



Rain, Rain, Go Away....

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CICS Bucktown

The annual Spring Carnival was held on May 27 for students and families of the school. \$4,000.00 was raised at the event!

Several Bucktown students took part in the World Art Chicago Exhibition which was held at the Gary Comer Center located on Chicago's south side.

Sixty students went to see the Chicago Cubs because of the successful completion of the Presidential Fitness Award.

Ahh....Springtime! A time for new life, growth, rain, warm weather, and sun. Although the warmth and sun have been quite elusive this year. Too much rain and not enough warmth. Mother Nature is teasing us with a few days of sun and warmth here and there.

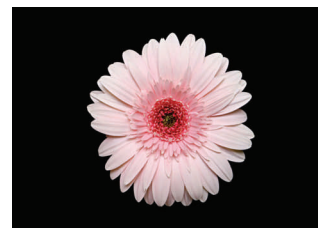
When, when will we see nicer weather? Hopefully, not too much longer.

Soon the students at our schools will have gone through another school year and will

say goodbye until the fall to start again.

Summer is just around the corner and waiting for them to put down their books and have fun for the next couple of months; to hang out with their friends and family, to rest and rejuvenate, and to grow a little or a lot.

My wish for our students and for the rest of us is that we all have a fun, safe, and restful summer!



CICS West Belden

West Belden was thrilled when 20% of the graduating class of 2009 was accepted into selective enrollment high schools including Lane Tech and Northside Prep.

The school implemented a citizenship award incentive for students in grades K – 8. Two students from each classroom who exemplified the core values of respect and responsibility were awarded a trip to downtown Chicago at the end of May. They enjoyed a double-decker bus ride around the city and enjoyed lunch at Hub 51.

This year West Belden continued to bring classes to the Belmont-Craigin Senior Suites, a retirement home located down the street from school so that students could either sing to or read books with the residents.

The 7 & 8 grade boys softball team won their first game of the season on April 23rd. The score was 5 – 3.

The school also hosted a Spring Open house on April 21st as part of National Turn-off the TV Week. Over 200 families attended the event and were provided with alternative activities to do with their children.

West Belden's administration celebrated its amazing teaching staff during National Teacher Appreciation Week. Teachers were treated to breakfast and lunch each day of the week and the week culminated in an all school assembly honoring the teachers for all of their hard work and accomplishments.

The school once again hit both the math and reading goals on the Spring NWEA assessment. Although the goals that were set the foundation were exceptionally high, West Belden achieved 1 point above their reading goal and 4 points above the math goal.

The 7th * 8th grade girls softball team had an outstanding season and made it to the city finals! The final playoff game was held on May 25th and although the team played fabulously, West Belden was narrowly defeated in the final seconds of the game.

Thirty-eight students in grades 3 – 8 were nominated by their teachers for being the most improved students in their classrooms. As a reward for their outstanding effort during the 2008 – 2009 school year, the students attended a luncheon in their honor at HUB 51.

On May 28th, West Belden held its final sports banquet of the year. Over 50 students from the various spring sports teams were honored. Students enjoyed pizza and salad and were awarded trophies and certificates to honor their accomplishments.

CICS Washington Park

Mrs. Johnson and Mrs. Nash succeeded their goal to raise money for the Diabetes Association. The school raised \$1754.00. The top donors were Jeremy Hudson and Micheala Easley from the fifth grade.

Congratulations to Mr. Ellison who

graduated on May 21, 2009 with a Master's degree in Counseling Psychology from Chicago State University. This will be Mr. Ellison's second Master's degree.

Washington Park's Southside Track and Field league held their champi-

onship meet on Saturday, May 9, 2009 at St. Rita High School. The WP Wildcats ranked seventh place out of seventeen schools. Go Wildcats!!

Congratulations to Mrs. Wojas for having another grant funded. She will be receiving twelve whisper phones for her classroom!

