

"Becoming  
Responsible,  
Respectful,  
Lifelong  
Learners"

# Something to Celebrate

## at Germantown Elementary School

### Letter from the Superintendent

*Dear Parents,  
Staff, Students,  
and Community*

Happy New Year to you and your family! As we look ahead, we have plenty of reason to feel hope and optimism for what we can achieve as a school district. We have a top notch faculty and staff working very hard to provide the youth of the community with a well-rounded education. Our students are great kids. They are committed to doing their best in all aspects



of life. The support from parents and the community at large serves to guide our students to make good decisions.

The first half of the school year went by quickly and smoothly. We have fantastic momentum heading into the second semester, so I look for continued success in the months to come.

In the academic arena, we have just begun the third quarter. We encourage all students to get the quarter started on the right foot by writing down homework and test information in their agenda book. Using the agenda book is a great way to stay organized. This effective study habit will help the students now and in the future. We encourage parents of all students to reinforce the importance of using the agenda book by checking it on a nightly basis.

The third through eighth grade students will be participating in ISAT testing February 28-March 4. 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 85%. At Germantown, our goal is a minimum of 90% meets/exceeds with a minimum of 33% of our students exceeding. With the help of parents and community members, together we can send the message that academics must be a top priority as academic success leads to future success in life.

While academics are the district's top priority, studies show that students who participate in extra-curricular activities in elementary school and high school experience increased success in college and in life. With this in mind, Germantown offers a wide variety of extra-curricular activities. We are currently in the midst of basketball season with the post-season upon us. Volleyball practice has begun with games beginning later this month. The Scholar Bowl and Team Quest groups will be busy at work this month as well. We wish all groups the best of luck as they look to achieve success in areas outside the classroom.

Here is to a happy and healthy 2011!

Robin Becker

#### **Germantown Elementary School District #60**

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Germantown, IL 62245  
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[www.germantownbulldogs.org](http://www.germantownbulldogs.org)

#### **School Board Members**

Kathleen Fauke | Denise Haake  
Mark Freund | Charlene Hemker  
Darin Johnson | Jeff Lampe  
Marla Langenhorst

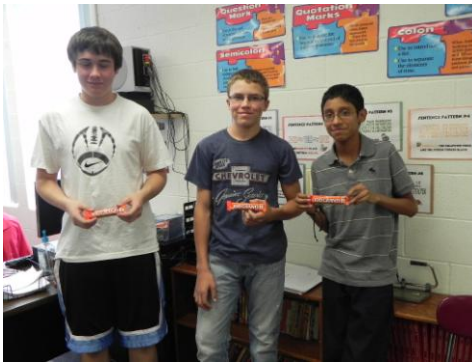
#### **Superintendent**

Robin Becker



## Celebrate Success

### Stock Market Game



Germantown Eighth Grade students went back in time this quarter. They relived the Great Depression. On November 9, the students were given jobs and salaries that fit the 1920's. They had previously worked out a budget, so once they received their salary, they had to pay their expenses, rent and of course Uncle Sam. With their remaining money, they were allowed to purchase stocks or invest their money in various banks. Of course along the way some banks went out of business and some stocks collapsed. Some students wound up out on the street and some managed to hold on to their money. Ben Lampe, Derek Hemker, and Armando Avalos were the top money makers in the Stock Market Game.

### On-Line Portfolio Simulation

The Stock Market Game™ program, an educational program of Econ Illinois, teaches students about the world of investments, helping them learn to

research companies, make sound investment decisions and follow those investments over a number of weeks during the school year. Student teams begin with a virtual cash account, with which they create and manage a portfolio, which may include stocks, mutual funds and bonds. Teams conduct research and evaluate potential investments. They decide together how they want to invest their cash, based on what they have learned. Even though the money is not real, stock transactions are processed at real-time prices, connecting The Stock Market Game experience with real life.

