

## Principals Maintain Active Presence in Classrooms

*In Glenview District 34, principals are a common presence in classrooms throughout all eight schools, and their unannounced visits have a specific purpose directly tied to student learning and instructional development.*

**F**our years ago, Superintendent Mike Nicholson introduced the concept of Learning Targets to the district. Simply put, Learning Targets are just that—targets posted in every classroom making the objective and intent of the lesson clear to students so they can be self-directed in their learning.

To gauge the effectiveness of the target, principals randomly visit classrooms, coined Principal Walk-Throughs, several times throughout the week and ask students the following:

1. *What are you learning?*
2. *How will you show your teacher you can do this?*
3. *How will you know you are doing it well?*

“When Learning Targets are posted and when children can clearly identify what they are learning, there is significant evidence to suggest that this really does enhance their overall achievement,” said Hoffman Principal Mark Walther.

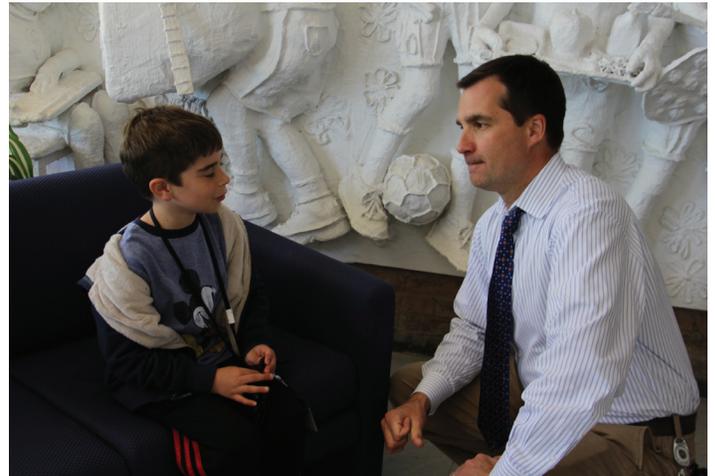
### Learning Targets are Useful Tools

Since the use of Learning Targets were first introduced, there have been more than 7,000 Principal Walk-Throughs to collect this type of data, which is shared with the teacher and used to further inform effective instruction.

This specific type of assessment is one unique to District 34 and is a system that continues to evolve. Four years ago, it was about understanding best practice behind developing Learning Targets and organizing classrooms so these targets were clearly visible to all students, explained Springman Principal Heather Hopkins.

However, now it is about making sure students not only understand what it is they are learning about, but also what instructional mechanism they are using to support their learning.

“Using and sharing this type of data with our teachers is such an important element to ensuring both our



students are progressing in their learning and teachers are developing in their instructional practices,” Nicholson said.

### Relationship Tool for Principals

In addition to the data being shared with individual teachers after a walk-through has been performed, district-wide the data is also aggregated and analyzed to identify instructional needs. Professional development is then shaped around these needs and provided to staff.

In addition to the positive impact this has on students and teachers, Walther added that there is a great benefit to principals. Performing the weekly Walk-Throughs provides an immediate way for principals to further develop their relationships with students and provide more direct support to staff.

“It fosters a principal’s ability to have a consistent presence in classrooms and ensure spending time with students and teachers remains a high priority,” he said.

# Kindergarten Registration Begins in February

*Parents of children who will be kindergartners this fall, along with parents of first and second grade students who will be new to the district in 2015-16, should enroll their child on February 19.*

Registration will take place at Henking, Lyon and Westbrook schools for District 34's half-day program. Children must be 5 years old on or before September 1, 2015 to be eligible for kindergarten. Exceptions are not made to this policy.

Registration is a parent-only event. At Henking and Lyon, registration will be from 4:30 p.m. until 7 p.m. At Westbrook, registration runs from 4 p.m. until 7 p.m.

Parents are encouraged to contact their home school to receive the registration packet and important information in advance of the event. Please know that book and PTA fees will be collected at the time of registration.

## Registration Schedule

Thursday, February 19

### Henking School

998-5035 | 4:30-7 p.m.

### Lyon School

998-5045 | 4:30-7 p.m.

### Westbrook School

998-5055 | 4:00-7 p.m.



# Evaluation of Kindergarten Program Underway

One of the recommendations that came from this fall's Community Engagement Program was for the district to conduct an extensive study of its kindergarten program. Following up on that recommendation, a committee comprised of representatives from the district's three primary buildings, kindergarten-second grade staff and administration have been meeting and are currently researching and evaluating the program.

"No changes to program in 2015-16"

## Committee's Work Continues

The work of the committee is expected to continue throughout the remainder of this school year and into the summer months. During that period, parent and community feedback will be sought and taken into consideration as a final recommendation is reached. **Given this, there will be no changes to the kindergarten program for the 2015-16 school year.**

We will continue to keep you informed of ongoing progress with this study and the work of the committee in future communications.

