



REBA O. STECK
PTA

EAGLE EYE

June 2009 Newsletter

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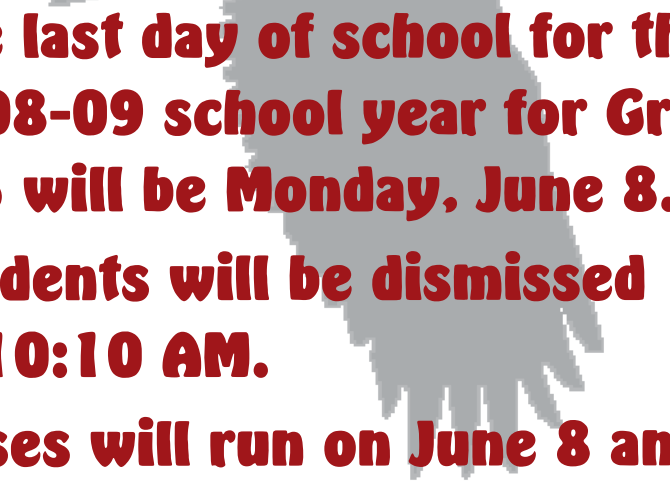
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Steck Web Site

<http://steck.ipisd.org/>

PTA Web Site

<http://www.steckpta.org>



The last day of school for the 2008-09 school year for Grades K-5 will be Monday, June 8. Students will be dismissed at 10:10 AM. Buses will run on June 8 and will leave our building at 10:10.

Table of Contents

May/June Calendar	2
Fischer Families	2
Junior Achievement	2
PTA President's Letter.....	3
Legislative Happenings	4-5
Box Tops.....	6
Market Day	7
Campbell's Food for Thought.....	7



Steck Calendar

May/June 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
May 24	25 NO SCHOOL Memorial Day	26	27	28 Character Counts T-Shirt Day and Picture 9:20 AM	29 4 th Grade BP Jeopardy Game Student Council 8:15 AM	30
31	June 1	2 Field Day	3 Field Day <i>Rain date</i>	4 Gr. 5 to Morton Arboretum, 9:05–2:00	5 Gr. 3 to Brookfield Zoo 9:00–2:40	6 Market Day, 10:30–11:30 
7	8 Last Day of School for Gr. K-5 Dismissal at 10:10 AM Report Cards Go Home	9	10	11	12	13

Hello Future Fischer Families,

It has been a fabulous spring with the transition activities for our incoming 6th grade students and their parents. We will look forward to seeing many of you at one of our Summer Open Houses scheduled on July 27th, 29th & August 5th. In the meantime, if you have any questions, please feel welcome to e-mail me at jennifer_nonnemacher@ipsd.org.

After June 12th, the main telephone number for Fischer will be 630-375-3100. However, I'll be back and forth between two buildings for much of June, and I may be difficult to reach by telephone. Once we are settled, I'll send an update via Fischer-News with the Fischer telephone numbers.

Have a great summer!

Jennifer Nonnemacher

Principal, Still Middle School

630-375-3900

Junior Achievement

We have concluded another successful spring junior achievement program.

I would like to thank our volunteer teachers: *Noel Houghton, Valena Sibley, Sharon Reed, Kelly Breuer, Sudheesh Nair,* and *Ann Marie Stone* and our parent helpers: *Farrak Shawkat* and *Tom and Jennifer Martin*. I would also like to thank our Steck parents for signing their children up for Junior Achievement! We hope to see you all back next year.

Renee Trotter

Junior Achievement Chair



PRESIDENT'S LETTER PRESIDENT'S LETTER PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Letter From Our PTA President

Hooolllly Cow! (Sorry Sox fans!) It's time to add the 2008-09 school year to the history books!

What a fantastic year we've finished at Steck! From the Ice Cream Social at meet the teacher to the upcoming Disney concert, we've accomplished a lot as an award winning PTA! All of this could not have happened without the dedication of the PTA volunteers that have worked tirelessly to make Steck PTA one of the leading PTA's in District 204.

Special thanks go to our outgoing Board members,

*Brenda Cordero, Michelle Morano,
Leigh Ann Marrs Jill Sims.*

These women have been instrumental in our success and I thank them sincerely!

I would like to welcome to the 2009-10 Steck PTA Board:

*Mishelle Williams, 1st Vice President,
Kathy Luczynski 2nd Vice President
Dina Vance 1st Secretary
Poonam Harpalani 2nd Secretary*

I am looking forward to a successful year!

