



District 126 News

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

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Craig Gwaltney, Superintendent of Schools

Spring 2021

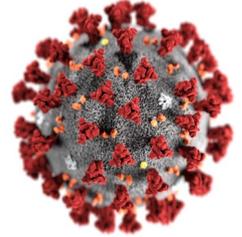
DISTRICT 126 STAFF RECEIVES COVID-19 VACCINE

District 126 staff received the COVID-19 vaccine. The vaccine was given to staff on January 27th was the first of the two-dose Moderna vaccine, the second of which was given on February 24th. District 126 partnered up with the Alsip Jewel Osco in order to make this happen.

Vaccinations will not only make schools safer for students and staff, but also allow for more in-person instruction. We are hopeful this will bring us closer to returning to a normal routine.

Alsip School District 126 is taking all the necessary precautions to keep our students and staff safe.

For additional information on COVID-19 you can visit our website at www.dist126.org.



DISTRICT 126 EC CENTER DOES NOT LET DISTANCE STOP THEM FROM LEARNING TOGETHER

Whether students are in the classroom, in front of their teacher or have been participating in remote classrooms, preschoolers have been very active learners this school year.

Materials are sent home regularly which continue to support our philosophy of whole child development. Our families have been very supportive with ensuring their child was signed on to their iPads, with materials ready to go for live lessons with their teachers. Students have been very creative with the multisensory materials provided and innovative lessons were developed by their classroom teachers.

Choice boards have also been created by the staff with links to so many extra lessons in art, movement, language and math. These alternative activities can be used by families at any time of the day to support our students.



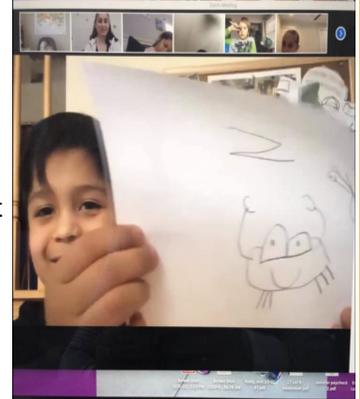
STONY STARTS TAKE ON CARTOONING

On February 10th, Stony Creek Stars invited cartoonist Mark Anderson to join us for a Virtual Assembly!

Kindergarten through third grade students learned to draw "Alphabet Animals" by focusing on letter sounds. Fourth through sixth grade students made "Dinosaurs and Robots" come to life through dance parties and games.

Students engaged in drawing and were able to showcase some of the skills they were taught previously by Stony Creek Art Teacher, Mrs. Mueller. Mr. Anderson was so impressed with our Stars that he couldn't stop remarking on the high levels of engagement and enthusiasm amongst our students.

What a fun experience for our students to be part of!



LANE CELEBRATES THE 100TH DAY OF SCHOOL

This year has certainly been unprecedented, and we are so proud of our entire Lane School community for their resilience, perseverance, and cooperative efforts in making this school year successful for all learners.

On February 12th, Lane School celebrated the 100th day of school! All students and staff celebrated all of the outstanding learning and growth that has been achieved during these initial 100 days. Throughout the day, students participated in themed activities focusing on 100 including Breakout EDU tasks, Book Creator stories of the 100 Days, Researching the word 100 in multiple languages, writing stories with exactly 100 words, estimating for 100 items, and dressing as if they were 100 years old.



We are very proud of all the learning and growth that our students have demonstrated in the first one hundred days of school and look forward to continued success during this final trimester.



HAZELGREEN'S MR. FLOYD RECEIVES CLASSROOM CHAMP AWARD

The Chicago Bears understand the work that good, quality teachers often do goes unnoticed. That's why they have developed a program that seeks to honor educators when they go above and beyond their normal duties.



Paul Floyd, Physical Education teacher at Hazelgreen, was recently awarded the Classroom Champion Award from the Chicago Bears. Mr. Floyd is very motivated and passionate about education and what he does. He has created an environment of respect with his students and the staff. He is a role model and is sensitive to the personal and emotional needs of all his students.

He practices mindfulness that he encourages with his students. For these reasons and others, he was selected to win this award.

On Friday, January 29, 2021, Mr.

Floyd was surprised by Chicago Bears Chairman George McCaskey via zoom to present him his award. As a recipient of the Classroom Champion Award, Mr. Floyd received a shout out on their social media channel (twitter: @bearsoutreach) an autographed football, a custom jersey, and 1,000 dollars for his school to use as he pleases for his classroom/students!



Congratulations Mr. Floyd!

LANE LOVES TO READ 2021

Lane School traditionally honors their love for reading on Valentine's Day!



As a school-wide community, all students engaged in a variety of reading activities throughout the day to encourage and celebrate their love for reading.

A school-wide time was also dedicated to foster reading for enjoyment during a 'Drop Everything and Read' time, which all students and staff enjoyed.

This year, our students worked cooperatively across the grade levels to create their own story. Each grade level student team was responsible for one of the stories elements, and our student authors created a final tale that was creative, descriptive, and full of excitement.

Thank you to our Lane Loves to Read Committee for planning such an amazing event to celebrate and encourage a life-long love for both reading and writing!



HISTORY CURRICULUM AT PRAIRIE JUNIOR HIGH

Our social studies classes have transitioned from our economics curriculum to our history curriculum.

