

# District 303 E-NEWS

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**Administration Center**  
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Let's Talk!

**February 11, 2022**



## Bell Graham Students Organize a Community Fundraiser

The Empower “Make a Difference” module teaches students about the importance of giving back to the community and showing empathy. Bell Graham 4th grade students used that lesson to work on a service project that raised over \$700 for the Northern Illinois Food Bank.

Students submitted fundraiser ideas to Mrs. Taylor. She selected the top five ideas and asked students to vote for their preference. Once students chose the Northern Illinois Food Bank, they had to make decisions about what they wanted to do and how they were going to accomplish it.

for their service project. The students made collection boxes out of cardboard, designed posters and banners, and created promotional videos!”

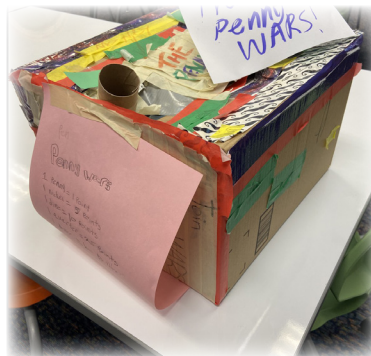


Most importantly, students continuously communicated their thoughts and ideas in a respectful way, listened to each other’s opinions, and learned to work together for a common goal, which was to help others in the community.

“I am so proud of their accomplishments and their donation of \$779 to the Northern Illinois Food Bank!” Mrs. Taylor exclaimed. Mrs. Taylor encouraged students and their families to keep their initiative going and to talk about the different ways they can all help others, reminding them that even a small act of kindness can change the world.



“They decided on Penny Wars and from there it just took off,” explained Mrs. Taylor. “Our Empower classroom transformed into a ‘campaign headquarters’



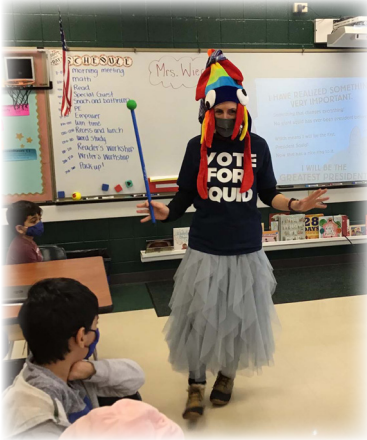
## Celebrating World Read Aloud Day!

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On February 2, District 303 students joined millions of students from around the world for World Read Aloud Day. Students had an opportunity to participate in a variety of activities to celebrate the power of reading and making connections.

At Norton Creek, Mrs. Lorenz and Mrs. Evans visited classrooms to share the love of reading. They read the book "President Squid" by Aaron Reynolds and illustrated by Sara Varon, and had a lot of fun engaging students in thoughtful discussions. They even surprised students by dressing up as some of the characters in the book.

Students at Davis celebrated World Read Aloud Day all week long. They began by reading "The World According to Humphrey" for their One School, One Book initiative. Second grade students in the bilingual classrooms made hamster toys for Humphrey during their Empower lesson. Students also welcomed several authors for virtual visits, including Sherri Duskey Rinker to the 2nd grade classrooms, and Melissa Stewart to the 1st grade classrooms.



At Wasco, students in Mrs. Eberhardt's class celebrated their accomplishments by building reading forts and spending time reading their favorite book. Readers in Ms. Rzezinowska's class also built their own reading forts, and students in Mrs. Helland's class expressed how eager they were to join in on the reading fun. Parents also participated in the celebrations as guest readers, helping make reading lessons come alive using animated voices and puppets.





## Mini “mallow” Catapults at Wild Rose

Wild Rose 3rd grade students were challenged to design their own marshmallow catapults as part of their science lessons. This fun and engaging STEAM project encouraged students to apply their knowledge of a simple lever and potential energy to create kinetic energy.

In groups, students used popsicle sticks, rubber bands, tape, glue, and plastic spoons to build their catapults. Learning how to collaborate with one another and respectfully listen to each other's ideas was essential. As their initial designs failed, students problem-solved to adjust their models. Some of the common problems the groups encountered were having their catapults fall apart and not launching the mini marshmallows the required three feet.

On the day of the launch, Mrs. Gibson and Mr. Hancock surprised students by slathering shaving cream on their faces. One by one, each team attempted to launch the marshmallows and land on Mrs. Gibson's and Mr. Hancock's shaving cream “beards” three feet away. If the marshmallows successfully stuck for three seconds, the team earned a point. As each team launched marshmallows, the sound of laughter, cheers, and words of encouragement filled the cafeteria. Students used the time at the end to discuss what they learned, what made the launches successful, and the real-world applications of the mechanisms and concepts.



