

# Your School District Connection

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Inspiring all learners to  
achieve excellence

## Schools Prepare for Opening Day

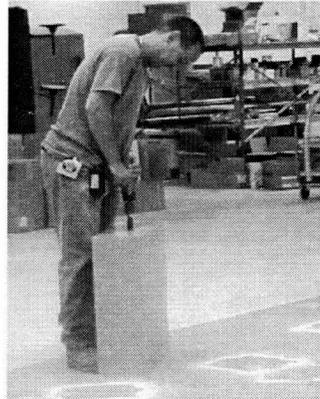
Maintenance projects have been in full force as District 220 Buildings and Grounds personnel and contractors spent summer "vacation" getting buildings ready for the beginning of school. In addition to regular maintenance performed each year, the district is proceeding with a number of major projects identified in its five-year maintenance plan, including:

- Installation of air conditioning at Grove Avenue and Sunny Hill Elementary Schools;
- Reconstruction and paving repair of parking lots and sidewalks at seven buildings;
- Restroom reconstruction at BMS — Station Campus;
- General tuckpointing and brick repair;
- Window and door replacement at Grove, Sunny Hill, Hough, and Lines Elementary Schools;
- School security entry systems in various buildings.

Funding for the projects came from a number of sources, including the maintenance budget, life safety bonds, and a state construction grant.



New pipes will soon handle both cool and warm air at Sunny Hill School.



Equipment is readied for restrooms at BMS—Station Campus.



Reconstructed grounds receive finishing touches at Hough St. School.

## District 220 Bond Rating Improves

District 220's bond rating was recently upgraded to AA- from A+ by Standard & Poor's. Dr. Mary Herrmann, Superintendent of Schools, stated, "This upgrade is a reflection of our district's fiscal discipline and the support of the community. Pat Siegel, Assistant Superintendent for Business, has worked diligently with our Board of Education to bring us to this point."

Three factors were key to District 220's bond rating improvement: operating with a balanced budget, high property value (EAV) per capita, and demonstration of community support of District 220 via approved referenda.

Standard & Poor's indicated that an improved bond rating is significant given the financial crises facing many school districts. They also suggested that building a healthier fund balance would probably be necessary in order to further enhance the district's bond rating.

The upgraded bond rating will result in savings for the school district when funds are borrowed. For example, bonds issued for construction may qualify for more attractive rates and will no longer require insurance.

### District 220 Strategic Goals

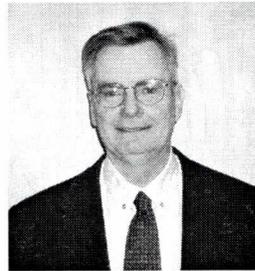
Community & Trust • Resources • Instruction • Staff Development • Staffing • Instruction-Technology

**Resources:** To design and clearly communicate a financial plan that will instill confidence and support and will generate sufficient revenue to meet all the district's current and future resource requirements.

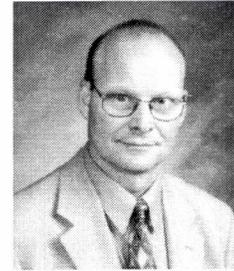
## Administration Focuses on Service

In keeping with the District's three E's – *effectiveness, efficiency, and equity* – Dr. Herrmann has announced a new organizational structure for the 2003-04 school year.

In the new plan, the elementary and secondary grades will be given more focused attention under the leadership of *Dr. Michael Gilmore* and *Dr. Tom Leonard*. As Assistant Superintendent of Elementary Education (PreK-5), *Dr. Michael Gilmore* will oversee the elementary and early childhood programs. *Dr. Tom Leonard*, Assistant Superintendent for Secondary Education (6-12), will supervise middle and high school programs while continuing to serve as Principal at Barrington High School.



