

# Superintendent's Weekly Newsletter

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**Nov. 16, 2023**

*In honor of American Education Week and the upcoming Thanksgiving holiday, the message from Dr. Johnson this week is all kudos. The next Superintendent's Weekly Newsletter will be shared on Thursday, Nov. 30.*

## Kudos

### **Kudos to Wayne Elementary School Teachers and Staff from Adam Zurko, Principal of Wayne Elementary School**

I would like to recognize and thank our amazing teachers and staff at Wayne Elementary School for always putting kids first and doing such an amazing job each and every day! It takes the hard work of everyone in our building in order to provide the comprehensive, rigorous, fun, and engaging learning environment that we do. I am honored and thankful to work alongside each and every one of you! Thank you again for all that you do for our students and each other!

### **Kudos to Rebecca Wiehofen, English Teacher and AVID Students Services at Larkin High School, from Frank Rose, Math Teacher at Larkin High School**

Kudos to Rebecca for directing her first play at Larkin! Your time, dedication, and creativity is unmatched. Larkin is lucky to have you - now go kill it this speech season!

### **Kudos to Otter Creek Elementary School's Finest from David Aleman, Principal of Otter Creek Elementary**

In honor of American Education Week, Assistant Principal Katie Stan and I need to acknowledge the work that our OC teachers have done this year. Our teachers and staff give their all to work on making positive connections with students and their families, attend PD, work to create engaging lessons, and complete large amounts of paperwork daily. I want to acknowledge the hard work and efforts of our OC teachers and staff. Otter Creek has a unique and special staff!

**Kudos to Jennifer Trenda, Math Teacher at Ellis Middle School, from Heather Heinz, Social Sciences Teacher at Ellis Middle School**

For working so hard to organize an all-school assembly honoring veterans. Jenny brought together the Ellis band and orchestra to perform for our visiting veterans. She also set up classroom visits for my U.S. History classes with two veterans. Thank you, Ms. Trenda!

**Kudos to Nicole Senn, Title 1 Literacy Specialist at Channing Elementary School, from Rebecca Lunak, Principal at Channing Elementary School**

Nicole planned a wonderful robot-themed Literacy Night at Channing to celebrate our "One School, One Book" program for "The Wild Robot." Our students, families, and staff had a great time. Thank you Nicole for all that you do at Channing!

**Kudos to Ninos Tamras, Bus Driver, Transportation Department, from Rebecca Lunak, Principal at Channing Elementary School**

Ninos is the driver for one of the routes at Channing Elementary School. He is always friendly to students and staff and puts student safety first. This week, he helped with two bus routes. Channing appreciates you, Mr. Tamras!

**Kudos to Kathleen Christerson and Melissa McKee, Data Coaches at Washington Elementary from the Washington Administrative Team - Principal Lori Brandes, Co-Principal Ryan Corcoran, and Resident Administrator Maria Martin-Bowman**

Thank you, Kathleen and Melissa, for your dedication and support as our data coaches at Washington Elementary School. Your leadership in this work does not go unnoticed. Every month you are providing data to all of our teams so that we are making decisions based on what's real at the moment.

**Kudos to Angie Gallegos, Early Learners Specialist, and the Entire More at 4 Staff, from Cheryl DeRoo, Retired Administrative Support**

This staff prioritizes students every day, all day! They jump in to fill staffing gaps and work as a team to ensure student growth. They plan and implement individualized strategies to provide each child with the tools they need to be successful. What an amazing team there is at More at 4! I'm lucky to be a small part of it!

**Kudos to Social Workers Giana Villanueva, Mike Grondin, and Megan Quinn, and Psychologist Susan Roth, all at South Elgin High School, from Genevieve Hebeke, Social Worker at South Elgin High School**

Thank you Giana, Susan, Mike, and Megan. I appreciate all the good support and encouragement we give one another!

**Kudos to Amy Marfil, Social Worker; Jen Sabal, Speech and Language Pathologist; Jay Svendsen, School Counselor; Kelly Gentleman, School Counselor; Tonetta Miles, Dean's Assistant; and Dan Fischer, School Resource Officer, all at Canton Middle School, from Kyle Wright, Assistant Principal at Canton Middle School**

Thank you all for the continuous support you provide to our students on a daily basis. Some of it is planned and some of it is in the moment, which you always respond positively to. Thank you for being flexible and being collaborative partners. Thank you for being problem solvers when unexpected situations arise, and for coming up with ideas that are good for our building. You are much appreciated.

**Kudos to all who made the 6th Grade Field Trips a Success, from Deb McMullen, Coordinator for K-12 Science**

Thank you to all of the students, teachers and administrators who participated in the 6th grade trips to monitor a local creek. These students collected macroinvertebrate, chemical, and habitat data in Poplar Creek, Otter Creek and Tyler Creek. And also, a special appreciation to the members of the Transportation Department! You were so responsive and flexible with all of the weather dates. Tina and Andrea, you guys rocked this out for us! I bet you hated to see my extension on your phone and my name in your inbox!

**Kudos to Karen O'Halloran, Administrative Assistant to the Assistant Principal at Canton Middle School, from Kyle Wright, Assistant Principal at Canton Middle School.**

Thank you Karen, for keeping all things attendance and Climate & Culture under wraps. I couldn't have wished for a better person to welcome me to Canton, who understands the systems, helps me when I'm unsure of something, is willing to implement new things, and let me know how things were put in place. I wouldn't be able to do this job without you.

**Kudos to the Social Studies Department and Erin Kolak, Tammy Reicha, and Kaitlyn Randall, Social Science Teachers at Canton Middle School, from Kim Rudden, Principal at Canton Middle School**

Thank you, all, for coordinating a wonderful Veterans Day. Your thoughtful work on honoring our veterans is greatly appreciated by the Canton community.

**Kudos to Genevieve Hebeke, Social Worker at South Elgin High School, and The Resource Closet Club, from Megan Quinn, Social Worker at South Elgin High School**

Thank you for everything that you're doing to help our students and families in need! Gathering all the donations, organizing them, and creating a space for students and families to "shop" has been so helpful to our community. I know it's a lot of work and I appreciate all that you're doing!

**Kudos to the Teachers of Liberty Elementary School from Stephanie Sylvester, Principal of Liberty Elementary**

Thank you Liberty Teachers for all that you do each and every day. Happy American Education Week! I appreciate all your efforts and open mindset you bring to work each and every day! It's a hard job, and I wanted to make sure you knew your hard work never goes unnoticed. Keep it up guys, and enjoy your week!

**Kudos to the McKinley Staff from Ana Poljak, Assistant Principal at McKinley Elementary**

I want to give kudos to all the staff at McKinley for being such a great team! Thank you for all the work you do and continuing to do what is best for our students (including making them all smile by dressing up as crayons). I could not imagine working with a better team of people.



**School District U-46**



