



District 126 News

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

Volume 8, Issue 2

Craig Gwaltney, Superintendent of Schools

Winter, 2018



Construction of the new security vestibules at Stony Creek, Hazelgreen and Lane are now complete, Prairie was completed last year. In past years visitors could enter the front door and have immediate access to the entire school. Now that the vestibules are in place, guests have to walk through a set of double doors to be greeted by the building secretary or other staff member before being allowed to enter the rest of the building. As an additional precaution, the schools use a visitor management system, in which a school official swipes a guests drivers license to ensure they have a clean background.

The final phase of District construction will be completed in the winter and the summer of 2019. These projects include completion of the new media center and new kindergarten classrooms at Stony Creek as well as the District Early Childhood Center located at Lane School.

I want to thank the School Board and community for the support of these projects. All of this was done without raising taxes or the need to pass bonds to pay for construction. If you have any questions, please give me a call.

Thank you,
Craig Gwaltney
Superintendent

Stony Creek-NED's Kindness Adventure

As a way to teach kids about the effects kindness has on others, we invited NED to visit our school. NED stands for Never Give Up, Encourage Others, and Do the Right Thing.



NED shared his Kindness Adventure with Stony Creek and taught the students all about what it means to be accepting of others. Through this interactive assembly, students visited different schools in South Africa and learned about their traditions in the school. Students learned that, while we all may be from

different cultures, being kind to others is a common language we all share.

After the assembly, students were able to purchase jewelry and keychains made by artisans in Kenya. The money from the sales aided in building a water well in South Africa.



Lane Lions Celebrate National Fire Prevention Week

The week of October 7th through the 13th was National Fire Prevention Week.

Once again, Lane students were encouraged to learn more about fire safety by participating in the annual poster contest. This year's theme was "Be Aware, Fire Can Happen Anywhere". Lane School earned the Alsip Fire Department Traveling Trophy for the highest participation rate in the poster contest! We are very proud of our Lane Lions for their commitment to fire safety. Congratulations to Theresa H. in third grade for being the third through fifth grade poster contest winner.

As part of her reward, she received a ride to school by our very own Alsip Firefighters in the fire truck!



Hazelgreen-Presidential Award Finalist

Hazelgreen School in Alsip is proud to announce that Kristy Regan, sixth grade teacher, has been selected as one of three Illinois state-level finalists for the 2017-2018 Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching (PAEMST). Mrs. Regan along with the other state finalists were honored during an awards dinner at Fermilab on November 8th.



The PAEMST is an annual award that has been given to outstanding elementary/secondary mathematics and science (including computer science) teachers from each state for more than 25 years.

This award is the highest honor bestowed by the United States government specifically for K-12 math and science teaching.

Prairie Junior High-Love Letters Lends a Helping Hand

Prairie Love Letters, sponsored by Mrs. Rose Shea, is a club where students work to create positive notes, packages, and more for many different groups and organizations.

This is always a popular club that our students like to join every year. One of their first projects this year was making blankets.

For several weeks during lunch and recess, students in Love Letters made blankets that were donated to needy children at a local children's advocacy center.

We know the kids will find great comfort in these new blankets.

Great job Love Letters!



Stony Creek-We "Survived" Family Reading Night

On Thursday, November 8th, Stony Creek Reading Specialists, hosted a "Survivor Themed" Family Reading Night! Our Stony Creek Families were able to participate in a Google Expedition that allowed them to explore a cave, play a Tornado themed Kahoot! game, share survival themed books, take family pictures with our green screen, have snacks and color pictures together! What a great night!

Thank you to all of our families that came out to share in the fun!



Hazelgreen visits Morton Arboretum

In October, both Hazelgreen School fourth grade classes took a field trip to Morton Arboretum to study prairie ecosystems.



Students learned about the biotic and abiotic components of a prairie ecosystem. They measured the sunlight and air speed. Additionally, students looked at soil samples to discover the health and moisture of the soil.

Students learned about the adaptation of plants in the dry and hot prairie ecosystem. Lastly, they learned about the many challenges settlers faced as settlers navigated across the great plains to setting the west.

Students learned about the adaptation of plants in the dry and hot prairie ecosystem.

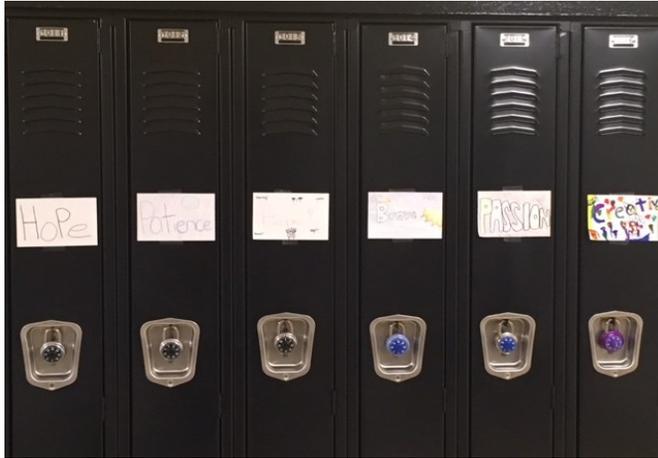
Students learned about the adaptation of plants in the dry and hot prairie ecosystem.



