

Superintendent's Weekly Newsletter



Oct. 10, 2024

Dear Colleagues,

This week, the Board of Education received an update on the Instructional Clarity work. This update supports our Instruction Goal: School District U-46 will maximize resources available to accelerate student growth in alignment with the U-46 instructional clarity framework. This was the first update on our instructional strategies for the 24-25 year, and it included vital information on our School Improvement Planning work. It is exciting to see our progress as a school district in building systems across all levels and departments to enhance student learning. Additionally, our data is trending positively in numerous areas, including elementary literacy and attendance. This trend is rewarding and inspiring as we continue our work.

This focus on instruction is also guiding our Facilities Goal: School District U-46 will establish and operate inclusive, efficient, and safe learning environments. Our next facilities update will occur during the October 21, 2024 Board of Education meeting. To continue to stay updated on this exciting work, please continue to check our [Unite U-46](#) site for updates. The site will also include the next Unite U-46 community engagement session dates.

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

Dr. Suzanne Johnson

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 Tiffany Mikhail-Wright, in Equity & Innovation, from Michelle Graham, at Larkin High School

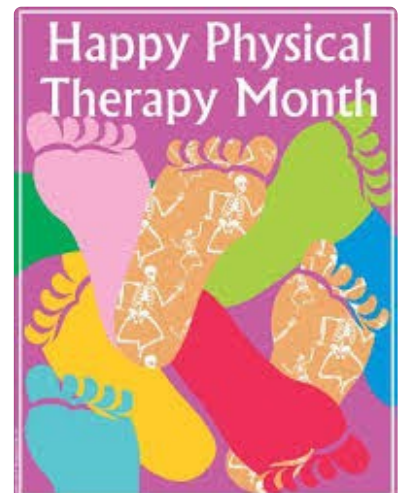
Tiffany is an amazing mentor for our students! I've seen firsthand how she goes above and beyond to help our students achieve great levels of success. We are truly grateful to have Ms. Mikhail-Wright in the U!

Kudos to Larkin High School Staff and Students Who Volunteered at Explore 2024, from Michelle Graham, at Larkin High School

I want to express my appreciation for the LHS staff and students who volunteered to share their knowledge and experiences within our programs at Explore at the NOW Arena. I am very appreciative for the time you spent, and the conversations you had with potential students and families were invaluable. Thank you staff members Amanda Long, Diane Kriescher, Kaite Appleby, Kimberly Widerski, Annie Otto, Matthew Quezada, and Carrie Brannon for all that you do for our students and programs! Thank you students Martin Lemus, Austin Menzel, Alejandro Fuentes, Nicholas Pietri, Alexa Ruiz, Ariana Arcos, Brianna Hernandez, Karina Osorio, Autumn Wohlhart, Levi Betz, and Taylor Casey, for sharing your experiences with potential Royals! I am, because we are/Soy, porque somos!

Kudos to Bindu Antony, Carline Fomby, Susanne Hall, Sarah Stoner and Simi Thoma, from Jeff Judge and Patty Kenyon, in Health Services

Happy Physical Therapy Month to School District U-46's PTs - Bindu, Carline, Susanne, Sarah, and Simi. Thank you for all your hard work, dedication, and creative solutions you provide for our students district-wide. You are appreciated!



Kudos to Fox Meadow Elementary School, from U-46 Parent Karin Stratton

This is our first year at Fox Meadow; we have a first grader and kindergartener. We wanted to take this opportunity and give a huge shoutout to so many remarkable individuals!

Dr. Gold has been very approachable and so optimistic! He took time out of the day to introduce himself and do a tour for us and explained in detail so many of the opportunities. Ms. Theall greets everyone with warmth. The office staff Ms. Beth and Ms. Jenni have gone above and beyond to make sure they know us as a family and my kids as individuals. Nurse Susie immediately called us when there was an accident at recess and kept us informed. It has been incredible having conversations with Mr. Suri about diversity. Our experience with Mrs. Thompson and Mrs. Greunke has been so wonderful. They are thoughtful, compassionate and very communicative. I just want to hug everyone here! It is very evident how much everyone cares and the standards for acceptance and knowing each student and family is highly valued. We are so appreciative of the leadership and the kindness that exudes everyday. So much gratitude and so so appreciative of all the work that goes behind the scenes to make families like us so welcomed! Thank you.

