

# Superintendent's Weekly Newsletter

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**April 4, 2024**

Dear Colleagues,

The second half of the school year is my favorite time of the year, in part due to the celebrations that fill April and May. In my message today, and throughout these couple of months, I want to take a moment to celebrate some of our colleagues and students.

Recently, Cindie Cortinas, PE teacher at Washington Elementary School, was named the SHAPE National Physical Education Teacher of the Year! Congratulations to Cindie! Our students and colleagues are lucky to have the opportunity to learn with you!

This year, we also have several staff members nominated for the [Kane County Educator of the Year](#) award, including:

- Mark Johnson - Social Worker at Bartlett High School
- Peggy Hernandez - Planetarium Teacher
- Melissa Creighton - Teacher Mentor Specialist
- Emily Driessen - Teacher at South Elgin High School
- Genevieve Hebeke - Social Worker at South Elgin High School
- Marily Mattei - Assistant Principal of Climate and Culture at South Elgin High School
- Greg Myers - Deans' Assistant at South Elgin High School
- Kimberly Shead - Teacher at South Elgin High School.

We will celebrate with our nominees and their colleagues at the Q Center on May 3rd.

Additionally, on May 9, we will celebrate Karla Jimenez, Director of School and Community Relations, and Lori Brandes, Washington Elementary School Principal, for their YWCA Elgin leadership award nominations.

Please join me in congratulating our colleagues!

Finally, I am thrilled to celebrate this year's Superintendent's Scholarship winner on April 25. At the reception, we will recognize 30 U-46 seniors who are the first in their families to go to college with a scholarship each.

Thank you to all of our colleagues and family members who have made these achievements possible! Let's continue to support and celebrate one another as we work to provide the best possible education for our students.

It is 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 Kristine Cooper, Music Teacher at Oakhill Elementary School, from the Staff at Oakhill Elementary School**

We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to Mrs. Cooper for orchestrating such a wonderful family concert at Streamwood High School on March 12. It was an absolute joy to witness the talent and enthusiasm of our students from 1st to 3rd grade as they sang and played various instruments, creating beautiful melodies that filled the auditorium.

Mrs. Cooper - your dedication and passion for music education truly shine through in the way you inspire and nurture our young performers. The concert was a testament to your hard work and commitment, and we are incredibly grateful for the opportunity to be a part of such a memorable evening.

Thank you once again for your exceptional leadership and for instilling a love of music in our children. We look forward to many more incredible performances under your guidance. Job well done!

### **Kudos to Peggy Hernandez, U-46 Planetarium Teacher, from the 2nd Grade Teachers at Oakhill Elementary School**

Oakhill's 2nd grade team would like to give Peggy a big thank you for the incredible field trip to our District's planetarium on March 20. The experience was not only well-organized but also immensely educational for our 2nd graders. They learned about Grade 2 standards like 2-PS1-1 and 2-ESS1-1 in such an engaging way. Sorting planets and rocks based on observable properties, understanding the difference between melted rock and hard rock, and exploring impact craters were just some of the highlights. Your expertise and dedication truly shone through, making this a memorable and enriching experience for all. Kudos to Peggy and the Planetarium team!

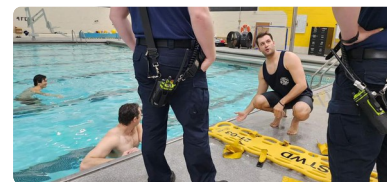
**Kudos to the Family Welcome Center and Registration Teams from Megan Meinhardt, Principal's Secretary at Bartlett Elementary School**

I want to thank Lynn Ward, Rosa Ramiez, Brenda Escobedo, and Patricia Ortiz for their help with the incoming registrations for students. I also want to send a big thank you to our Project Access team - Patty Briones and Manuela Travares - for your help as well.

**Kudos to Streamwood High School from the Bartlett Fire District Department**

Thank you to Streamwood High School for allowing us to use their swimming pool for our comprehensive water rescue training.

Bartlett and Streamwood Fire worked together to complete various scenarios including rope rescue and c-spine immobilization in water.



**Kudos to Joe Corcoran, Principal at Harriet Gifford Elementary School, and Lori Brandes, Principal at Washington Elementary School, from Laura Fazio, Resident Administrator at Harriet Gifford Elementary School**

I would like to thank Joe and Lori for being outstanding principals in the awesome Larkin Network. These two principals were great mentors for me in the Resident Administrator program. Their compassionate and dedicated leadership to the Washington and Harriet Gifford elementary schools will resonate throughout the community and my leadership. Thank you for showing me what good leadership looks and feels like.

**Kudos to Trisha Olson, Chief Legal Officer, Leatrice Satterwhite, Director of Specialized Student Services, Chris Sanzeri, Assistant Director of Specialized Student Services, Amanda Leatherby, Assistant Director of Specialized Student Services/Compliance, and Laurie McCann, Specialized Student Services, from Assistant Principal Jaclyn Jones, Principal Lisa Cardenas, and Resident Administrator Kelly Roback all at Sycamore Trails Elementary School**

Thank you, all, so much for taking the time to meet with us to help one of our students get the support that they need!

**Kudos to Diane Sheehan, Principal's Secretary at Bartlett High School, from Norma Bandel, Home School Liaison at Bartlett High School**

It gives me immense pride to say you are a great team member. Diane, thank you for being such an asset to our school. I personally appreciate everything you do every day - you are an awesome coworker!

**Kudos to Jennifer Estrada, Sarah Rangel, Beverly Britton, Kyle VonSchnase, and the Entire Hilltop Elementary School Staff from U-46 Parent Sarah Siddiqui**

Thank you for supporting my daughter through the years to encourage her to be the best that she can be! She has Down Syndrome and the school celebrated her with so much love on World Down Syndrome Day (3-21). Go Hawks!



**Kudos to Liberty Elementary School's 4th, 5th, and 6th Grade Teachers from Stephanie Sylvester, Principal at Liberty Elementary School**

Thank you to Kristin Sanson, Hiral Amin, Emily Neuman, Lori Delk, Jim Berger, Nancy Long, Denise Williams, Monika Matchinski, and Brian Kroening for having ALL of Liberty's 4th, 5th, and 6th grade students take the 5Essentials! It is not easy to get 100% of students to take a survey, but you guys did it! Thank you for all your hard work and dedication. We are very lucky to have you all a part of our Liberty staff!

**Kudos to our Occupational Therapists and our Certified Occupational Therapy Assistants (COTAs) from the Health Services Department**

April is Occupational Therapy Month. The work our Occupational Therapists and our COTAs do to help our students succeed in school is truly inspirational. Thank you for all of your hard work, dedication, ingenuity, and the kindness you have shown to our students, staff and community. We are grateful to have each one of you on our team!