*Dr. Michael Gilmore,*  
Assistant Superintendent



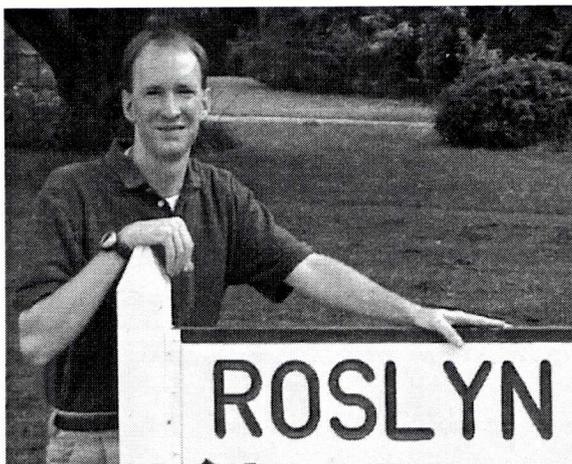
*Dr. Tom Leonard,*  
Assistant Superintendent

Several other administrators will be taking on new or expanded roles and responsibilities as part of the restructuring plan:

- *Connie Simon*, the new Director of Special Services, will be responsible for Special Services PreK-12;
- *Dennis Pauli*, Principal of Countryside Elementary School, will also serve as Director of Curriculum PreK-5;
- *Janice DiVincenzo*, Principal of Lines Elementary School, will add the responsibilities of Director of Literacy PreK-5;
- *Dr. Alena Laube*, Associate Principal at BHS, will assume the duties of Director of Curriculum grades 6-12, and in addition, oversee the English Language Learner program PreK-12; and
- *Jack Bowyer*, Chair of the BHS English Department, and *Dr. Maria Vlahos*, Chair of the BHS Math Department, will expand their duties to include the English and math programs in grades 6-12.

Although new positions have been created, the number of administrators (measured as full-time equivalents) has not increased.

## New Principal for Roslyn Road School



*Mr. Paul Kirk, Principal*

Paul Kirk has been named Principal of Roslyn Road School. For the past two years, Mr. Kirk has been the Associate Principal at BMS—Prairie Campus. Before that, he taught at Waubonsie Valley High School in Aurora. He has a B.A. in Literature and Communication from Benedictine University, an M.A. in Education from North Central College, and certification as a Learning and Behavior Specialist from Northern Illinois University. Kirk states, "I look forward to working with the families and staff at Roslyn Road School."

Kirk was selected from a pool of 60 applicants. The search committee consisted of teachers, Roslyn Road School parents, elementary principals, and administrators. When announcing his appointment, Dr. Herrmann said, "From the beginning of his teaching career to the present, it is apparent that Paul has all the qualities we look for in a principal. He is caring, inquisitive, inspiring, and a lifelong learner."

Replacing Kirk as Associate Principal at BMS Prairie Campus is David Dick, who served as a Dean of Students at BHS last year as part of the District's Leadership Academy.

## Community Members Offer Ideas for Building on Middle School Strengths

Last May over 45 community members participated in the third in a series of Community Discussion Groups focused on the Middle School program. The following presents highlights of a report given to the Board of Education.

### *Many Strengths at Middle School*

Participants cited Barrington Middle School (BMS) as an overall strong program that prepares students well for high school. Specific strengths included a wide variety of curricular offerings, team teaching, high quality teachers, and effective leadership from principals.

### *Opportunities*

Suggestions for further strengthening the program included placing a greater emphasis on reading and writing, more proactive communication between parents and teachers, increasing the scope and number of extracurricular offerings, reducing some class sizes, and further extending team learning in grades 7 and 8.

### *District Managing Enrollment Growth Well*

When asked to comment on the potential need for an additional middle school, residents stated that District 220 has done a good job managing the growing enrollment at the middle schools. Over the past ten years, the student population has grown from 1614 to 2030, a 26% increase. Since current projections indicate that future growth may be at a somewhat slower pace, the benefits of a third middle school were unclear to residents at this point in time.

Dr. Mary Herrmann stated, "I believe that the community will be excited with the instruction initiatives for Barrington Middle School. The new Language Arts and World Language programs will place greater emphasis on reading and writing. In addition, the new math program will better match the curriculum to our students. We look forward to working with our staff and community members to further strengthen our schools."

To view the report, go to [www.cusd220.lake.k12.il.us](http://www.cusd220.lake.k12.il.us) and click on "Board Meeting Highlights 7/14."

