

District 303 E-NEWS

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St Charles District 303



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November 8, 2019



A Positive and Safer Online Presence

Last week, District 303 hosted national digital citizenship speaker Josh Ochs at both our middle and high schools, and as part of our Parent University series. During his presentation with students, Josh spoke about the importance of creating a positive online profile. His evening presentation to parents focused on ways to keep children safe online, including what apps children can use safely and which ones to avoid.



Because he spoke in our district, all our families have the opportunity to register for a free one-year subscription to his SmartSocial.com Digital Driver's Ed program. This resource provides information about current social media trends, statistics, and app guides. In addition, there are webinars that teach both parents and students about how to create a positive online presence. **You must register by January 21, 2020 to take part in the free 12-month offer.**

Here's how you can access this resource:

- Download the SmartSocial app on either your iPhone or Android device. Use the code **STCHARLES** to unlock the program. <https://smartsocial.com/app>
- Access on a desktop/laptop using this link <https://smartsocial.com/stcharles/>

You will be given a username/password to log into the program. Your login information provides you with access to the videos and online workshops.

If you were unable to attend Josh's presentation, there are links to both an audio and video version in the membership area of his website.

- **Video:** <https://smartsocial.com/social-media-webinar/>
- **Audio:** <https://smartsocialpodcast.com/episodes/social-media-parent-speech-by-josh-ochs>

Ten Minutes to Melt

“We know that the sun can melt an ice cube but, can we make the ice cube melt faster?” That’s a question Wasco second grade students were asked before they used the PLTW Engineering Design Process to design and create a “Hot Box” to melt an ice cube as quickly as possible. The experiment was part of their science lesson on Matter, Solids, Liquids, and Gas.

Working in groups, students brainstormed ideas and planned by drawing their model and deciding what materials to use. Students created their models using cardboard, colored paper, wax paper, aluminum foil, tape, glue, popsicle sticks, and pipe cleaners found in the Makerspace.

As part of the challenge, students only had 10 minutes to complete their design, making it necessary to communicate effectively and work together to finish their design on time.

With the arrival of a sunny day, students took their boxes outside and placed one ice cube inside their hot box and another one on a paper plate as the control ice cube. After setting the timer for 10 minutes, students compared the rate at which the ice cube melted. The results were mixed.

Some boxes acted like insulators and the ice cubes remained cold. In the boxes where students used more black paper and aluminum foil, there was more heat generated, resulting in a faster melting ice cube than the one on the control group paper plate.



Rock Your Socks Dance Party at Corron

Corron students, staff, and guest families showed off their best dance moves during the Rock Your Socks Dance Party event on October 25 to help raise awareness for down syndrome. Everyone was encouraged to wear their most colorful, fun, and mismatched socks as a way to celebrate their differences.

how it affects individuals and their families. Guest family members spoke to students about the best ways to help their fellow classmates feel safe, welcomed, and accepted. As students learned about each other’s likes and hobbies, they realized that there are more similarities than differences, which is what this event is all about.



As part of the event, students were able to learn more about down syndrome and



Sweet Care Packages for the Troops

The day after Halloween, Lincoln Elementary PE teacher, Mr. Navis, in partnership with 2nd St. Dental, organized the 4th Annual Halloween Candy Donation event, which encouraged students to bring hundreds of pieces of candy to help make care packages for the men and women in our armed forces.

"I am really excited to be doing this for the 4th year. Every year we have more and more students donate candy," said Mr.

Navis. "Over 75 students participated last year and it's amazing to see students give back to others."

Mr. Navis set up several large buckets by the school entrance and, as students arrived, they filled the buckets with candy. In exchange, students received goody bags from 2nd St. Dental as well as raffle tickets for prizes such as soccer balls, basketballs, and other sports equipment.



Thompson Builders Club Supports the Community

Thompson Middle School Builders Club members volunteered for the first time this year at the Northern Illinois Food Bank on October 10th, helping pack 2,100 pounds of potatoes in less than two hours to help provide 1,750 meals for hungry neighbors in Northern Illinois.

The Builders Club focuses on a variety of community service projects throughout the St. Charles area during the school year. Recently, club members gathered after school to bake cookies and prepare sweet treats for residents at Lazarus House. And, on a monthly basis, members volunteer at the Northern Illinois Food Bank to continue to support the community.



