



FOCUS



SPRINGMAN & ATTEA

VOLUME 14 ISSUE 7



From the PTA President

Hi Everyone!

The year is winding down and the slating committee is working to fill open positions on the 2011/2012 PTA Board. PTA is a great way to get involved in your child's school experience and stay in touch with what is happening in the schools. Over the course of this past year, PTA brought new programs into the classrooms and funded school wide initiatives. As a result of your support for PTA fundraising initiatives, we funded \$22,000 in programs and activities at Springman and Attea. Additionally, we gave in excess of \$5,000 to charitable causes in our community. If you are interested in being a part of this vital organization, please contact Kristen Borth at kborth@me.com.

Online registration for school and PTA is underway. Please take a moment and fill out the online PTA membership form located on the District website. You can pay for your PTA fees at the same time you register your child for school.

April and May are very busy months at school, with the PTA and in the community. There is a community meeting on child stranger awareness being hosted by the Glenview Police Department on Wednesday, April 27th from 9:30am-11:30am at the Glenview Police department on Lake Avenue. This program is in response to a number of suspicious vehicles that have approached children on their way to and from school.

[\(cont. page 2\)](#)

From the Principals



Dear Parents,

Walking down the halls of our middle schools one can't be help but smile as middle schoolers of all shapes and sizes acknowledge you with a thoughtful "hello," or a "How are you?" As we respond in kind with a "Good Morning," and "Good, how are you?" we are struck by how much many of our kids have grown physically over the course of the year. Of course you know this because you are the ones buying clothes and shoes in new sizes to replace the ones they've outgrown in less than a year!

It's true that students often experience a significant physical growth spurt during the ages 10 to 14 years old. What is not true is that we can expect a proportional change in emotional maturity. Pre-adolescence is a time of risk-taking as our middle schoolers test out their ideas about who they are and who they want to be. Our students may *look* a little older than they did in August, but emotionally and socially, they are still young adolescents who desire and *need* structure both at school and at home.

Pre-adolescence is one of the most challenging stages in life. Can you guess the second most challenging stage of life? Parenting a pre-adolescent, of course! We're happy to share some excellent advice on how we can continue to

[\(cont. page 3\)](#)

	April
22	Good Friday—No School
27	Run with the Law—4:30pm
28	Athletics and Ethics—7pm
	May
2	D34 Board Meeting 7pm
5	Attea Talent Show
10	PTA Mgt. 9:15am Attea
10	Attea Orchestra Concert—7pm
17	Attea—Band Concert—7pm
19	Springman—7pm Orchestra/Choir
19	Attea—Choir Concert—7om
24	NJHS at Attea
24	Springman Band—7pm
30	NO SCHOOL—Memorial Day

PTA Schedule	
May 10th - 9:15am	Attea
May 31st - 9:15am	SP

April 2011

From the PTA President, cont.

A **Sports and Ethics** presentation is taking place at Attea on Thursday, April 28th from 7:00pm-9:00pm. Headlining the program are Pat Fitzgerald Northwestern University Football coach and Denis Savard, former Blackhawks great, to name just a few. Further details can be found on our website.

Speaking of the PTA website...Please take a moment to visit it and view a short video on texting and driving prepared by ATT. This video is definitely worth sharing with any young drivers in your household or those children soon to be driving. Texting and driving DO NOT mix! Click [HERE](#) to be directed to our website.

Thanks to all those who attended the second screening of **Race to Nowhere**. The conversation that followed the movie facilitated by Dr. Heather Hopkins was worthwhile and engaging. If you missed the screening, please go to racetonowhere.com to find other showings in the community. A special thank you to Jennifer Gershowitz and Patty Patt for coordinating the screenings!

Teacher appreciation week is just around the corner (May 2-6)! Please contact Dianna Sirakides if you are interested in assisting with activities during that week. She can be reached at gem-di@comcast.net.

