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School District 118**
8800 West 119th Street
Palos Park, Illinois 60646



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The Palos Point

2007-08 Annual Report to the
Palos School District 118 Community
May 2008

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*The Board of Education of
Palos Community Consolidated*

School District 118

Cordially Invites You to Join Us as We

Celebrate the Students, Teachers

and Families of our

District and Community

Wednesday, August 20, 2008

5:00 p.m.—7:30 p.m.

The Village Green, Palos Park





PLEASE JOIN US!

The Parent Faculty Association of

Palos School District 118

Cordially Invites You to Our

First Annual Scramble Golf Outing

“Up to Par”

Friday, June 6, 2008

Glen Eagles Country Club

Non-Golfer Activities Available!

Please contact 708 448-4800

*All proceeds directly benefit the
Applied Technology Laboratory*



Dear Community Member:

The Palos School District 118 Board of Education is pleased to present our 2008 Annual Report. As I review the “state of the District,” I am proud of all the news we have to share here in Palos 118 about our exceptional school district. Our educational program is robust with excellent teaching and learning taking place in our classrooms every day. The recent designation of Palos 118 as a *School Search Bright Red Apple* award-winning school district leaves us with plenty of room for celebration. Of the 871 districts in Illinois eligible to receive the award, only 91 were selected. The *SOUTH-TOWN STAR* may have said it best: “Palos School District 118 does not set out to win academic awards. They just seem to appear.” I certainly take great pride in the fact that we are the only elementary school district in southern Cook County to have received the award this year. To boot, this is the sixth consecutive year Palos 118 has received the *Bright Red Apple Award of Excellence*. As Dr. Dubec told the *SOUTHTOWN STAR* when asked about the District’s reaction to the prestigious award: “Working together makes a huge difference----we have a lot of community involvement and parental support. Combine that with caring teachers and great kids, and you have a winning combination.”

It gives me deep satisfaction to know that excellence in education is the true hallmark of Palos School District 118. Nonetheless, there is still work to be done. Palos School District 118 realizes that we are educating students in a rapidly changing world. As such, District 118 continually strives to go above and beyond to prepare students for the global society they will inherit. There is much work ahead, but our administrators and teachers constantly rise to the challenge.

Thank you for your continued support of our schools. We invite you to visit the District web site at www.palos118.org for more information.

Respectfully Yours,

Sheila Pacholski
Board of Education President

From Superintendent of Schools Dr. Joseph M. Dubec



Dear Community Members:

It is a privilege to present the Palos 118 community with this annual report of our school district. In it, you will learn about the mission of our District and the major goals and action plans for best meeting the needs of our students. We have also provided highlights of the achievements of the District over the last year.

We work continuously to recognize and build on the strengths we call the "Tradition of Excellence." At the core of these strengths is a supportive and involved community. Residents of Palos 118 recognize the historic yet thriving nature of our community. It is a pleasure to tell our community that your expectations for excellence have not missed a beat.

I hope you find the information in these pages useful and inspiring. Above all, it is my hope that as you review this report, you will feel as proud as I do about the tremendous progress of our students and our schools. As Superintendent, I consider it an honor to serve the Palos community. It is our commitment to continue the tradition of excellence you have come to expect from your public school system.

Sincerely,

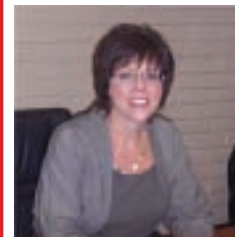
Joseph M. Dubec, Ed.D, J.D.

Music Parents Association



Our Music Parents Association helps support the unique value music has in the lives of our students.

- MPA purchased 110 black tuxedo jackets for the sixth grade band.
- MPA continually gives back to our community through their children and their talents.
- Students receive the gift of music and give the gift back to parents, students and teachers through beautiful performances.



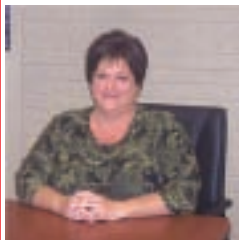
After three years of leadership, Linda Campbell says goodbye to the MPA Presidency. On behalf of all our talented music students, their parents and directors, we say thank you to Linda for her wonderful dedication to our schools.



