

# District 303 E-NEWS

 St Charles District 303  @StCharlesD303  @StCharlesD303

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Let's Talk!



June 2, 2023

## Bagbros Earns Top Prize at INCubator Final Pitch Night

Looking for a better solution to keep that gym bag smelling fresh? The choice is Bagbros, an easily removable and washable liner, and the team behind its creation took home the top prize of \$4,000 at Final Pitch Night on May 16. Bagbros team members include St. Charles East High School students Jack Borri, Anthony Lori, Justin Smith and Jake Vrankovich. They competed with three other teams from East and North High School to pitch their idea to “sharks,” local entrepreneurs who evaluated the products and selected a winner. “To see where we came from to make it a year and win I think that was really cool, just how our business developed,” said Smith.



Final Pitch Night is the culmination of student work in the INCubator class, where students are introduced to the world of entrepreneurship with the opportunity to develop a product, research its marketability and pitch it to experts. They are guided by INCubator instructors and paired with a local business person to serve as their mentor throughout the process. “I knew from the beginning - I really liked the idea, and then we just had to put it together,” said Bagbros mentor Abraham Mashal, a franchisor with Always Faithful Dog.

The 4,000 prize money is courtesy of a grant that Bagbros can use to enhance their product as part of next year’s ACCelerator class. Anthony Lori says the team is looking forward to “developing our product fully - getting those zippers in and maximizing the potential of our product to make sure it works 100%.”

Three other teams took home prizes of \$3,000, \$2,000 and \$1,000 to build upon their products next year. Last Dropz is an attachment for liquid dispensers to access every last drop of product, Pick N’ Go is a heated/cooled locker system for restaurants to securely store and dispense pickup orders, and Odd Jobs is a matchmaking site for students to find temporary work.



# Important Information

FROM DISTRICT 303

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## ***Strategic Plan***

District 303 is preparing to finalize a five-year Strategic Plan to guide long-term priorities, resources and intended outcomes in order to drive student success. This plan reflects months of work by the Strategic Plan Development Committee, as well as recent input from staff. Now, it is being presented to the community.

Upon review of the [Strategic Plan](#), community members are invited to provide feedback in this [brief survey](#). The survey closes on Wednesday, June 7 at 9 p.m. On June 12, the District 303 Board will consider formally adopting the plan, which would become effective starting with the 2023-2024 school year.

[View Strategic Plan Page](#)

## ***Facility Master Plan***

The Facility Master Plan process continues to move forward, with recent discussions focused on possibly repurposing Lincoln Elementary School and Fox Ridge Early Childhood Center in order to best align with the District's space standards. On May 25, the Administration presented to the Board a cost analysis of these buildings, space utilization at Haines Center, and building scenarios and funding models to accommodate these possible changes. Next month, one scenario and one funding model will be brought to the Board for consideration. In the fall, Administration will begin reviewing boundaries.

As a reminder, any changes would need Board approval, and not take effect until the 2024-2025 school year at the earliest. A [webpage](#) has been created to provide families with more information. It includes a timeline of the Facility Master Plan process, provides answers to many questions, and will be continually updated.

[View Facility Master Plan Page](#)

## ***New Teachers Union Contract***

On May 25, the Board approved a four-year contract with the St. Charles Education Association (SCEA), which was ratified by SCEA members earlier in the week. The contract, which goes into effect for the 2023-2024 school year, is a reflection of several District 303 strategic priorities that will support long-term financial stability and academic growth through increased teacher compensation, modifications to the professional day, and expanded development opportunities through Professional Learning Communities (PLCs).

The contract also includes, starting in the 2024-2025 school year, a shorter elementary day. This was negotiated to create more time for professional development and to support greater long-term financial sustainability. [Details on the contract](#) were shared during the May 25 meeting.

[View Contract Presentation](#)

**A**cross the district, elementary students experienced a fun-filled day to mark the end of the school year. Known as AMPE Day, students participated in a variety of team-building activities focused on art, music, PE, and Empower.

At Bell Graham, its Special Team had been preparing for AMPE Day since January. On the day of the event, students wore their grade-level colors and rotated throughout 11 fun stations, including water bucket relays, giant water balloon slingshots, umbrella rainbows, sidewalk chalk drawing, and more. As they worked in teams and completed the challenges, they celebrated all they had learned during the school year and the friendships they developed. During the week leading up to their AMPE Day, students who demonstrated positive behaviors were awarded tickets during their specials. As tickets were drawn on AMPE Day, students eagerly approached to receive a plate full of whipped cream that they quickly delivered to the faces of their chosen teacher.



