

Chalk Board News



Spring | Summer **July 2016**

“All of us do not have equal talent, but all of us should have an equal opportunity to develop our talent.” - JOHN F. KENNEDY

Dear Friends,

As I begin my final year of my career in education on July 1st I have become very reflective about the educational profession, of which I love very much. Public school teaching is THE noblest of all professions. We don't pick and choose who shows up in our classrooms yet we welcome each and every student. Our current fight for equitable education funding is little different from the past many decades of this same fight with the state.

Illinois has never (in my over thirty years' career) been ranked higher than 48th place nationally in state funding for schools no matter which political party has been in office. So what does that say about what we value?

From having spent these past seven years here in Winfield I know that our families very much value the outstanding education their children receive in D34. Our parents and community members have always supported us either through volunteerism, showing up to an event or through donation. We see parents regularly; a sight to be envied by many districts who struggle to get their parents to visit. And as a result of these visits one can draw their own conclusion about the kind of educational experience we offer our students.

I would argue that what we are most proud of here in D34 is what most school districts are also boastful about. And despite that federal and state funding falls way short of their obligations for our children we still provide outstanding public education opportunities here in Illinois. According to one recent analysis of 13 metrics ranging from student-teacher ratios to standardized test scores to dropout rates that compared the quality of education in the 50 U.S.



states and D.C. Illinois' overall ranking is 10th nationally, 8th in school system quality and 2nd in SAT scores.

As we celebrate all of our students' accomplishments at the end of this school year it is, at times, difficult to focus solely on the good stuff when so much is in the news highlighting the bad. Because our legislators and the Governor end the year once again without a budget it creates much anxiety among communities. You probably have read or may read about some districts preparing for the worst by staff layoffs and making huge budget cuts. I can assure you that ending this Fiscal Year 2016 we budgeted very conservatively and continue to do the same with this next Fiscal Year 2017 budget. And because we have maintained very conservative budgeting practices over these many years we will be able to open our doors on time without issue this August 18th to welcome back our students.

We are not unlike many school districts with our aging buildings but just because our exterior is not state-of-the-art it doesn't mean our students aren't getting a superior educational experience. I ask that you not judge our schools or any schools by what you see on the outside when driving through different neighborhoods or by reading achievement score comparisons, which are usually one-sided articles in the news meant only to insult. We have struggled for decades to garner the respect in our profession which we, as educators, so deserve. In this country teaching is not considered the premier profession as it is in other countries but I would remind you of this quote:

“Teaching is the one profession that creates all other professions,”

Author Unknown

Best Wishes,

Gwynne Kell, Ph.D., *Superintendent*

Summer Reading Program

All students who complete the Winfield Library summer reading program will be eligible for a special prize when they return to school in the fall! **Students will need to turn in their completed reading log from the Winfield Library to their new teacher in the fall.**

Please make family reading a priority this summer!

Visit our Winfield School website, under the Parents tab, then Summer Reading Programs, for information on the Winfield Library Summer Reading Program and Events and for a variety of summer reading ideas!



THE MISSION OF WINFIELD DISTRICT 34 IS TO CHALLENGE, INSPIRE AND EMPOWER PASSION WITHIN ALL LEARNERS.

WINFIELD SCHOOLS

District 34 Administrative Offices
OS150 Winfield Road
Winfield, IL 60190
phone 630.909.4900
fax 630.260.2382

Winfield Primary School
OS150 Winfield Rd
Winfield, IL 60190
phone 630.909.4910
fax 630.260.2382

Winfield Central School
OS150 Park
Winfield, IL 60190
phone 630.909.4960
fax 630.933.9236

Students Interview retiring D34 teachers



Ms. Kueker,

Art Teacher

Interviewed by Amber Dotson, 8th grade

Ms. Kueker has been teaching here for a quarter of a century! She moved to Winfield in 1981 and her daughter started kindergarten that year. Ms. Kueker began as a paraprofessional in District 34 and then became the art teacher for a portion of the day. She enjoyed when art was offered at every grade level and seeing how the 8th graders had developed their skills as artists throughout the years. Ms. Kueker plans to spend time with her mom, who lives downstate, and of course, her grandkids!!