Just a reminder, Officers Ken Smith and Gene Harlow (Attea and Springman Student Resource Officers) are organizing **Run with the Law**, a student fun run (1.5 miles) that raises funds for Illinois Special Olympics on Wednesday, April 27th. Registration at Gallery Park begins at 3:30pm and the Run takes place at 4:30pm. Please encourage your child to come out and help kids with special needs!!

8th Grade graduation planning is underway! Please contact Bridget Neuson at bneuson@neusonlaw.com for Attea Graduation or Jackie Castelli and Laura Lyon. jdcastelli@yahoo.com or lauraklyon@hotmail.com for Springman Graduation.

Our next meeting will take place on **Tuesday, May 10th** at Attea at 9:15am. Our final meeting of the year is **May 31st** at Springman at 9:15am – please join us for a casual lunch after the meeting!

For more information on the PTA, what we do and when our meetings take place, please check out our website, SPATPTA.org.

Thank you for taking the time to read this and thank you for your support of the PTA! – Liz Price

TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK – MAY 2-6

National
Junior
Honor
Society



Springman Chapter's National Junior Honor Society informational letters and application packets were distributed to qualifying students prior to spring break. **Applications are due April 29th.** For advance planning, **the ceremony will be the evening of Thursday, June 2nd at 7:00.** Students who fulfill all of the requirements will receive acceptance letters at the end of May. Feel free to contact the Springman NJHS advisor, Genée Major, if you have any questions. She can be reached by email: gmajor@glenview34.org. Students can find her in Room 139. Best of luck to all of the applicants!

From the Principals, cont.

respond to the needs of our middle schoolers in a safe, healthy, and supportive manner. The information below is an excerpt from "Helping Your Child Through Early Adolescence" a U.S. Government publication found at <http://www2.ed.gov/parents/academic/help/adolescence/index.html>

We hope you find the information useful and know that we appreciate your partnership in helping raise capable, responsible, and happy children of character.

How much independence should I give my child?

As children enter adolescence, they often beg for more freedom. Parents walk a tightrope between wanting their children to be confident and able to do things for themselves and knowing that the world can be a scary place with threats to their children's health and safety. Some parents allow too much of the wrong kind of freedom or they offer freedom before the adolescent is ready to accept it. Other parents cling too tightly, denying young teens both the responsibilities they require to develop maturity and the opportunities they need to make choices and accept their consequences.

Research tells us that adolescents do best when they remain closely connected to their parents but at the same time are allowed to have their own points of view and even to disagree with their parents. Here are some tips to help balance closeness and independence:

□ **Set limits.** *All children sometimes resist limits, but they want them and they need them. In a world that can seem too hectic for adults and adolescents alike, limits provide a security. Oftentimes, adolescents whose parents do not set limits feel unloved. Setting limits is most effective when it begins early. It is harder but not impossible, however, to establish limits during early adolescence.*

□ **Be clear.** *Most young teens respond best to specific instructions, which are repeated regularly. As middle school teacher Sharon Sikora notes, "Don't just say, 'I want your room clean,' because they don't know what that means. Say, in a non-argumentative way, 'This is how I perceive a clean room.' They may say, 'I don't really want the lamp over here, I want it over there.' Give them the freedom to express themselves."*

□ **Give reasonable choices.** *Choices make young teens more open to guidance. For example, you can tell your son that his algebra homework must be done before bedtime, but that he has a choice of completing it either before or after supper. And you can tell your 14-year-old daughter that she can't hang around the video arcade with her friends on Saturday night, but she can have a group of friends over to your house to watch a movie.*

Using humor and creativity as you give choices may also make your child more willing to accept them. One middle school teacher couldn't get her own child to hang up clean clothes or put dirty clothes in the laundry basket. So she gave her daughter two options—either all the clothes had to be picked up or everything would go on the floor. "I was washing the clothes, then putting them in piles on the floor," the teacher recalls. "It made me crazy, but it worked." After two weeks, her daughter got tired of the stacks on the floor and she began picking up her clothes.