Compass Academy students and staff also came together to celebrate the end of their 2nd year on May 19 with a day full of activities, food, and friendship. They also took time to congratulate their graduating seniors, with teachers, students, and family members, sharing hugs and warm send-offs.



From the 5th grade clap-out to the 8th grade celebrations and the Senior Legacy walk, these traditions helped commemorate the culmination of another outstanding school year in District 303.



**C**ongratulations to St. Charles East students Josh Evans and Emma Gagliardi, and St. Charles North students Kinga Kojder and Alaina Langston for winning a scholarship from the St. Charles Education Foundation.

“Every year we find it very difficult to choose winners from so many outstanding candidates,” said Fran Johnson, St. Charles Education Foundation Board member. “We find the service to our community and school by the scholarship applicants truly amazing and we are proud to honor these students for their service and academic achievements.”

Since 2003, the St. Charles Education Foundation has annually awarded scholarships to two graduating seniors at each of the two District 303 high schools. 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, and the award is granted based on overall merit. The four students were recognized at their school’s Senior Honors Night before graduation.



## Centuries-Old Game Sparks Interest in Students



**I**t’s been an exciting year for the Thompson and Wredling Middle Schools’ Chess Club as students have developed an interest in the game of chess. This phenomenon has grown so much that even the Washington Post featured 7th grade Social Studies teacher and Chess Club Advisor, Jeff Otterby, and the passionate chess players from Thompson.

Otterby started a Chess Club at Haines almost a decade ago, making calls and sending emails to other schools to find teams that wanted to play. After the games,

they would stop at McDonald’s as an incentive for more students to participate.

The group then played in tournaments in West Chicago and Wheaton, eventually moving up to the state tournament. During the time of the COVID-19 pandemic, the group joined Lichess and played online. They would search for other teams on the system from across the nation and would challenge them to a match. Around that time, he also helped start a Chess Club at Wredling, with Matt Wollak as this year’s new advisor.

Because of this great interest, Otterby also started a Chess League with three other schools. The Chess Club provides students with a fun space where they can learn chess strategies, expand their skills, compete in tournaments, and develop friendships along the way.

“The students have really enjoyed it. I’m hoping we can expand to a few more teams next year,” Otterby added.

**C**ompass Academy student Emma Rodriguez was selected by the U.S. Department of State to participate in the Global Youth Leadership Camp in Washington, D.C. Emma was one of 15 Illinois high school students selected to participate and represent the United States at this camp, which took place in late April.



The group of American and Southeast Asian students first met at the Northern Illinois University campus where they watched some amazing Southeast Asian cultural performances. Then, they made their way to the Stronghold Camp and Retreat Center in Oregon, Illinois where they participated in a variety of leadership and team-building activities. Rodriguez commented on how participating in those activities allowed her to bond with other students and develop new friendships.

Once they traveled to D.C., students toured the area and stopped at the Lincoln Memorial, Washington Monument, and the World War II Memorial. They also visited the State Department and watched a Senate proceeding in the Capitol Building. "This was very interesting to me because I am considering a career in international relations or politics," expressed Rodriguez.

Thanks to new friendships with students from the countries of Laos and Indonesia, Rodriguez even picked up on some new languages during the trip. While they live on the other side of the world, said Rodriguez, she shares with them a lot of similarities.

"It was tough to say goodbye to everyone and I wish I had more time with them all. Overall, I wouldn't trade the experience for anything."

The U.S. Department of State and Northern Illinois University's Center for Southeast Asian Studies are vitally interested in preparing young leaders worldwide to confront emerging global issues. This is a free opportunity for selected Illinois high school students to work alongside their peers from 10 Southeast Asian countries, learn about diverse cultures, build lasting friendships, discover nonprofit organizations, represent the U.S., and visit Washington, D.C.

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## Career Day Inspires Wredling Students

**W**redling 7th graders looked to their futures during a special Career Day event in early May. A total of 22 community members and parents provided a glimpse into their world by sharing information and fun facts about their jobs and careers. Some careers they learned about were in engineering, marketing, baking, healthcare, and local government, and they even welcomed St. Charles Mayor Lora Vitek. Students also heard from the St. Charles East Student Council and a representative from Elmhurst College and learned about goal setting and preparing for their future.



