58 moving towards alignment with Common Core Standards

Illinois has joined other states in adopting new Common Core State Standards to guide teaching and learning, and District 58 is moving toward alignment with those new standards.

The new K-12 math and English Language Arts standards adopted by the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) are known as the New Illinois Learning Standards Incorporating the Common Core. According to the ISBE, these evidence-based standards are intended to be robust and relevant to the real world, and to **“better prepare Illinois students for success in college and the workforce in a competitive global economy.”** The standards are designed to help students and parents understand what students are expected to attain each year. The standards also are designed to allow teachers to establish the best approach to help their students succeed.

District 58 has begun incorporating these new standards into instruction, and assessments based on the new standards will replace the Illinois Standards Achievement Test (ISAT) and the Prairie State Achievement Examination (PSAE) beginning in 2014. District 58's new math curriculum, which will be in place for the 2012-13 school year, is aligned with the Common Core Standards for mathematics. District 58's curriculum for reading, writing, speaking and listening, and language, will be aligned with the Common Core by 2014.

Visit [www.isbe.net/common\\_core/default.htm](http://www.isbe.net/common_core/default.htm) for more information about the Common Core Standards.



## TECH TIDBIT

District 58 has worked to improve the district's existing WAN and Internet connectivity.

**PREVIOUSLY:** 100 MB between buildings, 20 MB out to the web

**NOW:** 1 GB between buildings, 100 MB out to the web

This change will boost the network connections between buildings, increase the speed with which students and staff can access the Internet, and save the district an estimated total of \$3,000 each month over the life of the five-year contract.

## District 58 recognized for leadership in Social-Emotional Learning

Downers Grove Grade School District 58's continued leadership in teaching students social and emotional (SEL) skills has earned the district accolades from the DuPage County Regional Office of Education.

The Illinois Learning Standards include three goals for SEL (see below). Over the past few years, the District, led by its Social-Emotional Learning committee, has focused on incorporating SEL at the district, building and classroom levels. In January, Lester Assistant Principal Justin Sisul and social worker Kristen Leonard presented a breakout session at the ROE's annual Equity and Excellence for All Conference. They shared the steps that the district had followed for implementing the ongoing SEL goal, and ways in which those efforts continue to be refined and improved.

**“We will continue to seek full SEL implementation across the district over the next two years, expanding our supports and resources to help children develop the social and emotional skills they need to succeed,”** said Jayne Yudzentis, Assistant Superintendent for Personnel, whose department oversees SEL efforts.

The goals for SEL in the Illinois Learning Standards are:

- Develop self-awareness and self-management skills to achieve school and life success
- Use social awareness and interpersonal skills to establish and maintain positive relationships
- Demonstrate decision-making skills and responsible behaviors in personal, school, and community contexts

## Grove Children's Preschool hosts first Parent Education Workshop series

District 58's Grove Children's Preschool program offered a new Parent Education Workshop series this school year, which was well-attended and well-received.

Each session included time for coffee and conversation with other parents, as well as a short presentation. The first workshop focused on the benefits of routines, schedules and visuals for all children to follow. Each family had the opportunity to make picture schedules to bring home and begin using right away with their child.

Several of the sessions – a workshop for parents of incoming kindergartners and a workshop on educational apps and websites – were open to parents/guardians of any preschool-age child living in the District 58 attendance area.

“We were very pleased with the turnout for the workshops, particularly the session for parents of incoming kindergartners, and participants told us they found the information valuable,” said preschool parent

program facilitator Sandy Biddenstadt.

For more information about Grove Children's Preschool, with its established, research-based educational curriculum, visit [www.dg58.org/preschool](http://www.dg58.org/preschool) or call (630) 968-0454. Enrollment is open to all District 58 children who will be 3 years old on or before Sept. 1, 2012.

### DID YOU KNOW?

**New to District 58's Preschool page, [www.dg58.org/preschool](http://www.dg58.org/preschool), is a section entitled Resources for Parents, where you can view videos and PowerPoints from the kindergarten preparation workshop and app/website workshops hosted by the Grove Children's Preschool program!**

The goal of the Grove Children's Preschool program is to meet the developmental and individual needs

of all children in a safe, inclusive and nurturing environment, while promoting educational success through engaging and collaborative learning experiences. Grove Children's Preschool is a blended program, meaning that tuition students, students identified as having special education needs, and students identified as being at risk for future academic difficulties due to cultural or socio-economic factors are taught in the same classroom.

