

# District Reporter

STEGER  
DISTRICT 194

*Winter 2020*

## Columbia Central Presents: Beauty and the Beast Jr.

The annual December musical at Columbia Central was once again an enormous success. On December 12 and 13, attendees were treated to an all-star performance by 5th through 8th grade students at Columbia Central. This year's performance of Disney's *Beauty and the Beast Jr.* transported the audience to 19th century France where costumes and set designs created tirelessly by the production team of Ms. Olsen, Ms. Wendt, Mrs. Kinsella, and Ms. Whalen, with the help of community members Michele Helsel, Debra Page, and Laurie Jones, brought Baroque architecture and dress to the Columbia Central stage.

Based on the original Broadway production that ran for over thirteen years and was nominated for nine Tony Awards, and the Academy Award-winning motion picture, Disney's *Beauty and the Beast JR.* is a fantastic adaptation of the story of transformation and tolerance.

The classic story tells of Belle, a young woman in a



provincial town, and the Beast, who is really a young prince trapped under the spell of an enchantress. If the Beast can learn to love and be loved, the curse will end and he will be transformed to his former self. But time is running out. If the Beast does not learn his lesson soon, he and his household will be doomed for all eternity.

This years production included a cast and crew of more than sixty students from Columbia

Central. These students worked tirelessly under the direction of Columbia Central's musical sponsor as well as staff volunteers throughout the Fall to bring this production to the stage. Steger District 194 recognizes your hard work and achievements. Congratulations to all involved.



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# Steger Intermediate Center Scores a GOAL!

Steger second grade students warmed the hearts of the packed Columbia Central Main Gymnasium in their delightful musical “GOAL! The Beautiful Game of Football...er...Soccer!” on Thursday, December 5, 2019. Under the direction of Ms. Cate and Mrs. Peterson, second graders wowed the audience with songs that not only celebrate the beauty and glory of the sport we call “soccer,” but also the value of good sportsmanship, setting goals, and being part of a team. An “Awesome” time was had by all watching the second grade “Kick it!”



## Steger Primary Center Participates in “Hour of Code Initiative”

Steger Primary Center participated in The Hour of Code Initiative which takes place each year during Computer Science Education Week (Dec. 9-Dec. 15). The Hour of Code started as a one-hour introduction to computer science, designed to demystify “code”, to show that anybody can learn the basics, and to broaden participation in the field of computer science. All Kindergarten and First Grade students spent an hour during computer class learning how to code.



## Columbia Central Celebrates Veterans

Columbia Central hosted the third annual Veteran’s day celebration on November 8th. Students were asked to invite veteran’s from their families to attend and be recognized for their service to our country. The Columbia Central band and choir performed patriotic songs including the Armed Forces Medley. In addition to the recognition of parents and family members, several of Columbia Central’s teaching and administrative staff were recognized for their service as veterans.





# The Holidays Around SD 194

## Steger Primary Center Celebrates Valentine's Day

On Wednesday February 12, Families from Steger Primary Center were invited to celebrate Valentines day with an evening of dancing, pizza, and photo-ops. The halls of Steger Primary Center rang with joy as students danced the night away. Parents had opportunities to take photos with their children in a staged photo booth. District 194 staff sold carnations to attendees. Each attendee was treated to pizza from the cafeteria.

## SD 194 EL Department Throws a Holiday Potluck

On December 16, members of the Steger District 194 EL community invited families to Columbia Central for the annual EL Christmas celebration. A potluck dinner accompanies by a mariachi band set the mood for an outstanding evening. Students were invited to make holiday cards, or have their faces painted. Later in the evening, a visit from Santa Claus allowed for family photos in a cozy setting.



## Annual Senior Dinner is Well Attended

On Tuesday December 10th, Steger District 194 hosted its annual Holiday Senior Dinner in conjunction with the Columbia Central Band's winter concert. SD194's kitchen staff provided dinner for more than 125 senior citizens from the Steger-South Chicago Heights community. Meals were served by Columbia Central's National Junior Honor Society members under the direction of Ms. Heather Shelton and Ms. Jessica Toran. Following their meal, attendees were escorted to the Columbia Central Gymnasium for an evening of Music courtesy of the Columbia Central Band under the direction of Mr. Ed Fitzgerald. These well-attended annual events showcase the talents of SD194 students and the support of the Steger-South Chicago Heights communities.

# Curriculum and Instruction Corner

## SD 194 Professional Learning Communities (PLCs)

At SD 194, PLCs are an ongoing process in which educators work collaboratively in recurring cycles of collective inquiry and action research to achieve better results for the students we serve.

"What do teachers do for my child on Wednesdays from 1:30-2:40?"

PLC time from 1:30-2:40 on Wednesdays permits teachers the *collaboration time* needed to ensure that every child learns at high levels. We are developing guaranteed critical content and skills at every grade level. We are also exploring our use of assessment to plan appropriate instruction to address each student's needs to grow towards meeting standards. The time is used to ensure that intervention opportunities are provided to students who need more support with the critical content and skills. Also, enrichment opportunities are provided to students who have learned the critical content and skills.

As always, every student participates in Core Instruction in his or her classroom. Every student is assessed by his or her teacher to determine readiness for learning and whether the essential standard was learned. In the past, if a student struggled or excelled it was up to the individual teacher to decide what to do. In many situations, teachers would make their own plan and would meet with their students individually to try to help the students get caught up or be challenged. Now, we are working together as teams to look at data and brainstorm by pooling our collective experiences and strategies to better serve our students.

Because of Wednesday PLC time:

- Every teacher works on a *collaborative team* which is focused on learning, assessment, intervention, and enrichment.
- Every student participates in a support or enrichment plan which is implemented during an intervention time that is built into the school day.
- Teachers collectively develop additional Intervention Plans for students who need additional time and/or support.
- Teachers have the professional collaboration time that they need in order to ensure that *every student learns at high levels*.

# STEGER DISTRICT 194

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Steger Intermediate Center  
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753-4200  
Steger Primary Center  
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## A Word From Superintendent Frusher

Dear Steger School District 194 Community Members,

We're half way through our 2<sup>nd</sup> trimester of the 2019-2020 school year, and the school year is going great!

Across our school district, our students are learning from teachers, who are using research-based instructional strategies, incorporating the latest technologies, in the finest school facilities.

Our co-curricular opportunities for our students are among the strongest in the area. Our student-athletes have demonstrated pride, hard work, dedication, commitment, and sportsmanship on the field and on the court. Our fine arts program is second to none. Students from all grade levels participated in concerts and holiday programs; culminating with Columbia Central's performance of *Beauty and the Beast*. It was a pleasure to see so many community members at these events.

We continue to make tremendous strides operating in our Professional Learning Community (PLC) at Work. Our focus is on the following four questions:

1. What do we want our students to learn? (Standards)
2. How do we know if our students have learned it? (Common Formative Assessments)

3. What do we do if our students didn't learn it? (Interventions)
4. What do we do if our students already know it? (Extension Activities)

The Wednesday early release time continues to be beneficial as our staff works collaboratively in PLC's focusing on student learning.

To learn about all of the wonderful things going on in SD 194, please follow us on twitter at [@SD194](https://twitter.com/SD194) and on Facebook at [Steger School District 194](https://www.facebook.com/StegerSchoolDistrict194), both can be accessed through our SD 194 website.

Yours in Education,

David Frusher, Ed.D.  
Superintendent of Schools



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