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## Thompson Middle School Construction Update

The project to expand and enhance the learning environments at Thompson Middle School began in the summer of 2017, and will continue through the summer of 2019. When the project is completed, the school will have 31 new classrooms, a new auxiliary gym, an expanded cafeteria, and a new track and field area. In addition, a bus drop off and pick-up area is being constructed behind the school to help alleviate congestion on Indiana and 7th Streets.



You may have seen A LOT of dirt being moved around behind the school. Prior to construction of the new addition, a drainage system is being put in place underground to collect rain water run-off. Not only will this system ensure that students can use the new track and field even after a rain storm, but it will keep water from draining into the residential area near the school.

Construction is happening inside simultaneously. There are walls between the construction area and student areas. The project manager and District administration are in constant communication about construction timelines, work being completed, and the impact it may have on students and staff members.

Our students have adapted to the changes in routine and have shown great respect for the work being done to create new learning environments.

### It's Homecoming Season!

**East High School**  
October 13 - Homecoming Parade & Game  
October 14 - Homecoming Dance

### Spirited North Stars



# Hometown Heroes Walk Fundraiser held at Wasco Elementary School

Local Heroes were celebrated at Wasco Elementary School on Friday, September 15, 2017 as they hosted the Annual Wasco PTO Hometown Heroes Walk Fundraiser. Students from all grades participated during their physical education classes, and walked to honor their personal and local heroes. Organizers invited Heroes from the local police, fire and military organizations. Students were encouraged to invite their personal Hero to join them to walk in the event, as well as parents and other family members.



This year's Hometown Heroes Walk offered a fun obstacle course, a handicap-accessible Walk/Run, and motivating music. "Character Pillars" that were shared and discussed in classrooms throughout the week prior to the event were used as a teaching tool leading up to the event.

"The students were so excited to celebrate the people they admire. It was a great day to get out and walk to honor our local and personal heroes. Many Heroes even stayed to eat lunch with our students!" said Barbara Stokke, Principal of Wasco Elementary.

The Hometown Heroes Walk benefits the Wasco Elementary PTO and is the largest annual fundraiser each year.



# Corron Kindergarten Students Visit Kuiper's Farm

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On a beautiful fall day, with temperatures that felt more like summer, Corron kindergarten students visited Kuiper's Farm. Prior to their visit, students learned about expectations regarding manners, asking questions, and appropriate ways of interacting with the tour guide, their peers, and parents.

Students made connections to what they had been studying in the classroom in many areas. During their "Caretakers of the Earth" science unit, students learned how to plant and take care of a living thing. Also, how to treat the environment so that living things such as apple trees flourish.

The trip promoted what kindergarteners learned about the five senses. They experienced taste, smell, touch, and sight all of which were explained on the tour. They watched as cider, with a delicious apple smell, was made, and felt how cold it was in the refrigerator where the cider was stored. The apples the students saw and tasted were different colors and had different flavors.

Prior to going on the field trip, Miss Schwartz created center activities with an apple theme. Students counted apples and then wrote the numbers, put apples in 10 frames and matched them.

This real life experience provided a way for them to write a personal narrative about what they saw, heard and felt. Miss Schwartz reviewed how a personal narrative is a story that is true.

The kindergarten Social Studies unit promoted the importance of community workers and how they help us. Students talked with the bus driver and discussed how he helps others and how his job keeps them safe. This was a great experience because for many of the students this was their first bus ride!

This long-standing positive cultural experience for Corron kindergarten students provided them with wonderful connections between school and the community.

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# "Genre Book Taste" and "Speed Dating"



What does it look like to build a community of readers in a middle school? LRC Director Meghan Cannon and her colleagues at Wredling answered that question by creating opportunities for students to explore books in eleven different genres during the "Genre Book Taste" for sixth graders and "Speed Dating" for eighth graders.

Mrs. Cannon, Mrs. Toht and Mrs. Shaw pulled books from different genres and displayed them on dining tables. Sixth grade students looked through genre selections from mystery, science fiction, historical fiction, biographies and more, and made a list of "ingredients" from each genre that interested them. The book that had the most "ingredients" they liked was the "tasty title" they took home

to read, while they kept track of other "tasty titles" they wanted to read at a later date.

Students also had the opportunity to discuss the books and their reasons for choosing them with their dining partners. Sixth grade students are now writing a blog about their books to share with other students.

