



# Eagle Flyer

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

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## Principal's Corner By: John W. Druszczak

Earlier this year we shared with you our District's Strategic Plan in which the goals were designed to fulfill the district's mission. These goals and the district's plans for meeting those goals serve as guides for the board's decision making process. Also, they provide the board, administrators, and teachers with a common focus and structure for understanding, allowing the administrative team to be proactive rather than reactive and gives board-administrative teams something tangible to communicate to the community. The following is a report on the efforts of the administrative team to create a training program that meets the needs of our staff members and addresses the district's goals. Their report also represents efforts of our teachers for their intelligent and dedicated endeavors toward accomplishing the district goals and improving student learning.

District Goal #1: Curriculum, Instruction, Programming, and Technology Administrative, instruction, and support personnel will develop a technology-based system of data analysis for the purpose of increasing student achievement.

Through the 2002-03 Staff Development Program we will have addressed data analysis for student achievement and demographics, learned how to write specific action plans that address the identified needs, received training in a group presentation model to help our teams report on their accomplishments, become more aware of the instructional modification for special needs students, and reviewed our Social Studies Curriculum.

The outline listed below incorporates some of the strategies offered in our District Strategic Plan. You may note that we have scheduled staff development training to analyze student achievement data, create action plans to address specifically identified needs, and created a process to report the progress toward the accomplishment of our goals. A major component to meeting our district goals is the selection of staff development programs that will incorporate our goals. This year's staff development program creation has been challenged by a lack of funding. Administrators from all three buildings had created a plan whereby we would use free resources available and fill in the gaps with district administrators learning and presenting the new systems. By reviewing a teacher Staff Development Survey, it has become clear that thus far our mission has been successful and teachers understand the process that was presented. Their action plans serve as products to their accomplishments and provides us a continuous school improvement focus. The following provides a chronological order of events.

August's In-service began with specific training on writing SMART goals (Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Results oriented, and Time bound). The process is similar to the one used by the School Board Committee when they use the strategic planning process.

During our November In-service meeting the staff members in all three buildings had the opportunity to learn a new process for analyzing student achievement data and demographics. They produced charts and graphs that helped them make instructional decisions to improve student learning and achievement. Each grade level team developed action plans to focus on specific areas of student learning and instructional improvement. The teams used the action plan format they learned in September to provide instructional focus and

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specific outcome expectations.

In December our staff members had further training on analyzing and using the ITBS (Iowa Test of Basic Skill) student achievement data.

During our January In-service workshop our staff members learned a Team Presentation model they can use to express their evaluation of their team goals, as outlined in their action plans. Additionally, had have training workshops on differentiating instructions for special needs students.

At our March In-service program our staff members will evaluate the achievement goals listed in their action plans and have a ready resource to help improve their future action plans. Additionally, we will have a presentation on the *No Child Left Behind* law and what that means to us at the Federal State and District levels.

Also, in April they will develop their 2003-04 grade level improvement plans based on the ITBS student achievement data.

Finally, in April and May our teams will be presenting their action plan results at our faculty meetings so that we can learn from each other and celebrate our successes.

Additionally, we had secured grant funds to pay for school-based teams to meet and develop lesson plans aligned with the State Goals and Standards.

This article identifies specific programming activities related to improving curriculum, instruction, programming, and technology. A future District Community Newsletter will address Buildings and Grounds, Finance, Policy Development, Transportation, Development of the Board of Education, and Development of Liaison activities.



## Parent/Teacher Conference Notification

The Spring parent/teacher conferences are being scheduled for **Thursday, March 20, and Friday, March 21**. We hope the evening times will allow you to attend a scheduled conference. Due to the evening conferences, students will be dismissed at **11:45 AM on Thursday and there will be no school on Friday**. Conferences are an important time for you and your child's teachers to meet and discuss any questions or concerns you may have about his/her academic/social/emotional growth. Any information that you can share with a teacher from a parent perspective will be most helpful.

### **Thursday:**

8:45 - 11:45 a.m.

**Student attendance - 1/2 day of school**

### Evening Parent/Teacher Conference

4:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Grades 1-5

15 minute conferences in the student's home room

4:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Kindergarten

15 minute conferences

### **Friday:**

8:00 - 12:00 p.m.

Day Parent/Teacher Conference (No School for Students)

Grades 1-5

15 minute conferences in the student's home room

Kindergarten

15 minute conferences

**To schedule a conference please call Mrs. Perl at 675-2342 during school hours.** You may **start calling Monday, March 10**. If you run out of time during your conference please, as a courtesy to other parents waiting, schedule another appointment. To help make the most of your conference, you will receive a pamphlet in the next few weeks, "Parent-Teacher Conferences: How to use them and help your child". I hope you have a productive and informative conference and we look forward to seeing all of you.



