

# DHH NEWS & NOTABLES

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SWCCCASE

## Academic Bowl Champions!

Congratulations to the Southwest Cooperative's, Lemont High School Academic Bowl Team! Harper College's Annual Academic Bowl for regional Deaf and Hard of Hearing Programs, named the all senior group, Champions! They played and acted like winners on November 4, 2011.

Pictured left to right: Marcie Sacks-Botto-Harper College Academic Bowl Coordinator, Team: Colin Leonard, Abdul Alhumedy, Tommy Glynn, Matthew Cummings, Susan Sheahan-Sponsor, Debbie Sampson- Harper College Academic Bowl Moderator, and Chris DeLong-Sponsor.



## Trip to Sertoma Speech and Hearing Center

A group of students from Lemont High School and Old Quarry Middle School took a mini-fieldtrip to Sertoma Speech and Hearing Center, in Palos Hills. The students' hearing needs were addressed thanks to Dr. Tom Wardzala, Audiologist, and Kelly Dvorak, Graduate Clinician. Some needed hearing evaluations updated and others had broken equipment fixed.

Thanks also to Kim Mahoney, DHH Supervisor, for making this happen. All the students truly appreciated having their 'hearing' serviced.



### Early Childhood Excitement



This school year has gotten off to a great start at Oakwood School for our EC DHH class! We have learned a lot of new vocabulary on various topics -

Family, Halloween, Fire Safety and Community Helpers to name a few! We especially enjoyed our trips to the Fire Station, Police Station

and Veterinarian's office this year! We are looking forward to some new adventures and having fun with all of our friends!



**"Education is all a matter of building bridges."**

**-Ralph Ellison**

### Prominent Primary

The Primary DHH class got off to a fine start again this school year. The Early Childhood classroom joined us here at Oakwood. We were thrilled to have some new friends enter Oakwood School. The children enjoy both lunch and recess together each day. The third and fourth grade class is attending River Valley. River Valley is connected to Oakwood so we are all within walking distance of each other.

In October, the children spent some time pre-

paring for Halloween. The students reviewed vocabulary and read and wrote stories about the holiday. The children had a wonderful time attending the Halloween parties with their mainstream classes.

The children at River Valley and Oakwood invited veterans and their families to an assembly in November. The students sang songs and read poems to the veterans. The first Thanksgiving was also discussed in November and

the students compared that celebration to the celebration today.

In December, the children took a trip to the mall to see Signing Santa. They had lunch at the mall and did some Christmas shopping for family members.

The students have strived to work to the best of their ability this school year. We are all very proud of them. Keep up the good work!



## So long Mr. Sierra . . .

In December, we said good-bye and good luck to Mr. Joe Sierra. Mr. Sierra is a graduate student at Governors State University and has spent the past eight weeks as Mrs. Mayerak's student teacher. Mr. Sierra made articulation, speechreading, and auditory discrimination loads of fun! Mr. Sierra will head to our old

stomping grounds at Millennium School in Tinley Park next. We had a wonderful party to send him on his way, complete with cards and gifts. We will miss him greatly but wish him the best of luck in the future.



## Annual Signing Santa

The students in Mrs. Durkin-Mirabella's class, Ms. Duncan's class, and Mrs. Padovano's class had a wonderful field trip to Chicago Ridge Mall on December 19, 2011 to see Signing Santa. The students all prepared lists and had a wonderful time talking directly with Santa. Even Mrs. Durkin-Mirabella got the chance to sit on Santa's lap and tell him what she wanted for Christmas. After our visit with Santa, we broke up into small groups to do some much-needed holiday shopping. The students worked on finding the appropriate type of store for the gifts on their lists, budgeting their money, paying themselves,

and counting the correct amount of change. Then it was time for lunch with our friends from Eisenhower and ECHO coops. The students used their best speech and listening skills to order their own food and pay for it themselves. Both students and staff had a great time sitting around, chatting with

our old and some new friends. Finally, it was time to head back to school to wrap our presents. The students wrapped and filled out name tags for their presents. They were SO excited to bring home gifts to put under the tree for Mom, Dad, and the whole family. Just remember...Don't open 'til Christmas!

**“Learning is not attained by chance, it must be sought for with ardor and diligence.”**

**-Abigail Adams**



*Opening the world through education to children and young adults with diverse abilities.*

**SOUTHWEST COOK COUNTY COOPERATIVE  
ASSOCIATION FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION**



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Take a sign language class! The coop offers classes every fall, winter, spring, and summer. From swcccase.org click on professional development and view offerings. The next class begins March 7th!



### Old Quarry Opportunities

Students at Old Quarry Middle School have been very busy this school year! They have traveled the globe learning about world geography with Mrs. Altmann and Ms. Koschik. Currently they are in South America and just before winter break they re-viewed geography terms with shaving cream! Students have also focused a lot of attention on their language skills. They have

enjoyed writing letters to their pen pals in Iowa and love their weekly chats on the videophone. In science, students have played with solids, liquids, gases, and the transfer of heat.

In between lessons, Old Quarry students took advantage of the Red Ribbon Rally in the fall, visited signing Santa in December, appreciated the Hinsdale South

Deaf Drama in January, and are eagerly awaiting the conclusion of the Rebecca Caudill book competition in February. Congratulations to Rilee and Keshon who were students of the month! Additionally, congratulations to interpreter, Mrs. Geroulis who had a baby girl January 3rd! We're looking forward to a spring semester that is just as eventful!

