Dear District 65 Colleagues,

As we close out this school year, let us take a breath and reflect upon how much we have accomplished toward ensuring that our students are excelling and will be prepared to answer the demands of careers not yet designed in a world that is constantly changing. Our profession has changed tremendously over the past several years. Education reform in Illinois and across the nation are designed with one goal in mind – to better prepare students for a future that we cannot predict. I know that is a goal we can support!

As a district, we have adopted goals and implemented programs designed to improve our student outcomes. We want our students to be successful. Stronger accountability, higher expectations for students, and the shift to common core state standards designed to help children be college and career ready are now part of our everyday language. We know more will be expected of schools, districts, and public employees in the coming years. Among other things, greater economic demands will be placed upon Illinois school districts as part of the pension reform now pending before the state legislature. Our goal is to meet these demands, honor the values of our school community, and try to preserve our most important resources – the human capital we invest in the education of the students we serve. We will work diligently this summer to continue plans for next year and future years so that we can do just that.

In just a few short days, we will reach the end of this school year. I know that soon many of you will be off to enjoy summer vacations and time with family and friends. Before you leave for the summer, we will have one last celebration of staff – the celebration of our retirees. On this occasion we gather to acknowledge years of service and express our appreciation for all they have done for the families and students we serve. The dedication of educational professionals, support staff, school and central office supports is what we celebrate. We do not know where the road may take you in your retirement journey, and we offer you our very best wishes for continued happiness and future health.

Hardy Murphy, Ph.D.
Superintendent of Schools
Tenure

Your four-years of service in District 65 have earned you tenure and the title “veteran” teacher. We celebrate you and ask you to share your expertise so that all our students benefit from what you learned in your initiation years as a District 65 teacher.
### Celebrating our Teachers

Evanston Skokie District 65 Presents its Newly Tenured Teachers

#### Alice Morse School
- Ted Chang, Spanish
- Michael Fosco, PE
- Elizabeth Gates, Math
- Sherri Kushner, Media Arts
- Wendy Mokranowski, Special Ed
- Tania Price, PE
- Juliana Reinhart, Math

#### Dearborn Elementary School
- Laura Dziubelak, Social Worker
- Kim Hamilton, 1st Grade
- Kim Jackson, Instructional Intervention

#### Dwight Elementary School
- Katerina Burrows, Psychology
- Steven Fries, 4th Grade
- Jennifer Hancock, Kindergarten
- Brigitte Hellenbeck, Music
- Reshela Laschek, Learning Resource
- Jocelyn Naszynski, 1st Grade
- Kate Szczepanik, Drama

#### Evanston Township School
- Kathleen Applegate, PE
- Tracy Peterson, Math
- Melissa Harris, Media Arts
- Christina Myros, Math
- Megan Newberry, Reading
- Alina Romanuik, Language Arts/Reading
- Cecilia Romero, Bilingual

#### Gage Park Elementary School
- Kristin Mitchell, Kindergarten
- Heather Rios, Kindergarten

#### Gage Park Elementary School
- Ashlee Greene, Kindergarten
- Sandra Israel, 1st Grade
- Jared Johnson, 4th Grade
- Brooke Mertens, Art

#### Lincoln Elementary School
- Anna Marie Laszkowski, 1st Grade
- Kimberly McKay, 8th Grade
- Jennifer Ruben, Speech
- Amy Wirtz, Library Media
- Alexa Wilson, Special Ed

#### Lincolnwood Elementary School
- Corinne O'Reilly, PE

#### Logan Elementary School
- Aubrey Benefiel, Language Arts/Social Studies
- Leah Die-Stark, Bilingual
- Vincent Finnegan, Math
- Matthew Hollander, Special Ed Bilingual
- Melissa Molinar, Music

#### Loganville Elementary School
- Catherine Doyle, 2nd Grade
- Kyle Gesell, PE
- Karen Joseph, ACC-2nd Grade
- Monica Orendor, 4th-5th Grade

