



District 126 News

Alsip Hazelgreen and Oak Lawn
School District 126
11900 South Kostner
Alsip, IL 60803
www.dist126.org

Volume 7, Issue 2

Craig Gwaltney, Superintendent of Schools

Winter, 2017

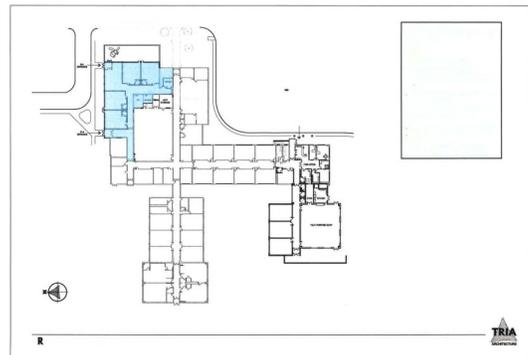
Lane School Early Childhood Center

District 126 is excited to announce the development of an Early Childhood Center for our youngest learners. District 126's School Board has approved a plan to construct an Early Childhood Center to be housed at Lane Elementary School. This center is scheduled to open for the 2019-2020 School Year. Currently, the district's early childhood program consists of three classrooms, one in each elementary building, with morning and afternoon sessions.

The programs are designed to meet the educational and developmental needs of special education students and students identified as at-risk through a monthly screening process. The district also provides a Parents as Teachers program. This program supports families in their home environment, as well as through monthly playgroups for children ages 0-60 months. Our program has continued to earn a "Gold Circle of Quality", which is the highest rating an early childhood program can attain. This is based upon a rigorous compliance monitoring system through the State of Illinois. While we believe our program provides an excellent opportunity to support the educational and developmental experiences of our early learners, housing the classrooms in one location will meet the need for increased collaboration with a focus on early learning and a shared learning experience for all of the children.

The building will feature four classrooms, which is an expansion from our current design, to meet more of the community need for our children and families, a new playground specifically engineered for early childhood, a therapy room designed for communication, sensory and motor needs, as well as an additional multipurpose room for monthly playgroups and preschool screenings, parent education and the Parents as Teachers program.

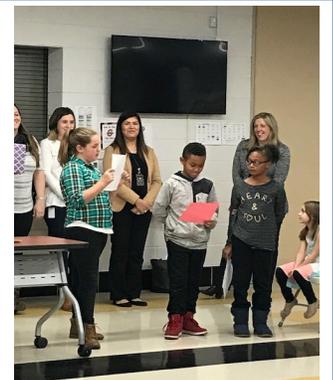
We are so excited about this project and would like to express our gratitude to the School Board for their continued support of the learners in our district!



Lane Students and Staff Attend the November Board Meeting

Lane students and staff from each grade level attended the November Board Meeting to speak about Learning Goals Through Technology Integration. The students put together a presentation along with a video showing how technology is used in their classrooms. They did a fantastic job telling the Board Members what they learn from using technology everyday in class. We are looking forward to hearing more from our staff and students at future board meetings.

Thank you Lane School!



Prairie Junior High—Hawk House Heroes

This year, Prairie developed a new student recognition program called Hawk House Heroes. This program is being spearheaded by Mr. Jason March, Information Technology Teacher. The goal of this program is to promote positive, acceptable behavior and recognize students who are displaying this day in and day out. Each month, teachers will be recommending a couple of students from each Hawk House that demonstrate good character throughout the building, make choices that leave a positive impact on others, demonstrate respect

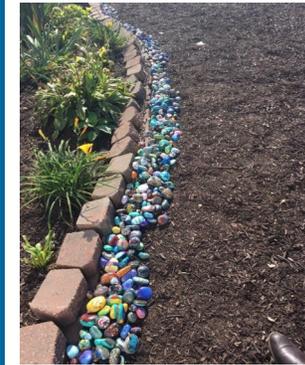
and responsibility, and more. Each month, these students will be recognized in front of their peers at an assembly. Their picture will be displayed on a newly created Hawk House Hero Wall outside the lunchroom so students can see everyday the importance of making good choices. We announced the first winners from September at an assembly in October. The next group of students will be recognized in November. Students commented how much they enjoyed the assembly and how cool this program is! GO HAWKS!!!



