

District 303 E-NEWS

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February 14, 2020



Racing Down the Right Path

First graders at Wasco were challenged to create a Rube Goldberg machine (a machine that uses a chain reaction to complete a task) to get a foam ball through a series of obstacles into a cup at the bottom of their machine.



sticks. It was difficult for some students to predict the direction the ball would go once released. They problem-solved by changing the angles of the ramps and tunnels, and worked together to create multiple paths for the ball to follow.

“This hands-on activity allows students to take a simple idea and expand it, learn about cause and effect, and work together to make the machine work,” said Kim Scott, School Services Librarian from the St. Charles Public Library, who helped facilitate the lesson along with Mrs. Furlong, LRC Media Specialist.

Students made the obstacles by using materials found in the STREAM Lab, such as paper and plastic cups, cardboard tubes and cardboard pieces, paper, and popsicle

As students tested their machines, some foam balls would bounce and fall out of the cardboard piece. Students solved that issue by adding ramps and more obstacles to give the ball better direction. While some students chose to have one cup at the bottom for the ball to fall into, others glued several cups together and raced each other to see which path was the fastest. This allowed them to have great class discussions about speed and how the obstacles either helped increase or decrease the speed of the foam ball.

◆◆◆ Last opportunity to provide your feedback! ◆◆◆

District 303 participates in the annual Illinois 5Essentials Survey that collects feedback from our students, teachers, and parents. Your participation in the parent portion of the survey will enable you to share your thoughts on important elements of school effectiveness. All responses are confidential and will never be connected to you or your child.

The Parent Survey is currently open and will remain so through February 14, 2020. To take the survey, please visit <https://survey.5-essentials.org/Illinois/> and select the appropriate survey. Make sure you enter **Kane County** in the box for county even if your home or your child’s school is in DuPage County. This will allow you to correctly select your child’s school.

INCubator Teams Seek Investment Money for their Businesses

After much preparation and research, the St. Charles North INCubator teams were excited to present their MVP Pitches to a panel of “sharks” for a chance to be awarded an investment in their product or service idea. On the line was \$200 available to each of the five teams: Court Lighting, Gheeties Wheeties, MJG Sand, TacoBoat, and WorkHapi. After the presentations, judges Betsy Horlock, Tanis Simoncelli, and Ben Wagoner decided how much, if any, money each team would receive for their business venture.

This year’s community mentors also attended the presentations and provided feedback to all the teams: Court Lighting’s mentor, Raj Reddy; Gheeties Wheeties’ mentor, Rafi Yitzhaki; MJG Sand’s mentor, Hugh Palmer; TacoBoat’s mentor, Harry Stout; and WorkHapi’s mentor, Lauren Carter.

“This is an exciting time in the INCubator class. The students are looking forward to impressing the panel of Sharks,” said Business Teacher, Mr. Haftl.

Not only did the teams share their business models and marketing strategies, but they also showcased prototypes of their products, such as Gheeties Wheeties’ shoe cleaning tool. TacoBoat also delighted panelists with their tasty tacos, which will hopefully be enough to earn them a share of the investment money.



Random Acts of Kindness Across the Community

In anticipation of “Random Acts of Kindness” week, the incredible Richmond Student Council prepared 75 kindness bags for bus drivers, crossing guards, and substitute teachers, which they delivered between February 10 and 14. Students filled the bags with sweet treats and positive notes aimed at brightening their day and encouraging them to also spread kindness every day.

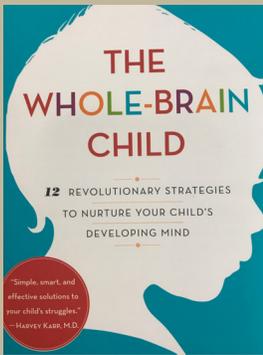
Students arranged five gift baskets for members of the St. Charles community, such as the Fire and Police Departments, and the administrators who serve Richmond, to thank them for everything they do.

