

District Reporter

STEGER
DISTRICT 194

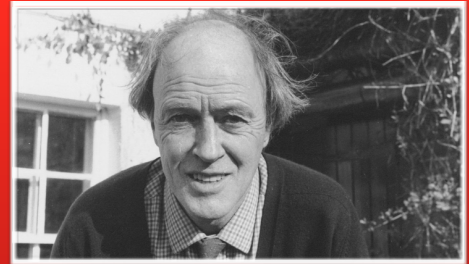
Fall 2019

Steger Intermediate Center Celebrates the Birthday of Roald Dahl

Students from the Steger Intermediate Center celebrated the 103rd birthday of famed author Roald Dahl by participating in Roald Dahl Day. This unofficial holiday celebrates all the characters created by the much loved and read children's author whose most popular books included Charlie and the Chocolate Factory, Matilda and The Fantastic Mr. Fox.

While Dahl, considered to be one of the most widely read and influential British writers of all time is primarily known for his fantasy fiction stories for children, he also wrote screenplays for films and television shows, including the screenplay for the popular musical Chitty Chitty Bang Bang.

Dahl, who had Norwegian ancestry and was named after explorer Roald Admundsen, had a unique approach to storytelling. All his



books for children were written from the viewpoint of a child's imagination and often filled with dark humor.

On Friday, September 13, students came to Steger Intermediate Center in costumes paying homage to the unforgettable characters portrayed in Dahl's novels. The school's hallways bustled with students dressed as Willy Wonka, Matilda, and even a few Oompa Loompas. The idea, which stemmed from Mrs. Warwick's love for Dahl's novels,

saw countless classroom activities and a wealth of fun for students.

Dahl's stories and legacy will live forever in the creative minds of District 194's students.



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A word from the
Superintendent
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Columbia Central Celebrates Students of the week

Realizing that our Cardinal students do exceptional things every day, the Columbia administrative team is stepping up its efforts to recognize these special middle schoolers.

During the 2019-20 school year, Columbia Central will be recognizing two students each week as part of its inaugural Student of the Week program. Each Friday, Columbia administrators will select one male and one female student who have exemplified strong character, contributed to the overall positive climate, or have performed an extraordinary task or deed the previous week.

Individuals selected for Student of the Week honors will receive a certificate signed by the principal and have their name read over the intercom during the morning announcements on Monday. We will take a photograph of the students together, which will be displayed prominently on the Columbia Central website for the remainder of the week. This photo, along with the names of the recipients will be tweeted out as well so that our neighboring schools and community groups can be aware. Finally, the names of the students who win Student of the Week will be displayed on the Columbia Central marquee in front of the building for the week. On a monthly basis, the students selected for Columbia Student of the Week will have their name entered into a drawing for a \$10.00 gift certificate to a local business.

We enthusiastically await the great achievements and acts of kindness our Columbia students will perform this school year and look forward to publicly recognizing and sharing their accomplishments.



Columbia Central students Zion Taala and Elizabeth Hicks were selected as Students of the Week on September 9, 2019.

Curriculum and Instruction Corner

PLC From the First Day of School

Steger School District 194 is off to another wonderful year. Students arrived on August 23, to the top-notch teachers and staff of District 194. Armfuls of school supplies and anxious faces saw the opening of another school season. For the first time, students and teachers will be part of Professional Learning Communities whose focus is student achievement. As the school moves forward, teams will focus on answering four important questions that drive the work of those within a professional learning community:

- What do we want each student to learn?
- How will we know when each student has learned it?
- How will we respond when a student experiences difficulty in learning?
- What will we do if they have already learned it?

Steger School District 194 has taken on this task by providing time for teachers to focus on this work and meet on a regular basis. Students are dismissed at 1:30 every Wednesday. Administrators, teachers, and staff members will be engaged in the work of Professional Learning Communities. Some examples of activities that may occur during this weekly meeting are:

- Determining what team members want students to learn from within the essential standards
- Determining the pacing of teaching essential learning standards
- Writing and administering common formative assessments
- Compiling and disaggregating student data from common formative assessments
- Determining which students should receive enrichment and/or extra interventions and evaluate their success

We look forward to continuing our district journey as a Professional Learning Community and appreciate your support as we do the necessary work to help us reach our main goal – the improvement of student learning.

Happenings From Around the District



Students from around District 194 participate in activities that build confidence and character.

Upcoming Dates

October 31

School Improvement Day
(11am Dismissal)

November 8

End of 1st Trimester

November 11

Veteran's Day (No School)

November 14

Report Cards

November 25

Parent Teacher Conferences
12-2:30pm

November 27-29

Fall Break (No School)

December 20

School Improvement Day
(11am Dismissal)

Dec 23-Jan 3

Winter Break (No School)

Positive Behavior at the SIC

Students and staff are off to a great start this school year. Students have learned the expectations through our PBIS trainings and have celebrated with popsicles - yum! They are also learning about various character traits throughout the year such as being Friendly, Empathetic and Respectful to name just a few. Students will nominate classmates each month that exhibit the trait of the month. These students will earn certificates, cardinal cash, and have their picture placed on the Character Café board.

how proud they were of their nation.

Mrs. White and Mrs. Arndt lead the way in this culminating activity that saw the hallways of Steger Primary Center transformed into a raucous parade where students were able to show their pride.



SPC Kindergarteners are so proud

Students from Steger Primary Center hosted a parade as a culminating activity to reading the text, "We Are So Proud" by Donna Longo. In the story, all the members of the Ms. Vogels' class cooperate to make American flags to fly in their parade.

Kindergarten students at Steger Primary Center also created flags and decorated a float to show



STEGER DISTRICT 194

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3753 Park Avenue, Steger, IL
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Columbia Central
94 Richton Road, Steger, IL
753-4700
Steger Intermediate Center
3411 Hopkins Street, Steger, IL
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A Word From Superintendent Frusher

Dear Steger School District 194 Community Members,

There are a lot of positive things happening in our schools. As I spend time in our classrooms, it's exciting to see our students learning every day, being taught by professional, dedicated educators.

We are pleased with the progress that we continue to make with our Professional Learning Communities (PLC) at Work. The Wednesday early release time has been extremely beneficial for the advancement of our PLC's.

The three big ideas that drive our PLC process are:

1) A Focus on Learning which is the biggest of the three big ideas based on the premise that the fundamental purpose of our schools is to ensure that all students learn at high levels (grade level or higher). Our focus on, and commitment to, the learning of each student is the very essence of our learning community.

2) A Collaborative Culture and Collective Responsibility where our educators work collaboratively and take collective responsibility for the success of each student. The fundamental structure of our PLC is collaborative teams of educators whose members work interdependently to achieve common goals for which members are mutually accountable. The team is the engine that drives our PLC and is the primary building block of

3) A Results Orientation where we assess the effectiveness in ensuring all students learn. Our educators focus on results – evidence of student learning. We use this evidence of learning to inform and improve instructional practices and respond to individual students who need interventions and enrichment.

As we move forward on our PLC journey, we will continue to keep you updated on our progress. In addition, please follow us on twitter and Facebook, which can be easily accessed through our SD 194 website.

Yours in Education,

David Frusher, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools



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