

***from the desk of Dr. Carol J. Auer, Superintendent...***

~ The holiday season of 2009 approaches quickly! The employees of Keeneyville School District #20 wish you a joyous holiday and a peaceful, healthy new year!

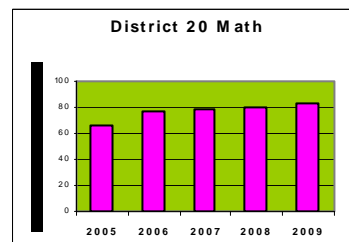
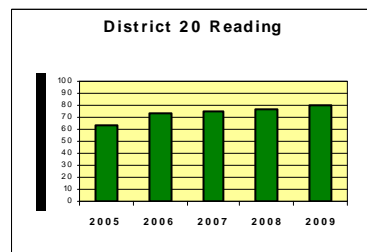
If you traditionally purchase gifts for your children, we suggest you consider purchasing the following items which can support cognitive development, creativity and inquiry:

- Books, books and more books
- Building blocks
- Chess sets, Checkers, Backgammon
- Art supplies
- Magazine subscriptions
- Chemistry or other science kits
- Musical instruments
- Journals
- Clue, Parcheesi, Monopoly
- Craft supplies
- Puzzles
- Educational software and learning games
- Balls
- Books, books and more books.
- Reading workbooks (Borders, Barnes & Noble); Math facts flash cards.

~ State of the District

- Academic

As you can see by the graph below, our district's scores on the Illinois Standards Achievement Tests have steadily improved for the past five years.



We continue to embrace our mission that all students become competent and prepared academically, emotionally, and socially.

The Keeneyville teaching staff, support staff and building administration are exemplary. They are committed to do whatever is needed to insure the progress of all our students.

- Financial

As the economy continues to create challenges for the general population, our school district faces those challenges as well. As it stands now, the 2010-2011 school year will be a very lean year for District #20. The State of Illinois has cut the Hold Harmless grant to all recipient districts. So, we must budget for a loss of \$407,414.

A second financial issue is that we have been allocated a total of \$1,068,549 as our share of General State Aid for 2010-2011. Currently, the State is in arrears to District 20 for last year, 2008-2009 for \$148,938.

A third financial challenge is that our income from local property taxes will increase only 0.1% from the previous year. This translates into \$12,426 more for the 2010-2011 school year. This will not go very far in an economy that is dealing with increases in insurance costs, supply costs, legal fees, staff costs, repair costs, etc.

Last year we cut \$750,000 from our budget, mostly in the realm of supplies and secretarial services. The outlook for the 2010-2011 budget is that we will need to decrease spending by an additional \$1,000,000 to balance our budget for the 2010-2011 school year. It is mandated by the State of Illinois that we balance our budget. We are challenged to make changes that least disturb the educational achievement and well being of our students.

~ On an up note, we are pleased to announce that our Spring Wood Middle School physical education staff will be receiving 2 new bikes and a Playstation 2. The video game bikes are attached to a video game. Children pedal on the bikes as they meet the challenges of a race course on the screen. Kudos to the Spring Wood Middle School Physical Education teachers, Kathy Stuckey, Jill Echternach, Mike Glosson and Joe Foege, for getting the equipment through a grant written to the Illinois Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance.

~ For the last three weeks our absentee rate has been in the normal range. Our attendance rate was at a low point in mid-October. So, either we have escaped the H1N1 pandemic with a moderate breakout or – the worst is yet to come. It is recommended by the DuPage County Health Department that at-risk individuals, i.e. children age 6 months – 24 years, any health care workers, individuals between 25-65 years of age with a chronic medical condition, individuals who care for an infant up to 6 months of age, and pregnant women, should receive a shot.

For H1N1 updates, please go to [www.dupagehealth.org](http://www.dupagehealth.org), then click on H1N1.

~ Report Cards

If you are a parent of a student enrolled in District 20 you may be aware that we changed our online report card vendor. As with any change, there have been some “kinks” but we seem to be working them out. We hope you are finding the system easy to use. Common Goals, the new vendor, provided us with a comparable product at a lower cost.

~ Many of you may remember Judy Danielson, a Greenbrook teacher for many years. Judy passed away after a brief struggle with cancer. Her services to the children were countless.

Dates to remember:

December 17 – Board of Education Meeting, at Spring Wood Library, 7:00 p.m.

December 18 – Half day of classes, A.M. Kindergarten only at both schools

December 19 – January 3 – Winter Break – No School

January 4 – School Re-opens

January 15 – Teachers’ Institute Day – No classes.

January 18 – Dr. Martin Luther King Day – No school.

February 15 – Presidents’ Day – No school.

Our Board meets December 17, 2009; January 28, 2010; February 25, 2010; and March 25, 2010. You are most welcome to attend any board meeting. Meetings begin at 7:00 p.m. and are held in the library at Spring Wood.