



The MESSAGE

Rich Township High School District 227

RICH TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 227... A COMMUNITY OF EXCELLENCE

District 227 appreciates their own veterans for service in Iraq



▲ Business Concepts instructor **Jenna Tabor** (above) just returned from a one year deployment in Iraq as a member of the Illinois National Guard. As First Lieutenant and Transportation Officer, her duties included responsibility for dozens of troops, along with equipment being transported out of Iraq.

“The most difficult part of being away is missing friends, family, and of course, my students,” recalls Tabor. “A phone call makes all the difference.”

“These experiences will help back in the classroom—leading a group, being responsible for their well-being, those are the same skills in either setting.”

She and fellow Guard-member John recently married in the Smokey Mountains of Tennessee. Congratulations!

▼ Chief Warrant Officer **Gregory Holley, Jr.** (below, right) is being welcomed by Tom Tallman (left) of the Warrior’s Watch support group (www.warriorwatch.org). To Holley’s right is Christine Holley-Davis, his mom; to her right is Holley’s grandfather Augustus Wright, US Navy (Retired). Rich Central alum Holley lives in Country Club Hills with his wife Shoshawna and three children, who were all on hand for the event.



◀ After two tours in Iraq, CW2 Holley was surprised with a parade, including the Rich Central Marching Band and an escort by the Soldier’s Guardian Angels/Warrior’s Watch Coalition. Country Club Hills Mayor Dwight Welch presented an award on behalf of the city.

Holley was first deployed as an Intelligence Analyst in Kuwait. He then served as an Apache Pilot for the Army in Iraq—a role held by less than 1% of citizens—with the task of protecting troops on the ground.

“I always wanted to be a pilot,” Holley told a group of Central students. “The Apache helicopter is a \$35M flying computer. Don’t give up on your dreams.”



RICH CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL
JAMMIE POOLE, JR., PRINCIPAL



RICH EAST HIGH SCHOOL
MARK KRAMER, PRINCIPAL



RICH SOUTH HIGH SCHOOL
CYNTHIA HUDSON, PRINCIPAL

Superintendent's Connection



Donna Simpson Leak, Ph.D.

During November, we take the time to reflect and give thanks. As a district, we give thanks to those who have contributed ideas, solutions, time, service, etc., to students. District 227 is making a powerful impact on the lives of so many, and with your consistent help and support, this will only continue to increase.

More than ever, District 227 is coming together with the members of our communities, forging partnerships and building bridges that create opportunities for our students. In this issue, you will find many examples of that collaboration.

WE ARE REDEFINING RICH TOWNSHIP!

Recent community forums produced a dynamic mix of ideas and enthusiasm that resulted in one common goal: **PROGRESS**.

And progress we are making. The Rich South Marching Band continues to raise funds for the 2012 Olympics in London; Rich Central honors its scholar athletes (average GPA: 3.0); Rich East celebrates winning \$20,000 in the Verizon Wireless *Text-to-Win* campaign; dozens of students support each other in Operation Snowball II, fostering positive life styles; after many seasons, the Rich East Varsity Football team advanced to second round playoffs; and our current seniors are being accepted to colleges and universities across the country at one of the highest rates to date.

We continue to reach out and include our community as a whole in the fabric of our schools. Our quarterly advisory councils meet again in December, each with a unique perspective to propel the vision of our district forward. We continue monthly Coffee Chats with our Board of Education for all community members. For parents of current students and of current eighth graders, we offer informal Coffee Chats with the Superintendent. And each month, at Board of Education meetings, we recognize our outstanding staff members and exceptional students.

This month, we honor the service of our veterans, who deserve our applause and respect. District 227 strives to serve our community and our students, who will in turn provide a better world for us all.

Please enjoy this wonderful season with your family and loved ones.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

12/01/11.....7:00 p.m.
Rich East Fall Play: *Fences*

12/01/11...Board Meeting
Rich Central / Olympia Fields
Working Session...7:30 p.m.

