

# DISTRICT 303



## eNEWS



Connect with us!

Administration Center  
201 South 7th Street  
St. Charles, IL 60174  
331.228.2000  
JustAsk@d303.org

November 2, 2018

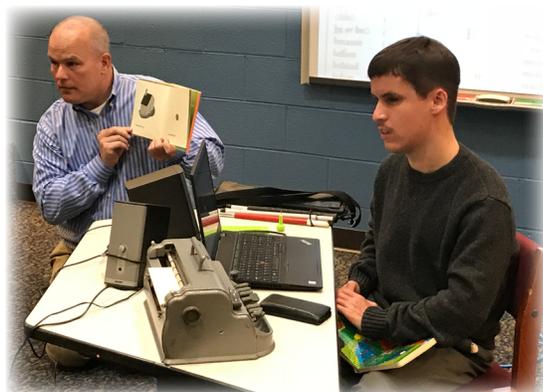


## Bell Graham Students Learn about Braille



How would you navigate your daily routine if you were not able to see? What modifications would you have to make and what tools would you need? How do you learn to read Braille? Students at Bell Graham Elementary School read the book *Six Dots: A Story of Young Louis Braille*, and learned about how an alphabet for the blind was created.

Mrs. Kris Marbutt, Administrative Assistant at Bell Graham, encouraged her son Cody to visit the school and talk to students about his experiences growing up blind, and how he manages his life as a college student. Cody brought the tools he uses while studying at Kishwaukee College. He showed each class how he uses the voice feature on his computer to listen to the words he has typed, like the outline he prepared for his presentation.



There are two types of Braille. Grade One, which writes out each letter and word exactly as it is spelled out in print. And Grade Two, which is also called “contracted” because the words are highly condensed and use one Braille cell to represent the entire word. Cody is able to read both types. Prior to Cody’s visit, students learned to write their names in Braille by using dots made out of glue.

The first book Cody learned to read in Braille was *Good Night Moon* and he read it to the students from his Braille copy. Cody has many books in Braille and the students were surprised to see how large the books have to be to accommodate the dots. Cody’s copy of *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer’s Stone* is actually four books.

As a child, Cody taught himself how to play the piano. He played music for the students as they entered and left the LRC. He started piano lessons at age 9, but realized that he preferred listening to music and then teaching himself to play the songs on his own. He continues to play and has even written some of his own pieces.

While third grade student Dorteia felt the dots of Cody’s copy of *Harry Potter*, she commented that she liked how Cody said that being blind does not define him.

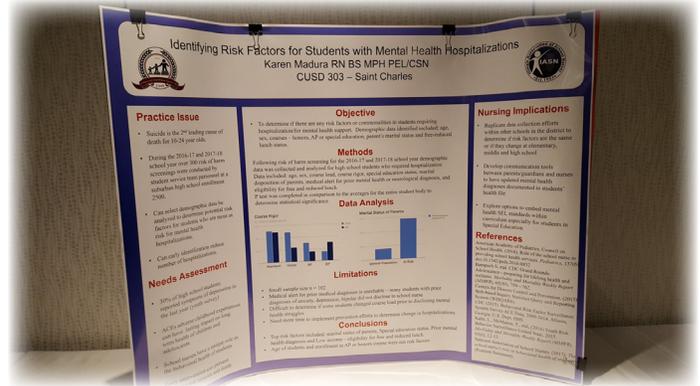


# Annual School Nurses Conference

We are proud that our school health professionals are part of a state-wide organization that promotes wellness and provides professional development.

**D**istrict 303 was well represented at the 61st Annual Illinois Association of School Nurses Conference held in Springfield.

Juanita Gryfinski, Department Chair for Health Services and IASN President Elect, was the co-organizer of the event. North High School Nurse Amy Boynton presented a breakout session on Diabetes Management in the School Setting and East High School Nurse Karen Madura won an award for her poster presentation on Risk Factors Associated with Mental Health Hospitalizations.



