

D155 Community Connection

October 5, 2015

A Message from the Superintendent

Every week I visit our schools to see the incredible work our teachers and staff are doing to educate our students. I attend events hosted in our schools, and I sit in classrooms with students and participate in lessons. This week I am visiting each school for our "School Lunch Visits." These visits are open to all staff members to meet with an accompanying administrator and myself. It's an opportunity for me to hear my colleagues' ideas and learn about the work they have been doing so far this school year. The "School Lunch Visits" are a vital part to our organization and allow me to stay connected. I am available to answer questions, and I'm eager to learn more about the exciting things happening in our buildings like the new classes established this school year and the partnerships we continue to develop and strengthen.

As always, I continue to be impressed by the work our staff is doing to improve outcomes for our students. I enjoy seeing the stories being shared on Twitter using "#D155Inspire." It truly is inspiring to see the lessons and support our staff provides our students each day.

Finally, in December, Secretary of Education Arne Duncan will step down from his position at the federal level. Dr. John King Jr. who is currently serving as the deputy secretary of education will become acting secretary of education. Currently, the reauthorization of the Education Act is underway. We are unsure of the new direction Dr. King's leadership will take us. As information becomes available I will continue to keep you updated.

Respectfully,

Dr. Johnnie Thomas

Calendar

Oct. 12 - Columbus Day, No School

Oct. 20 - Board of Education Meeting (Center for Education)

Oct. 29 - End of First Quarter

Oct. 30 - Institute Day, No Classes

Special Events

Oct. 16 & 17 - PRHS presents "Noises Off" at 7 p.m. in the auditorium. \$8 for Adults, \$5 students, 1 free ticket with an Activity Pass. Tickets will be sold at the door.

Oct. 18 - Hustle for Hunger 5K Walk/Run. Click [here](#) to register.

Oct. 21 - Central's Fall Choir Concert will be in the auditorium at 7 p.m.

Board of Education Updates

Special Board of Education Meeting Summary

The Board of Education held a special meeting to discuss pending litigation in the Crystal Lake South High School bleachers case on September 30. In a 5-2 vote, the board authorized the award of contract, subject to legal approval, for the above Crystal Lake South High School bleacher demolition to southern bleachers for the base bid value of \$233,595 for bleacher demolition held in advance in discussion with Judge Chmiel, city of Crystal Lake and homeowners. The board unanimously approved a motion directing district administration to begin reviewing the option presented by the homeowners and engage in immediate conversation with homeowners and the city of Crystal Lake.

Update:

On October 2, representatives from the district, the city of Crystal Lake, and the homeowners met to discuss a resolution with the Crystal Lake South bleachers. We will continue to meet and have engaging conversations.

September Board of Education Regular Meeting Summary

Prairie Ridge High School Presentation

Several representatives from Prairie Ridge High School and the McCormick Foundation presented to the school board about the school's recent recognition of civic instruction by earning the 2015 Democracy School distinction award. Democracy Schools are recognized for providing students with experiences to be active contributing members of society. Those who were recognized include Dr. Steve Koch, John Pellikan, Kristin Glover, Kait Sanford, Kurt Wagner, Bob Boldwyn, Bill Walker, Curt Wadlington, Barb Laimins (McCormick Foundation), and Sharon Smogor (Democracy School Mentor).

Sixth Day Student Enrollment

Superintendent Dr. Johnnie Thomas informed the board that sixth day enrollment count was 6,395. This includes students at the district's five schools including Haber Oaks Campus. Enrollment is down about 110 students from last year's sixth day enrollment. Enrollment, however, is trending slightly higher than predicted from the 2010 Kasarda demographic study. The Kasarda demographic study provides background information and data from D155 feeder districts.

School Spotlight

Six D155 Students Named National Merit Semifinalists

The National Merit Scholarship Corporation named six Community High School District 155 students as Semifinalists. The program honors students who demonstrate exceptional academic ability and potential to excel in college studies. Semifinalists represent less than one percent of high school seniors in the country.