#### Orrington Elementary School
- Lauren Colwell, 1st Grade
- Gloria Iverson, Special Ed
- Rebecca Waller, Kindergarten

#### Perry Elementary School
- Marci Miles, Special Ed

#### Riske Elementary Magnet School
- Tracy Hubbard, Library Media
- Simone Tenor, Special Ed

#### RTF
- Tara Meier, Speech

#### RTF
- Jennifer Parent, Pre-K

#### Sandburg Elementary School
- Bridget McGaughey, ESL
- Carrie O'Connell, Reading
- Kathleen Rauh, Library Media

#### Washington Elementary, PK
- Patricia Connolly, Library Media
- Meghan Kelly, Social Worker
- Carolyn Koegler, TWI-1st Grade
- Regina Laszkowski, TWI-2nd Grade
- Katrina Mueller, Speech
- Connie O'Brien, Reading
- Natali Sanchez, Special Ed
- Kristin Van Leeuwen, TWI-3rd Grade

#### Whitt Elementary School
- Elyse Starel, Special Ed
We often hear that District 65 is a place where other educational professionals come to observe and learn. Our most recent visitor is from Uganda and is an active member of the International Reading Association.

Samuel Andema, from Kyambogo University in Uganda, is an active member of the International Reading Association (IRA). Recently he was in town for the annual IRA conference where many Evanston teachers and hundreds of literacy experts came together to share best literacy practices and research. District 65’s Literacy and Early Childhood Education Director, Ellen Fogelberg (soon to be the Interim Elementary Assistant Superintendent for District 65), and Literacy Coaches, Viki Lydon, Lisa Levy, and Kristina Utley, were among the presenters. Their presentation with Donna Ogle, a National-Louis University professor who has been working with District 65 teachers, was about the Partner Reading Content Too (PRC2) work happening across the District.

When Dr. Andema asked to visit American schools while in the area, it was suggested he come to District 65. Samuel visited Haven and Dewey, and commented on the higher level thinking he saw students exhibit. He was impressed with how students take so much ownership for their learning and talked about how incredibly impressed he was with the teachers and the discussions that took place between them and the students.

When asked about Samuel Andema, Donna Ogle said, "Samuel Andema is an amazing person so I am delighted there can be a piece about his visit.” He has been active in the International Reading Association (IRA) for many years. He first represented Uganda in our African conferences, then was elected Chair of the African Development Committee of IRA, and for the past 3 years has been Chair of the International Development Committee of IRA. During the time he was chairing the African Development Committee some IRA members from the University of British Columbia in Vancouver met him and heard him speak about the issues of literacy in Uganda. They helped him secure a scholarship to attend the University to pursue his Ph.D. and he took advantage of it taking his wife and 2 children with him for a year in Vancouver (2010-11). His dissertation is on the implementation of technology in elementary classrooms. He is working with pre-service teachers at the University and documenting what they are finding valuable in their teaching. He is one of only two teacher educators at the university (Kayambogo, in Kampala, Uganda) with advanced degrees and his work is enormous because all teacher education emanates from this university.

Information and photo submitted to the Communications Office by District 65 Literacy Coach, Kris Utley
Introducing “Dr.” Jannette Hardman

Jannette Hardman, 2nd grade teacher at Dr. Bessie Rhodes Magnet School, can easily empathize with her students for whom she has very high expectations. For the past six years “Ms.” Hardman has been working hard as a student and writer to gain her doctorate, a feat she has just completed. She not only completed her doctorate, but also completed requirements for a superintendent’s certificate. Her Doctor of Education degree is from National-Louis University in Educational Leadership. Dr. Hardman said that this has been one of the hardest things she has ever done and she is looking forward to her graduation ceremony on June 23rd.

Dr. Hardman’s dissertation, Searching for Ma’at, a Case Study of One African Centered School, helped in her understanding that an African Centered school is something that should be looked at and applied. The philosophy of high expectations and affirmation are what it takes to move students to excellence in achievement while instilling in them the values that will carry them throughout their lives. The principles of Ma’at are truth, justice, harmony, balance, order, reciprocity, and propriety. Living these principles that touch every aspect of life and instill the confidence to learn and grow to be your very best are the philosophy of Ma’at.

