



The weekly newsletter from School District U-46

Jan. 31, 2024

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## Calendar

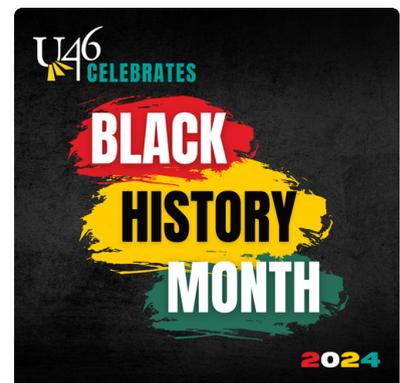
Stay tuned for upcoming events with our District website calendar available [here](#).

- **Monday, Feb. 5:** Board of Education meeting. [Details here](#).
- **Thursday, Feb. 8:** Unite U-46 meeting, hosted by the Community Advisory Council meeting. [Details here](#).
- **Thursday, Feb. 15:** Newcomer Parent Support Group. [Details here](#).

## District and schools celebrate Black History Month

Tomorrow marks the first day of [Black History Month](#), observed every year during the month of February and designed to pay tribute to the generations of African-Americans who struggled with adversity to achieve full citizenship in American society.

The District and individual schools will be hosting a variety of programs, events, displays, and activities to mark this important month. Watch future U-46 Engage newsletters, and our [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) channels, for details and photos.



## National Biodiversity Teach-In aims to inspire

Environmental science students from Elgin High School are once again hosting the National Biodiversity Teach-In on Fridays in February. Featuring webinars led by renowned scientists, the Teach-In aims to educate participants and inspire them to take action in environmental protection.

Subjects to be addressed during this year's Teach-In include the use of satellites as a tool in the fight against global deforestation, reefs in the Great Lakes, and prairie restoration, as well as presentations that center on polar bears, wolves, snow leopards, sharks, whales, turtles, snakes and frogs. Each speaker will give a presentation based on their specialty and also include dedicated time for questions and answers.

Since it started in 2013, the Teach-In has registered more than 110,000 participants from more than 27 countries. Learn more [here](#) about the history of the Teach-In.

The webinars are free and open to the public. The Teach-In website at [www.nationalbiodiversityteachin.com](http://www.nationalbiodiversityteachin.com) has a full schedule and details on the speakers and topics being discussed. Those who register to attend a webinar will receive a personalized Zoom link.

Webinars will also be live streamed on the Teach-In's YouTube channel the day of the event at [youtube.com/@nationalbiodiversityteachin](https://youtube.com/@nationalbiodiversityteachin) and its [Facebook page](#) at [@natbioteachin](#).



**Early registration**

Do you have a child in your household who will turn 5 by Sept. 1, 2024? Or maybe you know one in your extended family, neighborhood, social, or church group? If so, it's time to think about kindergarten registration for the 2024-25 school year!

Each elementary school in U-46 is hosting a Kindergarten Preview during the week of Feb. 12 for incoming kindergarten families. Parents and guardians will be able to meet the principal, learn about U-46's full-day, play-based kindergarten program, and get tips for how they can help their child be ready for kindergarten. Kindergarten families can also review the registration process at these events. The Kindergarten Preview schedule can be found [here](#).

We want to ensure all U-46 schools are ready to welcome all students on the first day of school, Aug. 13, 2024. In order to have the classrooms set to go, teachers hired, and transportation routes all set, U-46 has opened up early registration to all families, not just ones with incoming kindergarten students. Details are available at [u-46.org/registration](https://u-46.org/registration). There will be no student registration fees collected at this time.



**U46 KINDERGARTEN  
REGISTRATION**

Registration for the  
2024-25 school year opens Feb. 1

[u-46.org/registration](https://u-46.org/registration)

## Reminder about holiday snacks in the classroom

As a District, we encourage students to make good choices around healthy eating and physical activity to promote positive outcomes. With Valentine's Day coming up, U-46 will continue this practice by promoting holiday celebrations with non-food items. To stay aligned with the USDA's Smart Snacks requirements, food-related celebrations or distribution of snacks to students to eat

in the classroom during the school day will not be allowed. The USDA-defined school day hours are from midnight to 30 minutes after the end of the school day.

Holidays provide a good opportunity to talk to your children about not sharing food or snacks they bring from home with friends and, when offered home-baked goods, how to politely say no.

The American Academy of Pediatrics offers [this list](#) of 14 ways to show your child love on Valentine's Day and every day.

## U-46 seniors urged to check out Foundation scholarships

Calling all members of the Class of 2024! Through the generosity of its donors, the [U-46 Educational Foundation](#) is proud to offer tens of thousands of dollars in scholarship opportunities to U-46 seniors this year.



The [U-46 Educational Foundation Online Scholarship Application](#) allows students to be considered for up to 10 scholarships without having to fill out a different application for each scholarship. Those are listed [here](#). Other scholarships are outlined [here](#).

Please help us spread the word about these amazing opportunities to our high school seniors. A number of the scholarships have application deadlines in the next month.

## Letters from Anne and Martin

Hundreds of high school students in social studies and English language arts classes from across U-46 watched a performance of the theatrical play "Letters from Anne and Martin" at Elgin Community College last week. The production balances the experiences of Anne Frank and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., who were both born in 1929, with their inspirational words. The students also heard from two Jewish survivors of the Nazi occupation of Europe and explored an exhibit of WWII artifacts from the Spungen Family Foundation.



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## More Resources

### Weekly Message from Dr. Johnson

Each week, Superintendent Dr. Suzanne Johnson shares a message with U-46 employees and community members. You can read the latest message [here](#).



## Careers

Have you considered becoming a part of the U-46 team? School District U-46 offers a number of [rewarding opportunities](#) for educators and support staff.



## Board of Education

The Board of Education meetings are streamed on the District's [YouTube channel](#) and via Zoom. Written highlights from the meetings, as well as presentations delivered to the Board, can be found [here](#).



## Care Coordination

[Care Solace](#) is a complimentary and confidential service provided by School District U-46 to help locate a provider for mental health care or substance use treatment. It's available to U-46 students, staff, and their family members.



Online Backpack  
Mochila Digital

## Community

Visit our [U-46 Online Backpack](#) to find information on community events, activities, and resources for our U-46 families and students.



**School District U-46**

All means all.