□ **Grant independence in stages.** *The more mature and responsible a young teen's behavior is, the more privileges parents can grant. You might first give your young teen the right to choose which sneakers to buy within a certain price range. Later you can let him make other clothing purchases—with the understanding that price tags won't be removed until you approve the items. Eventually, you can give him a clothing allowance to spend as he likes.*

□ **Health and safety come first.** *Your most important responsibility as a parent is to protect your child's health and safety. Your child needs to know that your love for her requires you to veto activities and choices that threaten either of these. Let your child know what things threaten her health and safety—and often the health and safety of others—and put your foot down. Doing this is made more difficult, though, because adolescents have a sense that nothing can hurt them. At the same time that he feels that everything he experiences is new and unique, an adolescent also believes that what happens to others will not happen to him. His beliefs are based on the fact that adolescence is the healthiest period of time during our lives. In this period, physical illnesses are not common and fatal disease is rare. The important thing to emphasize to your child is that, while he may be very healthy, death and injury during adolescence are most often caused by violence and accidents.*

[\(cont. page 4\)](#)

From the Principals, cont.

□ **Let kids make mistakes.** *We want our children to grow into adults who can solve problems and make good choices. These abilities are a critical part of being independent. To develop these abilities, however, young teens on occasion may need to fail, provided the stakes aren't too high and no one's health or safety is at risk. Making mistakes also allows young teens to learn one critical skill—how to bounce back. It's hard for a child to learn how to pick himself up and start over if his parents always rescue him from difficulties.*

□ **Make actions have consequences.** *If you tell your child that she must be home by 10 p.m., do not ignore her midnight arrival. You lose credibility with your child if she suffers no consequences for returning home two hours late. However, the punishment should fit the crime. Grounding a child for six weeks restricts the entire family. Instead, you might talk with your child about how coming in two hours late has affected you. You've been up worrying and have missed your sleep. But you'll still have to get up the next morning at your regular time, make breakfast, do your chores and go to work. Because her lack of consideration has made your life harder, she will have to complete some of your chores so that you can get to bed earlier the next night. Finally and despite what we often hear and read, adolescents look to their parents first and foremost in shaping their lives. When it comes to morals and ethics, political beliefs and religion, teenagers almost always have more in common with their parents than their parents believe. As a parent, you should look beyond the surface, beyond the specific behaviors to who your child is becoming. Your teenager may want to dye her hair purple and pierce most parts of her body, but these expressions may be independent of her sense of who she is and who she will become. At the same time that many of your child's behaviors are ultimately harmless, some of them may not only be harmful but also deadly.*

Parents need to talk to their children and make it clear that many of the major threats to their future health and happiness are not a matter of chance, but are a matter of choice—choices like drinking and driving, smoking, drugs, sexual activity, and dropping out of school.

Research tells us that adolescents who engage in one risky behavior are more likely to participate in others, so parents need to be front and center, talking to their children about the potentially deadly consequences of opening that Pandora's box.

In Partnership,

[Dr. Heather Hopkins](#), Principal
Springman Middle School

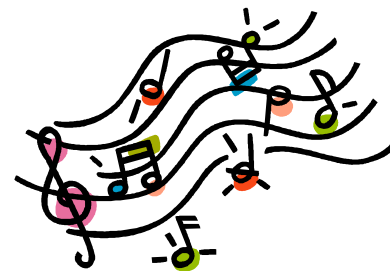
[Mr. Jim Woell](#), Principal
Attea Middle School

BAND AND CHOIR INVITED TO STATE COMPETITION

On Friday, April 29th, the Springman 8th grade band, led by Jessica Lindeman and the Attea Bella Voce, led by Elena Ryan, will be competing in the Illinois Grade School Music Association (IGSMA) State competition at Grayslake Middle School. The students will perform three pieces and be evaluated on their performance by three judges. Areas being critiqued include tone quality, intonation, balance and blend, interpretation and musicianship, rhythmic accuracy, technique, and stage presentation. The Springman 8th grade band will be competing to be selected as the honor band for the festival.

