

DISTRICT 303



eNEWS



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March 8, 2019



Munhall's *One Book, One School* Initiative



To conclude their school-wide reading initiative, more than 50 Munhall families enjoyed a picnic dinner and a reading of the final chapters of *The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane*, by author Kate DiCamillo, on February 15.

Families brought sandwiches, hotdogs, and snacks to share. They also brought blankets and gathered around the activity center floor to eat, while talking and sharing their thoughts about the book. Tables were set up where families played trivia games, colored and participated in other activities related to Edward Tulane.

As second grade teacher, Mr. Berrick, settled in to read the last chapters of the book, students moved closer to him and attentively listened to find out how Edward Tulane's story concluded. After the reading, families shared their experiences about reading at home as well as their thoughts about the book, engaging those who attended in a final book discussion.



"The family experience of reading and discussing the books together are precious memories and bond-building moments that none of us will ever forget," said Mr. Berrick, who also shared his experiences as a parent reading novels every night to his children until they were older.



Munhall introduced their One Book, One School initiative on January 21 for the whole school to read *The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane*, by Kate DiCamillo. The book follows the life of a china rabbit and his emotional journey of self-discovery and love.

With support from Munhall's PTO, each family received a copy of the book in English or in Spanish, if they preferred. Every week, families followed a schedule to read certain chapters at home. The chapters of the book were also pre-recorded by a Munhall or District staff member in English and Spanish for students to listen to and follow along at home.

Each Friday, staff members highlighted a particular theme of the book. On Trivia Tuesdays students who correctly answered questions about the book won prizes. Students engaged in classroom book discussions while practicing and learning new vocabulary.

During the picnic event, families also had an opportunity to make suggestions and vote on the next book for Munhall families to read.

Corron McTeacher's Night Raises Over \$800



Corron Elementary staff raised over \$800 to support their PTO during the McTeacher's Night on February 21, at the South Elgin McDonald's.

More than 20 staff members participated in the event. They performed a variety of tasks such as working the registers and the drive-thru. They took orders, made shakes and ice cream cones. They also packaged and sold apple pies for donations, and Corron received 20% of all the proceeds of the night.

all those who attended, and the staff members who worked the entire night," she remarked.

As a sweet treat, Corron Principal, Mrs. Balaskovits dressed up as the apple pie, motivating

Gus T. Bull of the Windy City Bulls also made an appearance. He interacted with the children, posed for pictures and shared high-fives all around. Members of the South Elgin Police Department joined the event as well. They passed out stickers to students and supported the community event.



St. Charles North Future Educators Shadow Teachers

St. Charles North Educators Rising members got a glimpse into the teaching profession during the Shadow-a-Teacher Day on February 21, when they shadowed teachers from Corron and Wild Rose Elementary Schools and Thompson Middle School.

Through this experience, students gained a clear understanding of what it's like to be an educator while seeing what a teacher's "typical" day is like. During class visits, sponsor teachers encouraged future educator members to help the elementary and middle school students with assignments, read to them, and take part in their daily activities. Future educators also attended meetings, met other teachers, and enjoyed lunch with their sponsor teacher.

Sponsor teachers offered guidance, advice, and answered questions about their classes, teaching, and their career path to give future educators a better perspective about teaching and learning.

Members will have the opportunity to reflect and apply their learning to other activities with children throughout the year. Educators Rising cultivates highly skilled educators by guiding young people on a path to becoming accomplished teachers, beginning in high school and extending through college and into the profession.



EHS Wrestlers Win State Tournament

St. Charles East High School students and staff gathered after school to celebrate the outstanding accomplishments of the Fighting Saints for having three senior wrestlers make the podium at the 2019 IHSA Individual State Wrestling Tournament, which took place February 14-16 in Champaign.

Justin Benjamin was the State Champion, Justin Hull placed 2nd, and Tommy Schroeder, placed 3rd. Junior Peyton Schroeder, also qualified for state.



