



Visit us on the web
www.ncusd.203.org/!community/parent_involvement

NOTES FROM CO-CHAIRS *Nina Menis & Jane Wernette*

Welcome back! We hope you had a relaxing summer with your families and got some well-deserved rest. Now that the kids are back in school, we are eager to start working with all of you to support your School Family Community Partnership teams and the wonderful programs they sponsor throughout our district. The Core Team has lots of things planned for this year, starting with our kick-off Orientation on Friday, September 12th and ending with our Celebration Breakfast on Saturday, May 8th. In between, there will be lots of opportunities for you to network with other SFCP teams within the district and take advantage of several training sessions that have been developed based on your feedback from last

year. We look forward to seeing all of you at the Orientation. Dean Reschke, our school board president, will be making the opening remarks and Dr. Alan Leis, our new superintendent, will be wrapping up the meeting. We think it will be a very informative morning and hope to see you all there. Finally, on behalf of the Core Team, our congratulations to all the schools that had their best practices published in the National Network's Promising Partnership Practices book and to Highlands school for receiving their third consecutive Award of Excellence. This is going to be a great year and we look forward to working with all of you.

Nina Menis and Jane Wernette

SFC Partnership District Core Team

Co-Chairs

Nina Menis
Jane Wernette

Karen Currier
Linda Gross*
Lenore Johnson
Dr. Alan Leis*
Julie Lichter*
Mark Pasztor
Dagmar Porcelli*
Catherine Redford
Dean Reschke
Jackie Romberg
Sheila Sarovich*
Terri Stevens*
Pat Todd*
Ross Truemper
Jeff VanHarlingen*
Sandy Wunderlich*
Ann Vitek

*New Member

The mission of the District 203 School Family Community Partnership is to enhance our children's learning and development by being a proactive resource in promoting, strengthening and celebrating the partnership that exists between schools, families and the community.

Welcome From New Superintendent, Dr. Alan Leis...



Learning about the wonderful things happening in District 203 has been an exhilarating experience, even if it sometimes felt like the proverbial “drink of water from a fire hose.” The Joyce Epstein model seems to be an excellent vehicle to foster more meaningful parent involvement in our schools, and I am looking forward to learning more about the model this fall. Jane Wernette and Nina Menis have already given me my very own “School Family Community Partnership” notebook. Needless to say, I am most impressed with your organization, your goals, and what you have done to help our students. School systems with high levels of achievement almost always have strong parental involvement. That is one of the important keys to District 203’s high levels of student achievement, and this is one tradition we will definitely continue.

No matter what is printed on paper, however, I know the best part of what you do happens one-on-one and day-to-day in each of our 21 schools. I will look forward to meeting you, learning about your school projects, and assisting you in whatever ways I can.

We have a common goal--helping students learn. I am sure we will have a long and productive relationship as partners in making District 203 even better! I, for one, can’t wait.

v It Out...New SFCP Logo, Brochure and Web Page...

v out the new **SFCP logo** designed last school year by the District Core Team and designer Deanne Fulner! Plus we have a freshly designed **SFCP brochure** which succinctly explains the mission, history, goals and activities for District 203’s School Family Community Partnership. The brochure makes a great handout for parents at your initial SFCP meetings. They’re available at the District Office by contacting Maureen Dvorak at 420.6815.

v v out the new **SFCP web page** at www.ncusd203.org!/community/parent_involvement It’s vastly improved, but we know, there are still a few things to correct and add...Our goal is to be able to list your school’s current and upcoming SFCP activities under the “Upcoming Events” link. So please, as you plan and develop your school SFCP calendars, keep the website in mind. We’ll be in touch about how to collect and update your information...

Dr. Leis’ Column...

In case you missed Dr. Leis’ inaugural column in the Daily Herald, he has graciously invited all stakeholders within District 203 to email him in advance of the School Board’s September retreat. Dr. Leis welcomes our input on what we believe are ***District 203’s strengths, opportunities for improvement, and specific issues we feel need to be addressed to bring District 203 to an even higher level.*** You may email Dr. Leis at aleis@ncusd203.org by September 15, 2003 to share your thoughts...



AWARDS AROUND...



