

Superintendent's Weekly Newsletter



Oct. 24, 2024

Dear Colleagues,

After the tragic events of the past week, I need to acknowledge the grief so many of our colleagues are navigating this week. Our hearts and thoughts are also with the students and families who are grieving. I would like to thank each of you for the support and compassion you've shown during these difficult times.

As we continue to stand by our students and their families, please remember to take care of yourselves as well. Supporting others takes a toll, and it's important that we check in on our own well-being too. If you need someone to talk to, please don't hesitate to take advantage of our Employee Assistance Program and other support services available to you.

We are in this together, and I'm so grateful to have such a dedicated and caring team...including our four-legged team members!

Dr. Suzanne Johnson



Dogs from the Oakbrook Terrace, Grayslake, Hoffman Estates, and Bartlett police departments, as well as Canines for Comfort, arrived at Bartlett High School on Monday morning to provide comfort to students and staff. Thank you to Harley, Belle, Pickles, Emmi, Kane, Jake, Oakley, and Maverick, as well as their human handlers, for their support.

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 Cheryl Domokos, from Amanda Leatherby, both in Specialized Student Services

Thank you to Cheryl, one of our Specialized Student Services secretaries, for keeping things running in the area of operations. Cheryl has gone above and beyond to meet needs, particularly in the area of customer service, supporting related service leads, and invoicing.

Kudos to Beth Lucarelli, from Katherine Femal and Michelle Bach, all at Eastview Middle School

We want to recognize Beth for being a great addition to Eastview Middle School. Beth does a great job in her role as head custodian for our school. She has a positive attitude and gets things done quickly and efficiently. Eastview is lucky to have her caring for our building. Thanks for being awesome, Beth!

Kudos to Dennis Karbowski, from David J. Dybalski, both at Elgin High School

Dennis is a special education teacher at Elgin High School, and he has great rapport with the students he teaches and interacts with throughout the day. He is flexible and never has a problem letting me see students from his class. He is such an asset to EHS as he is a great role model for the students. Thanks for being here, Mr Karbowski!

Kudos to Beth Henkels, from Jeffrey Kerber, both at Larkin High School

Kudos to Beth for not only being an outstanding healthcare science teacher, but also for her steadfast and consistent support at Larkin High School's "D" wing and lower "E" wing hallways during passing periods. Mrs. Henkels' familiar presence, and her positive, encouraging interaction with the students, lends tremendous reinforcement and service to the Dean Team efforts to facilitate a smooth, orderly, and much more on time transition of the student body from class to

class, in a five-minute time span, eight periods each day. Every minute matters! Mrs. Henkels, your contribution at Larkin everyday is greatly appreciated, and I cannot thank you enough. Yours is truly an example to be followed. Thank you so much!

Kudos to Bonnie Droesch, from Lisa Bergbreiter and Dr.Cretia Kirkwood, all at Independence Center for Early Learning

A huge thank you to Bonnie, who has been supporting the school while we are in search of a part-time secretary. We appreciate all that you do!

Kudos to McKenzie Gonzalez, from Dr. Cretia Kirkwood and Lisa Bergbreiter, all at Independence Center for Early Learning

McKenzie is a paraprofessional and a new member of the Independence family. She joined in and hit the ground running. She goes above and beyond her job duties and is working hard to build relationships with the students in the class. She is always ready and willing, and we appreciate her presence in the building. Keep up the great work!

Kudos to Kim Cicinelli, Susan Harter, Sarah Heitter, and Griselda Villegas, all in Health Services, from Desiree Herrera, at McKinley Elementary School

Kim, Susan, Sarah, and Griselda make up our amazing Vision and Hearing screening team. As the registered nurse at McKinley, I want to tell them they are truly amazing at screening all the kiddos in the district, especially here at McKinley. You are all so very patient and kind to the students. The McKinley students enjoy seeing the team every year (this pun is very intended)! Thank you for creating a warm environment for our students. They are all so calm and smiley when they come out from being screened. The Vision and Hearing Team is always dedicated to helping our kiddos at U-46! Y'all are awesome!! Much thanks! ¡Muchísima gracias!

Kudos to Mario Ramirez and Rob Solorio, from Vicki Miceli, all at Transportation

This is a double kudos for two great mechanics! One morning this week started with asking for assistance on getting heat going for the cold morning ahead. Mario came quickly to my rescue. With kind words of support we learned that the dial that controls the heat was broken. Without hesitation, Mario called Rob at the shop. Rob stated that he had the part and was able to install it right away. I am thankful for the help from both of these mechanics so early in the morning. They not only kept me warm but also both of my assistants. Their professional attitude and work ethic went up and beyond. The experience with both of these employees was positive and refreshing. I am grateful that I had the opportunity to work with both of these coworkers this week. I think that U-46 is a better place because of the customer service that they were able to offer me. I believe any coworker that works with these two men will be treated top notch. Thank you so much Mario and Rob for getting my bus up and running by 6:15 in the morning and putting a smile on my heart.

Kudos to our Liberty Elementary School PTO, Teachers, and Staff, from Stephanie Sylvester at Liberty Elementary School

Thank you to our Liberty PTO for an amazing Trunk or Treat event, the feedback this year has been outstanding! I also want to recognize all our trunks that were done by parent volunteers and teachers this year.

Thank you to Kathy Szotko, Karla Rodriguez, Lindsay Alvarado, and Jennifer D'Ambrosio for an amazing kindergarten trunk, and Angie Christ for a "dinoriffic" 3rd grade trunk! Thank you to Katie

Tornero, Erica Kick, Erica Szysko, and student teacher Julliya Pawa for a candy-tastic trunk! Congrats to Summer Schmidt for creating the best “administrator trunk” and getting 3rd place!

I also want to thank the teachers who helped run the pumpkin/cake walk: Nancy Long, Jim Berger, Olga Fishkin, Wendy Perrone, Jordan Miller, Dorothy Sliwa, and Emily Neuman! Thank you to Rebecca Torres and Shaq Riviera for also attending the event and adding to the festivities!

These kinds of events are why students love coming to school and help them feel a part of the community. I truly appreciate the giving of your time on this night that is beyond the school day! Thank you so much!



School District U-46

