

Rich Township Headliners & Newsmakers.....*Raising the Bar* **Weekly Message**

February 23, 2010



- ✚ **Rich East High School** made the [2009 Illinois Honor Roll](#), as recognized by the Illinois State Board of Education. Rich East, 1 of only 45 high schools honored, made the list as a recipient of the **2009 Academic Improvement Award** which recognizes schools with substantial gains and exemplary progress. Selected schools must show: 1) an improvement of at least 7.5 points in state test scores in reading and math between 2008 and 2009 **OR** an improvement of at least 15 points in reading and math between 2007 and 2009, and 2) an upward trend in state test results.
- ✚ **Rich Central** will host its **Annual Career Fair** on Monday, March 15 from 7:45a.m to 1:25 p.m. which will include over 50 different career representatives.
- ✚ **Rich South Band Director, Yolandus Douglas**, will play at the [Historical Jazz Showcase](#) alongside pianist Kevin O'Donnell and saxophonist Dave Schumacher, February 25th through February 28th.
- ✚ **Fred Jacobeit, Rich East** teacher and coach, is profiled in [eNews Park Forest](#) for his upcoming induction into the **Illinois Basketball Coaches Hall of Fame**.
- ✚ The following **Rich South Girls' Basketball** players made All-Conference: Jasmine Collins, Porscha Johnson and Victoria Lane.
- ✚ **Rich Central** opens its courts to **The Huth Middle School Girls' Volleyball** team on Wednesday, February 24 from 3:30p to 5:00p. The event will allow prospective students the opportunity to visit the campus and its facilities.
- ✚ **Perfect Attendance** for first semester of the 2009-2010 school year is available on the [Human Resources](#) page of the District 227 website.
- ✚ **Rich South** hosted a **Blood Drive** with **Life Source Blood Center** on Wednesday, Feb. 24 from 8:00 am to 3:00 pm.
- ✚ **Congratulations** to **Rich East** student, Robert Ruiz, the winner of the **Steppenwolf Young Adults' Documentary Film Contest**. [Check out the winning documentary here](#). Ruiz shared the unique identity of Park Forest through a creative film documentary including a guided tour of the people, places and experiences that define the neighborhood.
- ✚ **Congratulations to the Rich South Chess Team** and Coach Phanna Chou on their performance at the **IHSA State Finals** in Peoria. Rich South placed 52nd out of 130 schools. The following players were highly placed on their boards: Henri Weatherspoon,

- 12th place, Board 2; Tony Mayes, 26th place, Board 5; and Jonathan Thomas, 28th place, Board 7.
- ✚ **Creative Works from Rich Central** students are on display for the **Annual Regional High School Student Art Exhibit at South Suburban College** through Friday, Feb. 26. Those students are: Myia Brown, Jasmine Gunn, Matthew Johnson, Jonay Gaines, Rachel Schwartz, Alayne Williams, Ochaë Green, Chaz Duson and Samantha Burkett. The exhibition includes 25 regional high school districts from Illinois and Indiana.
 - ✚ The ***Illinois State Scholar Program*** recognizes Illinois High School students for outstanding achievement. Scholars rank in the top 10% of the state's high school seniors from 760 high schools across 102 counties. Selection is based on SAT, ACT, and/or Prairie State Achievement Exam scores, and/or class rank at the end of the junior year.
 - Rich South Illinois Scholars:** Ameyá Banks, Kerrielle Davis, Tionna Harris, Zachary Lam, Cory McGee, Kali Porzel, Talisha Sevilla, David Shaffer and Janee Spruille.
 - Rich East Illinois Scholars:** Doris Arevala, Alexia Caulker, Rebecca Curl, Sara Fiorenzo, Amy Okichich, Andrew Phillips, Matthew Phillips, Sairey Pickering, Anna Sands and Melissa Thompson.
 - Rich Central Illinois Scholars:** Ameddat Akeeb, Paris Freeman, Samantha Green, Jasmine Gunn, Nhi Le, Camrie Mack, Briana Pickens, Katelynn Pruitt, Roger Sachtleben, Rachel Schwartz, Tracea Smith, Erline Tattegrain, Sherri Wynne
 - ✚ The **Rich South Boys' Basketball** team posted their best season in Rich South history with a record of 21-4.
 - ✚ **Congratulations to the Rich Central Lady Olympians** on an incredible season and overall record of 24-5! The winning team won their conference, and then went on to win the IHSA Girls' Basketball 3A Regional Tournament, the first time since 1985, defeating Iliana Christian with a score of 67 to 53. Rich Central seniors Mia Green and Madeasha Stucky, along with Iliana Christian seniors Morgan Prince and Megan Huizenga, won the Regional 3-point shooting contest. Five Olympians girls won all-conference including: Janae Smith, Tracea Smith, Ashley Huddleston, Madeasha Stucky, Alexandra Stanford. The Lady Olympians ended their season in a 70-56 loss to Hillcrest during the IHSA play-offs.
 - ✚ **Rich South Distributed Education Clubs of America (DECA)** competitors excelled during the Area DECA competition. In Marketing Management, Shaniqua Taylor earned 3rd place and Chuck Bailey earned 2nd place. In Retail Merchandising, Brionne Jones earned 2nd place and Krystal Bailey earned 1st place. And, in Business Services Marketing, Brittney Shurn earned a 2nd place award
 - ✚ **The Illinois Education Association**, a division of the **National Education Association**, recently profiled Rich East in its newsletter. According to the IEA, "In the last two years, school improvement and student success at Rich East have been profound and measurable." [Click here to check out the article and video](#) highlighting Rich East high school, its staff and students.