District 58 also hosts a series of preschool screenings designed to evaluate development in children ages 2 years 10 months old to 5 years old. Screenings are free to District 58 residents. Concerned parents who have not had their child screened for speech, vision, hearing, learning or behavioral needs are encouraged to call (630) 719-5800 to schedule an appointment. Check District 58's website this fall for a list of the screening dates for 2012-13.

## TECH TIDBIT

During the 2011-12 school year, a new District 58 Technology Procurement Team was developed to ensure that technology use aligns with the district's mission and vision. The TPT will review proposed purchases, including those made by the PTAs and those made through grants from the District 58 Education Foundation.

## Districts 58, 99 students partner to learn about digital safety

Through a new blogging partnership with students in Community High School District 99, students at Herrick and O'Neill middle schools learned about staying safe in the cyber world. Through the program, developed by Downers Grove South High School instructional technology coordinator Jon Orech, high-school students blogged about

what it means to be a good digital citizen, and shared that blog with the middle school students. This sparked an online conversation in which the older and younger students shared stories, ideas and tips with one another. The experience was very engaging for the District 58 students, who gained valuable advice from their **“teen teachers.”**

# Our staff and students give District 58 so much to be proud of!

Check out some of their wonderful accomplishments this past year; for more, visit [www.dg58.org](http://www.dg58.org)!

**HIGHLAND** was one of 305 schools nationwide – including 19 in Illinois – to be named a 2011 National Blue Ribbon School by the U.S. Department of Education. The school hosted a Blue Ribbon celebration with community members and local legislators in December. **PIERCE DOWNER** was named a Blue Ribbon School in 2007.

Seven District 58 schools – **BELLE AIRE**, **FAIRMOUNT**, **HIGHLAND**, **HILLCREST**, **KINGSLEY**, **PIERCE DOWNER** and **WHITTIER** – were honored with Academic Excellence awards from the state for 2012. These awards are given to schools in which at least 90 percent of students met or exceeded state standards in reading and math for three consecutive years.

In an effort spearheaded by the school's PTA, **EL SIERRA** won a grant from the Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation to have a set of solar panels installed. **EL SIERRA** hosted a Solar-bration May 14 to commemorate the installation, which is set to take place this summer. **HILLCREST** installed solar panels in 2010.

The award-winning children's TV series Green Screen Adventures selected a story and a poem written by **BELLE AIRE** third-grader Evan Kattapong-Graber to be adapted and performed in upcoming broadcasts.

**HENRY PUFFER** was chosen as a grand prize winner in the nationwide NFL PLAY 60's Back to Football Friday contest, netting the school a \$10,000 grant for health and fitness efforts and an NFL team celebration that included an ultimate gym class with Bears offensive tackle Gabe Carimi. The school donated \$1,000 of the prize money to the Fun with Fitness program at Good Samaritan Hospital's Health and Wellness Center.

**PIERCE DOWNER** fifth-grader Madeline Degiorgio finished second out of 28 contestants in the DuPage County spelling bee Feb. 21 in Lisle.

**O'NEILL'S** race car team was given a rating of Outstanding by the judges at the Argonne National Laboratory electric car competition for their design documentation.

District 58 students whose bookmarks won first place in the Downers Grove Public Library Junior Room's annual bookmark contest were: Summer Vavra, **HENRY PUFFER**, kindergarten; Rohan Julka, **HIGHLAND**, first grade; Iqra Mohammed, **HIGHLAND**, second grade; Emily Ennis, **WHITTIER**, third grade; Kate Riley, **EL SIERRA**, fourth grade; Ben Perdue, **LESTER**, sixth grade; Sophia Mogavro, **HERRICK**, seventh/eighth grade winner; Nicole Grganto, **FAIRMOUNT**, Artist's Choice Award

On March 3, the **HERRICK** Jazz Band earned three straight Division 1 ratings from adjudicators at the Illinois Grade School Music Association District-level contest. Bands receiving Division 1 ratings at the district level are eligible for state level competition. Ensembles are rated on intonation, tone quality, balance, general interpretation and musicianship, fluency of technique, rhythmic accuracy, soloists and stage presentation.

