

District 303 E-NEWS

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November 22, 2019

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First Job Shadow Experience for High School Students

On Wednesday, November 13, students from St. Charles East and St. Charles North participated in the first Career Pathway Job Shadow event in partnership with the City of St. Charles. Throughout the afternoon, 35 students interested in exploring a career in municipal government professions had the opportunity to rotate among up to three different locations: City Hall; the Fire Station; the Police Department; and Public Works.

During the event, students explored the worksites and met with staff members who provided insightful information about education and certifications required for the jobs and specific careers. Students asked questions about job duties, schedules, and benefits, as well as the work environment and opportunities for professional development.



There are two additional Career Pathway Job Shadow events planned for January 6 and April 10. Students who are interested in participating are encouraged to contact the College and Career Readiness Department for the application forms.

St. Charles North hosted the DuKane Student Leadership Conference on November 7, welcoming student delegates and presenters from both St. Charles high schools, Geneva, Batavia, Lake Park, Wheaton North, Wheaton Warrenville South, and Glenbard North High Schools. Attendees participated in a day-long event designed to engage, educate, and empower them as student leaders.

Student presenters led groups through sessions related to 10 tenants of leadership: committing to values; modeling organizational values; goal setting; enlisting the help of others; finding opportunities; taking risks; fostering collaboration; empowering others; recognizing others; and celebrating victories.

"The goal is to empower these future leaders to take action in their school communities and spread best practices across the conference," said North Assistant Principal for Student Life, Melinda Roberts.

Student presenters talked to peers about clubs and organizations to which they belong, how their involvement has enriched

their high school experience, and how they have helped and positively impacted other students, especially those new to their school. Some sessions allowed students to learn more about online tools that can help them create quality content and graphics for their classes, as well as tips and skills to help them improve and become better learners.

After attending and leading the sessions, students gathered with their groups to process the day's learnings, taking the new knowledge, skills, and information to develop new plans to implement in their home schools to help their peers and their school community.



◆◆◆ We Want 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.

Random Acts Matter at Wredling Middle School

On November 14, something special happened in the Wredling Middle School cafeteria. In a combined effort of kindness, students from Wredling Middle School's RISE Program and Random Acts Matter (RAM), a local organization focused on kindness throughout the community, partnered to raise money for a wheelchair for the husband of Wredling cafeteria worker, Sherry Fox, who was injured in a motorcycle accident.

Wredling teaching assistant, Celeste VanderVeen, and RISE student, Ted Draftz, headed the effort after learning about the accident and Gary Fox's mobility



challenges. Celeste said, "I wanted to find a way to help Gary and Sherry. I did some praying and thought about Random Acts Matter. I called on a Sunday afternoon and Jim DiCiaula answered right away. He said that this is right up their alley."

With a group of 6th graders from Wredling witnessing the act of kindness, RAM Kindness Ambassadors Sharon LeGare, Tina Lappa, and Lisa Drummond, along with Celeste Vanderveen, Ted Draftz, and Ola Boniak presented Sherry with the wheelchair for her husband. Celeste and Ted proved that Random Acts of Kindness truly do matter!

North Educators Rising Students Visit Corron

Corron Elementary students who participate in the South Elgin Park District AfterShock program were thrilled to welcome St. Charles North Educators Rising Club members to take part in Jumpstart's 2019 "Read for the Record" Day. High school students read "Thank You, Omu!" as part of the world's largest shared reading experience.

Corron students attentively listened while the North High School students read the story about sharing and a pot of soup. The readers encouraged Corron students to think critically and make inferences to predict what was going to happen in the story, prompting laughter and interesting discussions. To conclude the activity, students participated in games and painted their own version of the famous soup from the story.

Jumpstart's Read for the Record® is a national campaign that helps address educational inequities that leave too many children unprepared by encouraging children and adults to gather to read, learn, and laugh together as part of this worldwide experience.



About a decade ago, several teachers at St. Charles North High School received a small grant from NIU to start a writing center. Originally open only a couple periods a day, the writing center now serves students who need assistance during all 5 lunch periods.

During each period, an English teacher and 12–15 student consultants support students who find their way to the supportive classroom in one of four ways.

1. Students can drop in for help on their own
2. A teacher can recommend a session to a student
3. A teacher can bring an entire class to the center
4. A student can correspond with a student consultant online



In order for a student to be a consultant, they have to be nominated by an English teacher, submit writing samples, and go through an interview process. In addition, they participate in a four-week training session where they learn the basics of minimalist training. “It’s important for consultants to act in a coaching capacity by asking a lot of questions that help the writer think about the piece and do the work himself,” said English teacher Kristin Williams who has worked in the writing center for 8 years.

