



DuPage Regional Office of
EDUCATION
Excellence in Education

“The DuPage Regional Office of Education collaboratively builds and sustains a high quality County educational community for all youth.”

– Darlene J. Ruscitti

March 23, 2016 Volume VI, Issue VII

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Latest News

Powerless Children Need Powerful Friends - April is Child Abuse Prevention Month

Seventy-three children died in the state of Illinois last year due to abuse or neglect. This is a problem that cannot be ignored. The month of April is dedicated to Child Abuse Awareness. Everyone in the community is invited to shine a light on abuse and neglect and show their support. There are many ways to help:

- Choose a day in April where all staff wears blue.
- Request a sign from CASA to put in front of your business to raise awareness about Child Abuse Prevention Month.
- Tie blue ribbons on the branches or trunks of the trees in front of your building or place of business.

- Request a table sign and pinwheel to put at the reception area of your office.

For more information, contact Lisa Drake lisa@dupagecasa.org / 630-221-0889 x305 or Beth Stremel beth@dupagecasa.org / 630- 221-0889 x304.

Become a CASA Volunteer

A safe and permanent home isn't something a child should only dream about. Volunteers are needed to become CASAs or Court Appointed Special Advocates. These volunteer Advocates are trained and supported by CASA staff to monitor the cases of children aged birth to eighteen who have been subjected to abuse and/or neglect and are a part of DuPage County juvenile court system. For more information about this critical program helping the most vulnerable children in this county, please go to CASA of DuPage County's website at: www.dupagecasa.org or call 630-221-0889.

CASA volunteers are currently advocating for 250 abused, neglected or dependent children in DuPage County.

Notable

Illinois Global Scholar Initiative Passes Senate Education Committee

Illinois Global Scholar initiative has passed the Senate Education Committee and is now in the full Senate. The Illinois Global Scholar Certificate responds to a growing body of research that suggests future careers will depend heavily upon students' ability to work and collaborate in multiple cultural contexts. To achieve success tomorrow, Illinois students must learn to navigate and achieve in a competitive and globalized world today. As a complement to Illinois high school curricular goals, the Illinois Global Scholar Certificate aims to recognize on the state transcript students who have attained global skills and knowledge through academic coursework, global collaboration, service learning and a summative capstone project. The time has come to reward Illinois students for achieving the skills and knowledge crucial to success in a rapidly changing globalized world. The Illinois Global Scholar Certificate will meet those needs and prepare students for success in the 21st century.

"The importance of civic education is a concept I have long championed," said Dr. Darlene Ruscitti, DuPage Regional Superintendent of Schools. "I feel strongly about the positive impact of the Illinois Global Scholar initiative and encourage anyone interested to show their support."

To register your support go to www.IllinoisGlobalScholar.org.

Chasing the Dragon: The Life of an Opiate Addict

In an effort to combat the growing epidemic of prescription drug and heroin abuse, the FBI and DEA have released a documentary aimed at educating students and young adults about the dangers of addiction.

This problem faces DuPage County where there has been a steady rise in the number of fatal heroin overdoses. In 2013, 46 people died in DuPage County. The victims ranged in age from 15 to 64.

Recognizing the seriousness of heroin use in our community, DuPage Coalition Against Heroin was formed to raise awareness and educate the public about this growing problem. Regional Superintendent of Schools Dr. Darlene Ruscitti was a founding member of the coalition and firmly believes that prevention through education is the key to saving our children and our community.

To view the 50 minute video and other resources, go to:

<https://www.fbi.gov/news/stories/2016/february/raising-awareness-of-opioid-addiction/video/chasing-the-dragon-the-life-of-an-opiate-addict>

DuPagePads Strikes Back

DuPagePads 14th Annual Galaxy Bowl will be held Saturday, April 16, 2016 at Fox Bowl in Wheaton. Five-person teams agree to raise a minimum of \$500 and compete to win trophies for team bowling scores and fundraising. A team fundraising webpage is set up for each team, making it easy to collect donations and share information with friends and family. Funds raised support DuPagePads' programs that provide housing, coupled with support services and employment to assist families and individuals who are homeless in DuPage County.

Register your team today as only a few lanes remain. Contact Kariann at 630-682-3846 ext. 2290 or KLazansky@dupagepads.org to reserve your lane. For more information, visit www.dupagepads.org.

DuPage ROE Update

DuPage ROE Parents as Teachers Program Partners with Loaves and Fishes

The DuPage ROE Parents as Teachers program is excited to announce their partnership with Loaves and Fishes of Naperville. Parents as Teachers educators work with parents of children up to age 3 to provide supports to increase parenting skills. Their intake process will now include a screening tool to identify young children living in households that are at risk of food insecurity. The parent educators will refer at-risk families to Loaves and Fishes and, for those families lacking readily available transportation, will pick up and deliver food during home visits.

"Partnering with Loaves and Fishes is another way to support our families in making sure that their children will learn, grow and develop to realize their full potential," said Parents as Teacher Coordinator Lucy Ferri.

For more information about the Parents as Teachers program, contact Lucy Ferri at 630-878-1041.

