

# District 303 E-NEWS

 St Charles District 303  @StCharlesD303  @StCharlesD303

**Administration Center**  
201 South 7th St.  
St. Charles, IL 60174  
331.228.2000  
Let's Talk!

**November 4, 2022**



## Showcasing Student and Staff Artwork at Wild Rose

**W**ild Rose Art Teacher Valerie Kelly is always finding new ways for students to express themselves through art. Inspired by the district-wide theme “Be Here Be You Belong” she launched a school-wide collaborative art project where she guided students and staff to create self-portraits. On October 28, they invited District 303 Superintendent Paul Gordon to the school to showcase their wall of portraits. A wonderful element of the showcase were the words “Be Here Be You Belong” painted on the wall, courtesy of Wild Rose parent Mark V. Schellerer of ER2 Image Group.



Two students also had the amazing opportunity to present their artwork to Dr. Gordon. Fourth-grade students Faye and Jamian worked on pieces of art that represented the overall theme of belonging across the district.

“I am blown away by the kindness and the thoughtfulness and at just how beautiful the pieces are,” expressed Gordon.

Faye’s piece was a replica of Vincent van Gogh’s painting, “The Starry Night,” with the addition of a drawing of Dr. Gordon. Her favorite part was using colored pencils to really blend the colors to add a sense of movement to the piece. Jamian’s work focused on representing all of the schools in the district by drawing all of the schools’ logos using markers, colored pencils, and crayons. The central focus of his piece was a drawing of Dr. Gordon as a superhero and positive messages.





# More Chances to Share Your Feedback



2



## ***Message from Superintendent Gordon:***

There has been a strong turnout of online participants during our ThoughtExchange surveys. Thank you for taking the time to share your feedback. Three total online surveys are being distributed as an extension of our Listen Learn Return initiative, asking for your perspectives on the challenges, opportunities for growth and points of pride in District 303. On our [Listen Learn Return website](#), you can view results for our survey on challenges, access our current survey on growth, and beginning Monday share what you're proud of. We look forward to the feedback, which we'll use to develop action plans and communicate during our return sessions in 2023.

## ***Staying Consistent***

These electronic surveys, or exchanges, will continue our same questions about the District's challenges, opportunities for growth and points of pride. It was important that the electronic surveys closely aligned with our in-person methods, which provided a safe space that encouraged honest feedback and the opportunity to learn others' perspectives. That is why we'll be using a platform called ThoughtExchange.



## ***What is ThoughtExchange?***

ThoughtExchange is an anonymous survey tool that offers two-way engagement on important topics. Here's how it works: First, you'll be asked to share your thoughts on a single question; second, you'll be asked to rate the thoughts of others; finally, you'll be able to discover the full conversation and ratings. The process is confidential, so identities will not be known or associated with the thoughts of others or their ratings. We've updated our [Listen Learn Return website](#) to share more about this process. You can also [watch this video](#) and visit the [ThoughtExchange website](#) for additional information.

We look forward to growing our feedback to help drive our decision making, the future of our District and the success of our students. Thank you for participating.



## **National Blue Ribbon Schools Awards Ceremony**

We previously announced that Norton Creek and St. Charles North were named 2022 National Blue Ribbon Schools by the U.S. Department of Education.

Click on the links below to watch the Awards Ceremony Opening Session and the Awards Ceremony ([YouTube](#) and [Facebook](#)).



## Learning About a Bright Celebration

Corron students in Ryan Flanagan's class learned first-hand about India's most important holiday: Diwali. Thanks to some families who volunteered to visit the school, 2nd graders had the opportunity to hear from them about the five-day celebration, also known as the Festival of Lights.

Students learned about the ways families celebrate the holiday, which starts by cleaning the home and decorating it with lights, and also learned about all the delicious meals the families share with each other. Students excitedly created colorful "diyas," which are small oil lamps using all sorts of colors and glitter to make fun designs. Thank you to the families who visited Corron and shared about this great holiday.



## Costume Parades, Candy Exchange, and Fall Parties Across the District!








**PARENT  
UNIVERSITY**

Thanks to the participants of our book study for sharing what they learned<sup>4</sup> reading "13 Things Mentally Strong Parents Don't Do." Visit our [Parent University](#) page to view the slides from all the book study sessions. To register for our next event, click on the graphic below or visit our [Parent University](#) page.