Mrs. Williams said that while student consultants are supporting others, they are also learning. “Working in the center empowers students to take on leadership roles. They rise to the occasion by learning to talk to fellow students and helping them with their writing.”

North senior, Alyssa, and junior, McKenna, both enjoy working in the Writing Center. McKenna remarked that “Helping other students makes me think about my own writing and helps me also critique myself.”

Many students are repeat customers who have found success through the assistance in the center. During the 2018–2019 school year, there were over 3,000 conferences. Since September, there have already been 900 conferences.

SCN Madrigals 2019



St. Charles North High School Madrigals singers will be holding a Renaissance-themed dinner at the Baker Church in downtown St. Charles on **November 21, 22 and 23**. Guests will be treated to an evening of music, laughter, and a gourmet meal from Tarragon Catering in the dining hall of a Medieval Palace as guests of the Kings Court. [Click here for tickets for this event!](#)

Veterans Day 2019
-Thank you to
all those who
served!



A special thank you to all the students, staff, and families who attended the Veterans Day celebrations around the District and made this memorable day possible!

A Visit to be Thankful For

Service Learning students from Wredling Middle School visited Brighton Gardens on November 20 where they experienced the power of inter-generational relationships. During their visit, students participated with the residents in a Tai-Chi class, exchanged jokes, worked on crafts, and shared cupcakes. They also engaged in discussions about the many people they are grateful for in their lives, including each other, which allowed them to develop stronger connections and a greater sense of fulfillment.



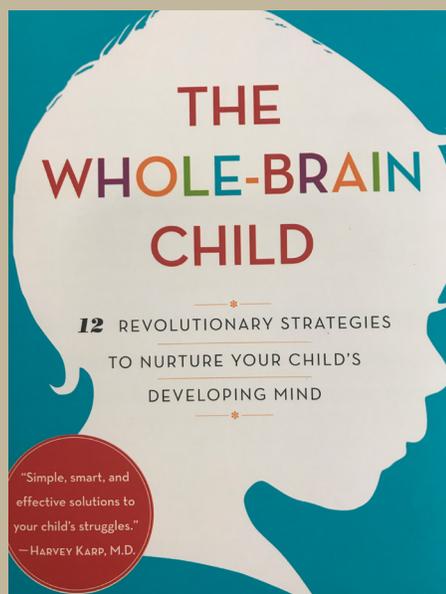
Parent University Project Lead the Way Video

Do your children talk about Project Lead the Way and how it is part of their lessons from kindergarten through 12th grade? This month, we will launch a video that outlines how PLTW supports students in lessons from science to engineering, and students' perspectives on the hands-on activities that are part of the PLTW curriculum.

The Whole Brain Child Book Study

District 303 Parent University presents our second annual book study. In *The Whole Brain Child*, Daniel J. Siegel (neuropsychiatrist and author of the bestselling book *Mindsight*) and parenting expert, Tina Payne Bryson, demystify the meltdowns and aggravation, explaining the new science of how a child's brain is wired and how it matures. The "upstairs brain," which makes decisions and balances emotions, is under construction until the mid-twenties. Conversations will be based upon the book as well as supplemental workbook activities.

[Register by November 30 so we can order a book for you!](#)



East Hosts Open Panel Discussion with Military Personnel

On Veterans Day, the St. Charles East College and Career Readiness Department hosted an open panel discussion with personnel from the United States Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force, and Army National Guard who spoke about the benefits and opportunities related to a career in the military.

Panelists were: 1st Sgt. Kenneth Schreiber from the Army National Guard; Lt. Colonel Anna Adams from the Air Force; Sgt. Angel Rodriguez from the Marine Corps; Navy/Nuclear Petty Officer Ryan Buckley; Navy Petty Officer William Virgl; and Staff Sgt. Samuel Powell from the Army.

The panelists discussed their career paths, the reasons why they chose a particular branch in the military, as well as the requirements to join, and what they enjoy most about their careers. Panelists shared information about the skills needed to perform their jobs and the importance of leadership, discipline, and the desire to serve the nation.

After the presentation, students asked questions and received tips and information aimed at helping them continue to plan for their future. East's Discover-Y initiatives seek to provide increased opportunities for students to learn about a variety of post-secondary options available. Throughout the school year, they host panel sessions dedicated to careers in government, healthcare, STEM, and trades.



It's time to register for Little Saints Preschool!



