

DISTRICT 303



eNEWS



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May 31, 2019

OJT Appreciation Event



District 303 On the Job Training students and coaches honored St. Charles East and North mentors and community business partners and thanked them for the opportunities and experiences provided to students this year.

As part of the program, students develop workplace skills and learn about different careers while working with mentors who teach them how to become responsible and professional employees.

Guests enjoyed breakfast in St. Charles East's Little Theater and engaged students in conversations about their future plans. Tables were decorated with flower pot centerpieces, featuring pictures of students and thank you note "blossoms," as part of the theme, "Growing With You In The Community."

The event included remarks by OJT students, special recognitions, and a presentation of certificates to all of the on and off-campus business partners. A video presentation featured pictures of students at their worksites and their accomplishments, including fundraiser events and volunteer work in which students participated. "I really like the program and have enjoyed working and learning," said OJT student, Kayla.

For more than 7 years, the St. Charles Veterinary Clinic has been a community business partner. "It's great to see their confidence grow and see them further develop their communication skills and blossom. We are so happy to be part of the program," said the Clinic's Receptionist Jodi Stovall.

Anderson Animal Adaptation

Anderson first grade teacher Mrs. Simmons and her students used the PLTW Animal Adaptations unit to learn about specific animal adaptations for survival. Students created video presentations about locomotion, food, protection, and camouflage that they shared with their classmates on May 20.

During class, students used books and online resources to learn more about how different animals' body parts are adapted for the environments in which they live. As an experiment, they made-up beaks with tweezers, spoons, and clothespins to pick up different "foods," such as marbles, toothpicks, and straws. To learn how effective those adaptations were, they took data about how many of each "food" items they picked up in 20-second trials, and recorded their observations to determine the best adaptations.

In teams of four, students researched different habitats such as the Sahara Desert, the Amazon Rainforest, the Arctic, the African Savanna, and the Pacific Ocean, to become experts on the adaptations that animals and plants use within those environments to survive.

For each location, they created a "traveler" equipped with adaptations that emulate the plants and animals they researched. Some travelers had a white coat to stay warm and be camouflaged in the Arctic (like the Polar Bear); bright clothes for the Amazon Rainforest to warn predators to stay away (like the poison dart frog); and a long net to reach tall trees and leaves (like a giraffe's neck).

To conclude their unit, students used different apps to create a video presentation in the STREAM lab, taking the role of the "travelers" in those habitats to teach their classmates and parents about important survival adaptations.



Medical Professionals visit Heath Occupations Students

St. Charles North students in Mrs. Mehalic's Health Occupations II class welcomed labor and delivery nurses Amanda Jacobsen and Christie Ragusin, and North student assistance counselor, Mr. Cermak, who talked to them about educational paths and careers in the medical field.

In Health Occupations I, students research medical careers, and in Health Occupations II, they have an opportunity to visit colleges and hospitals and engage in hands-on learning experiences. At the conclusion of the second semester, Mrs. Mehalic, arranged for the medical professionals to speak as part of a panel.

"Many students are interested in nursing and different medical professions, so this is their last exposure before they go to college" said Mrs. Mehalic. "I had originally scheduled Oncologist Dr. Maganini, to visit but his surgical schedule kept him from attending, which demonstrated to students the demands of the medical field."

Guest speakers shared their educational paths, the reasons why they chose a particular field, and gave



students advice and suggestions to help them during their college years and beyond. They highlighted some of their most memorable stories and shared their favorite and least favorite parts of their jobs to help students better understand the demands and requirements of the medical field.

"My favorite part of the job is when friends are concerned about their friends and they are the ones who seek help on their behalf," remarked Mr. Cermak, who talked to students about the field of psychology and his experience with mental health and substance concerns.



East Students Talk With NASA Researcher

St. Charles East students participated in a video conference with NASA Robotics Engineer, Andrea Tagliabue, a NASA researcher at the NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, CA, who's working on the Shapeshifter research focused on building a concept for a morphing robot to explore Titan, Saturn's largest moon.

East Physics and Engineering teacher, Mr. Cerqua, asked his students to pick an interesting topic from the [NASA Innovative Advanced Concepts \(NIAC\) program](#) about which they would like to know more. Students chose "Shapeshifting Robots and Directed Energy for Interstellar Study." Katherine Reilly, NIAC's Strategic Partnerships Manager made introductions and helped coordinate the video conference. The NIAC program is part of the Space Technology Mission Directorate at NASA Headquarters in Washington, D.C.



"It's valuable for students to see the scientific and engineering process in action. This is a real-life example of how ideas can be developed into reality," said Mr. Cerqua.

Mr. Tagliabue shared how the idea originated and the research and information gathered from Titan to develop the concept for the morphing robot. He highlighted the significant similarities and differences Titan's atmosphere has to Earth, the purpose behind exploring Titan, and how those characteristics would affect the robot.

