

D181 Community Connections E-Newsletter

1 message

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Security Improvements Coming to D181 Schools

Strategic Plan for Safety

The District's Safety & Crisis Committee developed a multi-year strategic plan for safety improvements in our D181 schools. Families attending Parent-Teacher Conferences may see this plan in action, as crews will be in the buildings preparing for two of the changes coming this year. For 2017-18, the plan's focus areas include improved security in main offices and implementation of new visitor procedures, among other efforts.

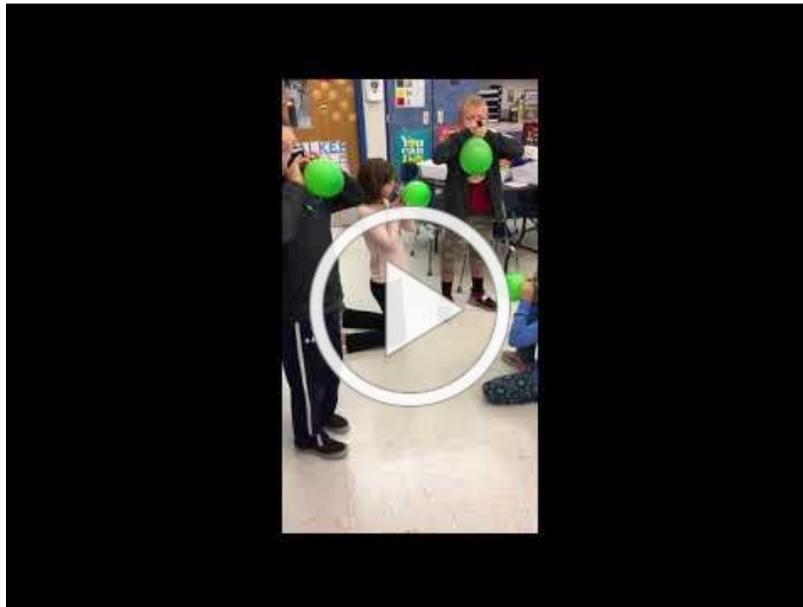
On-Site Safety Work: November 20-21 and Winter Break

On November 20 and 21, and during winter break, we will have vendors on-site to replace main entrance cameras and intercoms with newer equipment that provides a clearer view of visitors and added functionality for staff. Additionally, the crews will be making changes to doors in our front office areas so that guests must be buzzed out of the main office if entering the school portion of the building. In the coming weeks, we will also be implementing a Visitor and Volunteer Management System. Much like is done at Hinsdale Central High School and other educational facilities throughout the area, we will soon require visitors to present an ID that will be scanned prior to allowing entrance

in a D181 school. This change will support consistency in District visitor procedures, ensure appropriate background checks have been completed, and allow us to maintain a digital log of our guests, all while integrating with our Student Information System, Skyward.

Our Safety & Crisis Committee of police and fire officials and District staff looks forward to our continued partnership in maintaining a safe and welcoming environment for students, staff, families, and the community!

Walker School 4th Graders Create Tabletop Hovercrafts



Walker School 4th graders recently had the opportunity to participate in an in-school field trip featuring concepts related to STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math). A presentation led by High Touch, High Tech included several hands-on experiments to... *(Continue Reading)*

District 181 Mobile App Now Available for Download



In a recent District survey, when asked, "Which, if any, of the following communication tools would you like to see used by the District?" a D181 mobile app was the second highest priority. (Texting was the top priority and was launched in 2016-17.) In response to the survey data and as part of implementing our Strategic Plan, creation of the app took place last school year, and this fall, groups of staff and parents helped to test the app. Now, it is ready for download!

Search "District 181" in the Play Store or App Store to download the free D181 mobile app. It is a customizable,

easy-to-use tool that provides convenient access to District and school calendars, lunch menus, news, and links to the most popular pages of our website.

HMS Students Use Tech to "Visit" The Great Wall



HMS 6th graders used Google Cardboard to take a virtual walk on the Great Wall of China this past week. Google Cardboard is a virtual reality platform developed for use with a head mount for a smartphone. The HMS PTO provided funding for this opportunity.

Board Summary Attached and Online

We invite you to read the November 13, 2017 *Board Summary*: ([PDF](#)) or ([webpage](#)). The meeting audio recording is available on [LiveStream](#). In honor of the recently celebrated Illinois School Board Members Day, we encourage all community members to share thanks to Board members for their service to our schools.

