



LINCOLN MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



Donald Angelaccio, Ed.D, Principal

November 18, 2011

Mr. Randy Steen, Asst. Principal

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HAPPY THANKSGIVING

Principal's Message . . .

Thanksgiving Thoughts

This time of year always generates a long list of reflections about the things for which we are thankful. Some are superficial, material things, and others are substantial, deeply significant things. This week, the loss of Dona Alex and the resulting grief and pain of the Alex family, reminds us of the fragile nature of our world and importance of being grateful for each day. We extend our sincere condolences to the Alex family, especially our 6th grade student Ashna, for their tragic loss. It is my hope that Lincoln's silent thoughts and prayers will somehow find their way into the hearts of the Alex family.

As we gather with our Lincoln family next week for Parent Teacher Conferences, we appreciate the partnership and teamwork that supports our efforts to care for and educate our students. Let us not forget to thank one another for the dedication and commitment required to guide these young minds.

And as we take time next week to gather with our families to celebrate Thanksgiving, we remember those in our community who are less fortunate. We remember to be thankful for the big and little things in life, including one another and our time together.

We at Lincoln express our gratitude for the opportunity for the role we are blessed to play in the lives of our students, your children. We are honored to be entrusted with their care and thankful for the gifts WE receive each day from THEM. Their joy makes us joyful, their wonder inspires us, and their energy sustains our work.

We thank you for partnering with us and wish you and your family a Happy Thanksgiving.

Dr. Angelaccio

*As we express our gratitude,
we must never forget that the highest
appreciation is not to utter words,
but to live by them.
~John Fitzgerald Kennedy~*

PROSPECT TUTORS

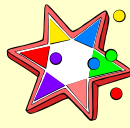
A GREAT RESOURCE FOR OUR STUDENTS!
A GREAT COMMUNITY WORKS TOGETHER!



Thank you Prospect Tutors!

Beyond the front page . . .

- = Dr. Aumiller's Message to Families
- = YMCA Camps during Breaks
- = Orchestis Clinic—PHS
- = Prospect Marching Knights Band Invite



The 6th Grade Liger Team is working with the Mount Prospect Fire Department to collect toys for their annual toy drive. We will be collecting *new, unopened* toys, books, or gift cards for students ranging in age from newborn to 17 years old. The 8th grade students are being asked to donate for newborn to 5 year olds. The 7th graders are being asked to donate toys for 5 to 11 year olds, and the 6th grade students are being asked to donate for 11 to 17 year old children. The boxes are in the commons now through December 7th, so act quickly!! Please do not gift wrap your donations. If you have questions, feel free to contact Mrs. Visser!

Girl's Volleyball Try-Outs

Monday, Jan. 9 2012 Busse Gym

7th grade 5:30 - 7:00

8th grade 4:00 - 5:30

Tuesday, Jan. 10 2012 Busse Gym

7th grade 3:00 - 4:30

8th grade 4:30 - 6:00

Wednesday, Jan. 11 2012 West Gym

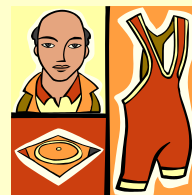
7th grade 4:30 - 6:00

8th grade 3:00 - 4:30



Please have a physical on file with the nurse prior to trying out. Sign-ups will begin on **Monday, November 28** in the commons area on the athletic board.

Attention all Wrestlers – the season is upon us and it is time to start signing up in the commons and turning in permission slips. Our team is going to be led by Mr. Lupo and Mr. Madueno this year – and we expect a great year!! The first informational meeting will be **Thursday, December 1st** in the cafeteria from 3 -4 p.m. Sign up in the commons after Thanksgiving Break!! Get those physicals completed!



Jaguar Students of the Quarter

Ryan M.
Karson L.
Devin P.
Caeley M.
Dezi O.
Mallory B.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS!



November 21 and 22

NO SCHOOL

Parent/Teacher
Conferences

November 23, 24, 25

NO SCHOOL

HAPPY THANKSGIVING!



November 28

8th Grade Parent Meeting
for Band @ PHS

November 29

Cheetah Field Museum
Field Trip

BBall v. LON (Boys Home)

November 30

Bball v. Cooper (Girls Home)

December 1

Celebration Company
Field Trip

BBall v RT (Girls Home)

Board of Ed @ FV 7pm

December 5

Bball v. Mac (Boys Home)

December 7

Bball v. London (Girls Home)

December 8

7th Grade Field Trip

BBall v. St. P. (Boys Home)

December 9

LN Band tours FV & LP



NEW CURRICULUM AT LINCOLN

Curriculum review and enhancement are always ongoing in our school system and tied to a district plan for new adoptions and materials acquisition. This year, Lincoln faculty are introducing new curriculum and programming in the areas of French, Social Studies, Support/Intervention, Wellness and GTT. Shared here are some brief overviews of these new adoptions and enhancements to the curriculum at Lincoln.

