



## FRANKFORT SCHOOL DISTRICT 157-C

Fall 2008

The Learning Connection Newsletter

### Teaching environmental responsibility

*A message to  
District families from  
your Superintendent*

The new school year is going extremely well. We thank our staff and families for their patience while we made improvements to the sites at Grand Prairie and Chelsea.

The inconvenience over the summer has resulted in some great improvements. Our transportation routes have been streamlined and there are more parking spaces this year. Chelsea's library and main office were also remodeled.

Our Strategic Planning annual meeting is coming up as this issue goes to press. We are very pleased to work with our existing and new members to develop the next five year plan.

We thank you again for your support of our efforts on behalf of the children. If you have a question or concern, please don't hesitate to contact my office at (815) 469-5922

*Dr. Robert J. Madonia*

Everyday in our schools, the students experience real life examples of environmental responsibility. The district reflects concern for the environment in the way its buildings are designed and throughout its curriculum and operations at all three of its schools.

Hickory Creek Middle School, which opened in 2006, was built using sustainable design principles. This year, additions are being built at Grand Prairie Elementary School and Chelsea Intermediate School, which are also designed to protect the environment and use less energy.

Twelve new classrooms are being added to each school, along with multi-purpose rooms and teacher offices. Extensive site work was also completed at the schools, designed to provide a safer and greener student environment. FGM Architects designed the middle school, as well as the additions that are scheduled to open in 2009. The construction manager is International Contractors, Inc.

The U.S. Green Building Council for K-12 schools and higher education buildings developed the "LEED for Schools

Green Building Rating System." It emphasizes classroom acoustics, master planning, indoor air quality, mold prevention, energy efficiency and water conservation. FGM Architects has six Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) accredited professionals on staff. FGM prides itself on its environmentally responsible design and utilizes the LEED schools checklist.

buildings and enhancing them."

Along with environmentally responsible building design, additional measures in school operation are in place geared towards protecting the environment throughout the district. Green cleaning products are used whenever possible, hand dryers are provided; and recycled paper is used where feasible, including that used in the printing of the district news-

letters. Greater use of paperless communication through utilizing email and the telephone is encouraged. The district's Technology Department recycles computers and other outdated electronics in an environmentally responsible manner to benefit low-income communities and countries. Trash compacting is also conducted regularly.

In school, students are encouraged to recycle

paper, tennis shoes, cell phones, ink cartridges, aluminum and other products. The district's science curriculum includes environmental education. The students benefit from classes conducted in outdoor education areas that are near to science labs and classrooms.

*(continued on p.2)*



*(l-r) Kindergarteners Claire Cunningham and David Galmines enjoy the Grand Prairie playground. Rubber mulch made from recycled tires was used in new playgrounds and existing wood mulch was reused in others.*

FGM Senior Associate Robin R. Randall, AIA, LEED AP, stated, "At FGM it is our practice to do the best job in terms of being sustainable. By reusing the existing buildings and sites at Grand Prairie and Chelsea and adding to each of the existing buildings, we are acting environmentally responsible. We are not contributing to the landfill with waste, but reusing the existing



# Teaching environmental responsibility *(continued)*

Environmental themes are seen regularly in a variety of student work including science fair projects, art, class projects and student newspaper columns. Students also participate in the Will County Earth Award program.

The community, park districts, scouts and other organizations use district facilities. This is a sustainable practice because it reduces the number of community buildings needed and maximizes the use of each school.

Next year along with the regular school teams, Frankfort Boys Baseball and Frankfort Girls Softball will share the

use of the new baseball diamonds being completed at Hickory Creek Middle School.

While making schools "green" is not mandated or state/federally funded, District 157-C administrators and the Board of Education believe it is the right thing to do.

Along with the district's own efforts to protect the environment, Assistant Superintendent Curt Sain-

don commended the Village of Frankfort for its consistency in enforcing the construction of environmentally responsible buildings. He stated, "Frankfort is on the cutting edge of villages. Our village leaders are very strict about this. By being proactive at the front end of construction, it helps the community avoid problems down the road."

Saindon is also proud of another recent conservation effort. Last year, the district implemented measures to purchase energy at reduced prices for the school district. Saindon stated, "We are now managing the purchase and storage of energy. We purchase natural gas in the summer and store it for use when the prices rise in the winter."

Saindon said the district's next step is to develop and implement a formal energy education conservation program for students and staff. He stated, "This will include streamlining our practices by doing things like automatically turning off lights and using less energy wherever possible. The way to really have an impact on protecting our environment is to use less energy in our daily lives."



*The children benefit from classes outdoors such as those held in the Outdoor Education Center at Grand Prairie Elementary School.*



*"We believe that these efforts in our schools are making a difference. By our district being environmentally responsible wherever possible, it is becoming second nature for our students to incorporate these practices into their lives and that is so important to the future of the environment."*

*Dr. Robert J. Madonia, Superintendent*



## District 157-C Legal Notice

Frankfort School District #157-C complies with the Illinois Structural Pest Control Act, the Illinois Pesticide Act and the Illinois Lawn Care Products Application and Notification Act through the active involvement in an Integrated Pest Management Program and an Outdoor Spraying and Fertilizer Application Program. As part of this program the district relies to the greatest extent possible on non-toxic, biological, cultural and mechanical pest management practices as well as the use of natural pest control agents. Chemical and airborne pesticides will be used only when necessary, and as a last resort, with a preference given for products that are the least harmful to human health and the environment. This practice applies to indoor and outdoor pesticide, fertilizer, turf management or other similar applications or sprayings. Such chemical and airborne applications will, if at all possible, be made only after normal business hours or on weekends to minimize the exposure to any individuals who normally access our buildings. As part of these programs, any individual(s) wishing to be placed on a notification list for indoor sprayings, outdoor sprayings, or both, can contact the Frankfort School District Business Office at 815-469-5922, ask for Sandy Pechtold, and let her know you would like to be put on the IPM and/or Outdoor Spraying Notification list for airborne spraying. By providing your name, address, phone number, and the school district buildings and/or sites you would like to be notified about, the Maintenance Department will attempt to contact you 48 hours in advance whenever possible, and no less than 24 in advance when necessary, of any scheduled airborne or chemical applications being undertaken inside or outside our buildings, or as soon as possible in the event any emergency spraying applications are needed. If you have any questions or need additional information please contact Curt Saindon in the District Office at 815-469-5922.

