

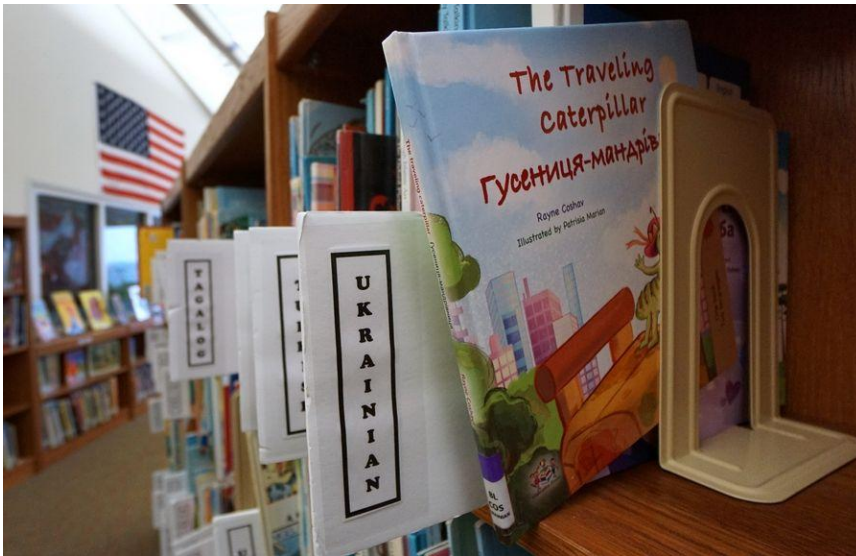
Press Clippings for 12/22/2022

– Daily Herald –

Suburban English learner classrooms adapting to meet needs of new Ukrainian and Russian students

Dec. 22, 2022

By Kevin Schmidt



The library at **Elgin Area School District U-46's Liberty Elementary School** in Bartlett has a bilingual section, now serving an influx of students from Ukraine and Russia. *Paul Valade | Staff Photographer*



Sixth-grade ESL teacher Monika

Matchinski works with students on a project Friday at **Elgin Area U-46's Liberty Elementary School** in Bartlett. The school has seen an increase of students from Ukraine and Russia. *Paul Valade | Staff Photographer*



Students decorated a Christmas tree with flags that represent the countries of the students in **Liberty Elementary School's** sixth-grade ESL class in Bartlett. The school has seen an increase of students from Ukraine and Russia. *Paul Valade | Staff Photographer*



The word "read" is written in Russian and is part of a display near the entrance of the **Liberty Elementary School** in Bartlett. *Paul Valade | Staff Photographer*



Students work on a King Midas poster in the **Liberty Elementary School's** sixth-grade ESL class in Bartlett. *Paul Valade | Staff Photographer*

As the war in Ukraine continues to rage, local school districts are adjusting the curriculum for English language learners due to the rising number of Ukrainian and Russian students moving to the area.

Whether it's hiring additional staff members who speak the languages or seeking community volunteers to help with translation, school officials are trying to meet the academic and social-emotional needs of students who have fled the region.

Administrators in Indian Prairie Unit District 204, where Russian has moved into the top 10 for languages spoken in ELL classes, are hiring two Russian-speaking teaching assistants.

Elgin Area School District U-46 officials created a "Ukraine Newcomer's Guide" to help ease the transition for students and families.

Throughout the suburbs, ELL department leaders are navigating an unexpected path.

"With the current situation happening in Eastern Europe, our district has experienced a large increase in the number of newcomers to our district of Ukrainian and Russian descent," said Traci Salek, the ELL coordinator in District 204. "This has put a strain on our staff members, both general education teachers and our ELL teachers, to provide instruction that is both comprehensible and at the appropriate grade level for both social and instructional purposes."

In the 2021-22 school year, District 204 -- the state's fourth-largest school district serving Aurora, Bolingbrook, Naperville and Plainfield -- had 165 Russian-speaking students and 52 Ukrainian speakers. This school year, the number jumped to 245 Russian speakers and 85 Ukrainian speakers.

In U-46, there are 81 Ukrainian-language students and 46 Russian-language students. Libertyville Elementary School District 70, which has more than 2,000 students in its five schools, has two students from Belarus in addition to nine from Ukraine and Russia. Wheeling Township Elementary District 21, according to Superintendent Michael Connolly, has welcomed 93 Ukrainian students and 39 Russian students from prekindergarten through eighth grade.

"Newcomer students work daily with English language teachers on their English language acquisition, acclimating to a new school in a new country, social-emotional needs, and anything else they need help with," said Robin Smith Kollman, director of communications for District 70. "We prioritize making our (English language) students feel welcome and safe."

Griselda Pirtle, director of the U-46 Multilingual and Multicultural Education Department, said the district recently posted a job opening for a Ukrainian-speaking teacher at Liberty Elementary School in Bartlett, where 23 Ukrainian students are attending classes.

To build a comfort level, Pirtle said, the school's social worker formed a "Lunch Bunch" where all the Ukrainian-speaking students eat together.

"The social-emotional needs of our students are a priority in our district," Connolly said. "As we welcome new students that may have been through very traumatic experiences, we use our internal resources such as our social workers, school psychologists, behavior specialists, etc., to ensure that our students feel safe in our schools."

Hiring qualified professionals has been a difficult challenge. District 204, where 116 languages are spoken among 3,400 ELL students, increased its ELL staff to 95 from 90 in the last year and still struggles to meet demands. District 70, where 43 different languages are spoken, also added an ELL staff member.

