

# District 303 E-NEWS

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## Administration Center

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St. Charles, IL 60174  
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Let's Talk!

September 10, 2021



## Collaborative Art at Wredling

At Wredling Middle School, 7th grade art students have started working on a variety of projects. For one particular group project, students were asked to collaboratively decide on an image that they wanted to draw as a full class. To help them get to know each other better, students chose to draw a class picture of themselves. Wredling Art Teacher, Mrs. Tyska first took students outside to take a class picture and then sectioned it into 30 even squares, one section for each student. Students then chose the grid section that they wanted to draw and received a piece of drawing paper of the same size.

Students applied the grid method to accurately draw the outline of their respective section. "The grid method is where you draw a grid over your reference photo, and then draw a grid of equal ratio on your work paper. It is a way of accurately reproducing an image," explained Mrs. Tyska.

Once they had their line drawing done, students used a variety of shading techniques taught to them to add value to their drawings, such as scribbling, cross-hatching, pointillism, circulism, and rendering. Throughout the drawing process, they would check with their grid neighbors to make sure that their drawings lined up correctly. They would also check to make sure that they were shading the same values as their grid neighbors.

One by one, the picture started to come together as each student finished their grid section. After a week of work, the full class picture was done and was hung up in the Wredling Art Cases for all to view. "I am super proud of how their class project turned out!" said Mrs. Tyska.



## COVID-19 Resources and Information for Families

Please visit the [District 303 website](#), or [click on this link](#) to get the most updated information on District 303's response protocols for COVID-19 and messages to families.

*Un mensaje para las familias: Por favor, visite la página web del [Distrito 303](#), o [haga clic en este enlace](#) para obtener la información más actualizada sobre los protocolos de COVID-19 y mensajes a las familias del Distrito 303.*

## ***Test to Stay Program in District 303***

District 303, in collaboration with SHIELD testing, has implemented a test to stay program for students in our district who have not received the COVID-19 vaccine. Participation in the program may decrease the need for students to quarantine if they have been in close contact with an individual who has tested positive for COVID-19. While the district has made it possible for students to maintain 3 feet of distance in classrooms and 6 feet in the cafeterias, students may be closer than that while riding the bus, which may result in them being quarantined. Students who are enrolled in SHIELD testing prior to possible exposure to COVID-19/establishing close contact can remain in school as long as they have negative tests and are symptom free on days 1, 3, 5, and 7 after exposure.

## **The Power of Teamwork**

**A**s part of the Get Out and Play Empower module, students are not only provided with more opportunities for movement but are also given opportunities to learn social-emotional skills and competencies that they need to develop. During their Empower lesson, 3rd graders at Wasco had to work together to get across an “alligator-infested swamp” using lily pads. After providing detailed instructions, Ms. Green encouraged students to come up with a group strategy to help each team get all their classmates from one side of the field to the other using only the individual lily pads they were provided.



Initially, students were trying to cross one after the other but soon realized that some teammates had to stay

behind to have extra lily pads for the group to cross. As each team got more and more excited to cross the “swamp” the fastest, some team leaders began to throw the lily pads as far as they could jump. However, that posed an issue to the last students in the groups as they could not reach far enough to get the lily pads to pass

them to the front. Realizing this issue, they communicated with the rest of the team and with the leaders to make sure they were being mindful of the challenges those at the end of the line were facing.

Through this engaging game, students learned to apply effective communication skills to help them cross to the other side as they problem-solved together.

Those teammates who stayed behind also helped them problem-

solve as they provided their team with a different perspective on the issues the group was facing. After the first round of students crossed the finish line, a few members of the group had to go back for the rest of the team. Students had a better idea of what strategies worked to help them move faster across the “swamp.” After all the groups had crossed, students then talked about the issues they encountered as well as the strategies that helped them overcome them, with some students even chanting “teamwork makes the dream work.”



## An Inspiring Virtual Author Visit

On September 7, Davis Primary students welcomed author and illustrator Peter Reynolds over Zoom. His virtual visit was full of inspiring messages and surprises, including that of his twin brother Paul. He talked to students about what inspired him to become an author, the amazing work he's done as an illustrator, and how rewarding it is to collaborate with others. Students asked many questions about his inspiration for the stories, the characters, and were even treated to a surprise reading of Peter's newest book, "I Am Courage."

Parents also had the opportunity to order signed copies of his new book and students expressed how excited they were to continue to read. Thank you to Anderson's Bookshop for providing this visit.



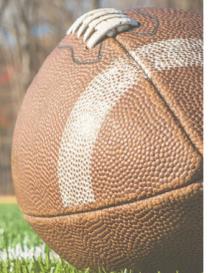
## 2021 Communications Contest Awards

The Illinois Chapter of the National School Public Relations Association (INSPRA) held its annual Communications Contest Workshop & Awards Luncheon on September 10, at which it recognized the top communications in the state. Professional school communicators from across the country judged the 158 submissions. Each entry was evaluated by three judges against a rubric of excellence, with awards given to those that scored within the established ranges for Merit and Excellence. The District 303 Communications Department earned three Awards of Excellence in the video (in-house) and writing categories, and two Awards of Merit for the Annual Report and Voices of D303 Podcast episode *A Conversation about Black History and Poetry*.



L to R: Carol L. Smith, Director of Communications and Community Relations; Janelle Magana, Communications Assistant

We are excited that football season is coming up and would like to remind parents that elementary and middle school students who attend the games must be accompanied by an adult. Please do not drop your children off at the games unsupervised.



# District-wide Open House Information

All schools in the district will provide an opportunity for parents and guardians to visit their child's school during open house events in September. These events will allow parents and guardians to meet teachers, tour the school, and see the classrooms. As plans are finalized at each building, the schools will communicate the details for their event with parents.



