

D181 E-News and Upcoming Events

1 message

Bridget McGuiggan <broadcasts@schoolmessengermail.com>
 Reply-To: noreply@d181.org
 To: bmcguiggan@d181.org

Tue, Jan 17, 2017 at 2:13 PM



District 181 E-News and Upcoming Events

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Tonight's Board of Education Meeting Agenda

Our next regular Board of Education Business meeting is tonight, January 17, at the Administration Center (7pm). Among other business, the agenda includes a presentation on an HYE (ECRA) Administrative Organizational Study, a Special Education Services Analysis, the Superintendent's Mid-Year Report, the Monthly Financial Report, Committee Reports, and action on Loans/Transfers, the 2017 Summer Learning Program, Policy, Personnel, the 2016-17 Board Meeting Calendar, a Resolution Authorizing Preparation of the 2017-18 Budget, and Acceptance of the FY 2016 Audit and CAFR, among other business. The Superintendent's Report includes several recognitions and a number of important updates, including a progress report on the Strategic Plan, plans for a Board candidate meeting, budget balancing efforts, the HMS construction process, development of the digital learning proposal, staffing / class sizes, calendars for 2017-18 and 2018-19, upcoming parent and staff surveys, and more. Click [here](#) to visit BoardDocs and access the full agenda with related reports. Click [here](#) to visit our LiveStream site and access meeting audio.

Student Artwork on Display at Hinsdale Hospital

The Illinois Art Education Association traveling student art show is stationed at AMITA Health Adventist Medical Center - Hinsdale and will be there through Sunday, January 29. Two of the 45 pieces of student artwork selected for display come from District 181 submissions. Please join in congratulating Prospect student Sam DiPasquale and HMS student Simone Tallentire in having their pieces chosen, and be sure to stop by the hospital to see their artwork, chosen from among nearly 800 K-12 entries! Click [here](#) to learn more about the IAEA student show.

Email Change for Students in Grades 2-8

All D181 students in Grades 2-8 have an @d181students.org email address. Our system currently allows students to receive emails only from other D181 students and D181 staff via their @d181 email addresses. The Technology Department is notifying parents that a small number of pre-approved email addresses are being added as permitted senders to student email accounts. The new permitted groups include District 86 (as some of our students take courses at the high school), Google Docs (as our students use collaborative tools available through Google which generate email notices), and our library software (as students can receive overdue notices via email). Only D181 staff members may request an additional email sender be permitted; those requests will continue to be reviewed by the Tech Department. Thank you for your attention to this change!

Preschool Registration for 2017-18 Begins Today; Preschool Open House Wednesday; Preschool Parent Learning Opportunity January 31

We are now enrolling 2017-18 registrants for our three and four year-old D181 Preschool program. Benefits of our program include state-certified teachers, a high quality curriculum aligned to Illinois Early Learning Standards, competitive tuition, and low student-teacher ratios. To be enrolled for 2017-18, children must turn three years old by September 1, 2017, reside within District boundaries, and be toilet-trained. Registration is accepted at Oak School during school hours. Space is limited; registrants are accepted on a first-come, first-serve basis. All current and prospective families are invited to our Preschool Open House on Wednesday, January 18 at Oak (6:30-7:30pm). Please also note that we are hosting an event on Tuesday, January 31 (9:30am) for parents of 3-5 year-olds on fine motor development; click [here](#) for event details. For more information on preschool registration, please contact Martha Kosek at [630.861.4302](tel:630.861.4302) or go online to www.d181.org > Schools > Preschool. Kindergarten registration for 2017-18

will begin February 22. Registration for returning students entering Grades 1-8 is slated to begin after spring break.

Thursday Parent Event: "Understanding Your Child's Behavior"

Dana Burke, a District 181 staff member and board-certified Behavior Analyst, will be leading a presentation for parents this Thursday, January 19 at Monroe (7-8pm). Ms. Burke will help parents understand their children's behavior. Attendees will come away with more information about how to identify the function of challenging behaviors and individual responses and interventions that can be used at home. No registration is required, and all parents are welcomed!

Opt-In Opportunity for School / District Text Message Alerts

We now offer the opportunity for parents and staff to opt-in for text messages from the District and D181 schools. These texts will be limited to three types of important messages: (1) Transportation Alerts (e.g., bus delays), (2) Weather Alerts (e.g., snow days), and (3) Safety Alerts (e.g., power outage). Receiving a text is a fast and easy way to help ensure you don't miss an e-mail with this type of timely news. Texts will be sent via SchoolMessenger, the same notification system used for automated e-mails and phone calls. Please view this [one-page FAQ](#) for more information and the simple steps for opting-in!

