



NEWS

COMMUNITY CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT 64 Park Ridge-Niles

164 S. Prospect Avenue

Park Ridge, IL60068-4079

(847) 318-4300

FAX: (847) 318-4351

For information, contact:
Superintendent Sally Pryor, 847-318-4300
Bernadette Tramm, Public Information Coordinator, 847-318-4343

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District 64 Recognizes Outstanding Student Accomplishments in 2008-09

Park Ridge-Niles School District 64 recognized the accomplishments of 46 students at the Board of Education meeting on May 11 for their outstanding achievements during the 2008-09 school year. Students were praised for their remarkable academic, musical and literary efforts.

Two students were acknowledged for their performance in Northwestern University's Midwest Academic Talent Search sponsored by its Center for Talent Development. The program offers an opportunity for academically talented students to take upper level tests (ACT and SAT) typically taken by high school students or eighth graders (EXPLORE). Over 29,000 students participate each year in our eight-state area. Elaina Frankos and Michael Krone, both grade 7 students at Emerson Middle School, are among the 59 students in seventh grade in Illinois recognized for their high achievement on the ACT test. Overall, 171 students from District 64 out of the 458 eligible chose to participate in the Midwest Talent Search this year.

In the music category, 34 students were acknowledged for being selected to perform with three all-star instrumental music ensembles assembled by the Illinois Music Educators Association (IMEA) from outstanding students in a 50-school northern Illinois region.

The District 64 students selected following rigorous auditions were:

- **IMEA Band – Emerson** – Alex Campbell, trumpet; Mark Gotthelf, tuba; Lauren Smith, clarinet; Jessica Spratley, flute; and **Lincoln** – Nicole Allegretti, clarinet; Jack Carpenter, trombone; Kathryn Chiodo, flute; Karina Koch, flute; Taylor Nardi, trombone; Kaia Parenti, alto sax; Lizzie Porter, clarinet; Nicole Romano, flute; Madeline Rumbaut, trombone; Sarah Beth Householder, percussion; Norbert Kosinski, percussion; and, Ian Peter Pappas, percussion.
- **IMEA Jazz Band – Emerson** – Alex Campbell, trumpet; Mike Mularczyk, tenor sax; and **Lincoln** – Matt Anderson, string/electric bass; Sarah Beth Householder, piano; Kaia Parenti, alto sax; and, Lauren Porter, tenor sax.
- **IMEA Orchestra – Emerson** – Matthew Brendza, viola; Matthew Coglianese, bass; Ian King, violin; Soren Ramsey, viola; Greta Ramsey, viola; Elaina Frankos, violin; Elizabeth Bellisario, violin; and **Lincoln** – Matt Anderson, double bass; Meg Deeter, violin; Caitlin Dorff, violin; John Mangian, viola; Ryan Matthew, violin; Bridget Oleksy, violin; Paul Pilecki, violin; Thomas Placzek, violin; and Madeline Steiner, viola.

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In addition, for the second consecutive year, Ian Peter Pappas also was congratulated for his winning performance on the marimba in the winds & percussion category of the junior division (students in 8th grade or younger) in the 13th annual Walgreens National Concerto Competition sponsored by Midwest Young Artists. The competition drew more than 200 of the most talented young musicians from across the country. This is the third year that a District 64 student has won this competition, an extraordinary achievement.

In the literary category, the District-level winners of the annual Young Authors creative writing competition were announced. Students wrote and illustrated an original story independently at home, and were selected from a pool of outstanding school winners representing all grades.

This year's finest are:

- Grade 1 – *Snowmen Climb Trees* by Isabela Brown, Franklin School
- Grade 2 – *The Little Fish's Adventure* by Meredith Burke, Franklin School
- Grade 3 – *I See Cheese in My Future!* by Deirdre Kelly & Sarah Pinkerton, Field School
- Grade 4 – *Day Owl* by Maura Lally, Roosevelt School
- Grade 5 – *Once Upon A Time* by Brynn Keller, Roosevelt School
- Grade 6 – *Marta's Journal* by Greta Ramsey & Laura Acker, Emerson Middle School
- Grade 7 – *The Shack by the Sea* by Sarah Beth Householder, Lincoln Middle School; and,
- Grade 8 – *Fairyopolis* by Christina Alexandru, Emerson Middle School.

Finally, the winners for the District 64 Spelling Bee were recognized. Almost 50 students in grades 3-8 participated in this extracurricular activity, which was partially underwritten by the school PTOs. The winner was Sarah Beth Householder, grade 7, Lincoln Middle School. Field School grade 5 students Anna Benuzzi and Christo Fosse finished second and third, respectively.

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