Good afternoon.

Welcome back after the long holiday weekend—I hope everyone celebrated a great Thanksgiving break. For anyone who works in a school, we now head down that challenging glidepath toward the winter holiday season where we do our best to keep kids on task and learning while infusing them with an assortment of treats, scheduling a bunch of school activities, and hosting an array of parties and events. I’m really not a Scrooge—it’s a fun time of year to be in a school. (I can imagine many of our high school principals now rolling their eyes…)

I would like to dedicate a final Weekly Message opener to Hurricanes Katrina and Rita relief efforts. It’s important, I think, to take a moment to recognize and applaud the compassion and efforts shown by Illinois schools toward the victims of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

Over the past few months, we’ve been privileged to observe an overwhelming response from all of you to assist with hurricane relief efforts. For a number of weeks now, in the Weekly Message, we’ve highlighted schools that had students, staff, and community members organizing fundraisers and other events to raise money and supplies for victims of the hurricanes.

In a collaborative effort, the Illinois Principals Association—working with the Illinois Association of School Administrators and the Illinois State Board of Education—has provided a means of receiving your funds and transmitting them to areas in need. With $32,137.13 collected, we will soon be forwarding a check to the Community Foundation of Acadiana, the foundation chosen by the Louisiana Department of Education to receive monetary donations.

The dedication to such efforts and the response of Illinois Schools demonstrates the true meaning of giving. While we will end our weekly school highlights in the Message, your efforts will continue to be applauded. Thanks again to Darren Reisberg, Deputy General Counsel, for coordinating the ISBE response across numerous of our Divisions here and thank you again to the schools, communities, and individuals for your hard work on this project.

Have a great week!

Randy Dunn
Accountability

**Louisiana diplomas for displaced students**

The Louisiana Board of Elementary and Secondary Education has voted to allow students who relocated to other states due to the hurricanes to receive Louisiana diplomas during the 2005-2006 and 2006-2007 school years.

- Receiving schools will provide information to displaced Louisiana high school juniors and seniors. An informational flyer for students and Frequently Asked Questions sheet will be available at: [http://www.isbe.net/katrina/default.htm](http://www.isbe.net/katrina/default.htm) beginning November 29, 2005.
- The receiving school notifies the Louisiana Department of Education of the student’s decision by supplying the student name, Social Security number or date of birth and former school via an electronic form at [http://www.louisianaschools.net/lde/index.html](http://www.louisianaschools.net/lde/index.html).
- After the student has completed the required courses, the receiving school sends the student’s transcript to his or her home district in Louisiana.
- Instructions for electronic submission will be available soon at: [http://www.louisianaschools.net/lde/index.html](http://www.louisianaschools.net/lde/index.html). A paper transcript may be submitted in place of the electronic submission.
- The student’s home district will evaluate the transcript and send the diploma to the student’s receiving school.
- Students who need to take the Louisiana Graduation Exit Exam (GEE) will have three opportunities to take the exam online in Spring 2006. More information will be provided as it becomes available.

Professional Development

**Free online bullying prevention and youth safety seminars**

The National Youth Violence Prevention Resource Center (NYVPRC) presents *Bullying Prevention is Violence Prevention: Making It Work Locally* on December 9, at 2:30 p.m. Eastern Time. The Health Resources and Services Administration developed this event as part of its Stop Bullying Now campaign.

On December 15, at 1 p.m. Eastern Time, the NYVPRC will sponsor *Keeping Kids Safe*. This online seminar will focus on the primary causes of injuries and death among children and youth ages 10 through 24, and ways to prevent these occurrences. This presentation was developed by the NYVPRC and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

To participate in these online events participants will need access to a computer and a telephone. Slides will be presented over the web and speakers will be presented over the phone. Large groups, such as classrooms, parents, teacher groups and community organizations, are encouraged to register, although single registrants are welcome.

Each session lasts 40 minutes, with an additional 15 minutes for questions from participants. Bullying prevention topics will include a refresher on bullying; elements of an effective bullying prevention program; an overview of HRSA’s "Stop Bullying Now!" campaign; and success stories of district-, county-, and state-level initiatives, plus a look ahead.

Register for the Bullying Prevention webinar at: [http://www.safeyouth.org/scripts/index.asp](http://www.safeyouth.org/scripts/index.asp). The Safety webinar will address such topics as head injuries, sports injuries, motor vehicle crashes, residential fire-related deaths and injuries, drowning, playground safety, homicide, suicide, unintentional falls and youth violence.

The National Youth Violence Prevention Resource Center is sponsored by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and Federal partners working on youth violence prevention.

