



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, 2019

Hazelgreen recognizes Presidential Award Winner—Kristy Regan

The Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching (PAEMST) is the highest recognition that a kindergarten through 12th grade science, technology, engineering, mathematics, and/or computer science teacher may receive for outstanding teaching in the United States. Up to 108 teachers are recognized each year.



The award recognizes those teachers that have both deep content knowledge of the subjects they teach and the ability to motivate and enable students to be successful in those areas.

Presidential Awardees receive a certificate signed by the President of the United States; a trip to Washington D.C. to attend a series of recognition events and professional development opportunities; and a \$10,000 award from the National Science Foundation.

We are proud of Kristy Regan and this huge accomplishment. The D126 Board of Education honored Kristy at the November board meeting with a card, floral arrangement, and a breakfast.

Awesome!

Stony Creek Teacher Honored with Symetra Heroes in the Classroom Award

Mrs. Maietta, 6th grade teacher at Stony Creek School, was nominated for and won the Symetra Heroes in the Classroom Award. Mrs. Maietta was surprised by the Gallagher Cooperation and the Chicago Bears with this award during an all school assembly. Mrs. Maietta was recognized for her dedication and commitment to her students both inside and outside of the classroom.



We are proud that Mrs. Maietta is a Stony Creek Star!

Congratulations!

Lane First Graders Research Fire Safety

Our first grade classes participated in a collaborative research project during October's Fire Safety month.

Students extended their fire safety unit by researching the topic further based on the essential question, "What do firefighters do to keep themselves and others safe?" The students used a variety of resources to learn more about this topic and extend their classroom learning experiences!

At the end of the research project, the students and staff were excited to have Lieutenant Krause from the Alsip Fire Department join us for an interview and presentation of the safety equipment that these brave heroes use on a daily basis to keep themselves and others safe. We are so grateful for our local first responders!



Parents visit the District 126 EC Center

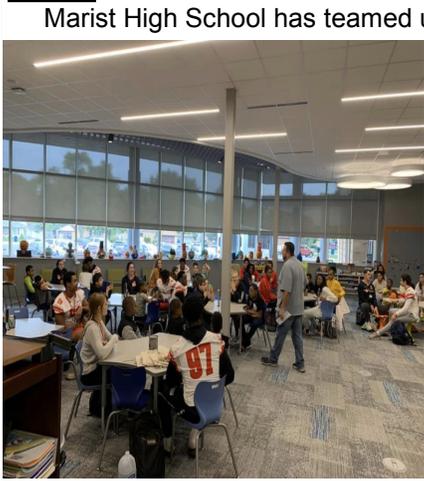
Parent participation is a very important part of the Early Childhood Center. Our parents are invited to attend field trips, classroom parties, volunteer and participate in workshops focused on topics related to early childhood.

Earlier in the school year, we invited our parents to visit their child's classroom to meet their teachers, tour our center and even partnered with the local libraries and Worth Township to promote awareness of services offered to district families. Other family events have included a field trip to County Line Apple Orchard and a fall party where students and their families participated in fun activities such as pumpkin decorating.

We have enjoyed the wonderful turnout from our families at activities so far this year and are excited to continue to build partnerships with our parents!



Stony Creek Stars Gain New Friendships with Marist High School



Marist High School has teamed up with Stony Creek Stars to promote positive relationships among students through peer mentoring.

Twice a month for the entire school year scholars from Marist High School visit Stony Creek and work together on different team building activities. The Stony Creek students enjoy having a positive role model and learn what it takes to be a well rounded student.

Topics of conversation include time management, peer pressure, making good choices for your future, as well as how to navigate different situations that students may face.

We are excited and appreciative for this continued partnership with Marist!

PJH Presents: 30 Horrible Catastrophes of Middle School

The title of this year's Fall Play was perfect for PJH! During the first week of November, the PJH Theater Department presented 30 Horrible Catastrophes of Middle School.

Students put in a lot of hard work and effort to make this another outstanding production! This group stayed late on many occasions and even worked on Saturdays to prepare for these performances. They presented the play in front of 4th, 5th, and 6th graders, and then had the opportunity to present in front of their peers.

From the actors and actresses, to our sound, stage, and set construction crew, you could tell just how much effort they put into making this another successful play at PJH!



Go Hawks!!

Hazelgreen—Meaningful Message Monday

We are in our 2nd year of Meaningful Message Mondays or Triple M. At Hazelgreen, we firmly believe in starting each week with a meaningful message or question. The staff are invited to wear positive message shirts. Students volunteer to share meaningful messages over the intercom and we discuss these topics during lunch time.



The students have responded very positively to the positive outlook we take on each week. They look forward to sharing their own life experiences, from a positive perspective.

Pictured, are a few of our message cards from the 1st trimester.



Lane Families Enjoy a Night of Reading and Fun

Lane Families came together to share their joy of reading during our annual Family Reading Night! This year's Lane Family Reading Night theme focused on our district-wide summer readings of 'Library Mouse' by Daniel Kirk and 'Escape from Mr. Lemoncello's Library' by Chris Grabenstein.



During this literature-rich evening, families read for enjoyment together and participated in an exciting reading mission to solve clues leading to their 'escape' to the library to earn their prize!

When they finally escaped, everyone enjoyed some family game night fun and photo booth opportunities to celebrate the completion of their literature mission using the Green Screen.

All families enjoyed this special evening, and it was great to take time out of our busy schedules to sit back and enjoy reading together!



District 126 EC Center visits Alsip Public Works

Preschool may look like all fun and games, but our day is actually very busy!



