

Early Childhood Ribbon Cutting Set

The Hancock Place School District will hold a ribbon cutting ceremony for its new Early Childhood and Administrative Centers, located at 9417 South Broadway on Saturday, November 7, at 1:00 p.m. The public is invited to attend the ceremony and tour the facility. The 10,000 square foot Early Childhood Center will house five preschool classrooms and the Parents as Teachers program. The Hancock Clinic will also be housed at this location. The 8,000 square foot Administrative Center will house the offices of district level administrators and support personnel. hsd

THE Communicator

News and Information from Hancock Place School District Winter 2009

SMART Boards are a Big Hit at the Elementary

Recently, Hancock Place School District was given the opportunity to utilize federal stimulus funds through the Title I program at the elementary school to provide innovative school improvements. The District utilized the funds to install SMART Boards in each elementary classroom. A SMART Board is an interactive white board that allows a more engaging learning environment. The board connects to a computer and the two devices communicate interchangeably. The board serves as a large touch-sensitive computer monitor. Anything that can be viewed on a computer can be viewed on the SMART Board by the entire class. The teacher and students can interact with the board by using a keyboard, their finger, or a digital pen. Basically there is no more sitting at the computer to show students electronic lessons. Teachers can develop lessons around information found on web sites, or utilize interactive learning activities from the web.

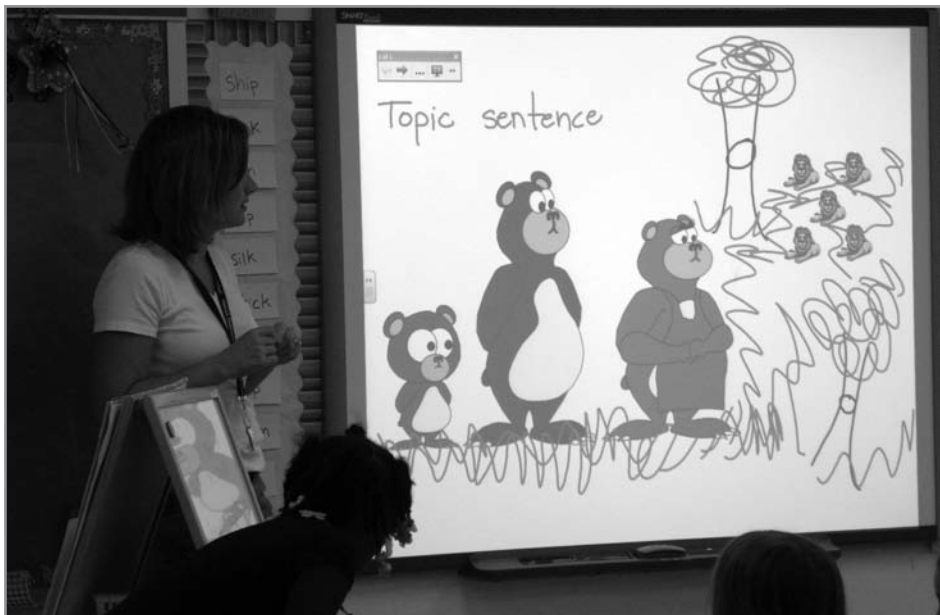
Teachers from the elementary school have great things to say about the use of the SMART board. "Having SMART Technology in my classroom has helped with student engagement. All students are eager and willing to participate in class in any subject area. The Smartboard really has helped me effectively increase student interest and engagement, which has improved learning. The students really love having the technology as part of their learning experience," commented 5th grade teacher Jeff Icenhower.

In addition to providing the boards, the District has provided training for each elementary teacher to enable them to effectively utilize the SMART Boards in their classrooms. Michelle Dirksen, the District's Technology Coordinator, provided a series of workshops for the teachers during the months of August and September. Each teacher was required to participate in twenty hours of professional development related to the use of the SMART Boards.