The Little Saints program is scheduled from Tuesday, January 28, 2020 until Tuesday, May 12, 2020. St. Charles East High School will continue a FOUR DAY PROGRAM and the cost will remain at \$125.

This preschool experience runs in conjunction with the Early Childhood Practicum classes where the high school students perform the roles of the "teachers." The students plan, create, and lead various age appropriate learning experiences that foster growth in the different developmental areas. [Click here for more information and to register for the Little Saints Preschool.](#) Please contact Erin Linde, at erin.linde@d303.org for any questions or concerns.

National Board Certified Teachers in District 303

Congratulations to our District 303 staff members who worked hard to renew their National Board Certifications. We are proud of the quality staff we have who support innovative learning practices in our district everyday.

Elizabeth Battaglia
Barbara Beyer
Brian Callahan
Ryan Colton
Anthony Gagliardi
Keith Glavan
Peter Gleason

Aaron Horn
Jeanette Katz
Tina King
Joanna Martin
Angela Marx
Chierie Moriarty
Christine Mygrant

Kate Orals
Julianne Phenev
Sarah Scheifele
Jennifer Shoaf
Shannon Stone
Angela Wifler

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.



Kane County Regional Office of Education 2019 Student Photography Contest



The following District 303 students were recognized in week six of the Regional Office of Education 2019 Photo Contest: St. Charles East High School student, Liubov Cherniaieva's 'Night Walk'; St. Charles North High School students, Sophia Douglas with 'Gator,' and Ethan Shap with 'Chicago Skyline.' [Click here to see week six's photos.](#)

On week seven, North student, Trevor Zink, was recognized for his digital photograph, 'Sunrise.' On week eight, North student, Diedre Symon's digital photograph, "Pop" placed in the top 10.

Click here to [see week seven's photos](#) and [week eight's photos](#).

"Night Walk" by Liubov Cherniaieva; kanecountyconnects.com



Big Hearts of Fox Valley NFP is a registered 501(c)3 non-profit organization dedicated to brightening the lives of underprivileged children in our community. We're committed to identifying and coming together to meet social, emotional and basic needs of those around us.

It was almost Christmas time and as we looked under our tree to see the piles of wrapped presents for our children, we thought about the little ones that wouldn't be opening presents on Christmas morning. We decided to reach out to our children's school social worker to see if there were any families that may need some assistance providing Christmas gifts to their kids. We, like many others, didn't realize there was a large number of families in need within our own community.

That's where this all started. In 2014, we were able to help provide Christmas gifts to kids in need within our own school.

Since 2014, we have been coordinating a Christmas gift sponsorship program to help the underprivileged children in School District 303 receive gifts from wish lists that each child personally creates. We work with School District 303 social workers who gather wish list information from families they feel may need some assistance providing Christmas gifts for their children. These wish lists are comprised of a few toy ideas along with clothing and shoe sizes. Many of these kids are in need of basic things like winter coats, boots, gloves, socks, etc. In 2018, we were able to provide gifts to 443 children from birth up to 8th grade. This year, we are excited to be expanding our efforts. We estimate that we will be able to support more than 600 children.

Each year we host a gift wrapping event at our Excel Automotive Repair shop. The entire community is invited to come together to wrap the donated gifts and to celebrate the magic of Christmas. With help from several local community sponsors, we always have plenty of food, drinks and entertainment for the entire family. This is a FREE event open to the public and is a great opportunity to show kids about the importance of giving back. In 2018, more than 600 people came together to wrap over 2400 gifts!



Big Hearts of Fox Valley Committees are in the process of creating a few other events that will happen in the upcoming years. We're excited to include an event to benefit high school aged kids as well. Our future goal is to partner with all community individuals and businesses in order to achieve our goal which is to make the lives of the children around us a little brighter.

We hope you will join us in our efforts,
 ♥ - The Mobley Family



info@bigheartsvf.org | 630.400.1602 | www.bigheartsvf.org

Making a difference in our community by providing needed items to local children.



Upcoming School Board Meetings

December 2
Business Services Committee Meeting - 5:30 p.m.

December 9
School Board Meeting - 7:00 p.m.

December 12
Citizen Advisory Committee Meeting - 6:00 p.m.

December 16
Learning & Teaching Committee Meeting - 5:30 p.m.

2019-2020 Calendar Highlights

November 25
K-12 Parent/Teacher Conference (No Students)

November 26
K-8 Parent/Teacher Conference (No Students)

November 28 & 29
Thanksgiving Break (No Students, Offices Closed)



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