

# Superintendent's Weekly Newsletter

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February 29, 2024

Dear Colleagues,

I hope you are all looking forward to a great day of collaboration and learning on the Kane County Institute Day, this Friday, March 1. I am excited to welcome attendees to the 2nd annual ParaPalooza, professional learning for our paraeducators, being hosted at Bartlett High School. Additionally, the professional development listings for the ETA PPD on March 1, 2024, [can be viewed on Catalog](#). We have a great selection of offerings! Our colleagues from Specialized Student Services, Early Learning, and Multicultural and Multilingual Education departments have collaborated to ensure a schedule that allows you to attend sessions from each department. Administrators are also encouraged to participate in these sessions. Please review the options and register for courses that best support your practice. Quality professional development and the opportunity to collaborate with our colleagues will positively impact student growth.

It's a great day to learn in U-46 (for students and staff)!

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 Sean Torres, Rosa Morales, Phil Daniel, Juan Jacobo, Julie Denz, Justin Issa, Kerry Hanrahan, Matt Powell, Nicole Fernstrom, all Streamwood High School Teachers; Heidi Podzamsky, Paraprofessional; Quentin Ruff, Chris Oates, and Adora Allen, Dean Assistants; and**

**Cindy Gray, Clerical Assistant; from Robin Gloss, Administrative Assistant, and Lisa Baran Janco, Assistant Principal of Humanities, Streamwood High School**

This is a kudos for all those who supported ACCESS testing at Streamwood High School. Thank you to our wonderful team, for supporting testing students and proctors. We could not have been successful without your patience, support and endless energy. We appreciate you!

**Kudos to Christina Amato, Art Teacher, and Nickolas Basich, Music Teacher, both at Willard Elementary School, from Sara Henry, Rigor Equity Instructional Coach, Willard Elementary School**

I just wanted to give a huge round of applause for all the hard work that our two amazing teachers did for Fine Arts night! The art was AMAZING! The performances were top notch! Truly an outstanding job! Great night for our community ♥

**Kudos to the Staff at Parkwood Elementary School, from Ana Lizza Arroyo, Principal, Parkwood Elementary School**

I just wanted to take the time to share how appreciative I am of all you do! I am celebrating you for the data-driven focus and alignment of your work. I feel truly blessed at how we have come together to unpack our students and data purposely to align our work with the integrated curriculum. Thank you for the productive struggle and being risk-takers, but overall, thank you for uniting and securing that ALL kids are valued and seen. We got this! We will succeed and empower our students to convert their dreams to reality.

**Kudos to Erin Gamble, Orthopedic Impairment Lead, Special Education, from Dr. Christopher Sanzeri, Assistant Director of Specialized Student Services - Operations**

Erin received the Award of Meritorious Service from the Illinois State Board of Education. The Award of Meritorious Service is given to educators who have shaped their school community for the better. These educators frequently employ their talents and passions, but also strive to be of service in unfamiliar domains. Congratulations, Erin!

**Kudos to Jeron Shelton, Principal at McKinley Elementary School, from Stacey Purdy, U-46 parent**

For the past four years, drop-off at McKinley Elementary School was a stress-inducing experience. Our new principal, Mr. Shelton, took a risk and implemented a new system this week. It has alleviated so much stress and greatly increased the safety of the drop-off process. It brings order to chaos and allows the morning to be much more peaceful for my two McKinley children and me. Thanks, Mr. Shelton!

**Kudos to Jen Williamson, Teacher Peer Consultant, Teacher Effectiveness Initiative, from Charity Di Liberti, Dual Language 6th Grade Teacher, Century Oaks Elementary School**

Jen is a PAR Coach Extraordinaire! Jen has worked with me in planning and scheduling class time to maximize my lessons. She has provided me with resources and techniques to help me streamline my teaching. Jen has kept me focused and has encouraged me all year. I am so grateful to her for what she has helped me to accomplish. Thanks, Jen! You are the BEST!

**Kudos to Victoria Alfaro Valencia, Paraeducator at Heritage Elementary; Delores Allen, School Bus Driver; Rosalind Cobbs, Administrative Assistant of Equity and Innovation; Deloris Cooks, School Bus Driver; Joy Farmer, Teacher at Tefft Middle; Arkeya Hall, School Bus Driver; Elizabeth Lewis, School Bus Driver; Janie McCutchen, Parent Outreach Worker at Larsen Middle; Kelli McElroy, Noon Hour Supervisor at Horizon Elementary; Tiffany Mikhail Wright, Mentor Program Facilitator; Zariah Pegues, Student Success Advocate at DREAM Academy; Julie Radcliff, Teacher at Century**

**Oaks; Gabriela Rivera, Secretary at Larsen Middle, and Janelle Scruggs Bagley, Parent at Lincoln Elementary, from Lisa Jackson, Director of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion**

Operation Sisterhood was a success because of all your love and support. Thank you for being such beautiful role models and women of distinction for the young ladies of I am LEAD. I am so grateful for the warm and encouraging environment you all contributed to creating for the book club. Tiffany, your LEADership is a blessing!