Kaitlyn Schmidt (Crystal Lake Central), BreAnne Fleeer (Prairie Ridge), Robin Kim (Prairie Ridge), John Murawski (Prairie Ridge), Jacob Richeal (Prairie Ridge), and Joshua Svehla (Prairie Ridge) will now compete to become Finalists. Click [here](#) to read more about each student.

Prairie Ridge High School Recognized as Illinois Democracy School

The Illinois Civic Mission Coalition has named Prairie Ridge High School as an Illinois Democracy School. Democracy Schools are recognized for providing students with experiences to be active contributing members of society. These experiences provide knowledge, skills, and community engagement opportunities for students. The coalition promotes non-partisan civic education of youth in America.

Since 2006, 41 Illinois high schools have successfully completed a school-wide civic assessment and been named as Democracy Schools. Read more [here](#).

Cary-Grove High School Fine Arts Center Ribbon Cutting

On September 30, Cary-Grove High School administrators, teachers, students, parents and community members gathered for the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony of the new Fine Arts Center. This project began last September with tremendous support from our community. The Cary-Grove Fine Arts Foundation and the Foglia Family Foundation contributed 1.5 million dollars to the project. The Cary-Grove High School Fine Arts Center gives our students more opportunities to showcase their many talents to our community. Click [here](#) to see more photos from the event.

Central Receives National Yearbook Program of Excellence Award

Crystal Lake Central High School received the National Yearbook Program of Excellence Award from Jostens for its 2014-2015 yearbook. The excellence award was created to recognize those who excel in creating and distributing their yearbook. Amy Rzepecki oversees the design and layout of Central's yearbook.

South Students and Staff Serve Breakfast to Police, Fire and Rescue Squads

On the anniversary of September 11, about 100 students and 150 staff members at Crystal Lake South High School cooked and served breakfast to our local Police, Fire and Rescue Squads to recognize their service to our communities.

District 155 Receives Financial Excellence Award

Community High School District 155 received a Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting from the Association of School Business Officials (ASBO) International. The district was recognized for its Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for the 2014 Fiscal Year. It is the first time the district has received this award.



Cary-Grove Interact Students Purchase Truckload of Food

Cary-Grove Interact students raised money to purchase a truckload of food for more than 120 families in our community. Students unloaded and distributed two weeks' worth of groceries to these families on Saturday, September 19.

Students at South Raise Awareness about Mental Health

Crystal Lake South's Avidum club hosted a Glow Run on September 26 to raise awareness about mental health in our community. Avidum's goal at South is to create an environment of understanding and awareness. The club raised more than \$300 from the run to benefit National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) of McHenry County. About 100 students, staff, and community members participated in the run.

Central High School Tackles Hunger

The CLC National Honor Society collected 641 pounds of food during the CLC vs. South football game on September 18 for the Crystal Lake Food Pantry. CLC students and faculty as well as surrounding neighborhoods donated food.





Haber Oaks Art Class

For the first time, students at our Haber Oaks Campus now have an opportunity to take art class. Students are working on perspective line drawings on black paper with colored pencil in Lindsey Mangano's art class.

PR Initiates Care Package Drive to Support Our Troops

Prairie Ridge High School will do a Veterans Salute at the home football game on October 9. The school will be kicking off its care package drive for Veterans Day (Operation Support our Troops America). The school will be collecting a variety of items to send to our troops. Prairie Ridge will also be selling bricks for \$50 for the Veterans Memorial at the football stadium. To find out more about which items you can donate and bring to the game on October 9 click [here](#).

South Football Players, Cheerleaders and Pommies Read to Indian Prairie Students

It's been a tradition since 2000, during Homecoming week Crystal Lake South football players read to elementary students at Indian Prairie Elementary School. In the last five years the football team has also included the pommies and cheerleaders. Click [here](#) to watch the video.

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