



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

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- **ROE Unveils New Website**
- **2016 National Blue Ribbon Schools Award Conferred on Two DuPage County Schools**
- **State Board’s Student Advisory Council**
- **DuPage Principal Evaluation Tool Revision Project Underway**
- **STEM Newsletter**
- **Trainings for Early Care and Educators**
- **DuPage CRIS**
- **Tips for Cyber Safety**
- **News from SCARCE**
- **Civics Is Back**
- **A Healthy Game Plan to Fuel Your Day**
- **Illinois History Day 2017**
- **Student Teams Sought for Environmental Film Festival**
- **Churchville Schoolhouse Fall Open House**
- **Links**
- **Dates to Note**
- **Quotable**
- **Professional Development**

## **Latest News**

### **ROE Unveils New Website**

The ROE is thrilled to announce the launch of our new and improved website. The new site has a clean uncluttered design, improved functionality and enhanced rich content. This user-friendly site was designed with you in mind and provides intuitive access to essential information such as professional development, licensure, job opportunities and recent news.

Please check out the new site at [www.dupageroe.org](http://www.dupageroe.org). As always, our focus is on how to serve you better. If you have any questions or suggestions on how to improve the site, please email Jeff Wozniak at [jdwozniak@dupageroe.org](mailto:jdwozniak@dupageroe.org).

## **2016 National Blue Ribbon Schools Award Conferred on Two DuPage County Schools**

The U.S. Department of Education recently announced the 2016 National Blue Ribbon Schools, naming two public DuPage schools among recipients of the prestigious award.

The DuPage 2016 National Blue Ribbon Schools are:

- Kennedy Junior High School (Naperville CUSD 203)
- Monroe Elementary School (Hinsdale CCSD 181)

The U.S. Department of Education initiated the National Blue Ribbon Schools Program in 1982 to bring public attention to exemplary schools in the United States and to facilitate communication and sharing of best practices within and among schools.

U.S. Secretary of Education John B. King will honor the 2016 National Blue Ribbon Schools at a ceremony in Arlington, Virginia, Nov. 7-8.

## **State Board's Student Advisory Council**

Twenty sophomore, junior, and senior high school students from throughout the State of Illinois met for the first time as the State Board's Student Advisory Council (SAC) for the 2016-17 School Year. Members of SAC, who were selected from dozens of applicants, have an opportunity to see the State Board's policymakers in action and work with them to provide student perspectives and concerns on the state's education policies.

Applicants to the SAC undergo a competitive review process. Those selected exhibit strong interpersonal skills, the ability to work well in groups, think creatively, and come up with innovative solutions to policy challenges. Each year, the members of SAC select a topic to research in depth and present to the State Board of Education.

Congratulations to the three SAC members from DuPage County:

- Archit Dhar, a senior at Neuqua Valley High School
- Sung "Shawn" Park, a senior at Metea Valley High School
- Seetha Aribindi, a senior at Hinsdale Central High School

For more information on SAC, visit: <http://www.isbe.net/sac/>.

## **ROE Update**

### **DuPage Principal Evaluation Tool Revision Project Underway**

Dr. Charles Johns, SD33, and Dr. Kari Cremascoli, SD58, approached Dr. Darlene Ruscitti about the possibility of updating the DuPage Principal Evaluation Tool developed by DuPage superintendents and principals several years ago to respond to state legislation regarding the principal evaluation process.

In October 2015 the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO), in concert with the Wallace Foundation, a respected non-profit organization dedicated to the support of school leaders, released an update of their [Model Principal Supervisor Professional Standards](#).

Dr. Ruscitti invited Dr. Kathie Pierce and Dr. Gail Fahey to spearhead this revision endeavor. Already accomplished to date are the crosswalk of the Illinois School Leader Standards to the updated CCSSO standards and the draft version of an online rubric.

Members of the work team are: Ryan Anderson (D205), Pat Broncato (D68), Dr. John Corbett (D7), Raul Gaston (D45), Dan Krause (D88), Dr. Charles Johns (D33), Dr. Kari Kremascoli (D58), Carin Novak (D58), Griffin Sontag (D181), and Dr. Don White (D181).

The committee intends to release its revised tool and suggestions for implementation no later than mid-April to all interested DuPage districts.

## **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 September 2016 edition.

Past newsletters are posted on the DuPage ROE STEM website at [www.stemdupage.com](http://www.stemdupage.com).

## **Notable**

### **Trainings for Early Childhood Educators**

The Metropolitan Chicago YWCA in Addison offers a variety of trainings for early childhood educators. Topics include CPR & First Aid, Mandated Reporting and Positive Guidance. For more information, go to their website at

<http://www.ywcachicago.org/our-work/child-care-provider-services/child-care-provider-training-assistance/>.

