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comment?
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at (847) 676-
9000.

New e-mail service will help district 'spread the word'

As part of a continuing effort to improve communication, District 68 has begun a new broadcast e-mail service for parents and other community members who wish to receive timely notices about news and events in District 68.

E-News 68 is a free service to subscribers. Anyone can subscribe by visiting www.skokie68.org—the district Web site—and clicking on the E-News 68 link. The process is fast and simple.

"We also want to invite community members who do not have children attending our schools to sign up for the service," said Superintendent Frances McTague. "E-News 68 provides useful information to seniors who live in the district, families with very young children, and business operators who want to stay abreast of district plans and activities."

Subscriber names and e-mail information are solely for district use and will not be sold or forwarded to any other organizations.

The e-mail service delivers general district information as well as news about specific schools, such as upcoming PTA events and activities. E-News 68 ultimately will help reduce paper consumption, although printed fliers

will continue to be sent home for the foreseeable future.

District 68 launched the service in January 2007 after a survey demonstrated that most district families have Internet access and would like to receive e-mail notifications. Parents are

"E-News 68 is an economical way to get timely information out to parents and other members of our community."

under no obligation to register, and can un-subscribe at any time.

District 68 has published minutes of Board meetings for years. Now E-News 68 will inform subscribers in advance about topics that will be addressed at upcoming Board of Education meetings. Therefore, residents who subscribe to the service will now have information ahead of Board meetings on which they may wish to comment. In general, the Board will send out monthly updates, so subscribers will not be deluged with e-mails.

"E-News 68 is an economical way to get timely information out to parents and other members of our community," McTague said. "It helps us meet our goal of enhancing communication."

Streaming video brings world into classes

A new method of integrating technology into instruction is up and running in district schools. Unitedstreaming from Discovery Education is a video-on-demand and online teaching service that has been shown to increase student achievement and help schools meet the requirements of No Child Left Behind.

The content is correlated with state standards, geared to multiple learning styles—and fun. As one second-grader at Devonshire School said, “I wish I could use this at home all the time. I would show my family all the places I have been by watching the clips. It’s more fun than video games.”

Unitedstreaming provides classroom access to a digital

media library of more than 50,000 video segments from sources such as the Discovery Channel, BBC and Math Mastery. It also offers a substantial library of geographic, historical and cultural images, along with sound effects, songs, animated textbook diagrams and encyclopedia articles. There are closed-caption and Spanish-language materials as well.

Teachers in all content areas are using the video clips, which can be shown on computers or projected on large-screen television monitors.

Math teachers can graphically illustrate concepts such as orders of magnitude. Science teachers can demonstrate chemical reactions that would be difficult or dangerous to carry out in

a K-8 science lab. Third-graders studying Asia could see images and clips from China. Junior high students studying the Vietnam War might view a newscast recorded during that period.

The videos have been especially helpful for English language learners and children who have not had the opportunity to read or travel widely. They help to enrich vocabulary and enhance the concepts being taught.

“Unitedstreaming makes instruction come alive,” said Superintendent Frances McTague.

Preliminary ISAT results look positive

While release of the annual Illinois School Report Cards continues to be delayed, preliminary results show District 68 schools are making adequate yearly progress based on state standards and requirements of the federal No Child Left Behind Act.

That includes Old Orchard Junior High School, which came off the state’s school improvement watch list following two years in a row when all student subgroups met achievement requirements.

School Report Cards were to have been released by Oct. 31, 2006. However, problems with test materials and errors in compiling data and scoring some of the Illinois Standards Achievement Tests (ISATs) that were administered in April 2006 pushed the release date back. The State Board of Education expects to have final results by the end of February.



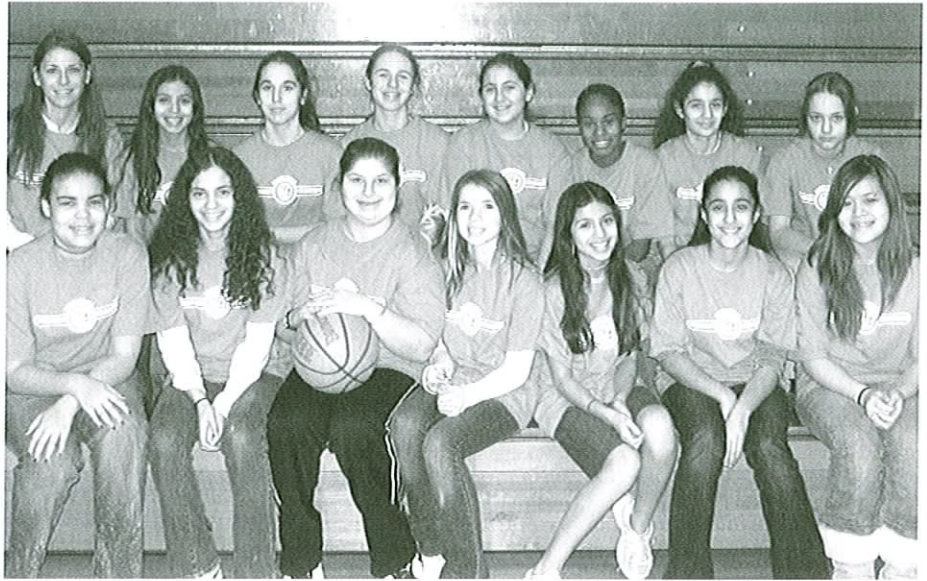
Teacher Tami Crutsinger and her second-grade class watch a video illustrating basic concepts of physics.