### ***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.



## Author Inspires Students with Tales of Courage



Lincoln students in 4th and 5th grade classes welcomed New York Times best-selling author, Aisha Saeed, as part of a virtual author visit. Throughout the visit, Mrs. Saeed focused on the theme of bravery. Students in the classes were captivated by the courageous stories of Amal and Omar in her books *Amal Unbound* and *Omar Rising*. In both books, the titular characters learn how to stand up for themselves in the face of great injustice. Mrs. Saeed cited Malala Yousafzai's courage as a major source

of inspiration while writing these stories. "There are so many kids around the world who are brave and that matter, but may never become famous like Malala," she said. "That doesn't make their bravery any less important."

She also emphasized the value of determination in her own career as a writer. Lincoln 5th graders in Mrs. McConkey's class asked her how the pandemic has affected her writing. Mrs. Saeed mused that though the pandemic has made it more difficult to write, it has been a difficult time for everyone. "Remember to be gentle with yourself!" she assured the students. This wisdom is reflected in her tips to become a better writer. She advised that "Whatever you love to do and you want to get better at, there will be times when it's hard. But that's normal! If it's something you love doing, it's worth it to keep going."

## 3rd Graders "Show It Off" at Anderson

In Anderson's 3rd grade Empower classes, students have been practicing their directing and storytelling skills as part of the Show It Off module. During class, students explore creative communication techniques using accessible video production tools. Empower teacher Mrs. Hernandez showed Mrs. Scavo's class how to use the built-in templates in the iMovie app to make trailers for all kinds of movie genres. Once a template is chosen, the storyboard feature guides users through the compositions of photos and videos to take to customize the trailer with a story of their own design.



Armed with the power of their imagination and the capabilities of an iPad, the students eagerly paired off to begin brainstorming possible stories. One pair discussed the idea of using the snowy landscape outside the LRC windows to form a perilous winter journey. Another student immediately knew he wanted to make a movie about a competition for survival on a stranded island. Once the plot was decided, most pairs had one person direct and take footage while the other acted out the scenes. Sometimes larger groups formed so everyone could work together to get photos and video. As she watched the LRC buzz with creative energy, Mrs. Hernandez reflected, "It's amazing how many tools the students have available to them. Soon they'll be teaching me new skills!"

## Illinois Rental Payment Program

The Illinois Rental Payment Program can provide up to \$25,000 in emergency rental assistance.



So many families have experienced financial hardship during the COVID-19 pandemic. For those who have fallen behind on rent payments, the Illinois Rental Assistance Program may be able to help keep them in their homes.

The [Illinois Rental Payment Program](#) provides financial assistance for rent to income-eligible Illinois renters and their landlords who have been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Illinois renters may be eligible for up to \$25,000 and 18 months of emergency rental payments under the program. This is a grant that does NOT have to be repaid.

Please help us spread the word about this opportunity and share this information with your school communities.

### Illinois Rental Payment Program

Preserving Housing Stability During the COVID-19 Pandemic

Applications will be available Monday, Dec. 6, 2021 and will close at 11:59 p.m. on Sunday, Jan. 9, 2022. Apply at [ILLINOISHOUSINGHELP.ORG](https://ILLINOISHOUSINGHELP.ORG).

Questions? Contact us:  
QUESTIONS.ILRPP@IHDA.ORG  
Toll Free: 866-454-3571



The Illinois State Board of Education is the State Education Agency for Illinois. Our mission is to provide each and every child with safe and healthy learning conditions, great educators, and equitable opportunities by practicing data-informed stewardship of resources and policy development, all done in partnership with educators, families, and stakeholders.



## Upcoming School Board Meetings

### February 14

School Board Meeting - 6:00 p.m.

*Board members will begin the meeting by going into closed session. The open session meeting will begin at the end of closed session, however no earlier than 7:00 p.m.*

### February 22

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

Policy Committee Meeting - 6:30 p.m.

### February 24

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

### February 28

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

Special School Board Meeting - 6:15 p.m.\*

*\*Meeting will begin immediately following the Business Services Committee Meeting, but no earlier than 6:15 p.m.*

## 2021-2022 Calendar Highlights

### February 21

Presidents' Day (No Students, Offices Closed)

### February 23

All Grade Level (PreK-12) Early Release Day

### March 4

Kane County Institute Day (No Students)

### March 9

High School Early Release Day



## Early Release Dates & Times 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: 8:40 a.m. - 2:52 p.m.

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