Welcome new and returning families to another exciting school year in South Holland District 150. Join me in welcoming new staff members to our district: Greenwood School – Dr. Richadine Murry, Academic Support Teacher; Teresa Kotzo, Early Childhood; Kimberly Scott, Pre Kindergarten Teacher; Antoinette Patton, 2nd grade Teacher; Mrs. Carla Cunningham, reassigned to Assistant Principal. McKinley School – Dawn De Young, Special Education Teacher; Christina Gumm, Special Education Teacher; Monica Kurz, Special Education Teacher; Nora Dunne, 7th grade Social Studies Teacher; Robert Bush, Physical Education Teacher; Eleni Vryza, Bilingual Tutor; Myra Lolkema, Director of Technology; and Janna Lee, Computer Science Teacher. We also welcome Elsa Velazquez, Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent and Board of Education; and Nicole Conway, Administrative Assistant to the Department of Specialized Services.

Happy Retirement

Congratulations and Happy Retirement to Mrs. Lenora Hively, Special Education Teacher; Mrs. Pamela Stallings, Special Education Teacher; Mr. Claudius Anderson, Physical Education Teacher; and Mr. Carl Worman, Social Studies Teacher. We thank them for their many years of service and contributions to the education of our students.

Superintendent Search

After 41 years of service to public education, including 12 years as Superintendent of Schools in South Holland District 150, I will be retiring on June 30, 2018. Special thanks to the Board of Education for their support and for allowing me to serve as educational leader of this fine district; to the administration who provides instructional leadership; and to the staff who provides quality education and support to our children. I am also grateful for the cooperation and support of the parents/guardians who serve as partners in this educational journey; and to the community for its support over the years.

During my tenure, student achievement has increased, curriculum maps have been aligned to the common core standards; new textbook series and supplemental materials for all content areas have been purchased; ongoing professional development; technology usage in the classroom have enhanced the quality of teaching and learning; the facilities have been upgraded; school security and safety initiatives have helped to promote a safe school environment; and we remain financially solvent. It is my best hope that we have made a significant impact in the lives of the students who have attended our schools and wish them great success.

Within this newsletter, there is a survey asking for everyone within our district community to provide feedback to the Board of Education as to what qualities you are seeking in the next Superintendent. As the Board plans to conduct a search for the next Superintendent, it will look for your input within one week upon receiving the survey.
Hello parents and community members of South Holland School District 150. Welcome back to another exciting school year! This autumn, we are falling into a school year filled with exciting new resources and instructional tools to make teaching and learning both powerful and productive. One of our new resources is the new K-5 Inspire Science and 6-8 Integrated iScience curriculum. Our new K-8 science program helps us in working to inspire students to embrace STEM opportunities. We also have a new K-8 Social Studies curriculum that helps students learn the world around them by connecting to the past and exploring relations to the future. On our district website and on my curriculum webpage you will find links to discover more about the resources that we are using to develop our students to be college and career ready. BE INSPIRED TO EXPLORE. Be encouraged to visit our District website’s P.R.E.S.S. Release (Parent Resource for Educational Support for Success) link. There you will find news flyers providing informational resources for parents. To learn more about the Eureka Math Program we use as our core Math curriculum, be sure to click the Eureka links from our District webpage. There you will find videos for each grade-level lesson and a wealth of other resources. Our staff engages our students in multiple ways through various curriculums. Be sure to also explore teacher pages to help learn about our resources, to help support the instructional growth and development of our youth.

Building vocabulary is a strategy to help build automaticity. In addition to the vocabulary in our core curriculums, we also have vocabulary workshop resources, which provide guided systematic instruction to help strengthen our students’ growth and skills for academic achievement. This tool provides ample practice of words in multiple contexts. MathFacts in a Flash is another strategy we incorporate into our practices to help build automaticity with our students. This program increases the students’ ability to recall math facts instantly and accurately. When students become fluent in math facts, they are free to concentrate on higher-level math concepts. There is a common saying that “Practice makes Permanent.” We encourage our students to build automaticity in their homework assignments, along with the resources of Vocabulary Workshop and MathFacts in a Flash.

Renaissance Learning is an assessment and instructional resource that we use in our District. The Help for Parents Link (http://www.renaissance.com/services/parent-resources/) will give you insight into the various programs we use in Renaissance to help our students grow in Reading and Mathematics.

