

# District 303 E-NEWS

 St Charles District 303  @StCharlesD303  @StCharlesD303

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Let's Talk!



**November 18, 2022**

## School-Wide Town Hall Inspires Bell Graham Students to “Be You”

Every student and staff member at Bell Graham came together for a school-wide town hall for the first time in several years. This town hall focused on “Being You” and is the first of three that Bell Graham will be hosting this year that will correspond with the district-wide theme of “Be Here Be You Belong.” In preparation, each staff member chose an adjective that best represented them. These words were made into t-shirts unique to each person. On the day of the town hall, staff proudly wore shirts saying, “Be accepting,” “Be resilient,” and “Be genuine,” to name a few.



To kick off the town hall, everyone listened to a reading of the book “Be You!” by Peter H. Reynolds in the community room. Students then broke off into small groups of mixed grade levels led by a staff member they might not have met before. “We make families in our classes, but I’d like us all to be one big Bell Graham family,” said 5th grade teacher Miss Gilbert to her small group. Students each took the time to learn more about one another and brainstorm character traits that a person may have. They then used traits that make them unique to decorate a worksheet to represent their individuality. These sheets are posted around the school to encourage everyone to “Be You.”





# AMERICAN EDUCATION WEEK



“ There are so many fantastic staff members who go above and beyond to support students. ”

“ We have a dedicated staff who are truly invested in students. ”



“ The enthusiasm of school staff is incredible! It lifts our spirits & fosters a warm, positive environment. ”





FALL 2022

# FOCUS

A newsletter to the D303 Community

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District 303's annual Fall Focus publication will soon be arriving at homes within our District. You can also access the [digital version here](#). This annual newsletter provides important updates on District initiatives and highlights successes throughout our schools.

In this issue, we celebrate our 2022 National Blue Ribbon Schools Norton Creek Elementary and North High School, recognize award-winning instruction at Fox Ridge Early Childhood Center, plus explore thoughtful artistic expression at Wild Rose Elementary and community building at Thompson and Wredling Middle Schools. In addition, you'll learn about East's Engine Challenge Team, the young writers of Munhall, our National Merit Scholarship Program semifinalists and many state qualifiers. The Fall Focus also includes updates from the District 303 Board and on our Strategic Plan Development and Equity Committees.

### Spreading LOVE at Davis

**D**uring their art class, Davis students learned about American Artist Robert Indiana and his iconic LOVE sculpture. Students thought about his message of love and how he shared it with many people around the world, noting how language was not a barrier. Indiana went on to recreate the famous love sculpture twice more in different languages, first in Spanish and then in Hebrew.

Inspired by Indiana's work, Davis Art Teacher Joshua Lundquist wanted to create a banner for their hallway to spread the same positive message and have every student at Davis collaborate. First, kindergarteners painted the background of the mural by mixing primary colors. Then, 1st graders cut and glued shapes to the mural. Lastly, 2nd graders painted the shape outline. For the final touch, Lundquist did the lettering and window designs. The result was an amazingly colorful banner representative of the school culture and talent of all students involved.



# Veterans Day Celebrations Across the District

Thank you to everyone who helped make this a special day for our veterans and their families!  
[Click here to watch the video.](#)



**A**s a way to support the District-wide motto of “Be Here Be You Belong,” Ferson Creek staff members participated in a collaborative activity to help make their school a more inviting place for all students.

Before engaging in their professional development sessions on November 7, all staff gathered in the community room to begin the activity. They were put into mixed groups and were assigned a “bistro” table to decorate in their cafeteria. The tables were prepped for the design by being stripped, sanded and painted with the background colors by one Ferson Creek parent. Staff members then had 10 minutes to brainstorm a design that reflected one part of their school motto or the Ferson Way as a whole: “Kind, Respectful, Responsible Learners.”



“The designs were amazing!” exclaimed Ferson Creek Principal Kristy McKnight. “Each table was so unique but so representative of the group!” The tables included a painting of the Ferson Fox, words of encouragement, and the Ferson motto in bright and vibrant colors. The staff expressed how much they enjoyed the activity and collaborating with their colleagues and friends to make their school a more inviting place for all.



Shout-out to all the Student Council members from Corron Elementary for organizing a school-wide food drive for the Salvation Army.



# Is Your Contact Information Up-to-date?



This week's first snow is a great reminder to make sure the contact information you've provided the District is up-to-date. We want to ensure you're getting timely alerts on inclement weather operations and other important notifications.

## View Notification Preferences/Enable Text Messages

District 303 will send notifications to families through the ParentLink system by text message, phone call and email based on your settings. Parents/guardians can view and edit their contact settings through the [Home Access Center](#).

To receive timely emergency communications, we strongly encourage families to enable text notifications. For most people, this is the fastest way to receive and view important messages. Here's how:

- From the HAC main menu, select the "registration" tab to view your contact settings
- Select the "edit" button to change your contact settings
- To enable text message notifications, enter your cell phone number in the Cell/Text field
- Select the "save" button

Users can only update their child(ren) and personal contact information. You will not be able to make changes to another parent/guardian's contact information. For updates to emergency contact people, please reach out to the school directly.

# ¿Esta actualizada su información de contacto?



La primera nevada de la temporada es un excelente recordatorio para asegurar que la información de contacto que ustedes han proporcionado al distrito esté actualizada. Queremos asegurarnos que ustedes reciban información a tiempo sobre alertas e inclemencias del clima.

