

# Superintendent's Weekly Newsletter

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Dec. 21, 2023

Dear Colleagues,

It is hard to believe we have already completed the first half of our school year. When we return in 2024, you should expect additional details about our Facilities Plan and next steps. I wish you a healthy and happy winter recess and new year!

It's a great day to learn in U-46 (and a great time to renew our energy and inspiration)!

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 Renee Sweeney, Paraeducator, Centennial Elementary School, from Sara Mueller, Paraeducator, South Elgin High School**

I would like to give an overdue kudos to Renee, who volunteered to chair DUEA's "Socktober" collection collection this past October. She helped 50 schools organize announcements, collection boxes, and pick-up and drop-off locations, as well as counting, sorting, and delivery. Overall, 1,800 pairs of socks and 350 pairs of underwear were delivered to five community groups.

The Veterans of Operation Airlift received all of our black socks. The Marklund Center, where several of our medically fragile students live, received all of the fuzzy socks. The Wayside Center

of Elgin, the Community Crisis Center, and SEHS Community Clothing Closet received the remainder and bulk of our collection.

Thank you, Renee, for organizing this collection. Also, thank you to all who donated socks and underwear. Your giving has helped numerous people in our community. We look forward to an even bigger collection next year!

**Kudos to Arshiya Quadri, English Language Learners Teacher for Urdu Speakers at Liberty Elementary School, from Stephanie Sylvester, Principal, at Liberty Elementary School**

Thank you to Arshiya and her Student Leadership Team for organizing a canned food drive at Liberty for the Hanover Food Pantry. We are so proud of your generous efforts and hard work to get everyone to lend a helping hand to our community. Great job!



**Kudos to Streamwood High School Staff from Erin Gamble, Lead Orthopedic Impairment Itinerant Teacher**

Staff members did an amazing job during an emergency situation ensuring all our students with mobility devices got out of the building quickly and safely. A special kudos to Mrs. Denz, Mrs. Hayashi, Mrs. Stevenson, Mrs. Marks, Mrs. Yu, Mrs. Arenas, and Mr. Jasso

**Kudos to Brittney Mallen, Science Teacher, and Christine Larison, Social Worker, both at Elgin High School, from Tim Kolanko, Math Teacher at Elgin High School**

I want to recognize Brittney and Christine for being fierce advocates for all of our students at EHS, especially our most vulnerable and marginalized. Their dedication to ensuring EHS remains a safe, equitable environment for all students, staff, and community members is remarkable. I am honored to call them colleagues and friends.

**Kudos to Brian Kenny, Maintenance Electrician, and Cory Deskins, General Maintenance, both at Plant Operations, from Sebastian Abbinanti, Food and Nutrition Services Food Safety Manager, and Shalah Weith, Food and Nutrition Services Lead, and Angel Terry, Food and Nutrition Services Assistant Lead, both at Otter Creek Elementary Creek School**

Thank you Brian and Cory for your help and expertise in installing two new ovens in the Otter Creek kitchen. Your hard work is greatly appreciated.

**Kudos to Paige Moran, Principal, Al Jasinski, Assistant Principal, Culture & Climate, Charlie Monroy, Head Custodian, and Mike Fredrickson, School Resource Officer, all at Streamwood High School, from Erin Gamble, Lead Orthopedic Impairment Itinerant Teacher**

Thank you for making sure all the students were safe while exiting the building during the recent minor incident. I appreciate your attention to detail especially with students with mobility devices.

**Kudos to Principal Rajan Sharma, Assistant Principal Sandra Vazquez, and Glenbrook's Staff and Students, from Teresa Winters, Executive Director for the Streamwood Network**

Superlative work demonstrated in our classrooms every day. With a focus in the content area, mathematics, District U-46 is bringing home the BlueStreak Math Monthly Contest Trophy for the fourth month in a row with a win from Glenbrook Elementary in November. This is Glenbrook's second win since the start of the school year.

**Kudos to the Bartlett Lions Club from Stephanie Sylvester, Principal, Liberty Elementary School**

The Bartlett Lions Club worked with Dolly Mandrelle, our social worker at Liberty, to donate 54 food gift cards to our Liberty families. We appreciate this generosity to our families to make the holidays a little easier. Thank you to the Bartlett Lions Club for always thinking of our school!



**Kudos to Noelle Dulabaum Bohrer, Social Worker, Washington Elementary School; Elisabeth Ferrill, Social Worker, Curriculum & Instruction; Christine Komis, Social Worker, Larkin High School; and Emily Oandasan, T1 Social Worker, Abbott Middle School, from Mary Abbott, Lead School Social Worker**

Kudos to this amazing group of school social workers. They all had a U-46 family in common and went well above and beyond to provide resources and support to the family during an extremely difficult tragedy. It was an honor to watch the collaboration and passion to support a U-46 family in need. Stronger and better in numbers! Thank you, team ... you guys are the best.

**A Holiday Kudos from Joe Corcoran, Principal, Harriet Gifford Elementary School**

I would like to recognize a few individuals who have gone above and beyond to bring holiday cheer to the children and families at our school. Ellis Middle School custodian Bob Ross has volunteered his time to be Santa at our annual "Pictures with Santa" over the years. Bob was the first custodian I had at HG, and he has always supported our school whenever asked. Aurora Scarpaci from Larkin High School and her Future Teachers Club students each year support our event by volunteering and providing crafts for our students to make. HG Assistant Principal Geynell Lawrence-Tabb, Resident Administrator Laura Fazio, HG social workers Emily Earnest and Elizabeth Malagon, and HG office staff Liz Blanchard, Karen Greco and home-school liaison Sonia Turner worked tirelessly to identify 50 students who would be recipients of the generosity from AT&T Pioneers and the Links of Hoffman Estates' annual new shoes program. Their collective efforts made this a magical holiday season at Harriet Gifford for our students and families. Thank You.

**Kudo to Claire Ditchman, Support Center Agent, Information Services, from Kimberly Cicinelli, Ear/Eye Technician, Health Services**

The Vision & Hearing team would like to recognize Claire Ditchman for her unending and outstanding support to our team. She goes above and beyond to help us whatever the task and is always courteous and extremely kind. Great job Claire, we are forever grateful to you.

**Kudos to all the Noon Hour Supervisors at Liberty Elementary School, from Stephanie Sylvester, Principal, Liberty Elementary School**

We appreciate all of our noon hour supervisors and their continued efforts to keep our kids safe through all types of weather! Thank you for all that you do for our students!



School District U-46