Plato Learning Academy

Plato Learning Academy celebrated Earth week April 13—24. During this time each grade level learned about eco systems, jungles, caves, mountains, the Poles, deep oceans, and the shallow seas. The whole school went to see the film "Earth" on opening day. In addition, the students raised money to adopt four animals from the Lincoln Park Zoo in Plato's name. The animals picked were an African Lion, an Amur

Leopard, a snow Leopard, and a Jaguar. At the end of the celebration the school held a small assembly with a speaker from the Trailside Museum who came to speak to the students about the eco-system of Illinois. At the end of Earth week, the students took a service learning trip to the River Trail Nature Center where they learned more about the eco-system of Illinois and did some hands-on habitat restoration work, took a nature walk, and toured

through their exhibits. The Male Mentoring program was successful this first year. On April 15 the members of the program went to a Bulls game along with the Plato faculty and staff. The boys loved the game; for many, it was a first. The teachers who have students in this program, have seen an improvement in their behavior.

CICS Prairie

Cosmic Synergy After-School Program

The school's Cosmic Synergy showcase was held on Thursday, June 4, 2009. It's been an exciting year that included students learning to make cartoons using an animated computer program. The students also participated in a 4-piece violin group, and a band that included a five piece drum set, acoustic guitars and a piano. The Knitting Club was awesome as well! The students made purses and coasters. In the Paper Creations Art class participants made their own paper, journals, decoupages' and paper weaving. Mad Science was great, especially, since the students made a different experiment each week.

My Buddy and Me

It is always fun to see the way the 8th graders and kindergartners work so well together. Tuesday, May 26 was their annual Brookfield Zoo trip. They really enjoy spending time together as buddies. The final project was a multi-colored quilt that the group made together on Friday, June 5th. This quilt is displayed on the bulletin board near the front door. The quilt shows each 8th grader with their kindergarten buddy on a background of Prairie's school colors, maroon and gray.

Literacy Week

On April 20-24, Prairie students engaged in a week long literacy extravaganza. Teachers helped start the week with a bulletin board contest of the student's favorite books. The teach-

ers and students shared their love for reading by taking part in daily events tied to reading and writing. As a culminating activity, students attended a Literacy Carnival where they enjoyed reading activities, book authoring sessions, a visit from Dr. Seuss and Sparkle the Clown, the Author Chair (where professionals from the surrounding Chicago area read their favorite book to students), and a popcorn snack.



Third Annual Health Day

Prairie Campus had their Third Annual Health and Family Fun Day on May 22nd. It was an all school day event filled with Health Ed. classes for the students and of course Family and Staff Fun! The school was visited by "Scrubby Bear", Girl / Boy Talk, Good Touch / Bad Touch, the Chicago Fire Department Safety Mobile, Choose Not To Lose". Nutrition classes were also taught. In addition, staff, students, and families enjoyed several performances throughout the day - all related to health. Ronald McDonald showed the students the importance of preserving their environment with "You, Me, and Ecology." "Jason the Juggler" show-

cased his ability to stay focused and how to use dexterity in his juggling routine. "Ding Dong the Clown" proved to the students that Hip Hop can be a good workout. Outside the children experienced a carnival complete with a stilt walker, clowns, a balloonist, and rides. The Student Council did "Going Green is the Thing" - a recycling relay and demonstrated the importance of recycling. Prairie's dads showed how "Real Men Grill."

Under the school tent there was the Olive Harvey "School of Nursing", Epileptic Foundation, Juvenile Arthritis, Sickle Cell Anemia, Mount Sinai Poison Control, The American Cancer Society, Food Service Provider, Children and Family Benefits Unit, Hip Hop Yoga, Laughter Yoga, Line Dancing, and Orion's Mind. The school was also visited by Stakeholders Collaboration to Improve Student Health, the Ronald McDonald Care Mobile, the Mounted Police, Canine Patrol, and the Christian Community Health Mobile. Prairie's cheerleaders, drill team, and former student Shana Jones entertained everyone with their special talents. Staff and parents volunteered for the "Dunk Tank" and everyone demonstrated their pitching skills (with a little cheating on the side.) It turned out to be an event for all to enjoy and no wanted to go home at the end of the day! Students, Staff, and Parents showed that ever presence of "Prairie Pride." And when it was all said and done, everyone could honestly say when asked "What a Great School This Is", the reply was "this is how we at Prairie Roll."

CICS Avalon

Kindergarten

As the Avalon Kindergarteners prepared for first grade, they involved themselves in many activities and had many new learning experiences together! They created and published Mother's Day poems and painted flower pots which they planted wild flowers in. They also visited Morton Arboretum in Lisle, Illinois where the students were able to experience plant life in the interactive Children's Garden. They also visited Brookfield Zoo and prepared for their Kindergarten Passage Ceremony.

