

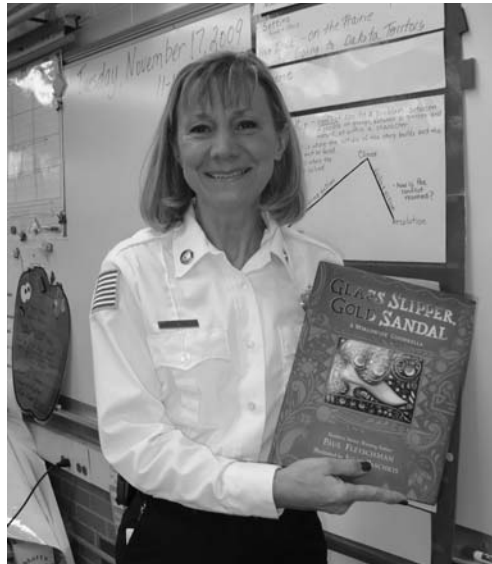
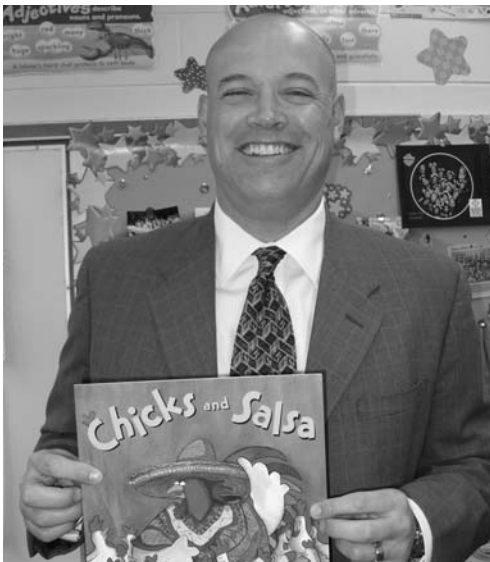


# Lester Life



December 2009 | JANUARY 2010

## Another Successful Breakfast With Books



On two mornings in mid-November, notable local citizens and celebrities visited classrooms at Lester Elementary School to read with students in each classroom. Parents were invited to enjoy the story time with their children and enjoy delicious treats provided by parent volunteers.

LEFT TO RIGHT , TOP: Firefighter XX and Miss Riley, Mary Jo Porter reads to Mrs. Rhoades's classroom. Chicago Steel players visit Mrs. Conyac's 2nd grade classroom.

LEFT TO RIGHT, BOTTOM: Mayor Sandack read to Mrs. Diehl's 4th graders, Marsha Giesler from the Downers Grove Fire Department read to Mrs. Brennan's 4th grade class. Chicago Steel players also read to Mrs. O'Toole's students.



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Downers Grove Grade School District 58

We Envision. We Seek. We Believe.



## Principal's Message

As the holiday season approaches, the sense of tradition and the importance of family rise to the forefront. When our children are small, we can involve them in carrying on traditions that have been passed down through our families over the years. These traditions are usually rich with family history and provide a message or a story of how the tradition came to be. Providing a strong sense of family is also important for children. Kids need to know that family is a safe and supportive place when they are valued and not judged - where they may

make mistakes - but that they are loved for who they are. This year think about creating some new holiday traditions and setting aside some quality family time. Hug your children and let them know how much they mean to you. I know as my own children return home from college for the holidays, I feel a sense of completeness as my family is back together again - even if it is only for a short period of time. Treasure these moments, as they pass all too quickly. Wishing all of our Lester families a healthy and happy holiday season!

*Mrs. Novak*

## SAVE THE DATE:

### Trivia Night

Saturday

February 20, 2010

A fun night out for the parents and staff of Lester School, Trivia Night tests your knowledge in a social setting. Enjoy a fun evening with fabulous raffle and silent auction prizes.

More information coming soon...



