

Waukegan Public Schools
Community Unit School District #60
Superintendent's Bulletin
Dr. Donaldo R. Batiste, Superintendent

Volume 2, No. 8

October 9, 2007

Superintendent's Message.....

Dear Colleague:

“The Spirit of Columbus”

Yesterday, our district was closed in observance of Columbus Day, a day set aside to honor Christopher Columbus. Columbus was a great adventurer who, through his voyage to America, opened up the ‘New World’. Our lives and our ways of life are made possible because Columbus was willing to take risks, and he was not afraid to venture into “uncharted waters” or the unknown.

Columbus is a great role model for everyone in education. We must always be willing to explore ways of performing our responsibilities. We must not be afraid of change or the unknown. We must constantly innovate to provide the best possible learning environment for our students.

If we persist like Columbus, we will find ourselves in a new and wonderful world of education. This world of endless possibilities will allow students to realize their full potential, just as our nation has realized its potential.

Therefore, I hope that you enjoyed your holiday, and gave thought to the challenges and adventures that lie ahead of you. Keep in mind the spirit of Columbus, and focus your energies on how we can improve the delivery of educational services to our students. Remember our motto and theme, **“A New Day...A New Way in Waukegan Public Schools... *onward and upward!*”**

Sincerely,
Donaldo R. Batiste, Ph.D.
Superintendent of Schools

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Important Dates

- National Hispanic Heritage Month – **September 15 – October 15, 2007**
- National Physical Therapy Month – **October 2007**
- Illinois Arts Week – **October 7 – 13, 2007**
- Columbus Day (Legal Holiday) – **October 8, 2007**
- *Deadline:* Henry B. Betts Award Nominations – **October 9, 2007**
- School Improvement Inservice (½ day) – **October 10, 2007**
- *Deadline:* Illinois Dept. of Public Health's Asthma Calendar Contest – **October 12, 2007**
- Teen Read Week – **October 14 – 20, 2007**
- *Application Deadline:* RSAC Team Scholarships from Lake County ROE – **October 15, 2007**
- *Deadline:* ASCD Outstanding Young Educator Award Nominations – **October 15, 2007**
- National School Lunch Week – **October 15 – 19, 2007**
- Attendance Week – **October 22 – 26, 2007**
- Illinois Refugee and Immigrant Conference – **October 22 – 23, 2007**
- *Application Deadline:* ACE Master's Program (November Cohort) – **October 24, 2007**
- End 1st Quarter (42 days) – **October 26, 2007**
- *Deadline:* Prudential Spirit of Community Award Nominations – **October 31, 2007**
- Parent / Teacher Conferences – **November 7 – 8, 2007**
- No School for Students – **November 9, 2007**

Notices

WHS FACILITIES SCHEDULING CALENDAR

→ *From Ms. Bessie Petty, Secretary, Waukegan High School*

All staff members should check the Facility Usage Calendar for Waukegan High School prior to reserving a room at the Upper Grade Center, Ninth Grade Center, or Wixom Auditorium. The calendar is available online at <http://www.waukeganschools.org/district/facility> (click on "Waukegan High School").

In order to reserve a room you must fill out a facility usage form. These forms are available in the main office at the UGC, or call (847) 360-5615 to request forms by in-district mail. It is important to check the calendar for availability before you complete the facility usage form. **Please do not call the high school to check availability.**

FLU SHOTS AND PNEUMONIA SHOTS FOR WAUKEGAN SCHOOLS STAFF

→ *From Diane Grischeau, Health Services Lead*

Flu Shots and Pneumonia Shots will be offered through ISR Consulting to staff members and their adult family members at two separate clinics in October. Flu shots will cost \$25 and Pneumonia shots are \$45 (CASH ONLY—exact change preferred). The first clinic will be held on Thursday, October 18, 2007, 2 – 4:30 p.m. in the Board Room at Lincoln Center; and the second clinic will be at the UGC Teacher's Center on Thursday, October 25, 2007, 2 – 4 p.m.

For staff members who have signed up to receive their Hepatitis B immunization on Thursday, October 18, 2007, please note that the Hepatitis B, Flu, and Pneumonia immunizations can be safely received on the same date.

STAFF HEPATITIS B CLINIC REMINDER

→ *From Diane Grischeau, Health Services Lead*

All staff members who signed up to receive the Hepatitis B immunization are reminded that the next clinic will be held on Thursday, October 18, 2007 from 2 – 4:30 p.m. in the Board Room at Lincoln Center. This is for staff members who have already received their first dose of the immunization.

LEARN TO SIGN

→ *From Joan Guilianelli, Lead Teacher, Deaf / Hard of Hearing Department*

The Deaf and Hard of Hearing Department will be offering a ten-week sign language class beginning **today** (October 9), in room W105 at Waukegan High School. The class is intended for parents and teachers of District 60 deaf students but is available to anyone with an interest in learning to sign. The class is free for parents, family members and teachers of District #60 deaf students, and the cost is \$20.00 for district employees and \$40.00 for all others. Sign up will be at the first class. If you have any questions, please contact Bonnie Lewis at (708) 359-4541 or Joan Guilianelli at (847) 599-4264.