A CHILD'S GUIDE TO DIGITAL RESPONSIBILITY, SAFETY AND ETIQUETTE

# FIRST PHONE


CATHERINE PEARLMAN, PhD

PARENT UNIVERSITY PRESENTS

## First Phone

A Child's Guide to Digital Responsibility, Safety, and Etiquette

Hosted by Dr. Catherine Pearlman



ST. CHARLES  
CUSD 303  
PARENT  
UNIVERSITY

### November 16

### 6:30 PM on Zoom

Register to receive a free copy of the book!

Pick up at the St. Charles Public Library or request a copy be sent home with your child

Visit [district.d303.org/parent-university](https://district.d303.org/parent-university) for more information

## Wredling Gives Back During Team Day

During their Team Day on October 21, Wredling students participated in a variety of activities that encouraged teamwork, collaboration, and community service. Team 7-1 made seasonal and holiday-themed placemats for local nursing homes, adding stickers, kind messages, and bright colors to brighten peoples' spirits.

Team 8-1 participated in a Treats for Troops candy collection. The team bagged candy and wrote personalized thank you notes to be included in care packages to be shipped to deployed service members around the world and shared with veterans in VA Hospitals across the country.



## Pets and Animal Safety at Fox Ridge



Students at Fox Ridge were quite the curious learners on October 20 when Kane County Animal Control visited the school as part of its unit on pets. To the students' delight, they got to meet Checkers the dog as well as wardens Carole Varetoni, Colby Oltman, and Nicole Acosta Ponce De Leon.

During their visit, they talked to students about their work, how they help keep people and animals safe, and taught students important lessons on how to be safe around unfamiliar animals. These lessons resonated with students as they have been learning about showing respect for living creatures and how to identify and follow basic safety rules.

One of the highlights of the visit was the opportunity for students to command Checkers to sit and throw her frisbees to catch. For some students, this was their first time seeing a dog up close, which they absolutely loved. Students also asked the wardens about the various animals they have helped over the years and they got to hear some great stories about their work.

To learn about adopting a pet, volunteering, or donating, please visit <http://www.kanecountypets.com/>.



## 8th Grade Volleyball Team Champions

Congratulations to the Thompson Middle School 8th grade volleyball team for finishing their season as conference champions!



The team started their fall season with a win against Wredling. They faced one another again on October 14 for the championship. With the victory, they claimed the title of champions while finishing their season with an 8-0 record.

"The girls fought hard, worked as a team, and persevered to win the championship game," expressed Chris Fedyski, 8th grade volleyball coach at Thompson. "While it was an intense game, there was so much joy in watching these girls play while having fun, finishing strong, and demonstrating great sportsmanship through it all."



## Compass Academy Students Participate in Manufacturing Month Tours

Compass Academy teamed with the St. Charles Area Chamber of Commerce's Industrial Committee to introduce students to a variety of manufacturing careers while connecting them with local companies, their products and to learn about their economic impact to the region. As part of Manufacturing Month, students toured three manufacturing facilities on October 26: Bison, Tek-Pak, and Pactiv.



During their visit to Bison Gear, students heard from the company president and lead engineers before taking a tour. During the question and answer session, they expressed curiosity about the manufacturing process, internship opportunities and the machines themselves.

At plastics and thermoform manufacturer Tek-Pak, students were led on a tour by Ben Carter. Students observed a "clean room" where food-grade and medical-grade items could be manufactured without being contaminated. They learned about how excess materials from production are recycled and reused and about the different types of careers on the manufacturing floor.