Effective use of instructional technology in classrooms has been proven to increase student engagement and participation during instruction, and therefore can lead to significant increases in student learning. The opportunity to utilize stimulus funds for innovative technologies allowed the district to accelerate its implementation of an existing district plan to increase the access to, and utilization of modern instructional technology in each of its schools. The high school received a big boost in its technology

resources with the construction of the new high school just three years ago. The middle school is now in the second year of participation in the eMINTS technology grant program

continued on page 3



2nd graders watch as teacher, Mandy Ahearn, teaches an English lesson using one of the newly installed SMART board

A Word from the Superintendent



Dr. Greg Clark
Superintendent

Within the next couple of weeks, we will move into our new Early Childhood/Administrative Center. Just eleven months ago we first began looking at this property at 9417 South Broadway. It is amazing how quickly this project has been completed. The end result is absolutely beautiful. While improvements have been made to the exterior of the building, the interior has been completely renovated into a

stunningly colorful and spacious facility for our early childhood and administrative services. I'm excited about the benefits this facility will provide our students.

Teachers across the district continue to work tirelessly to provide quality instruction in their classrooms. They are utilizing a variety of instructional strategies to meet the varied learning needs of the students. Through their weekly Professional Learning Community meetings, teachers are utilizing data to identify the learning strengths and deficiencies of the students, and are developing action plans to address those areas immediately. While we still face the ongoing challenge of meeting the educational needs of every student, we have made tremendous progress through this PLC process.

District staff is also working to revise and align our curriculum across grades K-12. Quarterly, groups of teachers meet together in groups represented by teachers from each grade level to revise and align curriculum in each content area. A written curriculum that is well aligned to Missouri standards, and that is well connected from grade level to grade level is critical to our success as a district.

Our District is also working constantly to improve our ability to work effectively with the parents and community to improve the learning environment for our students. Recently, our Board of Education held a public forum to receive input from several community members regarding the direction of our schools. We received both positive feedback, and constructive comments, which the Board and I have already started to address. The Board is planning other similar meetings in the coming months. Working together, we will achieve our goals to provide a quality learning experience for every student.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Greg Clark". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped "G" and "C".

Hancock Place School District

Board President's Message



Kevin Johnson
Board President

On October 7, 2009, the Hancock Place Board of Education hosted its first public forum. The Board anticipates hosting many more public forums in the future. The event was well attended by community patrons, parents, teachers and staff. A brief overview of the District's progress in academics, finances and facilities was given before the floor was opened to questions from the audience.

Several points of concern were discussed. With input from the members of the district, the board feels all issues and concerns can be addressed in an agreeable manner. The Board was excited to hear words of praise from community members regarding the direction the Hancock Place School District is heading.

The Board recognizes that some problems existed with the first forum and has already discussed changes for upcoming forums. While every attempt was made to notify patrons of the forum through mailings, it has come to our attention that some of these were delivered late and some not at all. While we will continue to utilize the mailings, we will also use the School Reach phone system, the Hancock website, the Hancock Weekly email newsletter and The Communicator to inform community members well in advance of any future forums in order to increase participation.

The District will also be offering adult education courses. The Board would like for all community members to utilize our updated facilities and take advantage of this continuing education opportunity. We are committed to continued education for all members of the Hancock Place School District community. Please see the information provided on page 7 for further details regarding these classes.

Sincerely,

Kevin Johnson

Kevin Johnson
President, Board of Education
Hancock Place School District

Family Nights Out are Fun for the Whole Family

On September 3, we had our first Family Night Out event for the school year. We had a visit from a Magic Storyteller who spoke to the students and parents about making good choices, being a leader and how to be successful in school. Many parents were laughing so hard they were crying and students were having a great time!

Our second Family Night Out event was held on October 1 at Rollercade. The students were so excited to have all their parents, teachers and administrators skating with them. It's hard to say who had more fun that night, the children or the adults. This quote is from an



Above: 2nd grader, Talia Johnson assists the Magic Storyteller with his demonstration.



Left: Kindergartener, Bryce Kollack, and his mom, Tanya, enjoy a night on wheels at Rollercade.

