

District Reporter

STEGER
DISTRICT 194

Summer 2017

Congratulations to the Columbia Central Class of 2017

Steger District 194 wishes to congratulate the graduates of the Columbia Central Class of 2017. On Tuesday, June 6th, Columbia Central hosted its annual graduation ceremony for this year's class of 8th graders. The event proceeded in a dignified and respectful manner as graduates received diplomas honoring their achievements throughout their time at District 194. Students were asked to stand to show their participation in various activities while at Columbia Central. Both the Choir and Jazz Band performed elegantly with the Columbia Central Jazz Band performance highlighted by solos from 8th grade students.

Valedictorian and Salutatorian Katrina Valente and Angelina Valente gave speeches outlining their inspirations for achievement. Using parallels from the Disney film *Up*, Katrina highlighted overcoming unseen obstacles on the way to achieving lifelong goals. She spoke with admiration of Carl Fredricksen's lifelong goal of traveling to Paradise Falls. While encountering hardships along the way, Carl, in his waning days, devises a masterful and childlike way to meet his goals.

Katrina's twin sister, Angelina, spoke of the Disney film, *Moana*, and her goals of traveling beyond the reef. She highlighted the lessons *Moana* takes from her grandmother about finding yourself and your purpose.



The evening was accented on a somber note with the first presentation of the Lorenzo Garcia Kindness Award to 8th grade student Cailee Douglas. The award, named for Steger District 194 student Lorenzo Garcia, was awarded for the first time on the night that Lorenzo would have graduated from 8th grade. Lorenzo, a student known for his kindness and love of superheroes, was tragically taken from his District 194 family in a bicycle accident in 2015. He will forever be remembered throughout the halls of District 194 as his memory will be honored with each graduating class. Lorenzo's family members were in attendance. His brother, Julian Garcia, accepted his diploma.

Steger District 194 would like to offer its best wishes to the class of 2017 in all their future endeavors. They are sure to make our community proud.

Registration Information 2017-18

Beginning, July 7, 2017, the registration portal will be open to help expedite the form filling process for registration. The benefits of this portal are two-fold. First, we significantly reduced the lines with this online component. Parents/Guardians will now be able to update and create all documents at home and print the pages to be brought to registration on August 3rd or August 8th from 1 p.m. to 7 p.m. With completed forms in hand, the parent/guardian will be able to bypass several stations in an effort to swiftly complete the registration process. Secondly, by utilizing the registration portal to type the information into the system, the accuracy of our student database will be greatly improved.

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Registration Information

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In order to begin the online registration process, the parent/guardian will need access to the internet and must utilize the access ID # and password included in the mailing.

In order to help facilitate the use of internet access, District 194 is providing the opportunity for parents/guardians to utilize the computers and printers at Columbia Central School at various times throughout the month of July. **Parents of new students (including kindergartners & Pre-School Program students) are encouraged to visit during these times to obtain access to the registration portal. A copy of the new student's birth certificate is required to receive access to the registration portal.**

Tuesday, July 11, 2017

5 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Thursday, July 13, 2017

12 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Three documents are required to verify residency at registration. Without these documents, the family will not be able to register. One (1) document from Category A and two (2) documents from Category B are required. If you are residing with a Steger resident, the homeowner is required to prove residency. Additionally, you must supply at least one document from Category B if residing with a Steger resident. Everyone must have all required residency information to continue the registration process. If not, you will be asked to return with the necessary documentation. If registration is not completed on August 3rd or August 8th, you will not receive the \$50 discount for attending registration days.

Category A – One (1) document

Real estate tax bill

Signed lease

(lease from the Colonies must have child's name)

Mortgage document or payment book

Residency attestation

Military housing letter

Section 8 letter

Category B – Two (2) documents

Gas bill

Electric bill

TV service provider

Vehicle registration

Homeowners/renters insurance

Paycheck stub

Families seeking a fee waiver need to provide a copy of their 2016 tax return.

Columbia Central Trips to Springfield and Washington DC

For the 2017-18 school year, the 7th grade trip to Springfield will take place on October 18th, and the 8th grade trip to Washington, D.C. has been scheduled for March 1 – 3. Registration for both trips will begin at school registration in August. The cost of the Springfield trip is \$122. At this time a final cost for the Washington, D.C. trip has not been confirmed. A \$500 deposit will reserve a place for 8th graders who would like to participate.