**O'NEILL** eighth-grader Tommy Leinart took first place in the American Legion Junior High Speech Contest hosted April 15 by the American Legion, Alexander Bradley Burns Post #80, for his speech about the First Amendment and the right to protest peacefully.

**HILLCREST** third-grader Augie Balicki received an official letter and a certificate from the Guinness Book of World Records in December 2011, pronouncing that the 12.73-centimeter sand dollar that he discovered while vacationing with his family in Florida last spring was the largest ever found and measured anywhere in the world.

A video created by **HERRICK** eighth-grader Andie Sherman took first place in the seventh- and eighth-grade category in the Illinois Youth Digital Safety contest for K-12 students, sponsored by the Illinois State Board of Education.

Three District 58 teachers – **WHITTIER** fifth-grade teacher Cheryl Lyons, **PIERCE DOWNER** fourth-grade teacher Randi Streng and **O'NEILL** band teacher David Balika – were honored with the Downers Grove Junior Woman's Club's 2012 Outstanding Teacher Awards.

The following District 58 students' projects were chosen to represent the Downers Grove Area Council of PTAs at the state level of Reflections, an arts contest: Justin Waterman, **EL SIERRA**, music; Nathan Waterman, **EL SIERRA**, music; Sami Gergits, **FAIRMOUNT**, photography; Akshi Mistry, **HIGHLAND**, literature; Isabelle Waughop, **HIGHLAND**, visual arts; Allison Cordts, **WHITTIER**, music; Jessica Adamson, **PIERCE DOWNER**, photography; Eva Bednard, **PIERCE DOWNER**, literature; Esther Farley, **HERRICK**, dance.

Projects by two **O'NEILL** students – seventh-grader Chandana Sooranahalli and eighth-grader Akila Shanmugham – represented District 58 at the Regional Science Fair in March, having earned top scores at the 31st annual District 58 science fair Jan. 21.

Twelve District 58 staff members were honored April 5 at the District 58 Education Foundation's annual Distinguished Service Awards ceremony. Two award recipients were announced: Julie Miles and Robin Effrein. Miles, who teaches second grade at **HIGHLAND**, was praised for her ability to inspire and motivate her students. Effrein, a Title 1 instructional assistant at **INDIAN TRAIL**, was praised for her generous, caring nature. For more information and the full list of winners, visit [www.dg58.org](http://www.dg58.org).

Fifty-eight District 58 eighth-graders – 29 from **HERRICK** and 29 from **O'NEILL** – were honored April 18 with Select 58 awards from the District 58 Education Foundation for their citizenship and service to school and community. For more information and the full list of nominees, visit [www.dg58.org](http://www.dg58.org).

The **O'NEILL** seventh-grade girls volleyball team was this year's DuPage Metro Valley Association champion, and ended its season with a 13-1 record.

A team of students from **FAIRMOUNT** presented at the Students Involved in Technology Conference in February in Woodridge. They shared information about Gamestar Mechanic, a video game creation curriculum.

The **HERRICK** seventh-grade boys volleyball team not only won its first-ever conference title but also went undefeated with a record of 14-0.

Two teams of students from **WHITTIER** represented District 58 at the Destination ImagiNation Global Finals Tournament May 23-26 in Tennessee, having taken top honors in the state tournament. Destination ImagiNation is a curriculum enrichment educational program in which students work together for several months to solve open-ended challenges and present their solution at tournaments. Team Midnight Moon took fourth place out of 61 teams from around the world in the middle school improvisational challenge at the Global Finals.

**INDIAN TRAIL** kindergarten teacher Beth Hatlen was selected as the 2012 Teacher of the Year by the Downers Grove Elementary Education Association. She was praised for her ability to reach each and every student and to create a fun, loving and safe atmosphere, and her willingness to give of her time and talents to her school, the district and community.

A sculpture called Parka the Hutt – a likeness of Star Wars villain Jabba the Hutt created by **HILLCREST/KINGSLEY/WHITTIER** art teacher Jon Belonio using nothing but expired parking meter stubs from the City of Chicago – was featured in Chicago Magazine and on FOX News Chicago, and appeared in a parade in Bridgeport in May.

**INDIAN TRAIL** fifth-grader Melissa Weidner earned a Giving Tree Award from the Angel Baby Foundation for her efforts in raising funds for a family affected by Spinal Muscular Atrophy.