New Community Fliers Posted in Online "Backpack"

Be sure to visit our [online Community Backpack](#) for the latest fliers from local, non-profit organizations. For example, the LaGrange Area League of Women Voters is hosting a program regarding police-community relations on Thursday, January 26.

Upcoming Events

- January 17: Preschool Registration Begins for New Students
- January 17: Board of Education Business Meeting (7pm, Admin Center)
- January 18: Facilities Committee Meeting (4pm, Admin Center)
- January 18: Preschool Open House (6:30pm, Oak)
- January 19: "Understanding Your Child's Behavior" Parent Event (7pm, Monroe)
- January 24: HMS Construction Update and Q&A Community Event (6:30pm, HMS)
- January 31: "Exploring Fine Motor Development for 3-5 Year-Olds" Parent Event (9:30am, Admin Center)
- February 2: Academic Success Committee Meeting (9am, Admin Center)
- February 7: "Mindful Parenting" with Dr. Kristen Race, a Community Speaker Series Event (7pm, The Community House - [Register](#))
- February 8: "Mindful Parenting" with Dr. Kristen Race, a Community Speaker Series Event (9:30am, The Community House - [Register](#))
- February 9: Board Finance Committee Meeting (4pm, Admin Center)
- February 13: Board of Education Business Meeting (7pm, Admin Center)
- February 15: Board Facilities Committee Meeting (4pm, Admin Center)
- February 15: "Transitioning into Middle School with an IEP or 504" Parent Event (7pm, Monroe)
- February 20: No School, Presidents Day
- February 22-23: Registration Opens for 2017-18 Kindergarten Enrollment
- February 23: Young Writers Night (6:15pm, HMS)
- February 27: Board of Education Business Meeting (7pm, Admin Center)
- February 28: Heroin Education Family Night (7pm, HMS)

SELAS Connections: "Tough Talks Made Easier"

It could be that we're making headway as parents, schools, and communities help teens make good choices and avoid substance use. The most [recent national data](#) from *Monitoring the Future* is encouraging in its report that teen use of any illicit drug, including alcohol, but other than marijuana, is at a new low. Low norms have a power of their own and can be underwritten by the awareness and watchfulness of parents, supportive schools that incorporate [social and emotional learning](#), and the steady vigilance of our communities to encourage prosocial behavior and provide access to mental health resources. This good news is well earned but doesn't signal the need for any less attention to the problem of substance use by our youth. [Studies](#) show that **parents are the biggest influencers of their child's decision-making about illicit substance use**, particularly when parents express their disapproval. Sounds simple, but most of us need some help in learning how to start and continue those conversations, from information about substance use and understanding of the pre-teen and teen brain, to ways to express our own beliefs and concerns to our children. It is also important to listen to them and learn about their friends, social lives, and stresses. To help, **Robert Crown Center is hosting an evening for parents, Raising Healthy Teens in a Digital Age: Drug Abuse Prevention, on Monday, January 23 (7-8pm)**. Click [here](#) for details. Robert Crown Center staff work with our middle school students on various aspects of health and wellness, including human sexuality and risk taking behaviors. Please join them as the new year continues, and learn strategies to ease the important conversations with your children about difficult subjects. Talk the Talk and Walk the Walk! Learn more at [Get the Conversation Started](#).

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Have a great week!

Bridget McGuiggan, APR
Director of Communications
Community Consolidated School District 181
[630.861.4924](tel:630.861.4924) • bm McGuiggan@d181.org
On Twitter [@CCSD181](#)

Vision: To be a community school district where students develop the skills they need to change the world and the confidence they need to do it.

Mission: To provide a premier educational experience that teaches students to be critical thinkers and enables them to achieve their full potential – academically, socially, and emotionally.

Administration Center: 115 West 55th Street, Clarendon Hills, IL 60514 • 630.861.4900 • www.d181.org

CHMS 630.861.4800 • HMS 630.861.4700 • Elm 630.861.4000 • Madison 630.861.4100 • Monroe 630.861.4200 • Oak 630.861.4300 • Prospect 630.861.4400 • The Lane 630.861.4500 • Walker 630.861.4600 • ECE 630.861.4354

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