From the Desk of Tiffany Webb
Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Grants

**VOCABULARY WORD ALERT!**

**Automaticity**—is the ability to do things without occupying the mind with the low-level details required, allowing it to become an automatic response pattern or habit. It is usually the result of learning, repetition, and practice.

Becoming good readers opens the door to unlimited opportunities and choices for our students. Fluency is a skill that we want all students to master because fluency is the ability to read a text accurately and quickly. Fluency develops as a result of many opportunities to practice reading with a high degree of success. Therefore, your child should practice orally rereading text that is reasonably easy for them--that is, text containing mostly words that they know or can decode easily. In other words, the texts should be at your child’s independent reading level. A text is at a child’s independent reading level if he or she can read it with about 95% accuracy, or misread only about 1 of every 20 words. If the text is more difficult, students will focus so much on word recognition that they will not have an opportunity to develop fluency.

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WHAT WE BELIEVE!
The belief that each child matters is at the heart of our efforts in the Office of Specialized Services. We are dedicated to creating all-inclusive schools with programs and services that promote the success of all students and support for families. Our collaborative efforts provide support for students with disabilities and their parents in the implementation of individualized education programs in the student’s least restrictive environment. Students are supported by our academic and comprehensive academic and behavioral support continuum. Students with disabilities are educated with their non-disabled peers, receiving the instructional program and services available to our general education population.

Working Together
The Office of Specialized Services has been working diligently to help staff succeed in providing high quality, differentiated instruction. The goal is for all students to triumph academically and socially. To achieve this, on-site professional development, modeling, coaching and in-class support are available to classroom teachers and paraprofessionals throughout the year. Our special education programs support students by providing specially designed instruction and related services. This allows students to develop college and career readiness skills, and achieve the same overall foundation for academic success as students in general education. The department provides professional development for district support personnel in areas of state mandated training, best practices for instruction and specific areas of disabilities. Additionally, the department works collaboratively with general education programs and Referral Services to provide early intervention services to assist students whose academic performance is negatively impacted by learning challenges.

Early Childhood
South Holland School District 150 offers an integrated early childhood program at Greenwood Elementary School. A child centered, multidisciplinary team approach is utilized in providing services for children, three to five years of-age with disabilities and non-disabilities. Our team of Early Childhood Special Education and Preschool Teachers, as well as, related services personnel, provides specialized education services to children in a variety of settings, such as; our early childhood classroom and pre-kindergarten classroom, to meet the developmental learning needs of our young children.

Gifted
Students are entitled to an education that will maximize their learning potential and stimulate growth intellectually, socially, emotionally, and physically. South Holland School District 150 is committed to educational programs that provide opportunities for all students to fully develop their learning capabilities. In this effort, South Holland School District is committed to recognizing, challenging, and fostering high student ability, achievement, and task commitment with Gifted Identified students. South Holland School District 150 acknowledges that these students require intellectual stimulation and plan to provide differentiated instruction that is rigorous and challenging. South Holland School District 150 does not offer a formal Gifted Instructional Program, but we do offer Academic Honor Classes taught by teachers who have been trained in Gifted Instruction. The Academic Honors Program is available for student in grades 3-8. Greenwood Elementary and McKinley Elementary Honors Program follow a self-contained cohort group model, providing instruction in reading and math. McKinley Junior High Program follows a departmentalized model, providing instruction in reading and math in grades six through eight.

English Language Services
South Holland School District 150 provides service to students who are identified as Limited English Proficient. We want all English Language Learners to become competent in the understanding, reading, listening, speaking, and writing of the English Language through the development of literacy and academic skills in grade-level content areas. The Program focuses on: (1) Developing English skills while learning grade appropriate academic content; and (2) Developing academic English language proficiency to assist students in meeting Illinois Learning Standards and the Illinois English Language Proficiency Standards.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact the Office of Specialized Services at: (708)339-8655.
The Technology Department at District 150 is gearing up for an exciting year for the students and staff at Greenwood and McKinley. I am grateful for the warm welcome I have received from the South Holland School District 150 family and community and am looking forward to a productive year of developing students’ technology skills and integrating technology into our curriculum.