Board Summary Contents (11/13/17)

- Board Selects BWP to Conduct Superintendent Search Following Firm Interviews
- 2016-17 PARCC Results Show Strengths and Areas for Growth
- Department of Learning Report Includes Progress Update and Preview of 2018-19
- Board and Administration Continue Discussion on Tax Levy in Preparation for December Vote
- Results of Hazardous Route Study Shared; Administration Outlines Next Steps for Pay-to-Ride Program
- Other: Open Enrollment Procedure Approved for 2018-19; Robbins Schwarz, LLC Selected as Board Attorney; Capital Projects Discussed; Personnel Approved; Gifts and Contributions Accepted with Gratitude; Superintendent's Report Provided; Existing Depositories and Additional Vendors Approved; Board Committee Reports Shared; Public Comment
- Upcoming Board Meetings



The Lane Welcomes Author Sean Connolly to Talk STEM and Writing

Author Sean Connolly recently visited The Lane School to speak with 4th and 5th graders about writing and his newest title, *The Book of Massively Epic Engineering Disasters*. The book includes 33 experiments; Connolly led The Lane students through several of them and encouraged their interest in concepts related to STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math). Connolly is also the author of *The Book of Totally Irresponsible Science*, *The Book of Potentially Catastrophic Science*, and *The Book of Perfectly Perilous Math*.



District and School News Online

Read these stories and more on the News page of our website!

"Prospect School Families Participate in Kindergarten Music Class"

"District 181 Chief Financial Officer Earns SFO Certification"

"HMS 'Animal Advocates' Visit Humane Society"

"D181 Schools Partner to Welcome Anti-Bullying Speaker"

"Interim Assistant Superintendent Joan Woolwine Named Chief Academic Officer for 2018-19"

"Proposed Board Policy Revisions on Display"



SELAS Connections: "The Social Worker - An Essential Member of Your Child's School Team"



Student well-being and growth are at the heart of District 181's commitment to providing student supports in all buildings for all students. These supports take many forms, such as speech and language pathologists, school nurses, and special education resource staff, but it is social workers who are uniquely qualified to address the social and emotional needs of students and families.

Students get to know their school social worker throughout the year during classroom and school-wide activities for SELAS, prevention programming, and in response to specific school or class climate needs. In class settings and individually, Ele

Santini, Social Worker at CHMS, says, "We work to help students foster self-advocacy skills, build on social skills, and practice executive functioning skills, and we help students prepare for and react to challenges and rough patches that can leave them feeling uncomfortable or distressed."

This work is collaborative and intended to wrap around students' overall learning experience, as the social workers are closely connected to the teachers and families of students. It includes proactive content designed according to the developmental stages of childhood as well as teaching and guidance to respond to specific circumstances and needs of small groups and individual students.

Teachers and parents sometimes witness changes in a student's behavior that cause concern and raise questions. Kathleen Jirasek, Social Worker at Elm School, says there are wide array of behaviors that adults may observe in children under their care. "Children can very often display social-emotional symptoms through a remarkable difficulty with any of the following: attention, compliance, work refusal, peer conflict, difficulty accepting mistakes, immaturity, avoiding eye contact, withdrawal, intrusive thoughts or fears, repetitive behavior, poor self-care skills, mood swings, impulsivity, disrespect, high energy level, and difficulty eating or sleeping." Parents often consult with their doctor before meeting with the social worker to be sure the behavior is not medical in origin.

Parents are encouraged to be a part of their student's school team by letting the teacher and social worker know if significant changes have occurred at home or if their child is exhibiting signs of distress or extreme difficulty. The social workers are in place to provide essential supports so that the student can achieve his/her learning potential to the maximum extent possible. Not only do students benefit from their relationships with the school social workers, but parents do, as well.

Other helpful resources are available [when problems come up](#) and on the [SELAS webpages](#). Learning to manage ourselves, get along with others, and make good decisions are skills needed throughout life as we learn, work, and build families.

Joining Our E-Newsletter: We appreciate the opportunity to connect with you! Do you know someone who would enjoy this newsletter? Community members can join our mailing list by filling out our [online form](#). Feedback on this newsletter and D181 communications is welcomed and can be sent to bmcguiggan@d181.org.

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