

DISTRICT 303



eNEWS



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April 5, 2019

▣ A Career in Storytelling - Elliot Baker Visits NHS ▣

When his freshman English class at St. Charles North High School was reading *To Kill A Mockingbird*, Elliot Baker found himself less than engaged. He and his family had moved here from England several years before, and Elliot was still trying to navigate his new country and school. Noting his lack of interest, his English teacher, Mrs. Wright asked him, “What do you think about theater?” to which he replied, “I don’t think about theater.” She went on to say that the play the drama department was producing was set in England, and the students needed help with their English accents. He met with Mr. Colton and became the director of dialects for the production. His experience in the theater program opened a new world to him that was full of energy, creativity, and fun people.

Elliot recalled this story while speaking to Mrs. Von Essen’s Creative Writing class at North High School. After graduating in 2009, Elliot earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree with an emphasis in theater performance from University of Illinois at Chicago. He immediately became a working actor in the Chicago area appearing in productions at the Piccolo Theatre and A Red Orchid Theatre. In 2015, he pursued his love of writing at the Royal Central School of Speech and Drama in London, where he earned a degree in Writing for the Stage and Broadcast Media.



He spoke to students about the writing process, emphasizing that the most important part of being a playwright is to “put yourself out there to fall on your face.” Elliot also stressed that, “Often you need to put a first draft away, and then take it out and show to people you trust. Then, be ready to take the criticism and understand that first drafts are not usually good.”

He carries his experiences in District 303 with him, and has even incorporated them into a play called *A Comic Book Ending*, which was based on his life as a student at Haines Middle School. The play was produced at Sir Ian McKellen Theatre in London.

Wasco Town Hall Meeting

Wasco Elementary students and staff gathered as a school community on April 1 for a “Town Hall Meeting” where the school’s kindness initiative was launched.

Mrs. Stokke said the Town Hall Meeting provided ways for students and staff members to discuss ways they can work together to improve as a school community. “Today’s Town Hall Meeting is about accepting and celebrating our differences and understanding that everyone is unique,” she said.

After showing a video exemplifying a situation where kids worked together to overcome a situation despite their noticeable differences in skills and abilities, Wasco students were encouraged to reflect on the video, prompting applause from them as their classmates responded to Mrs. Stokke’s questions.

Seven students created signs describing what acceptance looks like, emphasizing the use of kind words and actions, and being more empathetic towards others. Other students highlighted examples of kindness around the school, such as holding the door open for one another, or how the “buddy” classes have helped kindergarteners with reading and math assignments such as counting and reading short stories to them.

Students worked with their “buddy” class on a learning and team building activity using a Unique Person template. “The purpose of this activity is to teach about respecting and accepting others’ unique qualities and to understand that everyone is different and that we should celebrate each others’ differences,” Mrs. Lipke read as the students excitedly started the activity in one of the classrooms.

Students discussed unique features, such as physical features, interests, talents, families, and cultures and they added those qualities to one side of the brainstorming sheet. On the other side, they focused on what makes everyone the same, specifically focusing on values, feelings, and emotions.

As they brainstormed, students were amazed at what they were learning from one other. One group of students animatedly talked about their pets and how many they’ve had, while another group shared their different talents and interests, and discovered they have more in common than they thought.

As they each colored and collaborated to create their unique person, the results were as unique and different as each group and student. Students discussed their plans to respect others’ unique qualities and celebrate their differences to make Wasco a great place.



WMS mxIncubator Market



differs from the competition because it has three solar panels, it's water-resistant and cheaper," said Daniel. He developed the idea while camping because he wasn't able to charge his phone.

Another student was inspired by her brother to develop a "Binder Backpack" aimed at organizing messy backpacks with a three-ring binder inside for papers, folder, and notebook storage.

"I am very impressed by the products. The class gives students an opportunity to explore different career options and see if they want to pursue entrepreneurship," said parent, Michael Campbell.

This year, middle and high school students are learning to be entrepreneurs through the mx-Incubator and INCubator classes. The classes teach students to develop a business plan, research the market, and create a product that solves a problem they have encountered.

On April 3, Wredling 7th-grade mxIncubator students showcased products they have developed during final pitch presentations to fellow students, parents and staff members.

"It takes them nine weeks to prepare their product. Students do everything from planning, constructing, marketing, and doing all their calculations," said business teacher, Mr. Hancock. "By presenting their products to a wider audience, they receive feedback to better measure their success and improve their product while learning more about their market," he added.

Students were evaluated on their product, its benefit, their research on the target audience, and the feedback they receive to improve and better market their idea.

Among the products was a portable solar charger for phones and tablets, that could subsequently be used to also power laptops and multiple phones. "My product



Interactive Animal Research at Wild Rose

Students in Mrs. Rosenquist's kindergarten class at Wild Rose Elementary School researched animals using an interactive database they accessed on iPads in the LRC. "You wouldn't think kindergarteners can do research, but with the iPads, they have access to different resources to learn more and explore different topics," said LRC Assistant, Mrs. Tykal.

For this activity, kindergarteners listened to animal sounds and chose which animals they wanted to research. "I created a QR code for each animal to make this activity more interesting and fun for students," said LRC Media Specialist, Mrs. Clemens.