## Associate Principal News

By: Michael Smith

The students of Spring Grove School will be taking standardized tests in the coming weeks. First will be the Iowa Test of Basic Skills. This battery of tests will be administered starting March 6. The Illinois Standards Achievement Tests will be given the week of March 31.

I would ask that if at all possible, please make sure that your child attends school on the days of testing. Limited make-up time is available, so please schedule any appointments, for which your child would miss school, around these dates. Also, make sure your child gets a good night's sleep before each test day. This is very beneficial for students.

A few more items to help your child do his/her best on the days of testing would include:

1. Provide breakfast on the morning of testing;
2. Make sure your child has two #2 pencils;
3. Remind your child to ask questions if he/she does not understand test directions;
4. Tell them not to worry about the test, just do the best he/she can.

Please call your child's teacher if you would like any additional information or have further questions about these tests. The results will be shared with you when they are received.

On another note, I would like to share with you the progress of one of the district's goals as it relates to Spring Grove School. Goal number nine is to develop a district vision, mission, and logo.

First of all, a learning principles committee has been formed to identify students' learning patterns, styles and beliefs.

Secondly, a mission/vision committee is charged to update current mission/vision statements as they relate to district goals and beliefs. The new statements will also be aligned to the no child left behind legislation.

Finally, additional Spring Grove staff members have been trained on the school improvement process, which uses the continuous quality improvement strategy.



## 'Keying' in on the Computer Lab

by: Jennifer Lansinger

Here are some activities that took place in the Computer Lab during the month of February.

### **Kindergarten:**

- \*Played Sunbuddy Math Playhouse on Citrix
- \*Practiced typing words in Kid Works 2
- \*Looked at Penguins on the Internet
- \*Played PM StoryBook on Citrix

### **First Grade:**

- \*Created a page for their 'Memory Book' in Easy-Book Deluxe
- \*Practiced keyboarding in Type to Learn Jr.
- \*Logged onto Citrix using their username & password
- \*Explored Sunbuddy Math Playhouse and PM StoryBook on Citrix
- \*Created a "You're Special" drawing in KW2
- \*Completed a "Disks" packet as a whole group

### **Second Grade:**

- \*Created a 'Healthy Heart' drawing in Kid Pix/KW2
- \*Visited a "Virtual Body" website
- \*Completed a "Brushing UP" worksheet using the Internet
- \*Practiced keyboarding using a new program called New Keys for Kids
- \*Logged onto Citrix and explored Ice Cream Truck

### **Third Grade:**

- \*Completed a packet called "Spreadsheets & Databases"
- \*Completed a "A Visit to the Dentist" worksheet using the Internet
- \**African-American Inventors Project:* Used the Internet to research 10 African-American Inventors. Then created a database using Microsoft Access and entered their data into their database.

### **Fourth Grade:**

- \*Completed a packet called "Inside a Computer"
- \**Black History Presentation Project:* Used the Internet to research a selected famous African-American. Saved a graphic from the Internet to insert into PowerPoint. Created a slide in Microsoft PowerPoint- entered a title, text, & graphic. All slides were put together for a whole presentation for Black History month. (Look for the Presentation at Conferences!) Internet. Created a slide in PowerPoint- entered a title, text, and imported a graphic.
- \*Completed a "Word Processing" packet with a partner

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**Fifth Grade:****Fifth Grade:**

\**No Flakes Like Snowflakes Project:* Drew a snowflake in Paint. Researched a 'Snow Term' using the "**SuperBowl of Keyboarding**" **Final scores!**

**Third Grade:** 3K-53, 3P-56, 3R-72, 3W-58 **Fourth**

**Grade:** 4D-104, 4G-108, 4K-81, 4N-78 **Fifth**

**Grade:** 5C-114, 5M-75, 5O-104, 5T-103

**Internet Site of the Month**

[www.mydiscoverzone.com](http://www.mydiscoverzone.com) – Discover Zone is an online learning environment teaching the habits and skills of success, including:

- Organizational skills
- Academic skills
- Life skills

**.Don't forget that you and your children can log onto Citrix and use some of the same programs that we use in the lab!! Questions about this? Check out the school**

**P.E. NEWS**

By: Mr. Adams

Students Have just finished another successful year doing Jump Rope For Heart. Thank you to the P.T.O. and Mrs. Pauley for all their hard work making it the fun event that it is. Students, you did a great job of jumping and raising money for such a worthy cause. You should be very proud of your efforts.