PASS ATTENDANCE WEEK UPDATE

→ *From Andrea Kowitz, Administrative Assistant, Positive Alternative Student Services*

As of right now, **40 schools in Lake County** have registered for Attendance Week. The following District 60 schools are registered: Clark, Glenwood, Jefferson, Little Fort, McCall, Oakdale, Washington, and Webster. Waukegan High School will do an in-house Attendance Week—each grade competes against each other for the highest Attendance Rate that week. Last year a record number of 83 schools participated.

For those schools that are participating, tentatively mark your calendars for November 30th. This is the date for the **Attendance Week Ceremony**. Invitations to attend the ceremony will be faxed to schools that make the “**Top Ten**” in the two categories (>650 and <650).

SPECIAL MESSAGE FROM STATE SUPERINTENDENT CHRISTOPHER A. KOCH

On September 28, State Superintendent of Schools Christopher A. Koch issued a special message to all school districts in Illinois. Waukegan Public Schools staff should be aware of the following information from that message.

Next week the General Assembly comes back to Springfield. I cannot stress enough the importance of communicating with your legislators regarding the needs of your district. In particular, I would urge you to stress the need to pass the Budget Implementation Bill (BIMP) enacting the General State Aid (GSA) Foundation and Special Education Personnel Reimbursement levels for FY 2008.

If lawmakers approve the Budget Implementation Bill during the Veto Session, the Foundation Level will increase by \$400 per student to \$5,734. This will result in 816 districts/lab schools/safe schools realizing an increase in their GSA payments from what they are currently receiving. However, if the General Assembly does not enact the new Foundation Level in the BIMP during the veto session, *726 districts/lab schools/safe schools, starting in November, will receive less GSA than they are currently receiving.* These losses will be due to changes in local Equalized Assessed Valuation (EAV), Average Daily Attendance (ADA) and/or Corporate Personal Property Replacement Taxes (CPPRT) without the state being able to offset the effects of these changes with a higher Foundation Level.

I urge all of you to reach out to your legislators and encourage them to pass the BIMP legislation during the Veto Session. This will establish the new Foundation Level as well as increase levels for Special Education Personnel Reimbursement. If they do not, November GSA will decrease for 726 districts and the earliest we may see increases in funding will be January of 2008 when the legislature returns for their Spring Session.

For more information, please see the full message online at http://www.isbe.net/board/archivemessages/special_message_092807.pdf.

CONTRIBUTIONS

Superintendent's Bulletin is a weekly newsletter from the Superintendent, the Web Manager, and other district administrators. Please send all contributions to:

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The preferred submission method is via e-mail. **Contributions must be received by 12:00 noon on Wednesday** to be included in next week's *Bulletin*.

Payroll

403(b) NOTICE OF ELIGIBILITY

Section 403(b) of the Internal Revenue Code provides public school employees with an opportunity to save for retirement on a tax-favored basis by making pre-tax salary reduction contributions into a 403(b) account. Amounts contributed into this 403(b) account are not subject to federal and the states of Illinois and Wisconsin income taxes until the time of distribution. The earnings in the account also grow on a tax-deferred basis until you make withdrawals from the account.

You are receiving this Notice of Eligibility as part of the Waukegan Public School District 60's initiative to notify every employee of his or her eligibility to participate in the employer's 403(b) program. A properly completed "Salary Deduction Agreement for 403(b) Plans" must be signed by an approved agent and presented to the payroll office for payroll signing before deductions can be taken. The only other requirement for 403(b) deductions to take place on payday is the availability of sufficient funds to take the deduction. Please consider this as official notice from the district that you are eligible to participate in the district's 403(b) program.

While your participation is optional, we encourage you to consider participating in this benefit program.

For information on enrolling in the 403(b) program, visit the Payroll section of WPS web site at <http://www.waukeganschools.org/business/Payroll>. The following links relate to 403(b) plans:

- [IRS Publication 4482 "403\(b\) Tax-Sheltered Annuity for Participants" \(PDF\)](#)
- [List of Vendors for 403\(b\) Retirement Plans \(PDF\)](#)
- [Salary Reduction Agreement for 403\(b\)\(1\) and 403\(b\)\(7\) Programs \(PDF\)](#)

Scholarships / Programs for Students

2008 POETRY OUT LOUD: NATIONAL RECITATION CONTEST

→ *From the Weekly Message issued by the Office of the State Superintendent*

The Illinois Arts Council is encouraging all Illinois high schools to participate in the 2008 *Poetry Out Loud: National Recitation Contest*, a free national program sponsored by the National Endowment for the Arts and the Poetry Foundation. *Poetry Out Loud* encourages youth to learn about great poetry through memorization and performance, which help students master public speaking skills, build self-confidence, and learn about literary heritage.

