

FOCUS

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2009 HONORS AND AWARDS

The school year concludes with a host of outstanding student achievements. Here are just a few of this year's many highlights: *19 EPHS Class of 2009 students are Illinois State Scholars; The EPHS DECA Business Club is the only Illinois high school DECA chapter to achieve the Diamond Award for Excellence in promoting marketing and entrepreneurship; DECA Advisor Karen Bear received the National Outstanding 2009 DECA Advisor Award, while DECA students won state, national and international recognition in the Career Development Conference; a Division II rating for the Elmwood Park High School Band at the Illinois High School Association Band Contest; 13 winners in Triton College's High School Juried Art Competition; one student from each school is a "School Citizen of the Year" award recipient for being "a good role model for other students"; several members of the elementary school Speech and Drama Team earned a first place award for their performance in the regional Speech and Drama Festival; the Girls' Varsity Soccer Team is the Metro Suburban Conference Champion; three students, one from each elementary school and the middle school, are the National Geographic Geography Bee school winners; the district has one elementary Spelling Bee champion; two elementary students are winners in the Illinois Zaner-Bloser Handwriting Contest and went on to national competition; 126 fourth through sixth grade students took top 100 honors, and 15 students took top 10 honors in the Newsbowl current events national competition; 132 elementary school students celebrated Abraham Lincoln's two-hundredth birthday by building Lincoln Log cabins; hundreds of elementary students participated in Family Reading Night each month, and hundreds of elementary students were enrolled in the Young Authors Program.*

Class of 2009 Elmwood Park High School graduates received scholarships to many colleges and universities, including Loyola, Princeton, DePaul, Dominican, University of Illinois (Urbana-Champaign), University of Iowa, Brigham Young, Triton, Lake Forest, Elmhurst, Northern Michigan and the University of Illinois, Chicago. Congratulations to all of the Elmwood Park CUSD 401 achievers!

ELMWOOD PARK HIGH SCHOOL

Valedictorian and Salutatorian

At the top of the EPHS Class of 2009 are Valedictorian *Urszula Koziarz* and Salutatorian *Christopher Remele*. Her grade point average was 4.556 and his 4.391 on a four-point scale.

Class of 2009 Academic Scholarships

Elmwood Park High School graduates were honored for their scholastic, athletic, and civic achievements. Scholarships and the students who earned them include: *Jane Aumiller Memorial Scholarship* for attendance at Triton College—*Santiago Barrientos*. *National Honor Society Scholarship*, Harold Grothen Chapter—*Christopher Remele, Ryan Schmidt*. *Elmwood Park Women's Club Scholarship* for academic achievement and school/community involvement—*Catherine-Margot (Trina) Ruiz, Teresa Bernard, Patricia Elizaga, Christopher Remele*. *TAPA Scholarships* to seniors who earned a 3.5 GPA or higher, were active in at least one school activity, and whose parents are TAPA members—*Brianna Kucera, Ioana Munteanu, Deanna Silvestri, Shannon Sweezy, Sylwia Zalewski*. *Elmwood Park Educational Team E.P.E.T. Scholarship* in memory of James F. Murawska and James H. Roche, to individuals who have excellent grades and are good citizens—*Patricia Elizaga, Catherine-Margot (Trina) Ruiz*. *Cynthia Schulze Memorial Scholarship* to a girl who is most active in sports and other school activities—*Amme Brennan*. *Peter N. Silvestri Scholarship* for academic achievement, school/community involvement and planning a public service career—*Katarzyna Szymanska*. *Mont Clare-Elmwood Park Kiwanis Club*

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The district's first Health and Fitness Jamboree was a great success! See story on page 3. (Right): At the Health and Fitness Jamboree, representatives from one of the many participating health-related businesses provided information on dental health.



Dedicated Teachers Retire

Thirteen dedicated teachers are retiring. Many have taught in District 401 since the 1970s! (Also see the accompanying article on the district's retiring administrators.) Thousands of Elmwood Park children have benefited from these teachers' knowledge and expertise. Amazingly, the teachers have collectively given nearly 400 years of service to the district! In appreciation and best wishes for a happy, healthy retirement, the entire EPCUSD 401 community salutes these veteran teachers (the year they were hired follows their information):

Diana Berndt, Third Grade Teacher, John Mills School, 1975.

Char Conner, Special Education, Elmwood School, 1996

Janet Derber, Seventh Grade Math Teacher, Elm School, 1978.

Mary Ann Erbach, Second Grade Teacher, John Mills School, 1970.

Pat Fadz, Seventh Grade Language Arts Teacher, Elm School, 1985.

Darlene Gray, English as a Second Language/Polish Language Teacher, Elmwood School, 1973.

Joanne Hoffmann, Fifth Grade Teacher, Elmwood School, 1973.

