

HORIZON

COMMUNITY CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT 146
SPRING 2009



LEARNING FOR ALL

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of Education

8TH GRADE STUDENTS GET LIVING HISTORY LESSON AT CENTRAL

Sidney (Sevek) Finkel has been a guest speaker at Central Middle School for 7 years. He is a soft-spoken older gentleman who is able to hold the attention of his adolescent audience by giving life to one of the darkest segments of world history. Mr. Finkel is a Holocaust survivor.

Born in Poland as Sevek Finkelstien, the story he tells is a living history lesson. It is a personal account of life before during and after the Nazi occupation of Poland, a story of himself and his family. It includes humorous accounts of roughhousing with his brother, being spoiled by his father, and mothered by his older sister. He also talks about how he came to Chicago in the 1950's after being apprenticed to an accountant in London. He says that coming to America "was one of the happiest of days. I love America."

His story also includes the horrors of that time. He speaks emotionally about the separation from his family and memories of being herded into cattle cars. His voice is soft, steady and articulate as he recounts the concentration camps, starvation, typhus, deaths of his family members and the stench of burning flesh.



Continued On Page 2

But he doesn't dwell on the horrors. He describes how he came to America, settled down and had a family. He admits



he didn't want to burden his children with his past, so he never spoke about it. Then, one day about 10 years ago, his son asked him to speak to a group of students in Chicago. He says he was nervous, but the

kids listened and applauded. He realized that "by speaking about those things I healed myself." As a survivor though, he still asks himself all the time, "Why me? What's so special about me?"

Why me?
What's so special about me?

As part of the healing process, Sidney wrote the book *Sevek and the Holocaust: The Boy Who Refused to Die* which is included in the 8th grade social studies curriculum. Principal Deb Brennan said "By reading the book, the students have background information, some knowledge before hand. But it's critical to hear the author's perspective."

And our students listened. You could hear a pin drop as Sidney wove his story and could feel a quiet respect emanating from the audience which was mirrored in the thoughtful questions that were asked after the presentation. One student mentioned that her grandfather had served in the military during WWII. Sidney responded "Tell them thank you for me. They are all heroes."

As students and staff were leaving to get back to class, a young woman from the audience came up to Sidney, handed him a piece of paper, thanked him and walked off. After reading it he asked that it be included in this article. It said:

"Thank you for writing Sevek . . . I learned that no matter what race you are, you are equal to everyone else. The holocaust is something that should never happen again. So many people are racist against many different ethnic groups . . . I will do everything I can to make sure that this tragic thing will never happen again. You are one of the bravest people that I have ever heard of. You are an inspiration to me. Thank you again for sharing your story, it got to me. It reached my heart."

Now that's education! Thank **you** Gianna.

Art On a Cart

In response to a parent and Board request District 146 incorporated an expanded art program into the Grade K-5 curriculum for the 2008/2009 school year. Affectionately known as "Art on a Cart", the program allows an art teacher to move from room to room for lessons when a dedicated art room is not available.

The curriculum differs for each grade level and changes each month. For example, one month Gr 1, students might draw family memories on paper; Gr 2 students might



By Katie Castillo, Grade 5, Fierke Education Center

FULTON SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION UPDATE Key Dates

- May 28th - Sandidge Ice Cream Social. Say goodbye to Sandidge and hello to Fulton's new principal, Susan Mulchrone.
- June 1st - Substantial Completion - The majority of the interior work is done.
- June 1st - Site work completion (weather permitting) including parking areas and landscaping.
- June 15th - Teachers move into their new classrooms.

work with real-life textures using crayons and rubbing plates; Gr 3 students learn about bilateral symmetry using folded and cut paper; Gr 4 students create a fruit still-life drawing; and Gr 5 students study perspective using simple 3D solids.

The program has become very popular and many of our students have shown real potential. Much of our student artwork has been framed and is now on display at the Administration Center. In addition, 64 of our students representing all schools and all grade levels were winners in the **2009 Creative Expressions Art Showcase Competition**. The winning submissions are on display at the Vogt Visual Art Center in Tinley Park during the month of May.

CONGRATULATIONS ARE IN ORDER!

Excellence can come in many guises, and even in a District like 146 where all students are winners, it's still possible to find those who independently move beyond the boundaries set for them. Writing, reading, math, science, art -- these are just some of the areas in which District 146 students have pushed themselves this school year, and excelled.

- **Letters about Literature** is a National reading & writing promotion by the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress. Maddie Hayes, a 6th grade Central student was an Illinois semi-finalist.

- The 2009 **Young Author's** winners representing District 146 at the State level are Olivia Pedersen, Kasey Brennan, Kaitlyn Krupa, and Morgan Rose.

- This was the first year of combining the **Fulton and Sandidge Science Fairs** and the result was nothing short of amazing. Volcanoes erupted, jewel-like crystals formed into rock candy, mold grew



on bread, paper airplanes flew and electro-magnets did their thing. The bar is now set. What will next year bring?