# Check out the **Community Backpack**

Learn about local events, community organizations, and summer activities

[CLICK HERE](#)

2023-2024 School Year

# RETURNING STUDENT REGISTRATION

## NOW OPEN!



Families of current District 303 Kindergarten-11TH grade students can view registration instructions, important due dates and fee waiver details online.

[CLICK HERE](#)  
for more information

### Other Important Dates

**JUNE 1**  
Elementary and Middle School Online Registration due

**JULY 1**  
High School Online Registration due

**JULY 6**  
2023-2024 Fees posted in Pushcoin

**JULY 7**  
Fee Waiver Applications available online

**AUGUST 14**  
First Day of School



Año escolar 2023-2024

# LAS INSCRIPCIONES PARA ESTUDIANTES QUE REGRESAN

## YA ESTÁN ABIERTAS



Las familias de estudiantes actualmente en Kindergarten a 11º grado en el Distrito 303 pueden ver las instrucciones de inscripción, fechas de vencimiento importantes y detalles de exención de cuotas en línea.

[HAGA CLIC AQUÍ](#)  
para más información

### Fechas Importantes

**1º DE JUNIO**  
Plazo de inscripción en línea para los estudiantes de primaria y secundaria termina

**1º DE JULIO**  
Plazo de inscripción en línea para los estudiantes de preparatoria termina

**6 DE JULIO**  
Las cuotas para el año escolar 2023-2024 se publican en las cuentas de PushCoin

**7 DE JULIO**  
Las Solicitudes de Exención de Cuotas están disponible

**14 DE AGOSTO**  
Primer día de clases





Students from across the district came together this past weekend for the 2nd annual 48-Hour Film Festival hosted by the St. Charles North Film Club. Students in 8th through 11th grade met at North on May 26 to sign in and receive the festival code of conduct along with a prop, line of dialogue, and character that every film had to include. Then, each team had 48 hours to create their unique film. Students put into practice all they had learned in their classes not only to act, record, edit, and produce their film but to create costumes and decorate a set for

their production. On the evening of May 30, students dressed for the premiere at Baker Community Center, and invited family and friends to the red carpet event. Attendees had a wonderful time viewing all the submissions and students received awards for their films.

## Elementary Students Receive Award from Bernie's Book Bank

Congratulations to Davis Primary student Will Bui and Ferson Creek student Anthony Beltran-Silva for winning the 2023 Nick DeMarco Award from Bernie's Book Bank. Nick was an advocate for education and literacy and personified kindness, integrity and teamwork in his life. This award is a way to honor and recognize students who embrace the same qualities.



The students were one of 20 recipients from 180 nominations across the state for the award, and they received an award certificate and a gift certificate to a local bookstore.

"Anthony is an outstanding fourth grader who consistently represents the qualities of kindness, teamwork, and integrity," expressed Ferson Creek Principal Kristy McKnight. "His teachers had no problem finding examples of how he demonstrates these traits and were so excited to celebrate him!"

Will's teacher, Jennifer Gerard, nominated Will as he also personifies kindness, helpfulness, and an inspiring love of learning. Will is especially interested in fire trucks and checks with the Davis LRC Director every week to see if new books have arrived. In the classroom, he is always helpful to his peers and enthusiastically shares all his learning experiences with his family.

## Watching Chicks Hatch, Learning About Eggs



Kindergarten students in Stephanie Turner's class concluded the school year learning how baby chickens, or chicks, form inside an egg and watched with excitement when they started to hatch. What made the experience even more unique was the livestream Turner setup observing the incubator for kids to watch while at home. Sure enough, after 21 days in incubation, the first egg hatched on a morning before school had started, and several families watched it happen live from their digital devices.

"It was very cool the last 20 days of having the live camera to watch and then hatch," said Turner, whose class observed a total of 16 eggs hatch during the month of May. As they waited, students created calendars and colored in the days as they passed, and learned about the stages of the chick's development for each day they were in the egg. Occasionally, the class was able to hold and interact with the chicks, and later gave each of them names. Before the school year concluded, Turner helped coordinate new homes for the chicks locally.