### **DuPage CRIS**

DuPage Community Resource Information System (CRIS) is a database for those seeking health and human service resources such as food, housing, employment, and more. Please visit

<http://dupagecris.org> and use the guided search to help locate information in your area. If you prefer to speak to an Intake Specialist, please call 630-407-6500 or 800-942-9412, Monday-Friday, 8:00 am–4:30 pm.

Contact [CommunityPoint@dupageco.org](mailto:CommunityPoint@dupageco.org) with questions, requests for training, or to report incorrect information.

### **Tips for Cyber Safety**

Malicious cyber activity affects students in a variety of ways, ranging from malware and scams to cyber bullying. Fortunately, there are a few simple steps you can take to keep yourself, your kids, and your devices protected from the latest threats. Here are some cybersecurity tips for staying safe for the new school year:

- **Keep Software Up-to-Date.** Be sure to keep the operating system, browser software, and apps fully updated with patches. [More...](#)
- **Configure Your Device and Apps with Security in Mind.** The “out-of-the-box” configurations of many devices and apps are default settings often geared more toward ease-of-use than security or protecting your information. [More...](#)
- **Malware Protection.** Make sure to have antivirus with anti-phishing support installed on all devices (desktops, laptops, tablets, etc.). [More...](#)
- **Consider Comprehensive Internet Security.** Consider using a comprehensive Internet security software in order to better keep your device safe. [More...](#)
- **Practice Safe Computer Usage.** Use trusted apps and only browse to trusted websites. [More...](#)
- **Think Before Sharing.** It’s easy to over share online. [More...](#)
- **Be a Smart Network User.** Don’t access personal or financial information over unsecured public WiFi networks such as the free WiFi in coffee shops, bookstores, hotels, and schools, as this data can be easily “sniffed” (a.k.a. viewed) by others. [More...](#)
- **Be on Guard for Phishing.** Don’t open email attachments from untrusted sources. [More...](#)
- **Use Strong Passwords.** To ensure a strong password, make sure you use a complex and unique password for each account/system. [More...](#)
- **Guard Against Physical Access.** A key problem for students continues to be the general lack of privacy and personal space they have at school. [More...](#)
- **Backup Your Data.** Saving important data is important given the growing risk of “ransomware” infections. [More...](#)
- **Don’t Jailbreak/Root Your Device.** Jailbreaking a device is when you gain “root” access to the device, which means that you disable the manufacturer and operating system protections so that you can access areas you were not intended to have access to. [More...](#)

## News from SCARCE

School & Community Assistance for **Recycling** and **Composting** Education

### [New Law Encourages Schools to Donate Food](#)

Did you hear? SCARCE helped write a law to reduce food waste in school lunchrooms by eliminating restrictive food service contracts.

### Recycling Events

- Oct 01     [Bensenville Recycling Extravaganza](#)  
              [Winfield Township Recycling Extravaganza](#)
- Oct 15     [Glen Ellyn Paper Shredding](#)
- Oct 22     [Addison Park District Recycling Extravaganza](#)

### [Pick-Up 5 Initiative](#)

Litter. It's ugly. It's dirty. Nobody likes it but everyone sees it. Pick-Up 5: SCARCE's easy-to-participate initiative to reduce litter in our communities. Just “Pick Up 5” – Five pieces of litter. Every time you go on a walk, are at the park, or a soccer game (you get the idea).

### [SCARCE Green Fair Returns](#)

October 23rd, 10am-4pm

The SCARCE Green Fair is back! The highly anticipated annual SCARCE Green Fair will be held Sunday, October 23rd at the DuPage County Fairgrounds. This fun, family event will feature live entertainment, a kids craft corner and plenty of food to keep the crowds happy!

## [Help Collect Pumpkins on Saturday November 5th](#)

The third annual post-Halloween Pumpkin Collection promises to be bigger than ever! High school students are needed to help smash pumpkins. Learn how to get involved or start a collection near you.

### Civics Corner

## Civics Is Back Newsletter

The Illinois Civic Mission Coalition has debuted a monthly newsletter for Illinois civics teachers to support the [state's new high school civics course requirement](#) and [emerging K-12 social studies standards](#).

Beginning this fall, incoming freshmen must successfully complete a semester of civics in order to graduate. The course must include proven civic learning practices such as direct instruction, discussion of current and controversial issues, service learning, and simulations of democratic processes. [Click here to view a checklist of indicators for these practices](#).

The newsletter will provide monthly updates on professional development opportunities, share resources helpful to teaching civics and aligned to the emerging standards, and feature the work of our Illinois Civics Teacher Mentors.

To sign up for the newsletter, go to <http://crfc.us4.list-manage.com/subscribe?u=7ebc41597276f77c29d980fb2&id=362486dc5e>.

