



Spotlight on Woodland

2007-2008

A highlight of the achievements of the staff and students of
Woodland School District 50...

Woodland Elementary West teacher Jane Weiland was the recipient of a \$600 grant from the Suburban Council of the Illinois Reading Association. The Illinois Reading Council awards financial grants to local and special interest councils and individuals council members for the purpose of promoting literacy development in the school and community, and/or providing professional development opportunities related to the improvement of reading and writing instruction.

For the second year in a row, Illinois State Superintendent Christopher Koch announced that Woodland Middle School was one of approximately 80 schools recognized as a recipient of a 2007 Academic Improvement Award for Exemplary Gains in Performance on the Illinois Learning Standards. To earn the Academic Improvement Award, a school must have made significant academic improvement by either showing an improvement of at least 7.5 points in state test scores in both reading and math between 2006 & 2007; or showing an improvement of at least 15 points in state test scores in both reading and math between 2005 & 2007; and showing an upward trend in state test results. There are 4065 public schools in 871 districts in the state of Illinois.

The Gurnee Breakfast Exchange hosted a ceremony to dedicate a Freedom Shrine to Woodland Intermediate School this May. According to the National Exchange Club, the Freedom Shrine is a collection of 28 original, historic American documents photographically reproduced and displayed throughout America to remind its citizens that the freedom they enjoy today is the product of the determination and sacrifice of the courageous men and women of yesterday. The Shrine is an exclusive project of the National Exchange Club – a group of men and women working to make America a better place to live through one national project, Prevention of Child Abuse, and other community service projects.

Woodland Elementary East teacher Kerry Winston introduced a mock book award program with a twist. Known as the Calde-Cat Award, students chose their own Calde-Cat book winner. The award mirrors the Caldecott Award, which is a national award given to outstanding picture books of the year.

Woodland Primary School hosted a Kindergarten readiness workshop for area preschools this spring which was a continuation of articulations regarding kindergarten preparedness. Teachers and specialists from the Primary School conducted mini-workshops to provide preschool teachers with hands-on opportunities that consisted of several round-table discussions focusing on various topics for preschool teachers, with the goal of helping them prepare their children for kindergarten.

The Business and Education Partners program launched its second annual “Taste of College” in February. Designed for 8th graders, the program is intended to provide students with the opportunity to take classes and be exposed to area colleges in Lake County. In the fall of 2004, the Lake County Chamber of Commerce joined with Woodland School District 50, Gurnee School District 56, and Warren Township High School District 121 along with area colleges and universities in a partnership to support and promote public education in Lake County. BEPP was formed with a charge to enhance school/community relations through the support and partnership of area business leaders.

Woodland Elementary Schools partnered in a joint service project with area schools in honor of Valentine's Day to create unique cards for children at Children's Memorial Hospital and Christ Hospital.

Woodland Primary School continued its partnership with Warren Township High School to develop a program that focused on community service projects. The Students of Service program involves Warren students orchestrating meetings and functions for the entire school year. Projects ranged from visits to nursing homes, reading to children at KinderCare, crocheting caps for cancer victims and Christmas shopping for underprivileged children.

The following middle school students were named Gold Winners at the State Science Fair May 2 and 3 at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign: Kristen Koukol, Zachary Czosek, Kimberly Tsarpalas, Missy Mas, Mikaela Workman, Amrit Ayalur, Natalie Rossi, Stacey Dietrich, Emily Moran, Collin Valley, Lisiann Rodriguez, Neeta Abraham. The following students were named Silver Winners: Partner project: Haily Stephens & Caitlin Purdome Individual projects: Rachel Shoemaker, Julia Freeman, Natalie Amrozowicz, Amanda Falk, Jacklyn Stoller, Alexander Rastovac, Marquita Kenney, Olivia Stewart, Emma Castanos, Jenny Campbell. The following student received a Bronze award: Savannah Slater In addition, the following Woodland students received five special awards: Collin Valley from the American Nuclear Society - a book was donated to WMS library; Mikaela Workman - Marilyn Harris Award (Consumer Science division); Amrit Ayalur - Junior Division award from the North Central section of the Association of Environmental and Engineering Geologists, Runner up for the Outstanding Science Fair project award from ISAWWA and an invitation to present at their 2009 conference, and Most Outstanding Project in the Earth Science - Junior Division from the Illinois Junior Academy of Science.

Students of first grade teacher Nancy Constant's participated in a Seasonal Changes internet project. They partnered with other elementary classrooms in this global project which involves the collection of seasonal data that is then shared with students in different geographic areas. The Seasonal Changes internet project is sponsored by the Lakeland Central School District in the lower Hudson Valley of New York State.

In honor of American Heart Month and Valentine's Day, the Saving tiny Hearts Society began a service project last year (started by Sara Nanninga's class at Woodland Elementary East) to give a bit of cheer to ill children at Chicago's Children's Memorial Hospital.

Middle School students created place mats for the residents of Winchester House. During the first two weeks of April, the students donated change to make a donation to Winchester House in Libertyville. Raising over \$350, the money was used to purchase craft kits for the residents to assemble to help maintain dexterity during craft time. A portion of the donations were used to purchase 120 patriotic-themed place mats for the residents.

Students of Amy Winiacki's Elementary East classroom partnered with Deerfield High School in April. Continuing a tradition that began last year, the third grade classroom worked with physics students from Deerfield High School to conduct experiments relative to the Forces and Motion unit in science that Winiacki has been teaching this spring.