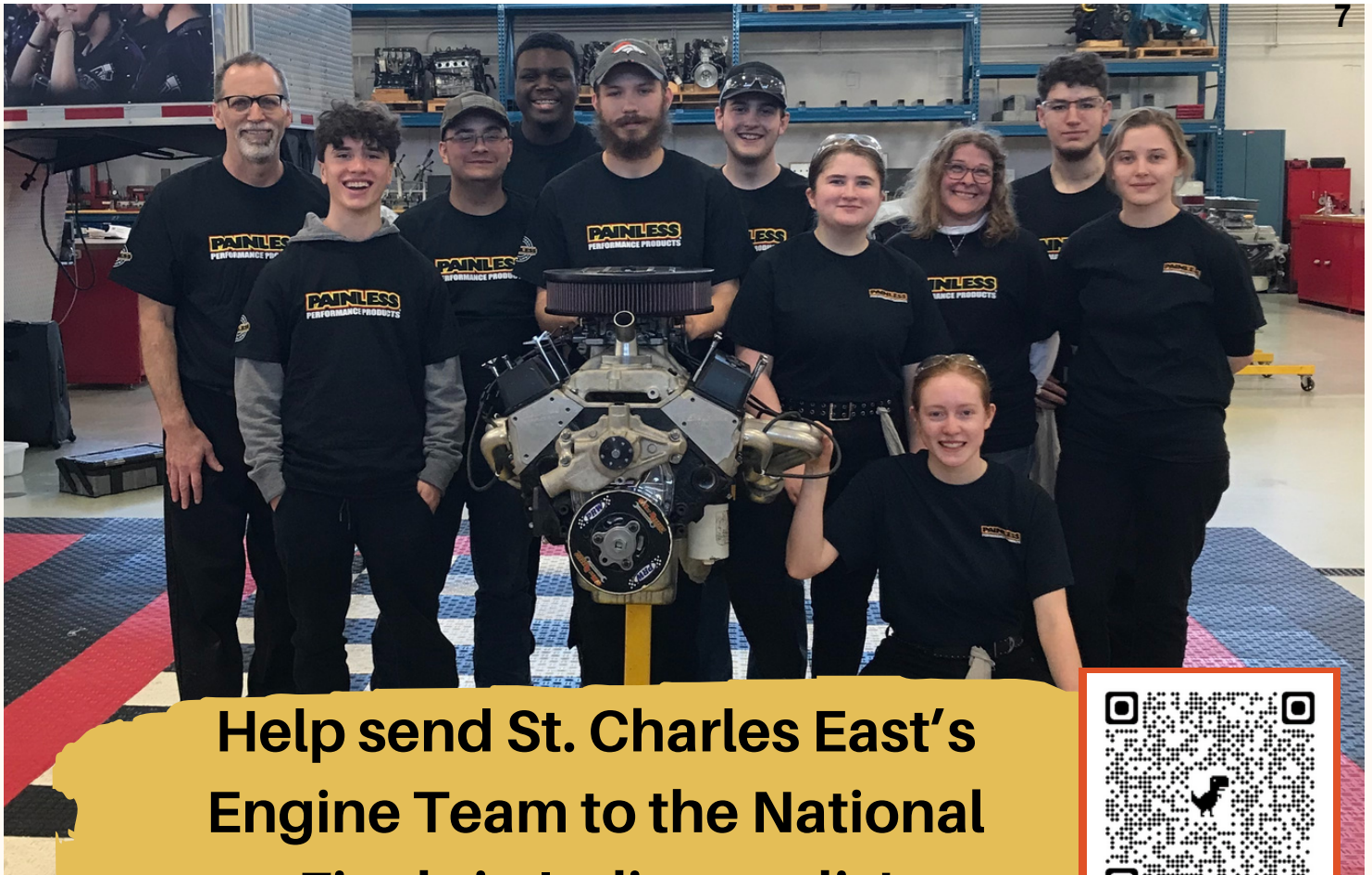
The tour day concluded at Pactiv, a manufacturer and distributor of food packaging and food service products. Students met with St. Charles Plant Manager Thanos Stavropoulos, Midwest

Regional Recruiter Desiree Medina and Human Resources Manager Jennifer Pesch. Pactiv products include paper cups, trays, and containers for businesses like Starbucks, Wendy's, Subway and others. Prior to the tour, students heard a brief presentation and engaged in a question and answer session.

"The sheer production, the way everything works is just amazing," expressed Zakariah Sreanovich, a senior at Compass Academy who plans to attend Purdue University and study motorsports engineering.

Manufacturing Month provides an opportunity to highlight the industry's many contributions to the state and local community. More information about general manufacturing in the St. Charles area, as well as companies that specialize in fabrication, plastics, chemical, food processing and packaging can be found on the [Chamber website](#).