We started off our unit by identifying perspective, bias, and reliability. Students had the opportunity to review various articles, videos, and news releases to determine bias and reliability. The classes then had to determine perspective by viewing scenarios using videos that were recorded using 360 degree cameras. The kids were really excited to have the chance to think like detectives and determine the truth by using perspective and reliability. We will use this knowledge as we study different eras in United States history.

We will be celebrating Black History month in our social studies classes through an interactive project.

Students will select an influential African American and research their character traits and the positive impact they have had on our society. After completing their research students will take that information and create a fake Instagram post sharing that information through Google Slides.

Students will share this information in our Zoom sessions to learn about various influential African Americans.



EXAMPLE

STONY CREEK FOURTH GRADERS APPREAD IN COURT

In correlation to their Reading Unit, 'Technology for a Green Future, fourth grade students learned about and participated in their own debate. Throughout the unit, groups of students had to research an environmental topic through articles and videos, and choose which side to defend. Students learned about debate format, arguments, and rebuttals while incorporating the literacy skills that were the focus of the unit. All students were assigned roles in the debate while the teachers acted as the judges. Students even dressed formally as if they were to appear in court on their designated day.

To conclude the unit, winners were declared by the judges' closing statements. The fourth grade students at Stony Creek had such a fun time engaging in learning through real life situations.



HARLEY MISSES HAZELGREEN



Harley is excited to welcome the learners back into the building. She missed them terribly! She's been in all the classrooms showing lots of love and support to students and staff. We love our emotional support animal.



STONY CREEK ROCK YOUR SCHOOL: REIMAGINED

Stony Creek Stars participated in the annual "Rock Your School" event on February 17, 2021.

Students participated in a Virtual Escape Room entitled "Escape the Pandemic" with their classmates. The Virtual Escape Room was designed by several district teachers.

Classrooms worked together to solve different clues, unlock virtual rooms, and engage in rigorous challenges. Our students celebrated the week by dressing up for "rock themed" spirit days to show support for our school community.

Students enjoyed the challenge and opportunities to team build with their classmates both in person and virtually.



[Click here for Hawk Happenings—PJH Artists](#)



LANE YOGA AND LITERACY CLUB



Lane's Kindergarten through second grade students have the opportunity to return to school at 2:00 via Zoom and engage in our Yoga and Literacy Club!

The goal of the club is to focus on brain and body strengthening. This is achieved with students engaging in thematic stories as well as learning various yoga poses to promote flexibility, mindfulness, and heart rate awareness.

Mr. Gunderson leads the club, and the students are encouraged to participate in physical activity both while at school as well as during their own personal time outside of the school day.

Our youngest learners are doing an outstanding job, and are building a foundation of productive mindful exercises while also enjoying reading the thematic stories!

DISTRICT 126 EC CENTER GETS CREATIVE

Although our classrooms may not look the same as they did at the start of last school year, we have found creative ways to ensure our students are getting the most out of their day with us at school.

Allowing time for play continues to be an important part of our program.

Each day students are provided an opportunity to participate in center time activities to explore, create and socialize in a safe manner. The kitchen center is always a big hit with our students where they pretend to own restaurants, sell food, cook for their friends and grocery shop for food. This new student is telling his teacher, Ms. Coffey and the principal, Mrs. Fiske, about the dinner he prepared for them to enjoy! He was practicing opening and closing food items, counting, labeling items and practicing social skills.

Our program makes learning life long skills look very fun!



LEARNING IS NOT LIMITED TO THE CLASSROOM AT THE DISTRICT 126 EC CENTER

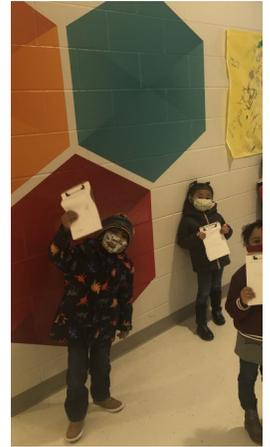


The weather is getting warmer, so preschool took our learning outside! Students in Ms. Coffey's class explored signs that spring may be coming our way soon.

Each child took a clipboard and became an investigator, searching for signs of spring and documenting what they saw while walking outside.

In preschool, students will often use their imagination and fine motor skills to draw what they are learning and practice writing their thoughts. Our staff will support the students by asking questions to further develop their ideas, dictating their thoughts and model writing skills. Our students are encouraged to use their own words to discuss their learning experiences.

It is a great way to expand their language and further develop critical thinking skills.



District 126 School

District 126 Schools

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Patti Egan, Principal

Hazelgreen School
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Leah Humphrey-Mason
Principal

Stony Creek School
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Nicole Leggett Principal
Jennifer Saternus,
Asst. Principal

Prairie Junior High
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Maureen Paulmeyer,
Principal
Joe Rizzo, Asst. Principal

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Gina Fiske,
Student Support Coordinator

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
Claudia Peralta, Bilingual Director

District 126 School Board

Marigrace Sinnott-Snooks, President
Joe LaChica, Vice President
Lori Pierce, Secretary
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

Spring Break March 29 through April 6
School Board Meeting-April 8
No School for Students Teacher Institute Day-May 28
No School Memorial Day-May31
Last Day of School-June 8