- ✚ **Rich South** hosted the 1st ever **Dancing with the Stars, Black Tie Gala Affair** on Saturday, February 20th at the Matteson Holiday Inn. The fundraising event, which included a silent auction and raffles, featured music from the 50's through the Millennium, performed by the award-winning Rich South Jazz Ensemble.
- ✚ The next **Board of Education** meeting will be **Thursday, March 4 in the Rich East Media Center**. For a full schedule of upcoming meetings, [click here](#).
- ✚ The **Superintendent Search** is underway. Selected committees will interview the four finalists on **February 27** and the Board of Education will interview the four finalists on **February 28**. A final candidate is scheduled (tentatively) to be presented for a vote during the March 16, 2010 Board meeting.
- ✚ **The Charter School Proposal** was denied by the District 227 Board of Education in a 6 to 1 vote on Tuesday, February 16. The charter school proposal will now be presented to the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE). Within 14 days, ISBE shall determine if the charter proposal is consistent with the laws outlined in Article 27A of the Illinois School Code regarding charter schools. Once that determination has been made, the State Board of Education has up to 60 days to either: 1) agree with the denial by the District 227 Board of Education or 2) reverse the denial and certify the charter school proposal.
- ✚ **Rich South** hosted **A Taste of Africa** in the **Rich South Cafeteria** on February 23rd from **7:00p.m. -8:30 p.m.** The event featured the culture of Africa with food, dance, art and music. Donations were used to benefit relief efforts in Haiti.
- ✚ Please look for your invitation to arrive next month for this year's ***End-of-the-Year Celebration for Retirees***. This year's celebration will be held on **Friday, April 30** at the **Odyssey Country Club**. The retirees are:
 - Viola Baecher – Rich Central, Social Worker
 - James Colburn – Rich East, Assistant Foreman
 - Sharon Creamean – Rich East, Art
 - Ray DeLaRosa – Rich Central, Custodian
 - Gregory Fash – Rich Central, Applied Technology
 - Nicolette Gabrysiak – Rich Central, Family Consumer Sciences
 - Deborah Hardwick – Rich South, Vocational Education/Business
 - William Hayes – Rich Central, Foreign Language
 - Gloria Holman – Rich East, Art
 - Howard Hunigan – Superintendent
 - Linda Kaminski – Rich Central, Foodservice Manager
 - Margaret Knight – Rich East, Math
 - Joan LeBeau – Rich East, Business
 - David Levin – Rich Central, Media Center
 - Celeste Nelson - District Administrator
 - James Rutledge – Rich East, Instructional Assistant
 - Cynthia Stelzer – Rich East, Physical Education
 - Mark Zaban – Rich East, Math



The Public Relations Office of District 227
“Raising the Bar Toward a Future of Excellence”

District Office

Nikitta Foston, Public Relations Coordinator, nfoston@rich227.org
Cynthia Pizzimenti, Communications Assistant, cpizzimenti@rich227.org
Ted Spaniak, Webmaster, tspaniak@rich227.org

Rich East

Kevin Kredens, Public Relations Rep., kkredens@rich227.org
Cherry Rice, Webmaster, crice@rich227.org
Ted Spaniak, Photographer, tspaniak@rich227.org

Rich South

Marcy Jo Chachakis, Public Relations Rep. & Photographer, mchachakis@rich227.org
Naomi Perkins, Webmaster, nperkins@rich227.org

Rich Central

David Levin, Webmaster & Photographer, dlevin@rich227.org
Luisa Regalado, Public Relations Rep., lregalado@rich227.org

*If you are interested in sharing an achievement from your campus,
please submit the information to your campus public relations representative.*