



# WALTHAM TERRITORY NEWS

Waltham School

May 2011

## FROM OUR SUPERINTENDENT..... MR. ABNEY

### Waltham Elementary School District 185 Adopts SchoolInsight

Waltham Elementary School District 185 will be implementing SchoolInsight and TeacherEase, an intuitive web-based system for schools developed by Common Goal Systems, for the 2011-12 school year. Our district will be using the company's student management system and gradebook, which will give us and you real-time access to student information. The system will take attendance, generate report cards, manage demographics, run ISBE reports, track discipline, and more. Parents can view up-to-the-minute grades, assignments, and fees via the Internet. "We are excited to be transitioning to SchoolInsight!"

According to Pat Helmers, Vice President of Sales for Common Goal Systems, "Our program is designed to simplify the day-to-day work performed at the schools. Administrators save time and teachers love the user-friendly gradebook. Our company has a lot of experience rolling out SchoolInsight at Illinois schools. We're looking forward to working with the District, and the staff will be acclimated by the fall."

Common Goal Systems provides web-based services to help educators work more efficiently. It provides SchoolInsight ([www.schoolinsight.com](http://www.schoolinsight.com)), an industry leading student management system, and TeacherEase ([www.teacherease.com](http://www.teacherease.com)), one of the first and best web-based gradebooks. Using the Software as a Service model (SaaS), the company offers its products via the Internet and is responsible for all deployment, operation, and maintenance. Founded in 2001, Common Goal Systems has hundreds of thousands of users worldwide.

### REGIONAL HISTORY FAIR PARTICIPANTS

Our apologies to Breann Aubry and Erica Pode who participated in the Regional History Fair in Dekalb for being left out of the March newsletter. They both received an Excellent for their project: The Cherry Mine Disaster.

### STATE HISTORY FAIR PARTICIPANTS

Six Waltham students went to the State History Fair in Springfield on May 5th. All six received Superior ratings at the State level. We are very proud of the following students:

- Madison Anderson—Radium Girls
- Christine Perona—St. Bede Academy
- Samantha Whalen—Nancy Brinker
- Aaron Kamke—Enrico Fermi
- Kyle Small—Small/Wylie School
- Kendra Yade—Westclox



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**EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION PROGRAM**

We are proud to announce that Mrs. Wendy Hagenbuch, Title I/Reading/Rtl Teacher and Mrs. Jennifer Smith, 3rd grade Teacher have been nominated for the Educator Award, and Mr. Roger Hegland, Head of Maintenance has been nominated for the Supportive Staff Award. Ms. Doreen Balzarini, Technology Coordinator is retiring this year. Each nominee will be honored at a Banquet at Pitstick's Pavilion on Thursday, May 5, 2011. Congratulations!

**FIELD DAY**

The Annual School Field day is tentatively set for Thursday May 26<sup>th</sup> at the South building and Friday, May 27<sup>th</sup> at the North building. More information will be forthcoming.

**REGISTRATION FOR 2011-2012**

Registration for Kindergarten through Eighth grade for the 2011-2012 school year will be held on **Tuesday, July 26<sup>th</sup> from 8:00 am-7:00 pm**. A reminder will be published in The Times, and News Tribune in June.

**PHOTO'S FOR THE YEARBOOK**

If you have any pictures from the 2010-2011 school year that you would like to see in the yearbook, please e-mail them to Miss St. Germain at: [nstgermain@wesd185.org](mailto:nstgermain@wesd185.org). Or, if you have them printed off send them in an envelope with your student. Please put: 1. What the event is 2. Who is in the picture 3. Your students name and teacher (so I can return it) Then we can scan the pictures and use them. The pictures can be from games, field trips, classroom activities, class parties, etc.

**PTCC OFFICERS FOR 2011-2012**

It is not too late to submit nominations for PTCC officers for 2011-2012 school year. We are seeking individuals for the office of President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer. Interested parties please send your nomination to school in an envelope marked to Attention: Joan Graham.