# ENJOYING A SUCCESSFUL NEW SCHOOL YEAR



All District 157-C staff members participated in the August 18 Institute Day activities.  
(Above) The entire Hickory Creek Middle School staff.

## Some of the environmentally positive measures taken in design of the new additions



- Master plan developed for both schools so each site could maximize its potential, building additions in the most logical, efficient locations.
- Both additions use durable, low maintenance recyclable brick and block for their exterior walls and interior partitions to serve the district for many years to come.
- Regional suppliers and sub-contractors were used to reduce transportation costs & support regional economy.
- Both additions located adjacent to existing access points. At Grand Prairie, the addition actually connects two wings of the existing school to simplify circulation.
- Both schools had extensive site work completed to create safer access for students, teachers, parents and visitors. Bus access was expanded and simplified; this "alternative transportation" to car use is encouraged.
- Asphalt, concrete and other site materials removed were recycled and reused on site.
- Rubber mulch made from recycled tires & wood mulch were used in playgrounds
- Detention areas were identified and planted with native landscaping materials to slow and filter the water before it enters the storm sewer system. This provides natural habitat and stabilizes slopes of detention areas. Because it is draught tolerant, irrigation is not required.
- Existing trees were saved and protected during the construction process and native species of trees, shrubs and ornamental grasses were used throughout.
- White roofing materials were used to reduce heat absorption and reduce cooling load. This also reduces the heat island effect on each site.
- Extensive landscaping along right-of-ways & around parking areas provides cooling for site.
- Lighting for parking & site are shielded so all light remains on site and does not "pollute" environment.
- Water saving plumbing fixtures were used on both projects to help reduce water use.
- Energy efficient mechanical equipment and central systems optimize energy performance. System pumps and fans are placed on variable frequency drives for energy savings during non-peak loads.
- Energy efficient lighting fixtures utilizing fluorescent lamps are used throughout the additions. Indirect lighting is used in the classrooms, which distributes light more effectively and increases eye comfort. Light sensors turn lights off when rooms are not in use.
- Low-emitting materials specified include adhesives, sealants, paints and flooring.
- Environmental quality strategies include increased ventilation, operable windows, low-solar emittance insulated glass, acoustical ceiling panels and indirect lighting.
- Natural light is provided to all teaching spaces and in transitional spaces in corridors through skylights.
- Innovations in design include an outdoor classroom at Chelsea that offers a location for education about the environment. Courtyards at Grand Prairie also provide this opportunity.



Staff members were recognized for benchmark years of service on Institute Day. (Above) Hickory Creek teacher Larry Avila was congratulated for 35 years of service by Board of Education President Courtney Stillman and Superintendent Dr. Robert J. Madonia.



Third grade student Kaylee Howell and brother Tony stand in front of the new library circulation desk at Chelsea. Funding was provided by DiaTri Corporation of Mokena through the Education Foundation's Fund-A-Project program.



Grand Prairie physical education teacher Kathy Delaney gets some physical activity on the playground between programs conducted during the District's Institute Day.



(Right) Grand Prairie Interim Principal Bill Hermanson greets kindergarten student Matthew Klawitter and sister Alyssa at the school open house.

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### *Inside this issue . . .*

- ◆ *Enjoying a successful new school year*
- ◆ *Teaching environmental responsibility*
- ◆ *Hickory Creek “Character in Action”*



### FRANKFORT SCHOOL DISTRICT 157-C

#### **MISSION STATEMENT**

*The mission of District 157-C is to prepare all students to be confident, life-long learners and productive citizens by challenging them to reach their fullest potential and by providing a quality educational environment in partnership with family and community*

#### **DATES TO REMEMBER**

**October 13**  
*Columbus Day, No School*  
*Board of Education meeting*

**October 24-25**  
*Strategic Planning Sessions*

**November 4**  
*Election Day*

**November 17**  
*Board of Education meeting*

**November 25-26**  
*Parent/Teacher Conferences*  
*No School*

**November 27-28**  
*Thanksgiving, No School*

## Hickory Creek “Character in Action”

The theme for Hickory Creek Middle School’s Character Counts program this year is “Character in Action.” Sixth through eighth grade students are participating in a number of activities and events to show their character in action.

Assistant Principal Nikki Beck implemented a special activity with an Olympics theme at the beginning of the school year. Students created goals for themselves and highlighted them on a locker medallion symbolized by the Olympic rings. Student goals for the year include one long or short term goal for each of the following categories: family, community, next year, school and personal goals.

The medallions are posted on each student’s locker as a reminder to work towards their goals. Towards the end of each trimester, teachers will award star



*Hickory Creek Middle School sixth grader Brooke Morell shows her friend Vickie Buffone her goals for the year on her locker medallion.*

stickers to students to place on their medallions if they achieve their goals.

The goals also connect to the Character Counts pillars of trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring and citizenship.

This year students will also have the opportunity to show their character in action by working towards granting a wish through the Make A Wish Foundation.