

# Superintendent's Weekly Newsletter



October 17, 2024

Dear Colleagues,

As we are well into October, I am taking the opportunity to make you aware of an exciting 5K fundraising race, El Trote de las Calacas, sponsored by the School District U-46 Educational Foundation and the Gail Borden Public Library Foundation, on Saturday, Nov. 2, 2024.

We have approximately 625 participants registered, but we really want to make this event a big success. I encourage each of you to consider participating in the race with your family and friends. You may either run, walk, or volunteer. Here is the [Race Registration link](#) - register before tomorrow's deadline (Oct. 18). There are also Group registration options to encourage small businesses and/or families to register (at a discounted rate with no shirt included, assuming the group might want to coordinate on their own).



If participating in the race is not possible, please consider helping us as a volunteer the morning of the event or getting the information out there!

To Volunteer:

- For U-46 staff members interested in volunteering, please sign up [here](#). Gail Borden Library will follow up with next steps.
- For non-U-46 staff available to volunteer, please follow Gail Borden Library's volunteer sign-up process at [gailborden.info/volunteer](http://gailborden.info/volunteer).

To Promote:

- Follow these groups on Facebook and share the race posts:
  - [www.facebook.com/U46EducationalFoundation](https://www.facebook.com/U46EducationalFoundation)
  - [www.facebook.com/SchoolDistrictU46](https://www.facebook.com/SchoolDistrictU46)

- [www.facebook.com/gailbordenpubliclibrary](https://www.facebook.com/gailbordenpubliclibrary)
- Follow the U46EF and U46 on LinkedIn and share the race posts:
  - [www.linkedin.com/company/u-46-educational-foundation](https://www.linkedin.com/company/u-46-educational-foundation)
  - [www.linkedin.com/company/school-district-u-46/](https://www.linkedin.com/company/school-district-u-46/)
- Encourage friends and family to participate or volunteer.

Below are additional links to review and/or share:

- Race details (includes map, videos, registration, Festival info, etc.)  
<https://gailborden.info/trote>
- Sponsorship Details <https://gailborden.info/trotesponsor>
- Promotional Video - English  
[www.facebook.com/gailbordenpubliclibrary/videos/859341535698705](https://www.facebook.com/gailbordenpubliclibrary/videos/859341535698705)
- Promotional Video – Spanish  
[www.facebook.com/gailbordenpubliclibrary/videos/1535205144072292](https://www.facebook.com/gailbordenpubliclibrary/videos/1535205144072292)

Thank you for your support and your continued commitment to the students, families, and the extended U-46 community.

It's a great day to learn in U-46!

Dr. Suzanne Johnson

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## Kudos

Send Kudos directly by clicking [HERE](#) or using Let's Talk. Remember, only Kudos with the sender's name will appear in the Weekly; no anonymous messages. Kudos are due by **5 p.m. each Tuesday**.

### **Kudos to Zachary Novick from Jeff Villarreal, both at Bartlett High School**

In addition to his commitment to creating a positive learning environment for all students, Zachary has thrived as Bartlett High School's data coach. He has played an imperative role in helping design and analyze multiple data systems to improve both communication with all stakeholders and student success.

### **Kudos to Brandy Rajabali from Lisa Bergbreiter and Dr. Cretia Kirkwood, all at Independence Center for Early Learning**

We'd like to extend a big thank you to our new school nurse, Brandy, for being such a wonderful addition to our team! She has not only joined the safety committee and actively contributed, but she also took the initiative to create small first aid kits for every classroom. Her quick response to calls and her incredible rapport with our young students have made a positive impact on our school community. We're so grateful to have her on board!

### **Kudos to Jeron Shelton, Ana Poljak and the Friends of McKinley (FOM), all at McKinley Elementary School, from Kimberly De la Cruz, U-46 Parent**

McKinley's Talent Show last month was amazing! Thank you to Mr. Shelton, Ms. Poljak, and the FOM team for creating an awesome night where the kids can showcase their talent, build their self-

confidence, and feel good about themselves. Thank you for creating this awesome show and putting in all the work to make it successful! I can't wait for next year!

**Kudos to the Entire Nature Ridge Staff, from Cyndi Aleman and Nancy Mireles-Garcia, both at Nature Ridge Elementary School**

We want to recognize the entire Nature Ridge staff for their expertise and dedication to serve our students and families. Thanks for doing it all with a smile and sense of humor!

**Kudos to Eric Hollaway at Bartlett High School, Max Mollenkamp at Elgin High School, Nicholas Lambert at Larkin High School, Griffin Lober at South Elgin High School, and Erin Leone at Streamwood High School, from Jaimie Giraldo and Zach Geller, in the U-46 Fine Arts Department**

On behalf of U-46's Fine Arts Department, we want to send congratulations to these band directors, as well as all of the marching band students and staff of all five high schools, on a fantastic performance at this year's U-46 Marching Band Showcase! All of the bands performed well, and the audience energy was great. Your hard work and time is noticed and appreciated, and it has paid off in the quality of your performances. Great job!

Congratulations and thank you as well to Erin Leone, Jason Ward, and the entire Streamwood High School administration team for organizing and hosting this year's showcase. It was well-run and organized and went off without a hitch. Great job!

**Kudos to DUEA's Professional Development Team - Ana Reich, Karina Marin, Margaret Boghossian, Tina Pizzitola and Sara Moeller, as well as Heather Fellows, Amanda Leatherby, Celia Banks, Katie Cox, Griselda Pirtle, Christopher Sanzeri, Patricia Dereli, Pam Maxey and Brenda Prado, from Lorie Estanislao DUEA's Professional Development Chair**

Thank you, everyone, for your time and efforts for providing Professional Learning for more than 650 paraeducators. We are an amazing team! Last Friday we offered job specific-learning to different job categories. Paraeducators not assigned specific learning were able to choose between in-person, online, or self-paced.

I would also like to thank Beth Berg for arranging Optum courses and supporting our day of learning. The best part of professional learning is applying it in our daily practices that will benefit students we serve.



**School District U-46**