## Ver Preferencias para Notificaciones/Permitir mensajes de Texto

El distrito D303 mandará notificaciones a las familias utilizando el sistema de comunicación "ParentLink" para mandar mensajes de texto, llamadas telefónicas y correos electrónicos todo basado en sus preferencias. Los padres o tutores pueden revisar y editar sus contactos establecidos entrando al [Centro de Acceso para el Hogar](#).

Para poder recibir comunicaciones a tiempo, les invitamos a que permitan que las notificaciones se manden por texto. Para muchas personas, este medio es la manera más rápida y efectiva de recibir mensajes importantes. Aquí les decimos como:

- Entrando a HAC, diríjase al menú principal, seleccione la sección de "registrar" para ver sus contactos
- Seleccione el botón de "editar" para poder realizar cualquier cambio
- Para permitir mandar mensajes de texto ingrese su teléfono celular en el campo nombrado "Cell/Text"
- Seleccione el botón de "guardar"

Los usuarios únicamente pueden actualizar los contactos de la cuenta de sus hijos y su información personal. No podrán realizar cambios en los cuentas de otros padres o tutores. Para poder actualizar los contactos de emergencia, por favor comuníquese con la escuela directamente.

St. Charles East students learned about the science of municipal water management during a visit on November 11 to the City of St. Charles' Drinking Water Well 8 and the Wastewater Treatment Plant.



Students from AP Environmental Science and Environmental Science classes observed how the water pumped out of the aquifer is treated for hardness and radium before being distributed to the community. The minerals associated with water hardness and radium are naturally occurring in the rock formation that is the aquifer from which we draw our drinking water.

The group then met with Tim Wilson, Public Works Manager, to learn how wastewater is treated and returned to the Fox River, which will potentially recharge the aquifer. In the lab, students were engaged in inquiry activities led by Lamaria Jones, Laboratory Technician; Christina Smith, Laboratory Supervisor; and Richard Wadda, Laboratory Technician; to learn how the water is treated. Students excitedly practiced making filters to remove suspended sediments in the water and participated in chemical testing to ensure there are optimal amounts of microorganisms to clean the water. Lastly, they made wet mount slides and looked at the variety of microorganisms we all depend on to clean our water.

After the lab, students toured the plant and learned about the three phases of wastewater treatment: physical, biological, and disinfecting. Students also learned about how the waste recovered from the water is turned into biosolids, a fertilizer that is spread on crops destined for non-human consumption.

"Our wastewater treatment plant in St. Charles is special because it is one of the very few in the state of Illinois that has been retrofitted with the ability to remove nitrogen and phosphorus from our wastewater before it is returned to the Fox River," explained St. Charles East Science Teacher Laurie Nannini. "This step is crucial for protecting our beautiful river from the effects of cultural eutrophication that can threaten all of the life living within the Fox River as well as the organisms that depend on the river for food."

During their drive back to the school, students commented on how much fun they had learning from the experts and expressed how they have a new respect for the people who continuously monitor, clean and distribute our drinking water.



Thanks to the Human Resources staff from the City of St. Charles for coordinating the field trip and to Matt Wilson, Public Works Division Manager, and Eric Wicklund, Lead Certified Water Operator, for their insight and supporting our students during the tour.

**J**umpstart's Read for the Record is a national campaign that helps address educational inequities that leave too many children unprepared for kindergarten. This year, St. Charles North high school students in the Educators Rising Club participated in the 2022 Read for the Record campaign at Corron Elementary on October 27.



High school students read this year's featured book "Nigel and the Moon," written by Antwan Eady and illustrated by Gracey Zhang, and led games and crafts for the elementary students who participate in the South Elgin Park District AfterShock program.



Since 2006, this celebration has mobilized over 24 million people in promoting the importance of literacy. A copy of the book will be donated to the Corron Elementary library and the AfterShock program.



**PARENT UNIVERSITY**

*Dr. Catherine Pearlman, author of "First Phone: A Pre-Tween's Guide to Digital Responsibility, Safety and Etiquette," joined Parent University on November 16 for a virtual presentation. You can now watch the recording [here](#). While supplies last, parents can also pick up a free copy of Dr. Pearlman's book, along with copies of past book studies, in the children's section at the St. Charles Public Library.*

## **Announcing the St. Charles Education Foundation Grant Application 2022-2023**

*"It is the supreme art of the teacher to awaken joy in creative expression and knowledge." - Albert Einstein*  
Nineteen grants were funded amounting to \$20,290 last year. Write a grant for your great idea and the difference it would make to your students and you, and you just might be the one receiving a grant! Don't forget to team with your colleagues across the district!

The goal of The St. Charles Education Foundation is to provide funding that will fully allow talented professionals like you to utilize your abilities to meet the challenges of educating today's students. To facilitate this goal, we invite educators and students to submit proposals for consideration by the Foundation. We hope to fund projects that may not be able to be funded through conventional methods. Since not all projects can be funded each year, special consideration will be given to innovative projects and to pilot programs that have the potential for expansion throughout District 303. The grant application has been modified to make it easier to apply and to keep the focus on exceptional ideas which enhance learning and teaching in our district. The application is ready for you on the Foundation website:

**[Making a Difference Application](#) — [St. Charles Education Foundation Website](#)**

## Upcoming School Board Meetings

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.  
Special School Board Meeting - 6:00 p.m.

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

December 13  
Special 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

Thanksgiving Break  
November 21 - November 25

November 30  
All Grade Level (PreK-12) Early Release Day

December 14  
High School Early Release Day

December 21  
Last Day of School in 2022

Winter Break  
December 22 - January 6

January 9  
Teacher Work Day/Pre-K-5 Institute Day (No Students)



**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**



## 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***

## 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.