After both the Springman Band and the Attea Bella Voce perform, they will enjoy dinner together at Hawthorn Mall.

Best of luck to the students and congratulations for working so hard and achieving a place in the state competition!



MARCH STUDENTS OF THE MONTH



SPRINGMAN		ATTEA	
Discovery	John Schurer	Journey	Jonathan Lee Crista Mondragon
Genesis	Damian Dziura	Omni	Ashley Sklena Paul Latrielle
Equinox	Ashley Mays	Jigsaw	Thomas Barrett Jessica Janecek
Summit	PJ Thoelecke	Patriots	Daniel Schiller Alexandra Biel
Explorers	Jin Kim	Galaxy	Joann Lin Kevin Lee
Pegasus	YeJin Jang	Pathfinders	Marc Feldman Kara Sherman

SPRINGFIELD TRIP

The annual Springman/Attea Seventh Grade Springfield Trip took place on April 8 and 9. Five full coach buses transported 255 students and 25 teachers to visit the sites connected to Illinois state government and Abraham Lincoln's life. Friday afternoon the group departed at the end of the school day and enjoyed a pizza buffet dinner, followed by a pool and dance party at the Abraham Lincoln Hotel and Conference Center in downtown Springfield. On Saturday the group checked out of the hotel and each bus visited the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum, Lincoln's home, Lincoln's tomb, the State of Illinois war memorials, The Old State Capitol, and the current State Capitol. At the end of a long day, the buses headed back to Glenview, and students were in their own homes by 10:00 PM.



Thoroughly Modern Millie

Attea's musical, *Thoroughly Modern Millie*, had a successful run on March 18, 19 and 20th with a talented cast and crew of over 100 students from 6th, 7th and 8th grade. The show was about a girl named Millie who travels to New York City to find a job and eventually a husband in the 1920's. She and her friends get caught up in the white slave trade, speak-easy's and flappers in this 1994 musical produced by Glenbrook South graduate Kristin Caskey. Students learned the process of auditioning, rehearsal, run-throughs and performance.





SPORTS NEWS



ATTEA 8th GRADE VOLLEYBALL



The 2011 season ended in April with a record of 7-6. Each player utilized their athletic strengths to contribute to every success on the court. Throughout the season the boys demonstrated tremendous growth in their

skills and teamwork. Their positive attitude and sportsmanship made them excellent representatives of Attea Middle School.

Great job Flyers!

Coach Daniels and Coach Brown

The members of the team were: Danny Arenson, Wes Blodig, Will Hauser, Davis Hianik, Sam Manzella, Diego Montoya, Brian Sedin, Shouki Shunnarah, Peter Stellas, Peter Wassmann, Connor Watson, Charley Weaver



SPRINGMAN VOLLEYBAL

Congratulations to the Springman Boys Volleyball teams who placed first in their divisions. The 7th graders had a record of 9 wins and 4 losses and the 8th grade finished with a record of 11 wins and 2 losses. Coach Bradley and Coach Groesch are very proud of the boys and their terrific effort and teamwork. The following boys were a member of the Springman 2011 Volleyball teams:

8th Graders

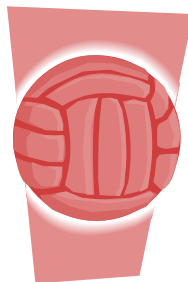
Jacob Acocella
Alex Alwan
Sammy Kouriabalis
Kevin Lee
Sean McDonagh
Joe McMahan
Jimmy Nash
Trenton Nicioli

Johnny O’Gara

Paul Rafalo
Will Thoelecke
Ben Wiberg

Mgrs:

Brad Kirby
Jake Pekosh
David Sucher
Danny Castelli



7th Graders

Patrick Braczko
Sean Dolan
Alex Freidinger
Kevin Gordon
Ryan Janczak
Jimmy Jang
Danny Legittino
Kevin Mihelic

Colin Quill

Calvin Sailer
Matt Skweres
Frankie Sulejmani

Mgrs:

Edgar Borun
Clay Satherlie
Allie Boland
Mary Langas

Athletics and Ethics: Can They Coexist?