“They definitely earned it,” said head coach, Jason Potter. “They spent uncountable hours training and, in the end, each one attained success. It was also a great experience for Peyton Schroeder as he will be back next year.”

Staff members, coaches, and students congratulated the wrestlers over cake, posed for pictures, and shared stories about the tournament.

After qualifying for state four times throughout his wrestling career, and encountering challenges and injuries along the way, Justin Benjamin went undefeated during the tournament and won the state title. “He’s a great example of our program. If you believe in it and train for it, even if it looks like you’re nowhere near; if you keep on working, it’s going to happen,” said coach Potter.

“I feel like I’m at the peak of the mountain,” said Justin Benjamin during the celebration. “I couldn’t believe it and it still feels surreal.”

Justin Hull made it to the finals, but not without challenge. He defeated two opponents who previously beat him during the regular season, and those victories helped him place 2nd at state. “His 3rd place finish as a junior and 2nd place as a senior puts him in the top ten in most decorated St. Charles Wrestlers,” added coach Potter.

After losing a match, Tommy Schroeder won five matches in a row to make it to the third-place match. “He’s extremely dangerous; if he gets focused he can pin anybody,” said coach Potter. During the last match, he ended up beating a returning state finalist and finished 3rd at state.

Assistant Principal for Student Life, Lisa Dandre, also shared that because of their great accomplishment, the student wrestlers were going to be invited to a School Board meeting and to a City Council meeting.



Jarret Payton shares Anti-Bullying Message with WMS

Wredling Middle School 8th grade students welcomed Jarret Payton and his anti-bullying message on March 5. Throughout his presentation, Jarret shared personal stories about his famous dad Walter, along with inspirational tales about self-growth he experienced during his years as an athlete.

As he talked about his childhood and detailed the ways in which he learned how rewarding it is to give back to the community, he encouraged students to take small steps to make new friends by asking questions that uncover things they have in common. Personal stories he told students about his dad proved that Walter continues to be an inspiration to others not just as an athlete but as a person who served his community.

Students attentively listened and laughed as he recounted the story about how he met Michael Jordan, who also inspired him to work hard and have determination.

After his presentation students asked questions. One student asked about how to deal with negative comments on social media, as well as cyberbullying. He encouraged students to ignore those negative comments and, instead, focus on the positive side of things. “Make sure what you put out to the world is a representation of who you are as a person,” Jarrett said. He also stressed the importance of surrounding themselves with kind and positive people, as they can shape who they want to be.

He left students with an inspiring message that focused on respect and kindness, being good digital citizens, and encouraged them to find their passion and pursue their dreams. “Opportunity: if there’s something you want to do, start today and take advantage of the time you have today,” he added.

Jarrett is scheduled to visit with sixth grade students at Thompson Middle School on Tuesday, March 12.



Richmond Connects with Students from England

“We’ll say good afternoon and you say good morning,” instructed a student from England to Richmond 3rd grade students who took part in the annual Read Around the Planet celebration during NEA’s Read Across America Day on March 5. Students connected through a videoconference at 8:00 a.m. in St. Charles and 2:00 p.m. in England.

NEA’s Read Across America is an annual reading celebration on Dr. Seuss’ birthday that encourages students all around the country to read. Through the Read Around the Planet initiative, students are able to connect with classes in other parts of the world to share books, stories, plays, and other activities.

Science and Technology Integration teacher, Amy Dixon helped coordinate classes to make this experience possible for students. With her support, they prepared a short skit based on the book *Ada Twist, Scientist*, by Andrea Beaty, to share during their video conference. “This is a different way of doing a field trip when it’s not possible to get out of the classroom,” she added with a smile.



The connection began with Richmond students introducing themselves and the school. They shared facts about Richmond and their class and provided some historical facts about St. Charles and Illinois.

