

161 VISIONS 161

(Volume 1, Issue 2)

Dr. Dana Smith, Superintendent

Spring 2018

Cathy Perino, Editor

Hello Everyone!

I hope this newsletter finds you in good spirits and even better health! As we approach the end of the school year, I want to take a moment to thank all of our students, staff, parents, and Board of Education members for all of their hard work this year! In 2017-2018, we have implemented new instructional materials to rigorously challenge all of our children, we are in the process of completing a Science Technology Engineering Arts and Mathematics [STEAM] lab at Serena Hills School, and we are updating the technology for our students, so that they can reach and surpass their potential. While doing all of this work, we have been very careful to allocate and spend the community's resources responsibly, so that we are able to provide an excellent service and value for District 161 stakeholders. This summer, we will prepare for the start of the school year by completing roofing and HVAC projects, cleaning all of the buildings, and by organizing all of the materials for the students and teachers. Personally, I want to thank all of you for the warm welcome to the District 161 family. I am honored to be a part of this community and I am already looking forward to the next school year. Have a wonderful summer!

**Sincerely,
Dr. Dana Smith,
Superintendent**



Superintendent Smith Reads to Kindergarten Students at Heather Hill.



Geography Bee participants recognized at May 29, 2018 Board meeting.

Dear Parents and Community Members,

As we embark on our summer break, let's make sure we take a little time to reflect on a great school year we've had and how we will work together to make next year even greater. We are proud of all of the wonderful accomplishments made by our students this year and we want everyone to keep it going over the summer. I have one challenge for you this summer – let's read! Remind your students that not only does reading make you smarter, but there is nothing as magical as a book transporting you to different places all over the world without ever having to leave your house. Need ideas to make it fun? Have your kids start a book club, create a reader's theater, participate in your local library's summer reading program, or do a video recording talking about their favorite book this summer and send it to

me at the district. The Board of Education would love to hear from you!

The Board will continue to meet during the summer, so please feel free to join us at one of our meetings. Summer is the time for relaxation, but rest assured that we are committed to each and every student and teacher in this district and we'll be working hard to make sure we've planned for a successful 2018–19 school year.

On behalf of the Board, I'd like to wish everyone a safe and wonderful summer break. We'll see you in August!

Kind Regards,

*Michelle Hoereth, President
Flossmoor SD 161
Board of Education*

May Million Reading Challenge

The May Million Reading Challenge is in full swing! Join the fun and take time to read at home and log your pages read. Participating in the challenge is easy: read for fun and log the number of pages. Students are allowed to read books, magazines, journals, comic books, articles, etc. Students may read independently, out loud, or listen to audio books. Parents and guardians can also read to students and log the pages. The goal is to have fun and get excited about reading! Please contact your child's teacher if you would like to do a read aloud at school. Parents can access a printable version of the reading log on our district website or request a copy from the school office.

Summer Learning Activities

Often you hear about educators referencing the summer slide. Research trends have shown that students can often lose academic progress over the summer. Below are 5 ways that you can help prevent the summer slide:

1. Read with your child everyday! Any type of reading is great! Just 20 minutes a day helps your child value the joy of reading and maintain reading stamina.

Our local libraries also have great summer reading incentive programs. Visit our district website for summer reading lists and links to programs at the Flossmoor Library.

2. Cooking with your children is an excellent way to integrate math, reading, and following directions. Let your child be your helper in the kitchen and document their recipes.
3. Planting a garden and working in the yard teaches valuable science skills and promotes responsibility and patience.
4. Take field trips to museums, parks and other attractions. Let your child keep a journal or scrapbook about their experiences with pictures and writing.
5. Challenge your child to learn a new vocabulary word each week. Find the words in books and use them in your everyday conversations.

The District 161 Summer Academy is June 18th - July 26th. Please visit our website for summer reading lists, reading logs and more!

*Amabel Crawford
Director of Learning and Instruction*

Flossmoor Hills News

647-7100, 3721 Beech Street, Flossmoor, Patricia McCraven, Principal

Busy, Busy, Busy!

The students at Flossmoor Hills have been busy with a variety of activities featuring celebrations, Jump Rope for Heart, literacy activities, the Book Fair, and Kindergarten registration.

*Patricia McCraven, Principal
Flossmoor Hills School*

Kindergarten students and their parents register for the 2018-2019 school year!



Students "Paws to Read" with their stuffed animals.



The Jr. Great Books Club celebrates their hard work with a party!

The fantastic Flossmoor Hills PTO sponsors our Spring Book Fair!



Ms. McCraven and Mrs. Marti celebrate St. Patrick's Day!



4th and 5th grade Gifted Art students share their art at the Board of Education meeting.

Students participate in Jump Rope for Heart to encourage heart health awareness.