Learning activities are based around building social emotional skills, literacy, math, science and all of the important skills that make our District 126 students successful, lifelong learners! Our students participate in studies through Creative Curriculum where they focus on investigating various topics and even get real like examples of what they are learning in the classroom.

Recently, as part of our Buildings and Roads Study, we were able to take a field trip to the Alsip Public Works Department to learn all about the equipment they keep inside and what it does for our community. The preschoolers were amazed at all of the important things that go on inside this building. They even got to learn how their street signs are made!

Thank you Public Works!

Meet Hazelgreen's Harley Quinn

Harley Quinn, the Hazelgreen Hornet is a full fledged member of the Hazelgreen family. She is coming to work daily with Ms. Humphrey. She interacts with the students and staff based on a weekly schedule and when students are in need.



As a therapy dog in training, she spends her days getting to know the students and staff and brings more smiles and happiness to our community. Harley is only 5 months old, but is learning very quickly, in her new role. She is attending obedience classes and will begin her official testing for School Therapy Dog certification at one year of age. When stopping by the office, please meet the new baby.

Thanks to the Board of Education and Mr. Gwaltney for so thoroughly supporting our learning community.



PJH Supports Other Students & Families

Prairie Junior High School students and families have big hearts.

This past month Prairie's Supporting Other Students (S.O.S.) Club organized a donation/fund raising drive to support critically ill children and their families. "Operation Fuzzy Socks" shares fuzzy socks with parents and their children at the Ronald McDonald House and Comer Children's Hospital. As part of S.O.S. Club's mission of Paying It Forward, students and staff collaboratively donated 270 Fuzzy Socks and \$250.00, supporting Mattea's Joy, a non profit 501(c)(3) Organization.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to this sock drive.



Veteran's Day Celebration at Stony Creek

Stony Creek school held its first Veteran's Day assembly where local veterans were honored by our students through words, songs, and pictures.

Families watched and listened as students shared the history of the wars in the United States and how they impact the world we live in today. Students sang traditional patriotic songs such as "Grand Ole' Flag," "My Country 'Tis of Thee," and "The Star Spangled Banner." All branches of the military were represented at our ceremony.

We even had a special visit from local veteran, Officer Hayes, and his partner Knox from the Alsip Police Department. The veterans in attendance were so touched by the students' presentations, and thanked Stony Creek students for inviting them to this assembly.



District 126 EC Center - Students at Play

The District 126 Early Childhood Center is a beautiful learning space for our students!

We are very fortunate to have learning spaces outside of our classrooms for children to work on a variety of skills throughout their day. The playground, which was built specifically for preschool students as well as the Gross Motor Room, are very busy places for our preschoolers to work on important skills while they have fun with friends! During gross motor time, they have a chance to ride bikes, run, throw balls and climb! In the Gross Motor Room, students have lots of age appropriate climbing equipment, crawling tunnels, balance beams and even a ball pit where their activities are focusing on body awareness, balance and coordination.

Our learning spaces all help to support our whole child approach to learning, but making it look really fun in the process!



Lane Students Celebrate the 50th Day of School!

Our Kindergarten and second grade Lane Lions celebrated the 50th day of school in style!

Our students partnered up for a fun-filled morning to celebrate all of the learning and growth that they have made in the first fifty days of school! During the event, students participated in 50's themed activities including completing puzzles with fifty pieces, comparing and contrasting the Fifties to today, constructing their own lego design using fifty legos, and creatively writing about what they would buy with fifty dollars!

To culminate the event, students enjoyed listening to popular music of the decade and danced the day away with a Sock Hop!

We are very proud of all the learning and growth that our students have demonstrated in the first fifty days of school!



Hazelgreen's Special Visitor

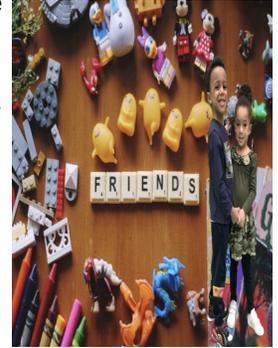
State Representative Fran Hurley of the 35th District visited Hazelgreen as part of the Principal for a Day Program. "Principal For A Day" provides opportunities for principals to build and refine relationships with their legislators. Legislators visit schools in their legislative district, interacting with staff and students, and performing selected administrative tasks during their visit. Ms. Hurley enjoyed a Day in the Life of Ms. Humphrey. She enjoyed musical performances by K-2 grades; Read the book She Persisted to the 5th and 6th grades; observed in all the classrooms; was interviewed by our student newspaper; enjoyed a delicious lunch; and received an Honorary Hornet care package.



Stony Creek's Great Escape!

Stony Creek families were invited to participate in a fun game-themed literacy event!

The theme was central to the elementary summer read and incorporated activities that promote reading through games and technology. Families were able to experience a library through our Google Goggles, take a ride on the Reading Railroad in our Media Center, take pictures with our green screen, and more!



Families enjoyed spending time together and getting a glimpse of some of the fun activities the students get to experience here at Stony Creek.

District 126 School

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 Principal
Jennifer Saturnus,
Asst. Principal

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

Dist.126 Early Childhood Center
12250 S. Orchard Ave
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(708) 631-0490
Gina Fiske, Principal/
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

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 23 - January 3, 2020
Monday, January 6, 2020
Thursday, January 9, 2020
Monday, January 20, 2020
Friday, January 24, 2020
February 13, 2020
February 17, 2020
Friday, February 21, 2020
March 2, 2020
March 17, 2020
March 23 - 27, 2020

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 Board Meeting
No School—President's Day
School Improvement Day—Students Attend 8:30-11:45
No School—Casmir Pulaski Day
No School—Election Day
No School—Spring Break