First Grade

The first graders worked hard to study and learn about the Ancient Egyptians. The students created a model Egypt, made mummies, discovered the art of embalming, constructed pyramids out of sugar, and modeled Ancient Egyptian jewelry and clothing.

Third Grade

The third grade took trips to the Lincoln Park Zoo and the Sand Ridge Nature Center and loved seeing the animals at the zoo and the animals in the wild at the nature center. Students mastered their multiplication, division, measurement, and fraction skills. They also developed a love of reading this year. Both of the third grade teachers are so proud of their students!

Fifth Grade

In Social Studies the students learned about key events of the 20th century. Fifth grader, Makyla Williams, of room 304, won 1st place in the 5th-6th grade Avalon Spelling Bee. She also finished in the top 10 at the AQS South Side Spelling Bee. She stated that she was not surprised to have done so well because she studied a lot. Congratulations!

Mrs. Smith and Room 304 were delighted to have a new Promethean Board installed. The students use it for both Math and Science presentations.

Finally, fifth grade celebrated the end of a school year and an all school high of 22 students meeting both Reading and Math NWEA targets went to Brunswick Zone for a bowling fun day. The students and teachers had an enjoyable time bowling and relaxing to finish off this year of hard work.

Sixth Grade

The students wrote argumentative persuasive essays on the effectiveness of school uniforms and in Social Studies they learned about Manifest Destiny. They also learned how to create resumes and cover letters in Language Arts.

On May 13th, Carey Burton, Nicholas Coates, Diante Johnson, Jaron Sorrell, Atiyah Tassin, and Arielle Yehudah represented

CICS Avalon at the Fifth Annual "Diamond in the Rough" Chess Tournament, held at US Cellular Field. They were among 240 students selected from Chicago Public Schools to participate in this event. Each of the students received a certificate, a medal, a t-shirt, and a tournament sized chess set with carrying case. The school is so proud of them!!

Art Class

As the school year comes to an end, the upper school classes at Avalon have closed up some exciting units! Fourth grade learned about the seven art elements, while the fifth grade focused on value studies. Sixth grade wrapped up a unit on figure drawing and seventh grade had problem-solving using art.

Taste of Avalon

On April 29th, Avalon hosted their 2nd Annual Taste of Avalon. It was a fundraiser where each grade level selected a country to represent. The countries that were represented were: Mexico, Italy, Poland, China, Greece, Jamaica, Senegal, and Cuba. Students, parents, and family members came out to purchase a passport, travel to each country, and have a taste of their cuisine.

East Chicago Urban Enterprise Academy

Kindergarten Classes

The kindergarten students worked hard this year hard at becoming readers. They understood word families, blending, and learned all the sounds the letters make. They learned how to add and subtract. They also enjoyed pulling out manipulatives to work out the problems. In mid-March, they worked on and completed their plant unit, which was so much fun. The students were amazed when the seed they personally planted started to sprout out of the dirt and grow. The teachers had excellent group this year and they surprised them everyday with how fast they caught on. Especially amazing was the amount of good readers that developed this year.

First grade flew by this year! Students were so busy and learned so much! After receiving a grant from Donors Choose, students dove head first into an intense study of animals and their habitats. They tell all about rookeries and the adaptations animals make to survive in their habitats. They created their own penguin books, arctic animal counting books, and ocean animal books. The grant included a huge selection of National Geographic videos and students took a break by watching several of them and eating popcorn. Another component of their study of Animal Homes-Not in a Zoo was the creation of penguin pictures using black yarn, construction paper, cotton balls, and glue with sparkle balls for eyes. They glued candy corn to depict the penguin's feet. What a blast!

Ms. Ptak's 1st Grade Class

Ms. Ptak's class got healthy this past early spring. Student's learned to wash their hands properly using iridescent "germs." Dental health is another part of this unit on personal hygiene. The students sampled healthy foods. In Six Traits students used all of the six traits to properly write paragraphs. The most exciting news is that the class received a grant from Donors Choose. They received a colorful classroom carpet. The first graders enjoyed having their own personal square to sit on!