When asked about how this advanced degree changes her career trajectory, Dr. Hardman said she sees herself first as an advocate for children. She thinks of herself more like Marva Collins or Marian Wright Edelman, both of whom are African American educators and activists whose passion and purpose is for the rights of children. She sees all of her students as her own children and sought this degree because she believes that it will help her continue to advocate for children.

In the accompanying photo, Dr. Hardman is shown at the school-wide celebration organized by Felicia Reyes –Portner to recognize Jannette’s accomplishment.

Legislators Invited to see the Benefits of PBIS

Dewey, Lincoln and Washington are among the schools selected by Illinois PBIS Network as visitation sites for legislators or others. Legislators are invited to see how PBIS makes a difference in improving school climate. The program goals are to expedite positive student outcomes through systematic application of evidence-based practices and data-based decision making.

District 65 was an early adopter of PBIS, when training began in 2002 with PBIS as the model to help improve school climate and enhanced learning through reinforcement and acknowledgement of positive behaviors.

“Our district and schools repeatedly have been recognized for successful implementation by the PBIS Network of Illinois over the years” said Superintendent Murphy. He added that “while the recognition is rewarding, the way that PBIS helps improve the school culture and learning environment through positive rewards is the real benefit of the program.”
Reach For the Stars

Northwestern University Geology Graduate Student Emily Wolin works with 6th graders (Terrence Scott-Gibson, Xavier Rivera, Jacob Cvetas) in Marie Breitenstein's science classroom at Chute Middle School. Ms. Wolin is a Graduate Fellow in the Reach for the Stars, National Science Foundation Program. The program places a graduate student in a classroom for a full year to collaborate with the teacher on developing inquiry lessons and sharing his/her professional research with teacher and students. We are pleased to announce that Marie Breitenstein will be serving as a teacher fellow in the program again next year.
Earth Day Contest Winners

District 65 had outstanding participation in this year’s Earth Day Contest sponsored by Keep Evanston Beautiful. This year’s topic was Trees, and students were encouraged to submit essays, art work, poetry or other creative works. More than 350 entries were received from schools in the Evanston community, including Willard, Lincoln, King Lab, Kingsley, Walker, Dewey, and Bessie Rhodes. Walker School students submitted over 100 entries, winning a Chanticleer Pear tree for planting in their school garden. Several District 65 students were individual grade level winners, including students from Nan Stein’s (Dewey), Maria Torres’s (Willard), and Mary Slattery’s (Walker) classes.

Engage! Imagine Peace in Evanston

Chute, Nichols and King Lab students participated in Engage! Imagine Peace in Evanston, a project to imagine their school communities and Evanston as peaceful places without violence. Students were encouraged to explore and give a voice to their own visions of peace through creative activities and discussions about peace, violence, and kindness.

“Led by teachers, librarians and Integrated Arts faculty, each school developed different approaches to these conversations resulting in amazing and moving projects,” said Laura Antolín, Children’s librarian at the Evanston Public Library. “It was an honor to work with these talented teachers and students.”

Peaceable Cities 2020

In a fine art, literacy, and civic event funded by Foundation 65 and administered by the Evanston Public Library, Nichols Middle School students created 8th grade poetry assemblies, student murals (including the Engage! Imagine Peace in Evanston mural selection shown in the accompanying photo), created student peace surveys, animations for peace, and created original music compositions.

“Engage! Imagine Peace in Evanston” is a joint project funded by Foundation 65 for students at Chute, King Lab and Nichols in partnership with the Evanston Public Library. The grant was written to engage middle school students in the vision of Evanston as a PeaceAble city by 2020, a goal articulated by PeaceAble Cities: Evanston.
Giving of ourselves

**Wellness Education takes a Walk**

Maggie Walker, a second year special education teacher at Haven Middle School, was thrilled when Louis Jones, Haven’s PE teacher, wanted to re-institute Haven’s walk-a-thon this year. The theme and donations help support a cause close to her heart.