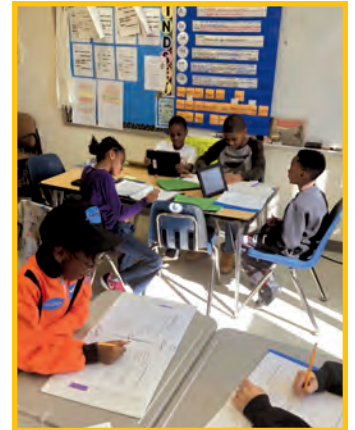
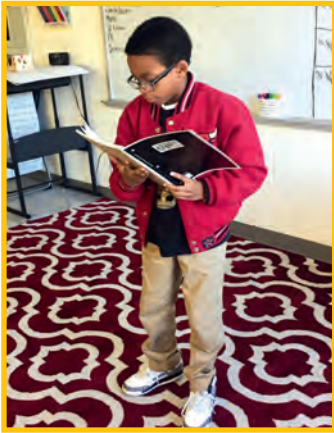


Flossmoor Hills students and staff celebrate Black History Month.



Making a Better World

Heather Hill School, the jewel on the southern heart of the district boundary is a unique collection of individuals who make up a wonderfully tight-knit group. This circle strives to embody excellence each and every day. From its green activities to its outstanding musical performances, from its unbelievable teachers to its gifted and active parents and students, Heather Hill is a place where academic excellence is expected, and students' growth is a mainstay. It would be commonplace to talk about the plethora of activities and offerings at Heather Hill, but the center of this greatness is its family atmosphere. The students, staff, and parents collectively work together to make sure the needs of every student are met and that all students have access to the best possible education they can receive. They are all dedicated to the mission and vision of the school and district, as well as "going green," service



Special Education – Eligibility Categories

For a student to receive services in special education, the student must qualify in at least one eligibility category. The categories are Autism, Deaf-Blindness, Deafness, Emotional Disturbance, Hearing Impairment, Intellectual Disability, Multiple Disabilities, Orthopedic Impairment, Other Health Impairment, Specific Learning Disability, Speech/Language Impairment, Traumatic Brain Injury, and Visual Impairment and Developmental Delay (ages 3 thru 9 only). There are specific criteria for each category to determine if the student is eligible. For example, to qualify under Deafness, a child must be deaf. For Multiple Disabilities, a student must meet the criteria in at least two other areas before being considered. In order to qualify under the Specific Learning Disability (SLD) eligibility,

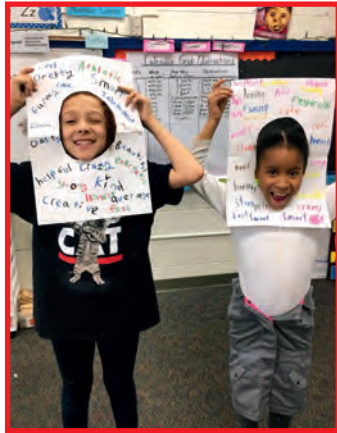
learning and citizenship. Heather Hill School is growing individuals who will make our world a better place and create leaders who usher in the next step of greatness to this community and country. Its goal is to develop great individuals and we look forward to continuing this work for years to come. Through hard work and dedication, we will continue this mission because it takes a village to raise a child and hard work to preserve the future.

Dr. Keith Davis, Principal, Heather Hill School

the child must have had academic interventions. Interventions are designed to target areas the student needs to improve. To qualify a student must have had multiple interventions and not made progress.

Speech Language Impairment has multiple eligibility criteria including articulation, voice, fluency, language delay/disorder and pragmatic language. Articulation is the pronouncing of the words. Is the student able to be understood by friends and family? A language delay/disorder can be identified as: does the child understand what is being said to them (receptive) (Cont. on page 5)





Mrs. Melone's 2nd graders making adjectives fun by describing their favorite nouns.

Spring Has Sprung at Serena Hills

See what 21st Century learning opportunities are popping up!

Dr. Shari Demitrowicz, Principal, Serena Hills School



Book Fair "Paws For Reading" with Humane Society.

Teaching social-emotional values through animals!



Mrs. Rudolph's 1st grade class at Home-wood Science Center.



Team Ski excited about reading "The One and Only Ivan".

Look at the mess the Leprechauns made in Mrs. Wojack's KDG class!



Serena's STEAM Olympics - Literacy Night.



Mrs. Bollenbacher's 2nd grade Parent Activity Day - STEAM.

(Cont. from page 4) and/or can they answer questions or express their needs and wants to others (expressive)?

The last category – Developmental Disability (DD) is defined as: "who is experiencing developmental delays, as defined by the state and as measured by appropriate diagnostic instruments and procedures, in one or more of the following areas: physical development, cognitive development, communication development, social or emotional development, or adaptive development..." (ISBE.net).