## FIND SCHOOL CLOSING INFO

[www.dg58.org](http://www.dg58.org)

877.737.5291

630.719.5800

[emergencyclosings.com](http://emergencyclosings.com)

local radio and television stations



## Get The Scoop on Emergency Closings

With the onset of the winter weather season, we wanted to remind parents and community members about the many ways we provide notification should it become necessary to close school for the safety of our students.

In the event of hazardous weather, the Superintendent of Schools may deem it necessary to close school. District 58 utilizes an automated calling system to alert parents of school closings. Should a ConnectED subscriber miss a message, they can call 1-877-737-5291 (1-877-REPLAY-1) to hear it.

In addition to the automated calling system, District 58 also posts information on its Web site, [www.dg58.org](http://www.dg58.org),

and places a message on the district's answering machine, which can be accessed by calling (630) 719-5800. In addition, the district notifies the following radio/TV stations from which the official announcement is made: WBBM (780), WGN (720), CBS Ch 2, NBC Ch 5, ABC Ch 7, WGH Ch 9, FOX 32, and CLTV.

Parents may also check the status of the district or their school by going to [emergencyclosings.com](http://emergencyclosings.com) and searching for the school facility or school closings.

Parents are asked not to call their child's individual school to check on whether classes will take place.

### MAKE ATTENDANCE A PRIORITY

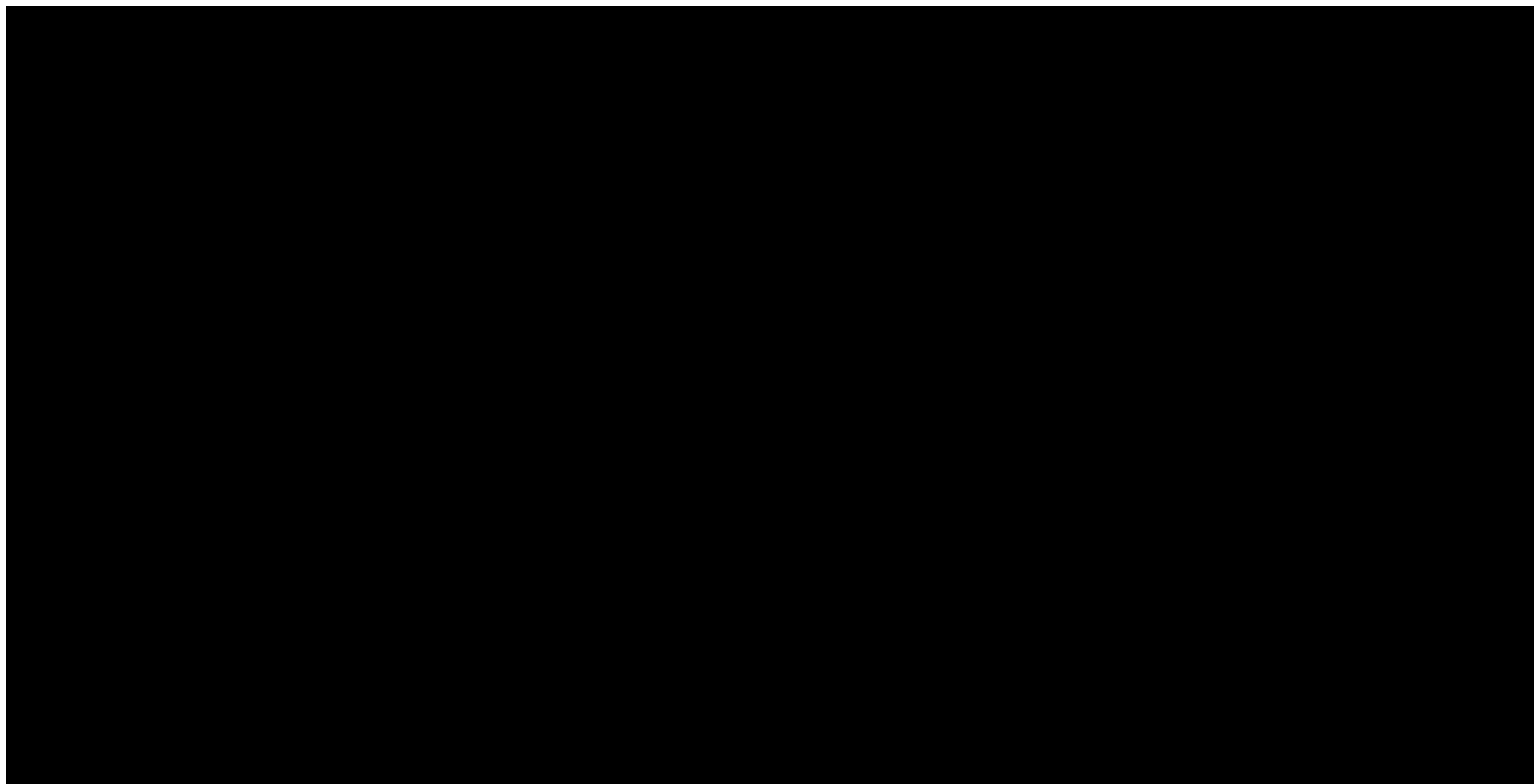
During the busy holiday season, it is sometimes hard to get children to school on time. Building a habit of regular attendance is important for your child today and in the future. You build and model responsibility when you stress the need to get to school on time. This month, think about the importance of attendance. Make every effort not to let travel or activities keep your child from attending school. Create a regular routine in your household allowing for students to get to school before 8:25 a.m.