Intrigued by the conversation, students asked questions about the design, how Titan's environment might affect the parts of the robot and the new technology, how the different parts were going to be powered, and how any unexpected technical difficulties were going to be addressed.

In April, students at North High School also had an opportunity to talk to Dr. Philip Lubin about his studies in Directed Energy Interstellar Study. "It's the idea of using lasers on Earth to propel spacecraft through space, much like how we use wind to propel sail boats through the ocean," explained Mr. Cerqua.



Students were able to better understand the importance of the application of the engineering design process to make necessary changes to the project, while relating those issues to what they've encountered through their own class projects. These conversations also expose students to the future of engineering and science, and the variety of career options available.

Anderson Wild Fox Run Club



The Wild Fox Run Club consisting of 3rd through 5th grade students from Anderson and Wild Rose Elementary as well as parents, teachers, and community members participated in the Kane County Cougars 5K on May 18 at the Kane County Cougars Stadium.

The Wild Fox Run Club is an 8-week after school program aimed at helping students stay active while teaching them about teamwork, perseverance, dedication, and goal setting. Teachers, parent and community volunteers facilitate the after school program by serving as coaches and providing support for students to meet their goals.

“It was important for me to create a curriculum that not only included running but that also taught character education to ensure a balanced program,” said Anderson kindergarten teacher and club founder and run coach, Mrs. Gouriotis.

Each week, students begin with a journal prompt based on their learning target for the week, after which they exercise for 30-minutes with walk and run intervals. They continue to decrease walking and increase running as the weeks progress until they are running a full 30 minutes. The program culminates with the students’ participation in the Kane County Cougars 5K.

Spectators cheered and clapped during the race, encouraging the runners and walkers to reach the finish line. Runners were also cheering and encouraging other runners to continue to move forward, pushing them to not give up. Some student spectators were also running along the sidelines cheering for their friends and siblings, with the occasional victory dance and cheer.

“This year was one of my favorites because we had our largest group of students ever!” exclaimed Mrs. Gouriotis.



Geo World Projects at Corron

Corron 4th and 5th grade AT Math students welcomed parents and classmates on May 28 and 29 as they showcased their final Geo World Projects, a unique science-themed amusement park they designed and created.

Visitors had to make their way through a variety of intricate and colorful mazes the 4th graders created using 2D features. They took precise measurements of the shapes and angles to make the walls of the maze, challenging themselves to also find the area of many polygons for the amusement park.



The maze included trivia questions about zoology, astronomy, paleontology, and chemistry. For each correct answer, visitors advanced until they reached the entrance to one of the four themed sections of the park: Animal Planet, Shooting Stars, Fossil Kingdom, and Chemist's Dream.

The 5th graders focused on creating and constructing 3D features for the park, complete with rollercoasters, diners, and interactive ferris wheels and volcanoes. They also took precise measurements of their 3D structures to calculate the area and perimeter of the bases to fit in their designated areas and calculated the surface area and volume of their attractions to continue to build more creative features in the park in the remaining space.

For Animal Planet, students researched different animals from all over the world, adding an aquarium and a safari area to their section of the park. The Shooting Stars section included an interactive ferris wheel and a comet roller coaster, while Fossil Kingdom featured dinosaur eggs and a t-rex soccer court. The Chemist's Dream incorporated several elements from the periodic table, such as nickels and water, and performed a chemical reaction to create lava (which the students recreated by using vinegar, baking soda, and red food coloring).

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"This is great! They get the hands-on experience while they apply what they have been learning in math and also learn about teamwork and get to see their final project come to life," commented visiting parent, Rani Skariah.

Additionally, students created a slide-show with more information and trivia questions for visitors to test their knowledge about zoology, astronomy, paleontology, and chemistry.



St. Charles Education Foundation Scholarships

We are proud to announce the senior winners of the St. Charles Education Foundation Scholarships for the 2018-2019 school year.

East High School

- Reanna Shah
- Kayla Villa

North High School

- Dia Allamian
- Katherine Cantrell



St Charles North seniors ventured back to their elementary alma mater, Corron, for a quick picture before their Senior BBQ.



Summer School & Camps

Visit our [Summer School & Camps](#) page to view brochures that provide detailed information on the various offerings and grade levels served for each offering at each school. Registration can be completed by visiting [PushCoin](#).

Summer School & Camps

WE OFFER A VARIETY OF SUMMER SCHOOL, ATHLETIC & MUSIC CAMP OPPORTUNITIES AT OUR SCHOOLS.



Community Backpack



Upcoming School Board Meetings

June 3

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

June 10

School Board Meeting - 7:00 p.m.

June 17

Policy Committee Meeting 4:30 p.m.

Committee Meeting - 5:30 p.m.

July 8

School Board Meeting - 7:00 p.m.

August 5

School Board Meeting - 7:00 p.m.

Septempler 9

School Board Meeting - 7:00 p.m.

2018-19

Calendar Highlights

June 2

High School Graduation Day

June 7

Last Day for Students



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