We want to especially thank ALL of the room parents, committee chairs, and EVERY volunteer for participating from a one day event, at home help, to daily volunteers. We truly could not function without EVERYONE! We will be looking for feedback on your experiences via a survey in the coming weeks. Please let us know how we have done well and where or how we can improve.

The *Eagle Eye Newsletter* is a vital communication tool for our school and families. *Janel Zuranski* has done a wonderful job of producing the *Eagle Eye* for our community. THANK YOU Janel! We all appreciate your time and talent!

Kudos also goes out to the Staff Appreciation chairs *Karin Myre* and *Allison Schleining*. Several staff members raved about the "awesome week" and sent "A BIG THANK YOU!" to everyone that participated through donations, raffle prizes, food preparation, decoration. Our Co-Chairs Karin and Allison would like to especially thank the *Rook family* for supplying/making the breakfast and the *Daugherty family* for donating pizza for lunch. Without the volunteers, (yeah, I'll say it again), these wonderful programs would not be possible. Thank you!!

As we head into summer, our Ward 8 Alderman, *Rick Mervine*, has a few suggestions for keeping our neighborhood beautiful and safe.

⇒ "Take It or Trunk It" is the motto from the City of Aurora Police. If you must leave your vehicle in your driveway, lock it, and either take your valuables (GPS, purse, laptop) in with you or secure them in the trunk.

⇒ Road repair projects are well under way throughout our neighborhood. If you have concerns, please call the city of Aurora information line at 630-264-INFO.

⇒ The Ash Borer has been confirmed in our immediate area (Liberty St) but not in Oakhurst. If you see parkway trees losing leaves or looking "sickly" please call the City at 630-264-INFO. The City of Aurora is an Arbor City and is responsible for the parkway trees. Please keep an eye on our community and report any suspicious trees!

⇒ Remember that the City of Aurora has reduced it's crime rate! Although our population has nearly doubled, our crime rate is as low as the 1970's! Together as a community, we should celebrate and share the news that Aurora is a great place to live!

On behalf of the Steck PTA Board, we hope you have a safe, healthy (wash your hands) and happy summer!

On behalf of the Steck PTA Board, thank you!

Nancy Vickers, President



LEGISLATIVE HAPPENINGS LEGISLATIVE HAPPENINGS LEGISLATIVE HAP

LEGISLATIVE HAPPENINGS

by Tasha Heidenrich

Local and Municipal Legislation

204 Teacher Contract Renewed

At their April 13 meeting, the school board approved a one-year teacher contract in a 6-1 vote to raise salaries 3.87% for the coming school year. Some residents disagreed with raises in such tough economic times, especially since salaries are paid primarily from property taxes, which are expected to fall dramatically. (Property taxes are increased based on inflation, and 2008 inflation was nearly 0%. Many expect the same in 2009.) In fact, that is why board member Christine Vickers voted against the raise. However, the board, led by Mark Metzger on the decision, noted that raise is less than the 2009 taxes the board has to work with, due to the lag in the way property taxes are paid. (In 2009, residents pay 2008 property taxes that are determined by the 2007 inflation rate, which was 4.1%.) Metzger also added the raise is less than what comparative districts are giving their teachers this year. He said the decreased taxes may affect teacher contracts in future years, though, as lower inflation rates begin to hurt property tax revenues.

Deficit Reduced

While the 4% increase helps the budget, the district still faces a \$900,000 deficit for this coming school year. Just a couple of months ago, however, the projection for the deficit was at \$6 million. Officials said they were able to trim the looming deficit by:

- ✧ Joining the National School Lunch Program, which is expected to provide \$1 million.
- ✧ Locking in low utility rates to save another \$500,000.
- ✧ Rebidding its custodial contract, saving the district \$350,000 as well as an additional \$350,000 by having schools buy materials in bulk instead of as needed.

- ✧ Purchasing diesel fuel directly rather than through its transportation contractor to save \$100,000.
- ✧ A new teachers contract that provides for staffing pattern changes that will save almost \$450,000. It also saves \$170,000 in substitute teacher pay, as teachers will be meeting for professional development before school rather than during the day when a substitute would need to stand in for them.
- ✧ An infusion of federal stimulus money also will trim \$1.5 million to \$1.8 million off that original deficit projection.
- ✧ A 1% to 2% percent, across-the-board reduction in all non-labor line items, building and technology project deferrals, departmental restructuring and administrative position eliminations are expected to combine to save about \$1.36 million.

