

Aux Sable Elementary School

“Thursday News”

January 17, 2008

Writing Prompts, Edutest, and the Developmental Reading Assessment

Students at Aux Sable Elementary School have been and will be administered formal writing prompts, Edutest, and the Developmental Reading Assessment this month and into early February. Results of their performances will be used for school improvement purposes.

Students today are continuously being monitored to ensure that instruction leads to greater academic performance. It is critical that they take instruction and assessment seriously so District 201 is able to maintain the high quality programs it is known for. If you have any questions regarding the various assessments your children take at school, do not hesitate to contact their teachers or myself at your convenience.

January 21, 2007, is Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

Students in Minooka District 201 do not have school on Monday January 18th in observance of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

It took 15 years to create the federal Martin Luther King, Jr., holiday. Congressman John Conyers, Democrat from Michigan, first introduced legislation for a commemorative holiday four days after King was assassinated in 1968. After the bill became stalled, petitions endorsing the holiday

containing six million names were submitted to Congress.

Conyers and Rep. Shirley Chisholm, Democrat of New York, resubmitted King Holiday legislation each subsequent legislative session. Public pressure for the holiday mounted during the 1982 and 1983 civil rights marches in Washington.

Congress passed the holiday legislation in 1983, which was then signed into law by President Ronald Reagan.

Illinois was the first state to adopt the holiday.

Minooka District 201 Co-sponsors Motivational Speaker

Minooka District 201 and the Minooka Lions Club are providing an evening with Eddie Slowikowski at the Minooka High School Cafeteria on Monday February 4, 2008, at 7:00 p.m. All students and their parents are invited to see and participate in this dynamic presentation.

Eddie Slowikowski inspires thousands of people every year with his message of conceiving, believing, and achieving one's dreams in life. Eddie motivates and excites people from all walks of life. His multi-media presentations are filled with personal stories, raw emotion, empowerment skills and audience participation.

Eddie is a graduate of Loyola University with a B.A. in Communications. While

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he was at Loyola, he had quite an illustrious career in Track and Cross Country. A three time All-American, Eddie holds many records including third fastest indoor mile for the United States (3:58) in Madison Square Garden New York in 1990. He also represented the U.S. at the 1987 Pan Am games, 1990 USA Track & Field team as well as the 1992 Olympic Trials.

Frequently Asked Questions about the Minooka 201 \$54.87 Million Referendum

Why do we need more school buildings?

The district had a total enrollment of approximately 1500 students in 2003. We currently have a total student enrollment nearly 3700 students! In four short years we have grown by more than 2000 students. All one needs to do is take a drive around the community to see all of the new homes in the community. We are currently growing at a rate of approximately 500 students per year. At this time we only have classroom space to adequately house ~3500 students (and we will have more than 4000 students next year!). If the referendum passes the buildings will not be built for at least fifteen (15) months. By that time we will have more than 4,500 students.

What will we do if the referendum fails?

We will need to add more portable classrooms. Our need for classroom

space will not go away. We will add portable classrooms and we will come back to the voters at the next election. Until then we will do our best to accommodate our current and new students. Eventually our referendum will pass but the construction costs will never be lower.

Will we ever be able to build these buildings for less money than it costs today?

We don't have a “crystal ball” to forecast the future but building costs are growing rapidly. Construction costs have been growing at a rate of approximately ten percent (10%) or more annually for the last few years. This means that last year, the same \$54.87 million in school construction costs last year would have cost less than \$50 million. Over time the costs should increase. This means that our current costs will never be lower.

Upcoming Events

January 18th Teacher Institute – No Student Attendance

January 21st No Student Attendance – Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

January 22nd Aux Sable Elementary School's Second Grade Music Program at 6:30 p.m.

January 29th Aux Sable Elementary School's Fine Arts Festival at 6:00 p.m.

Mr. Martin

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