Halloween Candy Exchange

On Halloween, St. Charles North Team Polaris members participated in their 6th Annual Halloween Candy Exchange with staff members around the school. Students were excited to see teachers dressed in their crayola costumes and engaged in fun conversations while they exchanged candies and sweets.



This activity allowed students to interact with new staff members and become more familiar and comfortable around the school while making new friends along the way.

Parent University Presents:

Project Lead the Way Video

November 2019

Do your children talk about Project Lead the Way and how it is part of their lessons from kindergarten through 12th grade? This month, we will launch a video that outlines how PLTW supports students in lessons from science to engineering, and students' perspectives on the variety of hands-on activities they engage in as part of the PLTW curriculum.

It's time to register for Little Saints Preschool!



The Little Saints program is scheduled from Tuesday, January 28, 2020 until Tuesday, May 12, 2020. St. Charles East High School will continue a FOUR DAY PROGRAM and the cost will remain at \$125.

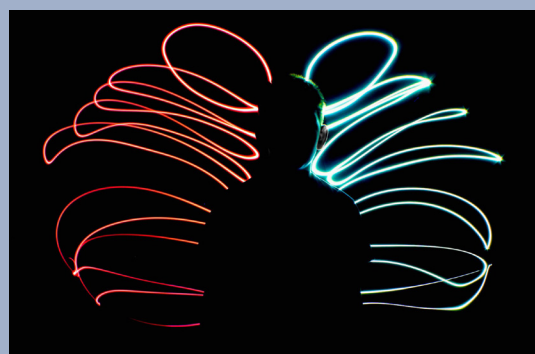
This preschool experience runs in conjunction with the Early Childhood Practicum classes where the high school students perform the roles of the "teachers". The students plan, create, and lead various age appropriate learning experiences that foster growth in the different developmental areas.

[Click here for more information and to register for the Little Saints Preschool.](#) Please contact Erin Linde, at erin.linde@d303.org for any questions or concerns.

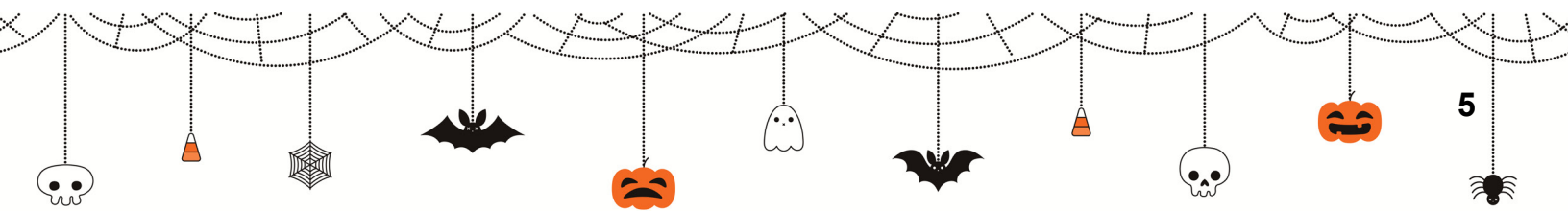
Kane County Regional Office of Education 2019 Student Photography Contest

St. Charles North High School student, Ava Volling's digital photo, "Duality," took the top spot in week four of the Regional Office of Education 2019 Photo Contest. St. Charles North student, Harsh Patel, with "Sub-Urban," and St. Charles East student, Maggie Gigiano, with "Pithechophobia," were also recognized during week four. [Click here to see the photos.](#)

St. Charles North student, Kenzie Larsen's digital photo, "Color Clime," was recognized in week five of the ROE 2019 Photo Contest. [Click here to see the photo.](#)



"Duality" by Ava Volling; kanecountyconnects.com



Thank you
to those who
participated
and
volunteered!



Halloween





Reminder!

Half-Day In-Service | Wednesday, Nov. 13

High School: 7:20am-10:45am
Middle School: 8:30am-12:10pm
Elementary School: 8:40am-11:40am
Richmond: 8:00am-11:40am

Preschool: No morning & afternoon classes

Kindergarten: No afternoon classes

Newly Published Author Visits Wild Rose

Wild Rose second and third grade students were delighted to welcome children's author and poet, Eileen Meyer, who shared her hot off the press book, "The Superlative A. Lincoln" and inspired students to find their greatness.

