



# Superintendent's Message

*"Working together as a school community, we must put children first . . . we all have an obligation to touch children's lives and make a difference."*

Superintendent  
Kurt Wachholz

News from the Superintendent to help inform parents, staff, and community of current school district news, events and issues.

December 2009

## Project Lead the Way Update *Positive Feedback was Received from Area Businesses*

As part of Phase 2 of the Strategic Structural Plan for Student Success (SSPSS) the Board of Education and Administrative team have unveiled plans for a new academic program called Project Lead the Way. This STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) program will be housed at Central High School beginning with the 2010 - 2011 school year for incoming Freshman. Project Lead the Way is currently offered at over 130 school districts state-wide and is aimed at those students who are looking to enter an Engineering or related field after graduating from high school.

An information meeting was held on Tuesday, November 10, 2009 at Summit Place in West Allis. This meeting allowed area businesses an opportunity to gain information and provide input on Project Lead the Way. Business partners are an important component for Project Lead the Way as they help by mentoring and providing expertise to students and instructors. These partners can also provide community leadership in connecting WAWM Students with real life work ready skills and practices.

Project Lead the Way enables students to develop into a work ready, work force by utilizing these 21st Century Skills in science, technology, engineering, and math. Students learn what it's like to work together in a team to develop an idea(s), design their idea(s), and test their idea(s). By doing this students gain a better understanding of the potential impact that their ideas and projects may have on society. They also learn time management along with resource limitations and project management skills. Students also learn to go beyond the classroom for answers.

There are five levels of commitment that businesses can enter into:

- Teamwork Level                      \$250 - \$500
- Innovator Level                        \$501 - \$1000
- Creative Level                         \$1001 - \$5000
- Inventor Level                         \$5001 - \$10,000
- Master Engineer                      \$10,001 or greater

If you have any additional questions please contact Joan Delaney at (414) 604-3022.

## The WAWM School District Education Foundation Provides Grants *Twenty-two Grants Awarded to District Programs*

For the second year in a row the West Allis - West Milwaukee School District Education Foundation has awarded grants for valuable programs within our school district. A total of \$10,000 dollars will be distributed shortly to 22 programs. Of these 22 programs 15 applications were chosen based on innovation, technology emphasis, longevity of the program and/or impact on the greatest number of students. Seven grants were awarded specifically to fund field trips in which approximately one-thousand students will be able to participate. All of these grants will go directly back to our children, our schools and our district. This funding is invaluable in helping make a difference in educating our children. A list of grants can be obtained on the Education Foundation website which is part of our District website.

The West Allis - West Milwaukee School District Education Foundation has kicked off a new fund raising effort called the **"WAWM 100"**. The Foundation is seeking 100 donors who give \$100 by February 14, 2010. The best part of all of this is, like all of the donations, 100% of the proceeds will go directly to students and teachers through grant awards like those previously mentioned. Any donation is tax deductible and all donors will receive an **"I ♥ WAWM Schools"** certificate and will list the individual, family, business, or organization on the WAWM School District Education Foundation website.

For more information or to donate to the "WAWM 100" please go to the WAWM School District Education Foundation website at: [www.wawm.k12.wi.us/Education\\_Foundation/index.htm](http://www.wawm.k12.wi.us/Education_Foundation/index.htm) or call Susan Stuckert at (414) 604-4927.

## Concerts and Other Events Mean Busy December

### WAWM Schools Recreation Department will Have Plenty to Do over Break

This holiday season is providing our District with numerous concerts performed by the WAWM schools. Our students in all grade levels worked hard to prepare for this festive time of year. These concerts began at the end of November and go through January in some schools. For a detailed concert schedule throughout the year please go to the West Allis - West Milwaukee website at [www.wawm.k12.wi.us](http://www.wawm.k12.wi.us) and click on the "**concert dates**" area on the very left hand side of the main page. Parents, guardians, and community members can also call their local school for more information on concert dates and times.

Thank you to the children and staff for all of their hard work and the outstanding performances!

While off for the holiday break there will be plenty of opportunities for both youth and adults alike. A **Non School Day Camp** will be offered for students in 4K through 5th grades on December 23, 28, 29, and 30 from 7:30am to 5:30pm. There is a \$25 cost per child per day for this which includes lunch and a field trip. **Winter break open gym and swimming** will be held December 28, 29, and 30 from noon to 3:00pm at Central High School.

The **36th Annual Alumni Tournament** will be held from December 26 to 28. The Men's Basketball Tournament will be at Central High School and the Women's Volleyball Tournament will be at Nathan Hale. The entry fee is \$45 per team, for more

Information please contact Mike Sperka at 414-604-4938 regarding the Men's Tournament or Dustin Smith at 414-604 regarding the Women's Tournament. For more information on any of these please log on to [www.wawm.k12.wi.us](http://www.wawm.k12.wi.us) and go to the Recreation Department area of this site.

## It's Time to Begin Preparing Children for Outdoor Activities

### Colder Weather Means a Change in Student Dress

The summer months and mild fall weather has quickly turned to winter and the cold weather it brings. It is extremely important that children dress as warm as possible prior to their daily departure for school. Even though some of the students get rides to school they will still be spending time outdoors on the playground. This is especially true before school, during the noon lunch/recess hour, and after school. When it is not raining or when there is not a great danger of significant wind chill (according to the National Weather Service wind chill index), students play or wait outdoors at our various school levels.

Here are a few tips that might be helpful on winter apparel and how your child can stay warm for the colder winter months:

- Provide a suitable winter jacket, snow pants or snow suit. (water resistant/water proof works best).
- Provide either a winter cap, head band, or ear muffs.
- Provide warm winter gloves or mittens.
- Provide insulated winter boots that have some type of waterproofing for playing in the snow.
- Provide Long underwear or a sweater as options for colder days.
- Provide a change of socks, pants, and shoes if possible in the case that your child's clothes do get wet from the snow and slush that accompany winter weather.

If you have questions or concerns regarding building access times or how your child should dress for winter please contact your local school principal and they will be happy to provide tips and guidance for you.

## High Schools 8th Grade Open House Dates Set

### Central and Nathan Hale High Schools Offer Students an Opportunity to Visit

Central and Nathan Hale High Schools are providing the opportunity for any 8<sup>th</sup> grade students to preview their school. Central High School is holding their **9<sup>th</sup> Grade Preview** on Monday, December 7 beginning at 6:30pm. Nathan Hale High School will have their **8<sup>th</sup> Grade Expo** on Thursday, December 10 also beginning at 6:30pm.

Staff members from each school will be available to answer any questions and discuss the academic program, students support services, achievements, and extra-curricular activities and opportunities. Students and parents/guardians will be able to meet coaches of the sports teams and advisors of the many extra-curricular clubs and organizations. For more information on these open house opportunities you can call Central High School at (414) 604-3100 or Nathan Hale High School at (414) 604-3200.

In the West Allis - West Milwaukee School District parents are able to choose which high school they would like their child to attend. Transportation is the responsibility of the parents (except where a student lives beyond two miles from the nearest high school. In which case the student will be provided yellow bus transportation to the nearest high school).



**On behalf of the WAWM School District Administration I would like to wish you and your family a safe and happy holiday season.**



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