English Language Learning

**Immigrant Education Data Collection Form available online**

The 2005-06 Immigrant Education Program Data Collection Form is available online at [http://www.isbe.net/bilingual/htmls/immigrant.htm](http://www.isbe.net/bilingual/htmls/immigrant.htm). The immigrant student count submitted by districts will be used to determine FY07 Immigrant Education Program funding eligibility and the award
amount for each district. The completed report must be submitted to ISBE by December 15, 2005. This program is authorized by the Federal No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (Public Law 107-110). For school year 2005-2006, the Illinois share for Immigrant Education Programs was $3,709,812.

### Funding and Disbursement

#### Regional Superintendent approval of public school calendars

Public Act 93-1036 (Senate Bill 3000) added specific language to Section 10-19 of the Illinois School Code regarding approval of all public school calendars. The language states that “the calendar for the school term and any changes must be submitted to and approved by the regional superintendent of schools before the calendar or changes may take effect.” The Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) will no longer approve public school calendars as this responsibility now falls to the regional superintendent. As a reminder, local education agencies must enter the public school calendar data in the ISBE Web Application Security System (IWAS). Please refer to Guidelines for School Calendar Preparation at: [http://www.isbe.net/funding/pdf/ps_guidelines.pdf](http://www.isbe.net/funding/pdf/ps_guidelines.pdf) for assistance in completing the public school calendar.

As a general rule, a Proposed Calendar should be transmitted prior to the first day of school. It is the district’s responsibility to ensure that once the Proposed Calendar has been approved, any calendar changes, including those resulting from approved waivers and modifications, are approved by the regional superintendent. If the ISBE approves a modification or the General Assembly approves a waiver following the initial approval of the calendar by the regional superintendent, then the district must submit an Amended Calendar to the appropriate regional superintendent for approval before it can implement the waiver/modification. If you have questions about the waiver process, please contact staff in Rules and Waivers at 217-782-5270. Beginning this school year a final calendar may not be accessed for transmission prior to May 1 and should be transmitted by the last day of school.

If you need technical assistance you may contact the office of your regional superintendent or Marj Beck at the ISBE at mbeck@isbe.net or 217-782-5256. If you encounter technical issues with the Public School Calendar system in IWAS, please contact the ISBE Call Center at 217-558-3600 during business hours: Monday through Friday, 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.

### District online filing of SGSA plan

Districts are required to electronically file FY06 Supplemental General State Aid (SGSA) plan utilizing the ISBE IWAS system. Failure to file may interrupt a district's state aid payments.

Supplemental general state aid (SGSA) comes to the district within the bi-monthly state aid payments. The amount of SGSA that each district receives is determined by part III, the poverty grant calculation, of each district's state aid claim. The school code requires districts with an average daily attendance over 1000 to submit a plan to ISBE indicating how the FY06 SGSA funds will be expended for the improvement of instruction in which priority is given to meeting the educational needs of disadvantaged students.

The requirements of the SGSA plan are the same as in previous years except that the forms and SGSA information pertaining to levels of SGSA and district average daily attendance are only available electronically. Hard copies can no longer be accepted. The IWAS SGSA system has been available for several weeks now. This is a reminder that statutorily the SGSA plan is required annually by October 31. Filing is simple. Go to [http://www.isbe.net/](http://www.isbe.net/), click on the IWAS tab at the top of the home page. On the IWAS page the SGSA report has been added. Complete a simple narrative on the use of the SGSA funding and how the expenditures benefit disadvantaged students, and then complete the functional expenditure listing as in the past.

For assistance in filing the SGSA plan contact Richard Loman in ISBE’s Accountability Division at 217-782-2948 or rloman@isbe.net. If you have any electronic system related problems contact our data processing Help Desk at 217-782-4313.

### General Counsel

#### Waiver deadline January 13, 2006

The postmark deadline for all waivers that you want to implement in the fall of 2006 is Friday, January
Nutrition Programs

School Wellness Policy Task Force

Public Act 94-0199 required the Illinois Department of Public Health, the Illinois Department of Human Services and the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) to form an interagency working group to convene a School Wellness Policy Task Force consisting of members of various organizations and agencies as identified in the legislation. Please visit http://www.isbe.net/news/pdf/school_wellness_task_force.pdf for a complete list of members and the agencies/organizations they represent.

The first School Wellness Policy Task Force meeting was held in Springfield on November 16, 2005. The legislation identifies that at a minimum the School Wellness Policy Task Force shall report its identification of barriers to implementing school wellness policies and its recommendations to reduce those barriers to the General Assembly and the Governor on or before January 1, 2006. The task force worked diligently on this task and the report will be sent to the General Assembly and Governor on the task force findings no later than January 1, 2006.

