



UPDATE

Quincy Public Schools
February 21, 2008

KINDNESS IS CONTAGIOUS

Students at Dewey School have been participating in the *Kindness Justice Challenge*. This activity is part of the Seven Habits initiative which is based on the principles outlined in Stephen Covey's book, *Seven Habits of Highly Effective People*. As a Seven Habits School, Dewey students are learning to successfully interact with people and make the Seven Habits part of their daily lives at home and at school. At last night's Board meeting, Dewey Principal Jerry Ellerman and Social Worker Denise Poland described some of the student activities that have been part of the *Kindness Justice Challenge*. Students helping with the presentation were Mirriah Berry, Tucker Cobern, and Dylan Altmix. Kindergarten students made Kindness is Contagious bookmarks for all Dewey students. Kindergarteners also held a kindness parade, marching around the school holding kindness signs. First and second grade students fashioned decorative banners and posters about kindness to hang in the halls. Third graders made reference books with examples of kind acts. These are in the school library and can be checked out by students and parents. Board members viewed a slide show entitled "Ordinary Kids Doing Extraordinary Things." It depicted Dewey students performing acts of kindness during the school day.

TEACHER MENTOR PROGRAM APPLICATION

The Board of Education approved the submission of an application to the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) that will designate our teacher induction and mentoring initiative program as a state approved program. Benefits of being a state approved teacher mentor program include: 1) It is one of the ways the state allows teachers to move from "initial" to "standard" certification. 2) All program components of the district's mentoring program will have state recognition as being "high quality." 3) Providing a comprehensive state approved program has the potential to increase our capacity to attract, support, develop and retain new teachers. Although becoming state approved does not obligate the district to provide the teacher mentoring program every year, it is our goal and intention to provide it on an ongoing basis.

Quincy's teacher mentor project began in August 2006 as one of ten pilot sites for the ISBE-funded "Beginning Teacher Induction Pilot" grant projects. The project was developed in a collaborative effort between Quincy Public Schools, the Quincy Federation of Teachers Local 809, our Regional Office of Education and Quincy University. Program goals include developing new teachers' understanding and implementation of the Illinois Professional Teaching Standards and relevant Content Area Standards; developing in new teachers a repertoire of effective, research-based instructional practices; developing trusting supportive and professional relationships and networks; developing reflective, analytical and self-assessment skills in new teachers; creating an effective, smooth transition from being a student to being a teaching professional; and improving and maximizing student learning and achievement. The project includes formal mentor training, formal induction training for new teachers, monthly protégé and mentor training, dialogue journals, formative observations, an individual Induction Plan, and weekly contact between mentor and protégés.

In other action, the Board approved:

- Annual grants and allocations
- Summer School Program for 2008
- District Title I E-Plan
- Resolution abating property taxes levied pursuant to a resolution adopted on the 18th day of July, 2007 for the payment of principal and interest on General Obligation School Bonds, Series 2007
- Amendment of Life Safety Projects to include replacement of the Madison School gym floor.
- Let bids for summer 2008 Qualified Zone Academy Bonds (QZAB) projects.

**QUINCY ALZHEIMER'S ASSOCIATION
MEMORY WALK COMMITTEE
RECRUITMENT CHAIR NEEDED**

An energetic, community minded individual(s) to fill the volunteer position of Team Recruitment Chair as part of the Quincy Alzheimer's Association Memory Walk Committee. Requirements: ability to work with others to recruit new teams from corporations, organizations, families, churches, etc. We'll provide excellent written material, staff assistance and strategies. Opportunity to work with a dynamic, creative committee representing various companies and disciplines in the Quincy region. The Memory Walk is September 4. Call 228-1111 or email Julie.Jones@alz.org if interested. Together we'll take steps to end Alzheimer's!



LISA GOUGHNOUR

QJHS history teacher
recipient of the

KHQA Excellent Educator award



PERSONNEL ITEMS

APPOINTMENTS-JENNIFER GRANNIS-FONG 1st grade Ellington. February 8. **NIKKI FEE**-.5 reading support at Washington. January 9. **KIM-BERLY HEILWAGEN**-paraeducator Dewey. February 11. **TERRI MORRIS**-Madison cafeteria supervisor hourly **CHERYL STARK**-Madison cook hourly.

PSAE/ACT HOURLY POSITIONS-LAURIE FIORENZE and BRENDA STALDER, English-Reading. **ERICA SCHIEFERDECKER and MELISSA YUCIUS**, Math.

RESIGNATIONS-REBECCA WOOD-1st grade Ellington. February 1. **HENRY BOCKE** as QJHS head track coach. **MATT McCLELLAND and LAURA McCLELLAND** as QJHS assistant track coaches. **BRIGHAM JOHN ISS** supervisor at QJHS January 18. **ANDREW PHILLIPS** Madison security guard February 16.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE-MARIA MAST-extend leave through 2008-2009. **ELIZABETH BOZARTH** extend leave through the end of the 2007-2008 school year. **DONNA GOERLICH**-leave for 2008-2009. **MARCIA CHRISTNER**-leave for 2008-2009

**FOUND—
IN BOE PARKING LOT
SanDisk Thumb Drive
Call Phyllis at
228-7158 ext. 234**

Update Newsletter
February 21, 2008
Published monthly
(except June, July, August)
Quincy Public Schools
1444 Maine St. Quincy, IL
62301
Issue No. 7