Teachers have been working hard to curate resources on their webpages for parents and students. We hope you will utilize these resources as you work with your child throughout the school year.

Digital Citizenship Week was October 16-22nd and District 150 had several events planned to focus on digital citizenship for grades K-8 in addition to a parent night presentation on Social Media.

Fall Digital Citizenship Week 2017 focused on:

- Evaluating sources/fake news
- Social media
- Smart device use/gaming
- Positive online presence

For additional resources on media, parenting, and everything in between, parents are encouraged to visit [www.commonsensemedia.org](http://www.commonsensemedia.org) for advice, reviews, and the tools to help your child navigate the world of technology and media.

If you have any questions about technology at South Holland School District 150, feel free to contact me.

"Technology will never replace great teachers, but technology in the hands of great teachers is transformational." George Couros

· Educational Technology Leader
What is meningococcal meningitis? Meningococcal meningitis is a very serious and contagious infection caused by the bacteria *Neisseria meningitidis*. Meningitis is characterized by inflammation of the meninges or the layers of tissue that protect and cover the spinal cord and brain. The inflammation occurs due to an infection of the fluid surrounding the brain and spinal cord. Most cases of meningitis are caused by an airborne infection that is spread through coughing and sneezing. In rare cases, it may be caused by inflammatory disease, drug allergies, or cancer. Treatment differs depending on the cause of the infection.

Meningitis is potentially life-threatening and has a high mortality rate if untreated; delay in treatment has been associated with unfavorable outcomes. Meningitis can progress quickly and can be fatal, sometimes within 24 hours. In some cases, it can lead to permanent brain damage, loss of limbs, loss of hearing, and learning disabilities. Thus, treatment with wide-spectrum antibiotics should not be delayed while confirmatory tests are being conducted.

The most common symptoms of meningitis include:

- Fever
- Severe and persistent headache
- Stiff and painful neck, especially when trying to touch the chin to the chest
- Vomiting
- Confusion and decreased level of consciousness
- Seizures

Currently, meningococcal conjugate vaccination (MCV4) is required for all students entering grades six and twelfth. Sixth-graders must show proof of having received one dose; twelfth-graders must show proof of two doses.

RELIGIOUS EXEMPTION

In 2015, Public Act 099-0249 was enacted that changes the process for parents or legal guardians seeking a religious exemption to any required immunizations or examinations for their children. The new law requires that parents or legal guardians who object on religious grounds to complete a Certificate of Religious Exemption, which must also be signed by the physician, advanced practice nurse or physician assistant responsible for performing the student examination. The healthcare provider signature on this new form attests to informing the parent or legal guardian of the benefits of immunization and the health risks of not vaccinating the student. The certificate also requires the parent or guardian signature to attest to understanding that their child may be excluded from school in the case of a vaccine-preventable disease outbreak or exposure.

FLU SHOTS

The Illinois State Board of Education is encouraging parents to have their children vaccinated against the Influenza viruses. Vaccinations are the most effective way in protecting your child and classmates from this potentially serious disease.

MEDICATION IN SCHOOL

In accordance with state and district policy, all medications dispensed in school, including over-the-counter medicine must have written authorization from both the parent and physician. If your child has medicine he/she should take in school, please contact the nurse’s office to obtain the proper forms.

DENTAL EXAMINATION

Please be advised that School House Dental Services will again be providing dental examinations, teeth cleanings, fluoride applications and fillings for all students at no charge. The dates for school dental visits are as follows: Greenwood—November 13, 14, and 16. McKinley—December 4, 5, and 7.

MORE INFORMATION

IDPH offers additional immunization information on its website. There is also the Illinois Help Me Grow helpline at 1-800-323-GROW (voice and TTY) for additional immunization information. For parents who may not be able to afford immunizations, the Vaccines for Children program provides vaccines at no cost to children from low-income families. For information, call (312) 746-6050 or (217) 785-1455.
Every year, the Greenwood staff and students enter school with excitement and a positive focus. This year is no different. We continue to embrace the Common Core Standards, improve home communications, and strive for the development of life-long learners.

Building strong character, self-confidence and positive peer relationships is paramount. Our Ladies Club, Gentleman’s Club, Principal's Luncheon, Student of the Month and Grizzle Bucks are just a few of the programs we have established to support students. As J. Baldermann stated, we strive to “See the Champion in every student.”