For more information about the School Wellness Policy Task Force, please contact the Nutrition Programs Division at 1-800-545-7892 or via electronic mail at cnp@isbe.net.

School Hurricane Relief Efforts

We conclude our recognition of the students, teachers, principals, parents and school staff members around the state this week and thank you all for submitting your great stories of giving, caring and coming together as a school community to lend a hand.

- Students at River Valley School collected over $6,500 to send to hurricane survivors, including $3,000 which was sent to the Illinois Principals Association Hurricane Foundation (dedicated to making sure schools hit by the hurricane get up and running as soon as possible), $500 to the DeVun family who waited out the hurricane with dozens of animals that became ill immediately after the disaster and a little over

Federal Grants and Programs

Rural and small city high schools pilot study

The Illinois State Board of Education is seeking rural and small city high schools to participate in a program to improve high stake test results. High Schools wishing to participate must have a National Public School Locator Index Code of 6, 7 or 8. Schools must have a computer lab and the lab must be connected to the internet to participate in the program. Costs for the computer program will be provided by the Illinois State Board of Education through a grant to the school districts.

The number of pilot sites is limited and will be awarded to districts in Title I School Improvement Status on a first come, first serve basis. Other districts may apply and, if money is available, grants may be awarded to non-School Improvement Status Districts. If you have an interest in participating in this project please FAX Cynthia Newman at 217-785-9031 on school letterhead including the number of students presently enrolled in grades 9 through 12. The letter must include the superintendent’s signature. For additional information please call Cynthia Newman at 217-524-4832.

The pilot study will give students practice in taking various sample tests including the SAT and ACT. Sample tests are also available for Advanced Placement Tests in English, Mathematics and Science. Remedial tests for reading, mathematics and writing may be used for practice in test taking. Tests need not be done at school, but may be completed at home or in a public library which has Internet access.

The purpose of the pilot study is to determine if practice in taking high stake tests will improve student test scores on the PSAE/ISAT.
$500 will be put aside for any family coming to Lemont who has been displaced by the hurricane. The remaining money was voted on by students; $1,200 went to Noah’s Wish (an organization that helps rescue animals), $800 went to International Medical Corps (an organization that sends doctors and nurses to disasters) and the remaining $500 went to The Texas Educational Agency Hurricane Fund (an agency affiliated with the Texas school system, committed to sending supplies to schools hit by the hurricane). Hemlock Bank helped count the money each day throughout the collection.

- **Jefferson Elementary School** began projects for hurricane relief almost immediately after Hurricane Katrina hit the Gulf Coast area, raising nearly $3,000 for hurricane victims, along with numerous backpacks filled with school supplies and a gas gift card. The money and the back packs were turned over to the local American Red Cross chapter. Jefferson student Donovan Carter and his family were hurricane evacuees who temporarily relocated to Charleston before returning to New Orleans. Principal Debbie Poffinbarger noted that the school donated other supplies and money and conducted a blood drive. Students, teachers and staff brought in money in amounts from pennies to twenty dollar bills. Student groups at Eastern Illinois University helped with the school supplies and the EIU chapter of the National Residence Hall Honorary contributed $500. Also, the university's fraternities and sororities each donated two back packs full of supplies, 18 in all.

- **Wescott School**'s students collected $1,158 and **Willowbrook School** students collected over $1,000 for UNICEF, while trick or treating on Halloween. This year, a portion of UNICEF proceeds will be donated to benefit the victims of Hurricane Katrina.

- The Learning Center and National Honor Society of **Heritage Middle School**, District 171 joined the American Library Association’s Adopt a Library Program to assist the library of North Gulfport Seventh and Eighth Grade Middle School in Mississippi as they recover and rebuild. Donations of new or gently used books will be received through December 2005 by Heritage Middle School in Lansing, Illinois.

- **Flora CUSD #35** raised $7,054 for the victims of Hurricane Katrina. The money was donated to the American Red Cross Relief Fund. Raccoon Creek Energy Center matched that money for a total of $14,108 to the Katrina victims. The majority of the money came from the high school with daily activities and the decision of the student council to donate a majority of the money allocated for the Homecoming Dance to the relief fund. The students chose to use past decorations for Homecoming and other ways to cover expenses for the dance. In all, the high school raised $5,621. The elementary schools, junior high, unit office and bus barn raised $1,433 through donations and other activities.