Parent Faculty Association

During this school year, the PFA has contributed in a myriad of ways to augment the school experience in Palos School District 118:

- Increased opportunities for families to meet and socialize--Daddy/Daughter and Mother/Son nights were implemented.
- Donations to schools has increased due to the success of fundraising projects.
- The first ever PFA Golf Outing will take place Friday, June 6th. The inaugural outing seeks to include all of our community members in what is sure to be a fun-filled day of fundraising for the Applied Technology Laboratory at Palos South. All proceeds from the Golf Outing will be donated to the Palos Educational Foundation to directly fund the lab.



For the last three years, Jeanne Johnson has served as PFA President. As she retires from her tenure at the end of this school year, we thank her for the countless ways she has supported our teachers, students and schools.

Newly Adopted Board of Education Goals 2008-09

The Mission of Palos Community Consolidated School District 118 is to provide a safe, supportive and quality learning environment utilizing educational resources to engage its students to become confident, adaptive and productive life-long learners.

The Board of Education has established five major goal areas designed to forward the Mission. Each goal area has annual action targets. You can see these in their entirety on the District web site.

Goal I

To Maximize the Educational Potential of Every Student to be a Successful Life-Long Learner

Goal II

To Build a Connected Learning Community

Goal III

To Provide a Safe, Orderly and Caring Learning Environment

Goal IV

To Manage and Plan for Financial Integrity

Goal V

To Commit to Continuous Improvement



Palos 118 Curriculum: A Year in Review

Dr. Margaret Johnson, Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning

Highlights from our 2007 Illinois State Achievement Test scores indicate Palos 118 pupils continue to show academic excellence:



- Over 92% of District 118 students met or exceeded state standards in reading, math, and science. This is the fifth consecutive year our overall score has improved. Our overall score is the highest among Southern Cook County school districts.
- All three schools and the District as a whole made Acceptable Yearly Progress for all students and for all subgroups under the No Child Left Behind guidelines.
- Improvement was evident at all three schools; overall ISAT scores improved at Palos East by 3%, at Palos West by 1.1%, and at Palos South by .9%.
- The overall percentage of District 118 students scoring in the “*exceeds*” category increased in reading, math and science. The percent of students exceeding state standards in reading increased by 2.5% over 2006; 5% more students exceeded standards in math; and the number of students exceeding standards in science jumped by 12%.

Another indicator of student success is the percent of District graduates qualifying for honors level classes in District 230.

- English: Over 35% of the 8th grade graduating class scored at the Honors level in 2007.
- Reading: 21% of the 8th grade graduating class scored at the Honors level in 2007.
- Math: Over 23% of the 8th grade graduating class scored at the Honors level in 2007.
- Science: Just over 22% of the 8th grade graduating class scored at the Honors level in 2007.



The Palos 118 Educational Foundation

Palos 118 has been working collaboratively with the Palos 118 Educational Foundation to achieve one of the most important technology goals for our students, a new applied technology lab at the South Middle School. Technology has quickly moved from an evolving concept to an expected tool. Our world is dependent upon everything electronic and we are now inevitably connected to each other by digital power. The wonder of technology is bringing a new dynamic to instruction and expanding our classrooms beyond traditional walls.

The Palos 118 Educational Foundation has committed to making the applied technology lab a reality for students and is involved in raising the necessary funding. This project is such an important opportunity for our pupils and is also supported by the Parent Faculty Association. For more information on how you can support this project, and to be an important part of the team that can greatly influence the future direction of technology and instruction for our students, contact Pat Cooney via email fun@palos118.org



Alumni News

Featured Alumni

Ms. Carly Kasper is a 2003 graduate of Palos School District 118. As she finishes her freshman year at the University of Chicago, Ms. Kasper recalls her early foundation of scholastic success while she was a student at Palos West and Palos South schools. According to Ms. Kasper, "The mission of Palos School District 118 is to provide a quality learning environment which challenges its students to become confident, adaptive and productive life-long learners. I have embraced this challenge thanks to the efforts of the dedicated faculty and staff in the District 118 schools."



