



DISTRICT 57 REPORT

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR SUPERINTENDENT

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- Trevor Hope
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As we approach the end of another successful school year, I want to thank our wonderful teachers and staff for working hard all year to make a difference for their students. I also thank our principals, who provide solid leadership for students, staff and parents. They go above and beyond every single day. And, of course, I congratulate Westbrook's Mary Gorr for her Outstanding Principal of the Year award. It's significant that she was nominated by parents and singled out among her peers throughout Illinois. We can all be proud that the Outstanding Principal for the entire state makes her home right here in District 57!

In addition, I thank our School Board members for volunteering countless hours to learning complex issues that affect education today and guiding our District so our schools excel. This year, Board members made an effort to inform and involve the community, by launching Community Conversations, discussing issues with constituents before Board meetings and making podcasts of the meetings available [online](#).

It's been a busy year of change, as we have implemented new English language arts and mathematics curriculum that conforms to the new Illinois Learning Standards. Many lessons now incorporate online learning, which is why making more computers available and expanding Internet access in the classrooms are top priorities (see stories on P. 2). Next year, we will start updating science and physical education so they are in line with the revised standards.

Another change coming next year is the return of Lincoln's activity bus. Many parents expressed an interest in this service being reinstated, so the Board recently approved the addition of two routes departing Lincoln at 3:50 p.m. (for paid bus riders). Also, the Board has approved a new provider of bus service, First Student. We are pleased with the safety record and service of this company.

Please take a few minutes to read the important information in this newsletter. And remember you can follow the District on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) to stay informed all year long. I hope you have a great summer! We look forward to seeing the students on Aug. 26 for the first day of the 2015-2016 school year!

Dr. Elaine Aumiller
 Superintendent of Schools
 Mount Prospect School District 57



CONGRATULATIONS, MARY GORR... PRINCIPAL OF THE YEAR FOR ALL OF ILLINOIS!

Westbrook principal Mary Gorr accepted her Outstanding Principal of the Year award at the Illinois PTA Annual Convention on April 18, accompanied by Westbrook PTA co-presidents Christy Hayashida (left) and Rebekah Stathakis. Illinois PTA gives this significant honor to one principal in the state each year. Gorr received the news of her win during a surprise announcement at school in March. She was nominated by Westbrook PTA for "making an extraordinary difference in the lives of our children." District 57 and the Mount Prospect community are so proud of Mrs. Gorr for this outstanding accomplishment!



To save resources, we are not printing this publication. Please help spread the word by asking your friends and neighbors to check it out at www.d57.org or on our social media channels.

See Page 4 for photos from District 57's spring fine arts programs!

TECHNOLOGY UPDATE

DISTRICT BRINGING ONLINE LEARNING OUT OF THE COMPUTER LAB AND INTO THE CLASSROOM

Technology is at the heart of 21st-Century learning, and many schools are racing to keep up with the demands that presents. District 57 is taking a proactive approach, by following an aggressive, multi-year plan that re-envision the role of technology in the classroom.

One goal is to maximize connectivity in the school buildings, so large groups of students can simultaneously take advantage of online learning opportunities. Currently, Internet access points are in the hallways, providing connections for about 30 computers at a time. But over the summer, all classrooms at Fairview and Lincoln will receive their own access points, so every student could potentially be online at the same time. Access points will be added to Lions Park in the summer of 2016, with Westbrook receiving some upgrades at that time as well. "This is a

necessary change, because so much of the new curriculum requires quick access to technology," says Trevor Hope, District 57 director of technology.

In addition, Fairview's computer lab will be converted into a second-grade classroom over the summer. The extra space is required because enrollment necessitates six sections of second grade at Fairview next year. A door to the hallway, white boards and coat hooks will be added to the space. The computers that are in the lab will go to Lincoln, and Fairview will receive new mobile devices in place of them. Hope says many schools are shifting from computer lab models to having technology in classrooms. "Mobile devices are getting cheaper, and it makes more sense for students to have them at their disposal in class, rather than going to a lab at a designated time during the week."

LINCOLN TO PROVIDE SOME STUDENTS WITH CHROMEBOOKS AS PART OF PILOT

Lincoln will launch a 1:1 Computer Ratio Pilot Program next school year, with students on the eighth-grade Jaguar team receiving Chromebooks to use at school and bring home in the evenings. The pilot initially was intended for honors geometry students, who traditionally have been bused to Prospect High School during the day for their math class. That class will be offered at Lincoln next year, and the students will require the use of Chromebooks. The decision was made to provide all Jaguar students with the computers, in order to gather data and determine if learning is enhanced by a 1:1 computer ratio (similar to Prospect's iPad program).

Dr. Susan Woodrow, assistant superintendent of curriculum and instruction, says many area middle schools already have a 1:1 computer ratio or are considering it. She says teachers in each subject will incorporate the Chromebooks into lesson plans, using them for in-class teaching, homework or both. The Chromebook integrates with Google Apps for Education, which provides free productivity and collaboration tools that Lincoln teachers and students already use.

Parents of students who are placed on the Jaguar team next year will receive detailed information about this pilot program.

Thank you, District 57 Education Foundation!

The Education Foundation is providing some of the Chromebooks that will be used in Lincoln's 1:1 Computer Ratio Pilot Program and many document cameras ("the 21st-Century version of the overhead"), plus funding teachers' grant requests. Thanks to everyone who supported the Evening for Education Gala!