- District 146 **Mathlete** teams participated in the **SWIC Math Contest** against 11 other schools. Congratulations go to the 8th Grade team of Kevin Bajzek, Therese Brown, Joan Brown, Elise Hennessy and Brittany Leavy for making it to the tiebreaker round and then bringing home the 3rd place team trophy.

- **South Cook Math Bowl** - Congratulations to Sean Ford for placing 2nd individually (Gr 2), Andrew Delorme for placing 5th individually (Gr 5), Natalie Zielinski for placing 5th individually (Gr 6) and Kevin Bajzek for placing 2nd individually (Gr 7). In addition, the Grade 5/6 team of Andrew

Delorme, Maddie Murphy, Natalie Zielinski and Suk-Ho Won placed 5th, and the Grade 7/8 team of Kevin Bajzek, Marissa Machen, Joan Brown and Elise Hennessy placed 3rd.

WE COULDN'T DO IT WITHOUT YOU!

Yes, we know who you are . . . you're the one who spends all day at work and comes home to bake cupcakes for the school bake sale; the one who offers to chair a committee or spends free time helping a teacher; the one who never says no to working Market Day; the one attending a committee meeting at 7:00 at night. Yes, we know all of you. And we know that we couldn't do any of it without you.

And since May is the month to recognize our volunteers, we would like to send a special "shout out" to the executive board members of our **PACT** and **PTAs**, and the members of our **Long Range Planning Committee** which includes the **Facilities Committee**, **Finance Committee** and **Program Committee**. This dedicated group of parents and staff are responsible for making recommendations to our Board in areas such as the Fulton construction, the new K-5 art program, and sound fiscal management. Please join us in thanking them for their efforts on behalf of the students of District 146.

Sandidge PTA

Marie Goyola - President
Cheri Barrett - Vice President
Wendi Rolette - Treasurer
Kathleen Brueggemann - Secretary

Fierke PTA

Tracy Sobkowiak - President
Chris Babcock - Vice President
Bill Bockstahler - Treasurer
Kori Springer - Secretary

Facilities Committee

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John Malloy
Angie Chobot
Tim Frederickson
Ron Gonsler
Marie Goyola
Linda Pellegrini
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Peg Hannigan
Amal Hasan
Robin Kasper
Linda Pellegrini
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Nancy Schwab

Central PACT

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Cathy Boyer
Polly Malloy
Gail Petruskas

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Jamie Palubin - Secretary

Memorial PTA

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Lisa Beck - Vice President
Karen Lyons - Vice President
David Alderson - Treasurer
Michelle Shervino - Secretary



**DISTRICT RECEIVES
HIGHEST
FINANCE RATING
FROM STATE**

Each year District 146 is evaluated by the Illinois State Board of Education for fiscal excellence. Again this year, District 146 has received a rating of "Financial Recognition", the highest category obtainable. The State notes that given the economic difficulties that school districts are facing, the State Board recognizes this as a significant accomplishment. Congratulations to the District Board of Education, the Facilities Committee, and the Office of Business Services.

**HEALTH OFFICE
REMINDERS FOR
2009-2010 SCHOOL YEAR**

Kindergarten: Incoming Kindergarten students must present proof of a physical exam with all appropriate immunizations, and a dental and vision exam.

Grade 2: Second graders must submit a dental exam.

Grade 5: 5th graders must submit a physical and dental exam prior to entry to middle school.

Grade 6 & 7: Central will again be offering a sports physical on Wednesday August 26th to those students who wish to participate in sports.

Transfer Students: All transfer-in students from out-of-state entering an Illinois school for the first time must submit proof of a vision exam in addition to the physical and dental.

**District Calendar
Highlights
2009-2010**

8/26/09	First Day of School (1/2 day)
9/7/09	Labor Day (No School)
9/18/09	SIP Day (No School)
10/9/09	SIP Day (No School)
10/12/09	Columbus Day (No School)
11/23/09	SIP Day (No School)
11/24/09	Parent Teacher Conferences/ Institute Day (No School)
11/25/09	Veterans Day (Observed - No School)
11/26/09	Thanksgiving Holiday
11/27/09	No School (Board Action)
12/18/09	SIP Day (No School)
12/21/09	Winter Break Begins
1/4/10	Students return
1/15/10	SIP Day (No School)
1/18/10	Martin Luther King Day (No School)
2/2/10	Institute Day (No School)
2/11/10	Parent Teacher Conferences (No School)
2/12/10	Lincoln's Birthday (No School)
3/1/10	Casimir Pulaski Day (No School)
3/22/10	Spring Break Begins
3/29/10	Students return
4/1/10	SIP Day (No School)
4/2/10	No School (Board Action)
5/14/10	Institute Day (No School)
5/31/10	Memorial Day (No School)
6/4/10	Last Day of School (if no emergency days are used).

A PUBLICATION OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION



**COMMUNITY
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146**

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