Eighth grade students spent a little time at each table where books from the different genres were placed. If students found a book they liked, they were encouraged to "date" (check out) that book before moving to the next table. If they found something more interesting at the next table, they could "ditch their date" and get a new title.

The goal of the activity was to help students build a reading list and spark an interest in reading at the beginning of the year. A former Language Arts teacher, Mrs. Cannon is aware that finding the right book is not always easy, "Students can struggle when it comes to finding books they like. Many are still defining their reading preferences. Providing these opportunities to browse books and genres in a fun, light-hearted way allows them to get the ball rolling with their independent reading at the start of the school year."

Mrs. Cannon was excited when students suggested book titles to her that should be on the tables, and even more excited when they had conversations with their classmates about books that interest them.

The feedback the LRC staff received from students regarding their genre and title preferences gives them the pulse of what students want to read, and helps them plan for the future.



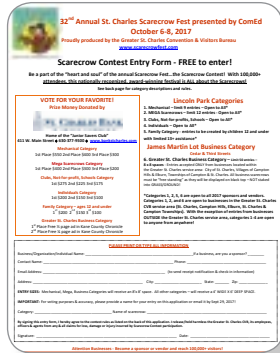


# Community Backpack



Run 4 Rescues 5K

[Learn More](#)



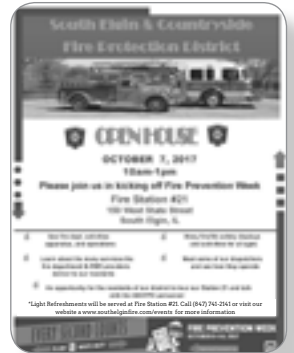
Scarecrow Fest 2017

[Learn More](#)



Pickle Scavenger Hunt

[Learn More](#)



Firehouse Open House

[Learn More](#)



The St. Charles Education Foundation Board of Directors cordially invites you to attend the 2017 Annual Meeting as it recognizes 2017 grant recipients.

Wednesday, October 25 at 7:00 PM

Little Theater in St. Charles East High School - Door #86  
1020 Dunham Rd., St. Charles IL 60174

We are looking forward to seeing you.

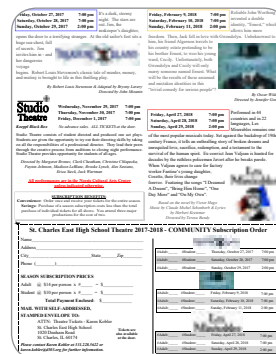
The Greater St. Charles Education Foundation is a 501 (c) 3 not-for-profit organization operating independently of District 303.



3 v 3 Youth Basketball  
[Learn More](#)



Fall Fest  
[Learn More](#)



STCE Theatre Subscription  
[Learn More](#)

Click here to view more community events happening soon!

Enjoy an evening of music with the middle school orchestra students and the high school chamber orchestra members as they perform together on stage at St. Charles East High School.

OCTOBER 19, 2017  
6:30 P.M.  
ST. CHARLES EAST GYMNASIUM



## International Walk to School Day

Since 1997, children and their families from around the world have participated in the International Walk to School Day. On October 4, Making Kane County Fit for Kids is hosting the annual event where parents are encouraged to walk to school with their children as a way to promote physical activity.

Staff members at Norton Creek Elementary School will be stationed at prominent corners waving students and their parents to school.

Each year, in conjunction with Walk to School Day, the Lincoln Elementary School PTA holds a Run-A-Thon fundraising event. Students bring in donations and each grade level wears a different colored T-shirt designed by students. Students run around the inside perimeter of the playground for 30 minutes. Parents help with the activity, there is music, and students receive popsicles when they are finished running. This is part of the physical education curriculum at each grade level.

## 2017-18 School Year Calendar Highlights



### Friday, October 6

School Improvement Day  
(No Classes)

### November 20-21

Parent Teacher Conferences/No classes

### Monday, October 9

Columbus Day Holiday  
(No Classes & Offices Closed)

### November 22

Non-attendance day

### November 23-24

Thanksgiving Break

## Upcoming School Board Meetings

### Tuesday, October 10

Regular School Board Meeting - 7:00 p.m.

### Wednesday, October 11

Community Relations Committee - 6:00 p.m.

### Monday, October 16

Learning & Teaching Committee - 5:30 p.m.



## Check Out Our Interactive Boundary Map

Interactive Boundary Maps are available on the District website. Enter an address and see the schools assigned to that address. [Click here](#) to check it out! Please keep in mind all attendance area questions are officially determined by contacting our transportation department at (331) 228-5180.