Karen Madura's poster presentation



Attain Excellence ■ Learn with Passion ■ Live with Integrity



## St. Charles North Educators Rising Participate in Read

**T**he St. Charles North Educators Rising Club participated in the 2018 Read for the Record at Corron Elementary School in South Elgin on October 25th. Eight high school students read the featured book and then led activities for 33 elementary school students who participate in the South Elgin Park District AfterShock program after school.



Jumpstart's Read for the Record® is a national campaign launched over a decade ago that helps address educational inequities that leave too many children unprepared for kindergarten.



On October 25, children and adults gathered to read, learn, and laugh as they join together for the world's largest shared reading experience. The 2018 featured book was *Maybe Something Beautiful* by F. Isabel Campoy and Theresa Howell and illustrated by Rafael López. Since 2006, this 24-hour celebration has mobilized over 19 million people.

The Educators Rising students led activities, including games and crafts, after reading the book. A copy of the book will be donated to the Corron Elementary School library and the AfterShock program from the Educators Rising.

# Dia De Los Muertos



**D**ia de los Muertos is a holiday celebrated in Mexico at the end of October as a celebration and remembrance of friends and family members who have died. First grade students in Jennifer Harmon's class at Lincoln Elementary School learned about the importance of this holiday from their fellow student Trudy and her parents. The family purchased traditional Mexican bread and sugar skulls that were shared with students after Trudy taught the lesson.



## Candy Donation for the Troops

For the third year, Lincoln Elementary School students brought some of their Halloween Candy to school on November 1 so that it could be donated to men and women serving in the Armed Forces. Physical Education teacher, Will Navis coordinated efforts with 2nd Street Dental to provide generous students with alternative goody bags and opportunities to win sports equipment. Fifty-nine Lincoln students donated over 125 lbs. of candy that will be sent to our troops!



## Socktober Celebration at Corron

Students at Corron Elementary School celebrated Rock Your Socks Day as part of Down Syndrome Awareness Month.



Since chromosomes are shaped similar to a sock, students wore unique socks to recognize people with Down Syndrome who have an extra chromosome. STRIVE teacher Jessica Matthies stated that, "it is important to recognize that each of us is special and..has so much to contribute, no matter how different we each may be."

Student Council took this opportunity to collect socks that will be donated to local homeless shelters before the weather gets cold. "It is amazing to see how much kindness has grown out of spreading awareness."

# Thompson Team Building Day

**T**hompson Middle School 7th graders went on a field trip to Hickory Knolls Discovery Center where they focused on team building.

Students, gathered into small groups of 8-10, worked together while participating in an Amazing Race throughout the property. They were challenged to read a map, use a compass and make their way through the



natural area as they tried to “survive” at different stations. Students began with a short introduction to orienteering.



*Human Knot*

Once a group solved their orienteering problem, they were allowed to get a map and enter the Amazing Race.

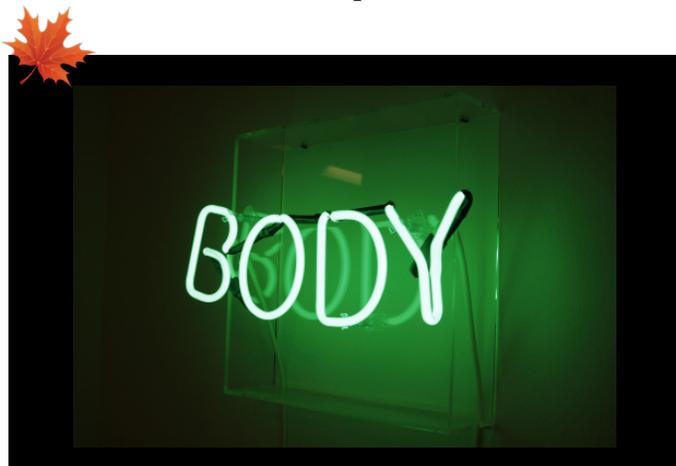
Hickory Knolls staff also facilitated fun team building activities such as the Human Knot and Pipeline that the students loved. The Human Knot consisted of students grasping hands with one another, forming a knot, and then untangling themselves without breaking hands. The Pipeline involved using wooden wedges and a marble to move ‘water’ from one location to another.

We are appreciative to have such a great resource like Hickory Knolls available to our schools!

