

# District 303 E-NEWS

 St Charles District 303  @StCharlesD303  @StCharlesD303

## Administration Center

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Contact us!

March 1, 2024



## Davis Primary Teacher Earns State Recognition

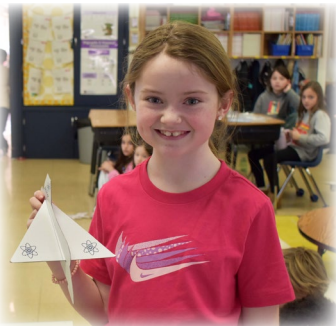
Davis second grade teacher Allison Thomas recently received an Award of Meritorious Service as part of the Illinois State Board of Education's (ISBE) Those Who Excel & Teacher of the Year Awards. Across the state, more than 500 educators were recognized for making a lasting impact on students, families, and co-workers in their respective school communities. Thomas and all of the other awardees will be celebrated by ISBE during a banquet on May 18, 2024.



"Being recognized for my passions that help each student grow is both rewarding and impactful," Thomas said. "My focus everyday is to build relationships first with each student, staff member, parent, and community member. Our connections as learners, neighbors, and community cultivate the belonging of D303." Read more [here](#).

## Flight Challenge at Richmond

As it's become a tradition, Richmond students in Maria Reece's 3rd grade participate in a flight challenge where they put their gliders to the test. Students designed and built their gliders applying the PLTW concepts they learned of lift, drag, thrust, and weight. Before the flight contest, they tested their models and recorded their observations in their PLTW launch logs. Then, they made improvements and modifications, changing the design or position of their wings and adjusting their stabilizers.



One by one, each glider was launched from a ramp by Mrs. Reece on February 12. She engaged students in discussions about each model and asked them to think critically and make predictions about how far they would fly. One student's glider made it as far as 13 feet, crowning them this year's winner of the flight challenge.



The following day, students went on a field trip to Avel Flight School at the DuPage Airport. They met with instructors and pilots, saw different airplanes, and even went through a flight simulator. Students commented how much they enjoyed the field trip as well as the hands-on project.

## Students Recycle Over 1,000lbs of Plastic Film



Corron 5th grade teacher, Erik Robinson, and his students started a plastic film recycling program last year after learning about the negative effects plastic film has on the environment. Students collected plastic from each classroom on a weekly basis which they then weighed before Robinson dropped it off at Jewel Osco to be recycled through Trex (a sponsor of local recycling programs in communities throughout the country). Together, they recycled 250 pounds of plastic film.

This year, Robinson's class decided to continue the project and set a goal of recycling 1,000 pounds of plastic film. Students have done so much to engage and encourage the school community to participate, from creating educational videos and informative flyers, to partnering with the school's food service staff and custodian to properly separate and recycle the plastic. Because the class already reached its goal, they were awarded a Trex® furniture bench for the school. Students have expressed how exciting it has been to work on this project and how proud they are to be making a difference in the world.



### ***Message from Superintendent Gordon: Michelle Woodring Appointed Fox Ridge Elementary Principal***

Upon thorough deliberation and acknowledging the notable developments within District 303 this year, I am pleased to announce my decision to appoint Mrs. Michelle Woodring as the next Principal of Fox Ridge Elementary. Michelle has demonstrated exceptional leadership during her tenure at Lincoln Elementary, and I am confident that she will continue to excel in her role at Fox Ridge Elementary. With changes to boundaries beginning in the 2024-2025 school year, we will welcome portions of students and families from Lincoln, Norton Creek, and Munhall to the Fox Ridge Elementary community next year.



At a time of significant change in our District, Michelle's consistent presence as a building leader, paired with her experience and dedication to our students, staff and families, will be invaluable as the principal of Fox Ridge Elementary next school year.



## Candy Store in a Neighborhood

Norton Creek 4th grade teachers partnered with the City of St. Charles to provide students with an enriching learning experience to complement what they've been learning in their social studies and ELA classes.

Fourth graders got a taste of municipal government during a mock city council meeting. They discussed a hypothetical scenario involving a local candy store owner wanting to open a commercial candy shop in a residential neighborhood. Different students stepped into the roles of mayor, alderpersons, the aspiring business owner, Candace Sweetums, residents, city clerk, city administrator, and community development director.

City staff graciously coached and guided students as the students worked through the simulated meeting. Students reviewed maps and other information and asked questions related to storage, parking, and potential safety concerns.

"We are so grateful for the city doing this for us," expressed Norton Creek teacher Kris Hahn. "They really went above and beyond to make this experience happen for our students and we're excited for this amazing partnership."



## Expanding Child Care Services

District 303 elementary families will have additional options for before and after school child care under expanded partnerships with the St. Charles and West Chicago Park Districts and South Elgin Parks and Recreation Department. Beginning with the 2024-2025 school year in August, fee-based child care services will be available at additional locations with hours conducive to the new school schedule.

