



District 126 News

Alsip Hazelgreen and Oak Lawn
School District 126
11900 South Kostner
Alsip, IL 60803
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Craig Gwaltney, Superintendent of Schools

Spring, 2017

Summer Construction Begins Early

The School Board has authorized the construction of new security vestibule/office areas at all four of the District 126 schools, beginning this year with Prairie Junior High. In addition, a new kitchen will be built at Stony Creek School. Both projects will begin during Spring Break. This will affect parking/student entrance at both schools.

At **Prairie Junior High**, construction crews will begin installing a fence around the front of the building (main office entrance) and this will remain up through the completion of the project. Once this fence goes up, this will affect entering the main office along with parking in the front of the building. Parents and students will no longer be able to access the main office through the front door. For the remainder of the school year, the entrance for the main office will move to door #14 which is located on the North side of the building. There will be limited visitor parking spots available as well. There will be a buzzer installed at this door for visitors to enter the building. After you are buzzed in through the door, there will be signs up alerting parents to walk down the hallway to our main office.

When construction begins, the front part of the parking lot will no longer be available to staff and parents. Parking will be available on the north side of the building (side driveway) and the south side of the building (Activity Entrance area). Please note: parking will be very limited during construction.

Because the front of the building will be blocked off for construction, the sidewalk at the front of the building will also be inaccessible. This will change the arrival procedure for some students. If your child walks to school, they will need to enter door #14 (North Side of the Building) right outside Mr. Storch's room. We will have a staff member outside door 14 each morning supervising students upon entering the building. Once they enter the building, students will walk to the big gym for assembly. If your child gets driven to school, we will follow the same procedure as dismissal. This means, you will need to drop your child off across the street in the St. Terrance parking lot. Once they cross the street, they will proceed to door #14 as well. Buses will still be allowed to enter the normal way so this won't be affected at the present time. Parents cannot drop students off at the Activity Entrance because our buses need to get through there each morning.

At **Stony Creek**, there will be a section in the northeast side of the building (by the scrolling marquee) where we will have several parking spots and a large portion of the grassy area fenced off while a new kitchen is built onto the existing gymnasium. This new kitchen will allow us to have an up to date and large facility to be able to accommodate the lunch needs of our student population.



New Security Software for District 126

District 126 has purchased and is in the process of installing Raptor Security Software at each of the four buildings within the District. This software will allow the district to request a visitor's ID and will use that information to run an instant background check against a nationwide sexual predator database as well as use the ID picture (or a picture taken at that time). Once cleared, the visitor — for instance, a contractor, volunteer or parent — will be issued a badge to wear. The badge will bear the person's picture and name, the time and date of the visit, and the area of the school that he or she is visiting. If the system identifies a match between the visitor and the database, a school administrator is alerted. The system stores only a person's name and whether he or she is a sex offender, no other personal information. On subsequent visits, a visitor will need to provide only his or her name. If a parent has children at more than one school, he or she will have to initially provide identification at each school.

Nationwide, Raptor has identified and alerted officials to more than 50,000 sex offenders attempting to enter schools and issued over 250,000 custody alerts, according to the company's website. This system will be up and running for the start of the 2017-2018 school year at all four buildings.



Read Across America/Dr. Seuss Celebration at Stony Creek

Stony Creek School students spent the week of February 27th participating in a Dr. Seuss themed Spirit Week in order to celebrate Dr. Seuss's birthday! The celebration culminated with "Read Across America Day" on March 2nd. Students participated in several Dr. Seuss themed activities including a peer read of Dr. Seuss's stories, trivia over the intercom, a fun craft, and "Stop-Drop & Read" throughout the day.



Thank you to all the students, families, and teachers who made this week such a success!

Author Aaron Reynolds Visits Lane School

The students and staff at Lane School enjoyed an entertaining visit from New York Times Bestselling Author, Aaron Reynolds! Annually, students and staff at Lane celebrate their love for reading as part of 'Lane Loves to Read Day'. This year, our Lane Lions were in for a real special treat when author Aaron Reynolds shared many of his outstanding children's books with our students. The students enjoyed listening to these stories and enjoying the adventures of the characters in the tales of "Creepy Carrots", "Nerdy Birdy", and "Caveboy Dave"!



Hazelgreen's #N.E.S.T

Nurturing Every Student's Talents Mentoring Program visited Chicago's Second City. The students were able to take part in improvisation classes and see the behind the scenes of Second City. The students were super excited to visit Chicago. To cap off the field trip they stopped to enjoy lunch.