Good luck to students participating in the youth basketball program. You are all winners.

Physical Education classes will begin their unit on floor hockey. We ask that no one bring in sticks from home.

**Notes from the Nurse**

By: Sandra Conrad, BSN

**Reminder: If your child routinely takes prescription or over-the-counter medications, please inform the nurse's office. This information is kept in their medical files.**

Check your child's backpack for communication regarding their visit to the nurse.

Please remember when calling the office about your child's illness to inform them if they have strep throat or chicken pox.

Please call me with any questions at (815) 675-2342x 225.

**LEARNING CENTER NEWS****YOUNG AUTHORS' UPDATE:**

Monday, March 17 is the deadline for all kindergarten through fifth grade students to turn in their stories for the "Young Authors" competition. The "Young Authors" tea will be held in the library during the week of March 31. Judges will select finalists from each category (K-1), (2-3), & (4-5) who will be invited to attend the tea, and the winner will be announced. Our building winner will represent Spring Grove School at the "Young Authors" Conference at Illinois State University on Saturday, May 17, 2003.

**JIM MAY RESIDENCY:**

During the week of February 10, our students at Spring Grove School were immersed in storytelling with the world renowned writer and storyteller, Jim May. Jim spent all week teaching, storytelling, and conferencing with kindergarten through fifth grade students. This residency was made possible through a grant from the Illinois Arts Council and our Spring Grove School P.T.O. Highlights of the week were students learning sign language to tell a story, learning about paradox and transformation, and the importance of listening.

**SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR:**

"CLUED INTO READING" is the theme for this spring's book fair. The book fair will begin on Monday, March 17 and continue all week until Friday, March 21. The fair will be open and running in conjunction with parent-teacher conferences on Thursday night and Friday morning. Come visit the Scholastic Book Fair and "get caught in a great book" and "leave your fingerprints on a great book!"

**CURRICULUM UPDATE:**

The American Library Association announced the Caldecott winners last month on Monday, January 20. This award is given to the most outstanding picture book published in the previous year. The finalists were *My Friend Rabbit*, *Hondo and Fabian*, *Noah's Ark*, and *The Spider and the Fly*. Students listened and studied the illustrations of all four books. The majority of students here at Spring Grove School voted *Noah's Ark* as their Caldecott winner for the gold medal. The actual winner for 2003 was Eric Rohmann's *My Friend Rabbit*.

**ASSEMBLY IN APRIL:**

April 10 Spring Grove School students will be able to "journey to the center of the earth" in a flatable balloon. Earth Balloon is owned by WhereAbouts, Inc. that offers geography enrichment programs for schools and museums. This program is made possible through Spring Grove P.T.O.

## L.A.B.

By: Mrs. Calliger

It is hard to believe that we are heading into spring . Our enrichment classes have been filled with activities ranging from personal style to mind-benders.

Kindergarten has spent a couple of weeks on recognizing letters of the alphabet in a puzzle format. They have also learned the words cat, yes, go and car by sight. Again we searched for these words using puzzles and by practicing some writing. Excellent job Kindergarten!!

1st grade had fun with patterns. They had to finish the missing element in a pattern containing at least 10 items. These items ranged from letters to familiar objects. We also took a quiz in which the kids had to complete a pattern with 3 missing elements mostly with shapes. The first graders loved making up their own patterns to trade with a friend to see if the friend could finish off the next missing element. They also made a valentine heart just by ripping out the sides of a blank red sheet of paper. Thanks for doing a great job with a difficult activity.

The 2nd graders did a variety of activities using inference skills. They had to identify missing parts of a picture and then draw in the missing parts to the scene. We also worked on studying the inventor Samuel Morse and Morse code. The kids loved figuring out messages using Morse code. They also practiced writing their own names and the names of other students in code. Thanks for being great listeners and mastering a difficult code.

We spent time doing a language/writing unit involving the making of detailed paragraphs and the use of adjectives. The kids also learned how to brainstorm new little words from being given one larger word. We also spent time on creativity doing projects with some parent helpers on the dinner/dance auction creations. The projects are absolutely stunning and the kids were amazed at how well they could draw and paint on very different surfaces. Thank you for working hard on these projects and getting them done in a short amount of time.

