



*"Where Students Come First"*

## Community Newsletter

### Oak Grove 68 and Libertyville 70 to Share Business Services

#### BOARD OF EDUCATION

Jennifer Manski  
*President*

Lane Hasler  
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Kim Opsahl  
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Gordon Boulger  
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Judy Egan  
*Member*

Tony Pirih  
*Member*

Paula Sterner  
*Member*

#### ADMINISTRATION

Dr. Janice Matthews  
*Superintendent*

Mark Clement  
*6-8 Principal and Director  
of Curriculum Enhancement*

David Karolewicz  
*3-5 Principal &  
Transportation Coordinator*

Julie Waehner  
*K-2 Principal & Student  
Services Director*



*Dr. Kurt Valentin and  
Scott Blumberg*

On June 27, the school boards from District 70 and District 68 approved Intergovernmental Agreement to share business services. This agreement will allow District 70's highly respected Assistant Superintendent of Finance and Operations, Dr. Kurt Valentin, to provide and supervise all business functions for Oak Grove School. District 70 will provide an employee, Scott Blumberg, to work in the business office of Oak Grove School to serve payroll and benefit needs. Another District 70 employee will be a shared Buildings and Grounds Director.

The shared services agreement is anticipated to save Oak Grove approximately \$50,000 per year when compared to the compensation packages that had been allocated for Oak Grove

business managers. Shared service plans are being encouraged by the state and regional offices of education as ways to save school district funds and improve services. The opportunity for the shared services arose with the recent resignation of Business Managers Paul Starck-King and Jay Kahn.

### Oak Grove Class of 2011

Oak Grove held our annual graduation ceremony on May 31st. One hundred and forty-four students were awarded their diplomas by the Board of Education, making the class of 2011 one of the largest graduating classes in many years. We wish all of our graduates the best of luck in the future.



# Kathy Mahoney Elected Teacher of the Month!

Our heartfelt congratulations go out to Kathy Mahoney, 8th grade Social Studies teacher. Mrs. Mahoney was elected to be the WGN and National Louis University Teacher of the Month! To see the video that aired on WGN on June 30th, please go to [www.ogschool.org/wgn](http://www.ogschool.org/wgn).



*Kathy Mahoney*

## Oak Grove Students Score Well, Achieve AYP

Adequate yearly progress (AYP) is the measure by which schools, districts, and states are held accountable for student performance under Title I of the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (NCLB). In Illinois, schools are designated as meeting AYP by achieving reading and math ISAT testing targets as well as student attendance targets. The Federal Government has been steadily increasing expectations each year for schools in order to make AYP. This year the bar was set at 85%. Oak Grove School District has made AYP for each year since No Child Left Behind began. Next year, the threshold will be at 92.5%. And by 2014, 100% of all students are expected to meet or exceed standards on math and reading tests compared to the annual state targets.

# Max Roberts - Amazing Athlete!

Recent Oak Grove graduate Max Roberts was honored at the June 27th School Board meeting for competing successfully in three state athletic competitions. During the 2010-11 school year, Max became the only Oak Grove athlete ever to qualify for the State Finals in all three IESA sports. As an accomplished member the OGS cross country and track teams, Max has held the distinction of being the fastest athlete at Oak Grove for several years. In addition, Max became a state qualifier for wrestling in March of 2011 at the Deerfield Shepard Sectional Tournament. Max's accomplishments are a fine example of commitment to excellence, both on and off the field. We know he will go on to do well in all of his endeavors!



*Max Roberts*

## Board Member News

At the annual Oak Grove Board of Education organizational meeting, Jennifer Manski was voted the new Board President and Lane Hasler was chosen as Vice President. The Board of Education welcomes new members Tony Pirih and Kim Opsahl. Both have become active members of the Finance Committee and Kim was chosen as Board Secretary. Gordon Boulger, who originally thought he might be moving, has announced that his family will be remaining at Oak Grove. Paula Sterner and Judy Egan are beginning their third year on the Board.

# Beloved Teachers Retire

Oak Grove will start the next school year missing three wonderful teachers who served our students and community for many years. Mrs. Carol Anderson served as an art teacher for 21 years. Mrs. Jann Coroneos taught 2nd grade students for 18 years, and Mrs. Paula Boll taught 6th grade science and social studies for 13 years. Each of these women served an important role at Oak Grove, and their talents and personalities will be missed! We wish them the very best of luck as they enter this new phase in their lives.



