



SUPERINTENDENT'S CORNER

Dear Parent/Guardian:



The end of the school year is rapidly approaching. We started this school year 130 days ago and have approximately 50 days left to finish what I hope has been a successful year for you and your child.

Bad weather clearly interrupted the educational process. The winter storms caused us to miss eight days. By Indiana State Law, we are required to make-up our lost days and we want the opportunity to complete a full year of educational instruction for your child.

Our last day of school will be June 18, 2010 with Senior Graduations being held on June 19, 2010. We had to start school late because of our construction program which prevented us from starting school before August 26, 2009. Our late end of year will again put considerable pressure on our building program to be finished prior to the start of the 2010-11 school year. We have exactly 61 days between our last day of this year and August 19, 2010, which is the first day of school next year.

We have just completed our very important ISTEP tests. These tests are our report card of how well we have done preparing your child with important life skills. Our teachers feel confident our Greater Clark County students received the necessary instruction to be successful on these tests.

As we are winding down this year, we are staying focused on the educational achievement of your child. We ask you to continue to support your child's work in school. Your support adds significantly to a child's education.

Thank you for your continued support of your child's education. Together you and your child will achieve at high levels, prepared to go on to post-secondary education or prepared to pursue their dreams.

Sincerely,

Stephen Daeschner, Ph.D.
Superintendent of Schools

Inside this issue:

Superintendent's Corner	1
Spring Enrollment	1
Distracted Driving Simulation at JHS	2
"Blessings in a Backpack" at JJ	2
Census 2010	2
GCCS Administrative Changes	3
"Zoo to You" at Riverside	3
Black History Events at Spring Hill	3
CMS Launches One-to-One Initiative	4
GCCS Celebrates Read Across America	4

Visit the GCCS website for a copy of the 2010-2011 school calendar!

SPRING ENROLLMENT SET FOR GCCS

Enrollment for Greater Clark children starting kindergarten next year and first grade students new to the corporation next school year (2010-2011) will be held on April 15 from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. and April 19-22 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Registration will be held at all GCCS elementary schools. If you have questions about where your child will attend, please call Karen Ellis at (812) 288-4809 ext. 73.

Kindergarten students must be five years old on or before August 1, 2010 to attend next school year. First grade students must be six years old on or before August 1, 2010 to attend next school year. If possible, bring the child's birth certificate and immunization records. We also encourage you to bring your child to registration!

For more information about Spring Registration, please contact Brenda Chesher at (812) 288-4802 ext. 337.

JHS SADD CLUB OFFERS DISTRACTED DRIVING SIMULATION

On March 3, Jeffersonville High School's SADD (Students Against Destructive Decisions) and the Kentucky Office of Highway Safety offered a Distracted Driving Simulation to students. The Kentucky Office of Highway Safety's D2 (Distracted Driving) Simulator accurately mimics and displays the handling characteristics of real vehicles to educate students on safe driving habits including impaired driving, seat belt usage, distracted driving and speeding. Special software installed in the simulator offers 39 specialized lessons with over 200 driving scenarios and exercises. The simulator was accessible to students throughout the day.

Boyd Sigler, the Director of Highway Safety Programs for the Kentucky Office of Highway Safety, stated, "The cost to purchase the simulator was approximately \$14,000 and we're looking into purchasing another soon. The lessons taught by the simulator far outweighs the cost." Jim Noffsinger, SADD State Coordinator for Indiana, spoke about the growing participation in high school SADD clubs. "When I took this position there were approximately 80 clubs in the state of Indiana. As of today, Indiana has over 280 SADD clubs in high schools all across the state," stated Noffsinger.

The Jeffersonville High School SADD Club was started three years ago by teacher, Lauren Clodfelter, and student Nicole McCormick. "The club started with one student and has grown to 20 plus members," stated Clodfelter.



"BLESSINGS IN A BACKPACK" AT JONATHAN JENNINGS ELEMENTARY

Blessings in a Backpack is a program that was founded in 2005 by Stan Curtis. The program began with one school and now serves over 21,700 students in 118 schools, spread throughout 19 states.