**CONNECT-ED** is an automated messaging system that allows our school to send out timely communications to our families via the telephone or email. This system is being utilized to enhance home-school communications. In the event of an emergency, the Connect-Ed system has the capability to send messages to every home and work telephone, cell phone, and email address. Our database contains the most current information that we have for families provided through registration paperwork. Contact the school office should any of your information change so that we can keep this information up to date.

### MAKE-UP WORK

Pupils absent due to illness, medical and/or dental appointments, have the opportunity to make up their work. It is the student's responsibility to request make up work from the teacher. If a student is absent for an extended period of time, assignments may be secured by telephoning the school office. All requests for homework should be made as early in the day as possible - no homework requests will be granted after 11:30 am. Homework may be picked up in the office at the end of the day.

# Twins: Double The Fun



**Left to right: Elise and Erin Radigan, Bridget and Colleen Miller, Sarah and Gracie Nebijinates Matt and Zac McCoy (Above): Audrey and Amber Bican, Ellie and Kiley Rubey, Cole and Brock Huskisson (Below): Mathew and Genna Millhouse, Carly and Brooke Hazen, Arden and Camille Jachim, and Gracie and Sam Bostwick**

Twins are rare and unique. The bond that they share together is something that you may not understand if you are not a twin. They always have a companion of the same age to play, do homework, sleep, and interact with.

You may be surprised to see exactly how many twins are at Lester School. Did you know that if we put together all of the twins they would make up a whole classroom? Lester School

is the home of 11 sets of twins. There are 4 sets in second grade, 2 sets in third grade, 1 set in fourth grade, and 4 sets in fifth grade.

When photographed by local newspapers they all appear to be happy to have that special companion at their side. Some might call it "Double Trouble", but the twins at Lester like to think of themselves as "Double the Fun!"

## DG58 FOUNDATION FUNDRAISER FEATURES BACON BROTHERS

The Bacon Brothers, a popular folk and blues duo featuring actor Kevin Bacon and his brother Michael, a professional musician, will take the stage at the Tivoli Theater in downtown Downers Grove on Saturday, March 27, 2010, for the District 58 Education Foundation's annual Entertainment for Education fundraiser.

The Bacon Brothers, who have been playing folk and blues together for 14 years, recently released their sixth album, "New Year's Day." Kevin Bacon's

film credits include *Footloose*, *JFK* and *A Few Good Men*. Michael Bacon's recent projects include *African-American Lives* (1 and 2) and *Marie Antoinette*.