The **O'NEILL** eighth-grade boys basketball team won the 11th annual Mayor's Goodwill Basketball Tournament.

Third graders Lucas Marra of **PIERCE DOWNER** and Cameron Van Hoegarden of **FAIRMOUNT** were driven to school on a Downers Grove Fire Department fire truck this past winter, having won the Home Escape Fire Safety Contest sponsored by the Downers Grove Fire Department.

More than two dozen **HERRICK** and **O'NEILL** students were selected by audition to participate in the Illinois Music Educators Association's District 1 Music Festival Nov. 5.

**DISTRICT 58** webmaster Matt Vivona's redesign of the **DISTRICT 58** website earned an Award of Merit in the 2011 INSPRA (Illinois chapter of the National School Public Relations Association) Communications Contest.

**O'NEILL** science teacher Meg Van Dyke won a \$5,000 grant from the Kinder Morgan Foundation to have a wind turbine installed on the school's roof.

Participants in **DISTRICT 58'S ORCHESTRA PROGRAM** got the opportunity to perform onstage this past fall at Downers Grove North High School with Barrage, an internationally known Canadian strings ensemble.

**HIGHLAND**, **PIERCE DOWNER** and **HILLCREST** all celebrated their 60th birthdays this year!



## District 58 set to adopt balanced budget for 2012-13

District 58 ended the 2011-12 school year with a balanced budget, and anticipates adopting a balanced spending plan for 2012-13. Conservative budgeting, careful monitoring of – and proactive responses to – economic conditions, and continued maintenance of fund balances has put District 58 in a solid financial position.

The 2012-13 tentative budget includes nearly \$60 million in normal operating aggregate revenues and just over \$60 million in normal operating aggregate expenditures. This does not include the Medical Reserve Fund or the Life Safety Fund. The district is planning to complete \$3 million in Life Safety projects this summer using the last of the proceeds from the Life Safety bonds issued in 2010 (see page 7).

***“We anticipate that normal operating revenue sources will match or come close to normal operating expenses,” said Controller James Popernik. “It looks as though we will be in good shape again.”***

The proposed spending plan for next year reflects the planned continuation of all district programs; the addition of 20 minutes to the school day, with accompanying increases in personnel staffing and transportation costs; increases in facilities maintenance spending; and minor changes where appropriate.

Although questions remain regarding the state’s budget and potential changes that may negatively impact the district, the district’s fund balances are expected to remain stable.

Revenue assumptions include that general state aid will remain level, at \$1.2 million; other state aid will

increase by \$400,000; the property tax receipts related to the 2011 and 2012 levies will increase by 2.6 percent and 3.8 percent, respectively; and the interest rate on investments will decrease slightly, to 0.4 percent.

Expenditure assumptions for 2012-13 include student enrollment remaining flat, at just under 5,000; benefits insurance expenses increasing 5 percent; supply/equipment budgets for the schools remaining flat; and salaries increasing by 1.5 to 4 percent according to contracts. The district also is increasing the budget for Operations and Maintenance expenditures from \$200,000 to \$500,000, for items such as asphalt repair and the launch of a carpet replacement program in the summer of 2013.

Projects/purchases planned for the 2012-13 year include:

- The second half of the cost of the new K-8 math curriculum adoption, as well as staff development related to the math adoption
- Transition to Common Core standards in math and Language Arts
- Beginning the reading curriculum revision process
- Expanding the district’s bandwidth
- Expanding cloud-based initiatives
- A re-design of the district website to facilitate its use as a learning space
- An iPad pilot program
- A replacement truck for the Operations and Maintenance Department

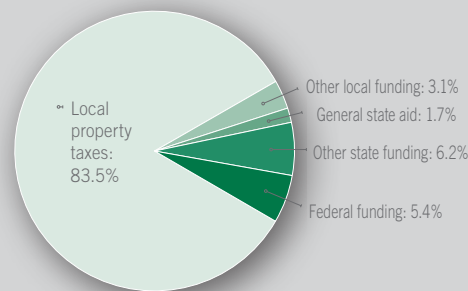
## What’s next?