*Pipeline*

## Regional Office of Education Photo Contest - Weeks 4, 5

Congratulations to St. Charles North students Sophia and Eve for having their photographs displayed in the Top 10 Photos from [Week 4](#) and [Week 5](#) of the ROE Photo Contest.



‘Appreciation’ -Sophia Moncini, St. Charles North H.S.  
Digital Photography  
Instructor: Stephanie Dodd



‘Dramatization’ - Eve Kuzur, St. Charles North H.S.  
Digital Photography  
Instructor: Stephanie Dodd





## FOLLOW-UP ANGST SESSION # 1

11/5/18, 6:30-8:00 p.m. Anderson LRC

Join us on November 5 to learn strategies to assist and respond to your child when they are feeling anxious. Tim Buhrt, from Centennial Counseling, along with D303 staff will offer insight on how to help your child deal with anxiety.

[Click here to register.](#)

### FOLLOW-UP ANGST SESSIONS

11/5/18 from 6:30-8:00 p.m. Anderson LRC

1/24/19 from 6:30-8:00 p.m. Wasco LRC-*Save the Date*

4/16/19 from 6:30-8:00 p.m. Wild Rose LRC-*Save the Date*



*Registration links for 1/24 and 4/16 are coming soon.*



## TALKING TO YOUR CHILD ABOUT THE DANGERS OF DRUG & ALCOHOL USE

12/4/18 from 6:30-8:00 p.m.  
Room 302 at North High School



Research shows that when parents talk to their children about the dangers of drugs and alcohol, and set expectations with open lines of communication, that children are less likely to abuse drugs and alcohol.

On December 4, Matthew Quinn, Licensed Counselor from Rosecrance will be our guest at a Parent University program entitled, "Talking to your Child about the Dangers of Drug and Alcohol Use." Mr. Quinn will provide parents with information and resources that will:

- Help them identify major risk factors for drug use among youth/adolescents
- Teach them the signs of drug use and appropriate responses
- Provide them with tools to implement practical steps that prevent children from gaining access to opioid drugs
- Increase awareness of trends and current terminology surrounding drug use
- Gain awareness of the long term health effects of vaping and e-cigarettes

The abuse of alcohol, tobacco, and illicit drugs are the leading cause of preventable accidents, premature death and disability among young people. While today's youth are among the most vulnerable in our communities for experiencing these adverse effects, research demonstrates that parent awareness and influence is critical in prevention and in getting the right help.

As part of this program, Nicole Cook, Mrs. America 2019 will share her personal story on how opioid abuse impacted her family in a tragic way.

[Click here to register.](#)



# Parent University

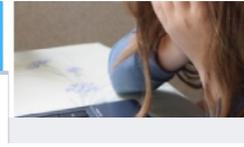
## PREVENTING AND ADDRESSING BULLYING: LESSONS LEARNED & RESOURCES FOR PARENTS

1/30/19 from 6:30-8:00 p.m.  
Thompson 6th Grade Cafeteria

### Parent University

#### Bullying

Preventing & Addressing Bullying:  
Lessons Learned and Resources for  
Parents



Faculty from the Psychology Department at Northern Illinois University will present practical information from their research and their work as part of a U.S. Department of Education training grant "Project Prevent and Address Bullying." Thompson Middle School is partnering with NIU on this grant project, bringing resources that will be shared throughout the district. The faculty will present helpful knowledge, tips, and resources parents can use when navigating bullying situations.

La interpretación en español estará disponible durante la presentación.

[Click here to register.](#)



*Don't forget to set your clocks back one hour before going to bed Saturday night!*



## Make a Difference in St. Charles Day-Sunday Nov. 4



### Consider Giving

We are two days away from  
Make a Difference in St. Charles Day, a  
Feed My Starving Children Mobile Packing Event on  
**Sunday, November 4**  
Goal: Raise \$36,000 & Pack 163,000 Meals

Though volunteer packing slots are currently full, you are welcome to stop by  
Aquascape for a shift on Sunday. There are always last minute openings!