Ms. Zeman,

Physical Education Teacher

Interviewed by Eve Linden, 7th grade

Ms. Zeman has been a teacher in District 34 for 33 years. Throughout her career, she has taught kindergarten through 8th grade and loves the kids here in Winfield. The reason she went into teaching was because she loves to watch students grow up, knowing she did something to help them get to where they are. Her favorite unit to teach is badminton because it was her main sport in high school and college. In addition to being a teacher, Ms. Zeman has been a referee, coach, and Activities Director. She has played many

sports over the years, including basketball, volleyball, softball, bowling, and field hockey. After she retires, Ms. Zeman plans to travel and spend time with her grandchildren. We are honored to have had Ms. Zeman here in Winfield and we will miss her!

Thank you

Mrs. Hennessy

for your 34 years of service.

Good luck in your retirement. Winfield District 34 will miss you!

Mark Your Calendar

Summer Sports Camp: July 19, 20, 21, 25, 26, 27, 28
10-11:30 a.m. Basketball Camp boys and girls grades 4-6 \$45.00
Registration required

NOTE: Per state law, the first and last days of school will be a full student attendance day.

Aug. 16 Institute Day

Aug. 17 Institute Day/Meet the Teacher
PreK-8th Grade 2:30-3:30 p.m.

Aug. 18 First full student attendance day PreK-8th

Aug. 19 Northwestern Sports Physicals for 7th & 8th graders
1:00-3:15 p.m.

Aug. 25 Board of Education Meeting /Budget Hearing; 6:55 p.m.

Aug. 26 PTO Back to School Ice Cream Social on Primary
Playground 5:30-7:00 p.m.

Sept. 5 Labor Day / NO SCHOOL

Sept. 7 PTO Budget Review at 6:30 p.m. and meeting at 7:00 p.m.
in Central Commons

Sept. 11 Good Old Days 1:00 p.m. Staff in Parade

Sept. 22 Board of Education Meeting 7:00 p.m.

Sept. 23 PTO Family Bingo Night

Sept. 27 PreK-8th Grade Curriculum Night 6:00-8:00 p.m.

Sept. 30 School Improvement Day
Early Dismissal/Half Day PTO Social at Noon

Oct. 5 PTO Meeting 7:00 p.m. in Central Commons

Oct. 10 Columbus Day NO SCHOOL

Oct. 12 Fall Picture Day

Oct. 21 PTO Family Bingo Night

Oct. 27 Board of Education Meeting 7:00 p.m.

Oct. 28 School Improvement Day
Early Dismissal /Half Day PTO Social at Noon

Oct. 31 No School / Teacher Workday

Nov. 1 Parent-Teacher conferences 4:30-7:00 p.m.

Nov. 2 PTO Meeting 7:00 p.m. in Central Commons

Nov. 6 PTO Family Movie Night

Nov. 3, 7, 9 Parent-Teacher conferences 3:30-6:00 p.m.

Nov. 14 Board of Education Meeting 7:00 p.m.

Nov. 21-25 No School

Dec. 1 Yearbook, Group and Candid Photos

Dec. 7 PTO Meeting 7:00 p.m. in Central Commons

Dec. 12 PTO Lou Malnati's Pizza Sale starts

Dec. 21- Winter Break

Jan. 3

Jan. 4 School Resumes

School calendar information may be found on the Winfield District 34 website at www.winfield34.org

CONGRATULATIONS CLASS OF 2016

Daniel Bennett
David Brown
Brock Bunn
Nicholas Christopher
Amber Dotson
Jaeda Fini
Joshua Giambrone

Josephina Gloss
Luka Golub
Xavier Gomez
Madelyn Goodale
Shawn Gutierrez
Heather Hanlock
Robert Hansen

Alexys Hayes
Nathan Hiltner
Nathan Linhardt
Abbigale Lundblad
Ethan Lundblad
Alya Luteyn
Carter Malay

Aram Mohammadi
Eduardo Nava
Hanah Nickrand
Alan Niedzwiedz
Abigail O'Keefe
LaTanya Phillips
Anne Robbins

