

“Becoming Responsible, Respectful, Lifelong Learners”

Something to Celebrate

at Germantown Elementary School

Letter from the Superintendent

*Dear Parents,
Staff, Students,
and Community*

It is the mission of Germantown Elementary School District #60 to educate all children to the best of their abilities through the cooperation of school, home, and community. The District, in an active partnership with parents and community, promotes excellence in a caring environment, in which all students learn

and grow. Through this partnership we hope to empower all students to develop a strong self-esteem and to become responsible learners and decision-makers.

One challenge we face as we work towards accomplishing this mission is the impact bullying plays on the development of a child. At

Germantown, we work hard to provide our students with a safe learning environment where respect for one another is promoted and encouraged. Despite our efforts to promote mutual respect among our students, Germantown is not immune to incidents of bullying. While incidents of bullying are investigated and addressed as they are brought to our attention, more needs to be done to combat bullying. Because today’s youth are being raised in a technologically advanced society where they are exposed to greater negative influences, incidents of bullying are on the rise across the country. As a strong advocate against bullying, I feel compelled to take action and develop a plan to fight incidents of bullying and promote mutual respect among all.

The plan we devise to combat bullying must include an educational piece. Students, parents, faculty, staff, and anyone who is charged with the responsibility of raising children must be educated on bullying. What is bullying? Who is involved? When is it most likely to occur? Under what circumstances is it most likely to spread? How does it impact children? What can we do to fight it? These are all serious questions that need to be answered.

At Germantown, we plan to take steps to address these questions. We are looking for representation from the community to serve as volunteers on a bullying task force. Together with members of the faculty, staff, administration, and Board of Education, the community members will help to develop a plan for educating everyone about the realities of bullying. We will meet for the first time this spring/summer. I anticipate this committee meeting twice a year to plan and promote activities associated with bullying education. If you are interested in joining the bullying task force, please contact me at 523-4253 or beckerr@clinton.k12.il.us.

Sincerely,

Robin Becker



Germantown Elementary School District #60

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School Board Members

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

Superintendent

Robin Becker



Celebrate Success

Lady Bulldog Basketball

Congratulations to the Varsity Lady Bulldogs and their coaches, Mike Fields and Jeff Lampe, for ending their season with a 24-2 record and claiming the 2011 Class S SIJHSAA State Champion title. The Lady Bulldogs defeated Giant City 32-23 in the quarterfinal round. Then, they battled Clinton County rival, Bartelso, in a tough contest and walked away with a 38-33 victory. The championship game pitted Germantown against the reigning State Champs, Unity. The Lady Bulldogs claimed the top prize over Unity with a 30-27 victory. The Lady Bulldogs thank the many people who supported them on their journey. The fan support was instrumental to the success of the team.

JV Bulldog Basketball

The JV Bulldogs brought the basketball season to a close on February 12 as they defeated Aviston 30-24 in a thrilling championship game at the Trenton Knights of Columbus Tournament. Congratulations to Coach Albers and the team members for their accomplishments this year.



Bulldog Band

Congratulations to Mrs. Henrichs and the Bulldog band and chorus students on a fantastic performance at competition on Saturday, February 26. The chorus earned a 1st place, missing a superior by just one point. The Jazz Band earned a first superior for their performance. Abbi Hanna received the highest score of the day for her performance of an "A" level solo on her saxophone.

Other students earning a first superior rating include: Brenden Tonnies, Stephen Avery, Jessica Albers, Chandler Haake, Claudia Owens, Margo Lampe, Jake Timmermann, Logan Albers, Zach Honer, and Kristen Mattson on her Alto and Bari Saxophone. In addition, the following fourth and fifth grade students earned a perfect score for their solo: Chloe Albers, Chase Heimbecker, Caroline Kenow, and Alyssa Robke.

Overall, Germantown band students were awarded 12 first superiors, 24 firsts, and 3 seconds for their solo performances.

The Bulldog Band members have a busy schedule ahead of them. They will be participating in District Organizational Contest on Saturday, April 2, with State Organizational Contest scheduled for April 30. The Spring Concert is scheduled for May 12 at 7:00 p.m.

Class S SIJHSAA State Champs Germantown Lady Bulldogs



Scholar Bowl

Due to wintry weather, the Scholar Bowl season was cut a little short this year. A major highlight for the season included a great finish at the Central Conference Meet. With a record of 5-2, the team finished second out of eight Clinton County teams. Congratulations to Coach Lindsay Dye and all the members of the Scholar Bowl Team.