Community/media packets were introduced at Governing Board Meetings, beginning April 23. The community packets include additional detailed information regarding board agenda items. Electronic versions of the community packets will be made available online through the district's website, www.dist50.net, the day of the Governing Board Meeting. Hard copies will also be available the night of the meetings.

Woodland Intermediate students participated in a “Jump for Jerry” fundraiser to support fellow student, Tommy Odishoo. Their efforts raised \$3,000 to benefit the Muscular Dystrophy Association.

Four Woodland Middle School students were selected as winners of the Illinois Department of Public Health Asthma Calendar Contest: Jenelle Brodzik, DJ Caraballo, Brianna Tyler and Michelle Vaser. Over 360 drawings were received from 18 schools. Twenty-five drawings were selected for the calendar which centered around six themes: Helping Someone with Asthma, Asthma Triggers, Feelings about Asthma, Smoking, Activities and Miscellaneous Asthma Statements. Winners received prizes from the State of Illinois Health Department.

The following staff members from Woodland Community Consolidated School District 50 were recognized as recipients of the Alan Mann Tribute to Excellence in Education:

Certified Staff:

Amber Grubbs - Primary School
Kristi Blasius - Elementary East
Jenifer Haack - Intermediate East and Amy Miller - Middle School.

Support Staff:

Frank Dzik - Primary
J. Alexandra Antonelli - Elementary East
Cyndi Flanders - Intermediate
Paula Highland - Middle School
Mary Selle - ESC
Terry Kunde - Transportation

This recognition award is in its fourth year. In keeping with the district’s mission, vision and beliefs, the Alan Mann Tribute was expanded to recognize support staff as well as certified staff this year. A leader in business, politics and community service, Mann was known best for his dedication to the children of Woodland School District 50. Mann served on the Board of Education from 1992-1997 and from 1999 until his sudden death in 2001 at the age of 42. At the time of his death, Mann was serving as President of the Board of Education.

The following Woodland Middle School Band students participated in the 2007 Middle Level Band HonorFest held at VanderCook College of Music in Chicago on September 29: Tyler Hogleund, Oboe; Katie Szajkovics, Bb Clarinet; Josh Kosberg, Bassoon; March Chua, Trumpet; Jenna Westerberg, French Horn; Matthew Schmidt, Trombone; and Phillip Brahm, percussion. Woodland Middle School Band Director Elise Matussek chose the seven musicians based on Symphonic Band participation, previous attendance and musical abilities.

Over 92% of families proved residency the week of our first annual Proof of Residency event at the Middle School last August.

Two Woodland Middle School students were named winners of the Lions International Peace Poster Contest, sponsored by the Gurnee Lions Club. This year’s theme featured “Peace Around the World”.

First Place: Abigail Kosberg
Second Place: Marissa Rojas

The Woodland Educational Foundation awarded \$13,009.30 in grants to staff members, which were distributed at the end of the 2007-2008 school year:

- \$1,672, *Building a School of Readers*: Allison Murbach and Karen Moe-Stephens, on behalf of Woodland Primary
- \$1,650, *Auditory Language and the Reading Process*: Terry Derdiger, on behalf of the Elementary West LRC and students
- \$170, *I.C.E. Packs*: Kerry Winston
- \$2,000, *PicoCrickets*: Tim Trimble
- \$1,547, *Pay it Forward Program for Girls*: Tim Tyrell, on behalf of Woodland Intermediate School
- \$715, *Giant Floor Map Kit*: Adrienne Barkhurst, on behalf of the Middle School 8th grade social studies teams
- \$382.25, *Making Math Modern & Fun*: Jennifer Stiles
- \$4,873.05, *I Said No!*: Pardess Mitchell, on behalf of the Middle School health staff

Janet Spencer was this year's recipient of the Redwood Award. Due to her quick reaction, she helped to save a fellow staff member. The Woodland Redwood award was first established in 2000. It honors those who have distinguished themselves through extraordinary community service. The Redwood Award is aptly named in recognition of the Redwood trees, whose growth and survival are based on the combined support of one another to perpetuate a strong and healthy community. Previous award recipients saved a child from choking, raised money to help a local family in need and raised money for many families devastated by Hurricane Katrina. This award is not given out every year; only when the circumstances merit.

Middle School 8th Grader Lauren Furmanski was this year's recipient of the Tom Morris Scholarship. Established in 2006, the Tom Morris Scholarship is based on the selection of a student that exemplified qualities that the late Board President deeply valued: community service, serving as a mentor to peers and setting a positive example for others.

Elementary West second graders planted their 5th Annual Harvest Garden in May. The harvest garden is a unique opportunity to blend students, families and the community together in a project. It involves a culmination of curriculum and is a hands-on project that shows the importance of teamwork, responsibility and giving. Last year, students donated more than 900 pounds of vegetables to the Warren Township food pantry." The garden project complements classroom science lessons and the school's emphasis on core values. Educators will provide an in-garden "field trip" for the children, teaching them what plants need to thrive and produce vegetables. As returning third graders in the Fall, students will tour the mature garden and harvest some vegetables. This project could not happen without the support through the years of Gurnee Park District, Lake County Farm Bureau, Warren Township, and the Gurnee locations of Wal-Mart, Ace Hardware, T.G.I Fridays, Target, and The Home Depot. A team of parent volunteers and school staff manage the classroom planting kits, garden tilling & composting, mulching, and planting days. In addition, families have volunteered to water and weed the garden throughout the summer.