**ALL FEES INCLUDING DAMAGED OR LOST BOOKS & LOCKS MUST BE PAID BY**

**MAY 19<sup>th</sup>.**

**THANK YOU FROM MRS. TOWNSEND**

I would like to thank Amanda Abens, Jen Cetwinski, Ginger Ludford, Nicole Mertes, and Jody Pawlak for volunteering to help with the Kid Writing, in the computer lab, and wherever I have asked this year. The students benefit from volunteers in the classroom because it gives them the opportunity to have more individualized attention with whatever assignment they are completing. A thank you also goes to third grader Jacob Ovanic for helping in the computer lab every Thursday. His computer knowledge has been very helpful.

**REMINDER FOR BAND STUDENTS**

The Band will be performing for the 3rd graders when they visit the North building on Tuesday, May 17.

Parents, if you have a band student in fifth, sixth, seventh, or eighth grade, please, remind them to bring their band instruments and their MUSIC on that Tuesday!!

Thank you,  
Shirley Smythe

**KINDERGARTEN SHOWCASE AT WALTHAM SOUTH**

Kindergarten Celebration is set for Tuesday, May 31, 2011 at 2:30 p.m. at Waltham South.

**WALTHAM'S NEWSLETTERS ARE GOING GREEN**

In an effort to go green, Waltham's Newsletters for the 2011-2012 school year will only be mailed to you if you contact the school and ask to be put on our mailing list. We plan on sending the newsletter via e-mail through our AlertNow system. All parents will automatically have the newsletter e-mailed to them, unless otherwise specified, so please let us know of any changes to your e-mail. All newsletters will also be posted on Waltham's website. Our web address is [www.wesd185.org](http://www.wesd185.org)



## **A WORD FROM MRS. WILSON**

**May 2011**, we have been waiting for this all year. So much is going on this May; we have a lot to remember.

May 5, 2011, State History Fair: 7 students will take their History Fair Projects to Springfield for judging.

May 6, 2011 at 9:00, we will have the Law Day presentation of the "Queen Mallory vs. Rumpelstiltzken". The trial will take place in the North Gym with teachers and students taking the parts to teach us about law and the court system.

May 6, 2011, the 8<sup>th</sup> graders will bring their graduation caps and gowns to school for Graduation pictures. Pictures will be taken at 2:00.

May 20, 2011, the 8<sup>th</sup> graders will be going on their class trip to Chicago. We leave at 8:35 am and return at 10:00 pm. The schedule includes Navy Pier, Dave and Buster's, Blue Man Group and Ed Debevic's.

May 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> we will have Graduation practice for 8<sup>th</sup> graders.

May 25, 2011, Graduation will be at 7:00 pm in the North Gym. We ask that the 8<sup>th</sup> grade students be in the classroom by 6:45. Each 8<sup>th</sup> grade student will receive 4 reserved seats near the front of the gym and there will be open seating after that on the gym floor and on the bleachers. Graduation traditionally lasts about an hour. This will be the 8<sup>th</sup> grade's last day of attendance.

May 27, 2011, Field Day at the North Building, 8<sup>th</sup> graders may return to participate in the Field Day events.

May 30, no school, Memorial Day

May 31, regular dismissal day

June 1, Teacher In-service Day, no students

June 2, 2011, one hour day for students to pick up Report Cards.

School is out for SUMMER!!

Have a great summer! READ!!

## **Six Flags READ TO SUCCEED Six Hour Reading Club**

Congratulations to the thirty five Waltham students - Kindergarten through 6th grade who participated in the Six Flags READ TO SUCCEED program. Each student completed 6 hours of recreational reading and will receive a ticket for free admission to Six Flags Great America. Well done!