DuPage Schools Highlight SEL Programs

The leadership of the DuPage County Regional Office of Education leveraged an existing partnership with CASEL (funded through a grant from NoVo Foundation) to collaborate on a model that would build district capacity and sustain social and emotional learning (SEL) in schools across the county. This four-year initiative is grounded in CASEL's emphasis on the creation of systemic changes leading to effective, sustainable, long-term implementation of SEL. Now in its fourth year, the partnership is in 12 districts in DuPage County. At a recent partnership meeting three DuPage districts shared their SEL stories. Below is a brief summary.

Naperville 203: Developing Teacher Capacity to Lead SEL in Each Building

Presenters: Lisa Xagas, Pete Flaherty, Lori Kimberley, and Justin Elder

In 2014, when District 203 joined the partnership, the district began developing school-based teacher leaders for SEL. Currently there are two to four teacher leaders per building and 45 teacher leaders across 22 buildings. By June 2016, they will have curriculum maps for each grade that integrate SEL into the curriculum.

District Contact: Lisa Xagas - lxagas@naperville203.org

Medinah District 11: Teachers Lead Implementation of SEL Programs

Presenters: Ellen Cosgrove, Kris Leonard, and Tammi Mellert

When District 11 joined the partnership in 2010, they recognized that SEL could integrate a number of district initiatives and concerns, including bullying prevention, under the SEL umbrella. Using the approach outlined in CASEL's Schoolwide SEL Implementation Guide, they collected baseline data about school, relationships, and school climate from teachers and students. The district has merged PBIS with SEL with the addition of the Second Step program. Social workers are developing a curriculum guide for the district.

District contact – Dr. Susan Redell - sredell@medinah11.org

Center Cass District 66: District Aligned PLC Structure includes SEL

Presenters: Tim Arnold, Kim Liles, and Meg Will

Center Cass Superintendent Tim Arnold describes their PLC structure and process as bottom-up with Grade Level Teams providing input to Building Level Teams who share that information with the District Leadership Team and Administrative Leadership Team. Together, these four teams address operational, tactical, and strategic needs and goals. Each grade level has written an SEL goal which is reviewed three times each year. At the junior high level they focus their SEL teaching on skills necessary for group work.

District Contact: Kim Liles - kliles@ccsd66.org

STEM Newsletter



The DuPage ROE STEM team continues to produce an informative STEM Newsletter highlighting local events and STEM opportunities. [Click here](#) to access the March 2016 edition.

Past newsletters are posted on the DuPage ROE STEM website at www.stemdupage.com.

Two DuPage County Educators Finalists for the 2016 Golden Apple Award

Finalist Daniel Krause, high school principal and finalist Jeff Grant, a high school teacher, are a testament to the high quality education our students receive in DuPage County.

Willowbrook High School Principal Daniel Krause is a finalist for the 2016 Golden Apple Stanley C. Golder Leadership Award. The Leadership award focused on commitment to student achievement and expertise in curriculum. Krause is in his ninth year as Willowbrook's principal and created a resource period for students to receive extra academic help during the school day. The winner of the leadership award will receive \$10,000 for his or her professional development and a school project of their choice.

Jeff Grant, teacher at Downers Grove North High School is a finalist for the Excellence in Teaching Golden Apple Award. Grant was nominated for making a difference in students' lives and working to build a stronger, better-education community. The winners of the teaching award will receive \$5,000, one tuition-free spring quarter sabbatical to study at Northwestern University and membership into the Fellow of Golden Apple Academy for Educators.

Congratulations to our DuPage Educators for the honor of becoming finalists.

A Message from the Governor's Office

Governor Rauner recently proposed a historic level of funding for PK-12 schools in Fiscal Year 2017. With an increase of \$55 million over Fiscal Year 2016 enacted levels, the Governor's proposed General State Aid (GSA) budget would fully fund the foundation-level for the first time in seven years. Full GSA funding would eliminate proration and mean increased support for schools around the state. Additionally, the Governor's proposed budget would increase early childhood funding by \$75 million. Governor Rauner has called on the General Assembly to pass this school funding bill into law without delay.

Unfortunately, Democratic leaders signaled their desire to tie PK-12 school funding to the budget impasse and to an overhaul of the school funding formula. Governor Rauner believes that the General Assembly should pass his school funding budget without strings attached - ensuring that schools open in the fall without proration and with record funding for early childhood education.

The Governor remains committed to addressing the inequities in our current system and to increasing the amount of money available to schools. But neither the debate over funding reform nor the debate over the budget should hold up record funding for all schools in Illinois. If you agree, I encourage you to contact your elected officials and urge them to pass a no-strings attached PK-12 funding bill without delay.

Growing Number of Illinois Graduates Excel on AP Exams

Illinois ranks 11th in the nation for the percentage of 2015 graduates – 25 percent – who scored at least a 3 on the rigorous College Board Advanced Placement (AP) exams during their high school career. The national average is 22.4 percent, according to the latest AP Cohort Data Report.

AP exams measure a student's content mastery of college-level studies in specific academic disciplines. A score of 3 or higher on an AP exam demonstrates that a student is capable of doing the work of an introductory-level course in a particular subject in college.