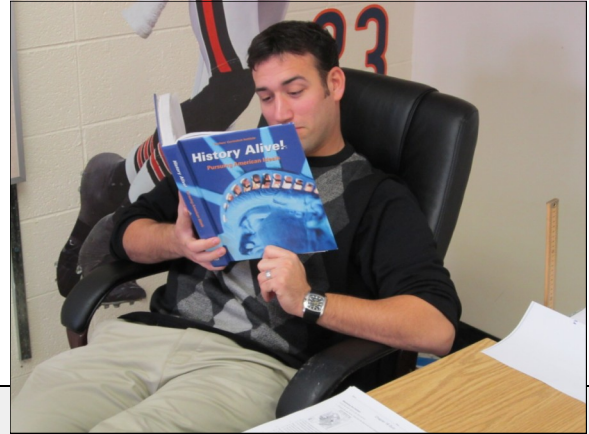
This year marks the first year of the use of the new French curriculum D'Accord! The new curriculum provides students access to a book supersite that allows them to access the audio, video and practice activities from the book online. Students say it is much easier for them to relate to the content of the book as all vocabulary, pictures, and culture activities are up to date and relevant to today's world—a contrast from our previous curriculum which students got a kick out of seeing words like “walkman” and “francs”. The curriculum is divided across the three-year French program. It provides students a comprehensive look at the language with activities to practice speaking, listening, reading, and writing in each unit. At the end of 8th grade students take the Prospect placement exam and ideally are placed into second year French where they will continue with the next level of the D'Accord! Curriculum.



GTT is off to a great start this year. We are in the second year of our three year curriculum roll-out. Last year everyone began with the first unit, Design and Modeling, which focused on the Design Process and 3D computer modeling. This year, the sixth graders continue this unit and our seventh and eighth graders move on to the second unit, Automation and Robotics. Our focus is on learning a bit about robots and really learning about nine gears and some ways in which they may be used. Students are barely at their seats as they work in cooperative groups to build gears, learn about gear ratio, and build mechanisms using the knowledge gained in earlier projects. Students are reporting an application of their creative skills while being challenged with a rigorous curriculum.

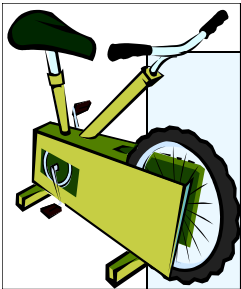
NEW CURRICULUM AT LINCOLN

Reading, Academic, and Math Support (RAMS) is a newly named course at Lincoln this year intended to assist students who have been identified as being at risk of falling below average norms on standardized assessments. In the past, there were three courses (called academic support, Math support, and Reading Support) but staffing reductions required our consolidation of these different support classes into one. The goal of the RAMS program is to implement interventions to students who show deficits in the areas of reading, mathematics, and motivation / organization. We will also work with students to help them set individual goals for their success. Students are identified for placement into this course through a problem solving process with the intention of targeted interventions to improve performance and develop skills for future success.



The social studies department is currently involved in a curriculum adoption. The students have been actively bringing *History Alive!* through experiential learning exercises and hands-on learning. The sequence of what is taught in each grade level has remained the same, however, the approach to how the students learn has shifted. We are bringing technology to the forefront of the students' learning in an attempt to increase their knowledge and use of *21st Century Skills*. One of the major changes we have experienced has been the use of an online textbook. Each classroom is

equipped with a classroom set of hardcopy textbooks, but the students are required to use a password and login in order to access the textbook at home. We are very excited with the direction our program is going, and we are excited to fully adopt our program next school year.



This year in Physical Education, your son or daughter will be pulled out of class once a week to engage in a new Wellness curriculum. In Wellness, they will learn about many different topics that are relevant to their well-being. These topics include: mental and emotional health, skills for a healthy life, relationships and promoting social health. The students will also attend presentations from Robert Crown and Health World. During these presentations the students will learn how to make smart choices and the impact these choices will have on their future.





OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

701 West Gregory Street - Mount Prospect, Illinois 60056

P (847) 394-7300 | F (847) 394-7311 | www.d57.org

Currently posted on the *Superintendent's Message* web page at <http://www.d57.org/superintendent>

Now that the school year is well underway, I would like to update you on how some of the changes we have made are impacting students. As you know, District 57 has had to make some tough cost-cutting decisions. Due to our District's comparatively low tax revenue base and many financial challenges brought on in large part by the tough economy, the School Board and Administration were forced to cut staff, restructure programs, increase class sizes, outsource services and raise student fees. These are changes that we had hoped to avoid. But I believe that for the most part, we balanced what's best for students with the need to be fiscally responsible.

A good example is the restructuring of the gifted program. We replaced it with a broader structure for providing enrichment. This was a cost-saving change; one teacher now coordinates enrichment and develops curriculum for both elementary schools. But it was not only about saving money. We built a new program that serves a greater number of students, targeting their unique abilities. Third through fifth graders attend math classes with customized curriculum; fourth and fifth graders receive differentiated reading and language arts instruction. The District also is piloting an online tool for high-level students in grades four and five. It determines kids' interests and how they learn best, then provides additional learning opportunities so they can take a "deeper dive" on some topics. We've received positive feedback about the tool from teachers and parents.