These efforts aside, Holm noted that the district is still staring at an \$8 million deficit at the end of Fiscal Year 2011. He emphasized that the district will continue to look for innovative ways to trim the budget.

Update on Canadian National acquisition of EJ&E

Becky Barnhart, Peterson PTA Vice President, has contacted IPPC (Indian Prairie Parents Council) for assistance regarding idling CN trains near Peterson. She has requested a joint meeting with Rep. Darlene Senger and representatives from IPPC, TRAC, and Naperville to pursue possible avenues, including invoking existing state and federal legislation to limit idling time near schools.

LEGISLATIVE HAPPENINGS, cont. on next page.



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LEGISLATIVE HAPPENINGS, cont.

State Legislation***SB 1885***

Rep. Darlene Senger is sponsoring a second form of her bill, now **HB 640**, which **allows school districts the option of transferring students charged with a felony to an alternative school**. Rep. Senger drafted bill was drafted in response to an incidence of alleged sexual assault between Gregory students that occurred off school grounds, which Indian Prairie School District 204 officials say left them with limited legal options.

Although her first bill failed to pass, a similar bill, SB 1885, was passed in the Senate as a joint effort between Representative Senger and Senator Randy Hultgren. SB 1885 is currently in the House and is assigned to the Rules Committee for further consideration.

HB 4044

On March 9, Indian Prairie Project Arrow PTA issued a call to action for its members to urge their state representatives to support **HB 4044, which requests that 10 million dollars be appropriated from general revenue to the State Board of Education for gifted education**. This money would help rebuild gifted programs by providing funds for training in gifted education for teachers and administrators.

Other State Legislation

A Bill list as of April 3 can be found at <http://www.illinoispta.org/user/BL40309%5B1%5D.pdf>, describing each bill and listing the IL PTA's position on each one (Support, Oppose, or Information). Especially relevant bills being watched by IL PTA are in bold.

Federal Legislation***Budget Resolution in Progress***

In early April, both the House and Senate passed slightly different versions of the Congressional Budget Resolution for fiscal year 2010 (which begins October 1, 2009). The new budget continues to build on the increases for education funding we saw in both the stimulus bill and in the recently passed FY 2009 Appropriations bill. Congress will be on recess from April 6–17 and members will be in home districts. When Congress returns to Washington, the House and Senate budgets will go to a “conference committee” to work out differences and then the House and Senate will vote on a final budget agreement.

Stimulus Bill Funds for Schools

On April 1, Secretary of Education Arne Duncan announced that \$44 billion for states and schools is now available under the **American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009** (the “Economic Stimulus Bill.”) Two-thirds of the total dollars will go to a State Stabilization Fund that will be released as soon as possible. Federal officials say Illinois will receive about \$3 billion for education in economic stimulus money. According to District 204 officials, they anticipate the **district may be able to use \$1.5 to \$1.8 million from the stimulus package to reduce expenditures next year**.

A second round of stabilization funds to be released later in the year will allow states to apply for the last third of the stabilization funds. A third round of funding, the *Race to the Top* competitive grant program will reward \$5 billion to states that have made the most progress.



Box Tops 2 Ways to Earn Cash

Box Tops and Safeway are teaming up once again to provide 2 Ways to Earn Cash for Your School!

Our local Dominick's, a Safeway store, is again offering its incredible **10% Back to School Program**, where 10% of your total purchase price of participating products can directly support the participating school of your choice. This program is active at Dominick's using your Club Card starting **August 12 through September 15, 2009**. School Bus tags indicate the participating products! Be sure to pick up your favorite items from General Mills, Kimberly-Clark and Juicy Juice—all offering you "2 ways to earn cash for your school."



In addition to Safeway's offer, participating **Box Tops for Education** products are offering 2 Bonus Box Tops on select packaging. Earn **Bonus Box Tops** on your favorite brands, including Cheerios, Hamburger Helper,

Betty Crocker Fruit Snacks, Nature Valley Granola Bars, Green Giant Frozen Vegetables, Betty Crocker Baking Mixes and Pillsbury Refrigerated Cookies.

Make sure you also pick up boxes of Honey Nut Cheerios and Lucky Charms while you are at the store! Specially marked packages have **Bonus Box Tops** and a sweepstakes for you to enter for a chance to **WIN 10,000 BONUS BOX TOPS!** These specially marked packages are available only at your local Safeway family store.

For a complete list of participating **Box Tops for Education** products, click here, or ask to receive a copy from one of Steck's **Box Tops for Education** coordinators.