- **River Forest District 90** students John and Anne Weinheimer came forward with concerns for the Katrina victims. They proposed a five kilometer walk to be held on September 11 as recognition for the victims of the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks and an effort to help Americans in need this year. That weekend a small committee of students and parents developed a plan. The Rees, Zurovski, Foran and Welindt families helped kick off the effort, notifying the police and village officials. A district call went out to all families with many families helping to plan, organize and volunteer. Students began seeking pledges and 500 families participated in the walk. Katrina evacuee Joe Washington walked with the families. The River Forest community raised $33,934. Katrina.

- Students from **Calvary Baptist Academy** in Normal students completed a project collecting new items to be used for *Christmas on the Coast*, a project run by Camp Katrina. Camp Katrina is a relief effort organized by the Christian Life Church in Orange Beach, Alabama, to assist hurricane victims in the Waveland, Mississippi, area who cannot afford to buy gifts for their children this holiday season. Amanda Turbett and Alyssa Barth headed up a group of high school students who organized the program at the Academy. The goal was to donate new toys, board games, compact disc players, scooters, bicycles, electronic games and sporting goods. Along with Klarissa Kelsey’s first grade class from the El Paso Gridley Schools and NYC Ministries, a Bloomington/Normal based organization this project donated 1,363 items (estimated $10,000 value) for children in the Waveland, Mississippi area. This was the second project Calvary Baptist Academy students participated in. Early in the relief efforts, students donated items for relief boxes. Families packaged boxes
with immediate relief items such as personal toiletries, small non-perishable food items, coloring books, combs, t-shirts, bottled water. These boxes were delivered by the weekly NYC Ministries teams helping with clean-up in the Waveland, Mississippi area.

- **West School in Zion Elementary District 6** held a Penny War in October, proudly raising over $1400 in contributions for Red Cross Hurricane Relief. This school is in an area with a 78 percent poverty rate, so the fund raising was a concerted effort. Penny-by-penny, the children brought in $1428. The pennies were collected in jars and counted by two cooperative banks. The children were very happy to be able to help others and have fun doing it.

- **Roscoe Middle School** in Kinnikinnick District #131 had a ten day competition against its neighboring middle school, Stephen Mack. They also collected donations from the community. There were competitions against other grades. The district had two movie nights and a community dance. In all, they collected $18,815 winning the friendly competition.

- The students of **Heritage Elementary/Junior High School** in Homer, Illinois raised over $1,300 for the American Red Cross Hurricane Relief Fund. Students and staff members donated their pocket change in buckets located around the school. The Heritage Student Council boxed over 50 boxes of used textbooks and sent them to the Moss Point, MS schools with the help of the Central Illinois Christians In Mission Organization.

- The seventh and eighth grade students at **Nelson Elementary School** in Lee County collected $480 for the American Red Cross Hurricane Relief in October, 2005. Donations were given to the Lincoln Land Chapter of the American Red Cross in Rock Falls, Illinois. Nelson is a small elementary district of 43 students.

- The 400 students of **Woolsey Elementary School** in Knoxville collected $2,000 towards the Hurricane Katrina relief efforts. The students gave their allowance money, sold lemonade, and performed odd jobs to help raise the money. Students from the learning disabilities class along with their fourth grade partners were responsible for sorting and counting every penny. They also gave $145 to the Humane Society Rescue Effort. During a presentation to the American Red Cross representative the students heard how the money would be used to help the victims of the storm. They are very proud of their small schools generous donations.

- Adults and students at **Evanston Township High School District 202** (ETHS) have helped raise awareness of the plight of the Gulf coast hurricane victims through a variety of relief efforts this fall. In separate fund-raising drives, the ETHS staff collected over $1,800 and the school's Community Service Club and Student Council raised over $3,000. The students organized several projects to raise funds. They made and sold bracelets, sold pompons at football games and held biweekly bake sales. The ETHS NAACP Club held a clothing drive in conjunction with a local church and the Evanston NAACP. Other student-driven fund-raising projects included a toiletries drive, loose coins contributions and solicitation of donations after theater and musical productions. To date, students have raised over $3,000 for hurricane relief and are now expanding their efforts to help earthquake victims in Pakistan.

- **Circuit Breaker School** in Seneca Illinois had a car wash to raise funds for the victims of Hurricane Katrina. Mrs. LeRett's elementary class started the ball rolling at a classroom community meeting when the students came up with the idea to have a fundraiser. Mr. Aughenbaugh's high school class worked together with Mrs. LeRett's class to raise $265 which they donated to the American Red Cross.

