



District 126 News

Alsip Hazelgreen and Oak Lawn
School District 126
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Craig Gwaltney, Superintendent of Schools

Spring, 2022

PJH-Cheer Team

This season was one for the books. It was short but many great accomplishments followed.

As new coaches this year, we were unsure what to expect, not knowing we would have 14 amazing athletes that gave it their all. We faced many challenges: covid, losing teammates, injuries, and most importantly, not having enough time. Cheer teams spend months practicing one routine that they perform only to get penalized for even the slightest bobble or a bad landing in a tumbling pass. A normal cheer season is nine months; we only had four months.

During the four months we were together, lots of growth was seen whether it was physical, mental, or emotional. These girls learned what it was like being a cheerleader as well as learning time management, communication skills, and also being a teammate.

Each cheerleader has a very important role on the mat. Cheerleading is not like any other sport for the fact that replacement is not easy. Each cheerleader is assigned a specific role on the mat which is followed by learning a sequence of designated motions and spacing, all while following the timing as a group.

Our team was fortunate enough to be able to compete at one competition this year which was Cheerfest. The team left an outstanding presence to the judges and finished with a first-place win!

We, as coaches, are so proud of these girls for putting on a show and showing who they are!

We know you all are going to do great things in life!

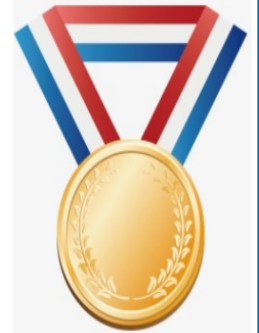


Stony Creek Stars Go for the Gold!

As a culminating activity to our second trimester, our P.E. Department and PBS Team planned a Winter Olympics Event.

Our students had so much fun challenging our teachers in various versions of Olympic games such as Curling, Speed Skating, Bobsledding, and Hockey. It was great to hear our Stars cheering for one another as we experienced our own version of the Olympic Games. Not only did students enjoy the physical fitness challenge of this activity, but they learned about the history of the Olympics, AND it was our first time holding an assembly in nearly 2 years!

It was great to be able to be in the gym and celebrate together again!



Lane School GLOWS with Success!

On Friday, February 25th, our Lane School community engaged in a GLOW Day to celebrate the hard work and success of our students during the second trimester!

This year's Lane theme was titled "Celebrating Our GLOWS Day", and our students were pleasantly surprised when they entered their GLOW classrooms for the day!

Students participated in a variety of robust learning experiences to foster engagement and excitement in learning. Our classrooms were transformed into GLOW rooms, and all learning tasks occurred GLOW style. Our Lane Lions worked very hard towards their learning tasks, and all were highly engaged and excited to learn.

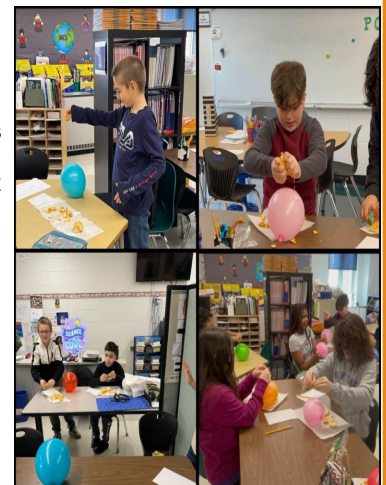
Way to Glow", Lane Lions!



Hazelgreen Science Olympiad

We are excited that our Science Olympiad club is back in person.

Students are having fun learning science concepts hands on! They recently explored how we can use natural chemicals in oranges to pop a balloon without touching it - so cool!



EC Center - Preschoolers have fun exploring, making and doing while learning!

Our preschool program focuses on providing developmentally appropriate and engaging learning for our students through "studies".

Recently, our students have been learning about the Bread Study and have become chefs making pizzas, quesadillas, waffles, taste testing different snacks and describing through their senses what they are eating.

We also sharpened our math and fine motor skills learning about measuring and dividing ingredients and graphing.

The Pet Study is another preschooler favorite, which is happening in another classroom. The students now have a classroom fish and are investigating different characteristics of their new pet.