Thank you to the 280 residents who participated in one or more of the 2002/03 Community Discussion Groups. Any resident of District 220 is welcome to participate. If you would like personal notification of future group meetings, leave your name and address at (847) 842-3501.

#### District 220 Strategic Goals

**Community & Trust** • Resources • Instruction • Staff Development  
• Staffing • Instruction-Technology

**Community & Trust:** To build mutual understanding and trust between the school district and its community of stakeholders.

## A Message from Your Superintendent

The past two months have been filled with activity preparing our buildings and personnel for the start of the 2003-04 school year.

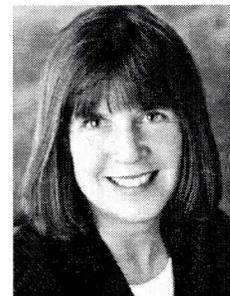
Administrators have worked diligently recruiting and hiring new teachers, assigning mentors, preparing orientation sessions, scheduling classes, and organizing schools to welcome our students. Many staff members spent their summer months learning.

Approximately 750 teachers, administrators, and support staff attended district-sponsored professional development courses related to reading, writing, and mathematics instruction; problem-based learning; differentiating instruction in the classroom; assessing student learning; curriculum mapping; and using technology to enhance learning.

Our students were busy as well. More than 2,000 chose to further enrich their educational experiences by participating in self-funded summer session courses and camps. This year, the District hosted 46 academic classes and 10 sports camps, which were attended by approximately 1,500 Barrington High School students, 361 middle school students, and 287 elementary school students. Plans are underway to expand programming next year.

As summer gives way to the first few days of school, we look forward to another exciting and productive year. This year we will celebrate our 30<sup>th</sup> year as a unit district by continuing to focus on our Strategic Plan and our commitment to continuous improvement. We are an excellent District... getting better every day. Thank you for supporting our schools.

*Mary B. Neumann*



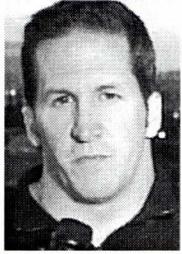
Dr. Mary B. Herrmann



Luc Miron, Hilary Price, and Melissa Kinnaman, work on a project during new teacher orientation.

## Profiles In Excellence

In commemoration of our 30th anniversary, District 220 continues to profile some of the many alumni and staff who have been nominated by their peers as exemplifying excellence.



Michael Tobin

**Michael Tobin, '84** — After graduating from BHS, Tobin earned a BS from the Walter Cronkite School of Journalism and Telecommunications at Arizona State University. He worked as a general assignment reporter and fill-in anchor at WSVN Miami, FL.

Tobin is now a correspondent for FOX NEWS. In addition to his reporting duties, he has learned desert and combat survival skills while covering wars in Afghanistan and the Gulf.

**Catherine Scheid**, Middle school teacher —“There was one teacher who was better than just good. She was an outstanding teacher,” says a former student. “Her classroom was a community. I learned more than just 6th grade science that year. I learned about respect and learned that simply listening to a student’s problem can make a huge difference in that child’s life.”



Catherine Scheid

Scheid currently teaches at BMS— Prairie Campus.



## Landscaping Donated to BHS

Thanks to the generosity of The Barrington Garden Club, The Little Garden Club of Barrington, and Doering Landscape Contractors, Barrington High School has beautiful landscaping in front of the building. The \$20,000 cost was funded entirely by the two garden clubs and Doering.

This project is one piece of a comprehensive landscape plan that has been developed for the BHS campus. Significant areas are still in need of improvement. If you are interested in donating to any part of the landscape project, please call Mr. Paul Gillette, BHS Associate Principal, at 847-381-1400.

<i>Calendar</i>	<b>August 26</b> • First Day of School grades 1-12
	<b>September 2</b> • First Day for Kindergarten & Early Childhood
	<b>September 26</b> • Institute Day - No School
	<b>October 4</b> • Homecoming
	<b>October 13</b> • Columbus Day - No School
	<b>October 23 &amp; 24</b> • Conferences/Institute Day - No School



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Mary B. Hermann, Ph.D.

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