Board budget workshop:  
**August 27**

Public hearing, final adoption:  
**September 10**

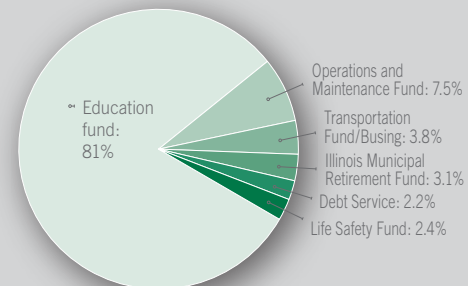
### Where the money comes from:

2011-12 revenues



### Where the money goes:

2011-12 expenditures



For more information about District 58’s budget and finances, visit [www.dg58.org](http://www.dg58.org).

## Education Foundation gives away nearly \$40,000 in grants



***“A whole new world – a hundred thousand things to see!”*** Whittier second-graders sang enthusiastically, taking turns with the microphones as the words to the well-known song from the Disney movie ***“Aladdin”*** scrolled by. As they performed, the point values on the screen ratcheted up, and as the song wound down, the students held their breath while they waited to see how they had done. The class cheered as their 4-star ranking, ***“Shooting Star,”*** flashed on the screen.

grant along with Reading Success instructional assistants Leslie Brouillett and Donna Stanciewicz.



Second-graders at Whittier sing karaoke using a Wii purchased with a 2011-12 Education Foundation grant; the activity is designed to boost reading fluency.

The students had stopped by the Reading Room that morning to perform the song on the Wii, purchased earlier in the year with a grant from the District 58 Education Foundation. They had spent the previous week practicing the lyrics – and were having so much fun that they didn’t even realize they were working on their reading fluency. That’s exactly the point, said Whittier reading specialist Christy Gergits, who applied for the

Students from all grade levels have gotten the opportunity to perform karaoke on the Wii throughout the school year, and it has provided motivation for even the more reluctant readers, Gergits said.

***“I like the whole thing, from the practice to the end!” one second-grader said of the activity.***

That grant was one of more than two dozen that were funded by this year by the Education Foundation, totaling \$40,000. For the full list of grants awarded for 2011-12, visit [www.dg58.org](http://www.dg58.org).

Since its inception in 2002, the Foundation has raised and distributed more than \$350,000 to District 58 schools. Funding is made possible via Foundation events and programs such as spring and fall fundraisers and online contributions. In addition to the annual grants, programs sponsored by the Foundation include Sneak Preview for seventh-graders, the Select 58 awards for eighth-graders, and the Distinguished Service Awards for staff. For more information on the grants or any other District 58 Education Foundation program, visit [www.58foundation.org](http://www.58foundation.org).

## TECH TIDBIT

District 58 launched a brand-new website July 1! In addition to improving its use as a communications tool, the newly re-designed [www.dg58.org](http://www.dg58.org) also is intended to provide

staff with additional opportunities for online teaching and learning. Please share your feedback about our new website by e-mailing [jwaldorf@dg58.org](mailto:jwaldorf@dg58.org) or [mvivona@dg58.org](mailto:mvivona@dg58.org)!

## District 58 earns financial recognition

District 58’s 2011 Financial Profile, which is based on the 2009-10 school year financial data, placed the district within the Illinois State Board of Education’s Financial

Recognition range, the highest category obtainable. The ISBE said that ***“given the economic difficulties school districts are facing, the State Board realizes this is a significant accomplishment.”***

## Conservation efforts, green cleaning making a difference in District 58

District 58's buildings and grounds and custodial staffs take great pride in maintaining clean, safe environments for student learning – and doing so in an environmentally friendly fashion.

The biggest electric load for a school is interior lighting, and efforts to conserve this energy throughout District 58 have been threefold:

- Installation of more efficient T-8 florescent lamps throughout the district.
- Replacement of magnetic ballasts with electronic ballasts. Many of the T-8 bulbs and ballasts were purchased with grant money from the Illinois Clean Air Foundation and the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity.
- Encouraging staff to turn off lights when rooms are not occupied. **"We remind people whenever we can, and custodians alert us when it isn't happening,"** said Rick Bubula, director of buildings and grounds.

These and other actions have resulted in a nearly **30 percent decrease** in electric kilowatt-hour consumption per square foot in District 58 since 2000.

District 58 follows the **Illinois Green Cleaning** guidelines for schools as outlined in Policy 3511, adopted four years ago. This means using green-certified, environmentally sensitive cleaning supplies and maintenance products, including bathroom, carpet, floor, glass and hand cleaner.