As part of the campaign, members of the student council also created and decorated posters to display around the school and encouraged everyone to participate in “Kindness Bingo,” where they complete random simple acts of kindness.



When we asked parents to tell us what kind of programming they wanted as part of our Parent University series, many asked us to produce videos that can be watched in the comfort of their own homes and on their own schedules. In that same survey, parents requested information about how Project Lead the Way has enhanced student learning in classrooms from kindergarten through high school. As stories of underage vaping continue to permeate the news, parents are also looking for strategies they can use to begin conversations with their children about the dangers.

[The District 303 Video Vault has two new videos](#) – one about [Project Lead the Way](#) and the other [one about vaping](#). We hope that the Project Lead the Way video gives you some questions to ask your child about the skills he or she has learned in PLTW. We also encourage you to watch the video about vaping with your children and talk to them about the health risks and dangers associated with it.



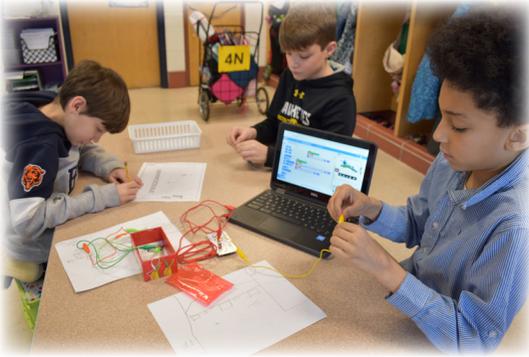
The Whole-Brain Child Book Study

The second book study session will be on February 27, 2020:
9:15–10:30 a.m. at Baker Community Center, (101 S. 2nd Street, St. Charles)
6:30–7:45 p.m. at Fox Ridge in the LRC (1905 Tyler Road, St. Charles)



EARLY LEARNING IS NO SMALL MATTER





Fourth grade students in Mrs. Navis' class have been learning about energy conversion and transfer in their science class. To put their knowledge to the test, they were challenged to design a system to convert energy from one form to another and meet a human need or want. In this case, they moved food from a truck to a food pantry using a conveyor belt powered by at least two types of energy, such as wind or chemical energy.

Students first sketched their design, adding details about the different systems that would power the conveyor belt. Then, they used an online tool to recreate their design, programming it to make it more interactive. Some students added water sources to generate electrical energy to power the conveyor belt, while others used windmills or the sun as an energy source. Some students incorporated humans by making a manual crank and lever mechanism to help power the conveyor belt and move the food from one side to the other.

Once their computer design was complete, students used Makey Makey kits made up of circuits and wires to connect their paper sketch to the computer design. When they tapped the connecting wires, they controlled the design on the computer. Students made modifications and followed the programmed steps to ensure the Makey Makey models worked. Teams then shared their projects with the class and discussed the different types of energy conversions and transfers that took place to make the conveyor belt work.

Middle School Intra-District Transfer Window



Intra-District Transfer Requests must be submitted to the District between:

Feb. 2, 2020 from 8:00 A.M. to Feb. 28, 2020 by 4:00 P.M.

A link to the request form will be posted on district.d303.org. Please click here to view the [Intra-District Transfer page](#) and [School Board Policy 7:30 Student Assignment and Intra-District Transfer/Choice](#).