Program and registration details will be available from each parks service starting the first week of May. [View the announcement](#) sent to parents for additional information.

Check out the  
**Community Backpack**

Learn about local events, community organizations,  
and activities throughout the school year.

**CLICK HERE**





# Kindergarten Enrollment for 2024-2025

Complete kindergarten enrollment for the  
2024-2025 school year online!

**February 26 – March 22**

*For more information, visit the New Student Enrollment &  
Registration page on the District 303 website.*



# Inscripción de Kindergarten para 2024-2025

¡Completa la inscripción para kindergarten  
para el año escolar 2024-2025 en línea!

**26 de febrero – 22 de marzo**

*Para más información, acceda a la página web de Inscripción de Nuevos Estudiantes  
(New Student Enrollment & Registration) en el sitio web del Distrito 303.*



## **“Dragons in a Bag” Escape Room at Anderson**

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**A**nderson Elementary celebrated the end of its One School One Book literary journey by hosting a family night on February 22. Anderson teachers came together to organize the escape room event with the theme around the book “Dragons in a Bag,” by Zetta Elliott.

Students participated in various activities that incorporated elements from the story, such as rock-wall climbing for quartz, digging for dinosaurs, and escaping dinosaurs to collect items necessary to get a transporter to work which allowed students to go home. There were also other challenges and craft and literacy activities for the whole family.



One School One Book spanned over three weeks at Anderson. Each family received a copy of the book and was encouraged to read one chapter each night and participate in daily trivia challenges. There was also a digital activity board that included chapter read alouds and supplemental materials to engage students and families further with what they were reading, helping them expand their learning and build stronger connections.

## **Empower Showcase at Richmond**

**R**ichmond students welcomed families and staff to the Empower showcase open house. In 3rd grade Build It!, students worked in small groups and used cardboard, plastic, and other materials to create a city installation with many iconic buildings found in St. Charles. In the same unit, 4th graders designed, engineered, and built awesome arcade games using recycled materials. The games were set up in the gym for all to enjoy, from a cool cardboard pool table and a double-player whac-a-mole to a mini golf course and an interactive pac-man game, and prizes for the winners. Fifth graders put their research skills and creativity to use as part of the FLEX module. Students created posters and PowerPoint presentations that focused on different countries and cultures around the world. This provided students with the opportunity to learn about different traditions, languages, and customs from around the world.



# District 303

Listen Learn Return



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## ***Educators Highlight Academic Initiatives at Listen Learn Return***

District 303 held its latest Listen Learn Return session on Thursday, February 29. This was the latest installment of the District's community engagement program, which is intended to bring people together to discuss current initiatives on important topics.



Attendees learned more about academic initiatives in District 303, including information on curriculum changes, how educators are leveraging Professional Learning Communities (PLCs) to support each student, and improving students' overall learning school experience. You can watch a recording of the February 29 session and view the presentation slides at [district.d303.org/llr](https://district.d303.org/llr).

## **Upcoming School Board Meetings**

Beginning March 1, District 303 Board and Board Committee meetings will be held at Thompson Middle School in the LRC (705 West Main Street, St. Charles, IL). A permanent meeting venue will become available later this year.

Visit [district.d303.org/board](https://district.d303.org/board) for more information.

**March 11**  
School Board Meeting - 6:00 p.m.

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

**March 21**  
Policy Committee Meeting - 4:30 p.m.  
Business Services Committee Meeting - 5:30 p.m.

## **2023-2024 School Calendar Highlights**

**March 5**  
Parent Education - Spring into College Presentation

**March 6**  
High School Early Release Day

**March 13**  
High School Early Release Day  
[Parent Education](#) - Building Resiliency: Supporting a Growth Mindset (Morning and Afternoon Sessions)  
[Educación para Padres](#) - Construyendo Resiliencia: Apoyando una "Mentalidad de Crecimiento"

**March 20**  
All Grade Level (PreK-12) Early Release Day



PARENT UNIVERSITY PRESENTS



# Building Resiliency: Supporting a Growth Mindset

Presenters: Allyse Rehak, LCPC,  
Riverview Counseling Services

Wednesday, March 13, 2024

Virtual Presentations

Morning Session - 10 am

Evening Session - 6 pm

Register at  
***district.d303.org/  
parent-university***

LA UNIVERSIDAD PARA PADRES PRESENTA



# Construyendo Resiliencia: Apoyando una "Mentalidad de Crecimiento"

Presentador: Darley Giraldo, LCPC, Servicios de Consejería Riverview  
Recomendada para todos los padres y guardianes

Miércoles 13 de marzo del 2024

Presentaciones Virtuales

En la Mañana - 10am

En la Tarde - 6pm

Regístrese ahora  
***district.d303.org/  
parent-university***