### **Kindergarten:**

Michael George  
Philip Guglielmetti  
Billy Mini  
Christian Ramirez  
Abby Reed  
Noah Rietgraf

### **First Grade**

Traeger Abens  
Olivia Cetwinski  
Renn Ludford  
Joe Ovanic

### **Second Grade**

Maverick Andrews  
Morgan Cox  
Reese Kurtz  
Addison Lee  
Sydney Link  
Reese Ludford  
Samantha May  
Savanna Rietgraf

### **Third Grade**

Evan Hardy  
Jacob Ovanic  
Jarrett Reed

### **Fourth Grade**

AJ Bollis  
Jalen Depenbrock  
Billy George  
Sophie Kurtz  
Seth Ludford  
Abbie May

### **Fifth Grade**

Abigail Kamke  
Jordan Ovanic

### **Sixth Grade**

Nic Bollis  
Julia Browning  
Adam Claggett  
Jace Hardy  
Bryanna Hoskins  
Chase Luford



**Young Author Celebration**

Several Waltham students had the opportunity to attend the Young Author Celebration on April 20 at Grand Bear Lodge sponsored by the Starved Rock Reading Council. Kindergarten through third-grade students heard a presentation by Illinois author, Andrea Beaty, and received an autographed copy of her book, *Doctor Ted*. Fourth through eighth-grade students listened to local author, Julia Durango, and received an autographed copy of her novel, *Sea of the Dead*.

**Tyler Hartman** (2<sup>nd</sup> grade) “I got a book, *Who Was Jackie Robinson?* from the book fair. I like the book I got—*Doctor Ted*. She (Andrea Beaty) talked about other books she’s written, like *Iggly Peck, Architect*. She showed us her new story which isn’t even published yet—*Artist Ted*. I saw one of my preschool friends from Holy Family!”

**Brea Sebastian** (3<sup>rd</sup> grade) “It was a lot of fun! We learned about a book called *Doctor Ted*. We got to see a book that won’t come out until February. It was fascinating because she (AB) said she wanted to be a lot of things when she was young, not a writer, but later she figured out she could do all those things in the books that she wrote.”

**Jacob Pocivasek** (4<sup>th</sup> grade) “She (Julia Durango) explained the steps of a story with a chart. Some things always happen in a story. We played a game. She said quotes from books, showed pictures from books, or told us who the author was, and we had to guess the book title.”

**AJ Bollis** (4<sup>th</sup> grade) “I liked that she (JD) taught us what she goes through to write her books. She travels to do research, like to Mexico City. She taught us how she became interested in being an author.”

**Hannah Turigliatti** (5<sup>th</sup> grade) “She (JD) talked about what inspired her to write, about her family, and who she dedicates it to, depending on what she writes about. She talked about what makes a book come alive—like conflict.”

**Carly Ramirez** (6<sup>th</sup> grade) “It was pretty cool. She (JD) taught us the base of a story like the plot. Everybody got her book—*Sea of the Dead*.”

**Kathryn Henry** (6<sup>th</sup> grade) “She (JD) talked about history and how her books came to be, like *Sea of the Dead*. She also talked about how every story has a plot—beginning, middle, and end. Every story begins at home and ends at home, like *The Wizard of Oz*, *Harry Potter*, and *Star Wars*. She explores the settings of her books. Finding out the history is her favorite part of writing.”

**Julia Browning** (6<sup>th</sup> grade) “She (JD) talked about her family and how she wrote the story. It took her a really long time—ten years. (*Sea of the Dead*) She writes books for her sons. That’s how she came to be an author. She writes her name the way I do mine—pretty cool! (Julia Durango personalized Julia’s book.)

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR****May 3**

Early Dismissal 2:05 North and 2:20 South

**May 4**

Hot Lunch Day

**May 6**

Sport Physicals, 5th & 8th Grade Physicals

**May 6**

8<sup>th</sup> Grade Graduation Pictures 2:00 p.m.

**May 9**

Market Day 4:30 pm at North

**May 10**

Early Dismissal 2:05 North and 2:20 South

**May 17**

Early Dismissal 2:05 North and 2:20 South

**May 18**

Board of Ed Meeting 6:30 pm North

**May 20**

8<sup>th</sup> Grade Class Trip to Chicago

**May 25**

8<sup>th</sup> Grade Graduation 7:00 p.m.

**May 26**

Field Day at South

**May 27**

Field Day at North

**May 30**

No School Memorial Day

**May 31**

Regular Dismissal 3:05 North and 3:20 South

**May 31**

Kindergarten Celebration 2:30 p.m.

**June 1**

No School Teacher Institute

**June 2**

Last Day of School

8:35-9:35 a.m.—North

8:50-9:50 a.m.—South