The March 27 show will begin at 8 p.m. Lobby doors will open at 6:30 p.m., theater doors will open at 7 p.m., and the show will kick off with announcements at 7:45 p.m.

Tickets will be on sale Friday, Dec. 18, and are anticipated to sell out very quickly. Two levels of VIP seating are

available; tickets for the first six rows in the center section are \$100, and tickets for the next 10 rows in the center section are \$75. Remaining seats are \$50, and all seats are general admission.

Tickets will be available on the Foundation's Web site, [www.58foundation.org](http://www.58foundation.org); at the District 58 Administrative Service Center, 1860 63rd St.; at Community Bank of Downers Grove, 1111 Warren Ave. and 718 Ogden Ave.; or by calling (630) 886-5641.

# Lester PTA Meeting Highlights

Meeting was held Tuesday, November 17, 2009, in the LRC

Minutes are posted online and can be found on the PTA link through the Lester School website. The next PTA meeting is January 19 at 7 p.m. in the LRC.

## Business Briefs:

- Lester PTA Web discussion of key features: Latest News/dynamic calendar; contact forms; polls & surveys; search; and a password protected parent area (request info, volunteer, pay dues, order items). Dan O'Connell of Metavisual volunteered to design the website and the PTA will just have to pay a small hosting/support fee of \$50/month plus the yearly cost of the domain name. Motion was made to spend up to \$650 for the website and was passed unanimously.

- Treasurers Report: Ending balance of \$27, 202.88 on 10/31/09. Not including Butter Braids & Wrapping Paper deposit, or Whiteboards expense. We brought in about 8K with fall fundraisers this year.

- Gearing up for trivia night on February 20 - mailings went out for donations.

- Spirit Wear is on sale now; orders are due the Tuesday before break.

- No Cook Tuesdays on 11/24 & 12/1, must have coupon from flyer.

- We have 310 members from 189 families, 32 staff members. Cards are printed and will be coming home through backpack mail with a Legoland coupon.

- District and Council meeting updates: District is starting their strategic planning surveys. This information is used to make decisions for the next 10 years. District 58 appointed a new board member – John Miller, a Whittier parent. H1N1 shots are available through the county – they are encouraging everyone to get vaccination – links are on district website. Mary Beth Webeler spoke about the district test scores; they were very good. District 58 is now on Twitter. DARE decisions are coming within the next few weeks. Encouraging parents to write letters to the village. Council Reflections Rep will be open next year, if anyone is interested in that position, let us know.

- We are putting a letter for Therese's memorial together. The focus will be on beautifying the entrance area.

- Reporters were out for the twin report – 11 sets of twins at Lester! The Sun is trying for a special Thanksgiving issue. DARE graduation on 12/2 (Wed. evening).

- DG Township wants to put together a senior program called 'grand friendships.' They are looking to partner with one of the schools to get started. Goal is to get students and seniors together. Mrs. Novak met with youth and senior services departments. They want to start with a committee and are looking for parent participation. It is in the very beginning stages. Committee will focus on things like: activities, transport, etc. If there are any par-

ents interested in being on the committee, please let me know. No dates have been set yet. Lester will be the piloting school.

- Thank you to all the volunteers that made Breakfast with Books a success. Thank you to all the parents that helped set up the Mayfair – which sets sail this Friday!

- Mrs. Szczurek asked for field trip money for second grade. They would like to tie in their Downers Grove history with a trip to Naper Settlement in May. Last year was taught without going to a reenactment type facility and it was hard for the students to visualize. Naper Settlement is very true historically to what DG was like. Cost is approximately \$600 + 2 buses. Investigating to see if it is already included in the field trip budget; if it isn't already included in the budget, we will vote next meeting.