Mrs. McKee's 2nd Grade Class

Mrs. McKee's second grade class worked on civil rights for core knowledge in social studies. They also worked on conventions during their six traits language arts lessons. Students worked on writing skills using a rubric and using peer evaluations/editing skills. In reading they worked on scholastic reading groups focusing on making inferences, cause/effect, sequencing, reality/fantasy, as well as other different genres. In math students worked on fractions and rounding skills. In character education, students used Socratic discussion talking about honesty. For spelling students created words with shaving lotion and played SPARKLE.

Mrs. Rummel's 3rd Grade Class

Hello from Mrs. Rummel's third grade classroom. Students had fun with the Imagination Unit in Reading and they fashioned cloaks from different colored paper just like the characters did in "A Cloak for the Dreamer." The class also created their own "Picasso" piece of artwork from magazines, newspapers, and original ideas. Finally, all of the students designed new outfits for the emperor from the story "The Emperor's New Clothes."

Mr. Martinez' 3rd Grade Class

The third grade classes worked on the Moon Phases Unit. For 30 days, students drew and documented the moon in their Moon Journals. The Unit culminated in mid-March with completed journals.

Mrs. Zak's 6th Grade Class

6B worked on a historical African American project. Each student chose a person and did a biography on them. Along with their biography, they presented about their person and dressed like them for the social studies period.

Mr. McKee's Physical Education Classes

In the primary classes, students worked on tumbling and balance activities. In the upper school classes, they did a variety of activities that are designed to encourage team cooperation. Some of these activities included tug-of-war and wallball.

Mrs. VandeBunte's Music Classes

Fourth grade music students created a picture book on orchestra instruments for the first grade classes. Each group was responsible for learning about the four instrument families, drawing pictures, and writing about each instrument. The parts were combined and turned into a book for the fourth grade classes to share with others as well as build community between the grade levels.

Third grade music classes created a music video based on a children's song. Students created props, choreographed, and learned about the process of making a music video. The final performances were taped and shown to the third grade classes.

Mrs. Avina's Spanish Classes

K and 1st grade studied the names of animals in Spanish class. To reinforce the animals names they learned, and to have some fun in class, the students were able to bring in their favorite stuffed animal to Spanish class. The students introduced their stuffed animal to the class and told each other what animal it was in Spanish. The class ended singing "Old MacDonald Had a Farm"; the students really enjoyed the unit and had a great time!

The second and third graders had a blast in Spanish when they learned about items like the Days of the Week and the Months of the Year.

Austin Business & Entrepreneurship Academy

Rush University Pipeline Program

The program is designed to encourage underrepresented minority students to enter the field of medicine. This is done through four Saturday sessions in which students visit Rush University's Medical School to learn about various aspects of medicine.

Northwestern University Anatomy Lab Program

Eleven students visited Northwestern University's Feinberg School of Medicine during which they interacted with current medical students as well as medical school faculty.

ABEA -Plato Learning Academy Service Learning Project

Ms. Brennan, ABEA's 9th grade reading teacher, organized a service learning project where ABEA students wrote children's books. Nine students from ABEA were selected to go to Plato Learning Academy and read their book's to the students there. The day the ABEA students went to Plato, the Plato students were dressed up as their favorite book character and ABEA students dressed up as a character from the book's they wrote. The day was complete when the Plato students ate lunch with the ABEA students. Both schools are looking forward to doing more projects together in the future.

ABEA Wrestling Team

The 2008-2009 season was nothing short of a tremendous success for the ABEA wrestling team. Starting from square one, the team was able to build a great sense of camaraderie while learning the fundamentals of the sport. The young men on the team showed incredible improvement as student athletes; their skills on the mat rose as did their grades and overall classroom behavior. One wrestler even came within two matches of competing in the state championships in Champaign, Illinois; a major accomplishment considering how little experience these young men currently possess compared to other teams. Way to go!!

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www.aqs.org

"No Excuses - Just Results."

Spring Fest—On Thursday, June 11, Passages will host an afternoon of fun and games for it's students. Each classroom teacher will sponsor a game and the classes will rotate to each center. Some of the events will include musical chairs, a three legged race, and a cupcake walk! This festival will be an exciting way to end a great new first year at the school.

This month the Kindergarteners focused on several components:

They took a trip around the world...

They went to: Pakistan, Nigeria, Bosnia, Mexico, and the United States. In each country the students located the distance between the United States and each country and watched a video about the music or dances of the country they visited. In addition, students made observations about the food and clothing each country has and compared it to our own traditions.