Kudos to Patti Cronin and Brandy Carberyall, from Lisa Bergbreiter and Dr. Cretia Kirkwood, all at Independence Center for Early Learning

Patti and Brandy have been great chairs and leaders for our School Improvement Plan (SIP) and Staff Development (SD) teams. Their hard work, dedication, and leadership have been invaluable to the growth and success of our school. Brandy and Patti, your commitment to fostering an environment of continuous improvement, collaboration, and excellence is truly inspiring.

Kudos to Claudia Martinez Carter, Kelly Overholt, and Kylie Smith, from Sydney Zuhn, all at Larkin High School

I just want to give a huge shoutout to our rock star instructional coaches at Larkin. They have done a wonderful job creating Professional Development for our new staff. We are so lucky to have them strengthening our instructional practices at Larkin! I am so grateful and proud to work with them.

Kudos to Kelly Ford and Kim Garcia, from Dr. Cretia Kirkwood and Lisa Bergbreiter, all at Independence Center for Early Learning

Kelly and Kim are two of our incredible paraprofessionals. Both of these Independence team members have shown outstanding dedication, as well as grace and humility in the face of challenges. Kelly and Kim, your positive attitudes and commitment to creating a nurturing learning environment have a lasting impact on everyone around you. Thank you both for stepping up, staying flexible, and always bringing your best selves to the classroom. Your hard work makes a world of difference for our students, and we are grateful to have such strong team members alongside us.

Kudos to Jeron Shelton, Ana Poljak, and the Friends of McKinley Team, at McKinley Elementary School, from U-46 Parent Kimberly DeLa Cruz

Thank you to Mr. Shelton, Ms. Poljak, and the McKinley 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! Can't wait for next year!

Kudos to Cesar Coronado and Marisela Fonseca in Human Resources, from Heather Heatley, at Wayne Elementary School

Thank you for being so supportive and responsive with my requests to hire paraprofessionals this year! You truly understand how important it is to have paras in our classrooms to support our students, and I appreciate your diligence in making this happen as quickly as possible. Thank you both!

Kudos to Nancy Long, Hiral Amin, Tracy King, and Erica Kick, from Stephanie Sylvester, all at Liberty Elementary School

Thank you all for opening up your classrooms to the South Elgin Network COP walk last week! I know seeing eight principals walking into a classroom can be overwhelming, but I appreciate all four of you opening up your space to share the great work that you do each and every day! I really appreciate all four of you! Thank you so much!

Kudos to Canton Middle School's EN Team from Lynn Kurokawa, in Specialized Student Services

I want to extend my most profound appreciation to Rebecca Logsdon, Erica Guzman, Cheryl Romeo, Janel Burkhart, Diana Martinez, Jessica Behrens, MaryKay Rice, Jennifer Sabal, Bianca

McLurkin, Amy Marfil, Jay Svendsen, Kim Rudden, and Brooke McGrath. Your unwavering commitment to our students in the EN classrooms truly makes a difference.

Thank you all for stepping in whenever needed and supporting our students in so many ways. You are an incredible and caring team of educators, and I feel honored to be a part of the Canton SPED team.

Kudos to Stephanie Paquette, from David Dybalski, both at Elgin High School

This is a shout out to Stephanie, the MLP teacher at Elgin High School. She runs a wonderful classroom. She keeps the atmosphere low key and positive with great response from the students. Her classroom assistants, Mrs Anderson and Mr Swanson, are tremendous and have good relationships with the students and reinforce this positive atmosphere. You are all an asset to Elgin High School.

Kudos to Rod Ash, at Channing Elementary School, from Rebecca Lunak and the Entire Channing Community

Channing is fortunate to have the best custodian in U-46! We recognized him on October 2 for Mr. Rod's Day! Thank you, Rod, for keeping Channing looking beautiful! You play a crucial role in creating a positive learning environment and do this with a smile. We hope you enjoyed your day! We got you!



