

# Superintendent's Weekly Newsletter

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**Nov. 30, 2023**

Dear Colleagues,

I hope every team member enjoyed some additional time away last week and found space to share gratitude and thanks for the people, places, or things in our lives. With Thanksgiving behind us, it does mean snow, ice, and severe cold are likely ahead of us. Thus, this weekly message serves as the obligatory inclement weather reminder. As we strive to make sure our buildings are safe and welcoming, we must be prepared to use snow or emergency days if needed.

Whenever inclement weather is expected, I am in constant contact with our Transportation and Plant Operations teams for the latest updates. Additionally, we continue to contract with a weather service that provides real-time alerts and updates for the entire U-46 area.

Additionally, please read our [Emergency Closing Procedures](#) for guidance regarding who must report to work during a “snow day” and the process we follow for communicating these decisions.

It is also important to note that in U-46, we have not applied to the State Board of Education to use e-learning days in lieu of using emergency days. We continue to emphasize the importance of in-person instruction and efforts to provide rigorous and developmentally appropriate learning for all of our students.

While I am hopeful of avoiding weather-related closures this winter, I wanted to make sure to share this information in advance of the official start of winter.

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

Dr. Suzanne Johnson

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# 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 Linda Binder, Streamwood High School's Climate & Culture Office Secretary, from Cassandra Majer, Title 1 Interventionist, Streamwood High School**

Thank you Linda for all your hard work that allows me to do my best in working with SHS students!

**Kudos to Dolly Mandrelle, Social Worker at Liberty Elementary School, from Sanaa N. Qureshi, U-46 Parent**

I would like to show my appreciation to my children's social worker, Mrs. Mandrelle. She goes above and beyond to help and support my kids at school. She is always very professional and confident with her work. She has always treated my kids like her own. She is very supportive!

**Kudos to Lords Park Elementary Principal Noe Velazquez and Nelda Newman, Bilingual Special Education Teacher at Lords Park Elementary, from Ana Lara, U-46 parent**

Principal Velazquez and Mrs. Newman deserve a kudos for helping parents of children with IEPs understand the process and explaining how everything is planned out for our children. They take the time to help us fully understand how to advocate for our children, and they provide resources to help us support our children in the future.

**Kudos to Emily Neuman, 3rd grade Teacher at Liberty Elementary School, from Sanaa N. Qureshi, U-46 Parent**

My son is in Ms. Neuman's class, and I want to thank her for going above and beyond to help him. She always deals with every situation in a very professional way, and she's very supportive, too. Thank you, Ms. Neuman!

**Kudos to Jessica Ventrella, School Counselor at Kenyon Woods Middle School, from Eve Perdikaris, School Counselor at Kenyon Woods Middle School**

I want to recognize the work that Jessie puts in everyday to create and deliver a comprehensive school counseling program to all Kenyon students. It is easy to see the relationships she has built with so many students and families, but I also want to recognize all the planning and prep that she does behind the scenes. I am grateful to have Jessie as a mentor and friend. I know I am a stronger student advocate because of her leadership.

**Kudos to Liberty Elementary School's DUEA and DUSA Members from Stephanie Sylvester, Principal of Liberty Elementary School**

Thank you to all our DUEA members: Parul Bhatia, Beth Johanson, Sally Torres, Dawn Glover, Maggie Swedrowski, Ann Reuter, Esmeralda Melendrez, Denise Zaimins, Oliva Villagomez, and Rosa Acevedo for all your hard work you do each and every day! We love all of your support! Also, thank you to our two very special DUSA members at Liberty: Anna Falco and Teresa Mackender. Thank you for everything you do to keep Liberty functioning! We all wouldn't be able to do our work without all of our DUEA and DUSA members supporting us. Thank you so much!

**Kudos to the Staff at Ridge Circle Elementary School from Janelle Raine, Principal at Ridge Circle Elementary School**

Thank you to all those at Ridge Circle, including the members of our Food & Nutrition Services team, who worked hard to make our reading night, "Gobble Up a Good Book," a success!



**Kudos to the Staff at Parkwood Elementary School, from Ana Arroyo Principal, and Lauren Janicki, Assistant Principal, at Parkwood Elementary School**

We just want to take the time to share how grateful we are for having such a wonderful staff. You show daily care for our students and staff. You engage in our emotional needs of our students and try to empower our students to take ownership of their learning. Students' daily connection with us empowers our why around our work. Thank you all for the work you do and the love you show daily to our kids!

**Kudos to Hannah Gebhardt, Food Service Manager at Streamwood High School, from Al Jasinski, Assistant Principal of Culture & Climate at Streamwood High School**

Hannah and her team work tirelessly to provide meals for all students at SHS before school, after school, and during lunch. They are always willing to adapt to meet the needs of our students. Hannah facilitated the opening of the snack store for students. We appreciate all that Hannah and her team do for SHS!

**Kudos to Deborah Laudando, Cafeteria Monitor at Bartlett High School, from Cynthia Downey, Attendance Secretary at Bartlett High School**

Deb deserves a huge kudos. She is always full of energy and goes above and beyond for anyone and everyone. She has a great rapport with our students and staff and can always be counted on to lend a helping hand. Thanks for all you do, Deborah. You're a rock star!

**Kudos to Helen Song, DBA and App Programmer, Information Services, from Tara Burghart, Communications and Media Relations Coordinator, School & Community Relations**

Helen, you are always such a pleasure to work with. Thank you for handling my (sometimes last-minute) requests promptly and with such accuracy. You play an important role in the work of communicating with our families. Thank you!

**Kudos to Dolly Mandrelle, Social Worker, and Parul Bhatia, Home/School Liaison, at Liberty Elementary School, from Stephanie Sylvester, Principal at Liberty Elementary School**

We are so grateful for Dolly and Parul who worked together with the Village Church and Jewel to organize 60 Thanksgiving meals for our Liberty families! Thank you ladies for all your great work!



School District U-46