- **EClub needs volunteers.** At least 3 parent volunteers per meeting. Next meeting is 1/20. We will put a note in backpack mail, Lester Life, and eBlast. Received letter from National PTA; schools can sign up for Jamba Juice cards and anyone who goes to Jamba Juice and uses the card will earn 10% for PTA and 2% for National PTA. Cards have been ordered and should arrive soon.

## Committee Reports and Ongoing PTA Fundraisers:

**Reflections** – 46 Entries from 45 students. 18 went to council. The district had 216 entries by 192 artists. Reception is 11/19 at O'Neill School. Mrs. Beard's class won the pizza lunch.



## Lester Life

is produced monthly for the students and families of Lester Elementary School, District 58, Downers Grove, Illinois.

Questions, comments or content should be directed to [lesterlife@comcast.net](mailto:lesterlife@comcast.net).

The next deadline is **Friday, January 22**

# Science Olympiad Returns To Lester School

The members of the Science Olympiad committee invite you to participate in the second annual Lester School Science Olympiad on Tuesday, February 23, 2010. Last year, nearly 160 students and 70 parent volunteers experienced the thrill of hands-on learning and science exploration. We would love to have you aboard this time!

Science Olympiad provides children in grades K-12 with activities designed to spark the imagination and illuminate the world of science. In our non-competitive elementary school program, students cycle through three events per grade level in a 90-minute period, working in teams of up to four to solve problems,

build structures, test their scientific knowledge and stimulate their creativity. This one-night, free event is open to all Lester students and parents. Events this year include:

- K-1 Color Splash, Fill the Bill, Marshmallow Tower
- 2-3 Inflation Race, Weather or Not, Circuit Wizardry
- 4-6 Science Crime Busters, Tropical Eco-Challenge, Marble Roller Coaster

**WE NEED YOUR HELP!** Please save your empty wrapping paper tubes! We are in need of many cardboard wrapping paper tubes. Please send any empty wrapping paper tubes to school. There



*Exploring the World of Science*

will be a container in the front hallway for collection. As you wrap your holiday gifts, please remember to send in the wrapping paper tubes!

For information, contact Tricia Tokash at [ttokash@comcast.net](mailto:ttokash@comcast.net) or 630.960.0259

**\*\*\*\*\* SAVE THE DATE\*\*\*\*\***

**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2010**  
6:15 to 8:00 p.m.

## Parent Volunteers Needed!

Lester E-Club is a school-based environmentally friendly club that includes students from third through sixth grade. Students meet for an hour after school once a month. There are MORE THAN 90 children participating, and Mrs. Conyac needs at least 3 parent volunteers per meeting! Interested in volunteering? Contact Mrs. Conyac at 630.719.5855 or [jconyac@dg58.org](mailto:jconyac@dg58.org). The next meeting is scheduled for January 20 from 2:40 to 3:45 p.m.



### District 58 Now on Twitter

As part of ongoing efforts to communicate with parents and community members in a variety of ways, District 58 has joined the world of Twitter!

Keep up with the latest happenings in District 58, its schools and the District 58 Education Foundation by visiting [www.twitter.com/DGDistrict58](http://www.twitter.com/DGDistrict58), or by signing up for your own account and requesting to follow DGDistrict 58.

Questions, comments and feedback are always welcome; contact Jennifer Waldorf at [jwaldorf@dg58.org](mailto:jwaldorf@dg58.org) or 630.719.5805.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### December

- 18 Holiday Party (1:30 p.m.)
- 18 Market Day Pickup (4 to 4:45 p.m.)
- 21 **NO SCHOOL** - Winter Break Begins

### January

- 4 Classes Resume
- 15 End of Second Reporting Period
- 18 **NO SCHOOL** - Martin Luther King Day
- 19 PTA Meeting - 7 p.m. in LRC
- 26 Report Cards Sent Home
- 28 Regular School Attendance Day  
Parent/Teacher Conferences - Grades K-8 **EVENING ONLY**
- 29 Market Day Pickup (4 to 4:45 p.m.)