Ms. Kasper presented her 2007 Stagg High School graduating class with the Salutatorian address last May. This year, Carly is a top student and basketball player at the University of Chicago in Hyde Park. "I live by the words "It is impossible to be a failure if you do everything possible to succeed.""

PALOS 118 ALUMNI FUN FACT

Did you know that Joan Allen ('73), recently starred in The Bourne Ultimatum?



Joan Allen
Class of '73

Attention 118 ALUMNI: We Want to Hear From You!

Please tell your 118 graduate to watch our web site in July for an ALUMNI survey. We are looking for ways to help our 118 ALUMNI network with fellow graduates as we pursue the possible creation of an ALUMNI ASSOCIATION with elementary school reunions, special over 21 outings, and other events throughout the year. If you have any questions or would like to offer your input on a PALOS 118 ALUMNI ASSOCIATION, please email our Communications Coordinator, Kate Gira, at kgira@palos118.org

We Look Forward to Hearing From You!

Palos 118 New Digital Curriculum

The digital world is changing the way schools and parents access instructional materials. Most publishers offer interactive online versions of their newest textbooks with helpful features such as audio buttons that students can click to hear passages, read aloud "Show Me" buttons that launch explanatory animations or streaming video clips, and "Try Me" buttons that provide opportunities for interactive practice or learning games with immediate feedback. Online practice exercises and tests are other popular features. We are excited to offer the following online texts to lighten our students' backpacks and provide greater interactivity to enhance student learning:

- Grades 6-8, Prentice-Hall Literature series (adopted 2006-2007)
- Grades 7-8, Prentice-Hall American History series (adopted 2007-2008)
- Grades K-5, Everyday Mathematics (coming in 2008-2009)

To support your family learning adventures this summer, consider visiting the following web sites designed to help students enjoy keeping their skills sharp:

<http://www.uptoten.com> Parents should click on the parent button to learn more about over 600 games and activities for children up to age 10.

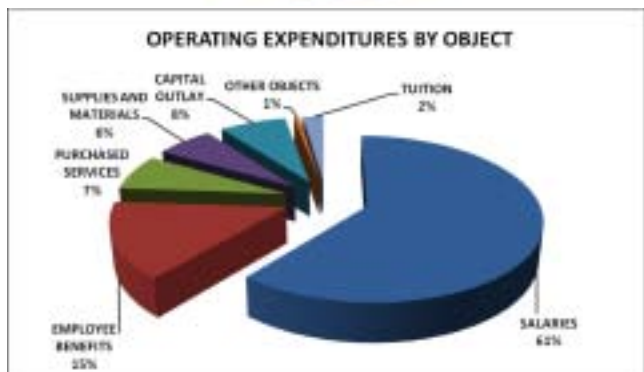
<http://www.mathcats.com> Students can choose from more than 30 interactive math-related activities that challenge their creativity and understanding.

<http://www.education.nasa.gov> Parents should click on the "kids" link located on the top left-hand side of the home page to enter this great site.



Fiscal Excellence: Palos 118 Wins Top Financial Reporting Award

State Superintendent of Education Christopher Koch congratulated Palos School District 118 for earning the highest category of financial achievement based upon the *2008 School District Financial Profile*. "The Illinois State Board of Education commends Palos 118 for achieving excellent financial results." Palos 118 was encouraged to share "the District's strong knowledge of finance and business...to bring strong financial performance to each district in Illinois."



Palos School District 118 has managed to balance its operating funds budget for five consecutive years. Maintaining a balanced budget in future years will be difficult, however. The downturn in the economy has resulted in lower interest rates that will continue to reduce income earned from investments. Continued delays in property tax receipts due to inaction by the state legislature will force the District to continue to utilize cash reserves to operate until property tax revenue is received. Funding capital improvements will be the greatest financial challenge facing the District. Currently, District 118 receives no state or federal funding for capital improvements.

The entire 2007-2008 budget, including a narrative overview, is available online at the District's web site.

