

Storm Watch

Cynthia Sikorski - Principal

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<http://hcs.bps101.net>

"A Community of Character"

February 2010

From the Principal

Cynthia Sikorski

Congratulations! Storm School has earned an Academic Excellence award! The Illinois State Board of Education commends our students and staff on all the good work required to sustain academic excellence in our school.

To earn an Academic Excellence Award a school must meet the following criteria:

- ◆ 90 percent of students must have met or exceeded state standards in both reading and mathematics for at least 3 consecutive years;
- ◆ 95 percent participation rate in state assessments for all students in each subgroup;
- ◆ Attendance rate of at least 90 percent.

This is the third Academic Excellence Award Storm School has earned. We have been recognized in 2007, 2008 and now in 2009. What a great way to begin our state assessments!

Math in Art- How Simple Fractions Help to Create Portraits

Almost every grade level K-5 has created a self portrait this year. Simple tools are used: pencil, paper, mirror, and some markers to emphasize some of the important features. Although every student is different, we are all still human, and there are some simple guidelines that can help us to create a realistic human likeness.

Proportion is what this lesson is mostly about. Artists have been studying this for thousands of years. Leonardo DaVinci, whose portrait of a man is used as an example here, shows how important geometry is to this exercise. Next to this drawing, I put a simple ruler to show that certain features of the face correspond with particular fractions of the head. The eyes fall right underneath the halfway mark. The hair line starts about halfway up from the eyes to the top of the head (never mind that DaVinci's guy is bald) The nose falls halfway between the eyes and the chin, and the lower lip lines up very close to the halfway point between the nose and the chin. The fractions $\frac{1}{2}$, $\frac{1}{4}$, and $\frac{1}{8}$ help me explain this idea to my students.

I believe that math is in much of what I teach, and I hope that these simple lessons can reciprocate into the students' classrooms during their mathematical studies.

Mr. Casbarian
Art Teacher



PTO Activities

From the PTO President

Many times throughout the year I run into parents who are familiar with everything the PTO is doing from an event or school-support standpoint – from Fun Fair, Market Day and the Book Fair to Storm Stampede, VIP Day and Driveway Safety.

But inevitably the question always comes up, “What does the PTO spend all of its money on?” It’s a question that’s easy to ask and one we all should ask every year, as we have a proud tradition of supporting H.C. Storm in a number of ways.

A few years ago we purchased a new piano/organ that was approximately \$5,000 and that enabled the music program to continue without “missing a beat” as the older piece of equipment was failing. At the beginning of each school year, we also do something not every elementary school organization does: we give checks directly to the teachers to pay for additional school supplies as we know state budget cuts have forced many to reach into their own pockets to pay for classroom needs.

Field trips are also a big aspect of school learning but as busing costs have risen, the PTO has stepped up to help fill voids there too. Currently the PTO designates \$1,000 per grade level for busing, a huge help in recent years as fuel and overall transportation costs have been on the increase.

Our Fun Fair is one of the most popular events at our school and even in a bad economy it easily generates sizable income for the PTO, thanks to the volunteers who put it together. But while Fun Fair is a school event that allows children of all ages to come together with siblings and have a great night of fun, it does bring in income and sometimes at a rate of twice what other local Fun Fairs raise.

So during the 2008-2009 school year, we decided to purchase 16 ceiling projectors and screens, and the price of installation, for a total of \$14,000. Throughout this year they have all been installed and now paid for, entirely by PTO funds. This allows the teachers using them to utilize laptop presentations and displays and to do them quicker and easier with these new ceiling projectors.

In the end, it’s a huge support tool for our young students and I paid for it, you paid for it and so did the person next to you in the morning drop-off and the one near you at the afternoon pick-up. But I wanted to make sure you were aware of this major purchase, if you weren’t already aware of it, as it benefits all of your children and will continue to for years to come.

If you have any questions, please email me at ed@demaskmarketing.com or attend our next Board Meeting at 7 pm on Tuesday, April 6. If you can’t make the meeting I’d be happy to bring your questions via email to the meeting and we’ll follow-up with you after our discussion.

Again, thanks for everything you do for HCS.

Ed DeMask
PTO President, H.C. Storm School

Representing HC Storm at the Mathelete Competition this year were Eddie Cange, Drew Mueller and John Lemon.

Team sponsor was Mr. Recchia of the Challenge Math Program.



Last All School Skate

at Funway on Saturday, March 20

4:30-6:30 p.m.

Cost is \$5.50, and includes skate rental.

Kids must be accompanied by an adult.

Lost and Found

Have you checked out the lost and found bins in the Storm Commons area yet? They are full and overflowing with found winter boots, coats, snowpants, hats, gloves, scarves, shoes, lunchboxes, clothing... Items left by the end of the school year are donated to charity.



Market Day

A fundraiser like no othersm

Shop Market Day and **10%** of your sales will go directly back to HC Storm School!