**"These are products that reduce the health and environmental impacts as compared with similar products,"** Bubula said. **"You're using the best**

**chemicals to do the same job – and we're using green cleaning methods and operating procedures, as well."**

All 11 of District 58's elementary schools have energy-conserving double-paned thermal windows, which will be installed at the two middle schools this summer. As noted in a recent energy audit of two District 58 schools by the Illinois Smart Energy Design Assistant Center, the buildings have well-maintained temperature control

systems. In addition, all school roofs have been replaced during the last 10 years, and R-18 insulation helps to hold heat in during winter and keep heat out during summer.

The district continues to make a concerted effort to conserve water. For example, staff has rebuilt the toilet flush-ometer plumbing fixtures, reducing water consumption **25 percent**

### By the numbers

▼ **29** percent:

Change in overall electric usage in District 58 since 2000

▼ **25** percent:

Amount of water conserved per flush, thanks to a rebuild of the district's flush-ometers

### per flush!

Most of the buildings are heated with hot-water heat, not forced air. The district regularly tests and tunes up its boilers to ensure efficient performance, and re-sets the heating hot water temperature in accordance with the outside temperature.

District 58 recycles paper and cardboard. In addition, the Technology Department recycles batteries and electronic equipment, and the Maintenance Department recycles all metals, including steel, copper and aluminum. Through the efforts of the schools and environmental clubs (see sidebar), other materials such as Styrofoam, plastics and glass are recycled, Bubula said.

## District 58 schools keep things 'green'

Whether it's through recycling efforts, book and puzzle swaps, organizing Earth Week activities, earning grants to have solar panels installed on the school roof, creating a Courtyard Classroom for outdoor learning, or composting after fruit break, environmental clubs and groups throughout District 58 are making a big difference for the planet.

A number of the District 58 schools have even earned Earth Flags from SCARCE (School and Community Assistance for Composting and Recycling Education) for their efforts.



Belle Aire students enjoy a waste-free lunch as part of this year's Earth Week activities.

And this year for the first time, representatives from environmental clubs from District 58's schools met to brainstorm ideas and discuss ways to share resources and support one another in **"being green."**

### TECH TIDBIT

The district plans to expand its use of iPads and Apple TVs as teaching and learning tools in 2012-13. The district provided each school 13 iPads as part of a pilot program. Based upon the successful pilot, the district provided every teacher an iPad at the beginning of this summer for use throughout the 2012-13 school year.

## District 58 launches first bilingual education program

Students are thriving in District 58's bilingual education program, which was launched at El Sierra School this year. Illinois law requires that a district begin a Transitional Bilingual Education (TBE) program when there are 20 or more students enrolled in a school with the same first language who are eligible for Limited English Proficiency services. This year for the first time, the number of El Sierra students for whom Spanish is their first language exceeded that threshold.

Throughout District 58, English Language Learners receive a high level of support utilizing the Transitional Program of Instruction (TPI) model, in which instruction is provided in English with minimal translation. With TBE, a portion of the day's instruction is provided in the student's first language to support the students as they transition to becoming more proficient in English and to support/strengthen the development of academic skills in a familiar language.



Dr. Lourdes Ferrer addresses participants in the Navigating the American Educational System seminar series that District 58 hosted several years ago for Spanish-speaking parents. The series was funded by a grant from the District 58 Education Foundation.

The primary focus is literacy: phonemic skills, fluency, vocabulary and comprehension. Students also are taught in English using English as a Second Language (ESL) strategies, and educated in aspects of their native history and culture as well as American culture. Additional work is done on math words and number sense. Assessment of skills is ongoing, and collaboration with classroom teachers is continuous.

El Sierra and District 58 provide a great deal of support for ELL/bilingual families. Programs have included a seminar series for Spanish-speaking parents, Navigating the American Educational System (see photo, left); family nights; and Spanish translations of a number of documents and communications. Bilingual parents also have the opportunity to participate in a Bilingual

Parent Advisory Council (BPAC), which meets four times each year to review and support program development and work on the state grant for bilingual education. The BPAC members also serve as liaisons with the rest of the bilingual parent community.

## 58 Doing Good shines a spotlight on District 58 service projects

District 58 students and staff participate in a wide variety of service projects throughout the year, which not only make a big difference for those on the receiving end but also cultivate a spirit of giving, civic responsibility, generosity and compassion in the next generation of leaders.