The animals students chose ranged from walruses and polar bears to spider monkeys and rattlesnakes. Through their research, students learned the different physical characteristics of their animal as well as their animal habitats, the food they eat, their life cycle, and interesting fun facts about them. The information gathered was used to create an animal book for the class to share.

ELEMENTARY INTRA-DISTRICT TRANSFER WINDOW

Intra-District Transfer Requests
must be submitted online between:

8:00 A.M. 4/2/19 - 4:00 P.M. 4/15/19

A link to the request form
is currently available at
district.d303.org.

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 is for one school year and will require re-application the following school year



QUESTIONS?

PLEASE CALL THE DISTRICT
OFFICE AT 331.228.2000

Elementary Intra-District Transfer Information

*Link Available
until
4 PM 4/15/19*

Please [click here](#) to view the Elementary Intra-District Transfer page and [School Board Policy 7:30 Student Assignment and Intra-District Transfer/Choice](#).

Hope Hustle

This Sunday, 4/7/19!



Please visit bit.ly/hopehustle2019 for additional information.



HOPE HUSTLE 

APRIL 7, 2019

Students, staff, parents, and community members will come together to promote suicide prevention efforts and awareness, as well as positivity through teamwork.

- 5K Race, 5K Fun Run/Walk, and Youth Mile
- St. Charles East High School Campus and Norris Stadium Track
- Online registration is open until April 3

 For additional information, visit bit.ly/hopehustle2019





Logo Needed for Great D303 Read

The "Great D303 READ" is a community-wide literary event aimed at finding the top 100 favorite children's books of D303. Children and adults throughout the community may nominate their favorite children's books, and from those favorites, the top 100 will be identified. A winner will be crowned "D303's Number One Best-Loved Children's Book."

If you would like to design a logo that will be used on promotional materials, please use the following criteria and include:

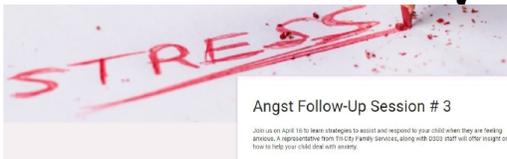
- Children's literature and the love of reading
- The year 2020
- The name The Great D303 READ
- If you plan to illustrate your logo using Illustrator or Photoshop, please send a PNG file, along with the underlying authoring files, to the LRC/Media Specialist at your school
- Hand drawn logos may also be submitted in person to your LRC/Media Specialist
- All submissions must be received by April 9, 2019.

2018-2019 Preschool Vacancy Notification

The 2019-20 Community Pre-school Program Lottery closed on February 4. To add your child's name to the notification of vacancies list, [click here](#). If you have any questions, please contact the Early Childhood Office at 331-228-4834. You can also visit the [Early Childhood page](#) of our website for more information regarding the D303 Community Preschool Program.



Parent University



Angst Follow-Up Session # 3

Join us on April 16 to learn strategies to assist and respond to your child when they are feeling anxious. A representative from Tri-City Family Services, along with D303 staff will offer insight on how to help your child deal with anxiety.



FOLLOW-UP ANGST SESSION #3

Join us on April 16 to learn strategies to assist and respond to your child when they are feeling anxious. A representative from Tri-City Family Services, along with D303 staff will offer insight on how to help your child deal with anxiety.

4/16/19, 6:30-8:00 p.m. Wild Rose LRC

[Click here to register.](#)

Summer School & Camps

We offer a variety of summer school, athletic and music camp opportunities at our schools. 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](#).



Please note that additional summer brochures will be posted as the information becomes available.

St. Charles Education Foundation's Annual Gala

Mark Your Calendars Now for our Annual Gala and Distinguished Alumni Awards on *Saturday, April 6th* at Hotel Baker. Hope to see you there!

Already know you can't make it? Please [DONATE WHAT YOU CAN](#) to plant the seeds for a beautiful future for D303 schools and students!

Donate to our cause, and find out more about who we are, and all we do, at: www.stced.org

More information on Facebook:
<https://www.facebook.com/GSCEF/>



Please verify that your contact information is correct in [Home Access Center \(HAC\)](#) to ensure you receive emergency communication alerts from District 303.

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 for more details.



Community Backpack



Upcoming School Board Meetings

- April 8**
School Board Meeting - 7:00 p.m.
- April 15**
Learning & Teaching Committee Meeting - 5:30 p.m.
- April 25**
Business Services Committee Meeting - 5:30 p.m.
- May 13**
School Board Meeting - 7:00 p.m. - Norton Creek
- April 20**
Learning & Teaching Committee Meeting - 5:30 p.m.
- May 28**
Community Relations Committee Meeting - 5:30 p.m.
- May 30**
Business Services Committee Meeting - 5:30 p.m.

2018-19 Calendar Highlights

- April 10**
Parent University: Mindful Parenting Book Study
- April 16**
Parent University: ANGST Follow-up Session #3
- April 18**
K-5 PM Parent/Teacher Conf. (K-5 AM class only)
- April 19**
School Improvement Day - No School
- April 26**
[Notice of Public Meeting](#) 10:30 a.m. at Fox Ridge
- April 28**
[BPAC](#) - Children's Day Event
- May 9**
Parent University: Mindful Parenting Book Study

Want to stay current with D303?

There's an app for that!



Search St. Charles CUSD 303 to download

The official St. Charles CUSD 303 app gives you a personalized window into what is happening at the district and schools. Get the news and information that you care about and get involved.