*Mrs. Carol Anderson*



*Mrs. Paula Boll*



*Mrs. Jann Coroneos*

## Oak Grove Education Foundation News

**Save the date: March 3, 2012**

The Grove Gala 2012 - *"All Around the World"*

Join us to take an exotic trip around the world with delicious food and drink, friends, casino games, music and more! There are also plenty of fun volunteer positions open. Help out with a project that will help our kids and community! We are currently looking for volunteers in the areas of IT, organization/planning, auction, and marketing/public relations. Please contact Ani Mattson at [anahismattson@yahoo.com](mailto:anahismattson@yahoo.com) for more information.

**Business Sponsors Needed!** Please sponsor this wonderful community event benefiting education. Tax deductible donations directly impact the quality of education children receive in District 68. You can sponsor a seating table, a game table, or donate at large. For more information, please contact Anna McDonnell or Cynthia Gleason at [mcdonnell315@comcast.net](mailto:mcdonnell315@comcast.net) or [cynthiaglsn@yahoo.com](mailto:cynthiaglsn@yahoo.com).

**Calling all Oak Grove Alums!** Come to the "Oak-Grove-Apalooza" reunion on August 12 and 13, 2011! This all-class reunion promises to be a great event. There will be a social events on Friday, and an Oak Grove Tour and Picnic on Saturday. As an added bonus, many former teachers will be attending! Please go to [www.oakgroveapalooza.com](http://www.oakgroveapalooza.com) or see their Facebook page for more info. You can also visit the foundation's web site at [www.ogsef.org](http://www.ogsef.org).

### **Groupon for Oak Grove**

Keep an eye open for opportunities to utilize Groupon to save you and your family some money via Groupon while benefiting Oak Grove School! We will also be looking for businesses that may be interested in running an ad with Groupon from our community. Contact Anna McDonnell [mcdonnell315@comcast.net](mailto:mcdonnell315@comcast.net) with inquiries.

# Preparing our Children for the 21st Century: A look at Foreign Language at Oak Grove School

We understand that one of the first questions people ask when considering moving to a new community is “how are the schools?” At District 68, we understand that the interlocking connection between education and the community is economy, quality of life, and reputation, a connection we take very seriously. We are committed to educating and inspiring all students to reach their full potential in an ever-changing world. The 21st century has already brought about many changes, and we fully expect to see changes occur at faster rates than at any other time in history.

In 2011, we have far more global awareness than in the past. It has been projected that by 2030, the United States will be a “nation of minorities” with no single ethnic or racial group constituting 50% of the population. This is the world today’s children will navigate. As a result, the importance of cultural awareness and understanding has become a basic requirement for all educational systems. Adapting the education we provide the children of District 68 to include 21st Century Skills is one of the initiatives outlined in our strategic plan. Although 21st Century Skills are integrated into a number of different curricular areas, the remainder of this article will focus on how they apply to foreign language education at Oak Grove School.

Foreign language programs provide not only language instruction, but an understanding of cultures and communities, which help children to make connections and comparisons. These abilities help in the development of the base skill sets our children need to be well-equipped for the world of today and tomorrow.

Oak Grove School has been providing exposure to foreign languages for our early elementary and middle school students for over a decade, and full year offerings in Spanish or French for our junior high students for over 20 years. Our foreign language program has been an important part of the proud history of the district and community, and has served as a model for other schools in our area over the years.

To review and enhance our program, the Foreign Language Task Force (FLTF) was formed. The goal of the FLTF is ultimately to make a recommendation to the Board of Education that will outline a foreign language program that is best aligned with our mission and strategic initiatives and has the support of our community stakeholders. The task force is comprised of parents, teachers, administrators and a member of the Board of Education. The FLTF began meetings in April.

Research has comprised the majority of work completed by the task force to date. In an effort to build a thoughtful recommendation that is best suited for Oak Grove School over the long term, the FLTF has embarked on examining a multitude of aspects such as best practices, delivery formats, brain research as it relates to the impact foreign language has in learning development, benchmarking of various programs, language selection criteria, common obstacles and failure points, sustainability, professional development needs, alignment to 21st Century Skills, and identification of national and state standards. In addition to standard research methods, the FLTF has also participated in site visits to look at other area programs, and has attended lectures by leading elementary foreign language education experts.

Research is expected to wrap up some time this summer, at which time the evaluation of the information in order to form a recommendation will begin. The FLTF expects to communicate initial ideas to stakeholders in the Fall and begin to collect and incorporate feedback into the final recommendation.