Students use their language skills to describe the pet and also learn about different environments pets live in. We also had a great visit from Stella, the dog at Stony Creek! She read to our classes and the students enjoyed playing with her!

Finally, we also had the Ball Study where students were able to learn about different types of balls and sports. Students got to practice their gross motor skills and language by playing some actual t-ball and soccer games at school. They had a blast!



PJH BASKETBALL

The 7th and 8th grade boys' basketball team played their regular season during the months of January and February.

The 7th grade team took first place overall in the conference posting a 12-0 record! Way to go boys!



The 8th grade team finished their regular season in 4th place and are currently preparing for their playoff games in March. Both teams are coached by Mr. Lehner. The teams have worked extremely hard throughout the year and have been exemplary examples of Prairie Jr. High students both inside and outside of the classroom.

Mr. Lehner would like to thank parents, friends, classmates and family members for their continued support throughout the season!

Go Hawks!



Lane Lions Enjoy a Visit from Staley the Bear!

Our Lane Lions participated in the Bears Youth Fit Challenge to promote healthy and active lifestyles for children.

To celebrate our students' hard work and commitment to fitness, we had a special visit from Staley the Bear!

Our Lions had an awesome time learning more about the importance of active lifestyles and healthy choices while also dancing with Staley!



Nice job, Lions!

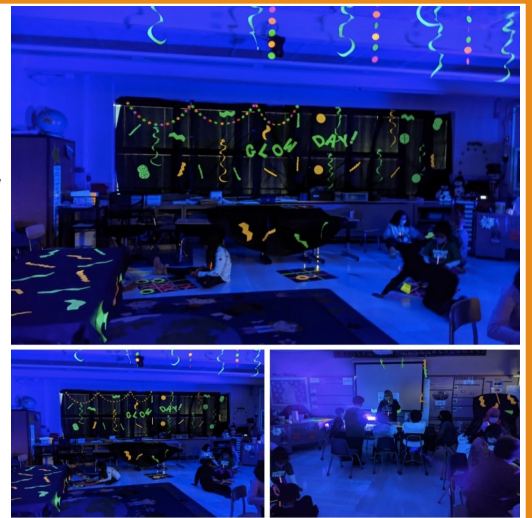


Stony Creek—Let's Glow Stars!

In January, we surprised our students with a 'Glow Day!' Black lights lit up the classrooms along with balloons, dark paint, tape, glow sticks, and neon themed decorations.

Teachers planned STEAM activities and games throughout the day that would make learning fun and engaging. Between computing the bounce of a ping pong ball, playing Immigration Review Ring Toss, or Firefly Reading and Writing, our students didn't know what they enjoyed doing more?! Our youngest students even created their own 'Glow Day' t-shirts! Students spent the day enjoying a wide array of activities both educational and fun!

Thanks to our teachers for planning such a fun day in the middle of the winter months!



Stony Creek - Building The Future Full STEAM Ahead!

Mrs. Mueller and Ms. Getzin started a new after school club at Stony Creek this school year that has gained a ton of interest with our students!

Students in grades 3 - 6 have taken on the challenge of using Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math. Students have worked with MaKey MaKey circuits which transform everyday objects into computer interfaces.

They have also made lava lamps, slime, and created shirts using soluble science, and worked collaboratively in an engineering challenge using spaghetti noodles and marshmallows.

In addition, students created, raced, and measured the distance of balloon cars. STEAM Club makes learning so much fun and students have had a blast being a part of it!



Core Words Build Language Skills in Early Childhood

Teaching children new words and developing language comes in a variety of different ways.

Ms. Herbold's Early Childhood Classroom utilizes core vocabulary to teach students meanings of words and focuses on this by centering activities on those words.

Parents are also provided with the core word so they can practice the words at home. Recently, the class learned the words "look" and "see". The students have been very interested in "looking" outside and checking the weather. Students are reporting cold and snow! We have a picture chart to help us take turns each day to be the "weather helper" and the students get excited when it is their turn. When it is not "my turn" we work on handling our disappointment and cheering for our friend who gets a turn on that day.

In February, the class also had a special activity in speech. We will make Valentine sensory bottles and have a heart scavenger hunt!