Community Connection

Kids Health Fair

On Friday, March 11, students in grades 5-8 participated in a Kids Health Fair. Organized by Mrs. Zurliene, this event served to educate the students about the importance of making good choices. The students were divided into groups and given a schedule to follow. Each group was scheduled to attend five of the seven sessions. Session topics included: flexibility, sugary drinks, Zumba, germs, safety, healthy food choices, and fitness. Built into each group's schedule was a snack time where healthy snacks were served. The students enjoyed fresh fruit smoothies, cheese & crackers donated by Annette Tebbe, and carrots with dip. After enjoying their snacks, the students had the opportunity to cleanse their face with Velocity facial cleanser offered by Tina Toennies.

The first ever Kids Health Fair was a huge success thanks to the help of many. The following individuals donated their time to assist with the Health Fair: Vicki Korte, Maegan Korte, Annette Tebbe, Sadie Buehne, Tracy Albers, Tina Toennies, and the

Germantown cooks. Other volunteers included Kelly Kienlen and Elaine Craver from the Clinton County Extension Office, Sharon Bickl from SAFE, Angie Kruse from St. Joseph's Hospital, and Ann Loepker and Lindsay Lappe from Buff.

Mrs. Zurliene secured a \$500 grant from Touchstone Energy through the Clinton County Electric Cooperative to help pay for expenses associated with the Health Fair.

We anticipate hosting a Health Fair again next year with our focus shifting to the primary grades. Through the Health Fair, it is our goal to educate the students about making healthy choices in their daily lives.



Earth Day Activities

On Friday, April 15, the students in 5th-8th grade will be participating in a variety of Earth Day activities throughout the community. The students will spend time cleaning up the parks, helping the village workers with projects, offering landscaping services to those in need of help, and polishing and landscaping the cemetery and church grounds. If you know anyone in the community who would like their yard raked, weeded, or planted, please contact the school at 523-4253. We would love to be of assistance.



In conjunction with Earth Day, the Student Council will be sponsoring a used book and clothing drive throughout the week of April 11-15. Community members are encouraged to drop off new or gently used books and clothing items in the proper boxes located at the school.

We are looking for community volunteers to help us carry out our Earth Day activities. If you are interested in helping, please contact the school office at 523-4253.

We look forward to making a difference this Earth Day!

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.



News and Notes

Bulldog Dash

The Seventh Annual Bulldog Dash will be held Saturday, May 21, at Schoendienst Park in Germantown. The 5K Run/Walk begins at 9 a.m. followed by the 2K Run/Walk at 10 a.m.

The Bulldog Dash Run/Walk is a fundraiser sponsored and promoted by members of the community to benefit the children of Germantown Elementary. It is endorsed by members of the Germantown School Board who determine which programs and projects will be funded with proceeds from the event.

Over the past six years, the Bulldog Dash has provided the school district with approximately \$85,000 which has directly benefited students of Germantown Elementary by funding after-school programs including Homework Headquarters and the Reading Lab, as well as summer algebra and reading programs, and technology purchases such as SmartBoard projectors, laptop computers, and software.

Registration is \$17 for anyone who has their registration form postmarked by May 7. The fee for registrations after

May 7 and on race day is \$25. Race day registration is available from 7:45 to 8:45 a.m. Race packets can be picked up between 7:45 and 8:45 a.m. on the day of the race. For more information, registration forms can be downloaded from www.germantownbulldogs.org.

The Bulldog Dash is a great way to promote health and wellness in your family while supporting the school district at the same time. Let's work together to make this Bulldog Dash the best event on record.

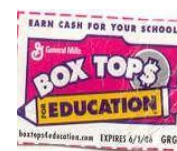
Important End of Year Dates

Believe it or not, it is that time of year when we start setting end of year important dates. Please add the following dates to your calendar:

- May 19-Talent Show; 1:30 and 7:00
- May 19-PreK Graduation; 6:00 p.m.
- May 20-Last Day of School for PreK
- May 20-Clean-Up Day PreK & Grade 8
- May 21-Bulldog Dash
- May 23-8th Grade to Holiday World
- May 24-Awards Ceremony Gr. 4-8; 9-10:30
- May 24-Graduation Practice; 10:30-11:30
- May 24-11:30 Dismissal for 8th Graders
- May 24-8th Grade Graduation; 7:00
- May 25-Clean-Up Day for K-7
- May 26-Field Day K-7; 1:40 Dismissal
- May 27-Last Day of School for K-7; 8:45 Dismissal

Box Tops for Education

There are hundreds of grocery items associated with the Box Tops for Education program. By simply cutting the Box Tops coupon from these items, the school can raise money. For every coupon we submit, General Mills will give the school 10 cents. The money raised through this program is used to help pay for student assemblies and incentives. Please consider joining us in our effort to collect Box Tops. 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.