Imagination Theater Visits Elementary Students

On September 18, Imagination Theater from Chicago, IL presented the students with an anti-bullying assembly entitled Ease the Tease. The assembly was sponsored by our district parent group, Parents and Teachers Helping Students (PATHS). The students learned about the importance of displaying good character and making good choices on a daily basis. Debbie Kyle would like to personally thank Mr. Thomas Dittrich for making this opportunity possible for our students. **hsd**



3rd Grader, Cenneth Tucker volunteers at the Anti-bullying assembly

email we received from Judy Crider, a parent who attended this event, "It was so fantastic!!! What great exercise! One of the best things that stood out to me that night was that whenever a kid fell, I always saw other kids go over to help up the child that fell down. The "wall skaters," those hanging onto the wall, showed their determination because they didn't give up. They just kept trying and trying! It was such a good feeling to watch that! It shows that Hancock kids DO THE RIGHT THING! I wish you would have one every other month!!! We'd come!!!" **hsd**

SMART Board from page 1

that provided laptop computers and SMART Boards for many of its classrooms. District Superintendent, Greg Clark stated, "The district had planned to begin adding a few computers and Smart Boards to the elementary classrooms over the next few years, but the stimulus funding allowed us to install all of the SMART Boards now, which puts us on the cutting edge of technology across the district."

The Hancock Place Board of Education is committed to providing current and effective instructional tools for its classrooms into the future. Board Member Rhonda Stratman said, "Our goal is to keep providing our teachers and students with the most up to date technological tools available. I have received very positive feedback from parents and staff members who brag about how much this effort has changed the way we teach and learn." **hsd**

Dale "Mad Dog" Messmer Speaks About the Consequence of Choices



Middle School students were treated to a presentation by ex-Marine and ex-convict, Dale "Mad Dog" Messmer, pictured at left, to kick-off Red Ribbon Week.

Messmer started his day at Hancock Middle School with an all-school assembly. The students were enamored by his real-life message about how one wrong choice can affect the lives of hundreds of people. "Mad Dog" spent the entire day at Hancock Middle School working with smaller groups in the afternoon. His message certainly has a powerful impact on the students that truly listen to his story.

After his release from prison, "Mad Dog" founded The Straight Talk Outreach Program (S.T.O.P.). He has taken his message to over 1,000,000 young people in over 1500 schools and youth oriented organizations across the country in the last 14 years, in hopes of giving them an example of what NOT to choose in life, so they won't have to learn about the dangers of drugs, gangs, violence, prison and death the hard way. His message works! The kids do listen to him, because he has 'been there', and he speaks to them from personal experience. **hsd**

7th Grade Social Studies Visits Monk's Mound

By Mrs. Kim Graber, Social Studies Department Chairperson



Students climb and race to the top of Monk's Mound

On October 2, 2009 the 7th graders had a fabulous outing to the Cahokia Mounds State Historical Site in Cahokia, Illinois. This is an annual trip arranged by the social studies department to enhance the students' studies and understanding of Native cultures before the influence of Europeans. The Mississippians built the mounds 1000 years ago and this site is currently the largest archaeological dig north of Mexico. It was the largest city in what is now the United States until 1800 when the population of Philadelphia finally passed it up. A true historical gem right on our doorstep.

The students enjoyed an award winning short film about the moundbuilders and then explored the museum. There they were able to see simulations of housing and daily life of the moundbuilders as well as view thousands of artifacts that have been dug out of some of the mounds. There is also an exhibit showing how the citizens of Cahokia built the various sized mounds and a wonderful mural showing Cahokia in its heyday. Before leaving everyone climbed the stairs to the top of Monks Mound, the largest ever built, to enjoy a spectacular view which included the downtown St. Louis skyline and try to envision what the chief must have felt like when he stepped out of his front door every morning! **hsd**

A Visit to South Technical High School Shows Alternative Careers



A student tries her hand at hairstyling a wig.

The 8th grade class recently visited South Technical High School for the Career Connect on Oct. 1st and 2nd. Career Connect is an 8th grade exploratory program which allows students to participate in a variety of related careers through hands-on activities and projects. Using a career survey, the students were divided into morning and afternoon activities based on their top career interest areas. The eight clusters were developed based on Missouri's Center for Career Education's cluster arrangement.