As part of their presentation, several students read the story while others acted the scenes. Students created a background, brought props and costumes, and recreated the story in its entirety. When it was their turn to lead the conversation, the 3rd-grade students from England, who were part of an ESL program,



shared historical facts and traditions from Romania. They showed maps and pictures, shared a short poem, which they then translated to English, and even talked about Transylvania and the many stories related to the region.

Students asked questions in order to learn more about each other’s schools and countries. Richmond students inquired about the English school day, what the houses were like, and also the kinds of sports and games they played.

The students from England were very curious about the weather and asked if it was snowing. They were very surprised to learn that Richmond students did not wear uniforms to school like they did. In addition, they asked about the Willis Tower, how old the Richmond students are, and what they wanted to be when they grow up. Both classes were also very curious about the different languages spoken in each country and encouraged each other to continue to learn more languages.

This unique and interactive experience allowed students to share their learning while granting them an opportunity to learn about a different country and its unique culture. Since 2011, Mrs. Dixon has helped other Richmond students connect with classes from Canada, Minnesota, New Jersey, and Texas.

“Through these types of connections, students get a chance to communicate and experience a different country without leaving the classroom,” said Mrs. Dixon.

ELEMENTARY INTRA-DISTRICT TRANSFER WINDOW

Intra-District Transfer Requests must be submitted online between:

8:00 A.M. 4/2/19 - 4:00 P.M. 4/15/19

A link to the request form will be posted on district.d303.org by 8:00 a.m. on April 2.

If approved, please note that:

- Siblings are not guaranteed placement due to fluctuating class sizes at schools and each grade level
- Transportation is the responsibility of the parents
- The transfer is for one school year and will require re-application the following school year



QUESTIONS?

PLEASE CALL THE DISTRICT
OFFICE AT 331.228.2000

Elementary Intra-District Transfer Information

*Link Available:
8 AM 4/2/19
through
4 PM 4/15/19*

Please [click here](#) to view the Elementary Intra-District Transfer page and [School Board Policy 7:30 Student Assignment and Intra-District Transfer/Choice](#).

Hope Hustle

*Online registration
2/12/19 - 4/3/19*

Please visit bit.ly/hopehustle2019 for additional information.



HOPE HUSTLE 

APRIL 7, 2019

Students, staff, parents, and community members will come together to promote suicide prevention efforts and awareness, as well as positivity through teamwork.

- 5K Race, 5K Fun Run/Walk, and Youth Mile
- St. Charles East High School Campus and Norris Stadium Track
- Online registration is open until April 3

For additional information, visit bit.ly/hopehustle2019





Logo Needed for Great D303 Read

The "Great D303 READ" is a community-wide literary event aimed at finding the top 100 favorite children's books of D303. Children and adults throughout the community may nominate their favorite children's books, and from those favorites, the top 100 will be identified. A winner will be crowned "D303's Number One Best-Loved Children's Book."

If you would like to design a logo that will be used on promotional materials, please use the following criteria and include:

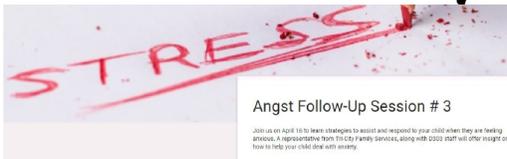
- Children's literature and the love of reading
- The year 2020
- The name The Great D303 READ
- If you plan to illustrate your logo using Illustrator or Photoshop, please send a PNG file, along with the underlying authoring files, to the LRC/Media Specialist at your school
- Hand drawn logos may also be submitted in person to your LRC/Media Specialist
- All submissions must be received by April 9, 2019.

2018-2019 Preschool Vacancy Notification

The 2019-20 Community Pre-school Program Lottery closed on February 4. To add your child's name to the notification of vacancies list, [click here](#). If you have any questions, please contact the Early Childhood Office at 331-228-4834. You can also visit the [Early Childhood page](#) of our website for more information regarding the D303 Community Preschool Program.