Brodey Rodono
Maxwell Russo
Emma Schultz
Su Shanahan
David Sigidin
Matthew Sticha
Samuel Stone

Tyler Student
Ryan Tennis
Jeremy Thompson
Andrea Tipton
Helen Turek
Clare Weber
Tyler Woltman



High Honor Roll

Daniel Bennett
Jaeda Fini
Josephina Gloss
Xavier Gomez
Madelyn Goodale
Alexys Hayes
Alya Luteyn
Carter Malay
Emma Schultz
Su Shanahan
Samuel Stone
Andrea Tipton
Clare Weber

Honor Roll

Brock Bunn
Joshua Giambrone
Luka Golub
Heather Hanlock
Nathan Hiltner
Nathan Linhardt
Ethan Lundblad
Hanah Nickrand
LaTanya Phillips
Brodey Rodono
Matthew Sticha
Tyler Student
Ryan Tennis
Helen Turek
Tyler Woltman

Student Council President

Xavier Gomez

Student Council Vice-President

Alya Luteyn

Student Council Treasurer

Robert Hansen

Student Council Representative

Clare Weber

Band Awards

Brock Bunn
David Brown
Luka Golub
Xavier Gomez
Nathan Hiltner
Alya Luteyn
Brodey Rodono
Max Russo
Sam Stone
Clare Weber

World Beat

Amber Dotson
Nathan Linhardt
Sam Stone

8th Grade Music Award

Sam Stone

Art Awards

Amber Dotson
Anne Robbins
Andrea Tipton

Drama Awards

David Brown
Amber Dotson
Madelyn Goodale
Heather Hanlock
Robert Hansen
Abbigale Lundblad
Abigail O'Keefe
Max Russo

Outstanding Athlete Awards

Emma Schultz
David Sigidin

John Hemmer

Spirit Awards
Andrea Tipton
Carter Malay

Fitness Awards

Gold
Jaeda Fini
Alya Luteyn
Carter Malay
Emma Schultz
David Sigidin
Helen Turek

Silver

Joshua Giambrone
Madelyn Goodale
Abigail O'Keefe
Anne Robbins

Bronze

Josephina Gloss
Alexys Hayes
Nathan Hiltner
Abbigale Lundblad
LaTanya Phillips
Brodey Rodono
Su Shanahan
Tyler Student
Ryan Tennis
Jeremy Thompson
Andrea Tipton
Clare Weber
Tyler Woltman

Social Studies- Geography Awards

Dan Bennett
Ethan Lundblad

Social Studies- Current Events Awards

Brock Bunn
Amber Dotson

Foreign Language Awards

Xavier Gomez

Madelyn Goodale
Sam Stone
Clare Weber

Science Awards

Jaeda Fini
Xavier Gomez
Madelyn Goodale
Emma Schultz
Andrea Tipton
Clare Weber

Language Arts Awards

Amber Dotson
Josephina Gloss
Xavier Gomez
Madelyn Goodale
Alexys Hayes
Carter Malay
Emma Schultz
Ryan Tennis
Andrea Tipton
Helen Turek
Clare Weber

Math Awards

Brock Bunn
Josephina Gloss
Luka Golub
Madelyn Goodale
Hanah Nickrand
Carter Malay

Abigail O'Keefe
Ryan Tennis
Andrea Tipton
Clare Weber

Technology Awards

Danny Bennett
Eduardo Nava

Volunteer Service Awards

Josephina Gloss
Luka Golub
Xavier Gomez
Nate Linhardt
Abbigale Lundblad
Carter Malay
Eduardo Nava
LaTanya Phillips
Max Russo
Su Shanahan
Ryan Tennis
Andrea Tipton
Helen Turek
Clare Weber