Check out our 58 Doing Good page, [www.dg58.org/58-doing-good](http://www.dg58.org/58-doing-good), which was created to spotlight these service projects, including these and many more from the 2011-12 school year:

- Belle Aire penny harvest benefits less fortunate
- El Sierra students write letters to Santa to benefit Make-a-Wish Foundation
- Fairmount sends items to troops overseas
- Henry Puffer pop tab donation benefits Ronald McDonald House
- Highland Giving Tree supports FISH pantry
- Hillcrest first-graders raise money for St. Baldrick's Foundation
- Indian Trail donates games to Good Samaritan pediatric ward
- Kingsley Taking Action makes coloring books for Comer Children's Hospital
- Lester Students Serving as Animal Heroes helps Humane Society
- Pierce Downer donates change for St. Jude's
- Whittier's Teeny Tiny Team sells Hearts for Noah's Hope
- O'Neill student council hosts dodgeball tournament for charity
- Herrick students host community blood drive







1860 63rd Street  
Downers Grove, IL 60516  
[www.dg58.org](http://www.dg58.org) | 630.719.5800

NON-PROFIT  
ORGANIZATION  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
DOWNERS GROVE IL  
PERMIT NO. 19

## POSTAL CUSTOMER

District 58 is served by a seven-member Board of Education:

**Stephen G. Funk**, President  
**Sallie Lupescu**, Vice President  
**John Cooper**  
**Elizabeth Davis**  
**Roberta Diehl**  
**John Miller**  
**Doug Purcell**  
**Board secretary, Pamela Osika**

Detailed information about the Board of Education, including meeting dates, committee descriptions, policies, meeting minutes and member biographies and photos, can be found at [www.dg58.org](http://www.dg58.org). Board meetings and workshops also are recorded and uploaded as streaming audio files, and posted on the District 58 website.



## The schools of District 58

### **BELLE AIRE SCHOOL**

3935 Belle Aire Lane  
Principal: Michael Mitchinson

### **EL SIERRA SCHOOL**

6835 Fairmount Avenue  
Principal: Lucille Carney

### **FAIRMOUNT SCHOOL**

6036 Blodgett Avenue  
Principal: Anthony Coglianesse

### **HENRY PUFFER SCHOOL**

2220 Hadow Avenue  
Principal: Todd McDaniel

### **HERRICK MIDDLE SCHOOL**

4435 Middaugh Avenue  
Principal: Jason Lynde  
Assistant Principal: Matt Neustadt

### **HIGHLAND SCHOOL**

3935 Highland Avenue  
Principal: Judy Kmak, Ed.D.

### **HILLCREST SCHOOL**

1435 Jefferson Avenue  
Principal: Paula Thomas  
Assistant Principal: Brent Borchelt

### **INDIAN TRAIL SCHOOL**

6235 Stonewall Avenue  
Principal: Robin Bruebach

### **KINGSLEY SCHOOL**

6509 Powell Street  
Principal: Charles Purdom, Jr.  
Assistant Principal: Elynn Cunningham

### **LESTER SCHOOL**

236 Indianapolis Avenue  
Principal: Carin Novak  
Assistant Principal: Theodore Krillies

### **O'NEILL MIDDLE SCHOOL**

635 59th Street  
Principal: Matt Durbala  
Assistant Principal: Christine Clavenna

### **PIERCE DOWNER SCHOOL**

1436 Grant Street  
Principal: Justin Sisul  
Assistant Principal: Brent Borchelt

### **WHITTIER SCHOOL**

536 Hill Street  
Principal: Michael Krugman

*\*To visit any of our school Web sites, go to [www.dg58.org](http://www.dg58.org) and hover over the Schools drop-down menu!*

*\*District 58's Grove Children's Preschool program is housed at Indian Trail and Henry Puffer. For more information, visit [www.dg58.org/preschool](http://www.dg58.org/preschool).*

We hope you find this annual publication to be informative and useful, and we welcome any feedback you might have. If you ever have a question or a comment about this or any other publication, or about District 58 or any of its programs, policies or procedures, please do not hesitate to e-mail our Communications Coordinator, Jennifer Waldorf, at [jwaldorf@dg58.org](mailto:jwaldorf@dg58.org), or call **(630) 719-5805**.