You Be The Chemist Club @ Prairie Junior High

On March 6, five exemplary students from Prairie Junior High School competed in the South Cook County You Be The Chemist competition at Moraine Valley Community College. The students participating in the chemistry competition included 7th graders Ashley M. and Matt G., and 8th graders Nathan T., Sarah S., and Canon M.

For the past two months, twenty PJH students have met together with Mrs. Lee during lunch to study and practice an intense chemistry curriculum that was provided by the You Be The Chemist Organization. Through review games and study sessions, students have worked through the chemistry curriculum in preparation for the competition. Students were also required to study at home in order to be successful. At the end of the two months, students took the qualifier test and the top five students advanced to the local competition. Local and State Challenge competitions operate in a quiz bowl format with several rounds of multiple choice questions. Questions are displayed to both the participants and audience on a screen, then students use electronic response devices to indicate their answers. The students who score the highest move on to the next level of competition until the final round which includes the top 5 students.



At the competition, students competed against six local Cook County schools. At the end of five rounds of questions, Nathan T. advanced to the final round and earned a second place score overall! All five students competing received a \$25 gift card for participating. Nathan won a \$300 prize and will advance to the State Competition on April 29 at Lewis University! The top participant from each state then advances to the National Challenge in June in Washington DC. Great job Hawks!!!

Lane Family Math Night

Lane families came out for an evening of mathematics learning and fun on January 26th. Families enjoyed exploring math in an exciting and engaging way through playing several math games from our Everyday Mathematics curriculum. The goal of the games is to reinforce concepts taught in the classroom, and these games can be played at home! This event proved to be a night of fun, family and math!



Lego Simple and Powered Machines at Hazelgreen

In Simple & Powered Machines, students work as young scientists, engineers, and designers to complete tasks that promote design, science, mathematics, and technology.

Students are encouraged to involve themselves in real world investigations and problem-solving. They are working together to create a simple machine and observe the behaviors of their model. They then reflect, re-design, and record their findings to present to their peers.



Author Janet Nolan's Visit To Stony Creek

Best selling children's author, Janet Nolan, visited Stony Creek on February 1st. During her time at the school, she provided students with a fun, engaging, and informative presentation about her book, PB&J Hooray! Mrs. Nolan spoke about the process she goes through when writing books using the example of how the ingredients for peanut butter and jelly sandwiches makes it from the farm to our homes to eat. Several students took advantage of the opportunity to order their very own autographed copies of Mrs. Nolan's best selling books! What a great experience for all of our students!



PJH Students & Staff Lend a Helping Hand

During the first couple of weeks in December, the staff and students at PJH participated in a canned food drive which benefits the Worth Township Food Pantry. As always, our staff and students were quite generous in bringing in canned food items or donating money to the food pantry. As a school, we collected over 6,000 canned food items. This was one of our biggest collections yet! We received a nice letter from Worth Township thanking our school. We were one of the biggest providers of canned food items this past holiday season. The canned food drive was also one of several hawk house competitions we hold throughout the school year. Each day, the three hawk houses of PJH battled to see who could bring in the most items. After a fierce battle, the Broadwings soared to victory this year! Thank you to everyone who helped support this.



Lane School Celebrates Read Across America Day!

"The more that you read, the more things you know. The more that you learn, the more places you'll go." This is a quote from one of Lane's favorite authors, Dr. Seuss, and on March 2nd, students at Lane celebrated their love for reading as well as Dr. Seuss's birthday. Students across the grade levels participated in Read Across America Day with many literacy activities including reading and listening to their favorite Dr. Seuss's books, as well as engaging in literacy activities focused on reading for enjoyment. Our primary students participated in a spirit week of Dr. Seuss theme days, and the students particularly enjoyed celebrating Wacky Wednesday!



Joining Together to Celebrate Music in our Schools!

Celebrating music in our schools is always an important part of a well-rounded education for all students in School District 126. A winter choir concert is held each February and provides students of all grade levels from elementary to high school with an opportunity to showcase their many outstanding musical talents.

During this year's winter concert, the choirs from Hazelgreen, Lane, and Stony Creek joined together in song with the choirs from Prairie Junior High and Alan B. Shepard High School. The crowd was certainly impressed with their amazing talent! Pictured above are all of the school choirs performing during the finale at this year's concert.



Science Olympiad Explores Electricity at Hazelgreen

Students in Science Olympiad explored the use of static electricity to move aluminum cans. Teams raced against each other to have their cans move the fastest and furthest using only static electricity - no touching or blowing was allowed!



Science Olympiad students meet weekly to explore STEM topics and prepare for the Science Olympiad Fun Night Competition to be held in May.