**Kudos to Ms. Sharayne Ball, U-46 Parent; Rosalind Cobbs, Administrative Assistant of Equity and Innovation; Pamela Daffin, Speech Language Pathologist at Century Oaks Elementary; Joy Farmer, Teacher at Tefft Middle; Rachel Jackson, U-46 Parent; Evita Johnson, Teacher at Bartlett High; Janie McCutchen, Parent Outreach Worker at Larsen Middle; Tiffany Mikhail Wright, Mentor Program Facilitator; Tonetta Miles, Dean's Assistant at Canton Middle; Patricia Ortiz, Data Specialist at the Family Welcome Center; Melanie Patterson, Secretary of Specialized Student Service; Gabriela Rivera, Secretary at Larsen Middle; Carla Roseborough, U-46 Parent; Ajanetta Sanders, Student Success Advocate at DREAM Academy; and Janelle Scruggs Bagley, U-46 Parent, from Lisa Jackson, Director of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion**

Painter, writer, speaker, sculptor, and performance artist Faith Ringgold stated, "You can't sit around and wait for somebody to say who you are. You need to write it and paint it and do it." Thank you to all of you as you continue to give of yourself through these meaningful opportunities for the young ladies of I am LEAD. Your presence at the Paint & Create was invaluable!

**Kudos to Julia Dagoitini, Speech Therapist; Jason Krause, Assistant Principal; Regina Leakakos, 2nd Grade Teacher; and Nicole Westermann, 3rd Grade Teacher; all at Spring Trail Elementary School, from Mary Collins, U-46 parent**

I wanted to share a message of thanks for their transparency, communication, time and support, which has resulted in a smooth IEP process for both our children. Their genuine interest in the well-being of our children and partnership each step of the way has been absolutely wonderful! Thank you!

**Kudos to the Larkin Network Special Education Staff from Gladys C. Crespo, Special Education Administrator for the Larkin Network**

I want to recognize Pamela Sibless, Silvia Patino, Beth Colin, Patricia Cardenas, Julie Radcliffe, Alexis Mandrelle, Claudia Ongtengco, Bindu Anthony, Meredith Redden, Erica Guzman, Katheleen Hermetet, Kayla Lockhart, Lorie Reyes, Kelly Nugent, Cherryl Hoika, Janet Angelian, Stephanie Axelsen, Elena Wilson, Kathy LaFerle, Paula VanHagey, Pam Goff, Emely Earnest, Sarah Stoner, Rachel Togerson, Lee Demakis, Susan Wachholz, Yesenia Dimas, Paula Garzon, Casey Lauringer, Elizabeth Malagon, Ewa Sansonetti, Ingrid Reyes, Vinny Duong, Yorleydis Roman, Lizbeth Mancilla, Lorna Scurlock, Leticia Sotelo, Alice AbrechtFrasch, Mariano Mercado, Luisa Lara, Jose Rivera, Alondra Ruiz, Daniel Powers, Angelique Miller, Antonio Aguilar, Margo Rodriguez, Pat Blasen, Mayte Arreguin, Sarah Stoner, Isabel Salcedo, Sara Paris, Mary Bares, Mattie Boyd, Betty Martinez, Noelle DulabaumBohrer, Joan Berendt, Jovita Villanueva, Ashley Talip, Caridad Garcia, Brian Brennan, Geynell Tabb, Churchill Daniels, and Maria Martin Bowman.

Each of our Larkin Network Service Teams is trained to develop Functional Behavior Analysis and Behavior Plans as a collaborative team process focused on data collection and analysis, which leads to strong and effective Individual Behavior Plans for student benefit and success. One

hundred percent of the Larkin Network Special Education Staff completed the FBA/BIP training. Thank you, all, for your participation in the FBA/BIP training.

**Kudos to Roberto Cardenas, World Languages Teacher, Elgin High School, from Juan Fernandez, World Languages Teacher, Elgin High School**



Kudos to Roberto for leading and planning the United States Hispanic Leadership Institute (USHLI) National Conference on Feb 15. In addition, thank you to all our Elgin High School colleagues who provided support: Melody Dominguez, Wendy Witt, Brooke Denby, Veronica Ryan, Ada Ohara, Amelia Garcia, Artemio Penalbert, Jaider Moreno, Julia Garcia Trilla, Monica Stockman, and Rosievel Berdecia Torres.



**School District U-46**