12/10/11.....9:00 - 11:00 a.m.
Board of Education Coffee Chat

12/12/11.....3:30 p.m.
Staff Advisory Meeting

12/12/11.....8:30 - 9:30 a.m.
Coffee With the Superintendent

12/12/11.....5:30 p.m.
Community Advisory Meeting

12/13/11.....5:30 p.m.
Business Advisory Meeting

12/14/11.....3:30 p.m.
Student Advisory Meeting

12/14/11.....5:30 p.m.
Parent Advisory Meeting

12/15/11.....5:30 p.m.
Local Educators' Advisory Meeting

12/20/11...Board Meeting
Rich Central / Olympia Fields
Public Comment...7:00 p.m.
Business Meeting...7:30 p.m.



Alumni Corner

Theo Fowles
Rich Central, 2001

•Bill & Melinda Gates Millennium Scholarship (provides full tuition through doctoral degree)
•B.A., Critical Studies of Film; U of Southern CA
•M.S., Teaching; Pace U

Theo Fowles credits his success at USC's Film School to the ability to think critically, a skill he learned in English classes with Mrs. Dinwiddie and Mrs. Argue. This also helps the 28-year-old CEO of *Just DUMB* (Don't Understand My Brain) Productions, to teach those skills to students and teachers as an instructor for "Teach for America."

"I use pop culture as a vehicle to teach media literacy," says Fowles, who plans to create films with a message. He is also a full-time mentor for Big Brothers and Big Sisters, and speaks at conferences, teaching life skills from a pop culture point of view.

Fowles created a film festival as a vehicle for students to fulfill the production cycle. "My root is in film, so I use that, and social media, anything digital to help kids learn."

Twitter: @Dumb_tweets

www.justdumbproductions.com

Human Resources News...Dr. Selma McDonald

•Wake Forest University has an opportunity for minority students to attend its MBA program for FREE. Contact Derrick S. Boone at: derrick.boone@mba.wfu.edu or: www.wfu.edu or call either 336.758.5000 or 866.925.3622.

•Benedict College, Chaflin University, Morris College and South Carolina State offer free tuition opportunities through the *Call Me Mister* program to promote Black males in teaching. Visit: www.callmemister.clemson.edu/index.html or call 800.640.2657.

•Harvard University is offering free tuition to families of honor students with incomes less than \$125,000 per year. Visit: www.fao.fas.harvard.edu/cor or call 617.495.1581.

•Syracuse University School of Architecture is seeking young women and men of color interested in pursuing their five-year professional degree in Architecture. Visit: www.soa.syr.edu/index.php or call Mark Robbins at 315.443.1870.

•Adults between the ages of 18-31 with a High School Diploma can earn up to \$100,000 through the Federal Aviation Association's Air Traffic Controller School. Visit: www.faa.gov/job for more information.

Teaching & Learning Tidbits...Dr. Jennifer Norrell

Rich Township High Schools now offer college-level courses to freshmen at each campus. As we prepare students to be global citizens, we have expanded opportunities for excellence through the addition of an Advanced Placement (AP) Human Geography course. Freshman students in this College Board-approved course are meeting with success as we near the close of first semester.

Last summer, instructors participated in extensive professional development, over and above being Highly Qualified in the area of Social Studies, preparing them to guide our youngest students through this college-level material. The curriculum is rigorous, challenging students far beyond grade level. These students, along with all the others enrolled in dozens of AP courses throughout our curriculum, are eligible to take the AP exam in May.

It is with great pride that we anticipate our ninth graders potentially earning their first three, or more, semester hours of college credit. They are on their way to building a college transcript, just like our junior and senior AP students at District 227.



District 227...Excellence in Action

▼ Representatives of the **Superintendent's Advisory Councils** were recognized for their 2010-11 accomplishments (shown below). They meet quarterly to assist with the implementation of the district's strategic plan. Councils include: parents, students, staff, community members, businesses, educators, and elected officials.



▲ Members of the **Elected Officials' Advisory Council** meet to further collaboration between communities and schools. Shown above, (l to r): State Rep. Anthony DeLuca; Desirae Douma, Chief of Staff for State Senator Toi Hutchinson; Dr. Donna Simpson Leak, Superintendent; and Rick Reinbold, President of Richton Park.