Hey Prairie Junior High, Who Will You INSPIRE Today?

Prairie's ONE WORD theme for this year is INSPIRE. In addition to stressing the importance of making good choices and asking good questions, we ask students who they will inspire today.

Since the first day of school, we've talked about how students can inspire other people and we see it daily at PJH. We asked every student to develop their ONE WORD for the school year during advisory on their first day of school. Throughout the halls you see words like Positive, Responsible, Focus, and more. These words are displayed prominently on the outside of student lockers. Staff also participated in this activity as well. You can see their word posted throughout the building as well.



Having a visual goal on the outside of their locker is a daily reminder for students to work hard to reach that goal for the year. We see a lot more positive interactions around the school as a result of this campaign.

GO HAWKS!!



Hazelgreen-Students Buddie Up

Mrs. Regan's sixth grade students have buddied up with Mr. Wilkus's kindergarten students to do some fun buddy activities throughout the year. Since the year started, they have made puzzles together. The



kindergarteners have impressed the sixth graders with their math skills on the iPads. They created ghosts together and have recently shared what we are thankful for.

We are sure thankful to have each other as classroom buddies.

Stony Creek-We Went Back to the 50's for the 50th Day of School!

On Friday, November 9th, the Kindergarten and 1st grade students celebrated being in school for 50 days with 50's themed activities including a sock hop in the afternoon, and



50's themed pictures using our green screen! Teachers and students got in the spirit of the theme with adorable costumes as well. Students

were so excited to celebrate all of the learning and progress they have made so far this year!



Prairie Junior High Welcomes Harvie Herrington

On October 12th, Prairie Junior High welcomed former professional football player Harvie Herrington.



Harvie grew up in Calumet Park so he is very familiar with the area and was excited to come talk to our students.

Harvie started the day with a keynote about the importance of chasing your dreams and making good choices in your

life everyday. This keynote was followed up with two smaller workshops with each grade level.

During these presentations, Harvie continued his conversation about making positive choices in life along with having each student create their personality profile. Through conversation and a small activity, students were able to figure out what closely matches their personality (Outgoing-task oriented, Outgoing-people oriented, Reserved-task oriented, or Reserved-people oriented).

Overall, this was a very beneficial assembly for our students, and they walked away with an even better understanding about chasing their dreams and how our choices can positively or negatively affect outcomes everyday.

Lane Lions Enjoy Their New Learning Spaces

The entire Lane community is beyond thankful and excited that the brand new learning spaces are officially open! Lane School's construction project is complete, and each day Lane Lions are working diligently in the new classrooms and multipurpose room! The new classrooms provide outstanding modernized learning environments for Lane students while the new multipurpose room has proven to not only provide an amazing space for classroom learning extensions, but has also served as the perfect location for PFO community events.

Thus far, we have been fortunate to host both the PFO Fall Festival and Craft/Vendor Fair in the new multipurpose room!

Additionally, Lane's office renovation provides a safe and secure entry for all visitors to our school.



Lane-Kindergarten Pen Pals Alphabet Exchange

Lane Kindergarten students are learning a lot of new information about the many unique characteristics of the different states in the U.S.A. Throughout the year, they are participating in a pen pal activity using the book *Chica*,



Chica Boom Boom by Bill Martin, Jr. and John Archambault. Every few weeks, they receive a letter from a Kindergarten class in another state who has also read the same book and focuses on one of the alphabet letters from the book. Using their assigned alphabet letter, each Kindergarten class writes a letter that shares some unique fun facts about their location and includes pictures that showcase special features of their state. Lane Kindergarten students were very excited to be assigned the letter **Y**. In their letter, they focused on the **Yummy** food in the Chicago area such as deep dish pizza and Chicago-style hotdogs!

The Kindergarten students and teachers are enjoying this pen pal journey with Kindergarten peers across the country.

District 126 Schools

Lane School
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Patti Egan, Principal

Hazelgreen School
11751 South Lawler
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Leah Humphrey-Mason,
Principal

Stony Creek School
1700 South Kolin
Alsip, IL 60803
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Nicole Leggett-Gallus, Principal
Jennifer Saturnus, Asst. Principal

Prairie Junior High
11910 South Kostner
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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
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

December 24 - January 6, 2019
Monday, January 7, 2019
Thursday, January 17, 2019
Monday, January 21, 2019
Friday, January 25, 2019
February 15, 2019
February 18, 2019
March 4, 2019
March 8, 2019
March 25 - 29, 2019

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—Spring Break