Many students left Career Connect with a new understanding about one of their career interests. Often they had an item they made or a memorable experience to share that related to a field they were considering exploring at the high school or college level. The goal was to enhance career education at the middle school level by providing a fun, exciting, and informative experience through Career Connect. Following the field trip, students were heard saying, "This was the best field trip ever!" **hsd**



Welding offers many challenges

Core Values chosen at the High School

After asking the Board, alumni, students, parents and teachers, the high school has narrowed down three core values from a list of 49. The chosen core values are respect, responsibility and honesty. A rubric has been designed that places student actions into four categories: Unacceptable Anywhere, Unacceptable at Hancock High School, Common Courtesies and Above & Beyond. The rubric of standards will be explained to students during advisory on the first day of the 2nd quarter. These core values will be used as a character education tool when dealing with student discipline, and will be used to determine which students make it in the Principal's 200 club. **hsd**

Tobin Makes All Suburban Honors Choir

Story by Junior James Walden



Jessica Tobin

Junior Jessica Tobin made Hancock history recently when she was accepted into the All Suburban Honors Choir. Tobin is the first female singer from Hancock High School to make it

into the All Suburban Honors Choir, according to Mr. Gene Rauscher, high school music coordinator.

"I cried, and I said 'Are you kidding me? I didn't believe her.'" This was her reaction when she was told the news by Ms. Emily Mauro, Hancock's choir director.

The All Suburban Honors Choir is made up of students from many different school districts. The choir consists of around 200 members including first sopranos, second sopranos, altos, tenors, basses, and baritones. The choir will be performing on November 7th at Pattonville High School. "We're singing five songs, and they're really hard." Most of the songs Tobin will be performing in will be sung acapella.

Tobin was mentioned in the Hancock Weekly which was emailed to all teachers and students. **hsd**

New Accounts Replace Jump Drives

By Angela Armstrong Student Writer for The Growler

Students no longer have to hear teachers yelling, "How many years have you been in school, and you can't remember to bring your jump drive to class?" Students lead busy lives and can easily forget things, but now they no longer have to worry. Any file saved on a school computer can now be accessed on any computer in the school. They can also email it to themselves and have it on any computer with internet access. "We wanted students to be able to save their work and be able to have access to it anywhere on campus," says Michelle Dirksen, Hancock's Technology Coordinator.

The Hancock Technology Department has come up with the idea for personal student logins for computers and Google email accounts that can be accessed on school computers, unlike personal accounts. However, these email accounts can only be used with other Hancock accounts. Students no longer have to worry about lost or forgotten jump drives. Everything stays on the computer until they decide to delete it, not at the end of the night.

"We decided to add emails for students because we are now using Google Applications for Educators and with that email service we are given many different applications that can be used effectively in the classroom," said Dirksen. The applications Docs and Calendar can be very useful to students and teachers. "Students can work on a project in Google Docs and share it with others who can participate in the project. This eliminates only being able to work on their projects in school and it allows them to work with others without actually having to be together," Dirksen said. The calendar can keep students organized with test dates, games, or even college dates.

"I no longer have to worry about losing my jump drive or remembering to bring it to school. I like being able to just save the things I need on the computer and being able to access it anywhere in the school," said Ryan Arnold (12). Kayla Hawkins (11) said, "I can finally get into an email in school; it was hard sending things to teachers and other students without being able to access my email account at school."

Creating this wasn't easy. "It was more time-consuming than anything. There were many countless hours spent tweaking profiles," said David Weber, Hancock's Computer Support Specialist. Also, a server that was big enough to hold all of the student's information had to be purchased. Unfortunately, as everyone already knows, when it comes to technology, more times than not, something goes wrong. There may be some complications in the future, but there are currently no major issues. The only minor problem found was students forgetting to log off but most teachers found and fixed the problem without anything being abused. However, "We are still trying to work out some of the logistics," admits Dirksen.