- **New Athens and Marissa Junior High and High Schools** had a friendly competition to raise money for the Hurricane relief efforts. The schools took donations and then culminated the event with a unified tailgate/dinner at Marissa High School and a faculty volleyball game between the two schools with admission going towards each respective school’s donations. The high school bands had a battle of the bands at the game and jointly played the national anthem. New Athens principal Dennis Works agreed to bleach his hair and Marissa principal, Mike Guthrie agreed to wear a pink tutu for a day if their respective school raised the largest amount. New Athens raised approximately $1100 more than Marissa, but the combined efforts resulted in over $6000 that was given to the Red Cross. True to his word, Mr. Works bleached his hair. According to Mr. Guthrie, sometimes it's not a bad thing to lose.

- Students in **Delavan** held a massive backpack filling drive. All grade levels were to bring in
different school supplies so they could pack up backpacks. Originally they had 50 backpacks, but then the Peoria Journal Star donated an additional 50. All clubs in the district donated funds and many community groups donated money to pay for the gas involved in driving the van that’s use was donated by the local Ford dealership.

- **Hillside School** located in Hillside, Illinois held two fundraisers to assist the Katrina victims in getting back on their feet. They have adopted Douglass Elementary School in Houston, Texas, now called NOW School. Their fundraisers were a penny drive which the students generously donated $1,650. The second fundraiser was a raffle. Their local businesses, teachers and staff members donated prizes for the raffle. The raffle brought in $1,350 more dollars, for a grand total of $3,000 to be donated to the Houston School.

- The students and staff at **Rolling Meadows High School**, located in northwest suburban Chicago, collected over $26,500 to help students impacted by Katrina. So far, $10,000 was given in the form of purchase cards to those staying in the shelter in Tinley Park. Another $2100 was given to the families of students staying within their district's attendance area (Township High School District 214), also in the form of gift cards. They purchased equipment totaling $11,700 to Pass Christian Public School District in Mississippi. They provided 42 Motorola walkie-talkies, erasers and whiteboard cleaner, umbrellas, TI calculators and viewscreen panels, AAMSCO ACT prep materials and other assorted classroom products. They have developed a relationship with a number of staff from the district and have been in frequent contact with them. One of their teachers, Dan Jones, spent several days visiting and working in the relief effort in Mississippi and has been able to share their reality as it stands even months after the disaster. It has been an enlightening experience for their school community.

- A personal tie between **Matteson Elementary School District 162** and a small elementary school outside of New Orleans has resulted in a donation of more than $11,000 for the school that was damaged during Hurricane Katrina. Anna Bowie, former principal of District 162’s **Indiana School**, returned to her native New Orleans two years ago and became principal of Lee Road School, a pre-kindergarten through eighth grade school with an enrollment of 700 students. Located in Covington, Louisiana, 30 miles from New Orleans, the school was flooded when its exterior suffered damage during the hurricane. The flooding destroyed the school’s electrical system and its technology. **Indiana** sixth graders Ryan Calvin and Tashé Adkins were students at **Indiana** when Mrs. Bowie was principal and they are very happy to be able to help her.

- The **AlWood School District** in Alpha and Woodhull, Illinois held two relief efforts for the victims of Hurricane Katrina. First, the elementary school had Hurricane Hat Day. For every dollar a child brought to donate he or she could wear a hat all day at school. If the 200 students raised $500 the principal would read The 500 Hats of Bartholomew Cubbins to the student body over the school's TV network. $725 was raised and sent to the American Red Cross. Then the middle school joined the elementary school for Project Backpack in which a total of 163 school backpacks filled with school supplies were donated and sent to elementary school children in Mississippi.

- **District 89** has received total cash donations to assist Hurricane Katrina survivors in the District 89 exceeding $5600. Pennies, candy suckers, car washes and spare change were donated by children, parents, staff and community members. District 89 students have chosen unique ways to show their concern to help in the international Hurricane Katrina Relief efforts. Their success, in some instances, literally began and ended with pennies. After seeing the Hurricane Katrina tragedy on the news, discussing it in class and then listing ideas for activities, all of the ten District 89 schools have initiated their unique type of relief fund drive: **Washington School** had food drives, collected 18 boxes of dry goods, food and 300 bottles of water; financial donations and a carwash netted $702; **Stevenson School** held a penny drive that netted $2250 for Habitat for Humanity; **Jane Addams School** had candy sucker sales and spare change drive netted $1298; **Lexington School** collected six crates of canned food and bags of clothes; **Melrose Park School** collected 65 boxes of non-perishable food, baby items and hygiene products; **Irving School** had a canned food drive, clothing drive and donations netted one crate of canned food, two bags of clothing and collected $142; **Emerson School** collected over 2,000 cans of non-perishable food; **Lincoln**
School collected over 40 bags of clothes, stuffed toys and 2 crates of non-perishable goods and canned foods; Garfield School students donated over $200 in coins and currency; Roosevelt School collected a large tub of change in excess of $450; and schools coordinated their efforts via local churches, civic organizations, national humanitarian organizations. Special appreciation goes to the Maywood Police Department, F.O.P. Lodge 19 – Melrose Park Police Department, Melrose Park Fireman Association, Target Store – Broadview, Super Target Store – Broadview, Target Store – Melrose Park and SBC Communications.