The evaluation team, including the student's parents, reviews all the information and results listed on the domain to determine if student is eligible or not under one of

the eligibility categories. The rationales for the decisions made are called the adverse effect and the educational need. These are listed on the eligibility document and help the team plan the supports for the student. These supports are detailed in the Individual Education Plan (IEP) for the student.

If you would like more information regarding the disability categories go to www.ISBE.net and search special education disability categories or feel free to call me at 708-647-7028. I would be happy to answer any questions or explain any aspect of special education.

Robin Latman
Director of Special Education

Supporting the Arts

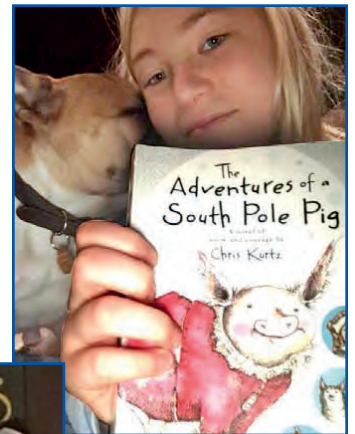
After Winter Break, Western Avenue Elementary returned re-energized for the second half of our school year! As a school, we created two goals in our school improvement plan for both reading and math. In reading, we chose to focus on the development of academic vocabulary for building deeper reading comprehension in both fiction and non-fiction texts. For math, our target goal is to increase student algebraic thinking to reason abstractly and quantitatively in multiple-step and real-world problems.

S.T.E.A.M. is an acronym for science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics. At Western Avenue, our teachers try to expose our students to these activities and thought processes as often as possible because we want our children to feel comfortable tackling problems that require stamina, thinking outside of the box, and encourage various approaches to finding answers for rigorous questions.

Our Literacy Committee revealed our One School, One Book, "The Adventures of a South Pole Pig." One School, One Book is a school-wide initiative sponsored by our incredible P.T.O. to encourage and develop a love for reading.

March was also the month of our fabulous Spring Musical, "101 Dalmations." The 4th and 5th graders, under the direction of Mrs. Pasqua and Mrs. Panozzo, created performances to remember. Thank you to all who came out to support the music program!

*Dr. Lisa Dallacqua, Principal,
Western Avenue School*



It's Warming Up....

Now that Spring has arrived at Parker Junior High School, our Parker Falcons' list of accomplishments and achievements continues to grow. Since our last edition, Parker students have participated in the MLK Day of Service, started a soccer team, celebrated Black History Month, participated in State Volleyball tournaments, the Chicago History Fair, State Chess Tournaments, Kindness Week, and a variety of other academic, social, and athletic events.

As we prepare for next year, Parker Junior High School is emphasizing the importance of a successful transition between 5th and 6th grade. As a result, Parker 6th graders have participated in visits to their elementary buildings for question and answer sessions with current 5th graders. An end-of-the-year "Step Up Day" is in the works for the last week of school. 5th grade students will have the opportunity to come to Parker, meet their 6th grade teachers, interact with Parker students,

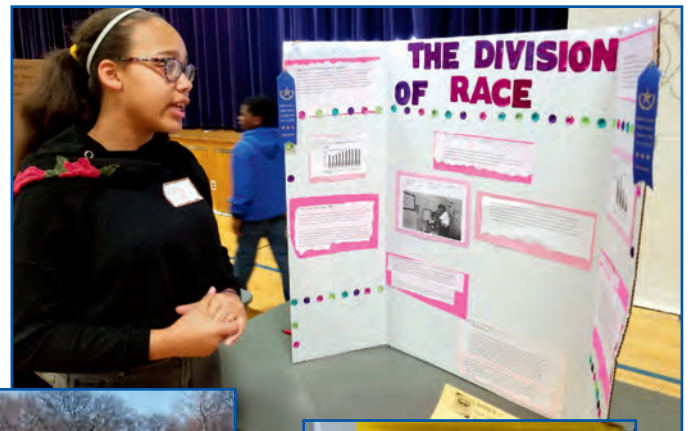
and prepare for all of the great opportunities that await them during the 2018-2019 school year.

Fred Hunter, Principal

Mardell M. Parker Junior High School

Summer Academy Classes:

Remember that Summer Academy classes for all grades will take place at Western Avenue Elementary!



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Chicago Heights, IL 60411

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Community Event Information

Homewood Science Center "Metal Mania"

June 9, 10 AM-1 PM

Homewood Artisan Street Fair

June 8, 9

Homewood Science Center "Science of Healthy Choices"

July 14, 10 AM-1 PM

Flossmoor Independence Day Parade

July 4, 9:30 AM

Flossmoor Fest

September 8