This year’s walk-a-thon was established to engage the minds and bodies of middle schoolers as they learned about competition and charitable giving. Ms. Walker shared the story about her father who was diagnosed with Metastatic Melanoma and the cancer spread from his chest to his lungs and into his brain. Based on her story, the group decided to help raise money for the American Brain Tumor Association. The grade level who raised the most pledges gained bragging rights and a pizza party sponsored by Maggie’s father and Bucks for Breakthrough Challenge. The challenge was for students to donate coins to add money to their own grade level team and put dollar bills in the other grades to take away from them. The lucky winners this year, were the 6th graders! Over $7000 was raised and the proceeds were split between the American Brain Tumor Association and toward building a track at Haven. Haven plans to continue the walk-a-thon next year, and supporting another very worthy charity.

**Supporting literacy at school and home**

Willard School continues its annual Literacy Basket program, giving selected families a basket of books to help their children build an at-home library. The program is in its ninth year. Since its inception, over 80 Willard School families received baskets of books. Willard staff members who worked on this year’s project include Elvia Leon, Helen Leung, Jasmine Sebaggala, Joyce Shimada, and Michelle Thurnston. The program was made possible this year by the generous donations from Jacklin K. Salon.

**Lunch Special at Lincolnwood**

In April, Lincolnwood 5th graders gave up their lunch and recess time to make lunches for people in need. Students worked at different stations, either making peanut butter and jelly sandwiches, decorating paper lunch bags, writing notes to place inside the lunch bags, or assembling the lunches, which included fruit and granola bars. Lunches for 200 people were donated to Connections for the Homeless, an Evanston-based organization that works to support those who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless. Food and supplies were generously provided by 5th grade parents. This was the wood 5th graders. Supplies Wholefoods, and Costco.
**Haven Teacher the recipient of academic award**

Haven Middle School Physical Education teacher, **Kathleen Applegate** has been named a recipient of the American Kinesiology Association (AKA) Graduate Scholar Award. The award is presented to graduate students who demonstrate an exceptional interest in the field of kinesiology and possess personal qualities that lend themselves to assuming a leadership position in the profession. Masters’ nominees had to have attained an overall GPA of at least 3.50 on a 4 point scale.

The AKA Graduate Scholar award was presented to Kathleen due to a presentation she gave at the AAHPERD national convention last year and the article she published about RtI and PE, her work with PBIS at Haven, her assistance with the District 65 PE curriculum based assessments, and curriculum, as well as her 3.85 GPA. Congratulations on this well-deserved recognition!

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**Chute Teacher receives fellowship in Los Angeles**

Chute Middle School Art teacher and Art Department Chairperson, **Cindy Adler**, was selected from a national pool of candidates to receive a summer fellowship to attend the Korea Academy for Educators in Los Angeles, California.

Cindy will spend the week studying Korean culture, customs, and politics. Congratulations!

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**ECF Awards D65 Grants**

District 65 is the recipient of two Evanston Community Foundation grants. One will bring an additional $8,000 to support the 21st Century Community Learning Centers. This grant, written by **Myra Janus**, will be used in the coming school year to support the District’s partnership with 21st Century Community Learning Centers program. The other is $5,260 grant called the Lake Dance grant will be used to support the science curriculum. Written by Clare Talion Ruen, an Oakton School parent who developed a way to help children understand the ocean in an environment where they only have access to a lake. The grant funds help expand the opportunity for third graders to better understand the FOSS section on the ocean using Ms. Ruen’s play-based approach with elements of dance, movement, and drama to engage students as they move though the water cycle curriculum. These grants were accepted by Ms. Janus and **Melanie Mudarth**, on behalf of the District at a special ceremony earlier this month.
Chute and Dewey students capture top awards in digital contest

Dewey and Chute Middle School students, accompanied by teachers, Sherri Kushner (Chute) and Nan Stein (Dewey), visited the Governor’s Mansion in Springfield on May 7th. They were recognized for their 1st place awards in the Illinois Youth Digital Safety Contest.