- **Crestwood students** in Paris, Illinois have aided Hurricane Katrina victims. Mrs. Huston's character education class sponsored a Kash for Katrina fund drive. The goal was to raise $1000 and over $1200 was collected. Students at Crestwood School brought in money to fill the glass piggy bank. Also, Mrs. Cash sponsored a school supply drive to help replace lost supplies. The supplies were sent to the Little Red School House on Dauphin Island, Alabama.

- Students at **Machesney Elementary School** rallied together to help the victims of hurricane Katrina. Students donated money while participating in Fun Fridays during September and October. They had Favorite Sports Team Day, Orange and Black Day, Pajama/Wild Pants Day, Silly Sock Day, Hat Day and Crazy Hair Day. Mrs. Jill Foster’s 6th grade class and the Random Acts of Kindness Club, which is sponsored by Ms. Lytle and Mrs. Schumacher, created the Fun Friday ideas to encourage donations. Through this support, students raised $2220. On November 3, 2005, a check was presented to the Habitat for Humanity to help build homes in the Gulf Coast region devastated by hurricane Katrina.

- **Emerson Middle School** in Niles held a pledge drive for baskets. Their 800 sixth, seventh and eighth graders earned $13,508 for victims of Katrina. One of their seventh grade teams also renewed their school commitment to recycling and used the funds gained from aluminum cans to assist as well.

- The **Raiders of Glenbard South High School** undertook several school-wide efforts to provide assistance and relief in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina and the Pakistan/Kashmir earthquake. Loose change collections, clothing and canned food drives, book and school supply shipments and a dunk tank featuring their school administrators were undertaken by various school organizations representing the Senior Class, Cheerleaders, Key Club, National Honor Society, Yearbook, African-American Club, SADD, their football team, Honor to Ourselves Club (H2O), Special Education classes, individual teachers and classes, the entire faculty and their administration. One faculty member drove the Raider Relief truck to Louisiana to personally oversee delivery to affected areas. This truck was filled with supplies provided through contributions and donations. Additional funds from Glenbard South High School relief efforts were donated to Briar Glen Elementary School, Wheaton, to assist in their collection drive to purchase two school busses for a Biloxi, Mississippi school in desperate need. Overall, over $12,000 was collected besides the donated supplies and clothing to help with these projects.

- **District U-46** employees in Elgin really took a recent fundraising effort to heart to help those who were impacted by the devastating effects of Hurricane Katrina. Last week, Human Resources secretary Pam Heine handed over checks to the Salvation Army and the Red Cross totaling $18,361.

- **Springfield District #186** Board Member Melinda LaBarre has been friends for forty years with a teacher at Henry Ford Middle School in Marrero, Louisiana. The school had severe wind damage during Katrina and most students lost everything. Melinda's friend provided a list of school supplies students needed prior to their return on October 4. Springfield’s Grant, Lincoln, Franklin, Jefferson, Southeast and Douglas Schools adopted Henry Ford Middle School so they could do something for students their own age. Students and faculty members at the schools collected notebooks, markers, pens, pencils, mesh book bags and paper. LaBarre and her husband drove to Louisiana to deliver all the supplies.

- **Reavis High School District 220** in Burbank recently raised $2,900 for families living in area shelters as a result of Hurricane Katrina. Reavis High School participated in a multi-school effort to raise funds to help feed the estimated 500 displaced families living in local shelters. The money was donated to the P.A.D.S. organization (Public Action to Deliver Shelter) and was above the school’s $2,500 pledge by $400. The money was raised by the Student
Council through simple donations made by students, clubs and staff during the week of October 17-21. The Student Council sponsored an ice cream sundae sale and the library donated all late book fees to the cause for the week. **Reavis High School** also donated over $400 to the American Red Cross earlier in September.

- **Joliet Central High School** student and staff raised and presented to the American Red Cross, $3587 to be used in Hurricane Katrina Relief. In addition, **Joliet Central** students and staff raised and presented to the Louisiana Humane Society, $514 to be used to care for displaced domestic animals.