Curriculum and Instruction Corner

Since our children are no longer in the classroom, much of the effort to stop the “**summer slide**” must come from families and communities: library programs, fun summer family activities, and at-home reading are efficient and exciting ways for parents to keep education going through the summer. It is so important for our students to exercise their brains over the summer which will help prevent the loss of learning gains, often called the “**summer slide**.” As teachers and professionals, we are working to combat the “**summer slide**” by providing families with the resources they need to keep their children actively maintaining and even building literacy skills. All students received several District 194 created brochures which provided many suggestions for online resources to use over the summer. Although the school year has come to an end, that doesn't mean learning should. We encourage children and families to incorporate summer reading and learning into their activities in the months ahead. Children who keep their brains active and engaged during summer vacation are more likely to return in the fall confident and prepared for the new school year. If you are looking for summer resources, you may consider starting with these tip sheets (ISBE website):

- Reading with your children every day helps them become stronger readers and writers. Encourage your child to take advantage of every opportunity to read. Find them throughout the day.
- The Steger-South Chicago Heights Library offers a well-established summer reading program that encourages kids, teens, and often adults to read over the summer. Educational, fun enrichment activities throughout the summer are an important feature of the program.
- Keep reading aloud. Reading aloud benefits all children and teens, especially those who struggle. One benefit is that you can read books your child can't, so she will build listening comprehension skills with grade-level and above books. This will increase their knowledge and expand their experience with text, so that they will do better when they reads on their own
- When you make a habit of snuggling in close to read together each day, your children feel a special connection with you and they are more likely to become strong adults who can handle difficult life situations.
- Taking a break from your busy day to read with your children allows you to enjoy your children and create memories!
- Reading just 4 to 6 books over the summer has the potential to prevent a decline in reading achievement scores from the spring to the fall, so even small steps are very beneficial.
- Parents, caregivers, and other adults can help stem summer slide by reading themselves, as children that see adults in their lives reading often tend to read more themselves.



Columbia Central Award Recipients

Valedictorian- Katrina Valente

Salutatorian- Angelina Valente

American Legion Award-

Megan Gamble and James Jones

American Legion Scholarship-

Katrina Valente

PTA Scholarship- Maelee

Greenwood and Angel Montes

Kiwanis Award- Michelle Peach

and Michael Nardi

Ricky Pendergrass Award- Ty

Malfavon

Jacob Kiepora Award- LeShe

Chamblis and Aniya Moore

Lorenzo Garcia Award- Cailee

Douglas

Mr. Lale's Science Award-

Katrina Valente, Angelina Valente,
and Angel Montes

Mr. Devore's Einstein Award-

8th Katrina Valente, 7th Anly
Flores, 6th Alex Rodriguez

Mr. Devore's Mathematics

Award- 8th David Ortega, 7th
Timothy Bounds, 6th Ava Ragusin

Sandy Siefert Social Studies

Award- Christian Garcia

Susan Boyko Visual Arts

Award- Cody Hefner

Cheri Marzke Award- Jonathan

Duncan and Ethan Eisenberg

Athletes of the Year- Dylan

Espinoza and Alana Hall

Bruce Brozinski SSJHSA

Outstanding Athlete Award-

Dylan Espinoza and Haeli
Wheeler

Sportsmanship Award-

Isabella Knaack

Happenings From Around the District



Left: Kindergartner, Pepper Anderson, gets ready to compete in the scooter races. Right: Columbia Central 8th graders share their children's books with students at Steger Primary Center.



SPC Student Council Provides Opportunities for Fun

Steger Primary Center ended the school year with a Student Council sponsored Field Day. Students in PreK, Kindergarten, and 1st grade spent the day outside playing games, having popsicles and eating lunch at picnic tables. "We spend so much of the school year focusing on academics that it was nice to see all the kids unwind and interact with each other in a play-based environment for the day. They have worked so hard this year and it was time to celebrate all their accomplishments!" said Student Council sponsor, Mandy Helsel. Added co-sponsor Lauren Lagesse, "Their favorite station by far was the jumbo inflatable slide. Their faces lit up when they saw it in the field. We know it's a station we have to keep for next year."