Health and Physical Information



Important Health Information

Illinois State Law requires each public school student to present proof of physical examination and immunization upon entering school at kindergarten or at the first grade level, after transferring to a new school, and at the sixth grade level. The Department of Public Health requires evidence of immunity against Poliomyelitis, Diphtheria, Tetanus, Whooping Cough, Measles (Rubeola) Rubella (German or 3-day measles), Mumps, Chicken Pox and Hepatitis B. School District 118 will exclude children on the first day of school until such time as proof of physical examinations and immunizations are presented. If there are objections on religious grounds, a signed statement detailing the ground for objections is required. If the physical condition of a child precludes immunizations on medical grounds, the examining physician must indicate the reasons.

Dental Exam

Illinois State Law requires each public school student to present proof of a dental exam by May 15, 2009 at the kindergarten, second and sixth grade level.

Vision Exam

Illinois State Law requires eye exams within one year prior to entering kindergarten; starting in the fall, and for students entering a school in Illinois for the first time. Proof of the required eye examination by an optometrist or ophthalmologist must be submitted by October 15, 2008.

Pat Creevy, Palos East Principal, Retires



Pat Creevy, Palos East Principal, retires after 21 years of service to Palos 118. Mrs. Creevy began her career in 118 as a third grade teacher and was appointed Assistant Principal in 1997. Mrs. Creevy assumed the Principalship of East in 2001. Mrs. Creevy is a resident of Palos Heights and is looking forward to traveling this fall to the east coast. Mrs. Creevy is best known for her ability to connect with pupils and to make each child at East feel important and cared about. Thank you Pat

Creevy for your service to the Palos 118 community.

Best Wishes to Our Faculty Retirees



Judy Coglianesse retires after 9 years of service to the children of Palos 118. Judy is an Occupational Therapist.



Rita Karns has been a physical education teacher at Palos East for the past 21 years.



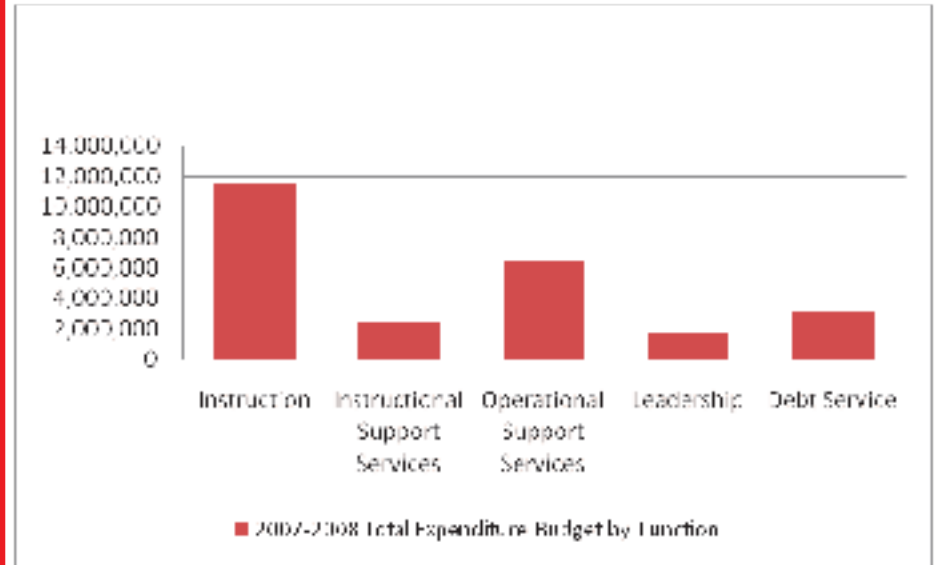
Virginia Swietzer has been a sixth grade teacher at South for the past 20 years. She is currently teaching language arts.