SCIENCE CLUB NOW OFFERED TO LP'S YOUNGEST SCIENCE ENTHUSIASTS

The popular Lions Park Science Club was expanded to include second and third graders this school year, preparing them to become tomorrow's engineers and scientists. The new club for younger students was led by teacher Courtney Voss and volunteers from the Robert Bosch Tool Corporation (pictured). Fall and spring sessions will be offered again next year for 4th/5th graders and 2nd/3rd graders. (Photo by Courtney Voss, District 57.)

SCHOOL NEWS

MAJOR PARKING AND TRAFFIC-FLOW IMPROVEMENTS COMING TO WESTBROOK

As soon as students and staff depart Westbrook on the last day of school, construction crews will move in for the summer. They will immediately get to work expanding and enhancing the parking lot, in order to improve safety and address traffic congestion on school grounds and Busse Road. The work is expected to be completed by the start of next school year.

Last fall, the District purchased the property next to Westbrook. The house on the property was torn down a few months ago, and plans were drawn up for reconfiguring the parking lot. The improvements include adding about 40 parking spaces, adding another walking lane, expanding the area in front of the building to accommodate more people walking and gathering, widening the current entrance/exit on Busse, adding a new entrance/exit on Busse and adding a new entrance/exit on Central Road (one baseball diamond will be eliminated to make room for the drive to Central).

The plan requires the elimination of Westbrook's car drop-off lane, which contributes to lot congestion and backups on Busse. Parents will no longer pull in front of school

for staff members to escort children out of vehicles and into the building. Instead, the morning routine will resemble the afternoon, with parents parking and walking to their child's door. Westbrook will provide parents with detailed information about the new procedures and timing.

Nicholas & Associates, a Mount Prospect-based contractor, will manage the project. Dale Falk, District 57's assistant superintendent for finance and operations, says Westbrook, like most schools, could still have some traffic-flow issues after heavy snowfalls and on high-volume days, like the first week of school or concerts. But he says the project will solve the major issues that community members have expressed concern about. "We think that anyone who utilizes the parking lot or drives down Busse before and after school will welcome these changes."



ECDEC MOVING TO TIMBER RIDGE TO ALLEVIATE WESTBROOK CROWDING

Next school year, Westbrook's ECDEC preschool program, serving at-risk children, will move to Timber Ridge School, which is located next to Prospect High School and works with students who have special needs. Enrollment and space requirements have changed, and Westbrook currently is over capacity by two classrooms. Moving ECDEC addresses space challenges and makes it possible to deliver art in a classroom environment instead of on a cart.

"It's important to make more room at Westbrook in order to adequately deliver educational services to our students and accommodate their

needs," says Dr. Elaine Aumiller, superintendent of schools. She adds that ECDEC is not a District 57 program; it is funded by the Preschool for All Grant, through the Illinois State Board of Education.

ECDEC teachers will remain with the program at Timber Ridge, classroom materials will move to the new location, and the program will still be free to qualifying families within District 57 boundaries. ECDEC will now be overseen by the Northwest Suburban Special Education Organization (NSSEO). District 57 will still work closely with ECDEC staff and refer students to the program as necessary.

SUMMER CONSTRUCTION ROUNDUP

While the kids are at the pool, riding their bikes and enjoying the slow pace of summer, District 57 will be busy making needed repairs and improvements to their school buildings. In addition to the Westbrook parking lot construction, projects include the following:

- Former kindergarten classrooms at Fairview and Lions Park will be made more age appropriate for older students, by removing low islands and making more space for elementary school desks.
- Drainage improvements will be made around Lincoln and Westbrook, to more adequately move storm water away from the buildings.
- Old doors that have weak seals will be replaced.
- Security improvements will be made at all four schools.



DISTRICT 57 SALUTES ITS SPECIAL OLYMPICS HEROES!

Lincoln student Dhairap goes for the gold during the Special Olympics Spring Games on April 26 at Prospect High School. Six Fairview students and four Lincoln students participated in the games and brought many medals and lots of pride back to their schools. (Photo by Krissy Goebbert, District 57.)

THE ARTS IN FULL BLOOM THROUGHOUT DISTRICT 57 THIS SPRING

It's been a spring of painting, singing, dancing, acting and playing, as District 57 students have taken advantage of many opportunities to explore the arts. There were three musicals that packed the house and were met with rave reviews. There were concerts featuring chorus, band, orchestra and jazz ensembles -- playing in their schools and on tour. And student artists displayed their talents at the Westbrook Art Walk and Fairview and Lions Park Fine Arts Nights. These and other events at all four schools enabled students to showcase their fine arts abilities while their families cheered them on. The performances and exhibits were first rate!



Fairview fifth graders, under the direction of music teacher Lisa Loeffler, performed "Seussical, Jr." on April 23. Audiences from the school-day and evening productions gave two thumbs up to the students' rousing performances. (Photo by Sara Peterson, District 57.)



Lions Park fifth graders presented "The Moral of the Story," written by music teacher Carolyn Story and her husband, on Feb. 26. They performed the musical for their classmates during the day and again for families and the community that night, receiving thunderous applause both times. (Photo by Marnie Finder.)



The Lincoln Band, led by Greg Fudala, performed in the rotunda of the Springfield Capitol on April 10. The group then toured historic sites around Springfield.

Lions Park third graders gave their parents and grandparents a music lesson during the Recorder Playing Party, an annual spring event where students get to demonstrate what they've learned in music class. (Photo by Carolyn Story, District 57.)



In March, Westbrook students learned about the life and work of artist Henri Matisse, during an Art Appreciation Day sponsored by the PTA. They contributed their own cut-out shapes to three collaborative collage projects.



Lincoln packed the gym for two straight nights for its production of "Mary Poppins" on April 17 and 18. The cast and crew and teacher Leslie Thomas worked for months preparing the impressive production. (Photo by Ron Godby.)

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