

Dear PACE families,

1) Urgent!! We need your help in contacting Governor Quinn regarding education funding.

Please write to him by clicking <http://www2.illinois.gov/budget/Pages/Suggest.aspx>. If you have not contacted the Governor yet, please consider contacting him today or tomorrow. He is collecting taxpayers' comments through this website and will deliver his budget address on March 10. The preliminary budget can be viewed at <http://www2.illinois.gov/budget/Pages/default.aspx>. Please see the below message from our Superintendent Dr. O'Donnell from our district website, <http://www.oswego308.org/news/default.aspx?&ArticleId=965> -

It is time to talk to the Governor about education funding

Governor Quinn posted his proposed budget online last week and requested letters of response as to how the budget might be adjusted and the fiscal situation in the state addressed.

Governor Quinn's budget contains a 15 percent across-the-board reduction in education funding. As District 308 superintendent, I constructed the following letter that outlines my thoughts on how to address the budget problem. I believe it contains the seeds to sow a solid financial future for our state and our students. That can't happen without all of us putting something on the table from which a solid, sustainable recovery will begin, and which will serve as a solid economic base for us to build on going forward. We all must be willing to contribute to the solution.

Governor Quinn,

I am writing in response to your request for comments on the proposed state budget. I am the Superintendent of the Oswego Community Unit School District 308 serving the Village of Oswego and portions of Montgomery, Aurora, Plainfield, Boulder Hill, Joliet, and Yorkville. We serve 16,200 children in our schools and employ more than 1,600 teachers, administrators and support staff.

You requested input on how to solve the state's fiscal problems. I have three suggestions as to how that might be accomplished. They are:

- Reform the pension system
- Reduce expenditures across the budget by a reasonable amount
- Reform the tax system in a fair and equitable manner

I would encourage you and the legislature to work together in a bipartisan effort to accomplish this task in a fair and balanced way for all citizens of Illinois. I would make the following general suggestions for each of the three areas listed above.

To reform the pension system, first pass legislation that prohibits borrowing from the system by any individual or governmental body. Second, increase contribution levels gradually over the next few years for both employees and employers. Finally, extend the retirement eligibility as recommended by an independent actuarial study until the system is again stable and self sustaining.

To reduce expenditures, the state should roll back spending by an average of 7.2 percent to 2007 levels as recommended by The Civic Federation of Chicago. I would also recommend that the reduction for education be no more than 5 percent. rather than the

15 percent you suggested. The 5 percent reduction will be bad enough—limiting educational opportunities for children across the state and putting thousands of teachers, support staff and administrators out of work. The 15 percent you propose would be devastating and have a negative impact on the education of our children for years.

To increase revenue, form a bipartisan task force to address individual, corporate, and sales tax rates to rebuild our tax system into one that is fair and progressive. The system should also limit the impact to businesses, and provide some incentive for business and job creation to increase state revenue.

It is time to put aside partisan politics and political gamesmanship and exhibit the leadership that you and the legislators were elected to provide. The children and citizens of Illinois deserve your best efforts to resolve these fiscal problems, not more of the same tired rhetoric and inaction that led to this unprecedented problem.

Sincerely,
Dr. Dan O'Donnell
Superintendent of Oswego CUSD 308

2) PACE FAMILIES, REGISTER FOR SPRINGFIELD DAY 2010 –



Springfield Day 2010!

Wednesday, April 21, 2010

<http://www.pace308.org/springfield.html>

Mark your calendars and plan to join hundreds of gifted and talented children, their parents, and their teachers from across Illinois in Springfield, our state capitol. The event is sponsored by IL Association for Gifted Children.

Your help is especially critical this year with the state's cuts in funding

education. Meet with our elected officials to share with them the need for funding education and for funding gifted education! This event is also educational for the students. Students will see law-making in action from balconies of House and Senate as the legislators will be in session, we will visit Lincoln Presidential Museum, and students can participate in the democratic process and voice their views and ideas. Please register and join us!

To register or to receive more information, please contact Jill Ko at pace308org@sbcglobal.net. Please register by April 15th.

PROGRAM FOR APRIL 21, 2010!

11:30 am Large Group photo of everyone in front of the Capitol.

12:15 pm Picnic lunch

1:00 pm Meet with our legislators, visit their offices, and watch legislative proceedings.

3:00 pm Visit Lincoln Presidential Museum or other historic sites,
www.alplm.org/museum/museum.html, (217) 558-8844.

Below are the local State Legislators we will be meeting with. We also hope to meet with Governor Quinn and Jerry Stermer, Governor's Chief of Staff. Mr. Stermer addressed everyone last year at the 11:30am Large Group photo -

Representative Linda Chapa LaVia (D) Representative Tom Cross (R)

83rd District 84th District
Appropriations Chair for Elem. & Secondary Education House Republican Leader
Chapa-laviali@ilga.gov tom@tomcross.com

District Office: District Office:
8 E. Galena Blvd., Suite 240 530 W. Lockport Street, Suite 204
Aurora, IL 60506 Plainfield, IL 60544
(630) 264-6855 (815) 254-0000

Springfield Office: Springfield Office:
235-E. Stratton Office Building 316 Capitol Building
Springfield, IL 62706 Springfield, IL 62706
(217) 558-1002 (217) 782-1331

Representative Kay Hatcher (R)

50th District
info@kayhatcher.us

District Office: Springfield Office:
608 Veterans Pkwy, P.O. Box 1150 206-N Stratton Office Building
Yorkville, IL 60560 Springfield, IL 62706
(630) 553-3223 (217) 782-1486