Student Leadership Team Awards

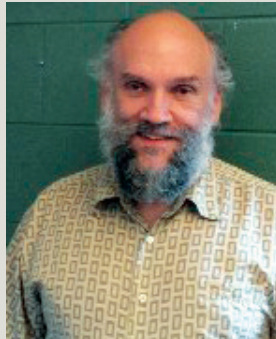
Brock Bunn
Max Russo
Andrea Tipton

Perfect Attendance Award

Su Shanahan

Message from President of Winfield Board of Education

Your Winfield School Board is about to begin some of the most important work that any school board can conduct. We are starting the search for a new superintendent. Dr. Gwynne Kell, who has been our superintendent since 2009, is retiring in June of 2017. Dr. Kell has done much to shape and build our district and we are grateful for all of her hard work. The superintendent is the only person that a school board directly manages. Once a superintendent is in place, the board delegates authority to him or her to manage the rest of the staff in a district. Out of all of the many decisions that school boards make, the choice of a superintendent is by far the most impactful in the life and growth of a district. A search process usually means extra meetings and long hours for the board. Thanks in advance to our board members for the upcoming effort. The search process will be starting soon. This summer our board will hire a search firm. They will help us to craft the process for choosing our next superintendent and will help us to find candidates to consider. We hope to formally start the search process in August and would like to have a new superintendent named before the end of 2016 to allow for a smooth transition. During the next year we should all take the opportunity to thank Dr. Kell for her exemplary work and positive impact that she has had on our school and in our community. Thank you Dr. Kell!



Winfield PTO

Winfield PTO's mission is to organize activities that foster the connection between home and school life and provide resources benefiting district children and their families. We are proud to be part of a collaborative community of District 34 staff, families, and local businesses working to do just that.

Fundraisers this year included Main Event family night, Prosek's Greenhouse plant sale, Lou Malnati's pizza sale, and an online auction of staff-donated prizes. Our biggest fundraiser of the year was the 5K Tiger Run, a fun and successful family event which raised \$4,000 for our school. We organized activities such as Lifetime Fitness rock climbing, family movie nights, and Cook's Night Out social events. We partnered with many businesses throughout the community in hopes of thanking them for their support of our school and found ways to show gratitude to the dedicated teachers and staff of our district.

Thanks to our community's support, and a generous contribution of \$4,000 from the Winfield Education Foundation, PTO was able to fund two large district priorities this year – an electronic sign for Winfield Road and gates to complete the playground fences. PTO also funded teacher requests including novels, stand-up desks, Osmo Genius kits, an HD Camcorder, an in-class field trip from the DuPage Historical Museum amongst other items that assist in classroom learning. PTO provided educational and entertaining all-school assemblies, including the Ripchords, an a Capella group from University of Illinois, and "The Rope Warrior".

None of this would be possible without the generous participation of our community and the energy, talents and time of our volunteers. We especially thank the coordinators that ran our activities this year. THANK YOU for helping us make a difference!

This summer, please consider participating in these ongoing programs to help raise money for our students and teachers:

- **Kellogg's Family Rewards**
- **My Coke Rewards Program**
- **Tyson Project A+ Labels**
- **Box Tops for Education** (General Mills products)
- **Ink Cartridge Recycling** (used printer ink cartridges-any size)
- **Fundico.org** (for Amazon purchases)
- **Shoparoo (NEW)** - submit pictures of your receipts to earn cash for school

See the PTO website or contact PTO for more details on these initiatives.
<http://www.winfield34.org/pto>

Have a great summer.

Sincerely,
Eileen Tibble and Jamie Reid, PTO Co-Presidents

Winfield Education Foundation

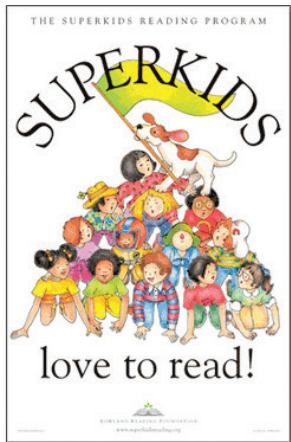
The Winfield Education Foundation was started by a group of parents, teachers and community members with a vision of supporting innovative educational objectives in District 34 which might not be covered in the District budget. WEF continues to raise money to support our after school tutoring program-LEAP.