### February

- 1 **HALF DAY** - School Improvement
- 2 Regular School Attendance Day  
Parent/Teacher Conferences- Grades K-8 **EVENING ONLY**
- 15 **NO SCHOOL** - President's Day
- 16 PTA Meeting - 7 p.m. in LRC
- 19 Market Day Pickup (4 to 4:45 p.m.)
- 20 Trivia Night PTA Fundraiser
- 26 **NO SCHOOL** - Teacher Institute



# WORD OF THE DAY

We will be starting a new "word of the day" program at Lester School. Every day, during morning announcements, a new word will be given followed by the definition and a sentence. The students will be encouraged to use the word during the day. Each month you will

receive a copy of the words from the previous month for you to incorporate in your daily routine. Our goal at Lester School is to increase vocabulary for all students. Reading and talking to your child is another way to increase vocabulary on a daily basis.

## NOVEMBER

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
<p><b>2</b></p> <p><b>COMMENCE</b> <i>to begin</i> The new school year will commence on September 1st.</p>	<p><b>3</b></p> <p><b>AMBLE</b> <i>walk or move at a slow, relaxed pace</i> Please amble through the hall.</p>	<p><b>4</b></p> <p><b>ELATED</b> <i>make someone happy</i> My mom was elated with my report card.</p>	<p><b>5</b></p> <p><b>TASK</b> <i>a piece of work to be done</i> The task is to make a model of a beetle.</p>	<p><b>6</b></p> <p><b>SOLITUDE</b> <i>situation of being alone</i> My mom savored her few hours of freedom and solitude while I was at school.</p>
<p><b>9</b></p> <p><b>TIMID</b> <i>a lack of courage or confidence</i> I was too timid to ask a question.</p>	<p><b>10</b></p> <p><b>GENEROUS</b> <i>give more of something, as money or time, than is necessary</i> My uncle was very generous with his time.</p>	<p><b>11</b></p> <p>NO SCHOOL</p>	<p><b>12</b></p> <p><b>CONFLICT</b> <i>a serious argument or disagreement</i> Susie and Mia had a conflict over the shirt</p>	<p><b>13</b></p> <p><b>TIDY</b> <i>to arrange neatly and in order</i> My mom told me to tidy my room.</p>
<p><b>16</b></p> <p><b>CHUCKLE</b> <i>laugh quietly</i> I chuckle whenever I read Junie B. Jones.</p>	<p><b>17</b></p> <p><b>POUNCE</b> <i>spring or swoop suddenly so as to catch prey</i> I saw the cat pounce on the mouse.</p>	<p><b>18</b></p> <p><b>COMPANION</b> <i>person or animal with whom spends a lot of time with</i> Sarah is my traveling companion</p>	<p><b>19</b></p> <p><b>FLABBERGASTED</b> <i>surprise greatly</i> The news has left me totally flabbergasted.</p>	<p><b>20</b></p> <p><b>GATHER</b> <i>to come together or assemble</i> My family will gather for a party.</p>
<p><b>21</b></p> <p><b>HEFTY</b> <i>large and heavy</i> We planted a hefty tree.</p>	<p><b>22</b></p> <p><b>ABUNDANT</b> <i>available in large quantities</i> In our backyard apples are abundant.</p>	<p><b>23</b></p> <p>NO SCHOOL</p>	<p><b>24</b></p> <p>NO SCHOOL</p>	<p><b>25</b></p> <p>NO SCHOOL</p>
<p><b>30</b></p> <p><b>SURPLUS</b> <i>more than what is needed</i> We had a surplus of turkey at Thanksgiving.</p>				



## Young Authors

It is time to begin thinking about Young Authors. Couple your imagination with all the "6+1 Traits of Good Writing" that you have learned in class to write a story of your own. Stories written by students for Young Authors become treasured memories, and are the start of a lifelong habit of good writing. We want to read your story!

A letter with detailed information will be sent home with students on January 5th. All entries will be due to Classroom teachers by Tuesday, February 23rd.