Starting at the classroom level in November, participating teachers will receive free multimedia curriculum materials—a poetry anthology, audio guide, teachers' guide, posters, and comprehensive website, www.poetryoutloud.org, all aligned to national standards—augmenting their regular poetry curriculum with poetry recitation and a classroom-level competition.

School-level recitation champions compete to advance to the state and then national levels. In 2007, *Poetry Out Loud* awarded more than \$100,000 in prizes to students and schools at the state and national levels. For more details and contact information, please see the press release announcing the event at <http://www.state.il.us/agency/iac/NEWS/08%20POL%20Announcement.htm>.

THIRD ANNUAL ILLINOIS WORK ZONE SAFETY CALENDAR CONTEST

→ *From the Weekly Message issued by the Office of the State Superintendent*

In an effort to reduce work zone-related crashes in Illinois, the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT), the Illinois State Board of Education, the American Traffic Safety Services Foundation (ATSSF) and the Illinois Chapter of the American Traffic Safety Services Association (ATSSA) are sponsoring the 3rd Annual Illinois Work Zone Safety Calendar Contest for elementary students.

This year's theme is "Keep Us Alive. Stay Alive. Drive 45." Poster entries should reflect the student's view of a work zone and what he or she may find in a work zone. The contest categories are K-1st Grade, 2nd-3rd Grade and 4th-6th Grade. Each school must select the top four posters from each category (12 posters total) and submit them to IDOT by **December 14, 2007**.

For more information on the contest, please visit the contest web site at <http://www.dot.il.gov/trafficsafety/WZS/WZScontest.html> or contact **Jessica Baker**, IDOT's contest coordinator, at (217) 782-6518 or Jessica.baker@illinois.gov.

PRUDENTIAL SPIRIT OF COMMUNITY AWARDS

→ *From the Weekly Message issued by the Office of the State Superintendent*

Nominations for the annual Prudential Spirit of Community Awards are now being accepted through **October 31, 2007**. The award recognizes young Illinois residents who have made meaningful contributions to their communities over the past 12 months. In the past 12 years, the honor has been given to nearly 2,800 middle and high school students in Illinois. It is open to students who are in grades 5 through 12.

The award is presented nationwide by Prudential Financial, Inc., in partnership with the National Association of Secondary School Principals. For more information, call (877) 525-8491. Applications are available online at www.prudential.com/spirit or www.principals.org/prudential.

Professional Development

NATIONAL BOARD TEACHER CERTIFICATION PROGRAM AWARENESS SESSION

→ *From the Lake County Regional Office of Education*

The Lake County Regional Office of Education will be holding a National Board Teacher Certification (NBTC) Program Awareness Session for teachers who wish to pursue Nation Board Teacher Certification. It will be held in the ROE Board Room, 800 Lancer Lane, Suite E-128, Grayslake, IL 60030, October 18, 2007, 4:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. Please call (847) 543-7491 to RSVP by October 16, 2007.

Music / Fine Arts

MUSICAL INSTRUMENT DONATION DRIVE

In an effort to increase the opportunities for students in our district who wish to develop and strengthen their musical skills and talents, any employee having any musical instruments in their attics, basements and closets that are in good repair or **repairable**, please consider donating these instruments to the Waukegan Public Schools Music Department, by emailing a description of your item(s) to: Dr. Donaldo R. Batiste, Superintendent of Schools, at dbatiste@waukeganschools.org. Further, after confirmation of your offer to donate, a date and time will be arranged when you may drop these items off for collection. On behalf of our students...and future maestros, we thank you!

Waukegan-Area Events

WAUKEGAN PUBLIC LIBRARY CLASSROOM BOOK SALE FOR TEACHERS

The Waukegan Public Library will be holding a classroom book sale for teachers Tuesday, October 16, 2007, 3:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. This sale will include picture books, reading books for various ages / grade levels, non-fiction books, teacher materials, and vintage vinyl records. For more information, please see the attached flyer (in [Enclosures](#)).

Enclosures

HUMAN RESOURCES

1. **New Vacancy Postings** – [VacanciesV2N8.pdf](#)
 - ⇒ Head Rifle Team Coach (Waukegan High School)
 - ⇒ Risk Manager (Lincoln Center)

WAUKEGAN-AREA EVENTS

2. **Classroom Book Sale for Teachers** – [ClassroomBookSaleFlyer.pdf](#)

Waukegan Public Schools Administration

Donaldo R. Batiste, Ph.D.
Superintendent of Schools

Mr. Jules A. Gaudin, MBA, CPA
Deputy Superintendent /
Chief Operations Officer

Mary L. Lamping, Ph.D.
Chief Academic Officer

Mr. Fredrick Howard
Executive Director
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Mr. Rich Pattison
Executive Director
Information Technology Services

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*"A New Day... A New Way in Waukegan Public Schools...
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