

**Germantown Elementary School
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**Learning Comes from
Everything and Everyone
Around Us**

germantownbulldogs.org

February 3, 2012

Dear Parents, Guardians, and Community Members,

While the calendar has turned to February, Mother Nature seems to think it is time for spring. This crazy weather serves as a prelude to the craziness that takes place this time of year. We brought January to close in grand style. In a span of three days, the Lady Bulldogs earned second place in the Class S State Basketball Tournament. The PTA hosted its second annual Trivia Night/Auction, and the Bulldog Basketball Team won a Regional Championship.

First and foremost, our Lady Bulldogs captured second place in the Class S State Tournament with their lone postseason loss coming to Clinton County rival, Bartelso, in a highly competitive game. Bulldog fans came out in large numbers to support their hometown team. We proved that we not only have a great team, but we also have awesome fan support.

Bulldog pride continued to shine at the second annual Trivia Night/Auction. Once again this year, we packed the Germantown Legion with trivia night revelers and enjoyed an evening of fun with Germantown Elementary families and supporters. It took a team of hard working people to successfully pull off the event. A big thank you goes out to everyone who helped out in any way. Whether you made a donation, worked the event, bought an item, sold a raffle ticket, or participated on a trivia team, you played a part in raising thousands of dollars. A special thank you goes out to the PTA for the countless hours they put into organizing the event, Dean Albers and Jeff Timmermann for coordinating and facilitating the trivia, and Jeff Lampe for serving as our guest auctioneer alongside Donnie Langenhorst and Duane Ripperda.

Lastly, our Bulldog Basketball Team earned a trip to the Class S State Basketball Tournament with a convincing win over ASA in front of a standing room only crowd. The Bulldogs will play Altamont Lutheran at 1:15 this Saturday. Let's keep that Bulldog pride shining strong and bring home a winner.

While basketball season is coming to a close, volleyball season is getting ready to kick-off. Just ten days after exchanging their basketball shoes for kneepads, the girls will tip-off their season with a home game against Aviston on Tuesday, February 7. This year's volleyball squad brings an abundance of talent to the court. Hopefully, they too will be making a State Championship run in late March.

One other Germantown team has been busy as of late. The Scholar Bowl Bulldogs are in the heart of their season. In their most recent competition, Germantown swept Damiansville in all four matches. Hopefully, the win streak will stretch into "tourney" play. The Bulldogs will be participating in the Mater Dei Scholar Bowl Competition on Saturday, February 4. The Central

Scholar Bowl Competition will take place the following weekend on Saturday, February 11. Good luck to our Scholar Bulldogs!

In the academic arena, the third quarter is well under way. Students in grades 3-8 are gearing up for ISAT testing which will take place March 5-16. Every year, state law requires a minimum percentage of students to meet or exceed state standards as measured by the ISAT. This year, the state goal is 92.5%, thus we are working hard to help our students achieve and surpass that goal. Germantown has a rich tradition of providing its students with a quality education. In fact, Germantown Elementary School District #60 was recently notified by the Illinois State Board of Education that it is once again the recipient of the Academic Excellence Award. Across the state of Illinois, 438 schools earned the Academic Excellence Award for 2011. To earn an Academic Excellence Award, a school must meet the following criteria:

*The school must have made Adequately Yearly Progress in 2010 and 2011 as required by No Child Left Behind.

*In schools serving grades 8 and below, 90 percent of students must have met or exceeded state standards in both reading and mathematics for the three most recent school years.

Data from the Illinois Standards Achievement Test, ISAT, is used to determine eligibility for the Academic Excellence Award. Congratulations to the students for their dedication to doing well in school. Thank you to the families for supporting their children's education. A big round of applause goes out to the faculty and staff for their commitment to providing the students with a quality education. It is only through everyone working together that we are able to achieve so much success at Germantown.

With the mild weather we have experienced this winter, we have yet to take a snow day. With no snow days currently on the schedule, it looks like school may come to an early end this year. At this time, our last day of school is slated for Monday, May 21. Should Mother Nature decide to bring us some snow, that day may have to be pushed back. In the meantime, we have a little over three months left in the school year to help prepare the students for the demands of the next grade level. These final few months can be tough. With warmer temperatures comes spring fever. Spring fever results in excitable students who struggle to stay focused on school. Together, we must work to maintain their focus on the task at hand. School must remain a priority all the way through the last day of student attendance.

We look forward to our continued partnership with the Germantown school community as we make our way through the remainder of this school year.

With Bulldog Pride,

Robin Becker, Superintendent