Parent University



Angst Follow-Up Session # 3

Join us on April 16 to learn strategies to assist and respond to your child when they are feeling anxious. A representative from Tri-City Family Services, along with D303 staff will offer insight on how to help your child deal with anxiety.



FOLLOW-UP ANGST SESSION #3

Join us on April 16 to learn strategies to assist and respond to your child when they are feeling anxious. A representative from Tri-City Family Services, along with D303 staff will offer insight on how to help your child deal with anxiety.

4/16/19, 6:30-8:00 p.m. Wild Rose LRC

[Click here to register.](#)

Summer School & Camps

We offer a variety of summer school, athletic and music camp opportunities at our schools. Visit our [Summer School & Camps page](#) to view brochures that provide detailed information on the various offerings and grade levels served for each offering at each school. Registration can be completed by visiting [PushCoin](#).



Please note that additional summer brochures will be posted as the information becomes available.

STCEF Scholarship Deadline - *March 8*



Since 2003 the St. Charles Education Foundation annually awards scholarships to two graduating seniors at each of the two high schools, St. Charles East and St. Charles North. The monetary value of each scholarship will be a minimum of \$1000.00. In order to qualify, seniors are expected to further their education at a 2-year or 4-year college or university, vocational school or post high school institution of higher learning.

The scholarships are a one-time non-renewable award which will be granted on the basis of overall merit. The scholarship applications are available at St. Charles North and East High School guidance offices and www.stced.org.

St. Charles Education Foundation's Annual Gala

Mark Your Calendars Now for our Annual Gala and Distinguished Alumni Awards on *Saturday, April 6th* at Hotel Baker. Hope to see you there!

Already know you can't make it? Please DONATE WHAT YOU CAN to plant the seeds for a beautiful future for D303 schools and students!

Donate to our cause, and find out more about who we are, and all we do, at: www.stced.org

More information on Facebook:
<https://www.facebook.com/GSCEF/>



Please verify that your contact information is correct in [Home Access Center \(HAC\)](#) to ensure you receive emergency communication alerts from District 303.

A poster for Daylight Savings Time. At the top, a blue alarm clock is shown on a green grassy field. Below the clock, the text "DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME" is written in a small, black, sans-serif font. The main text "Spring Ahead" is written in a large, white, cursive font. Below this, a white brushstroke is visible. At the bottom, the text "Don't forget to set your clocks ahead one hour before going to bed Saturday, 3/9/19." is written in a small, black, sans-serif font. In the bottom left corner, there is a circular logo for Community Unit School District 303, featuring a stylized figure and the year "1949".

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME

Spring Ahead

Don't forget to set your clocks ahead one hour before going to bed Saturday, 3/9/19.

The logo for Community Unit School District 303 is circular, featuring a stylized figure of a person walking, with the year "1949" below it.

Community Backpack



Upcoming School Board Meetings

- March 11**
School Board Meeting @ Bell-Graham - 7:00 p.m.
- March 18**
Learning & Teaching Committee Meeting -5:30 p.m.
- March 21**
Business Services Committee Meeting - 5:30 p.m.
- April 1**
Policy Committee Meeting - 5:30 p.m.
- April 4**
Community Relations Committee Meeting -5:30 p.m.
- April 8**
School Board Meeting - 7:00 p.m.
- April 15**
Learning & Teaching Committee Meeting - 5:30 p.m.

2018-19 Calendar Highlights

- March 22**
End of 3rd Quarter (Middle, High School)
- March 25-29**
Spring Break - No School
- April 16**
Parent University: ANGST Follow-up Session #3
- April 18**
K-5 PM Parent/Teacher Conf. (K-5 AM class only)
- April 19**
School Improvement Day - No School
- May 27**
Memorial Day - No School
- June 2**
High School Graduation Day



Want to stay current with D303?

There's an app for that!



Search St. Charles CUSD 303 to download

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.

