District 211 Students and Staff -

The Spirit of Giving

- At Schaumburg High School, the service club SHO (Students Helping Others) sponsored its annual food drive in October. Over 3,300 food and home items were collected and delivered to the Schaumburg food pantry.
- On December 7, the Chemistry of Foods class (with Family, Career & Community Leaders of America) at Schaumburg High School hosted the 4th-annual Charity Soup Lunch. Attendees were asked to donate a toy or clothing item, which was then given to Toys for Tots or the Schaumburg High School Magic Closet.
- December 8 was “Tom Mussell Night” at Schaumburg High School. Tom Mussell was the building construction teacher at Schaumburg and died unexpectedly, leaving behind a wife and five young children. The student council sponsors the evening to raise money for his family during the holidays through raffles, donations from local businesses, concession stand profits, and monetary donations.
- During the last week of November, the Diversity Club at Schaumburg High School sponsored a “Make A Wish” toy drive for children between the ages of 12 and 18 suffering from possible life-threatening diseases. Last year, students collected over 300 toys.
- Members of the Fremd High School National Honor Society hosted its annual Grant A Wish and Angel Tree drive. More than 500 wishes for underprivileged children in Chicago, as well as 160 children and senior citizens in Palatine, are served by this event.
- Conant High School’s Student Council hosted a holiday party for the children of Conant’s staff. Guests were encouraged to bring a new, unwrapped toy or game, which was donated to Toys for Tots.
- The English Department at Conant High School, as well as several student clubs, have generated several hundred letters for the Yellow Ribbon Support Group, whose mission is to support the men and women of the U.S. active military.
- The Student Council of Hoffman Estates High School sponsored a “Charity Chains Class Competition” - proceeds to benefit Little Brothers of the Poor and Friends of the Elderly.
- Students from Hoffman Estates High School held a shopping day for Toys for Tots on December 19 at Toys R Us in Schaumburg.
- Palatine High School’s clubs, activities and sport teams once again participated in the Wishing Tree Project through Palatine township, collecting gifts for 12 families this year.
- Students and staff from both Palatine and Fremd High Schools help make up YHOP (Youth Hunger Opposition in Palatine), an organization dedicated to funding the Palatine Township Food Pantry. Their goal is to raise $100,000 by early 2008.
- As in past years, District 211 administration center staff members participated in the Adopt-a-Family program. Two families from the Palatine and Schaumburg townships received gifts for the holiday season.

Mid-Year Retirees

High School District 211 wishes all the best to our mid-year retirees.

- Retiring from Palatine High School are Rosemary Cox (Food service), Meredith Gieseler (teaching assistant), and Linda Pozdro (support staff); and from Fremd High School, Anthony Flores (custodial/maintenance), Suzanne Thorsness (support staff) and Fred Reeves (student supervisor) from Schaumburg are retiring. At the Administration Center, Ruth Jonen (administrator, food services) and Helen Beers (transportation) are the mid-year retirees.

Employee Assistance Program

The Employee Assistance Program (EAP) is a counseling service provided by the professional staff at Workplace Solutions. Their staff can help District 211 employees and their families deal with personal challenges and problems that may be affecting quality of life at home and/or at work. All inquiries made through the EAP are confidential. To ensure confidentiality, you may contact the EAP directly at (800) 327-5071. EAP services are provided at no cost to our employees and to their eligible family members; District 211 pays for this service. Any additional costs incurred for services beyond the EAP may be eligible for payment under the behavioral health provisions of your medical benefits plan. To learn more about the Employee Assistance Program (EAP), Workplace Solutions may be contacted directly at (800) 327-5071. You may also visit the EAP web site at www.wseap.com.
To reduce the trauma of hair loss suffered from medical conditions and treatments, former cancer patient Pamela Haschke helped to found Northwest Illinois Head Huggers, which provides caps at no charge to patients at hospitals and oncologists’ offices.

After reading an article in the Daily Herald about the Arlington Heights resident, Community Relations Clerk Dottie Tarkowski called Ms. Haschke. She learned that volunteer groups knit, crochet, or sew caps and donate them for distribution. After downloading patterns, Dottie recruited knitters and crocheters among the District 211 staff.

On December 19, Ms. Haschke was presented with over 100 handmade caps in a rainbow of colors.

Dean Richards (WGN-Radio and TV personality) appeared at the Palatine High School Holiday Band Concert on December 12. He narrated *Twas the Night Before Christmas* with Symphonic Band, conducted by Raeleen Horn (music department chair).

Jean Black, Erin Lindstrom, Dana Batterton, Sarah Keefe, Liz Naumann, and Dave Valentino from the English Department all attended the I.A.T.E. (Illinois Association of Teachers of English) Annual Conference in Peoria, Ill. on October 11-13. This was the 100th anniversary of I.A.T.E. Erin, Dave, Sarah, and Liz presented while Jean became the 101st president of I.A.T.E. Betsy Kahn from Conant High School became 1st vice president.

Janet Shanahan (main office) is pleased to announce that her son, Christopher Shanahan (FHS ‘89), has been named interim president and CEO, North America by Scottish Re.

Carol Nanna (nurse’s clerk) and her husband, Tom, are happy to announce the birth of their first granddaughter, Giada Nicole Nanna, born on October 28. Giada was 7 lbs. 5 oz. and 20-1/2” long. The proud parents are Todd and Misty Nanna. Todd was a 1995 graduate of Schaumburg High School.
James B. Conant High School

Elizabeth Kahn (English) served as the Second Vice President and Program Chair of I.A.T.E’s 100th Anniversary Fall Conference in Peoria. Elizabeth also presented a session at the N.C.T.E. Convention in New York and served as a member of the Secondary Section Steering Committee.

Ann Metaxatos attended the 31st-annual Day of Reading conference in Tinley Park on November 3.

Roger Carpenter, Mary Kay Albamonte, and Heather Munao attended an Advance Placement workshop in Beloit, Wis., on October 18.

Patti Dobkins (CHS), Kim Petschow (CHS), Adrienne Stackwell (PHS), Jacki Volocyk (SHS), Anna Mills (SHS), and Cliff Watanuki attended the Illinois Business Education Association Conference in Springfield, Ill.

Schaumburg High School

Linda Luciani-Bemis (health/physical education) is proud to announce her sons’ participation in Badger Kick-off Classic Cattle Show in Milwaukee on December 1-2. Sammy received a 4th place for his Shorthorn heifer and Daniel received a 1st place for his Angus heifer.

Shayne Bullen is proud to announce the birth of a grandson, Kayden Jiayong Liao, to parents Elyse (nee Bullen, FHS ’01) and Frank Liao on October 27.

Tim McGlynn (music) has published his first book entitled Now Playing at a Theater Near Me. Available in December from Virtualbookworm.com, Now Playing combines coming of age tales from the 70s with backstories and personal recollections of the films and theaters of that era. The book is available at Amazon.com and BarnesandNoble.com.

Hoffman Estates High School

“Our HEHS Gang” continues to gather three times annually to share birth announcements, weddings, adventures, travel, etc. The web site, www.ourhehsgang.org, contains alerts for upcoming events and photos from previous gatherings. Anyone who ever worked at Hoffman Estates High School is invited to attend future functions.

Administration Center

Carol Valko (central maintenance and educational technology) vacationed with a girlfriend on Sanibel Island, Fla., for a week - and took a day trip to the Everglades!