**Aquascape**  
901 Aqualand Way, St. Charles, IL  
Shifts: 8-10 AM 11 AM-1 PM 2-4 PM

**Want to donate?**  
Visit <https://madstc.wixsite.com/mpstc>



[Click here to donate!](#)

# St. Charles North Fall Play

A collection of nine slightly twisted and completely hilarious short plays-set on a Friday night in an alternate suburban reality, this 80-minute romp explores the pain and the joy that comes with being in love. Full of imperfect lovers and dreamers, LOVE/SICK is an unromantic comedy for the romantic in everyone.



- Friday 11/2 at 7:30 p.m.
- Saturday 11/3 at 7:30 p.m.



Adult: \$7.00  
Senior: \$3.00  
Student/Child \$5.00

Tickets are available in the [D303 webstore](#) and may also be purchased at the box office on the day of the show. Box office opens one hour prior to showtime.

## Parent/Teacher Conference Reminder

November 19:

K-12 Parent/Teacher Conferences

November 20:

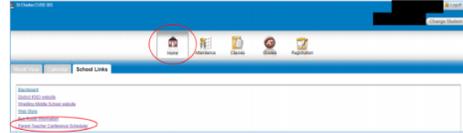
K-8 Parent/Teacher Conferences

Sign-up for Parent/Teacher Conferences closes Nov. 14 at midnight. Please visit the [HAC page](#) of our website for directions, or call your child's school for additional assistance.

### Pick-A-Time Parent Teacher Conferences

\*\*Sign-up for Parent Teacher Conferences starts October 15<sup>th</sup> at 7:00am and will close November 14<sup>th</sup> at midnight.\*\*

First, login to your HAC account. Click on the Home icon -> School Links tab -> Parent-Teacher Conference Scheduler



The first time you are logging into Pick-a-time, you will only enter your email address, then leave the password field blank and then click Login/Create Account. It will take you to a password screen where you will enter a password, then re-enter it to verify it. This is the email login and password you will use for any future times you go to the Pick-a-time scheduler. If you have previously created a login and do not remember the password, click the FORGOT MY PASSWORD link to be emailed a new one.



**VETERANS DAY CEREMONY**  
November 10, 2018

St Charles Veterans Day Program  
Saturday, Nov. 10, 9 AM  
Downtown St. Charles Fire Station

THIS CEREMONY IS DEDICATED TO REMEMBERING ALL SERVICE VETERANS FOR THEIR SERVICE AND SACRIFICE. SPONSORED BY:

For more info contact Event Coordinator:  
Lieutenant Colonel Mark F. Powell (Retired) at  
mpowell@onpathfinancial.com or call 630-329-6444

## St. Charles Veterans Day Ceremony

A ceremony to remember all service veterans for their service and sacrifice

November 10 at 9:00 a.m.

Downtown St. Charles Fire Station

# Community Backpack



## Upcoming School Board Meetings

### November 12

School Board Meeting - 7:00 p.m. @ Munhall

### November 19

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

### November 19

Policy Committee 6:30 p.m.



### November 27

Community Relations Committee 5:30 p.m.

### December 3

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

### December 10

School Board Meeting - 7:00 p.m.



## 2018-19

## Calendar Highlights

### November 5

Parent University: Follow-Up ANGST Session #1

### November 9

End of 1st Trimester (*Elementary*)

### November 19

K-12 Parent/Teacher Conferences (*No School*)

### November 20

K-8 Parent/Teacher Conferences (*No School*)

### November 21

No School (*Offices Open*)

### November 22-23

Thanksgiving Break (*Offices Closed*)



## We're Hiring Substitutes!

### Did you know?

We are ALWAYS hiring:

- Substitute teachers (college degree required)
- Substitute teacher aides (no college degree required)
- RN certified nurses

NEW this year:

- The pay rate has increased to \$100 daily for teaching. There is also a loyalty bonus that increases the daily teaching rate to \$125 after 31 days.
- The pay rate has increased to \$140 daily for long-term teaching.
- The pay rate has increased to \$92 daily for Teacher Assistants.

### Join Our Team!

If you are interested in substituting, please visit <https://bit.ly/2M4dU4Y> to view our substitute handbook or contact our District Substitute Coordinator at [Julie.Wenger@d303.org](mailto:Julie.Wenger@d303.org) for more details.