The Tech. Department is working hard to keep any complications to a minimum. **hsd**

The Growler Gets a Facelift



Brian Murphy's Journalism students have been hard at work this year overhauling *The Growler*, the student newspaper at the high school. The staff decided to make the newspaper available, free of charge, to all students and staff. Many staff members sponsored the newspaper this year in order for the publication to be made available at no cost. Sarah Caudill, Editor-In-Chief, said, "Our new staff members are doing very well thus far. I'm excited to see what this

year brings." *The Growler* has also been made available on our school district website. You can find the electronic version under the High School tab. We have included a student article in this edition of the Communicator and plan to use the student writers for more communication in the future. **hsd**

First Connie's Closet Trivia Night

Connie's Closet held their first ever Trivia Night at the Electrician's Hall on Elizabeth Avenue on Saturday, October 3. They had a packed house with nearly 200 in attendance and raised over \$4,000. Plans to make this an annual event are in the works.

Connie's Closet was established in 2000 in honor of Connie Johnson, after she lost her battle with cancer. Connie was the wife of Board of Education President, Kevin Johnson. In her memory, a closet filled with school supplies was established at the elementary school. The "closet" has since expanded into the middle and high school campuses. Initially the proceeds from the dunking booth at the annual school picnic were the source of the greatest amount of income to the closet. Due to dwindling attendance at the school picnic Connie's Closet was unable to secure funds from the dunking booth last year.

Connie's Closet uses its funds to provide school supplies for students that otherwise would not have them. They also fund two \$500 scholarships every year for a male and female graduate in honor of Connie. The organization recently purchased a kiln for the new art room at the high school and two keyboards for the music dept. The proceeds from the trivia night will allow Connie's Closet to give more generous scholarships to our graduates. **hsd**

Fall Alumni Dance was a Huge Success

By Thomas Dittrich

WOW! It was PACKED! We had over 275 in attendance which we believe to be a record. We had to put out 3 additional tables, and we had more young attendees than ever before. There were so many new faces! Reunions were going on at the event. Our 3 Award Recipients were very appreciative. Polos, t-shirts and bricks were sold. The silent auction items netted \$679, 50/50 raffles netted \$350, and we are waiting to see our total profit after the costs are taken out. **ALL OF THE PROFITS GO TO OUR SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS!** Our next dinner dance will be on Saturday, April 24th; it would be great to have you in attendance as our event continues to grow in so many ways. It was a LOT of fun, and we received so many compliments. Everyone I talked to said that they will be back in the spring. We already have some reunions being planned to take place at the spring dinner dance.

Special thanks to Cindy Foulk, Debbie Dittrich, Audrey Winkler, everyone who helped out and those who attended! **hsd**



Award Recipients left to right: Jerry Moser - Alumnus of Distinction, Erin Dittrich - Community Member of the Year and Mike Dittrich - Young Alumnus of Distinction

Early Childhood and Administrative Center Receives Prestigious Award

The Hancock Place School District was recently awarded the Community Beautification Award from the Lemay Chamber of Commerce for its new Early Childhood and Administrative Center located at 9417 South Broadway. The award was presented to the District at the Lemay Chamber Community Awards Dinner held at Orlando Gardens on Wednesday, October 14. Greg Clark, Superintendent for the District, received the award on behalf of the Board of Education and the School District. Also in attendance at the dinner were Board President, Kevin Johnson, Board members Lisa Dunn, Jean Parshall, and Rhonda Stratman, and Director of Finance Paul Northington.

In receiving the award, Dr. Clark acknowledged the Board of Education's commitment to providing quality facilities for all of its educational services. He stated, "This facility greatly improves our ability to offer a full array of early childhood programming, including Parents as Teachers, and early childhood special education services. The facility provides larger classrooms for our existing preschool program, and includes a fifth classroom allowing us to serve approximately 25 additional students." **hsd**