If approved, please note that:

- Siblings are not guaranteed placement due to fluctuating class sizes at schools and each grade level
- Transportation is the responsibility of the parents
- The transfer remains in effect during your child's time in middle school as long as you reside in District 303
- Upon completion of middle school, your child will attend the high school assigned to your home attendance area

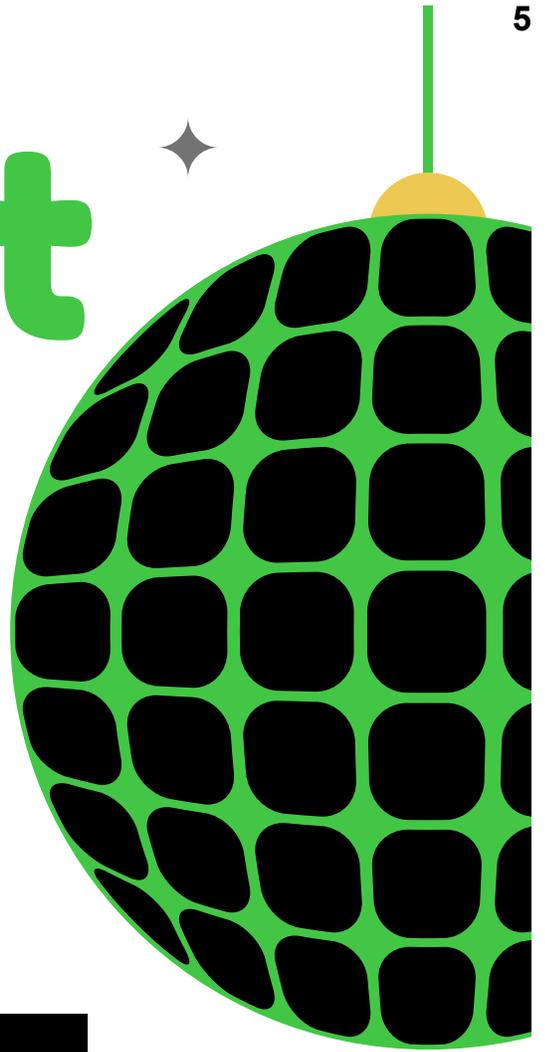


QUESTIONS?

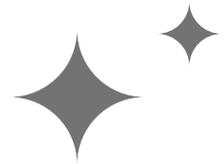
PLEASE CALL THE DISTRICT
OFFICE AT 331.228.2000

Project Dance Leap

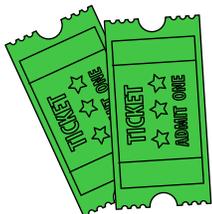
...TO KINDNESS



FEBRUARY 29, 2020
ST. CHARLES NORTH: MAIN GYM
1:00-5:00 PM



**A dance party hosted by Team Polaris
to raise awareness and funds
for individuals with special needs.**



**\$5 per person or
\$15 for families 3+**

For more info:



Save the Date!

May 21, 2020

Class of 2020
Commencement Ceremonies
Northern Illinois University



St. Charles
East
4:00 p.m.

St. Charles
North
7:30 p.m.



Friendly Reminder!

Let's Talk! provides District 303 community members, parents, staff, and students a chance to use their voice.

Use Let's Talk! to share your questions, compliments, comments, and suggestions by visiting the District website.

Upcoming School Board Meetings

February 18
Learning and Teaching Committee Meeting - 5:30 p.m.

February 20
Citizen Advisory Committee Meeting - 6:00 p.m.
**Thompson Middle School, LRC, 705 W Main Street*

February 24
Business Services Committee Meeting - 5:30 p.m.

March 9
School Board Meeting - 7:00 p.m.
**Wredling Middle School, 1200 Dunham Road*

March 16
Learning and Teaching Committee Meeting - 5:30 p.m.

2019-2020 Calendar Highlights

February 17
Presidents' Day Holiday (No students, offices closed)

February 28
Teacher Institute Day (No Students)



THE ST. CHARLES EDUCATION FOUNDATION D303 TRIBUTE PROGRAM

Now you can honor or thank a District 303 staff member by making a donation to The St. Charles Education Foundation in his or her name. Throughout the year, your personalized message will be sent to the staff member in a card. Your tax-deductible contribution will help fund grants that benefit District 303 students and classrooms.

Make a donation by visiting www.stced.org and clicking "Ways to Help."

For more information, email tribute@stced.org.



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