After picking stocks that propelled them to the front of the class, students from Germantown's 8<sup>th</sup> grade class took 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the fall semester of The Stock Market Game™. The 8th grade winning student team competed in grades 4-8 in their geographic region, beating out over 121 other teams. The winning student team includes Kevin Albers, Eric Deering, Kenzie Schroeder, and Brenden Tonnies.



### Basketball News

The Lady Bulldog 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Basketball Team capped off their undefeated season capturing first place in the All Saints Academy 6th Grade Girls' Basketball Tourney October 15-16.

The Lady Bulldog Varsity Basketball Team under the direction of head coach, Mike Fields, and volunteer assistant coach, Jeff Lampe, captured first place in the Breese District 12 Girls' Basketball Tourney October 18-22. The Lady Bulldogs earned second place in the Clinton County Conference Tournament held at Aviston the week of December 6. In the Collinsville Tournament held January 5-8, the Lady Bulldogs walked away with the First Place Trophy. The Lady Bulldogs are now in the midst of post-season play.

The Bulldog Varsity Basketball Team under the direction of head coach, Gerard Albers, captured first place in the Clinton County Conference Tournament. They defeated previously unbeaten All Saints Academy in a thrilling overtime game. The Varsity Bulldogs are wrapping up their regular season with tournaments at Hoyleton and Irvington. Regionals will be held at Germantown beginning January 26.

Congratulations to all Bulldog Basketball teams and coaches for their success this season. Good luck in the post-season.



## Community Connection

### *Veteran's Day*

Germantown Elementary School hosted its annual Veteran's Day ceremony on Wednesday, November 10. Twenty area Veterans participated in the hour long ceremony. The ceremony started with music director, Pat Henrichs, and members of the band leading the Veterans into the gym. With assistance from other Veterans, Joe Langenhorst led the posting of the colors. Father Buerster then read a Veteran's Day poem to the audience. The Pledge of Allegiance followed. Everyone was welcomed by Superintendent Becker. After the greeting, teacher and Veteran, Tony Parr, gave a brief definition of a Veteran. The Commander of the American Legion, Frank Leonard, then asked all Veterans to introduce themselves and the branch they served. Program coordinator, Cindy Zurliene, led her second grade students through a presentation on the flag, its colors, and the symbolism associated with it. Veteran Ben Koch then explained the



meaning behind each fold of the flag as the flag was being folded. The junior high essay winners, Paige Langenhorst, Kaitlyn Albers, and Abby Hellmann, read their Veteran's Day essays to the audience. The audience then watched a video tribute to the Veterans and sang along to the lyrics of *I'm Proud to be an American*. The ceremony closed with members of the band playing Taps. Veteran Joe Langenhorst gave orders. The colors were retired and the Veterans marched out of the gym.

After gathering all visiting Veterans for a group photo, they were invited to a reception in the cafeteria. The Veterans were treated to a breakfast of baked goods.

Germantown Elementary School hosts

a Veteran's Day ceremony every school year to honor those who serve and protect our country. We will once again host a Veteran's Day ceremony next school year sometime the week of November 7. Once the date is finalized, we will share it with everyone. All Veterans of Germantown Elementary students are welcome and encouraged to participate in the ceremony.



The Germantown Elementary Marching Band participated in the Veteran's Day Parade held in Germantown on Thursday, November 10.

### *Kids Health Fair*

Germantown Elementary is committed to promoting the Health and Wellness of its students. On Friday, March 11, we will host our first ever Kids Health Fair. We would love the support of the community in our efforts to educate students about making healthy choices. If you or someone you know would be interested in helping us with the Health Fair, please contact Cindy Zurliene at [zurliene@clinton.k12.il.us](mailto:zurliene@clinton.k12.il.us) or 523-4253.

