

In this issue...

Meet our new staff members —page 2

Renovations make a big difference at Old Orchard Junior High —page 3

IN BRIEF is published three times a year by Skokie School District 68.

Have a question or a comment? Want more information? Visit www.sd68.k12.il.us or call the district office at (847) 676-9000.

Need school information? Redesigned Web site can help

Looking for tomorrow's lunch menu, the agenda for the next school board meeting or contact information for your child's teacher? This information and much more is now easily accessible on District 68's newly designed Web site (www.sd68.k12.il.us).

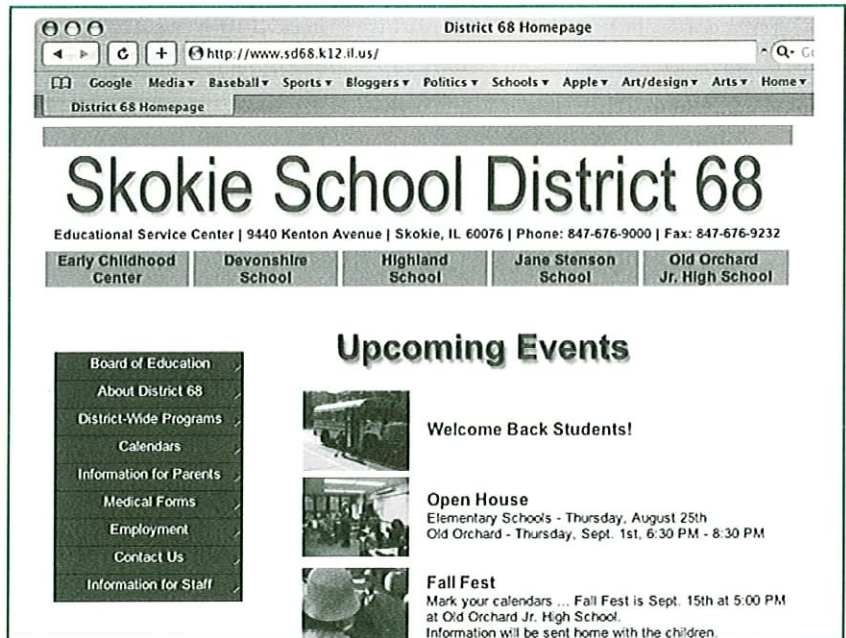
Available for the first time on the Web site are school board agendas and minutes, board policies, district financial information and curriculum reports.

The redesigned home page highlights upcoming events, such as Fall Fest, concerts and theatrical performances. Drop-down menus along the left side of the page bring users quickly and easily to information they need. For example, a button called "Information for Parents" includes the parent handbook, lunch menus, supply lists and emergency closing information.

Across the top of the home page are links to sites for each of the schools and the Early Childhood Center. A committee of teachers and administrators is working

on making the sites more consistent.

The new Web design is part of a larger effort to improve communication with the community. Board members and district staff collaborated on the project. "The committee had a lot of good ideas about



A newly redesigned District 68 home page helps visitors find the information they need.

making navigation more intuitive and giving the home page a cleaner look while making more information available," said Superintendent Frances McTague. "We expect that parents, students and members of the community will visit the site often and easily find what they need."

Meet District 68's new teachers

Merilee Aguirre, ESL teacher at OOJH, graduated from North-eastern Illinois University with a B.A. in elementary education. She was a substitute teacher in the Chicago Public Schools last year.

Andrew Carpenter, social worker at OOJH, earned his bachelor's degree in social work from Xavier University and his master's degree in school social work at Loyola University. He completed internships at Alexander Graham Bell Elementary and Stone Scholastic Academy in Chicago.

Iida Covington, eighth-grade science teacher at OOJH, earned a B.A. and a master's degree in education from Northwestern University. She has worked as a substitute teacher in District 68.

Molly Dorgan, LMC director at Jane Stenson, received her bachelor's degree in elementary education from Eastern Illinois University. She taught language arts for four years, and recently received her master's degree in library science from Chicago State University.

Alison Georgacakis, seventh-grade language arts teacher at OOJH, graduated from Augustana College with a B.A. in elementary education. Last year she taught eighth-grade language arts and social studies in South Beloit, Ill.

Lisa Gold, kindergarten teacher at Highland School, received her bachelor's degree from Indiana University and her master's in elementary education from DePaul University. She was a

teaching assistant and substitute in Wilmette last year.

Gina Govostis, second-grade teacher at Devonshire, received her bachelor's degree in elementary education from DePaul University. She was a teaching assistant at Devonshire and served as a long-term substitute teacher during the 2004-05 school year.

Marissa Hyman, first-grade teacher at Devonshire, graduated from the University of Illinois with a B.S. in education. She is a Niles North High School graduate.