▼ Rich East alum **Craig Hodges**, former Chicago Bull, NBA All-Star, and winner of two World Championships, visited East for the Hall of Fame Recognitions during Homecoming. Pictured below (l to r): RE Athletic Director Mike Laneve; Hodges; and RE Counselors Nancy Pawluk and Bill Yarborough. Submit applications by December 1, 2011 for the Hall of Fame induction ceremony in May, 2012.

E-mail to npawluk@rich227.org to nominate an alumnus.

▲ Members of the **District 227 Educational Foundation** shown above are gathered around a Camaro from Phillips Chevrolet that was the Hole-in-One prize at the First Annual *Golf Outing & Gala*. Pictured (l to r): Sylvester Pilgrom; James Tolbert, Secretary; retired Superintendent Howard Hunigan; Gina Middleton, Treasurer; Kaye Wilson, Vice-Chair; and Cheryl Buckner Grubbs, Chair.

The event helps to raise funds for scholarships. Last year, \$18,000 was awarded to high-achieving District 227 students.



▼ South seniors Porscha Childs, Ashley Wright and Shameka Green (below, l to r) display a banner from **Hampton University**, following their on-site acceptance during a recent College Fair at Rich South. "These ladies have a right to be very proud of their accomplishments and the staff at Rich South couldn't be more pleased," says Principal Cynthia Hudson. "Way to go Lady Stars!"



▲ Members of the **Entrepreneur Class** at Rich Central (above) pose by the Hewlett-Packard symbol in the company's Downers Grove office. Teacher Hope Henderson is at the far right. The students attended the HP Diversity and Inclusion Program hosted by the Black Employee Network, coordinated by HP's Worldwide Manager, Cheryl Buckner Grubbs.

The day featured tours of the facility, inspirational speakers, and workshops given by HP managers, trainers and developers, in an event designed to provide exposure and opportunities to promising high school students.

**MESSAGE FROM THE
BOARD OF EDUCATION**



Betty Owens, President

We live in a society where negative behavior and activities abound, and are amplified in the media—locally, nationally and internationally. Positive events and accomplishments are too often overshadowed in this sea of negativity. Our heroes and their heroic deeds are not recognized to the extent that they should be.

Our country has been at war on two fronts for the last several years, and there are thousands of unsung heroes, including those who have given their lives, those who have been wounded, and those who have been fortunate enough to return home to their families.

That is why this month we celebrate the service men and women of the United States Armed Forces. We salute them for their unyielding commitment to the principles of liberty, and the character that they have displayed. We thank them for their sacrifices that afford us the freedoms we too often take for granted. These heroes deserve our respect, our gratitude and our continued support. Their courage and conviction provide a model of character that we should imitate, as well as an opportunity for each of us, as Board members and as members of the community-at-large, to examine how we can better serve the students of this district.

I welcome your involvement and invite you to share things you are proud of in our schools, as well as any areas of concern. Join us as we strategize for the future. Join us during Saturday Coffee Chats, Board of Education meetings, Community Forums and Special Meetings for Public Comment.

There's an opportunity for everyone to become involved, and a role that each of us is called to fulfill. We look forward to seeing you and hearing from you. *Progress begins with partnership!*

▼ Rich Central Principal, Jammie Poole, Jr., speaks during the Rich Central Community Forum. Recent forums at each school were held to discuss dress code, attendance, communication, extra-curricular activities and the Prairie State Achievement Exam (PSAE) results. Additional forums will be held second semester at each campus.



CARL D. DALKE

1924 - 2011

In Memoriam

District 227 salutes former Rich East teacher, instructional assistant, job coach, and sports official Carl D. Dalke for his service with the 101st Airborne Division during World War II.

He often wore his uniform to history classes, recounting first-hand experiences on the Battle of the Bulge and the liberation of concentration camps.

Dalke is listed in *Who's Who Among America's Teachers*.

DONATE NOW FOR THE 2012 OLYMPICS TRIP FOR THE RICH SOUTH MARCHING BAND

Make a donation, or sponsor your favorite band member at: www.richsouthband.org

For information call: 708.679.3000 or Email Y. L. (Doug) Douglas, Band Director: ydouglas@rich227.org

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