This fantastic program is designed to feed elementary school children whose families qualify for the federal free and reduced meal program and who may not have any or enough food on the weekends. Every Friday, kids in schools that participate in the *Blessings in a Backpack* program receive backpacks filled with ready-to-eat food items such as fruit roll-ups, juice boxes, instant noodles, peanut butter, etc. On Monday, the kids return the backpacks and the cycle begins the next Friday. Students who participate in the *Blessings in a Backpack* program show marked improvement in school attendance, test scores, behavior, and health.

Jonathan Jennings Elementary is participating in this wonderful program by sending home backpacks with approximately twenty students. Please consider joining their battle against hunger to improve educational success! To donate to their school, send a check made payable to *Blessings in a Backpack* and designate Jonathan Jennings Elementary on the memo section of the check. Mail the check to Jonathan Jennings Elementary, Attn: Adrienne Bach, 603 Market Street, Charlestown, Indiana 47111. If you have questions, please contact school principal Adrienne Bach at (812) 256-7284.



CENSO 2010 CENSUS ESTÁ EN NUESTRAS MANOS....IT'S IN OUR HANDS!

This month the U.S. Census Bureau will mail simple questionnaires to count all the people living in the United States. It is safe for everyone to answer and submit the questionnaire; the information collected will only be used for statistical purposes and will not be released to any other government agency for 72 years, according to the Law. It is important that everyone be counted, as the Census results determine what funding our local programs will receive.

The questionnaire is simple...there are only 10 questions, but they will only be in English. If you or someone you know needs help completing the form (in Spanish), the Hispanic Ministry of New Albany and the Hispanic Connection of Southern Indiana are offering clinics to help.

Please bring the questionnaire you receive in the mail, if you have it. This assistance is offered free of charge

For help in Spanish, please visit one of the sites listed below on the designated date:

- Saturday, March 27 from 2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Jeffersonville Public Library, located on Court Avenue in Jeffersonville.
- Saturday, March 27 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. in the cafeteria of St. Michael's School, located on Park Street in Charlestown.

ADMINISTRATIVE CHANGES FOR 2010-2011 SCHOOL YEAR

On March 18, Dr. Stephen Daeschner announced two administrative changes for the 2010-2011 school year.

Mr. Steve Morris, Principal of Jeffersonville High School, will assume a new position in the Greater Clark County School Corporation as Principal of Development. The Principal of Development position will be responsible for district-wide instructional responsibilities such as: assisting with professional development to secondary schools, coordinating the implementation of the "Race to the Top" district-wide proposal, assisting in coordination of intervention model for all secondary schools, and much more.

The second administrative change is Mr. James Sexton, Principal of the Options Program, will become the Principal of Jeffersonville High School and the Options Program. Mr. Sexton previously led Eastern High School in Louisville, Kentucky for twenty years. Prior to being Principal at Eastern High School, Mr. Sexton was Executive Director of High Schools for Jefferson County (Kentucky) Schools and was Principal of Jeffersontown High School for six years.

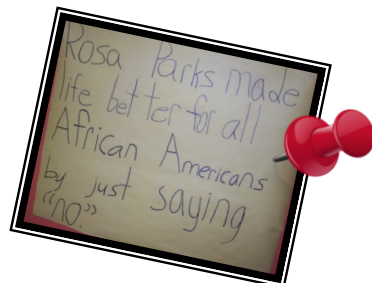
Both administrative changes will take effect July 1. The announcement was made last week so that Mr. Morris and Mr. Sexton can work together to plan for the 2010-2011 school year, and Mr. Morris can work the Corporation's Instruction Department to plan staff Professional Development.

Other administrative responsibilities are being reorganized in the central office so that the vacancy that was created by a retirement in the central office can be absorbed resulting in no added positions to the central office.

BLACK HISTORY CELEBRATION AT SPRING HILL ELEMENTARY

On January 28, the third, fourth, and fifth grade students at Spring Hill Elementary held their annual Black History Program. The program was a musical revue titled "Possibilities." Five songs were performed that related to possibilities, dreams, careers, not giving up, and life's journey.

Students also researched important moments in African American history and prepared various interpretations of their researched person or historical events. A gallery of posters, triangular dioramas, booklets, and paintings were set-up for viewing for parents and the community.