Another program that was restructured was sixth-grade Outdoor Education. The annual overnight trip to Wisconsin was replaced with Grade Six Mix, which was held during the school day on site at Lincoln. Creative Lincoln staff members designed a different kind of experience that was less costly but still beneficial for students. It was well received and accomplished the goals of team building and helping students adjust to middle school. The teachers gathered feedback and will meet to refine and enhance the program for next year.

The staff reductions resulted in some larger class sizes. This can be a challenging situation for the teachers and students. But fortunately, we were able to add elementary sections just before school started, based on enrollment figures, so many of the classrooms that would have been crowded are now a more appropriate size. Due to some of the changes that were made, space was made available at Fairview and Lions Park. One benefit is that there are now rooms that are ideal for teaching group band and orchestra lessons.

Another change that was particularly noticeable to parents was the increase in fees. We understand that it was difficult for families to pay more than they had in the past. But unfortunately, with the District's financial situation, it would have been impossible to maintain our quality without bringing in this additional revenue. Thankfully, the increased fees for student activities have not reduced participation levels. And some students in our music programs have received assistance from the Music Ensemble Scholarship Fund, which is run by a private community group. So far this year, the group has given out scholarships totaling more than \$3,000, allowing several students to continue participating in band, orchestra or choir.

Making cuts and restructuring programs in a school district is a very difficult thing to do. We would certainly have preferred to add to our programs rather than take away. But given the challenging situation, I believe our decisions and planning were sound, and we did what was necessary. And I am pleased that we have seen some successes so far this year. I would like to thank our Board of Education members for the important role they play. They are hard-working volunteers who put in countless hours.

I look forward to working with you to build on the progress we have made. And as we approach Thanksgiving, I want you to know that we in District 57 are so thankful for the patience, support and involvement of our staff members and parent community. Have a safe and happy Thanksgiving!

Elaine Aumiller, Superintendent of Schools

Thanksgiving and Winter Break Camp

Lattof YMCA is your place to go for
fun during the holiday breaks!

Thanksgiving and Winter Break Camp Ages 5+

Traditional camp activities such as crafts, sports, swimming, rock climbing & MORE!

November 21, 22 & 23 & December 19-23, 27-30

Fee: \$35 Member/\$50 Non Member when you register at least 5 days before camp date

\$40 Member/\$55 Non Member when you register within 5 days before camp date

TRAVEL Camp Ages 8+, Kids will travel to the following exciting locations!

November 21– Bowling

November 22 - Nickel City

November - Putting Edge

Fee: \$45 Member/\$60 Non Member when you register at least 5 days before camp date

\$50 Member/\$55 Non Member when you register within 5 days before camp date



Horseback Riding Camp Age 8-13

December 19-23

We Round'em up and Head'em on over to FOX CREEK INDOOR RIDING STABLES each day.

Early registration is recommended as this camp fills fast

Fee: \$350 Member/\$380 Non Member

Basketball Camp Age 8-13, December 26-30

Beginners as well as experienced players will have a great time. We end our day in the pool so don't forget to pack your bathing suit and towel!

Fee: \$200 Member/\$250 Non Member



Lattof YMCA
of Metro Chicago

FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®

FOR HEALTHY LIVING

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Greetings 8th Graders!

Hello 8th Graders and families,

The award-winning Prospect Band Program has just wrapped up another successful competition season with our marching band (including a Class 5A State of Illinois Championship!), and while we have plenty left to do this year, we're already looking ahead to next year. We would love for you to be a part of the band program and would love to tell you more about it. We would like to invite you to a meeting on:

Monday, November 28

7:00 PM

Band Room – Prospect High School

The band room is on the west side of the school and can be reached by entering Door 30 (the main entrance on that side of the school). You will turn left immediately through a set of gray double doors, then the band room is at the end of the hall on the left.

This meeting is meant to give you some important information about our band program and the type of student that excels as a member (hint: our program is all inclusive and includes students from all schools with all levels of experience!). The meeting is meant for all musicians (woodwinds, brass, and percussion) as well as anyone interested in joining the color guard. We will give you a brief overview of the Prospect band program as well as further information regarding scheduling, the commitment, and how we make it all work. We will also tell you how you can be involved in honors classes, athletics, more music groups, other school activities and still be a part of the band.

We will also have a few current Band Boosters there to talk to the parents about how the whole family can get involved in the experience. In addition, some of our current band students will be in attendance to talk about their experiences and being a part of the band program.

To learn more about the band, please visit our website at www.prospectband.com.

We hope to see you at the meeting on the 28th!

Chris Barnum

Director of Bands

Prospect High School

chris.barnum@d214.org