In Math, students created number posters. For measurements students completed an obstacle course, where they had to find the correct measurements of different items, solids, liquids, time. For Algebra/Geometry/data analysis, students created their own stories and pictures to show mastery.

The school year ended with the Passages First Annual Kindergarten Graduation. Parents raised money to pay for all the expenses, and the big day was June 9th at 2pm.

All of the super smart first graders at [Passages Charter School](#) continued to learn new things every day. When students were not working hard, they put on wigs and danced around the room :) The students are also proud to announce that they have officially completed their homework for 18 days in a row!

This month, the students focused on asking questions and making observations. They've learned about density by experimenting with different liquids and then dropping in various objects. It turns out water is denser than vegetable oil, which is denser than rubbing alcohol, which is denser than baby oil! Their buttons sank through the baby oil and then floated in the alcohol! Their latest experiment involved creating colorful designs using food coloring and milk. Then they dipped their toothpicks in dishwashing soap and touched it to the surface of the milk to make the colors spread to the edge of their plates. Magic!



Thea Bowman Leadership Academy

Thea Bowman Leadership Academy was very busy at both the Elementary and Jr/Sr High Schools.

The Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction from the state of Indiana, visited the high school. He met with a number of high school students. The students were excited to ask questions about the future of education in Indiana.



The Spanish Club at the high school, planned a trip to "La Villita" which is a predominantly Spanish-speaking neighborhood in Chicago. They ate at "Mi Tierra". During their dining they experienced a live Mariachi as they sang traditional songs and afterwards enjoyed a live Spanish DJ. It was a great evening for the students.

The 10th grade student council planned their end of school year trip to King's Island. Students enjoyed the day as they had fun with their peers. They also worked on a summer contact list, so that they can keep in contact with their friends and do field trips, picnics, car washes and so on.

The third grade classes went to Navy Pier. Class 3B went to Wheatfield, IN to meet their pen pals on May 27th.

TBLA's science fair was held June 4th for

grades K-11. The K-2 participated, but only 3-11 were judged. The students worked hard to display their talents in the area of science.

Many of TBLA teachers had fun activities in their classes. Mr. Boarden's, (one of our Educational Resource Teachers), class held a Spelling Bee and Joshua Williams, Lawrence White, and Andrew Wilson were the 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners of the Spelling Bee. The school is very proud of their continued success!

TBLA's Elementary School held its spring music program, "Cool Notes on a Warm Day", on Thursday, June 4th. K-3 was at 8:30 a.m. 4-6 was at 9:30 a.m. in the gym.

The Jr/Sr High School had its first Scholastic Book Fair. The students were very excited as they visited a new library transformed into a Book Store.

The Boosters held its fourth Annual May Fest, Saturday, May 30, 2009 in the Elementary School's parking lot. The students participated in fun, food, prizes, rides, and entertainment. The Fest was very successful!

For the last five years, TBLA has been a part of the American Heart Association's Hoops for Heart and Jump Rope for Heart fundraisers. The children have raised a lot of money over the years. The students and parents always get excited for the competition. The 3rd – 6th grade students with the assistance of the elementary coach, Joe Maxin, worked hard to raise money for this event. This year they raised over \$430.00 in two weeks between the 3rd, 4th, 5th, and 6th grades. The faculty and staff are so very proud of them!



5th and 6th Top Row: Coach Maxin, Michael Hubbard, Marlon Hudson, Robert Christian, Robin Townsend, Jazmine Holmes, Taranika Brown, Taranisha Barber Bottom Row: Kebrin Patterson, Cezanne Irby, Anthony George, Demell Jackson, Donte' Hunt, Jarea Wilson, absent from the photo are J'Lysa Teamer, Morgan Brooks, and Jasmine Webster.



3rd and 4th Top Row: Ra'Ana Brown, Chelsea Campbell, Destiny Armour, Trevon Brown, Ka'Vay Leslie, Raven Ewing, Jalen Short, Coach Maxin Bottom Row: Mya Bailey, Landrum Coleman, Treasure Valle, Davon Johnson, Aariyon Gauding, Carlos Johnson, Core'Von Lott, Jemaury Taylor, absent from photo is Donta' Long.

The High School Track team had a good season. Chayil Henderson and Flyod Hoskin represented Bowman Academy at the state level June 5th and 6th. Congratulations!