## *Información Sobre el Evento de Puertas Abiertas en Todo el Distrito*

Todas las escuelas del distrito ofrecerán una oportunidad para que los padres y guardianes visiten la escuela de sus hijos durante los eventos de puertas abiertas en septiembre. Estos eventos permitirán a los padres y guardianes conocer a los maestros, recorrer la escuela y ver las aulas. A medida que se finalicen los planes en cada edificio, las escuelas comunicarán a los padres los detalles de su evento.



## Early Release Dates for the 2021-2022 School Year

### Early Release Dates for all Grade Levels (Pre-K-12)

~~September 1~~

September 29

October 27

December 1

January 26

February 23

March 23

April 27

### Additional Early Release Dates for High School

September 15

October 13

November 10

January 12

February 9

March 9

April 13

May 11

AM Kindergarten: 8:00 - 10:30 a.m.

PM Kindergarten: 11: 40 a.m. - 2:10 p.m.

AM Early Childhood: 9:00 - 11:05 a.m.

PM Early Childhood: 12:05 - 2:10 p.m.

Kindergarten - 5th Grade: 8:00 a.m. - 2:10 p.m.

Middle School: 8:30 a.m. - 2:42 p.m.

High School: 7:20 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.



# 2021-2022 PARENT UNIVERSITY OFFERINGS

## September 30, 2021 - Virtual Event in Spanish

Jueves 30 de Septiembre del 2021 - Evento en español

### ➤ MÉTODOS MODERNOS Y PRÁCTICOS PARA INICIAR A LOS NIÑOS EN LA LECTURA... EJERCICIOS PARA HACER EN CASA

Por: Ferney Ramírez

6:30-8:00 p.m.

Hacer click para abrir el enlace Zoom

ID de la reunión: 821 6678 3096

Contraseña: 473552

El hábito de leer debe ser una sana costumbre que todos los padres debemos infundir en los hijos a temprana edad. Esta cualidad trae muchos beneficios mentales e intelectuales que le ayudarán a tener Éxito en la escuela y en la universidad donde seguramente, los queremos ver. En este taller haremos actividades para estimular y fomentar la lectura en casa de una manera divertida; de tal modo, que los niños se motiven a tener una rutina de lectura diaria.

Debbie Reber is a parenting activist, New York Times bestselling author, podcast host, and speaker who has been inspiring and sparking conversations for parents, women, and teens for twenty years. District 303 is offering 3 sessions in October based upon Ms. Reber's work.

## October 6, 2021

### ➤ SOS for Parents in the Trenches

Zoom - 6:30 p.m. (Recording to be posted)

Click here to register!

When parents are feeling exhausted, overwhelmed, and burned out, it's hard to show up in a way that best supports their child's development, especially if/ when our kids are struggling, too. In this practical and actionable talk, Ms. Reber shares ten powerful "tilts," a.k.a. practical ideas to help parents shift their thinking, responses, and actions in a way that will help them feel more confident and peaceful as they parent their unique children.

## October 13, 2021

### ➤ Supporting Kids Who Learn Differently: Back-to-School Edition

Zoom - 6:30 p.m. (Recording to be posted)

Click here to register!

School always presents certain challenges for students who learn and think differently (kids with ADHD, dyslexia, giftedness, autism, anxiety, or other neuro-differences). But the COVID-19 pandemic has created even greater obstacles. Debbie shares ideas on how parents can best prioritize and plan in the pandemic-era school landscape. She also offers advice on how to support differently wired children's cognitive, social, and emotional needs during this atypical time, while also taking care of one's own emotional health and well-being.

## October 20, 2021

### ➤ Facilitated Book Talk: Differently Wired by Debbie Reber

Zoom - 6:30 p.m.

Click here to register!

Dr. Cindy Ruesch, Director of Staff, Family and Student Services, and Dr. Patti Palagi, Director of Instructional Interventions will lead a discussion about the book and how it can help parents embrace and accept their children who think differently. As part of the registration, you will receive a free copy of Ms. Reber's book you may pick up at Town House Books.

## December 9, 2021

### ➤ Empower: Innovative K-5 Learning Experiences in D303

6:00-7:00 p.m.

More information coming soon!

## Upcoming School Board Meetings

September 13

School Board Meeting (Moved to 9/27)

September 20

Learning & Teaching Committee Meeting - CANCELED  
Special School Board Meeting - 5:30 p.m.

September 23

Citizen Advisory Committee Meeting - 6:00 p.m.

September 27

Business Services Committee Meeting - CANCELED  
School Board Meeting (Rescheduled from Sept. 13) - 7:00 p.m.

## 2021-2022 Calendar Highlights

September 15

High School Early Release Day



September 29

All Grade Level (PreK-12) Early Release Day

October 6

Parent University: SOS for Parents in the Trenches  
(Via Zoom) - 6:30 p.m.

[Click here to register!](#)

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The official St. Charles CUSD 303 app gives you a personalized window into what is happening at the district and schools. Get the news and information that you care about and get involved.

## Submit to the Community Backpack

District 303 distributes information electronically from non-profit organizations, intergovernmental agencies and business partners for which it grants approval. Information can be posted on this Community Backpack webpage throughout the school year. Those wishing to submit information to be posted must do so electronically by emailing a completed [CB Flyer Request Form](#) and a PDF of the requested posting to the District 303 Administration Center, in care of [Janelle Magana](#) at least ten days in advance of the desired posting date. Additionally, when submitting the first posting request of the school year, a completed [Certificate of Not-For-Profit Status Form](#) must also be completed and submitted with a copy of the groups 501(c)3 certificate.

Prior to submitting, please [read details regarding our distribution guidelines](#). The decision to post is at the discretion of District 303 administrators, based on these guidelines.