In the meantime, the District is committed to providing updates regarding the FLTF in progress. Please begin to check the FLTF blog, [www.foreignlanguagetaskforce.blogspot.com](http://www.foreignlanguagetaskforce.blogspot.com), which can be accessed through the OGS website, [www.ogschool.org](http://www.ogschool.org), to familiarize yourself with the information the task force has collected to date. The blog will frequently highlight different topics and respond to any questions through updated FAQs. As a community member, your input is important to us. Please ask questions and provide thoughts you may have about foreign language delivery in our school by sending a message to [FLTF2011@gmail.com](mailto:FLTF2011@gmail.com). The FLTF looks forward to hearing from you!

## OGS Bids Farewell to 4th Grade Teacher

Longtime 4th grade teacher Mike McDonnell has accepted a position as assistant principal at the Fremont Intermediate Elementary School. Mr. McDonnell has been a valued member of our staff over the past 10 years, and he will be missed. Good luck, Mr. McDonnell, and thank you for your years of service!



**Mike McDonnell**

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## “Teaching and Learning” Leadership Position Approved

We want to accelerate the progress toward our mission to “Educate and inspire all students to reach their full potential in an ever changing world.”

On July 26, 2011, the Board of Education approved a new position to provide greater leadership and to align our curriculum, instruction, assessment, and staff development. On the recommendation of Superintendent Janice Matthews, the roles of our three principals have been reassigned as two principals and one central administrator. Mr. Mark Clement was appointed to the position of Assistant

Superintendent for Teaching and Learning. Mr. Clement is currently serving as Assistant to the Superintendent, Gifted Coordinator and 6-8 principal. In his new role, he will continue to coordinate Gifted, Athletics and Extracurricular Activities, as well as direct Curriculum, Technology, Assessment, and Staff Development.

Oak Grove School District is placing a full-time administrator in this new curriculum role to support our own Strategic Plan for 21st Century Learning, technology and learning for all. In addition, one of the recent changes that require more administrative attention is the New Illinois State Learning Standards Incorporating the Common Core. Common Core National Standards will replace separate educational standards for each state. Math and Language Arts national standards have been written and Science is almost ready. You can

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Oak Grove School District 68  
1700 S. O'Plaine Road  
Green Oaks, Illinois 60048

**GREAT NEWS FROM  
OAK GROVE SCHOOL!!!**



Non Profit  
Organization  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Permit No. 54  
Libertyville, IL

Carrier Route  
Pre-Sort

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read more about these standards on the website:  
[http://www.isbe.net/common\\_core/default.htm](http://www.isbe.net/common_core/default.htm).

The goal is to better prepare Illinois students for success in college and the workforce in a competitive global economy.

These standards are:

- Fewer, clearer, higher
- Internationally benchmarked
- 21st Century Skills
- Evidence-based

Our state ISAT tests are being rewritten to align to these new standards. The new standards will require that teachers make modifications in their curriculum. In addition, Illinois has also adopted Social and Emotional Learning Standards requiring that we teach students skills and attributes to lead themselves and work with others. We believe that we need increased administrator focus to assist in these areas.

Mr. Dave Karolewicz was appointed as the Principal for grades 5-8, moving from his current position as 3-5 principal. Mr. Karolewicz has served as an Elementary Principal at Oak Grove since 2007 and therefore knows most of the students in the upper grades. He will remain in charge of Transportation. Ms. Julie Waehner will increase the grades she is responsible for from K-2 to K-4. She will continue to serve as the Special Education Coordinator. Mr. Clement has served as the Junior High Principal at Oak Grove for 15 years and will be closely working with our principals and teachers to help ensure the success of this plan.

ECRWSS

## Residential Postal Customer

The administrative staffing plan will save the district the cost of a part-time teacher salary and benefits since Mrs. Jean Hattendorf, who coordinated curriculum half-time last year, has requested to return to the role of classroom teacher in third grade. With this reorganization, the District will reduce the number of principals from three to two. This plan does not change the administrator salaries.

We are excited about this new opportunity to continue to improve our education for our students and make progress toward our mission and Strategic Plan.

## District to Gather Community Input

Oak Grove School District would like to hear from you! This Fall, community meetings and a survey are planned to gather input into community priorities for our school, and we would like to include all residents! If you would like to receive the survey and informational email, simply send an email with "subscribe" in the subject line to: [survey@ogschool.org](mailto:survey@ogschool.org)

[www.ogschool.org](http://www.ogschool.org)



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