Help Wanted

Germantown Elementary School has the following openings for the 2011-12 school year:

- Cheerleading Coach
- JV/V Girls' Basketball Coach
- JV/V Boys' Basketball Coach
- Housekeeping
- FT Summer; PT School Year

If interested in any of these positions, contact Robin Becker at 523-4253 or beckerr@clinton.k12.il.us.



“Teacher” Feature

After 11 years coaching basketball in the community, Mr. Mike Fields has retired. His dedication to the school and the students makes him a perfect candidate for this quarter’s “Teacher” Feature.

Why did you decide to become a coach? I was a gym rat just like my daughter, Maggie . My Dad was the boys basketball coach at St Dominic's in Breese for about 20 years. Once my kids started playing, it was obvious that I would become involved.

What sports have you coached? What grade levels? How many years for each? Soccer - K through 4th grade - 8 years; Softball/Baseball - K through 6th grade - 12 years; Basketball - 2nd grade through 8th grade - 11years

What is your favorite part of being a coach? Working on something at practice and then seeing one of the kids use it successfully during a game.

What is one thing about coaching you will miss? Seeing the kids on a daily basis and talking to them about more than basketball.

Finish this sentence: Teamwork is the first step to winning.



How has coaching changed over the years? The game has become more competitive and I think the coaches today expect the kids to understand strategies more (and I think they do).

What piece of advice would you give all athletes regarding playing sports? Don't expect to become good at a sport overnight. It takes a lot practice on your own time.

What is your favorite professional sports team? St. Louis Cardinals

If there is one thing in particular you wanted the student athletes to learn from you, what would that be? Play sports and play them hard but know that there are other things in life.

It is the little things that mean a lot, so in keeping with that, what did you make a point of doing to “be there” for your student athletes? I had the kids call me Mike, not coach. I wanted to make sure I was approachable for anything, not just sports.

If you could play a professional sport, which one would it be and why? Basketball, I grew up a gym rat and hanging with my dad at practice instilled in me a love for the game.

What one memorable event or quote “made your day” during your coaching career? Two left-handed layups made by two different girls about 5 years apart. Both were made after a steal at a very crucial part of the game. They could have used their right hand just to make sure but both were comfortable using their left hand.





The PTA at Work

Trivia Night/Silent Auction

The Germantown PTA sponsored its first ever Trivia Night/Silent Auction on Saturday, January 29, with all proceeds from the event being allocated to technology at Germantown Elementary School. Dean Albers and Jeff Timmermann coordinated and facilitated the trivia portion of the evening. They did a fantastic job of not only challenging the audience with their trivia questions but also entertaining everyone with their humor. Over 30 teams entered the Trivia Night Contest with the junior high teachers claiming the first place prize.



Each trivia table was encouraged to attend the event in theme. Many groups joined in the fun as the Nerd Dogs, some Hawaiian Islanders, a pit crew, a ship of gnarly pirates, a few Pittsburgh Steelers fans, and the cast of Gilligan's Island among others attended

the event in full costume. Again, the junior high teachers collected the top prize in the theme contest as they used their creativity and arrived as the castaways that were shipwrecked on Gilligan's Island.

Thanks to the hard work and donations of many, the Trivia Night/Silent Auction was a huge success. Over \$15,000 dollars was raised through this event. The PTA plans to sponsor a Trivia Night/Silent Auction fundraiser again next school year. It promises to be even bigger and better than this year's inaugural event. Once the event date is confirmed, it will be advertised to the public.

This summer, the school district will be using the funds raised through the Trivia Night/Silent Auction to complete some much needed technology upgrades. The district feels very fortunate to have the support of the school community in its efforts to provide the students with a



quality education.

Teacher Appreciation Week

Teacher Appreciation Week is scheduled for May 2-6. The PTA will coordinate events for Teacher Appreciation Week. As more details become available, they will be shared with everyone.

Field Day

Field Day for students in grades K-7 is scheduled for Thursday, May 26. The PTA works very hard to coordinate the Field Day events. The students spend the entire day engaged in a variety of activities that help celebrate the successful completion of another school year. The PTA is always looking for volunteers to assist with Field Day activities. If you or anyone you know is interested in helping out with Field Day, please contact the school office at 523-4253.

