

Urbana School District 116

Jean F. Burkholder
Administrative Service Center
www.usd116.org

News Release

Contact Name: Mark Schultz
217-384-3650
mschultz@usd116.org

Date: May 30, 2008
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Retiring Wiley Elementary Teacher Closes Down “Time Machine” *Current, Former Students Help Close Down 33-Year Old Teaching Tool*

Since 1975, Wiley Elementary School Teacher Marcella Vancil has used a “Time Machine” to transport her students back in time to learn about a certain period of American History. Ms. Vancil is retiring at the end of school this year, and she and her current and former students, along with their parents, will participate in closing down the time machine. Vancil’s class will close down the time machine in what promises to be an emotional day on Tuesday, June 3, 2008, from 9:30 a.m., to 10:30 a.m., at Wiley Elementary School in Urbana.

“We begin the year by building a time machine to use as a vehicle for studying long ago,” Vancil says. “The time machine is a concrete object that promotes understanding of the abstract concept of chronological time—past, present, and future.” Vancil says students “add on” to the time machine each year and there are pieces of the time machine that date back to 1979.

Vancil says visualization and imagination have both played a crucial role in her teaching of American History since she stepped into the classroom in 1974.

Vancil will lead her class, former students, and parents in closing down the time machine for what Vancil terms as “one last lesson.”

Members of the media are welcome to attend this “one last lesson” at Wiley Elementary. Media wishing to cover the event on Tuesday, June 3, should contact Wiley Elementary Principal Barb Sartain, at 384-3670.

###

Outstanding schools in an outstanding community!

Urbana School District • 205 North Race St. • P.O. Box 3039 • Urbana, IL 61803-3039