Sue Laurence, First Grade Teacher, Elmwood School, 1972.

Coral Murphy, Reading Specialist, Elmwood School, 1990.

Jo Olenec, Sixth Grade Teacher, Elmwood School, 1997.

Sally Sutherland, Fifth Grade Teacher, Elmwood School, 1975.

Renee Swain, Fifth Grade Teacher, John Mills School, 1974.

Char Uney, English Teacher, Elmwood Park High School, 1973.

Administrators Bid Farewell

Two long-term administrators whose hard work has helped shape the district's success are retiring:

Assistant Principal Peter Binder, Elmwood Park High School and **Early Childhood Center Director Nancy Serpico**.

Peter Binder, who will retire in September, has served the district for 31 years, working as Elmwood Park High School's Assistant Principal for the past eight years and previously as a teacher. Throughout the years, he taught Physical Education/Health at John Mills



EPHS Assistant Principal Peter Binder

School, Math and Drivers Education at EPHS. But for many former students he is better known simply as "Coach Binder." He was the head boys' track coach (21 years), assistant football coach (16 years) and varsity football coach (7 years). Under his watch, the track team won eight conference championships and two sectional championships. As assistant football coach, he led two teams to conference championships and state playoffs. He mentored many talented athletes, including Mike Greenfield, who went on to become a Northwestern University Wildcats quarterback and a Minnesota Vikings draftee.

Although he stepped down from coaching to become an administrator, Mr. Binder never stopped participating in EPHS athletic events. He keeps the scorebook and has announced basketball games, "works the chains" (part of officiating) at football games, and serves as clerk during track meets. "His advice and mentoring have been invaluable to me and to many of the coaches," Athletic Director Douglas Noyes stated, "Pete's shoes are too big to fill."

Nancy Serpico worked in District 401 for 21 years. She most recently served as the Director of the Early Childhood Center, a position she held for seven years. She also served as a kindergarten teacher. She



ECC Director Nancy Serpico

believes the district is always striving to find new ways to reach students and to see that each child gets the help he/she needs. She is very proud of having held the position of Early Childhood Center Director.

"I will miss my staff, as we are truly a family," Mrs. Serpico stated. "I will miss the innocence of the young children. However, I will now be able to take a vacation any time I want!"

Nancy Serpico's district roots run very deep. She and her husband, Donald, have resided in Elmwood Park for over 45 years. The couple began dating when they were EPHS students. Now married for nearly 38 years, the couple and their three children are all EPHS graduates. Their children also attended Elmwood School and Elm Middle School.

The entire District 401 community extends its appreciation to Mrs. Serpico and Mr. Binder.

2009 HONORS AND AWARDS *Continued from page one...*

Scholarship—Katarzyna Szymanska. John Mills PTA Scholarship for a student who plans a career in education and has a 3.0 GPA—**Michelle Knight.** EPHS 50th Anniversary Committee Scholarship to a boy and a girl involved in school activities, with a minimum 3.0 GPA, who exemplify the TIGER spirit—**Anwar Abdallah, Ryan Schmidt.** Elmer Conti Memorial Scholarship presented by the Regular Republicans Women’s Club for high academic achievement and planning a public service career—**Xochitl Cervantes.** Carl Fiorito Memorial Scholarship presented by Leyden Township—**Michelle Knight.** Auxiliary of Regular Republicans Voter League Scholarship for academic achievement and extracurricular involvement—**Xochitl Cervantes, Jessica Sabella.** Raymond Roehri Memorial Scholarship to a community-minded student pursuing math/science in college, emphasis on engineering—**Cayla Suarez.** Dr. Sharon J. Kaczmarek Scholarship for special achievements—**Chiara Birardi.** DECA Scholarship, presented by the Illinois Foundation for Marketing Education—**Christopher Remele.**

Athletic Scholarships

The Maroons Soccer Club Scholarship considers students with a 3.0 GPA, who are involved in sports for four years—**Vanessa Ortiz, Patrizia Vassallo, Eric Dean, Matt French.** Dr. Frank McKinzie Scholarship to students who significantly contribute to the sports program, put the team first over self, and have the respect and encouragement of fellow team members—**Katarzyna Szymanska, Miguel Garcia.** Booster Club Scholarship for outstanding students who were involved in two sports each year of high school and will attend a four-year college—**Allison Filbin, Brianna Kucera, Christopher Remele, Matt French.**