We appreciate your support of Safeway, General Mills, Kimberly-Clark, Juicy Juice and Box Tops for Education.

Thank you for your participation!

Questions/comments? Contact
Cheryl Elenbaas at 898-8821
Nancy Maloney at 820-0031
Mishelle Williams at 851-6526.

Box Top Baseball Fund Raising Contest

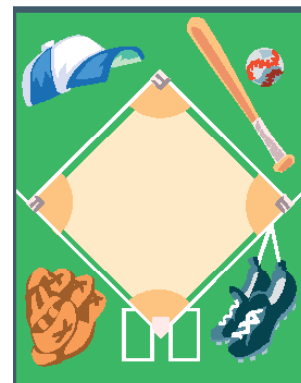


Batter up! Start rounding up those stray Box Tops, Campbell's UPC product labels, Nestle Pure Life water bottle wrappers, and even the Tyson Project A+™ redemption labels!

Announcing "Box Top Baseball", the last fund raising contest of this school year. It begins

April 27 and runs through May 22. (All redemption labels previously brought into class before the April 27 will be counted towards this new contest.) There will be two winning teams (classrooms): one winner from "Minor League" (K-2nd), and one winner from the "Major League" (3rd-5th).

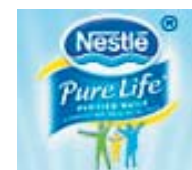
In order to move around the baseball diamond, each team must turn in 50 Box Tops to score a single; 100 Box Tops for a double; 150 for a triple, and 200 for a home run. Every week, runs will be posted on the wall outside the main office. Our friendly announcer will let those in the grandstands know which teams are leading. Those teams with the most runs batted in by May 22 will win!



Since the reward for teamwork will be more than peanuts and Cracker Jack, make sure to have the coach's (teacher's) name and classroom on it; otherwise, anything unlabeled will be considered an "ump"-onymous donation.

So get ready to "Play ball"!

Questions/comments? Contact
Cheryl Elenbaas at 898-8821
Nancy Maloney at 820-0031
Mishelle Williams at 851-6526.





Our June sale is your last chance to stock up on all your Market Day favorites for summertime grilling. You'll find a great grilling assortment in this month's order guide. When you place your order over \$35, you'll receive a bottle of FREE Grilling Sauce!

Back to school sale: We will be holding a Market Day sale on Saturday, August 22 (that's just two days after the start of school!) Look for our reminder e-mails and phone calls the week before to get a jump start on Market Day products for school lunches and more.

Be sure to check out the "Deals of the Week" that are posted weekly each Sunday on the Market Day web site.

Thanks to everyone who ordered Market Day this school year—we've raised a total of \$2,867 for Steck PTA! Thanks to the volunteers who helped unload, sort and pack orders at our May sale: *Janice Jasiak, Jennifer Leazzo, Stephen Ludes, Karyn and Andy Mansen, and Mary Portanova.* If you'd like to help us unload and sort orders at a Saturday sale date, please contact one of the co-chairs below.

Supporting our school is easy!

- ☞ Order online 24/7 at www.marketday.com, orders due by 11 PM Wed. 6/3
- ☞ Fill out the order sheet and return to school by Monday 6/1
- ☞ Pick up your order at Steck on Sat. 6/6 10:30-11:30 AM

We look forward to seeing you at our Market Day pick up this month!

For more information contact:

Kelly Breuer 898-9489
Shirley Hurdle 692-0791
Dawn Krueger 364-1657



Campbell's Kitchen Food For Thought

Cheese is probably the friendliest of foods. It endears itself to everything and never tires of showing off to great advantage.

~ James Beard

It's a lovely thing—everyone sitting down together, sharing food.

~ Alice May Brock

It is a comfort to always find pasta in the cupboard and garlic and parsley in the garden.

~ Alice Waters

After a good dinner, one can forgive anybody, even one's own relatives.

~ Oscar Wilde



Campbell's Kitchen

Change Your Profile To Receive *Daily Meal-mails*® including *Campbell's Kitchen 6 Weeks To Summer*®.



Get inspired to make clever food choices, increase exercise and eagerly look forward to summer. It takes less than a minute to change your profile to receive *Meal-mails*® every weekday. Plus, you'll also receive links to *Campbell's Kitchen 6 Weeks to Summer*®

weekly articles. These articles feature motivational notes from *Campbell's Kitchen's* own Cindy Ayers, effective fitness tips, and links to *Five Steps to a Healthier Dietary Lifestyle*, by Baylor University Professor of Medicine, Dr. John Foreyt.