Senator Linda Holmes (D) Senator Chris Lauzen (R)

42nd District 25th District
senatorholmes42@sbcglobal.net admin@lauzen.com

District Office: District Office:
13242 S. Route 59, #2B-1 52 West Downer Place, Suite 201
Plainfield, IL 60585 Aurora, IL 60506
(815) 609-3711 (630) 264-2334

Springfield Office: Springfield Office:
M122 Capitol Building 103A Capitol Building
Springfield, IL 62706 Springfield, IL 62706
(217) 782-0422 (217) 782-0052

3) 4th Annual PACE Recognition Night

SAVE THE DATE:

Thursday, April 8th

7 pm @ OHS Auditorium



KEYNOTE SPEAKER:

Dr. Dan O'Donnell,

D308 Superintendent

Purpose

To recognize and encourage AT/Honors and AP students to develop a sense of group identity with pride in their accomplishments.

To give AT/Honors/AP students and their families an opportunity to learn from inspiring presenters about real world and fun application of math and/or scientific concepts.

In conjunction with other annual PACE events, we aim to build momentum year over year in District 308 for the idea that support and expansion of AT/Honors/AP programs are good for our entire community.

Call for Volunteers

We need a small group of parents to help with invitations, refreshments, and program planning. We've done this before, so the groundwork is set. We appreciate your help in making our fourth year another success!

Please contact Pam Nagel at (630) 554-0034 or pamnagel@comcast.net to find out how you can help. We'll set up brief meetings to organize based on volunteers' availability.

4) For our high school students –

Register now for a free program on Saturday, April 3rd, for high school students at Northwestern University's Splash Program. To register and for more information, go to <http://nusplash.learningu.org/index.html>. Hurry, space is limited!!

5)

California Learning Strategies Center

Free Teleseminar

The California Learning Strategies Center presents
SAT Prep Expert Ben Paris:

Everything Parents (and Students) Need to Know About

No need to leave home!

A telephone is all the equipment you need. Just call in, enter your access code (we'll send it to you after you register) and you'll be in the program. That's it!

Wednesday, March 10: 7:00 pm PST, 10:00 pm EST

About the speaker: Ben Paris is a national test preparation expert with 15 years experience in the field. He is the former Curriculum Director at Kaplan Test Prep, and creator of the award-winning Peterson's Test Online course. His recent publications include *SparkNotes' SAT All-About ACT All-Nighter*.*

Ben will cover all your questions, including:

How can students prepare for the SAT?

What are the most important strategies to improve test scores in Critical Reading, Math, and Writing?

How do you choose whether your child should use books, courses, or tutors to review for the SAT?

What are the best SAT review books, software and courses?

When is the best time for kids to take the SAT?

How many times should students take the SAT?

Why do colleges want to see standardized test scores?

What's the difference between the ACT and SAT?

Plus, we'll end with a question and answer session.

Register today to reserve your spot: spaces are limited.

To register, click on the e-mail address below.

Note: some browsers will require you to copy and paste the address into the e-mail "send" window.

Susan.Goodkin@LearningStrategiesCenter.com

Put "register" in the subject line, and include your name, state and city you'd like to attend in the text.

Questions? Call 805-642-6686 (9:00-5:00 PST) or e-mail Susan.Goodkin@LearningStrategiesCenter.com

For more information about the California Learning Strategies Center services, please go to www.LearningStrategiesCenter.com/programs

For college planning articles, please visit our [newsletter archive](#)

*Ben is also a personal tutor for students preparing for the SAT, and has helped thousands of students do their best on standardized tests. For more information about Ben's individualized long-distance tutoring, please contact him at Ben.Paris@gmail.com

6) Oswego East High School is seeking parents to help with their Career Fair for juniors. Please see below message -



***Shades of Success Career Fair at Oswego East High School
Your future's so bright, you have to wear shades!***

Dear Prospective Career Fair Participant

On May 4, Oswego East High School will offer students an opportunity to learn about some of the many career and job opportunities available in Oswego and neighboring towns. We would like to include your business in the career fair.

You may be thinking, **"What does this OEHS Career Fair have to do with me?"**
The answer is **"Everything."**

Participating in the OEHS Shades of Success Career Fair is an opportunity to make a difference in a young person's future and in the future of your business. As a participant in this career fair, approximately 600 OEHS juniors will have the chance to speak with you and become informed about your business, school, or trade. The information students receive may assist them in determining a career path for their futures.

We are notifying you of this event, so you can consider adding the OEHS Shades of Success Career Fair to your calendar. The fair takes place Tuesday, May 4 and runs from 7:45 AM to

11:30 AM. Can we count on you to be a partner in educating future leaders and workers about educational requirements, working conditions, and skills required for your career/business/trade/college? If you or someone else from your business would like to participate or you would like further information, please contact either Karla Hoinkes at 630/636-2228 or khoinkes0204@oswego308.org or Julie Allen at 630/636-2230 or jallen0114@oswego308.org. Thank you for considering this request.

Julie Allen
Karla Hoinkes
OEHS Student Services

7) Summer Programs Fair sponsored by Naperville District 203

Are you starting to think about what your kids are going to do all summer? We're here to help! There will be over 30 organizations for you to visit and learn about their summer programs. A Representative will be available to answer questions. These programs will be for all ages from pre-school through high school. Don't miss this great opportunity to get your child involved with something great!

Cost: ADMISSION IS FREE

When: Tuesday, March 16th

Time: 7:00-8:30 pm

Where: Kennedy Jr. High, 2929 Green Trails Dr, Lisle, IL