We are studying the Bill of Rights...with prime focus on the 1st, 4th, 5th & 8th amendments. The kids and I have been having a lot of fun with our law unit and learning how these amendments apply to certain well-known cases. We really have some awesome young lawyers in our fifth grade. Thanks for showing great interest

# TECHNOLOGY UPDATE

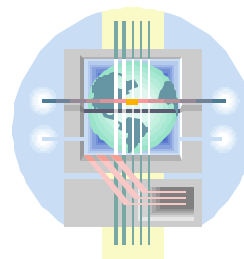
## ***Nippersink e-Teach and Citrix.....what's it all about?***

Nippersink e-TEACH (electronically-**T**oday's **E**ducational **A**pplications **C**oming **H**ome) is the name we've given to our remote (offsite) network. Citrix is the software used to run applications remotely. NSD2 has been somewhat of a pioneer in the area of schools operating a remote network using an Applications Service Provider (ASP), but more schools are moving to remote networks, Citrix and ASP's daily. When the initial decision was made to operate a remote network, it was due to a failing technology program that was not meeting the needs of the students, staff or district. We are proud of the Nippersink e-TEACH System, the capabilities it provides to the students and staff and, of course, the financial savings to the district.

## ***A few facts regarding the Nippersink e-TEACH System:***

- ◇ Server uptime for the 2002/03 school year 99.982%
- ◇ 1447 students enrolled in Accelerated Reader
- ◇ Student/staff average usage during any given moment for the months of: September-139; October-125; November-135; December-175; January-125; February-140.
- ◇ The Nippersink Public Library will be adding four new computers to handle the increasing number of students accessing the Nippersink e-TEACH System after school and on weekends.

If you would like more information, or are interested in downloading the Citrix software and accessing the Nippersink e-TEACH System, please call Mary Mikell, Technology Coordinator/Staff Developer at 815-678-7129 ext. 248.



## LA CLASE DE ESPAÑOL

By: Señora Kammerzelt

Dear Parents, (Querida Padres),

The kindergarten classes have watched, and/or listened to the stories, "The Three Bears", and "The Three Little Pigs"; in Spanish. To learn some of the vocabulary from the story in Spanish, I have note cards of the words. I show and share these before the story and then review them after the story. Then we play Vocabulary Tic-Tac-Toe using these set of words. I'm always amazed at how quickly they learn some of the words! For Valentines Day we are writing some Valentines vocabulary in a bilingual mini-book. I hope you see these as they are sent home with your children.

First graders are listening to stories that are centered around the farm animal theme and reviewing this vocabulary. Then we will focus on classroom vocabulary.

The second graders have just finished making a picture that includes their family, and pets and labels to go with these. They are now displayed in the hallway. Next, they will learn adjectives to describe people.

Third graders will be finishing up family and learning some basic map skills in Spanish.

Fourth graders are completing their drawings and sentences, of a trip they took, that includes each type of transportation they used while on their trip.

Fifth graders continue to learn more action words and how to conjugate them.

Feliz Marzo. Happy March.

## Take Your Children to Work Day!

Several years ago the Ms. Foundation for Women created the annual Take Our Daughters to Work project. It was designed to show girls that they could become anything they want to be.

Although there are benefits to the program, the children do miss a day's worth of learning. I am concerned about the absences and therefore asking that you keep your children in school instead of pulling them out. Since the district only has 174 days to educate the children, every day counts.

Please consider using Spring Break or the summer months to expose all of your children to the work place. That way, they can still experience the benefits without losing valuable instruction time.

## NOTES FROM THE PPS TEAM REGARDING TESTING FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES.....

If your child is in the process of a Full Case Study Evaluation, or Speech/Language Evaluation, please remember the following:

1. The State allows school districts 60 school days from the date that parents sign consent, to complete an evaluation. Although we make every attempt to complete evaluations as quickly as possible, generally we do take very close to the 60 days to complete evaluations, due to the high volume of children who are currently being tested., as well as the large of amount of students who are receiving services from each of us.
2. Usually your child will be tested in the 2-3 weeks prior to the final meeting, so do not become concerned if it seems that it is taking a long time for testing to begin. Please inform the team if your child is available for testing before or after school, as this may help to speed up the process.
3. It is important that you fill out any forms that are given or sent to you completely. Please return them in a sealed envelope, as soon as possible, to the appropriate person. Parental input is a very important part of the evaluation process.
4. If your child becomes eligible for services, they will generally begin the week following the final meeting (Child Review Meeting).

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the School Social Worker, Brenda Kunz, at 675-2342, extension 404.