- **Central Junior High** in West Frankfort had a car wash fundraiser for the survivors of Hurricane Katrina. Central Jr. High School students raised $344 for the Little Egypt Network of the American Red Cross.

- Students at **Forest Road Elementary School, District #102** in LaGrange Park, collected General Mills Box Tops for Education in their classrooms for the month of October. Trick or Treat containers with a quotation from the school agreement Forest Road Students treat others the way they want to be treated, with kindness, compassion, caring and respect. Students collected 4112 Box Tops which equals $411 that was sent to the American Red Cross.

- **Rochester Junior High** in Rochester, Illinois raised $2400 in Hurricane relief in one four-day week. The advisory teachers collected from the students and turned it in to the office. Their goal was $2000 and the students were delighted to surpass the goal. The seventh and eighth graders were treated to their baseball coach, a die hard Cardinals’ fan, singing Take me out to the Ballgame while dressed in a Cubs’ hat and shirt for their efforts. **Rochester Junior High** students and staff are proud of the generosity demonstrated by their school.

- **Villa Grove Elementary School** raised $2,093 for Hurricane Katrina victims and donated it to the American Red Cross. It was done through a coin collection. They held a class competition. Last year they raised over $2,000 for the tsunami victims.

- **District 7** student and employee representatives presented a check for $35,052 to the American Red Cross Monday for its Hurricane Katrina Disaster Relief Operation. The presentation took place at **Edwardsville High School**. The district set a goal of collecting $15,000 when the fund-raiser began on Sept. 6. The thought of the many thousands of displaced children spurred District 7 students and employees into action. At the elementary and middle school levels, students who made a $1 donation received Mardi Gras beads. High school students donated to the **Spare Change Collection**, and many student organizations made donations on behalf of their members.

- **Edwardsville High School** Student Council President Jessica Rimkus said she was happy to see students pull together for the relief effort. District 7 employees also contributed to the effort. Dave Boedeker and Deb Foehrkalb, co-presidents of the Edwardsville Education Association, were especially pleased by the contributions of the staff.

- **New Holland Middletown District #88** recently held a fund raiser for the hurricane victims of Katrina. The sixth grade class sponsored the fundraiser as their service project. Each class had a collection jar and they also had a collection jar the night of their school's open house. In a school of under 90 students, they raised a total of $429.

- **Northbrook/Glenview School District 30** includes **Wescott School** in Northbrook; **Willowbrook School** in Glenview and **Maple Middle School** in Northbrook. **Wescott School**'s Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) made a monetary donation to Progressive Animal Welfare Society (PAWS) in honor of music teacher Bill Vaananen, who wrote a new song called Shelter from the Storm about the pets that became homeless because of Hurricane Katrina. The song was included in the fourth graders' recent musical program Dogs!2. On Halloween, **Wescott** and **Willowbrook School** students participated in the Trick or Treat for UNICEF program. This year, for the first time in the history of UNICEF, 50% of the proceeds will be directed to help Katrina's youngest survivors. **Willowbrook School** students recently wrote letters of encouragement to those who been displaced by Hurricane Katrina and to those who have volunteered. They were delivered to the Gulf Coast by an American Red Cross worker. **Maple School** students collected over a 1,000 books which will be sent to a needy school in New Orleans.

- The **Lincolnwood High School** National Honor Society and Key Club raised donations for Raymond Elementary School in Raymond,
Mississippi by having a pasta dinner before the last home volleyball match. The Raymond Grade School raised funds for Katrina relief by accepting donations for each link of a paper chain. The Lincolnwood High School FFA Chapter, Key Club, National Honor Society and Farmersville Grade School gave donations towards the Katrina Project.

- Students in kindergarten through grade four at Benton Grade School in Benton, Illinois held a one-week-long Mile of Pennies fundraising campaign for hurricane victims. Rend Lake College Co-Op students, who are student interns at Benton Grade School, separated the coins. U.S. Bank spent 5 days counting the money. One student had a lemonade stand, one gave her Disney savings and one canvassed the church on Sunday morning. The efforts of these three students are just part of the effort of the school’s 557 students! In the end, after a one week collection, $4,800 was collected and donated to the American Red Cross.

- At Northwest Elementary School, District #124 in Evergreen Park, students, families and staff were extremely concerned and wanted to help the victims of the hurricane. The American Red Cross indicated that money was the best form of support that they could use. The week after Hurricane Katrina hit, they collected monetary donations for the Red Cross. Some students had lemonade stands and also donated the proceeds that they made from these stands towards the relief efforts. At the end of one week, they raised $2,261 for Hurricane Relief.