## Wredling Students Receive American Legion Award

Congratulations to Wredling students Ella Joy Won and Alex Spizzirri for receiving the American Legion Award at the 8th Grade Awards Assembly, presented by Robert Altergott. The American Legion Award has been presented to students since 1926. It is intended to honor students who reflect positive character traits and citizenship. At Wredling, the award is given to two 8th graders who demonstrate the following six character qualities: courage, honor, leadership, patriotism, scholarship, and service.



Former Bell Graham 5th grade teacher, Jan Hornbostel, surprised Lisa Cali's students at Richmond by delivering knitted bears for them. The 3rd graders were excited to have received such a special gift, but what made it extra special was learning that Cali had been one of Hornbostel's students at Bell Graham.

"I attended Bell Graham as a student and then ended up going back there to do my student teaching in 2016," explained Cali.

"Jan was retired at that point and was

subbing there, so I saw her quite often, and she would even sub for me when I started at Ferson Creek." By chance, Cali's husband was also one of Hornbostel's students. "It was a crazy coincidence being that he and I didn't meet until we were out of college."



After the two former students shared photos of their new family on social media, Hornbostel reached out to Cali. "Jan asked if she could stop by Richmond sometime and bring me a knitted bear for my son. When she showed up to deliver the bear for my son, she told my students that she wanted to make each one of them a bear, too. They were thrilled!"

## Finishing Strong at Thompson

Thompson Middle School students concluded the school year with their "Finish Strong" assembly. During the month of May, their focus was to encourage each other to work hard, complete all their work, check Schoology, and successfully pass all their exams. To support this, they checked with their teachers to see their progress and listened to positive and inspiring quotes each day during the morning announcements.

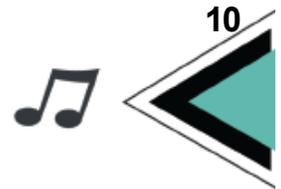
On the day of the assembly, students and staff came together to celebrate their hard work with fun games, challenges, and the long-awaited tug-of-war where student teams played each other. The winners of the tug-of-war then had the opportunity to put a pie in the face of a teacher. Teachers graciously offered to participate, and it turned out to be a lot of fun for all.





SUMMER READING 2023

# FIND YOUR VOICE



YOUTH

Monday, May 22-Saturday, July 29

Find Your Voice with this year's summer reading program! Log your minutes online via READSquared or at the Library from Monday, May 22 through Saturday, July 29. To get started tracking your reading, go to [scpld.readsquared.com](http://scpld.readsquared.com) starting on May 22 (also available as an app for iOS or Android) or visit the Youth Services Desk for a paper log! For more information, please visit [scpld.org/programs-events/reading/](http://scpld.org/programs-events/reading/).

Every 500 minutes you read earns you a digital ticket for our Grand Prize Drawings! After your first 500 minutes, you will earn a spin of our Prize Wheel for something extra fun! If you complete 1,000 minutes, you will earn a prize book of your choice and a local gift certificate! Prizes will be available for pickup at the Youth Services desk between May 30 and August 12. Grand Prize winners will be drawn on Monday, July 31.



SUMMER READING 2023

# FIND YOUR VOICE



YOUTH

Monday, May 22-Saturday, July 29

¡Encuentra tu voz con el programa de lectura de verano de este año! Registre sus minutos en línea a través de READSquared o en la Biblioteca a partir de lunes 22 de mayo hasta el sábado 29 de julio. Para comenzar a realizar un seguimiento de su lectura, vaya a [scpld.readsquared.com](http://scpld.readsquared.com) a partir del 22 de mayo (también disponible como aplicación para iOS o Android) o visite el Mostrador de Servicios Juveniles para un registro en papel. Para obtener más información, visite [scpld.org/programs-events/reading/](http://scpld.org/programs-events/reading/).

¡Cada 500 minutos que lea, obtendrá un boleto digital para nuestros sorteos del Gran Premio! Después de tus primeros 500 minutos, ganarás un giro de nuestra ruleta de premios para algo más divertido. ¡Si completas 1,000 minutos, ganarás un libro de premio de tu elección y un certificado de regalo de un negocio local! Los premios estarán disponibles para recoger en el mostrador de Servicios Juveniles entre el 30 de mayo y el 12 de agosto. Los ganadores del Gran Premio se sortearán el lunes 31 de julio.