## ART NEWS

By: MRS. MORAN

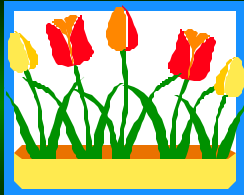
It's school bus safety time again. In cooperation with our transportation department we will be discussing bus safety and completing a poster in all art class to visually demonstrate the safety rules. These posters are part of the state-wide bus safety program. Last year, Spring Grove School had two of the twelve state winners, Raschell Weirich and Lindsey Rietschel. Good Luck Spring Grove artists.



# SPRING GROVE SCHOOL EAGLE FLYER CALENDAR

## March 2003

<u>MONDAY</u>	<u>TUESDAY</u>	<u>WEDNESDAY</u>	<u>THURSDAY</u>	<u>FRIDAY</u>	<u>SATURDAY</u>
					<i>March 1</i> Market Day Pick Up 10 am Cafe
<b>3</b> NO SCHOOL <b>CASIMIR PULASKI DAY</b>	<b>4</b> Spring Picture Day 9 a.m.	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> PTO Dinner Dance
			<b>IOWA TESTING STARTS</b>		
<b>10</b> Start Taking Parent Teacher Conference Reservation	<b>11</b> PTO Mtg. 7 pm Cafe	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> 3rd Qtr. Ends PTO Candidate Meeting 7 pm Café	<b>14</b> NO SCHOOL <b>TEACHER INSTITUTE DAY</b>	<b>15</b>
	<b>IOWA TESTING WEEK</b>				
<b>17</b> Kindergarten Screening @ St. Peters Church	<b>18</b> 2nd Grade Field Trip JFK Kindergarten Screening @ St. Peters Church School Board Mtg. @ NMS 7 pm	<b>19</b> Report Cards Go Home Kindergarten Screening @ Spring Grove	<b>20</b> <b>EARLY DISMISSAL 11:45</b> AM Kindergarten To attend. Parent Teacher Conf. 4— 8 pm	<b>21</b> NO SCHOOL Parent Teacher Conf. 8 am—Noon	<b>22</b>
<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> Market Day Pick Up 10 am Cafe
<b>SPRING BREAK!!!</b>					
<b>31</b> <b>WELCOME BACK!!</b>	<i>April 1</i>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> PTO Variety Show 7 pm Gym	<b>5</b>
<b>ISAT TESTING WEEK</b>					



# NIPPERSINK SCHOOL DIST. 2

# LUNCH MENU

## MARCH 2003

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>2</b> Daily Milk .20 10 Ticket Milk Strip \$2.00	<b>3</b> No School Casimir Pulaski-Day	<b>4</b> Cheese Burger Pretzels Carrot Coins Diced Pears Milk	<b>5</b> Grilled Cheese Tomato Soup Mixed Fruit Fruit Snack Milk	<b>6</b> Pork Chop Mashed Potatoes 'N Gravy Green Beans Applesauce Milk	<b>7</b> Pancakes Sausage Links Banana Muffin Juice Cup Milk	<b>8</b>
<b>Menu Subject To Change</b> Student \$1.80 5 Day Lunch Ticket \$9.00 Purchase the First day of The week.	<b>10</b> Chili 'N Cheese Corn Bread Nut Trail Mix Diced Peaches Milk	<b>11</b> Baked Chicken Mashed Potatoes 'N Gravy Peas Fruit Milk	<b>12</b> Hot Dog Baked Beans Pickle Spears Rice Krispie Treat Milk	<b>13</b> Cheese Pizza Tossed Salad Grapes Raspberry Juicee Milk	<b>14</b> No School Teacher Institute Day	<b>15</b>
<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> Turkey/Cheese Sub Sandwich Spaghetti's Chips Fruit Cup Milk	<b>18</b> Nachos Grande Rice Veggie Blend Pineapple Churro Milk	<b>19</b> Belgium Waffles Cheese Omelet Orange Juice Cup Milk	<b>20</b> No Lunch Early Dismissal	<b>21</b> No School Parent/Teacher Conferences	<b>22</b>
<b>23</b>	<b>SPRING BREAK!!</b>					<b>29</b>
<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> Beef Ravioli Garlic Bread Mozz. Cheese Stick Fruit Cup Milk	<b>April 1</b> Corn Dog Sun Chips Broccoli Mixed Fruit Milk	<b>April 2</b> Sloppy Joe Tator Tots Corn Applesauce Brownie Milk	<b>April 3</b> French Toast Ham Slice Trix Yogurt Grapes Juice Cup Milk	<b>April 4</b> Grilled Cheese Tomato Soup Pickle Spears Fruit Snack Milk	