- Unity Junior High School students from Cicero, Illinois collected donations of $3000 which were sent to the American Red Cross.

- Niles Township High School in District 219, in Skokie, raised over $28,000 for the relief efforts of Hurricane Katrina. In a district-wide effort of staff and students, the totals are as follows: Niles West $15,452; Niles North $12,556; District Office $865. The district total was $28,873.

- West Central Elementary School in the West Central School District #235 started out with the intent to gather donations for the Red Cross, but they turned out helping Nicholson Elementary School in Mississippi when they enrolled a student from there. The fourth grade students wanted to do something when it happened. They called their program Dollars for Disaster. They sold suckers for a $1 each day for a month at the entrance to their elementary building. During that month, a student and her family who had lost their home in Mississippi moved up to their community. As the collection continued, the students learned more about the devastation there. The students felt it would be better to help some of their new friend’s classmates and friends so a call was made to the principal of Nicholson Elementary in Nicholson, Mississippi. They learned that 40 families in their school and five teachers had lost everything. So, they sent $1440 to the principal and told her to use it to help the most possible.

- Students from Madison Park Elementary and students from J. D. Colt Elementary from Litchfield Community Unit #12 in Litchfield conducted a Penny War. After two weeks of collection they raised $3,132. This money was donated to the Red Cross for Hurricane Katrina Relief Efforts.

- Students at Nutall Middle School raised almost 300 dollars to benefit Katrina victims in this effort. Students Tyler Skidmore and Taylor Tylka asked Friday if they could have a hat day to raise money for American Red Cross.

- The students of Brook Park School in La Grange Park Illinois raised $1,671 for the victims of Hurricane Katrina. The coin drive was sponsored by the Brook Park Council of Parents and Teachers. The event was kicked off by several of their students who decided to set up a lemonade stand and in a few hours collected over $200. All contributions went to the American Red Cross.

- Rochelle Middle School in Rochelle, Illinois held a fund raiser for their students to use toward hurricane relief. For four days, homeroom teachers collected students’ donations - coins, dollars and checks. Students were told that their donations were going to be sent to aid Katrina’s victims, first through Lowe’s, which was doubling donations and then to the American Red Cross. Staff and students collected $2,423 in those four days.

- Schaumburg, Illinois District 54 collected $56,282 and turned the money over to the American Red Cross. All the district’s 27 schools as well as employees in district offices worked in some way (through donations of cash or goods) to alleviate the suffering of those affected by the hurricane. Students brought in pennies, parents and staff members wrote checks and other individuals collected school supplies, toys, toiletries and household products to send to
children and adults left homeless by the hurricane. To raise the money, schools held walks/runs, a read-a-thon and candy sales.

- **Central School** in Wilmette had their first and longest assembly line as they packed up 200 backpacks with school supplies, hygiene products, stuffed teddy bears and encouraging notes written by their students. Their buddy system worked particularly well as their older students assisted younger ones in packing all of the supplies into the backpacks. Their backpacks went to Bayou Woods School in Slidell, Louisiana. In addition to the backpack project, parents are doubling their donations to their birthday book club so that Bayou Woods receives duplicate books to replenish the library in their school or others in the parish.

- **Briar Glen Elementary School** in Wheaton, Illinois efforts, led by parent Kim Opem centered on their fundraiser *The Wheels on the Bus go to Mississippi! Get on Board!* The school community and many other groups including the Glen Ellyn Kiwanis worked to raise money to purchase a school bus for the St. Martin’s Public Elementary Schools in Jackson County, Mississippi. The Briar Glen Mississippi School Bus Committee spearheaded the project and contacted the Mississippi State Department of Education with the initial idea of adopting a school to replenish lost school supplies. The Department of Education indicated that there was a more urgent need, to replace the district's school buses so the students could get back to school. The two St. Martin's schools that were destroyed would begin classes be in the high school cafeteria in shifts beginning October 3. The goal at **Briar Glen School** was to raise money to purchase a bus! As the bus project continued and the goal was very close, NBC 5 contacted **Briar Glen School** to do a feature story on the fund raiser. The goal of $12,500 was then reached and the students at **Briar Glen** created a bus shaped book, which was signed by everyone in the building. The bus book, letters from Principal Dr. Jackie Strum and a check for the goal amount were all sent to the St. Martin’s Public Schools.

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[http://www.isbe.net/hr/pdf/VL05-31.pdf](http://www.isbe.net/hr/pdf/VL05-31.pdf)

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