“Education is not filling a pail, but the lighting of a fire”

-William Yeats

“Thank you to our retiring teachers who inspired the children of Palos 118”

2007-2008 Total Expenditure Budget by Function *Teaching and Learning is our #1 Priority*



2008 Technology Report Information, Innovation, *Imagination*



This was a banner year for technology in School District 118. In January, the District celebrated the completion of a project to increase bandwidth speed between buildings from 3MG to 10MG. Scott Fox, Coordinator of Information Technology Services, led the project. Using fiber optics to provide 10MG connections between schools, the upgraded bandwidth allows the District to centralize services that once needed to be replicated in each building. Teachers have been busy creating their own web pages which will enhance parent teacher communications district-wide in the Fall of 2008. The *Applied Technology Laboratory* at our South Middle School campus is also coming this Fall. “Technology” is not just a word used to describe computer equipment in our District. The Applied Technology Laboratory will introduce concepts such as Alternative Energy, Digital Transportation, Engineering, Forensics, Robots, Rocketry and Space, Video Production and several additional cutting-edge technologies. The wonder of technology is bringing a new dynamic to instruction, expanding our classrooms beyond the walls of our school buildings. A special thank you to the Palos 118 Educational Foundation and PFA whose commitment makes the Applied Technology Laboratory a reality for our students.

“It is predicted that by 2023, a \$1,000 computer will exceed the capabilities of the human brain. Today’s Kindergarteners will be 21 years old and in college.”

The Tradition Continues: District 118 Excellence in 2008



Each year, the District is proud to announce many accomplishments on state and local levels. During the 2007-2008 school year, the District was honored with the following achievements:

- *District 118 earns the “School Search” 2007 “Bright Red Apple” award.*
- *District 118 students continue exemplary performance in all state and national testing.*
- *Illinois State Board of Education awards Palos 118 with highest rating for fiscal achievement.*
- *295 District 118 students were “Caught Being Good.”*
- *291 District 118 students awarded Presidential Academic Fitness Award.*
- *7 District 118 athletic teams win first place in conference.*
- *District 118 Wind Ensemble receives first place trophy at St. Lawrence Band Contest for fourth consecutive year.*
- *District 118 Wind Ensemble receives near perfect ratings to take home their fourth consecutive first place rating in the Illinois Grade School Music Association Regional Contest.*
- *District 118 wins Highest Ratings in Math Olympiad Competition.*
- *District 118 student qualifies and participates in National Geographic State Geography Bee.*

Important Dates for the 2008-09 School Year

May 29	Graduation
June 3	MPA White Sox Game
June 4	Last Day of School
June 6	PFA Golf Outing
June 17	Board of Education Meeting
July 15	Board of Education Meeting
August 12	Board of Education Meeting
August 14	South Students Supply Pickup 11 a.m.-2p.m. and 5p.m.-7p.m at South
August 20	First Day of School
August 20	Back to School Picnic - Village Green 5p.m.—7:30p.m.
August 21	First Day of School For Kindergarten
September 1	No School— Labor Day
September 2	Open House –West, 6:30-8p.m.
September 3	Open House –East, 6:30-8p.m.
September 4	Curriculum Night –South, 6:30- 8:30p.m.

Calling all Kindergarteners!

Palos 118 is looking for all children who will be 5 years old by September 1. Kindergarten registration is occurring now. If you have not registered your child, please go to any of our school offices for information on how to do so.



Visit Us Online!

Please visit us online at
www.palos118.org

Connect to your schools online. We are constantly re-evaluating and updating our web site with new information and tools. Daily announcements are listed on each school's web site. Beginning this Fall, all teachers will have web sites that will allow parents to view general classroom information. At South Middle School, parents will be able to access pupil grades online after second quarter. Palos Schools are just a key stroke away.

Online Fee Payment Registration

New for the 2008-2009 school year, District 118 will be processing registration payments and other school related fees online. Parents can access the District's new *Web Store* by logging onto the District 118 web site www.palos118.org and clicking on "Web Store." Parents and guardians who do not have access to the internet at home may visit any District 118 building where a computer and internet access will be available for their use. Online fee payment accepts credit cards and is designed to make the process convenient for parents and reduce District paperwork.

Parents and guardians wishing to pay by check and/or money order can do so in person Monday through Thursday at the Central Administration Building between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. All items purchased for grades Pre-K through five will be distributed during the first week of school. All items purchased for grades six through eight will be distributed at South Pick-Up Day.



Photo Gallery - Spring 2008



Photo Gallery - Spring 2008