Illinois also continues to report record numbers of graduates taking AP exams, with a total of 48,627 graduates (nearly 38 percent) taking at least one AP exam, more than double the amount of graduates who took the exam in 2005. The percentage of Illinois graduates who scored a 3 or higher grew by 11.7 percentage points from 13.3 percent in 2005 to 25 percent in 2015. Illinois is fourth in the nation for the largest percentage point increase over the last decade.

Teacher and Student Opportunities

DuPage County Announces 2016 Scholarship Program

The DuPage County Department of Community Services is offering college and occupational training scholarships for low-income individuals with high academic potential. The Community Services Block Grant scholarship supplements the cost of tuition, books, supplies and other school-related items for a semester or a quarter to offset the student's needs. This scholarship is funded and designed in cooperation with the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity.

Applicants are required to provide proof of DuPage County residency, gross household income for the past 90 days at or below 125 percent of the federal poverty level. Applicants must also include a 500-word original essay or personal statement, official school transcripts, two letters of recommendation, a Financial Aid Audit (financial aid award letter) and proof of enrollment in an Illinois accredited institution.

All materials must be received by June 3. For additional information call: 630-407-6500 or 1-800-942-9412; TDD 630-407-6502.

Northeastern Illinois University Announces New Education Graduate Degree

Northeastern Illinois University has added a Master of Arts in Community and Teacher Leaders to begin in the fall of 2016. The program is intentionally designed for community and teacher leaders to learn alongside one another. The degree offers two areas of concentration.

Community Leaders: The community leader concentration provides knowledge and skills that foster leadership, public engagement, and consideration of the complexities of local and global communities. Graduates of this program will be able to leverage community assets to promote social justice.

Teacher Leaders: The teacher leader concentration provides knowledge and skills related to leadership and mentoring, professional development, positive school culture that focuses on student learning, data usage to improve educational outcomes and building collaborative relationships with stakeholders. Students in this concentration earn the Teacher Leader Endorsement as recognized by the Illinois State Board of Education.

Please contact the Program Facilitator, Dr. Durene Wheeler at D-Wheeler@neiu.edu or 773-442-4162 with any questions. To apply, simply go to neiu.edu/applytoday or contact the Graduate Admissions Office at 773-442-6001.

Links

[McCormick Foundation Civics Programs](#)
[First Division Museum at Cantigny](#)
[SCARCE Environmental Education](#)
[Forest Preserve District of DuPage County](#)

Dates to Note

April

- 1 On the first school day of April the Secretary of the board shall report to the regional superintendent and Secretary of State a list of students who have left school during the previous attendance quarter
- 9-11 National School Boards Association Annual Conference, Boston, Massachusetts
- 10-16 National Library Week
- 23 First Day of Passover
- 29 Commemorative holiday celebrating Arbor and Bird Day

30 Last day for filing federal and state income tax withholding reports and paying taxes due for quarter ending March 31, 2016

Quotable

“Live as if you were to die tomorrow. Learn as if you were to live forever.”
~ Mahatma Gandhi

Professional Development Opportunities

Event ID	Title	Date(s)	Category
L3109-16	Nurses Roundtable	April 4, 2016	Networks/Sharing
W4659-16	Building Trusting Relationships with At-Risk Students (AA #1115)	April 5, 2016	Administrators' Academy
W4680-16	Performance Evaluation Reform Act (PERA): An Assessment Literacy Primer for Teacher Evaluators (AA #1556) *JUST ADDED	April 6, 2016	Administrators' Academy
W4678-16	Framework for Understanding Poverty - Revised 2010 (AA #1100)	April 7, 2016	Administrators' Academy
L3164-16	Early Childhood Roundtable	April 7, 2016	Networks/Sharing
DCCD-203	DCCD Meeting	April 8, 2016	Curriculum & Standards
W4637-16	Improved Crisis Decision Making for Safer School Environments (AA #1597)	April 12, 2016	Administrators' Academy
W4643-16	School Finance Made Easy (AA #881)	April 12, 2016	Administrators' Academy
L3126-16	DuPage Technology Coordinators Meeting	April 12, 2016	Technology
L3163-16	Gifted Roundtable	April 13, 2016	Gifted
L3165-16	SEL Leadership - Professional Learning Community	April 13, 2016	SEL-Social Emotional Learning
W4639-16	Interpersonal Team Communication for School Administrators - Revised 2010 (AA #988)	April 14, 2016	Administrators' Academy
L3168-16	Culture Competency	April 19, 2016	Special Events
W4640-16	Dealing with Difficult Parents- Revised 2011 (AA# 1174)	April 21, 2016	Administrators' Academy
L3171-16	Gifted Education Online Seminar - OEDO 5014 Gifted Education Online Seminar	April 23, 2016 - June 23, 2016	Gifted
W4645-16	The Law as it Relates to the Rights, Employment, Retention and Dismissal of Teachers (AA #1118)	April 26, 2016	Administrators' Academy
W4668-16	Implementing a Program to Help At-Risk Students Build Resilience (AA #1514)	April 26, 2016	Administrators' Academy
L3134-16	Buildings and Grounds Meeting	April 28, 2016	Networks/Sharing

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