The Foundation continues to receive funds from Cadence (Northwestern CDH) to fully cover our nurse and crossing-guards. We also receive money for our healthy snacks program through them. WEF continues to work collaboratively with our PTO and recently helped fund the new electronic sign that will help communicate many District events and activities. WEF is a great organization which would love to continue to grow in this community. We meet 3-4 times a year and are always interested in welcoming new members! For questions or inquiries contact Donna Bartlett, President at dbartlett@winfield34.org

New Curricula

by Dawn Reinke, Principal

This year, students in kindergarten through second grade began using a new literacy curriculum called Superkids. With the help of the Superkids characters, who each represent a specific sound, students learned how to decode and encode then applied those skills in the areas of reading, writing, spelling, and grammar, in this integrated approach to literacy. This program was created by the Rowland Reading Foundation following longitudinal studies conducted by The Center for Research on Educational Policy using the Stanford Early School Achievement Test. Following one full year of implementation, teachers have seen solid growth for our primary students in all literacy skills.



Middle School Math Curriculum

McGraw Hill Education - Glencoe Math



Course 1 @2015 Course 2 @2015 Course 3/PreAlgebra @2015 PreAlgebra @2015 Algebra 1 @2014

- 2 Year Pilot Conducted
- Common Core Aligned
- Digital Planning Tools
- On-line Editions for Home
- Courses 1-3 are Consumable
- Interactive On-line Resources

Our middle school students will have new math and science curricula in the fall. For Math, the students will be using McGraw Hill Education - Glencoe Math, which is a Common Core aligned math curriculum. The courses include those at grade level, as well as pre-algebra and algebra. For Science, FOSS was chosen and is aligned to the Next Generation Science Standards, which integrate the Common Core Learning Standards for English Language Arts and Math. The students will learn about the physical, earth, and life sciences through authentic investigations, analysis, and reflection. Both of the new middle school curricula include digital components and resources.

Online Safety During Summer Vacation

Summer vacation is here! The pencils and notebooks are packed away and the kids are ready for some summer fun! Children love the hot summer months because they provide the perfect opportunity to spend lots of time doing the things they love! Whether it's swimming in the pool, taking long walks, going for a bike ride, or spending time using their favorite technology/gaming devices, they have plenty of extra time away from school.



While we hope everyone enjoys the freedom of summer, we want to also remind parents that there are potential dangers during the summer months, and it's important to be aware of what they are. Brochures on Online Safety are provided in each of the Winfield School offices and there are many resources and tips provided under the Technology Department on our Winfield website. The Internet and social media can be a great source of fun and social interaction for our kids; it can also be a dangerous place. While it feels like home is the safest place for our children - the more time they spend online the more they could potentially be exposed to a variety of content. Please monitor your child's device often and have a safe summer!

Community Chest Grant Provides Programming for Winfield Students

District 34's Winfield Community Chest Application was funded in the amount of \$4,000 in support of our planned activities to promote the overall health and well-being of the residents of Winfield. The goal of the grant proposal is to expand the scope of educational experiences that students in the DLP (Developmental Learning Program) and SLT (Student Leadership Team) currently provide. Through the creation of this program students are given opportunities to engage collaboratively in activities that contribute to the well-being of their school and community (Illinois Social Emotional Learning Standard 3C). Approximately 14 staff selected student leaders (6th-8th grade) will be partnered with students from the DLP classroom (7 students) and trained in a leadership role to serve as peer mentors throughout the school year with a special emphasis on instruction related to community-based learning.

Funds will be used to plan and organize five community outings to various locations that address the learning of life skills for the DLP students. The grant funds will provide funds to pay for transportation to and from our destinations to locations outside of Winfield, as well as funds involved with each activity. Community outings will include recreation and leisure, lunch meetings, and community service projects. Destinations may include but are not limited to the following; Feed My Starving Children, local retailers to purchase items for giving back to the community, local restaurants to plan for activities, and recreational facilities in order to build and foster relationships.

Throughout the school year, student leaders will be guided and instructed in relationship building and modeling of appropriate social behaviors in their role as student mentors. Students will work together in the school environment to build supportive relationships with one another, and collaboratively plan for the implementation of a service project that taps into their talents, skills, and sense of civic duty.

Sports & Activities

It was an exciting year for athletics and clubs here in Winfield School District 34. I would like to thank the coaches and club sponsors for all of their hard work and dedication. I also would like to recognize the players and club members for all of their enthusiasm and energy.