# We Need Your Help To Find Substitutes

District 34 is in need of substitutes for many different positions. If you or someone you know would be interested in being a substitute, please encourage them to apply.

## The substitute positions available include:

- ◆ Teachers and associates (need to hold a substitute certificate or valid teaching license)
- ◆ Administrative Assistant
- ◆ Custodian
- ◆ Health Coordinator (need to be a registered nurse)

Anyone interested can apply through the District 34 website at: <http://www.generalasp.com/d34/onlineapp/default.aspx>.

# Board Adopts 2014 Tax Levy

*The Board of Education approved the 2014 tax levy, which represents a 3.5 percent increase over the 2013 final levy. The estimated levy would result in the district collecting an estimated \$47.2 million in revenue, excluding the debt service levy.*

**T**he 2014 estimated levy was adopted December 8 following a public hearing process and two presentations to the Board that took place in October and November. However, the actual levy amount—meaning how much the district will ultimately collect on property tax bills—will be determined in August.

The Cook County Clerk's Office determines the levy amount based on the prior year extension for existing property and new property or improvements to property that have come onto the tax rolls in Glenview. Because the assessed value for new property and existing property is not known at the time the district must adopt its levy, it is common practice to levy an amount in excess of what the district actually anticipates to ensure the value of all new property is captured.

If the district fails to request a levy sufficient to capture new growth, revenue generated by that new property would be permanently lost.

The Property Tax Extension Limitation Law (PTELL), otherwise known as the tax cap, limits the amount school property taxes can be increased each year to 5% or the Consumer Price Index (CPI), whichever is less. Last year, CPI was 1.5 percent.



## Budget Guide Available

The District 34 “Budget Guide for the Community” is available to Glenview residents who want to learn more about the district’s finances and budget process. The booklet can be viewed at [www.glenview34.org](http://www.glenview34.org) or by calling Melanie Walstrom at 847-998-5000 for a copy.



## Summer School Registration is Around the Corner

District 34 will again offer both reinforcement and enrichment classes this summer. Enrichment classes are available to any student living in the District 34 attendance boundaries, including students enrolled in private or parochial schools.

In the past, enrichment courses have included rock climbing, fishing, photography, scrapbooking and chess. A course catalog and sign up information will be on the district’s website at [www.glenview34.org](http://www.glenview34.org) by February 1.

## Please Share Your Opinions Through School Survey

Once again parents have the unique opportunity to provide feedback to their school through the Illinois 5Essentials Survey. This survey was



designed to generate a detailed picture of the inner workings of your child’s school. As a parent, this opportunity will allow you to share your thoughts on the important elements of school effectiveness.

Please complete the survey today for each school where you have a student enrolled. The survey is only open through **March 13, 2015**. You should have received an e-mail from Glenview District 34 with instructions on how to complete the survey as well as login information.

The information gathered will be used by the schools and the district to help identify areas of strength and areas for improvement. The identity of respondents and their survey responses will be kept completely confidential.

# From the Superintendent

As we begin another calendar year, reflection is healthy for appreciating the blessings District 34 receives to support our students and for being vigilant about any risks to those blessings. Community support is among those blessings we never want to take for granted.

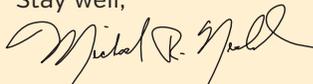
Our strong stewardship of the community's resources engenders the trust necessary for continued community support. Toward this end, we remain ever cognizant of two primary forces impacting our financial conditions: the legislative activity in Illinois and our revenue growth limitations.

Most of the legislative bills we've seen proposed—whether state education funding, pension reform, or other school-related funding reforms—do not impact D34 favorably, likely due to the relatively fortunate socioeconomic standing of our area. Most of these education funding reform bills look to redistribute resources to support lower funded areas. We are in touch with our Springfield representatives, so they are aware of how various bills impact us.

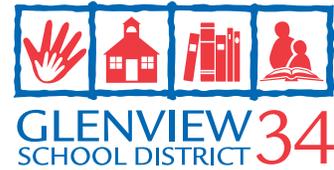
On the other side of our budget ledger is our revenue growth capacity. Our year-to-year property tax revenue growth is capped by a statute known as PTELL. [To learn more about PTELL, please visit page 3.] Since local property taxes comprise the majority of district revenue, our year-to-year purchasing power grows little more than the inflation index, regardless of how many new students we grow by, unfunded mandates the state requires, or how diverse our students' needs become. Assuming these constraints, one might see why the activity in Springfield warrants continued close monitoring.

Careful financial stewardship of the community's resources allows us to enjoy fiscal stability now, and likely for the immediate future. The leadership of the district, in collaboration with the school community, will work to maintain this financial stability so that D34's high quality educational programming will remain an asset for our children's development, our home values and the D34 community as a whole.

Stay well,



Mike Nicholson  
Superintendent



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#### Our Mission

*To empower children  
to be self-directed learners  
and responsible  
decision makers.*

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