

D181 Community Connections E-Newsletter

1 message

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Upcoming Events

- December 7 (9am): Academic Success Committee Meeting ([Agenda](#))
- December 7 (5pm): Board Finance Committee Meeting ([Agenda](#))
- December 8 (8am): HMS Construction Community Meeting ([Web Info](#))
- December 11-21: Superintendent Search Survey Window ([Web Info](#))
- December 11 (9:30am): Focus Group – Superintendent Search ([Web Info](#))
- December 12 (6pm): Board Facilities Committee Meeting
- December 13 (7:30pm): Focus Group – Superintendent Search ([Web Info](#))
- December 18 (7pm): Board of Education Business Meeting
- December 21 – January 7: No School, Winter Break
- January 8: School Resumes
- January 11 (9am): Academic Success Committee Meeting
- January 11 (5pm): Board Finance Committee Meeting
- January 11 (5:30pm): Special Ed Parent Event “Core Vocabulary and Other Early Childhood Strategies for Success” ([Event Flier](#))

Your Input Welcomed in Superintendent Search Process

Survey Opens Dec. 11; Focus Groups Dec. 11 and 13

The District 181 Board of Education is welcoming input from all stakeholders to help inform the selection of an incoming superintendent. Feedback is being sought on the District's strengths and challenges, as well as skills and characteristics to seek in a superintendent, to provide the Board with data that will be used to help screen and interview the finalists. The Board's partner in the superintendent search process, BWP and Associates, is conducting meetings with PTO Presidents, community members on Board committees, and groups of representative teachers, support staff, and administrators.

To ensure everyone interested in providing input has an opportunity to do so, **all parents, staff, and residents are invited to complete an online survey developed by BWP that will be open December 11-21**. The survey link will be emailed and posted on the District website: www.d181.org > [Board > Surveys and Engagement](#). BWP is also conducting two focus groups to welcome additional feedback from all stakeholders. Those events will be held **Monday, December 11 (9:30am) and Wednesday, December 13 (7:30pm)** at the District's Administration Center ([115 W. 55th Street, Clarendon Hills](#)). An update on the search process will be provided during the Board Business meetings on December 18 and January 16.

D181 Schools Participate in "Hour of Code" Computer Science Activities



Many classes of District 181 students are joining people around the world in celebrating the "Hour of Code" this week. The Hour of Code is an introduction to computer science, designed to "demystify code and show that anybody can learn the basics" according to the non-profit campaign organizers at Code.org. This year's campaign is being hosted December 4-10 as part of Computer Science Education Week. D181 students have engaged in a variety of lessons related to coding, engineering, and robotics.

At Madison School, 4th graders programmed pocket-sized robots to perform a series of commands, and then ended the lesson with a disco-themed robot dance-off.



CHMS Welcomes Award-Winning Author in Preparation for Student Autobiography Project



CHMS 6th graders recently had the opportunity to meet Beth Finke, an award-winning author, teacher, journalist, and recipient of a National Endowment for the Arts grant. She is also a featured commentator on NPR and speaks about accessibility and adversity; Ms. Finke lost her sight when she was 26. She talked with students about writing a memoir and telling a story, as students prepared to write a chapter of their own autobiography. They also learned more about how Ms. Finke's life changed once she became blind, and they met her seeing eye dog, Whitney.



HMS Construction Project Update *Bulley & Andrews Community Meeting Friday*

We encourage community members to visit the [HMS Construction webpage](#) for the latest news on our progress to build a new Hinsdale Middle School. The [project webcam](#) shows current work being completed by the crew as they erect structural steel and continue foundation excavation. Over the coming weeks, structural steel will continue to be set for the east portion of the building and the concrete crews will continue to install the remaining foundations. Mechanical trades are slated to be back on site to complete underground work in the basement.

The Bid Group 3 bid opening took place November 30; Bid Group 3 includes components such as interior finishes, millwork, lab equipment, and gym equipment. The results of the bid opening will be discussed with the Board Facilities Committee and the Board of Education. The project team continues to partner with HMS staff in supporting the school's Behind the Fence Club, which welcomes students interested in learning more about the site activity.

The next community meeting hosted by Bulley & Andrews is slated for this Friday, December 8 at their job site trailer (8am). Members of the team will provide an update on the project and answer questions.



Students from HMS neighbor Union Church of Hinsdale Preschool have been following the HMS construction progress. They were invited over to observe the site from an HMS classroom window and drew pictures of the crew in action while asking questions of HMS administration and a representative from construction manager Bulley & Andrews.



Elm Families Join in P.E. Cosmic Bowl Activity

Elm School parents and grandparents were invited to join students for cosmic bowling in the gym as part of a Physical Education activity. Students demonstrated the techniques they have been learning, as well as their understanding of the game's rules. The bowling mats were provided for District 181 schools through a grant from the D181 Foundation.

Focus on Safety:

Communications to Alert You of a "Snow Day" or "Cold Weather Day"

As we enter the time of year when weather conditions can cause families and staff to wonder whether our schools will be open, we want to be sure you are aware of the ways we would share news of school closures. It is first important to note that we always prefer to keep schools open. When Superintendent Dr. Don White makes a decision to close, it is because our bus system cannot transport students safely and/or because road or weather conditions would create a clear safety concern. If a decision to close is made in the evening regarding a school cancellation for the next day, it will be communicated no later than 8pm whenever possible. If a decision is made in the morning regarding a school cancellation for that day, it will be communicated no later than 6am whenever possible.

"Snow Day" or "Cold Weather Day" communication will be sent/posted through these channels:

- District website (www.d181.org)
- Twitter (@CCSD181)
- Phone call through our auto-notification system
- Email through our auto-notification system
- Text message through our auto-notification system (Opt-In Required)
- **NEW:** Push notification through the District 181 Mobile App (Opt-In Required)
- Emergency Closing Center (www.emergencyclosingcenter.com)

As you may remember, the school calendar allows us to use scheduled holidays and other non-attendance days as make-up days to recover instructional time rather than using Emergency Days built into the calendar at the end of the year. If D181 schools are closed due to severe weather, the plan for converting non-instructional days to school days will be announced as soon as possible.



CHMS 8th Graders Learn the Realities of Personal Finance

On November 10, CHMS 8th graders participated in a "real world" day to end their week-long focus on personal finance and financial literacy. Students were challenged to follow a mock budget in determining how they would purchase a home, insurance, and a car. They built shopping lists and studied utility prices. They also took turns spinning the wheel of misfortune.



Several guest presenters were on hand to support students in the activity, including local realtors and insurance agents. It was noted that students' 1:1 devices were key in allowing them to individually access spreadsheets and resources that teachers had specially designed.

Many of the staff and other adults present for the lesson commented that even in high school and college, they had never been engaged in personal finance education in school and applauded the new "real world" activity.

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.

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 bm McGuigan@d181.org.

www.d181.org • 630.861.4900 • On Twitter @CCSD181

Administration Center: [115 W. 55th Street, Clarendon Hills, IL 60514](#)

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