March orders are due Thursday, March 4 to school; online orders are due Friday, March 5 by Noon.

Pick up date is **Tuesday**, March 9, from 3:30-4:30 p.m. in the Storm Commons.

Sales to date \$1018.35. Wow!

Did you miss the Fun Fair last Friday?

We now have four terrific items that have come available for you to bid on!

- *Wine Tasting for ten at Lynfred Winery in Roselle (valued at \$90)*
- *One month of classes at the Gymboree Play & Music in Geneva and a \$35.00 gift card to the Gymboree Clothing Store (valued at \$100)*
- *Four WMBA tickets to see the Chicago Sky (valued at \$100)*
- *\$100.00 gift certificate to Diamond Mart*

If you are interested in bidding on any of these items, please email your bid to stormfunfair@yahoo.com. You will receive a reply letting you know if you are the top bidder, or what the top bid is.

Bidding will end at 9 pm, Friday March 19, and we will announce the winners before Spring Break! Thank you to all who attend the Fun Fair last week. We appreciate you spending the evening with your fellow Bulldogs.

A **huge** thank you to all the volunteers and committee chairs, this was a terrific event as always.

PTO Board Has Openings for the 2010/2011 School Year

Looking for your role as a parent in the HC Storm PTO? Why not join the PTO Board and serve the entire school? We meet the first Tuesday of every month in the LRC at HCS.



The PTO Board currently has openings for its Executive Board: **President, Vice President of Ways & Means** (oversees all activities that generate money), and **Secretary**. For those interested in the position of President, you must have been a PTO committee chair or former Board member before you can serve in that role, according to the PTO bylaws. You need no prior PTO chair experience to fill the other officer positions on the Executive Board. Each board position has a two-year term commitment.

For information on the responsibilities of these positions, feel free to contact any of the current board members.

If you are interested, please leave a note in the main office for the PTO with your information, email Ed DeMask at ed@demaskmarketing.com, or contact any of the other current board members.

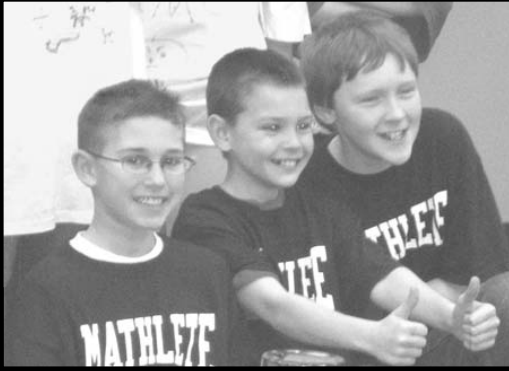


This year's Battle of the Books team 2010

Chris Jordan, Eddie Cange, Max Carlson & Rob DiCosla shown after the Battle here with Mrs. Kispert

Keep up the Reading 4th and 5th graders!!

Last Chance...



**Deadline
Extended!!!!**

*March 15th
Yearbooks go
on Sale*

*Look for posters
around school and
flyers sent home to
order your 2009-
2010 yearbook.*

Don't miss out!!!



**Turn in "In
Your Own
Words" &
Photos
until
March 15th**



For information, comments or questions,
please contact Jen Heidenreich
at jenh_il@yahoo.com.

Thank you for all you do.

**2009-2010
YEARBOOK**



Fun and Fitness for the Whole Family

Fox Trot supports local community

The Batavia Mothers' Club Foundation will host its 10th Annual Fox Trot 5K Run/ Walk on Sunday, April 25, 2010. Proceeds from the race support the Community Education Fund, including the Batavia Public Schools; while promoting fitness in a family-oriented event.

This 2010 CARA Recommended Certified Race begins at Batavia's Riverwalk, near the corner of Island Avenue and Houston Street. The course follows the scenic Fox River bicycle trails, providing a relatively flat, paved trail perfect for all runners and walkers. The start time for the 5K is 8 a.m. with walkers starting immediately behind the runners.

The Fox Trot also features non-competitive events for children. Preschoolers are encouraged to try the Tot Trot (approximately 50 yards.) There will also be a Junior Jog (approximately ¼ mile) for grades K-2 and a Youth Run (approximately ½ mile) for grades 3-5. The kids' events begin around 9:15 a.m. following the 5K awards ceremony.

As a special incentive, the Batavia elementary school with the highest participation will receive a "Free Cone Night" at a local Batavia ice cream shop.

Pre-registration is encouraged and can be completed on line at www.signmeup.com/68173 or via a mail-in registration form. The cost is \$25 per 5K participant (\$30 after April 23) and \$8 per Kids' Run participant (\$10 after April 23). All pre-registered participants receive a t-shirt and goodie bag. Registration will also be accepted on race day.

For more details, including the 5K course map and a registration link, please visit www.bataviamothersclub.org.

See you on April 25!