Soccer

The Winfield School District 34 soccer season was to begin in August but unfortunately, the season was cancelled because other schools in the conference could not field a team. Not wanting to cancel the season completely, Ms. Magnuson formed an intramural program for 13 players, which she ran twice a week for eight weeks. The students involved received soccer instruction in a less competitive atmosphere. The intramural program ended with a game against the teachers from Winfield School.



Girls' Volleyball



The Girls' Volleyball season coincided with our soccer season. It began in August and ended in late October. This sport was open to 7th and 8th grade girls. A total of 27 students participated this year. Coach Theisen taught the JV and Varsity teams how to bump, serve, and set the ball. Varsity ended the season with a 5-4 record. The JV team finished 3-7 on the year, but had a strong finish by placing second in the conference tournament.

Boys' Basketball

The Boys' Basketball season began in October and continued throughout December. This sport was open to 7th and 8th grade boys. A total of 23 students participated. Coach Leisering worked on dribbling, passing, shooting, and playing defense. The varsity team ended with a 4-6 record while the JV team ended with a 10-0 record. The conference tournament was held at Winfield School. The JV team had a very exciting championship game by winning in the last seconds in front of their home crowd.



Cheerleading

Our Cheerleading team, led by club sponsors Amanda Moersch and Melissa Doucet, came to every home basketball game and rooted our boys on to victory. Cheerleading was offered to all 5th-8th grade girls. A total of 15 girls participated.



Track

Track is open to all middle school students. It began after spring break and ran through May. Track was coached by Coach Kahlfeldt and Coach Wdowiarz. A total of 37 students participated in Track this year. The girls finished second in conference while the boys finished first. Carter Malay broke the conference triple jump record previously held by his brother, Kyle Malay. Nathan Hiltner tied the 400m conference record.

Girls' Basketball

The Girls' Basketball season began in January and ended in February. This sport was offered to 6th, 7th, and 8th grade girls. Last year, we had only a varsity team. This year, we had a varsity and JV team; the JV team won their conference. A total of 16 girls participated. Coach Theisen taught the girls how to dribble, pass, shoot, play defense, and offense. It was a very exciting basketball season.



Photography Club

Mrs. First ran our Photography Club from October through December. A total of 7 students participated. She worked with the students on how to take quality and creative pictures using our district's technology. Mrs. First proudly displayed her club's work in the school hallways.

Safety Patrol

Safety Patrol, led by club sponsor Mrs. Macmillan, was a huge success this year. Safety Patrol was offered to all 4th and 5th grade boys and girls and a total of 24 students participated. These 24 students braved the cold Illinois winter in order to help keep our students safe. The highlight of Safety Patrol this year was the delicious donuts provided on Fridays.

Chess Club

During the months of February and March, Chess Club met for six Monday sessions. This club was led by an organization called Chess Scholars. It was open to 2nd, 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade boys and girls. 25 students joined this club. The focus of this club was to learn the basics of the game and develop strategic thinking.

Drama Club

Drama Club took place during the months of November-March. This club was led by sponsors Kathy Kueker and Matt Wdowiarz. It was open to all 5th-8th boys and girls. The production for this year was *The Wizard of Oz*.

Art Club

Art Club, Student Council, Band, and World Beat met throughout the months of September through June. Art Club was led by club sponsor Kathy Kueker and was open to all 5th-8th grade boys and girls with 16 students participating. Student Council was led by club sponsor Patti Hennessy and Shona Dave. It was open to all 6th-8th graders. Band and World Beat are two classes offered by music teacher, Bob Siemienkovicz. They are open to all 5th-8th grade boys and girls. 50 students participated in concert band, 13 students participated in 5th grade band, and 16 students participated in World Beat.

Summer Basketball Camp

Steve Kahlfeldt will once again run a Summer Basketball Camp open to all students entering 4th-6th grade. The Basketball Camp will be run from 10:00-11:30 a.m. on July 19, 20, 21, 25, 26, 27, and 28.

Thanks from Your Winfield School District 34 Activities Director Ray Serbick!

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CONTACT US

Please send your comments, questions or suggestions to Superintendent Dr. Gwynne Kell at the District Office or email, gkell@winfield34.org

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