## Help send St. Charles East's Engine Team to the National Finals in Indianapolis!



Engine Team is a dedicated group of student automotive enthusiasts who compete with other schools in a race against the clock to tear down and rebuild a 5.7 liter Chevrolet V8 engine.

**On May 7, at the Parkland College Regional Competition, the team completed the Challenge in under 33 minutes, earning one of 30 spots in the National Finals!** Our venue will be the Performance Racing Industry trade show in Indianapolis (December 6 - 10, 2022) where we have the opportunity to step much deeper into a real industry experience.


Funding is needed for travel expenses, team gear, and equipment to enhance our ability to compete at the highest level. These dedicated automotive students are working toward scholarships, career opportunities, positive representation of our school and community.

***CLICK HERE TO SUPPORT THE TEAM:  
ENGINE TEAM DONATIONS***



## Norton Creek's Annual Pumpkin Character Parade

Every fall, students at Norton Creek look forward to putting their imagination on full display for their Annual Pumpkin Parade. Students are tasked with decorating a pumpkin to look like one of their favorite storybook characters and, while no carving is allowed, the list of supplies students have used to decorate their pumpkins is endless for those imaginative minds. From glitter to make the scales of "The Rainbow Fish" and cardboard to make Rapunzel's tower to yarn to make Elsas hair and pumpkins of all sizes to make "The Very Hungry Caterpillar." View all the photos on their [Facebook page](#).

**JOIN NOW**

**Apply Online:**  
[district.d303.org/employment](https://district.d303.org/employment)

**Call: 331-228-5180**

**Visit our Transportation Office:**  
 901 S. Peck Rd., St. Charles, IL

## DISTRICT 303 IS HIRING BUS DRIVERS AND ASSISTANTS!



- **Starting pay:**  
 Drivers: \$21.36 | Assistants \$17.25
- **Between 4-5 hours per day**
- **Obtain your CDL - District 303 will train qualified candidates who want to obtain their Commercial Driver's License**



## Upcoming School Board Meetings

November 14  
School Board Meeting - 6:00 p.m.

November 21  
Learning & Teaching Committee Meeting - 5:30 p.m.

November 28  
Policy Committee Meeting - 5:00 p.m.  
Business Services Committee Meeting - 5:30 p.m.

December 12  
School Board Meeting - 6:00 p.m.

December 19  
Business Services Committee Meeting - 5:30 p.m.  
Learning & Teaching Committee Meeting - 5:45 p.m.

## 2022-2023 School Calendar Highlights

November 7  
School Improvement Day (No Students)

November 8  
Election Day Holiday (No Students, Offices Closed)

November 9  
High School Early Release Day



November 16  
Parent University: A Pre-tween's Guide to Digital Responsibility, Safety, and Etiquette  
Virtual, 6:30-7:30 p.m. - [Register here!](#)

Thanksgiving Break  
November 21 - November 25

### ***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.



### **Does your District 303 Student Have a Library Card?**

District 303 students who live outside of the St. Charles Public Library District can receive a Student Library Card if they are not eligible for a card at another public library. The partnership between SCPL and District 303 is now in its fourth year. With a Student Library Card, users can access library resources, including checking out books, accessing eBooks, and using research databases. Those who are interested and eligible can opt-in during the school registration process or contact the District during the school year.

For more information, visit the [SCPL's Frequently Asked Questions](#) webpage, or [read more here](#).



## FREE COVID TEST KITS



**Take-home rapid COVID test kits are now available upon request at all District 303 schools while supplies last. These are rapid test kits that include two per box. Students can request take-home kits from the school nurse, or families can make a request by contacting the school.**

## KITS DE PRUEBA DE COVID GRATUITOS



**Los kits de pruebas rápidas de COVID para el hogar están ahora disponibles a petición en todas las escuelas del Distrito 303 hasta que se agoten las existencias. Estos son kits de pruebas rápidas que incluyen dos por caja. Los estudiantes pueden solicitar los kits para llevar a casa con el/la enfermero(a) de la escuela, o las familias pueden hacer una solicitud poniéndose en contacto con la escuela.**