Field Day is just one of the events that Student Council has sponsored this school year for their students. In the fall they also had a free Family Movie Night for all families at Steger Primary Center; and in the winter they sponsored a low-cost Valentine's Dance for students and their families. Miss Helsel and Miss Lagesse attribute their successful events to parent support. "Without the fundraising support from our families at SPC, we would not be able to offer these events," they said. Look for their most popular fundraiser, Baker's Square pie cards, to take place again this September; just in time for Thanksgiving.

Eighth Graders Author Children's Books

To wind up their tenure at Columbia Central, 8th grade students authored and illustrated original children's books. This culminating project showcases

skills such as the integration of figurative language in writing as well as mastery of the concept of dramatic structure. The books are both entertaining and educational, while incorporating a lesson or moral. Eighteen winning books, authored by 25 students, were shared with Kindergarteners and First Graders at the Primary Center. The connection between the students and the love of reading was apparent in each and every classroom. Kudos to the English Department and all the students who participated in this wonderful learning experience. Without the collaboration of both Columbia Central and the Primary Center, this would not have been possible. The students are grateful to Mrs. Winborn and her staff for graciously welcoming them into their classrooms.

SIC Ends a Fantastic Year

The Steger Intermediate Center celebrated positive behavior with an Ice Cream truck for Field Day. All classes that earned their Cardinal Badges enjoyed the afternoon eating ice cream and dancing on the front lawn of the Intermediate Center. It was a great day to celebrate good behavior.

The Steger Intermediate Center wrapped up its first year in the beautiful new building with grade level picnics and an awards assembly. Many family members joined in on the picnics, enjoying games and food, while some students got a chance to throw a pie in their teacher's face. The awards assembly recognized students with perfect attendance, honor roll, and various activity participation. We also said good bye and good luck to our 4th grade next year at Columbia Central.

STEGER DISTRICT 194

Administration Center
3753 Park Avenue, Steger, IL
753-4300
Columbia Central
94 Richton Road, Steger, IL
755-0021
Steger Intermediate Center
3411 Hopkins Street, Steger, IL
753-4200
Steger Primary Center
3341 Miller Ave, South Chicago Heights, IL
753-4100

Non-Profit
Prst. Std.
U.S. Postage
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STEGER, IL
Permit #7

WE'RE ON THE WEB!
[HTTP://WWW.SD194.ORG/](http://www.sd194.org/)

FOLLOW US ON TWITTER
[@STEGER194](https://twitter.com/STEGER194)

A Word From Superintendent Hahto

Those of us who work at the Steger School District Administrative Center find that summer can be a busy time. As the district's business hub, our main goals include closing out projects from the school year and preparing for the following year. But, we also take some time to debrief as a team and reflect individually on how the school year unfolded. Doing this allows us to come up with new, fresh ideas to improve business and instructional practices, both of which are vital elements to the continued success of our school district, its faculty, staff, and students.

In reflecting on the eighth grade graduation ceremony, I can say that the attention paid by the principal, Mike Smith, and his team in developing the evening's program and in rehearsing the proceedings deserves praise. Their hard work and dedication has resulted in a ceremony that is filled with the pomp and circumstance that has historically been expected at such an event.

In reflecting upon the instructional year, I can say that the attention paid to teacher quality and improvement of instruction has taken a foothold district-wide.

Thirdly, in reflecting upon the Board of Education's unique multi-year plan to renovate the Steger Intermediate and Primary Centers, it has become apparent that these facilities have set the stage for faculty and staff to maintain a focus on the improvement of student learning throughout the school year.

Finally, I'd like to thank everyone in School District 194 for the part they played this year to move us forward in these and so many other important areas. The hard work, support and cooperation of the Board of Education, administrators, faculty and their union representatives, and the entire staff of paraprofessionals, food service, maintenance, and custodial personnel have been nothing short of extraordinary and is very much appreciated. Here's to working together toward further successes in 2017-2018.

Dr. Patricia Hahto, Superintendent



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