Stony Creek - PBS Community Building Activity

To kick off the school year, classrooms teamed up to help build community within our school. Teachers discussed with students qualities that make each person unique. Students brainstormed words that make them unique with their “buddy” from another class. Each student painted a rock and decorated it with a word that described what makes them special. We put these rocks in our courtyard to represent our school community.

The students love going in the courtyard and seeing all the rocks that are on display! Each rock is different and together they make a beautiful landscape, just like our students and our school.



Big thanks to Home Depot for donating 700 rocks to make this project a success!



Red Ribbon Week @ PJH

During the week of October 23rd, staff and students recognized Red Ribbon Week at PJH with several different activities. Staff and students participated in daily spirit day themes to promote a drug and alcohol free lifestyle. We had a competition between each advisory for participation. Each day, if a student participated, they received a piece of red construction paper that was turned into their advisory teacher. These red pieces of paper were made into a chain and posted outside each classroom. One advisory from each house that had the longest chain at the end of the week were treated to a pizza party.



In assembly we talked and watched a few videos about the importance of making healthy lifestyle choices each and everyday. Toward the end of the week, students signed a pledge to live a healthy lifestyle as a culmination to Red Ribbon Week.



Lane Celebrates Red Ribbon Week - “A Happy Me is Drug Free!”

Lane Lions celebrated Red Ribbon Week and committed to a happy life by making positive choices and staying drug free! Throughout the week, students participated in a variety of spirit days to celebrate positive choices. Students also actively engaged in classroom lessons focused on the importance of taking a stand against drugs while discussing the role of positive choices in building strong character.



To culminate the week, students enjoyed an interactive assembly with all things that make them happy including face painting, balloon designs, a DJ, and a bounce house. Pictured are some Kindergarten students participating in our “Power Up Against Drugs” Superhero Spirit Day!



Hazelgreen collected non-perishable items for the Worth Township Food Pantry

Service Club collected items from each classroom for our food drive. They worked hard sorting and packing all the items into bags and boxes. They helped haul it out to the truck so it could be delivered to the food pantry. We filled the back of the pick up truck with our donations! We are so grateful to our Hazelgreen families for their generous contributions.

Thank you to everyone who helped make this a success!!



Stony Creek - PTO Fall Fest

Each year, the Stony Creek PTO sponsors a Fall Fest for our students and families and it is definitely one of our favorite events of the year! We had a huge turnout this year! Families got to enjoy time together playing games, eating cotton candy, elotes and picking a pumpkin out of our pumpkin patch! Students agreed that one of the best parts of the evening was the nighttime



ride on the Alsip Police Department Train!

We are so fortunate to have such a dedicated PTO to sponsor such a fun event for our students, and thanks to all of our volunteers for making this event possible!

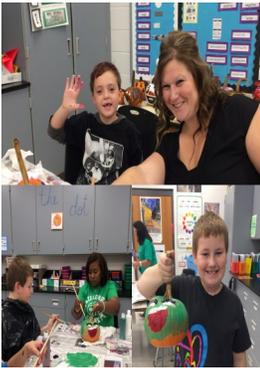
Hazelgreen—Google Expeditions

3rd Grade students traveled to the rain forest through Google Expeditions. They have been learning about animal adaptations for the past few weeks and loved experiencing different habitats without even leaving the classroom!



Hazelgreen Mentoring Club

This is the 2nd year of Hazelgreen's Mentoring Club. It's called Hazel's #NEST. Nurturing Every Student's Talents. #NEST focuses on the 6 Pillars of Character Counts while we are doing very fun activities. Some of our activities include building crafts, field trips, journaling, and presentations. We are so excited to continue programs that support the total learner. The students pictured are painting pumpkins with their mentors.