*At Germantown Elementary School, we are committed to opening our doors to all members of the community. By working together collaboratively, we will be better served to develop responsible, respectful, lifelong learners.*

## A Scene from the Holly and the Ivy League



# News and Notes

## Holiday Happenings

Under the guidance of music and band director, Pat Henrichs, Germantown Elementary School hosted its annual Band/Chorus Winter Concert on Tuesday, December 7. The Beginner Band performed for the first time in front of a live audience. They started the evening on the right note with some holiday favorites, "Good King Wenceslas", "Jolly Old Saint Nicholas", and "Jingle Bells". The Concert Band followed. They took on some difficult pieces and awed the audience with "Holiday Bells are Ringing" and "Hallelujah, It's Christmas" to name a couple. The Chorus joined in on the fun with a festive set. They sang and danced their way to the "Cool Yule". The Jazz Band took center stage to perform several toe tapping tunes. The Jazz Band members amazed the crowd with their ability to play multiple instruments. A Percussion Ensemble group dazzled the audience with a rendition of "The Nutcracker" written by Mrs. Henrichs and her son, Alex. The evening was brought to a

close with all chorus and band members performing "African Bell Carol".

With the holiday season over, Mrs. Henrichs and the band students will now be very busy preparing for solo and band contest. Solo contest is scheduled for February 26. Full Band Contest will be held April 2 with State Full Band Contest slated for April 30.

On Tuesday, December 14, the PreK through fifth grade students showcased their musical talents in a holiday performance titled "Holly and the Ivy League". The fourth grade students took center stage in the play with Ryan Bloom (Santa), Camden Wempe (Dean Yule), and Chloe Albers (Holly Day) filling the lead roles.

At Santa U girls were not allowed to be a Deputy Santa. Then, Holly Day came along and taught Santa, Mrs. Claus, and the whole North Pole gang the true spirit of Christmas. In the end, she was bestowed the honor of being the first female Deputy Santa at Santa U.

Hopefully, the "Holly and the Ivy League" taught all the students that with hard work and determination anything is possible.

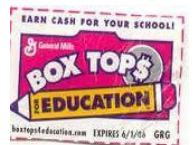
## PreK Family Fun Night

PreK teacher, Becky Hitpas, hosted a Family Fun Night on Thursday, November 4. Many PreK students and their parents enjoyed an evening full of educational activities centered on a Fall/Thanksgiving theme. A second PreK Family Fun Night is scheduled for Tuesday, February 8. All Germantown residents with 3, 4, and 5 year old children are invited to join us for an evening of fun and games centered on a winter theme.



## Box Tops for Education

We are collecting Box Tops year round. For every coupon we submit, General Mills will give the school 10 cents. Feel free to drop the Box Tops off at the school office, or call us at 523-4253, and we will pick them up at your home.



The Germantown teachers show their school spirit by participating in 80's Day during Spirit Week.



## Teacher Feature

After 34 years in the teaching profession, Mrs. Jane Strieker will be retiring at the end of the 2010-11 school year. With her impending retirement only a few months away, she is being spotlighted in this Teacher Feature.

**Why did you decide to become a teacher?** Being one of the oldest of 15 kids, we were always helping each other with homework, so I actually began teaching at an early age.

**How long have you been teaching?** I have been teaching for 34 years.

**What grade levels have you taught in your career?** I taught special education for 5 years and first grade for 29 years.

**What is your favorite part of the job?** I love being with the kids every day and the satisfaction of seeing the work I do make a difference in so many lives.

**When you retire, what is one thing you will miss about working at Germantown?** I will miss the children of Germantown. I will miss their smiles, excitement, and the pleasure of helping each one of them grow both academically and socially.



2009-10 School Year

**What is one of the biggest changes in education you have experienced since you started teaching?** One major change is the technology used in education.

**What is your favorite children's book?** My favorite children's book is "Love You Forever" by Robert Munsch.

**What piece of advice would you give all children regarding school?** Stay in school. Education is your key to success. Learn from your mistakes.

**What one memorable event or quote "made your day" during your career?** I remember when Germantown added the addition to the school, and my classroom was moved to the new section.

