



NEWS

COMMUNITY CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT 64 Park Ridge-Niles

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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District 64 Recognizes Outstanding Student Accomplishments in 2009-10

Park Ridge-Niles School District 64 recognized the accomplishments of 39 students at the Board of Education meeting on May 24 for their outstanding achievements during the 2009-10 school year. Students were praised for their remarkable academic, musical and literary efforts.

Five students were acknowledged for performance in the 2010 Midwest Academic Talent Search sponsored by the Center for Talent Development (CTD) at Northwestern University. This is 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 from our eight-state area. The District 64 students were recognized for scoring in the top 5% of Illinois 6th, 7th and 8th grade students who participated in the Talent Search for 2010, and will be further acknowledged at a ceremony sponsored by the Illinois Math and Science Academy in June. The students are: Elaine Frankos, grade 8, Emerson Middle School (SAT & ACT); Ryan Giblin, grade 7, Lincoln Middle School (ACT); Ralph Patejunas, grade 6, Lincoln Middle School (ACT); Nicholas Salgia, grade 7, Emerson Middle School (ACT); and, Nicole Woch, grade 6, Lincoln Middle School (ACT).

In the music category, 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, First Chair trumpet; Ben Paoelli, trumpet; Sarah Jianu, flute; and **Lincoln** – Kathryn Chiodo, flute; Nicole Romano, flute; Andrew Groenewold, percussion; Megan Donnelly, trumpet.
- **IMEA Jazz Band – Emerson** – Alex Campbell, trumpet, Timothy Kwasney, trumpet, Brad Kolar, trumpet; and **Lincoln** – Jack Carpenter, First Chair trombone; Sarah Beth Householder, piano.
- **IMEA Orchestra – Emerson** – Conor Flynn, bass; Andrew Fox, cello; Elaina Frankos, violin; Ian King, violin; Emilie LeMieux, viola; Greta Ramsey, First Chair viola; and **Lincoln** – John Mangian, viola.

Also this year, seven students from Lincoln Middle School participated in the IMEA District Choral festival as part of the Honors Choir. Students included: Maria Beniari, Erin Dunleavy, Lily Elderkin, Jenna Galuska, Sarah Beth Householder, Kim Kawczynski and Alaina Pluhar-Schaeffer.

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In addition, one District 64 student was acknowledged for her extraordinary solo musical accomplishments. Lincoln flautist Kathryn Chiodo won first place in the Society of American Musicians Flute Recital in March and the Chicago Flute Club Junior Division in October. She also received an Honorable Mention in the DePaul Flute Competition in February.

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 outstanding Young Authors are:

- Kindergarten - *Chico and Tekko Build a House* by Nathan Fernando Munoz-Lo, Field School
- First Grade - *Underwater Surprise* by Christopher Bridich, Carpenter School
- Second Grade - *The Best Easter Ever* by Natalie Eng, Roosevelt School
- Third Grade - *Megan's Awesome Vacation* by Sarah Quinlivan, Roosevelt School
- Fourth Grade - *Be Careful What You Wish For* by Emily Bugai and Matylda Sojko, Carpenter School
- Fifth Grade - *The Strings of Glory* by Danny Touhy, Washington School
- Sixth Grade - *Steelstein* by Zach Fishman, Emerson Middle School
- Seventh Grade - *Longing to Belong* by Ellen Longman, Lincoln Middle School
- Eighth Grade - *There's No End* by Lily Elderkin, Lincoln Middle School

Finally, 165 students in Grades 3-8 participated in the District 64 Spelling Bee earlier in February as part of the Scripps National Spelling Bee. District 64 offered the bee as an extracurricular activity with partial underwriting by the school PTOs.

After a record number of participants were eliminated, the lengthy championship lasted 19 rounds. Lincoln Middle School grade 8 student Molly Butler was the winner with the word, "accentuate." Washington grade 4 student Elisa Marr took second place.

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