Chute 8th grader, Yuli Salgado, and the Dewey 2nd grade team of Daniel Anyaso, Ella Armstrong, Maddy Elliott, Jaya Field, Jayden Fogel, Lula Garfield, Adam Hammock, Clare Kennedy, Itzel Leon, Madeleine Matsis, Connor Mitchell and Ryan O’Hara all took first place across different categories and grade levels in the contest sponsored by the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) and Illinois Attorney General’s Office. The contest was designed to help youth understand and convey the importance of recognizing and speaking out against bullying, racism, and violence.

Yuli Salgado is the 1st place winner in the ISBE Digital Safety Poster contest. Yuli’s poster, "I Speak Out", focused on the theme of bystander intervention and speaking out against bullying, racism, and violence.

The Dewey second graders named above created the 1st place video. As shown in the accompanying photo, Madeleine Elliott, Ella Armstrong Matz, Jayden Fogel, Clare Kennedy, Ryan O’Hara and Connor Mitchell accompanied their teacher, Ms. Stein, to Springfield to accept the award. All participating Dewey students, their siblings and parents were also invited to enjoy a mini-classroom celebration after school on the last Wednesday in May.

The winning poster and video are available along with more information about the competition at: www.isbe.net/news/2012/may7.htm.
King Lab’s “Diving Dolphins” are the 23rd Annual D65 Battle of the Books Champs

Maple Conn, a Chute Middle School seventh grader, is one of two winners in the inaugural “Funville” contest sponsored by the Kiwanis Club of Evanston. Funville challenged middle and high school students to develop ideas that accomplish change.

Winners were presented with a $250 award at the Kiwanis breakfast at Evanston Township High School on May 15th.

Maple Conn’s award winning entry proposed CAB, (Community Against Bullying) and will receive the Dr. Robert Storm award. Maple noted that bullies aren’t fun but learning to deal with them can be. She proposed that kids sign a CAB contract that will give them the confidence to stop bullies, help victims, and feel supported. She noted that the ideas could work at school or in any community setting and recommended an improvisation setup with role playing to help kids know they’re not alone in standing up to bullies.

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Another Chute Advanced Art student received high honors and recognition of her talents when her artwork (shown left) was featured on the big screen display at the National Art Education Conference last March. Julie Williams is the talented artist of this beautiful piece that also was on display on the website for the National Consortium for Teaching about Asia.

Submitted by Cindy Adler, Chute Middle School Art Teacher
District 65 Mission Statement:
Educating each student to succeed in and contribute to our global community by cultivating creativity, compassion, and the pursuit of excellence.

June Events:
- June 4 - Working Board of Education meeting 7:00 p.m. JEH Education Center
- June 11 - Board Finance Committee Meeting – at 6:00 JEH Education Center
- June 18 - Board of Education regular monthly meeting at 7:00 p.m. JEH Center

District 65 mourns the loss of Mrs. Patric Mia Mitchell, former principal of Bessie Rhodes Magnet School. Mrs. Mitchell passed away on May 24th from cancer. Her family will hold a private service with plans for a memorial on Saturday, June 2nd at St. Mark’s Church. During her almost 30 years of service to District 65 families, Mrs. Mitchell touched the lives of so many. She began her career in the District as a kindergarten aide in 1980, went on to become a Walker School teacher, a central office administrator, and school principal first at Dewey Elementary (from 1991 to 1998), and then at Bessie Rhodes (formerly Timer Ridge) Magnet School from 1998 until her retirement in 2009.

Mrs. Mitchell touched the lives of so many teachers, administrators, students, and families in this district that many of us feel we were part of her family. We offer our condolences to her family.

Stay connected with District 65 this summer
Visit us on the web at www.district65.net
http://twitter.com/#!/@district65

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