ELM MIDDLE SCHOOL, EIGHTH GRADE CLASS OF 2009

*27 students were recognized by the National Junior Honor Society for academic and civic achievement; 30 students scored in the top 10% nationally in Northwestern University’s Midwest Academic Talent Search; 10 students had Perfect Attendance during the 2008-2009 school year; Principal’s List for the highest academic achievement every quarter of the school year—***Michaeline Anglemire, Wesley Calderon, Enrique Ceppi, Agnieszka Knych, Alexa Ohm, Zyrika Pellumb, Elliott Perez, Sydney Pesko, Mavi Santana, Joseph Stocco, Kamil Trestka, Gabrielle Uvelli, Stephanie Vujnovich.** EIGHTH GRADE SUBJECT AWARDS—Art: **Aldrin Lobrin;** Band Director’s Award: **Jessica Kouloumbus;** Computer Applications: **Scott Schaefer;** ELL: **Weronika Polska;** Language Arts: **Aleksandra Czulak, Katelyn Hand, Agnieszka Knych;** Mathematics: **Jessica Grabowski, Mavi Santana, Joseph Stocco;** Physical Education: **Michal Godlewski, Carrie Pilman;** Science: **Alexa Ohm, Jessica Rippel;** Social Studies: **Jose Delvalle, Michael Koziarz;** Spanish Language: **Michaeline Anglemire;** Cougar Pride Award—**Joanna Bukowinski, Mitchell Cervantes, Zyrika Pellumb.**

Health and Fitness Jamboree

Hundreds of community residents flocked to the district’s first Health and Fitness Jamboree held at Elmwood Park High School on the evening of March 10. There, they discovered an abundance of health-related information presented by local healthcare providers, dentists, chiropractors and nutritionists. Attendees had the opportunity to participate in athletic and fitness activities such as scaling a climbing wall, doing pull ups, shooting hoops, playing field hockey, riding a stationary bike and more. They could watch performances and presentations from dancers, martial artists, wrestlers, a professional jump roper, and others. Young children especially enjoyed the inflatable moonwalk castle and slide that was among the evening’s highlights. Parents also had the opportunity to learn about the many athletic opportunities available to Elmwood Park High School students.



A climbing wall was among one of many Health and Fitness Jamboree activities.

Registration for the 2009-2010 School Year

Elmwood Park CUSD 401 will have mail-in registration for the 2009-2010 school year. Parents will receive registration packets by mid-July. They will also have the opportunity to register their student(s) on August 4 and 5 from 2:00 to 7:00 PM in the Elmwood Park High

School gym. Registration fees were set by the Board of Education. (Note that fees are higher if paid after the August 5 deadline. These fees are in parentheses. There is no increase to Sophomore Behind the Wheel training or other optional fees.)

Registration Fees

Grades One Through Six: **\$142 (\$167)**
 Grade Seven: **\$129 (\$154)**
 Grade Eight: **\$164 (\$189)**
 Elmwood Park High School: **\$285 (\$310)**

Optional Fees

AP Testing, each course: **\$60**
 Senior Graduation Fee: **\$55**
 Sophomore Behind the Wheel (BTW): **\$275**
 For further information, please contact the office of your child’s school.

Educators Learn Over Summer

District 401 educators have many ways to continue their professional growth and development during the summer. Furthering their own education assures that Elmwood Park teachers provide students with a continuing high-quality education. Learning opportunities for educators include district classes, teacher-designed projects, and a variety of web-based 24/7 professional development sessions in addition to out-of-district programs.

The district offers courses in Curriculum Mapping, the Danielson Teacher Evaluation Model, Quia (online tool for teachers), 21st Century Research Processes, and the Art of Co-teaching. New teachers who will be using *Trailblazers*, *READ 180* or *Language!* can also participate in training through the district.

“Teachers will also be hard at work on projects that include integrating technology into instructional units, updating assessments, refining interdisciplinary units and incorporating differentiated lessons into Spanish units. One teacher will begin writing a workbook, which will accompany a new math text,” commented Dr. Paula Hlavacek, assistant superintendent for curriculum and instruction.

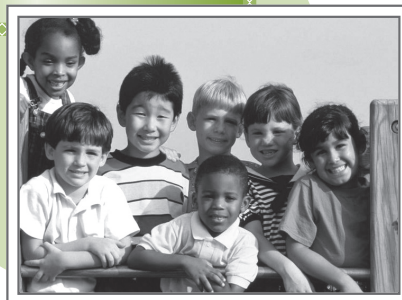
This year, the district provided teachers with a new staff development format through the web-based program “PD360.” This program gives educators access to 113 hours of presentations with a diverse set of topics including assess-

ment, classroom management, cooperative learning, diverse learners, grading, instruction, and leadership.

Off-campus programs offered through Leyden Area Special Education Cooperative and Positive Behavior Intervention and Supports are also available to the district’s educators. Additionally, 29 teachers have signed up to take graduate level summer classes.

Summer also brings many diverse and fun-filled learning opportunities for students, such as travel, library programs, Summer Academy, camp, sports programs or other events that challenge and motivate them to learn.

HAVE A GREAT SUMMER!
See you next fall.



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