For the third consecutive year, District 203 had the distinct pleasure of receiving a phone call from Dr. Joyce Epstein informing us that both the **SFCP District 203 Core Team** and **Highlands Elementary School** had again been awarded the **National Network's Award for Excellence** for the 2002-03 school year!!! This prestigious award is given to schools, districts, states or organizations with **EXCELLENT** and **PERMANENT** programs; that demonstrate high quality plans and practices, and make continuous improvement in their partnership programs from year to year. Congratulations to everyone – definitely a team effort! District 203 and Highlands will be recognized on the National Network Partnership of Schools website www.partnershipschoools.org and in Education Weekly later this fall.

Remember the 'long questionnaire' you had to complete last March detailing your school's best practice for the year? The good news is that **several District 203 schools** will be awarded and recognized in the **Promising Partnership Practices** book published by the Network in September. Schools to be recognized include:

SCHOOL

Highlands
Jefferson
Kennedy
Naperville North
Prairie
Ranch View
Washington

ACTIVITY

Family Writing
Business Partners Enhance After-School Basketball Games
Beat Pete – an Estimating Project
Family Connection
Prairie Dogs, Parents, Pizza and Poetry
Benedictine & Ranch View Business Education Partnership
Sixth Grade Family Picnic

Congratulations to **all District 203** schools for a year filled with best practices!!

WHO'S WHO DOING WHAT???

The SFCP Core team is comprised of nineteen people representing various district stakeholder groups—parents, staff, school board members and business community members. Each Core team member sits on one of the following eight working committees:

Training

Terri Stevens
Jane Wernette

Communications

Sheila Sarovich
Jeff VanHarlingen

Celebration

Karen Currier
Nina Menis
Catherine Redford

Networking

Linda Gross
Dagmar Porcelli
Pat Todd

Community Education

Ross Truemper
Sandy Wunderlich

Curriculum

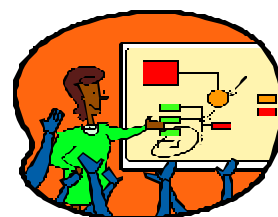
Lenore Johnson
Mark Pasztor
Ann Vitek

Evaluation

Julie Lichter
Jackie Romberg

Planning and Nominations

Dr. Alan Leis
Community Relations Director
Nina Menis and Jane Wernette



UPCOMING EVENTS

Date	Time	Place	Participants	Purpose
September 12	8:30-10:45 am	Admin. Center (PSAC)	Principals & Action Team Chairs & Members	District Orientation
September 13	8:00-9:30 am	PSAC	Core Team	Kick-off meeting
September 24	9:00-10:30 am	PSAC	All interested Action Team Parent Chairs	Public Relations Workshop-meet reporters/learn to write a press release
September 25	9:00-10:30 am 7:00-8:30 pm	PSAC	All interested parents, staff, community members	District Assessment Presentation-Part 1
October 14	9:00-10:30 am 7:00-8:30 pm	PSAC	All interested parents, staff, community members	District Assessment Presentation-Part 2
October 21	11:30-1:00 pm	PSAC	All Action Team Parent Chairs	1st Networking Session
November 6	9:00-10:30 am	PSAC	All Action Team Parent Chairs & team members	Grant Writing Workshop-learn the fundamentals of writing a grant proposal
November 15	8:00-9:30 am	PSAC	Core Team	Bi-monthly meeting
November 18	9:00-10:30 am 7:00-8:30 pm	PSAC	All interested parents, staff, community members	District Assessment Presentation-Part 3

District 203 Board Members Adopt-a-School Assignments

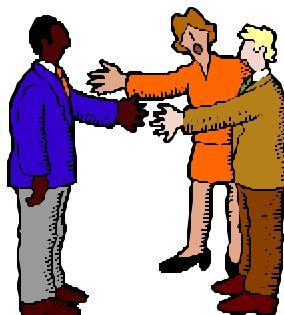
Why not invite your designated Board Member to your next SFCP meeting? What a great way to promote your community partnership and start the new school year...

Tim Costello
Naperville Central
Ellsworth
Prairie

Gerry Cassioppi
Jefferson
Steeple Run
River Woods

Dean Reschke
Madison
Meadow Glens
Scott

Debbie Shipley
Lincoln
Highlands
Ranch View
Ann Staats



Washington
Elmwood
Naper

Mike Davitt
Kennedy
Maplebrook
Mill

Suzyn Price
Naperville North
Kingsley
Beebe

(Revised 4/8/03)