### DuPage Health Department Highlights

## A Healthy Game Plan to Fuel Your Day

You've heard many times that breakfast is the most important meal of the day. But with increasing demands on your time, rushed mornings and finicky eaters, it's easy to find excuses to avoid breakfast. "Eating breakfast helps with brain function, attention span, concentration and memory. Eating breakfast can reduce irritability and tiredness," says Kristi King, spokesperson for the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics. "It also helps prevent overeating later in the day."

Don't let excuses derail starting your day with a good breakfast. You're not hungry in the morning? Why not have a piece of whole grain toast and 100 percent fruit juice and then eat a mid-morning snack when you do get hungry. Not enough time in the morning? Try stocking your kitchen with easy-to-prepare items like cereal, yogurt and fruit.

Skipping breakfast won't help you lose weight. In fact, skipping meals has been shown to lead to overeating at snack time or the next meal. Finally, if you don't like breakfast foods, anything can be breakfast. Eat last night's leftovers, a bowl of soup or a sandwich on whole grain bread. It's easy to overcome those excuses so that you can fuel your body to start your day.

Make time for your morning meal with these simple solutions: If you have time for breakfast make some whole grain pancakes and top with fresh fruit. Eggs with whole grain toast and some turkey bacon will start your day right. Don't have a lot of time? Try making a whole grain English muffin, and add low fat cheese and sliced ham. Warm in the microwave to melt the cheese. Really running low on time?

Spread some reduced fat cream cheese on a bagel or make a peanut butter and banana sandwich. Remember, adding protein to breakfast will help you stay full longer and avoid snacking.

## Student and Teacher Opportunities

### Illinois History Day 2017

Illinois History Day is an annual statewide competition that gives junior high and high school students an opportunity to display their knowledge on a topic through history-related projects pertaining to Illinois. Illinois Regional History Fairs are held in the early spring at college campuses throughout Illinois. Projects and papers judged to be superior will advance to the statewide Illinois History Day held in Springfield on May 4, 2017. Some projects will be selected to represent Illinois at the University of Maryland in mid-June during the National History Day competition.

Students are invited to enter projects in any of these categories: research papers, exhibits, media, performances and historical website. For additional information, call the Office of Student Historian Program at 217-782-2981 or go to the website at

<https://www.illinois.gov/ihpa/Involved/Students/Pages/IllinoisHistoryDayRegions.aspx>.

### Student Teams Sought for Environmental Film Festival

In this film festival competition, student teams will have the opportunity to create quality environmental educational videos in a foreign language. Prizes will be offered to student teams who most creatively meet the challenge of providing a specific environmental message in an interesting and culturally appropriate context. There are more than 60 languages spoken in our county. SCARCE's goal is to be sure that all residents of DuPage County may participate in energy conservation and efficiency solutions. For more information, go to <https://www.scarce.org/blog/>.

### Churchville Schoolhouse Fall Open House

On Saturday, October 1, the Churchville Schoolhouse will hold its annual fall festival from 11 am-2pm. Events include interactive class inside the Civil War-era Schoolhouse, old-fashioned games, live music by the Battlefield Balladeers and vintage crafts. Attendees will have the opportunity to learn folk dances and be treated to American folk song performances by students from Conrad Fisher Elementary School in Elmhurst.

Churchville Schoolhouse is a National Register of Historic Places site owned by the City of Elmhurst and managed by Elmhurst History Museum and is located at 3N784 Church Road, Bensenville. For more information, go to: [www.elmhursthhistory.org](http://www.elmhursthhistory.org) or call 630-833-1457

## Links

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

## Dates to Note

### October

- 1 Recycling Day; commemorative holiday. (24-2)
- 2-4 Rosh Hashanah

- 7** Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans Remembrance Day; a commemorative school holiday
- 11** Leif Erickson Day
- 11-12** Yom Kippur
- 10** Columbus Day; a legal school holiday
- 10-14** National School Lunch Week
- 16-18** Illinois Principals Association Annual Fall Conference, Springfield.
- 17-21** National School Bus Safety Week

## Quotable

“The whole purpose of education is to turn mirrors into windows.”

~ Sydney J. Harris

## Professional Development Opportunities

The DuPage Regional Office of Education provides Professional Development through a variety of methods and opportunities. The Center for Professional Learning (CPL) has a group of highly qualified educators who share their experience and expertise with local educators. To learn about the wide array of high-quality professional development opportunities, go to

<https://register.dupageroe.org/Public/Courses.aspx>.

[Home](#) | [Community](#) | [Teachers & Administrators](#) | [Mission](#) | [Directions](#) | [Contact](#) | [Links](#) | [Sitemap](#)

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