Access to academic resources is another growing problem. U-46 received a grant to purchase more Ukrainian-language books, but distribution issues have slowed the district's progress.

"I am heading a committee of teachers, and we are working on putting together resources and some professional development for our ELL teachers to share with their building staff members on how to best address this influx of newcomers that we have seen," Salek said.

"This is not a new situation, but I think given that the climate in Eastern Europe has really highlighted this, it's kind of at the forefront," she said. "It's a great concern at many of our schools."

- Daily Herald staff writer Mick Zawislak contributed to this report.

– Chicago Tribune –

Basketball scores for Aurora, Elgin, Naperville and Lake County

Dec. 22, 2022

By From Staff Reports - Aurora Beacon-News

TUESDAY'S RESULTS

HIGH SCHOOLS

BOYS BASKETBALL

Bartlett 76, Glenbard South 74 (OT)

Fenton 61, **South Elgin** 60

Glenbrook South 62, Lake Forest 57

Lake Forest (4-5): Asa Thomas 26 points. Tommie Aberle 15 points.

Kaneland 49, Plano 38

Kaneland (11-1, 5-0 Interstate Eight): Troyer Carlson 19 points. Johnny Spallasso 9 points.

Plano (2-10, 1-4): Bernard Clark, A.J. Johnson 10 points.

Lakes 53, Cary-Grove 51

Lakes (9-4): Brock Marino 16 points.

Lisle 56, Aurora Central Catholic 41

Marian Central Catholic 65, Warren 63

Riverside-Brookfield 78, St. Edward 49

Sandwich 55, LaSalle-Peru 49 (2 OT)

Seneca 57, Newark 39

Newark (6-4): Jake Kruser 12 points, 5 steals.

West Chicago 56, **Elgin** 28

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Batavia 57, Burlington Central 49

Batavia (8-3): Brooke Carlson 25 points. Kylee Gehrt 10 points.

Burlington Central (7-4): Page Erickson 18 points, 6 rebounds. Samantha Origel 12 points.

Benet 47, York 37

Benet (9-2): Lenee Beaumont 20 points.

East Aurora 53, Glenbard East 38

Glenbard South 51, **Bartlett** 29

Joliet West 59, Metea Valley 43

Lake Zurich 48, Lake Forest 45 (OT)

Larkin 63, **Streamwood** 49

Prairie Central 42, Newark 30

Rockford Lutheran 63, Yorkville Christian 31

South Elgin 57, Fenton 46

South Elgin (5-8, 4-3 Upstate Eight): Raina Yang 22 points. Chloe Kmiec 18 points.

West Chicago 38, **Elgin** 34

Compiled by Josh Krockey.

To read the full article, click [here](#).

– Daily Herald –

Fans' guide to holiday wrestling tournaments

Dec. 20, 2022

By Mike Garofola

In advance of the second half of the wrestling season, there are a handful of tournaments both in and around the area that are 'must-see' viewing for fans of the sport.

Here's a quick glance at them:

67th Berman Holiday Classic at Palatine

When: Dec. 28-29

Skinny: The granddaddy of them all, the Berman will have a new twist this season with day No. 1 an all-boys tournament, now renamed the Al Berman, after the man who ran the tournament for 30 years until his passing in 2010. The following day, the Sally Berman Holiday Classic, wife of Al, will feature 21 teams.

Competition will begin at 9 a.m. both days.

46th Ed Ewoldt Invite at WW South

When: Dec. 29

Skinny: Lincoln-Way East will look to repeat during this one-day event, however Lyons Township is the likely favorite in this 16-team field which includes Downers Grove North, **Elgin**, Hoffman Estates, Larkin, Waubonsie Valley, West Chicago, Wheeling and host WW South.

Competition will begin at 9 a.m., with finals scheduled approximately at 2 p.m.

Donald Flavin Invite at DeKalb

When: Dec. 29/30

Skinny: This two-day mega-tournament is a must-see for area fans with an eye-popping field that boasts six of the top eight 3A teams in the state, and the top two in 2A, Joliet Catholic Academy and Washington.

No. 1 Marist, followed by No. 3 Marmion Academy, No. 4 St. Charles East, No. 4 Lockport, No. 7 Yorkville and No. 8 Prospect gives this tournament enough star power to light up the sky.

There are several returning state champions here as well, beginning with No. 1 Ben Davino (St. Charles East) and Marmion Academy senior Jameson Garcia, who could meet at some point if both stay at 126 pounds.

Oklahoma State-bound Brayden Thompson (Lockport) is the No. 2 man in the country at 182, while senior and Illinois-bound Will Baysingar will lead a power-packed club from Prospect that will look to make their mark here.

51st Midlands

When: Dec. 28/29

Skinny: While this high profile tournament is a college tournament, fans will flock to the NOW Arena to see some of the best collegiate men and women, including several who have enjoyed memorable prep careers in the area.

Former Illinois State champions Eric Barone (Crystal Lake South), Trevor Chumbley (Marmion Academy), Michael Cullen (Cary-Grove), Markus Hartman (Barrington), Will Lewan (Montini Catholic), Patrick Schoenfelder (Antioch) and Matt Wroblewski (Prospect) have all competed at this marvelous tournament that moved back to Hoffman Estates after one year on the campus of Northwestern University.