"ZOO TO YOU" VISITS RIVERSIDE

On February 8, the Louisville Zoo brought their "Creepy Crawlies" educational sessions to Riverside Elementary. The visit, made possible by a grant from the Community Foundation of Southern Indiana, is part of the Louisville Zoo's "Zoo to You" program. "Zoo to You" is an initiative in which Louisville Zoo educators bring zoo animals and science-based learning to public elementary school classrooms across the region.



The "Zoo to You" program was presented to four fourth-grade classrooms and the 45-minute sessions focused on "Creepy Crawlies." With the help of live animals, such as snakes, white tree frogs, and giant Madagascar hissing cockroaches, students learned the value of all creatures. The students also learned about ecosystems, animal adaptations, and life cycles. The curriculum of the "Zoo to You" outreach program is a multidisciplinary program which involves students comparing different structures and functions of plants and animals that contribute to growth, understanding the survival and reproduction of the organisms and making inferences about the relationship between structure and function organisms. "Zoo to You" also involves students describing human interactions in the environment where they live and classifying the interactions as beneficial or harmful to the environment using data and evidence to support conclusions.

"Zoo to You provides interdisciplinary learning experiences to help students understand that all life on this planet is interconnected," said Louisville Zoo Curator of Education Marcelle Gianelloni. "This program helps explain science concepts to students, and thus helps strengthen their performance and improve test scores. We hope that when the students leave our session they will come away with a better understanding of themselves, animals and the earth."

CHARLESTOWN MIDDLE SCHOOL LAUNCHES ONE-TO-ONE COMPUTER INITIATIVE

On February 24, Greater Clark County Schools launched the One-to-One Apple Laptop Computer Initiative at Charlestown Middle School. This initiative is a huge step into the 21st century! Greater Clark County Schools committed approximately \$200,000 for this initiative to the 587 students at Charlestown Middle School. The remaining \$400,000 in funding was provided by state grants and the City of Charlestown. Every student and teacher will have an Apple Laptop Computer for instructional use. The deal also includes software, technical support, and professional development training for all Charlestown Middle School teachers.

Charlestown Middle School Principal, Joyce Traub, opened the ceremony and recognized the numerous business sponsors who played a key role in supplying Charlestown Middle School with covers for every student and teacher laptop. Over \$7,500 was donated by Grayson Funeral Home, The Copper Kettle, Kiwanis' Club, McDonald's, Anytime Fitness, Edward Jones, New Washington State Bank, St.



Catherine's Regional Hospital, Dale Robinson with State Farm Insurance, First Savings Bank, and Mark Fischer. Mrs. Traub also thanked the various GCCS Administrators who have spent countless hours making this program a reality. "We couldn't have implemented this program without Amy Schellenberg, Travis Haire, Ken Watson, Tammy Watson, Mariane Fisher, Steve Cook, Jason Davis and Scott Stewart."

Greater Clark County Schools Superintendent, Dr. Stephen Daeschner, addressed the importance of including technology in classroom instruction. He stated, "There isn't anything more important that we can give kids today than technology skills." Daeschner also stated, "Laptops need to be in use every single period, of every single day. If that's done, I guarantee you success." Charlestown Mayor Bob Hall, who also spoke at the ceremony, was commended by Dr. Daeschner for securing the necessary funds to implement the program. "He has been a true partner with this endeavor and a key player in placing laptop computers in the hands of every Charlestown Middle School student." The ceremony concluded with classroom demonstrations of the Apple laptop computers, with instruction led by various teachers.



Dr. Stephen Daeschner addresses the audience at Charlestown Middle School's One-to-One kick-off event



Charlestown Mayor Bob Hall attends a classroom demonstration

READ ACROSS AMERICA DAY

The National Education Association's *Read Across America* is an annual reading motivation and awareness program that calls for every child in every community to celebrate reading on March 2, the birthday of children's author Dr. Seuss. Theodor Seuss Geisel was an American writer and cartoonist most widely known for his children's books written under the pen name "Dr. Seuss." He published over 60 children's books, which were often characterized by imaginative characters and rhyme.

The purpose of *Read Across America* is to motivate children to read and to promote student achievement by creating lifelong successful readers. Research has shown that children who are motivated and spend more time reading do better in school. GCCS schools celebrated Read Across America by inviting community members to read to students throughout the day and also hosting special events for the students.