We acknowledge that working through our rigorous curriculum can be challenging. Student success requires commitment and the establishment of solid routines at home. Providing daily rituals, staying abreast of school news, making homework a priority, encouraging students to play by the rules, instilling good attendance habits, and positive home/school communications are a few secrets to ensure a successful school year.

Creating a family atmosphere is important to everyone at Greenwood. The Power School Program, classroom web pages, open communications and various special family activities demonstrate our commitment to this partnership.

We strive to demonstrate that Greenwood is a School You Can Believe In!

**Greenwood Activities**

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>November 1st</td>
<td>Award Recognition Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 3rd</td>
<td>Principal’s Luncheon</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 18th</td>
<td>Little Queen &amp; King Dance</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 22nd</td>
<td>Winter Celebration</td>
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**Greenwood Activities**

- Annual Walk-A-Thon
- Ladies Club
- Kindergarten STEAM Project
- South Holland Project
- Classroom Technology
From the Desk of Jerome Ferrell, Jr.
McKinley School Principal

Achievement Facts

McKinley scored an average of 406 out of 430 points in ELA/Reading and Writing.

McKinley scored an average of 385 points out of 430 points in Math.

Fastest Sprinters

“Fastest Boy”, Daniel Ragland and “Fastest Girl”, Nayo Lear take a selfie with Principal Ferrell. This race is an annual competition that is conducted every September, culminating weeks of other physical education fitness test.

Special Classes

By adding Computer Science this year as a special class, every student in grades 4 - 8 will have an opportunity to attend classes for Spanish, music, physical education, computer science and art.

NJHS

The National Junior Honors Society (NJHS) sponsors, Ms. Williams and Ms. Lohr, inducted 26 new members on October 4, 2017 with an average of 3.5 in their classes for this current school year.
District Calendar for the Remainder of the 2017-2018 School Year

Friday  November 10  Holiday - VETERANS DAY (No School)
Monday  November 20  SCHOOL BOARD MEETING 7:00 PM
Wednesday November 22  NO SCHOOL
Thursday November 23  Holiday - THANKSGIVING DAY (No School)
Friday  November 24  NO SCHOOL
Monday  December 18  SCHOOL BOARD MEETING 7:00 PM
Monday - Sunday December 25 - January 5  WINTER BREAK (No School)
Wednesday January 10  End of 2nd Quarter
Monday  January 15  Holiday - DR. MARTIN L. KING'S BIRTHDAY (No School)
Wednesday January 17  SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT Early Dismissal - 12:00 NOON
Friday  January 19  Report Card Distribution
Monday  January 22  SCHOOL BOARD MEETING 7:00 PM
Friday  January 26  INSTITUTE DAY - Early Dismissal -12:00 NOON
Wednesday February 7  SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT Early Dismissal - 12:00 NOON
Monday  February 19  Holiday - PRESIDENT'S DAY (No School)
Monday  February 26  SCHOOL BOARD MEETING 7:00 PM
Friday  March 2  NO SCHOOL
Monday  March 5  Holiday - CASIMIR PULASKI DAY (No School)
Wednesday March 7  SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT Early Dismissal - 12:00 NOON
Monday  March 19  SCHOOL BOARD MEETING 7:00 PM
Wednesday March 21  End of 3rd Quarter
Wednesday March 28  Parent/Teacher Conferences 4:00 pm - 8:00 pm
Wednesday-Thursday March 28-29  Report Card Distribution
Thursday March 29  Parent/Teacher Conference 8:50 am - 12:00 pm
(No School - Students)
Friday  March 30  Holiday - GOOD FRIDAY (NO SCHOOL)
Monday - Friday April 2-April 6  SPRING BREAK - No School
Friday  April 20  INSTITUTE DAY - NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS
Monday  April 23  SCHOOL BOARD MEETING 7:00 PM
Thursday May 9  SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT Early Dismissal - 12:00 NOON
Monday  May 21  SCHOOL BOARD MEETING 7:00 PM
Monday  May 28  Holiday - MEMORIAL DAY (No School)
Wednesday May 29  Report Card Distribution
Wednesday May 29  LAST DAY OF SCHOOL
Monday  June 18  SCHOOL BOARD MEETING 7:00 PM