Seventh graders score winning season

The seventh-grade girls' basketball team at Old Orchard Junior High had a terrific run in 2006. The team finished the season with a 13-1 record. The only loss came in the first match against Lincoln Hall, but Old Orchard made up for it by winning when the teams met a second time.

One of the season's high points came when the seventh-graders took the championship in the Little 9 Athletic Conference tournament, hosted by Old Orchard in mid-December. All nine township schools participated. On the road to the championship, the Old Orchard team won against East Prairie 31-12, McCracken 37-27 and Parkview 20-15.

The tournament was sponsored by the Niles Township Elementary Athletic Association, which formed two years ago. Until then, there was only an informal system of communication among physical education teachers and coaches. Now the association helps coordinate athletic activities and enables team sports to run more smoothly and consistently throughout the



The triumphant seventh-grade girls' basketball team, coached by Erika Souder (top row, left).

township schools. The association works closely with the District 219 athletic department, which stages the annual Niles Township eighth-grade basketball tournaments.

While this year's seventh-graders are already looking ahead to playing next year, they are still basking in the past season's glories. One of the highlights was a one-point, come-from-behind victory against McCracken.

Guard Alissa H. led the team in scoring with an average of 12

points per game. Other scoring leaders included Taylor M. and Nagwah L. The team accomplished one of its main goals for the year by having every player score at least one basket.

The Old Orchard seventh-grade girls' basketball team was sponsored and coached by teacher Erika Souder. The team members included Katrina C., Kaina F., Marina F., Rebekah F., Cindy G., Sara H., Alissa H., Nagwah L., Aphrodite L., Maytal M., Taylor M., Alex M., Maddy N., Marti P. and Sonja R.

How long has it been since you went back to school?

Come one, come all! Everyone who lives or works within District 68 is invited to drop by for a visit on the next Business and Community Back to School Day. The event, scheduled for Friday, April 13, is an opportunity for resi-

dents and representatives from local businesses to get an inside look at what's going on in your schools.

Select the school you wish to visit, then RSVP to Sue Neyrinck by phoning 847-568-7626 or e-mailing

sneyrinck@skokie68.org. Reservations will be taken through April 6.

Then on the day of the event, simply come to the school at 8:45 a.m. After breakfast with the principal, you can tour the build-

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IN BRIEF

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Board of Education meetings are held at 7:30 p.m. on the third Tuesday of each month in the Educational Service Center at 9440 Kenton Ave. You are invited to attend.

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Back to school

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ing and see students from pre-kindergarten to eighth grade engaged in a variety of learning activities. The visit will conclude at approximately 10:15.

Early Childhood Center

9300 Kenton Ave.

Director: Connie Powell

Visitors will learn about the Theme of the Month and have a chance to see 4-year-olds absorbed in pre-reading activities.

Devonshire School

9040 Kostner Ave.

Principal: Randy Needlman

As the district prepares to launch its full-day kindergarten

program next year, here is an opportunity to see what takes place in a kindergarten classroom. You can also observe a balanced literacy program in action, and view Devonshire's most recent art installation—a full-wall mosaic in the school's entryway designed by students in collaboration with artist-in-residence Karen Ami.

Highland School

9700 Crawford Ave.

Principal: Leslie Gordon

Tour the school's Peaceful Playground and learn the philosophy behind it, then drop in on a social studies class working on its latest project.

Jane Stenson School

9201 Lockwood Ave.

Principal: Sue O'Neil

Brush up your math skills during a first-grade math lesson, sit in with a group of ESL students and find out how good fourth- and fifth-graders are at "speed stacking."

Old Orchard Junior High School

9310 Kenton Ave.

Principal: Margaret Clauson

See how technology can make history come alive. Observe state-of-the-art science labs. View examples of student creativity on display in the newly remodeled art room. And be sure to look in on the fitness center before you leave.