**What is your attitude about the importance of education in today's society?** Education is of vital importance. Education helps children achieve success in whatever they pursue in their lives.

**Finish this sentence: Happiness is** not in having or being; it is in doing.

**If someone wrote a biography about you, what do you think a good title would be?** The book title would be "Strieker hits 1000". During my career I have taught at least 1000 children.

**It is the little things that mean a lot, so in keeping with that, how are you able to "be there" for the students and your colleagues?** With the staff, it is easy. We have a staff that is like a family, and we all step up to support and help each other. With the students, I feel that sometimes a smile, a hug, or a joke can turn around a child's day.



1987-88 School Year

Santa arrives at school to visit with the students at Santa's Cottage.



## The PTA at Work

### *Did You Know?*

Did you know that the Germantown PTA helps fund or sponsor numerous events/activities/purchases throughout the school year. They include: Scavenger Hunt ~ Fall Carnival ~ Santa's Workshop ~ Assemblies ~ Bulldog Spiritwear ~ Field Day for K thru 7th Grade ~ 8th Grade Field Trip ~ Teacher/Staff Appreciation Week ~ Bulldog Bucks at Monthly Meetings ~ Junior High Quarterly Reward Program ~ Teacher Allowances for Classroom Materials ~ Book-it Reading program Pizza Parties for Pre-K thru 5th Grade ~ Donations to the Germantown Public Library for School-Age Reading Materials ~ Buys Playground Equipment ~ Maintains Paintings on the Asphalt Playground ~ Assists with Miscellaneous School Requests

Over the past two years the Germantown PTA raised money for the following:

- Purchased scanner and camera for school activities and functions-2010
- Assisted with the bullying assembly-Fall of 2009 and 2010
- Purchased 6 computers – Spring 2010
- Purchased floor mats for PE classes – Winter 2009
- Purchased D'Nealian Program for Kindergarten – Spring 2009

- Purchased \$1500 worth of AR books for classrooms – Spring 2009
- Purchased \$1000 worth of Computer Software – Spring 2009

### *2010-11 PTA Officers*

The PTA Officers for the 2010-11 school year are:

President  
Jennifer Wempe  
Vice President  
Angie Jansen  
2nd Vice President  
Nancy Weems  
Secretary  
Perri Wesselmann  
Treasurer  
Marlene Albers  
Spiritwear  
Trishia Kohnen  
Special Events Coordinators  
Trishia Kohnen and Cheri Johnson

The PTA meetings are held the first Tuesday of every month at 7:00 P.M. in the school cafeteria. All parents/guardians of Germantown students are welcome and encouraged to attend.

### *Trivia Night/Silent Auction*

The first ever Germantown PTA Trivia Night/Silent Auction fundraiser will be held at 6:00 P.M. on Saturday, January 29, 2011, at the Germantown American Legion. We are looking for teams of up to eight people. The entry fee is \$80 per team. There will be other fun games between rounds and during intermission, 50/50 chances, and a table decorating contest along with the trivia and silent auction. You may bring your own snacks. Drinks will be available for purchase at the Legion bar. Call Jennifer Wempe, 523-7104, Angie Jansen, 523-8289, or Trishia Kohnen, 523-4613, to get your team registered. Many faculty and staff members are planning to attend the event, so it promises to be a good time. Mark your calendar and plan to join us for a night guaranteed to generate lots of laughs and smiles. All proceeds from the event will benefit technology at Germantown Elementary.

Some of the silent auction items available for bid at the event include: a Movie Night basket donated by 7<sup>th</sup> grade, a Sports basket donated by 4<sup>th</sup> grade, a Game Night basket donated by 5<sup>th</sup> grade, Kiss the Cook Personalized baskets by 2<sup>nd</sup> grade, Movie Night Personalized baskets by PreK, and certificates to camps at Central and Mater Dei High School.