Ivy Jordan, school psychologist at Highland, earned her bachelor's degree in psychology from the University of North Carolina, her master's degree in psychology at North Carolina Central University, and her Ph.D. in school psy-



Pictured are: (front row, from left) Stacey Woleben, Melissa Rothman, Alison Georgacakis, Gina Govostis, Jessica Knopf, Terri Petrone, Julia Keach, Molly Dorgan, Anu Sharma; (back row, from left) Ivy Jordan, Merilee Aguirre, Iida Covington, Carlen Roeschley, Catherine Walker, Andrew Carpenter, Erika Souder. Not pictured: Lisa Gold and Marissa Hyman.

chology from Loyola University. She did an internship last school year at Jane Stenson.

Julia Keach, sixth-grade special education teacher at OOHJ, graduated from Butler University with a B.S. in elementary education and is working on her master's degree in special education at Northeastern Illinois University. She has taught special education classes in the Chicago Public Schools for the past two years.

Jessica Knopf, social worker at OOHJ, earned a B.A. at Illinois State University and a master's degree in social work from the University of Illinois. She was a school social worker in District 61 in Bradley, Ill., for two years; and she has been at Lines Elementary School in Barrington for the past four years.

Terri Petrone, school psychologist intern for District 68, received a B.A. in psychology from Bradley University and a master's degree in school psychology from Indiana State University. She is pursuing a specialist in education degree from Indiana State University and expects to graduate in May 2006.

Carlen Roeschley, school psychologist at Jane Stenson and OOHJ, graduated from Anderson University in Indiana with a B.A. in psychology and received an educational specialist degree in school psychology from Michigan State University. She was an intern psychologist in District 68 during the 2004-05 school year.

Melissa Rothman, fifth-grade
—Continued on back page



An unused stage area (above) has been converted into a new orchestra room (right) at Old Orchard Junior High.



Renovations improve space usage at junior high

Old Orchard Junior High students returned to school this fall to find major renovations throughout the building. The most noticeable changes took place in the fine arts wing and locker rooms.

An unused stage area on the second floor was converted into a new orchestra room, with a hardwood floor and high ceiling to enhance acoustics. A new window provides natural light and a nearby platform lift makes the area accessible to students with disabilities. The former orchestra room was converted into a classroom.

"We were able to capture wasted space, which was exciting," said Principal Margaret Clauson. "We now have a better layout for orchestra practice and storage space for instruments. This is far superior, acoustically and functionally."

In the art room, skylights were added to bring in natural light.

"The interior spaces were dark before. We were able to liven and brighten up the hallways and create a place to display artwork," Clauson said. The area also was reconfigured to provide an additional classroom.

Boys' and girls' locker rooms are now located adjacent to both the first- and second-floor gyms. The new locker rooms are smaller and easier to supervise and students no longer have to go up or down stairs to get from their locker room to gym class.

The \$1.4 million renovation was financed with existing reserves. "The funds were accumulated for this purpose over a number of years," explained Beth Millard, assistant superintendent for business.

"The renovated facilities will serve students well for many years into the future," added Superintendent Frances McTague.

IN BRIEF

SKOKIE SCHOOL DISTRICT 68
SKOKIE, ILLINOIS 60076
TELEPHONE: 847-676-9000
FAX: 847-676-9232
WWW.SD68.K12.IL.US

NON PROFIT
ORG.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Skokie, Illinois
Permit No. 55

District 68 Board of Education

David Beller
President

David Ehrlich
Vice President

Ross del Rosario
John Frendreis
Jim Kaczkowski
Hank Schneider
Elaine Steiner

Frances McTague
Superintendent

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.

ECRWSS
POSTAL CUSTOMER

New teachers

Continued from page 3

teacher at Highland, received her B.A. and her master's degree in elementary education from National Louis University. Last year she was a teaching assistant in kindergarten and special education at Jane Stenson.


Anu Sharma, first-grade teacher at Jane Stenson, graduated from Loyola University with a B.S. in elementary education. She was a student teacher at Highland School last year.

Erika Souder, seventh-grade social studies teacher at OOHJ, received her B.A. in communication from Denison University in Ohio and will receive her master's degree in education (teaching and learn-

ing) from DePaul University in December 2005. She spent six months studying abroad in Australia.

Catherine Walker, eighth-grade special education teacher at OOHJ, graduated from Central Michigan University with a B.S. in education. She taught special education students in the Grand Rapids public schools last year.

Stacey Woleben, K-5 literacy coach in the elementary schools, received her B.A. in elementary education from the University of Iowa and her master's degree in teaching (language and literacy) from Lewis and Clark College in Portland, Ore. She taught third grade in Deerfield District 109 from 1997-1999, and was a coordinator of the reading program and staff literacy coach in Portland from 1999-2005.



**Don't Miss
Fall Fest**

5-7 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 15

*Old Orchard
Junior High School
9310 Kenton Ave.*

*for currently enrolled District
68 students and their families*