Lane School's Family Reading Night - Programming Kids to Love Reading!

Our Lane families enjoyed an evening of reading and family fun as they participated in Lane's annual Family Reading Night!

This year's theme was titled "Programming Kids to Love Reading", and aligned perfectly with our district-wide reading of 'The Wild Robot' by Peter Brown. In addition to spending quality time reading with their families, students also engaged in a variety of activities including a Media Center



Scavenger Hunt, Wild Robot Kahoot, A Galapagos Island Google Expedition, and Family Robot Building.

Everyone had a wonderful evening of reading, technology, and family fun!



Lane Lions Learn Through Everyday Math Games!

Lane Lions enjoy playing thought-provoking math games as an essential piece of their learning during Math! Throughout the various grade levels, students engage in a variety of games to foster essential concepts in mathematics. Additionally, game play provides a highly engaging platform for students to practice strategic mathematical reasoning, build collaboration skills, and engage in problem solving strategies. When it comes to Math games, some of our student favorites include Multiplication Baseball, Salute, Monster Squeeze, and Fraction Top-It! We are proud of our Lane Mathematicians!



Stony Creek—Google Expeditions: Augmented Reality

During the month of October, Mr. Swanson and Ms. Baskas coordinated with Google to incorporate Google Expeditions: Augmented Reality into our students' learning. During this experience, students were able to actually put themselves into a different "reality" while staying right in their classrooms. 5th grade teachers chose the topic of the Solar System to compliment their STEM activities in the classroom. When the students went on the expedition, they felt like they were right in the middle of the Solar System! Before conducting this activity with their class, our teachers even got to engage in this fun experience!



Stony Creek—Red Ribbon Week

To kick off Red Ribbon Week this year, students teamed up and promised to make 'wise' choices. Each student traced their hand to make a feather and placed them on an owl. This symbolized their pledge to make "wise" choices. Other activities this week included spirit days, classroom activities, and an assembly by the Magic Storyteller. To culminate the week, each student received a Stony Creek water bottle to recognize their efforts in making good choices.



Promoting Kindness at PJH

Throughout the school year, we talk about the importance of being kind to one another at PJH. In addition to recognizing students monthly with the Hawk House Heroes program, the PJH staff is looking to “catch” students in the act of being kind to other students or adults. The PJH #bekind campaign started up on November 1st, and within a week about 15 students have been “caught”. We created a kindness wall right outside the small gym where students pictures will be displayed for the rest of the year. This will be a daily reminder about the importance of being kind both inside and outside classroom at Prairie.



Way to go Hawks! Keep up the good work! #bekind

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
1700 South Kolin
Alsip, IL 60803
(708) 371-0220
Nicole Leggett-Gallus, Principal
Jennifer Saturnus, 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
Robert Condon, Director of Special Education
Gina Fiske, Student Support Coordinator

District 126 School Board

Marigrace Sinnott-Snooks, President
Joe LaChica, Vice President
Lori Pierce, Secretary
Brian McLaughlin, Member
Kim Powers, Member
Harry Tannehill, 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

December 25 - January 5, 2018
Monday, January 8, 2018
Thursday, January 11, 2018
Monday, January 15, 2018
Friday, January 26, 2018
February 16, 2018
February 19, 2018
March 5, 2018
March 16, 2018
March 20, 2018
March 26—30, 2018

Winter Break - No School
School Resumes
School Board Meeting
No School—Martin Luther King Jr. Day
School Improvement Day—Students Attend 8:30-11:45
School Improvement Day—Students Attend 8:30-11:45
No School—President's Day
No School—Casmir Pulaski Day
School Improvement Day—Students Attend 8:30-11:45
No School—Institute Day
No School—Spring Break