Character Counts Week at Stony Creek

Stony Creek celebrated Character Counts Week from February 13th through the 17th with a focus on the character trait of kindness. To kick-off the week, each student created paper hearts with an act of kindness written on it that they planned to complete during the Character Counts Week. Each act of kindness was displayed on the "Kindness Tree" bulletin board near the building entrance to show students and staff how much kindness we have at Stony Creek!



As the week progressed, students participated in character education lessons, a school-wide service project, daily reflective questions, and fun filled spirit days. Thank you to the students, families, teachers and the PBIS Team for making this week such a success!

Future City Team Goes to Washington D.C.

In January, our Future City Team captured 1st Place in the Regional Competition. The 1st place nod earned them a trip to Washington D.C. to compete in the National competition.

The group, led by Ms. Carol Baskas and Mr. Jeff Brubaker, traveled to Washington D.C. over President's Day Weekend for the competition. The Future City team presented their city to a new panel of judges. The top 5 teams were announced live on the 21st. Even though our Future City Team did not place in the top 5, this group gained a wealth of experience and made memories that will last a lifetime. We are so proud of all the hard work the Future City Team put in this year! They represented PJH well!



Kindergarten Round-Up

Kindergarten information and pre-registration will be held at Lane, Hazelgreen and Stony Creek Schools on Thursday, April 6th at 1:30PM and 6:30PM. The Two-Way Immersion Program parent meeting will be held at Stony Creek School on Thursday, May 4, 2017 at 2:00PM and 7:00PM.

K - 8 Online Registration for District 126 Families

School District 126 will once again have families register their students online for the 2017-2018 school year. Last summer, the district transitioned to an online registration and fee payment process. This process went smoothly and the convenience and flexibility it offered our families was appreciated.

For our returning families and pre-registered incoming kindergarteners, a letter from the school district will be sent home in June. This letter will contain a code for parents and guardians to log into the secured Skyward Family Access online program. Once logged in, the system will walk families through the online registration process. New families to our school district will need to come into their child's school to prove residency and present the necessary paperwork to begin the registration process. For any families that do not have access to the internet, all of our schools will have computers available for online registration during school hours throughout the summer. If families have any questions, they are welcome to call the district office at (708) 389-1900.

Early Childhood & Preschool Registration

For our returning preschool and early childhood families, the district will mail home a registration packet. The packet will need to be completed and returned to the Early Childhood Department (Prairie Jr. High School, 11910 South Kostner Avenue) using the enclosed self-addressed envelope.

If preschool and early childhood families have any questions regarding this process, please call the early childhood office at (708)293-3506.

District 126 Schools

Lane School
4600 West 123rd Street
Alsip, IL 60803
(708) 371-0720
Patti Egan, Principal

Hazelgreen School
11751 South Lawler
Alsip, IL 60803
(708) 371-5351
Leah Humphrey-Mason,
Principal

Stony Creek School
11700 South Kolin
Alsip, IL 60803
(708) 371-0220
Nicole Leggett-Gallus, Principal
Paul Floyd, Asst. Principal

Prairie Junior High
11910 South Kostner
Alsip, IL 60803
(708) 371-3080
Maureen Paulmeyer, Principal
Joe Rizzo, Asst. Principal

District 126 Administration

Craig Gwaltney, Superintendent
Steve Gress, Assistant Superintendent
Lori Connolly, Director of Teacher and Learning
Gina Fiske, Student Support Coordinator

District 126 School Board

Marigrace Sinnott-Snooks, President
Joe LaChica, Vice President
Therese Zaker, Secretary
Brian McLaughlin, Member
Kim Powers, Member
Bryan McLawhorn, Member
Lori Ann Pierce, Member

Don't Forget to Check the Virtual Backpack!



Check out our website and you will see a link to the District 126 Virtual Backpack! Here we will be posting all approved flyers from District 218 high schools, as well as other informational items from local sports teams and local governmental/educational entities.

We've got an App for that!

District 126 has an app that you can download to your smartphone. This app will enable you to access current school and district news, school calendars, breakfast and lunch menus, the staff directory, school sports information and other useful information. Search for District 126 on either the Apple App Store or Google Play to download our app!



Dates to Remember

April 14th — No School
April 17th — No School
May 5th — Teacher In-Service—Students attend 8:30AM-11:45AM
May 26th — No School —Institute Day
May 29th — No School — Memorial Day
May 30th — 8th Grade Graduation Prairie Junior High 7:00PM
July 10th—Online Registration Begins/First Day of Summer School
August 21st- First Day of School for Students Grades K-8
August 22nd-First Day of School EC/Pre-K