Hancock Place School District

presents

Community Computer Classes

<p>Microsoft Word 2007</p> <p>4 weeks (4/12, 4/19, 4/26, 5/3) ES Computer Lab – Laura Mayer 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.</p> <p>Make professional documents with ease! After this class, you will be able to format your documents, create tables, set margins, adjust line spacing and add clipart. You will learn how to create resumes, labels, greeting cards and newsletters.</p>	<p>Microsoft Excel 2007</p> <p>4 weeks (11/17, 12/1, 12/8, 12/15) HS Room 302 – Jim Meyer 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.</p> <p>Explore basic terminology and characteristics on an Excel worksheet. Practice creating, formatting, printing and saving a worksheet. Create formulas and explore other types of documents that can be made in Excel.</p>
<p>Microsoft PowerPoint 2007</p> <p>4 weeks (1/7, 1/14, 1/21, 1/28) HS Room 212 – Gene Rauscher 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.</p> <p>This course is designed to provide you with the skills necessary to create powerful presentations. You will create slideshows adding multiple level entries, import clip art and insert page transitions.</p>	<p>Social Networking/Internet Safety</p> <p>3 weeks (1/25, 2/1, 2/8) ES Computer Lab – Laura Mayer 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.</p> <p>Learn about Facebook, Twitter, MySpace and Shutterfly. Learn how to use these to keep in touch with family and friends. Join groups, upload pictures and make sure pages are secure. Internet safety, cyber-bullying and monitoring your child's usage will also be discussed.</p>

Registration Form

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Word 2007 - \$20

Excel 2007 - \$20

PowerPoint2007 - \$20

Social Networking - \$15

For questions, please contact Michelle Dirksen
at 314-544-6410 or
dirksen@hancock.k12.mo.us

Return to:

Hancock Place School District
9101 South Broadway
St. Louis, MO 63125
Attn: Sandy Woodfin

Important Dates

November

- 2 NO SCHOOL Prof. Development
- 6 Fall Flavor Festival – “Taste of Lemay”
- 7 Veteran’s Breakfast
- 9 PATHS (Parents and Teachers Helping Students) and Alumni meetings
- 11 Board of Education Meeting
- 13 High School Homecoming Powder Puff Football game
- 14 High School Homecoming Dance
- 25-27 Thanksgiving Break
- 30 Southside Classic Basketball Tournament begins

December

- 1-4 Southside Classic Basketball Tournament
- 9 Board of Education Meeting
- 10 HS/MS Band Concert
- 12 ACT Test
- 14 PATHS (Parents and Teachers Helping Students) and Alumni meetings
- 17 HS/MS Choir Concert
- 21 High School Semester Finals
- 22 High School Semester Finals/ Early Release: Sec-11:45/Elem 12:15
- 23 – Jan 1 NO SCHOOL - Winter Break

January

- 4 First Day of Second Semester
- 11 PATHS (Parents and Teachers Helping Students) and Alumni meetings
- 13 Board of Education Meeting
- 15 Early Release: Sec-11:45/Elem 12:15
- 18 NO SCHOOL - MLK Day Observed

Important Phone Numbers

- Elementary School..... 544-1300
- Middle School..... 544-6423
- High School 544-1200
- Dr. Greg Clark..... 544-1300
- Lisa Charles..... 544-1300
- Paul Northington 544-1300
- Debbie Kyle 544-1300
- Scott Wilkerson..... 544-6423
- Dr. Cathy Lorenz 544-1200

www.hancock.k12.mo.us



Taste of Lemay

to benefit Hancock Place School District and
Lemay Chamber of Commerce

Friday, November 6th, 2009

4:30pm to 7:30pm

\$5 per person

Event will take place at Hancock Place Elementary School
9101 S. Broadway, St. Louis, MO 63125

Restaurants and local businesses that wish to participate or sponsor
this event may contact Angela Lorenz at 314-631-2796 or email us at
lemaychamber@sbcglobal.net

Hancock Weekly Keeps Parents, Students and Community Members Informed

The Hancock Weekly is an email newsletter that is sent every Monday to staff, students, parents and interested community members that highlights building level successes and upcoming events. Our hope is that all members of the Hancock community will soon receive this publication as it provides timely information regarding our school district.

If you have not received an email with this newsletter, but would like to subscribe, please go to our website: www.hancock.k12.mo.us and click on the “District News” button on the left hand side. Once there, you can find archived copies of the Hancock Weekly by clicking on the Newsletter Archive button. You can subscribe to this publication by simply clicking “Join Our Mailing List” at the bottom of the archive page.

If you have any comments or questions regarding the Hancock Weekly, please email info@hancock.k12.mo.us. **hsd**

Hancock Place School District

9101 S. Broadway
St. Louis, MO 63125

In This Issue

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