As students gathered in the LRC, Eileen welcomed them with high fives, prompting smiles from students and staff. Through her presentation, she shared stories about her childhood as well as her struggles as an author when she began writing. Students were amazed to see the huge roll of rejection letters she had collected, encouraging them to reflect on the value of perseverance and self-improvement. "Had I stopped every time I received a rejection letter or a no, I wouldn't be here doing what I love, which is writing books," she said.



Students then had an opportunity to test their knowledge about Abraham Lincoln, answering trivia questions about his life and his hobbies. As Eileen shared more about his book, students learned how different life was back when Abraham Lincoln lived, and how much education and technology has changed.

SCN Madrigals 2019

On **November 21, 22 and 23**, St. Charles North High School Madrigals singers will be holding a Renaissance-themed dinner where guests will be treated to an evening of music, laughter, and a gourmet meal from Tarragon Catering.

This event will take place at the Baker Church in downtown St. Charles, in the dining hall of a Medieval Palace as guests of the Kings Court. [Click here for tickets for this event!](#)





Big Hearts of Fox Valley NFP is a registered 501(c)3 non-profit organization dedicated to brightening the lives of underprivileged children in our community. We're committed to identifying and coming together to meet social, emotional and basic needs of those around us.

It was almost Christmas time and as we looked under our tree to see the piles of wrapped presents for our children, we thought about the little ones that wouldn't be opening presents on Christmas morning. We decided to reach out to our children's school social worker to see if there were any families that may need some assistance providing Christmas gifts to their kids. We, like many others, didn't realize there was a large number of families in need within our own community.

That's where this all started. In 2014, we were able to help provide Christmas gifts to kids in need within our own school.

Since 2014, we have been coordinating a Christmas gift sponsorship program to help the underprivileged children in School District 303 receive gifts from wish lists that each child personally creates. We work with School District 303 social workers who gather wish list information from families they feel may need some assistance providing Christmas gifts for their children. These wish lists are comprised of a few toy ideas along with clothing and shoe sizes. Many of these kids are in need of basic things like winter coats, boots, gloves, socks, etc. In 2018, we were able to provide gifts to 443 children from birth up to 8th grade. This year, we are excited to be expanding our efforts. We estimate that we will be able to support more than 600 children.

Each year we host a gift wrapping event at our Excel Automotive Repair shop. The entire community is invited to come together to wrap the donated gifts and to celebrate the magic of Christmas. With help from several local community sponsors, we always have plenty of food, drinks and entertainment for the entire family. This is a **FREE** event open to the public and is a great opportunity to show kids about the importance of giving back. In 2018, more than 600 people came together to wrap over 2400 gifts!



Big Hearts of Fox Valley Committees are in the process of creating a few other events that will happen in the upcoming years. We're excited to include an event to benefit high school aged kids as well. Our future goal is to partner with all community individuals and businesses in order to achieve our goal which is to make the lives of the children around us a little brighter.

We hope you will join us in our efforts,
♥ - The Mobley Family



Making a difference in our community by providing needed items to local children.



info@bigheartsfv.org | 630.400.1602 | www.bigheartsfv.org

Upcoming School Board Meetings

November 11
School Board Meeting - 7:00 p.m.

November 18
Learning & Teaching Committee Meeting - 5:30 p.m.

November 21
Citizen Advisory Committee Meeting - 6:00 p.m.

December 2
Business Services Committee Meeting - 5:30 p.m.

2019-2020 Calendar Highlights

November 13
School Improvement Half-Day (No students afternoon)

November 25
K-12 Parent/Teacher Conference (No Students)

November 26
K-8 Parent/Teacher Conference (No Students)



High School Graduation Reminder



The graduation ceremonies for St. Charles East and St. Charles North High School will be on *Thursday May 21, 2020.*



THE ST. CHARLES EDUCATION FOUNDATION D303 TRIBUTE PROGRAM

Now you can honor or thank a District 303 staff member by making a donation to The St. Charles Education Foundation in his or her name. Throughout the year, your personalized message will be sent to the staff member in a card. Your tax-deductible contribution will help fund grants that benefit District 303 students and classrooms.

Make a donation by visiting www.stced.org and clicking "Ways to Help."

For more information, email tribute@stced.org.

