

Press Clippings 10/10/20

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There are no U-46 related news stories for this day.

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Press Clippings 10/11/20

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There are no U-46 related news stories for this day.

Press Clippings 10/12/20

---Daily Herald---10/12/20

U-46 Food and Nutrition Services honored for achievement

Submitted by: Elgin Area School District U-46

In a year that has demonstrated the importance of school meals, Elgin Area School District U-46's Food & Nutrition Services department was honored with an "Accent on Achievement" during the Oct. 5 board of education meeting. The honor came just ahead of National School Lunch Week, Oct. 12-16.

In a normal year, U-46 serves 3.35 million lunches annually, with an average of 18,700 students eating a school lunch each day. Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic in March -- and the transition of school to distance learning -- U-46 has distributed more than 2.2 million free meals to children at school sites, and starting in September, community sites including parks, apartment complexes, and parking lots.

"Just like other employees in U-46, staff in the Food & Nutrition Services department have risen to the challenge posed by COVID-19," said U-46 Superintendent Tony Sanders. "They have been flexible and creative and formed community partnerships to guarantee we can meet U-46 families where they are."

All total, U-46 is now distributing a free breakfast and lunch, packaged to take home, at nearly 80 sites every weekday. The meals are for children 18 and under; no paperwork is

required, and the children do not need to be present. The U.S. Department of Agriculture has granted schools free meal waiver flexibility through Dec. 31.

President John F. Kennedy created National School Lunch Week in 1962 to promote the importance of a healthy school lunch in a child's life and the impact it has inside and outside the classroom. The federally-funded National School Lunch Program serves more than 30 million children every day.

"We know that nutritious meals in schools are important for students' concentration, behavior and mood," said Elena Hildreth, Director of Food & Nutrition Services. "That doesn't change when children are learning remotely. We're proud that we have been able to support our U-46 families who are struggling with financial hardship and other difficulties during the COVID-19 pandemic."

Hildreth joined the board meeting to accept the "Accent on Achievement" certificate for the Food and Nutrition Services department. The meeting was live streamed on the district's YouTube channel.

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Press Clippings 08/09/20

---Daily Herald---08/09/20

Cops building bonds

By: Madhu Krishnamurthi

Building relationships, constant interactions and conversations with students help deter threats to school safety, says Streamwood police officer Courtney Stoiber, a school resource officer at Tefft Middle School in Streamwood.

Stoiber is among a cadre of resource officers stationed at **Elgin Area School District U-46** middle and high schools. She is trained in crisis intervention.

"It's highly focused on de-escalation and identifying persons in crisis ... with mental or physical disabilities, on the autism spectrum, with mental illnesses or other emotional needs," she said. "It's about verbally counseling them through that crisis and referring them to staff or resources to better address their needs."

---Daily Herald---08/09/20

Minority student arrests

By: Madhu Krishnamurthi

At **U-46**, student arrests for behavioral infractions are down from 343 in the 2013-14 school year to 36 in 2019-20. The majority of arrests during that period involved Black and Hispanic students.

Latinos constitute nearly 55% of the district's 38,395 students, followed by whites 26%, Asians 8%, Blacks 6% and two or more races 3%, data show.

Rich Bosh, a Bartlett police detective who has served 14 years as a resource officer for Bartlett High, was part of an oversight committee reviewing district policies and procedures for identifying students as threats. He started a safety task force at the school that gives students a say in school culture.

"Kids really took ownership of the school," Bosh said. "That was a really good thing that we hope to build on with other schools."

John Heiderscheidt, U-46 director of school safety and culture, said officials are considering expanding student mentoring through resource officers.

A group of parents is pushing student-led violence prevention/safety programs to reduce bullying and build relationships, such as the ["See something, say something"](#) initiative started after the 2012 Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting in Newtown, Connecticut.

"Our officers are helping to build those programs at a grass-roots level," Heiderscheidt said. "Students are leading the effort to grow that."

The district will be asking resource officers to provide A.L.I.C.E. (Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, Evacuate) active shooter response training for school employees.

The Elgin Police Department also trains its officers in the Handle with Care program.

"It's an excellent way to be a trauma-informed care community," Heiderscheidt said.

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