A Panel Discussion

Thursday, April 28 2011 • 7-9 p.m.

Attea Middle School • 2500 Chestnut • Glenview



It seems that every week another star athlete falls off the pedestal. Willingly or not, such personalities serve as role models for our children. In light of these falls from grace, what can we do to help guide our youth toward demonstrating good character -- as athletes, students and members of our community? Join **CHARACTER COUNTS!** for this panel discussion featuring local athletic experts.

Panelists

Bob Berland

Olympic Silver Medalist • Olympic Coach • Entrepreneur • CEO

Mr. Berland is a two-time Olympian in the sport of Judo and was named the 2004 Olympic Judo team coach in Athens, Greece. He played a key role in Chicago's 2016 Olympic bid effort, and currently serves as third generation President of Berland Communications.

Pat Fitzgerald

Head Coach • Northwestern University Wildcat Football Team

Mr. Fitzgerald has been Head Coach since 2006, leading the team to three bowl berths and 24 wins since 2008. But community service is also a priority for his players. A member of the American Football Coaches' Association Ethics Committee, Mr. Fitzgerald was appointed to the Governor's Illinois Reform Commission in 2009.

Brian Hansen

2010 Olympic Medalist • Speed Skating

Glenview resident Brian Hansen won a silver medal in Men's Team Pursuit at the 2010 Winter Olympics. A 2009 graduate of Glenbrook South High School, he won two bronze medals at the 2010 U.S. Speed Skating Championships and currently holds five Junior American records and one Junior World record.

Denis Savard

Former Chicago Blackhawk Player and Coach

Mr. Savard's 18 years in professional hockey earned him a spot in the Hockey Hall of Fame, where he was inducted in 2000. Today, his Blackhawk jersey is one of six retired jerseys hanging from the rafters at the United Center. Mr. Savard also served as a Blackhawks coach for nine seasons, including three as head coach.

A.J. Schurr

Senior, Libertyville High School • Captain, School Baseball and Football Teams

Mr. Schurr, an Honor Roll student, has been involved in athletics throughout his time at Libertyville High School. In addition to serving as Captain of both the Baseball Team and Varsity Football teams, he is an Officer for Athletes Committed to Excellence. Mr. Schurr will be attending West Point Military Academy on a football scholarship next year.

Jim Schwantz

Former Chicago Bear, Dallas Cowboy, and San Francisco 49er • Mayor, Palatine

A member of the Dallas Cowboys Super Bowl XXX winning team, Mayor Schwantz was a recipient of the NFL's "Unsung Hero Award," and a member of the Pro Bowl as the Special Teams Player in 1996. Elected to his position in 2009, he has been actively involved in his community including the Special Olympics and the National Multiple Sclerosis Society.

Paul Stevens

Head Coach • Northwestern University Wildcat Baseball Team

Mr. Stevens, a Glenview resident, is in his 24th season as Northwestern's Head Baseball Coach. During his tenure the team has enjoyed 15 straight 20-win seasons. Community Service is key: among other activities, at the annual "Buddy Ball," each player is paired with a child with disabilities for a special game.

Founded in 1996, CHARACTER COUNTS! In Glenview is a nonprofit made up of a diverse group of community leaders and professionals. Its goal is to actively promote the six pillars of character — trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring and citizenship — throughout Glenview's schools, businesses, youth sports leagues, and other organizations. Find out more at www.ccglenview.org

This event is free and open to the public.

For more information, call (847) 904-4477.



Cranes for Japan
Fundraiser at
Springman



RUN WITH THE LAW

Join the Attea True
Blue Flyer Crew
and Support the
Special Olympics
on April 27th at
Gallery Park.

4:30pm

Click [HERE](#) for
info