The students loved making their sensory bottles and "looking" for hearts!



EC Center-100 Days of Fun and Excitement!

Our students celebrated being in school for 100 days by dressing up as what we would look like at 100 years old!

We had so much fun talking about what we have learned over the last 100 days of school, the new friends we made and what we would like for our future!



Lane Lions Join Together to Celebrate Music in our Schools!

Celebrating music in our schools is always an important goal in a well-rounded education for all students!

Our Lane Lions are enjoying celebrating the important role that music plays in their lives. We look forward to the school wide performance where each grade level will share their musical talents.

To kick off Music in Our Schools Month, a winter choir concert is held at the end of February and provides our chorus members an opportunity to showcase their many outstanding musical talents.

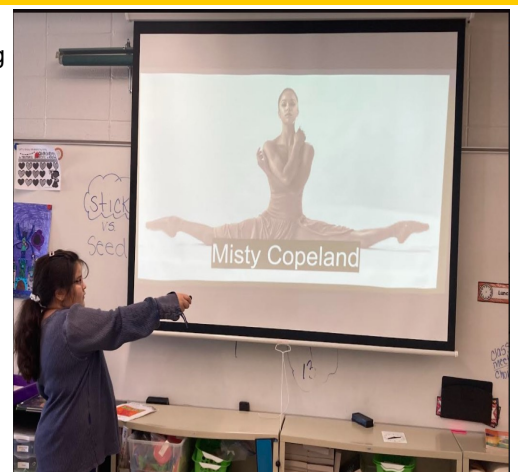
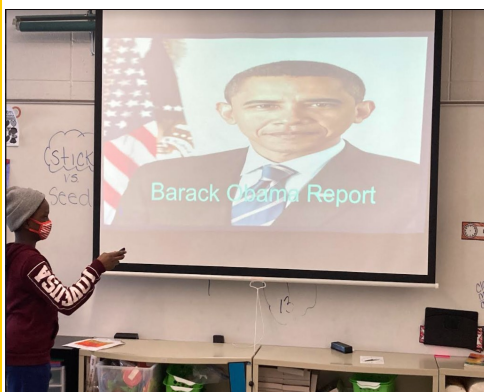
During this winter's concert, the chorus members from all three elementary schools joined together in song and impressed the crowd with their amazing talent! Pictured are all three elementary school choirs performing in this year's concert.



Hazelgreen Honors Black History Month

Hazelgreen 3rd grade students honored African American History month by picking an influential person and creating a presentation based on their lives.

It was a wonderful opportunity for students to learn about so many amazing contributors to our world.



PJH—Broadcasting Club

In the Fall of 2021, Mrs. Sheppard and Mrs. Cochran introduced a Broadcasting Club for PJH students. The club's goal was to produce a monthly news broadcast for the entire school to view during assembly.

So far, the club has produced 3 episodes and will create at least 2 additional episodes before the end of the year. After receiving new technology, such as iPads and microphones, students have been able to express their creativity and take their learning to new levels. They've studied multiple facets of the broadcasting genre and are working to perfect their crafts. Students continue to progress and flourish with each week that passes. The students have been collaborating with their peers and the teachers to showcase all the wonderful clubs, activities, events, and sports our school offers.

Our Hawk Highlights segment shines light on people and events at Prairie that deserve to be recognized.

We are truly appreciative of this opportunity.



District 126 School

District 126 Schools

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Principal

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Jennifer Saturnus,
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Student Support Coordinator

District 126 Administration

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Steve Gress, Assistant Superintendent
Lori Connolly, Director of Teacher and Learning
Robert Condon, Director of Special Education
Gina Fiske, Student Support Coordinator
John Chapman, Director of Technology

District 126 School Board

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Kim Powers, Member
Harry Tannehill, Member
Donna Waldrom, Member
Therese Zaker, 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

March 28th—April 1—Spring Break
April 14th—School Board Meeting
April 15th—No School
April 21st—L/HG Art Show @ 6:00pm
April 22nd—SC Bingo 6:00pm-8:00pm
April 28—SC Fine Arts Night
May 3rd—No School
May 4th—School Improvement Day
May 12—School Board Meeting
May 30th—No School