

The Cicero Elementary Schools • District 99

# 99 NEWS

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District Administration Building • 5110 W. 24th Street • Cicero, IL (708) 863-4856

Donna Adamic, Superintendent of Schools

[www.cicd99.edu](http://www.cicd99.edu)

## Our Focus is on Reading!

The Cicero Schools are dedicated to helping students become strong readers. Good reading skills are the basis for success in all subjects. Throughout the district, in the classroom and through special programs, teachers devote a great deal of time, and their talents, to help students become strong readers. The district is also committed to involving parents in reading at home with their children. Many supplemental programs assist that goal. The Cicero Schools also benefit from the support of various organizations and businesses that encourage reading by donating books and other reading materials. Here are just a few of the many ways that the Cicero Schools Focus on Reading:

### 1,500 Dictionaries

In December, the **Rotary Club of Cicero** donated dictionaries to all third graders in the district. Over 1,500 dictionaries were distributed. Rotary Club members talked to students about the club and the importance of service over self. Students and staff members volunteered their time to label and sort the dictionaries. The students were grateful to have their own dictionaries and wrote thank you letters and cards to the Rotary Club.

### 25,000 Books to Read

**Columbus West** students are participating in a program called *Zoom Away with Reading*. They are striving to read 25,000 books by the end of the school year. Students receive a paper star for every book they read. The stars are taped on hallway walls along with the number of books that have been read. In January, students read nearly 6,000 books! School librarian Marianne O'Keefe and teacher Brigid Peterson created the program.

### The Gift of Reading

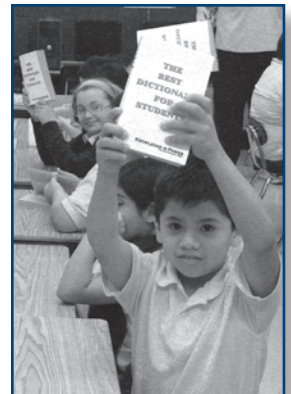
At **McKinley School**, the winter theme was, "The Gift of Reading." Special guests Illinois State Representative Lisa Hernandez and local dentist Dr. Ken Stoffel came to the school to read to students, share holiday stories, and encourage reading. Students wrote about the books they enjoyed with their families and the importance of writing. These papers lined the hall walls. McKinley School educators sent a thank you to all parents and volunteer readers who shared their favorite books with students.



Secretary of State Jesse White presents Burnham School Assistant Principal Linda Giovingo and Principal Carol Anderson with gift cards from Borders Books totaling \$8,260 to purchase books for the school. The gift is made possible by a grant sponsored by the Illinois Literacy Foundation and Borders Literacy Donation program.

### 40,000 Free Books

"Reading is Fundamental" (RIF) is a federally- and privately-funded 44-year-old program that prepares and motivates children to read by delivering free books and literacy resources to the children and families who need them most. Twenty-two book distribution centers within the District 99 schools host three RIF events a year, where students choose a book to keep. About 40,000 free books are given to students in the Cicero Schools each year. At the distributions, children also participate in literacy activities, created by teachers and volunteers.



The Rotary Club of Cicero gave 1,500+ dictionaries to students.

At **Wilson School's** first RIF distribution in October, primary and intermediate grade students read to each other and sang the "Wilson Reading Buddy Bash" (written by teacher Karen Carrigan), to the tune of the *Monster Mash*. The school's Student Council members created 1,000 bookmarks for the occasion. *Continues on p. 4*

## Attend Parent University



Parent University is coming! District 99 launched this successful program last year. Parents are invited to **Unity Junior High, Saturday, March 20, 8:30 to 3:00 PM** to participate in FREE informative and interactive workshops that enhance parenting skills. Attendees can choose three 50-minute-long workshops from 36 offerings on parenting topics that include discipline, stress, resolving conflicts, teenagers, working with your partner, and helping children at home. Child and adolescent development experts and district teachers will present the workshops. A light lunch and coffee are provided. Childcare for children ages 4-10 is also provided. **SPACE IS LIMITED TO 500. Please register for this program by Thursday, March 11. For further information, contact Isabel Ramirez at (708) 863-4856, ext. 147 or [iramirez@cicd99.edu](mailto:iramirez@cicd99.edu).**

## Parent and Community Corner



### Join the Parent Patrol

Parent Patrol is a group of volunteer parents who help students travel to and from school safely. They work with the crossing guards and are professionally trained. Currently, Parent Patrols are helping students at **Cicero East** and **Cicero West, Roosevelt, Warren Park, McKinley** and **Unity** schools.

The goal is to have Parent Patrol at every school. **Join the Parent Patrol: call Carmen Jimenez at (708) 268-9011.**

### First Aid Training

In November, 25 members of the district's **Parent Advisory Council** received First Aid Certification by participating in an American Red Cross six-hour training session. They learned how to respond to many types of health emergencies. The certification is valid for three years. **Become a member of the Parent Advisory Council: call Isabel Ramirez at (708) 863-4856, ext. 147.** Meetings will take place April 15 and May 5 at the Administration Building.

### Honoring Veterans

In November, **McKinley** students honored veterans with a variety of activities culminating in the second annual Veterans Day celebration. Veterans from the community were invited to attend. Students prepared for the day by making posters, writing tributes and singing patriotic songs. The students' awareness of the veterans' sacrifices grew, while the veterans who attended saw how much the students appreciate them. **McKinley** students later created a Wall of Honor to pay tribute to students and staff with family members who are veterans or who are currently in the service.

### Families at School

Parent volunteers help promote a positive atmosphere at **Warren Park School**, volunteering for many events, and taking CPR and Parent Patrol Training. In December, parents and families attended a "Gymboree Night" and the annual holiday program and concert. Parents attended math nights in January, and math programs during the day in their children's classrooms.

In December, **Woodbine** families enjoyed milk and cookies, made a gingerbread house and decorations while students waited to have their photo taken with Santa.

**Cicero West** is enjoying another great year of Family Nights. These included Curriculum Night in December with many fun learning activities, the December holiday ornament night, Game Night, and in January, Family Reading/Young Authors Night.

**McKinley** parents are invited to the school every Thursday night to learn activities that can enhance their children's education. Parents are also reading with children and helping teachers with activities. Many parents attended the Winter Song Fest in December, and sung holiday songs with their children

At **Sherlock School**, the "Sherlock Sharks" and their families enjoyed the Olympic-themed Physical Education Night in November, participating in many athletic activities including hula-hoops, soccer, bowling and basketball. Attendees played

games using a giant parachute and enjoyed line dancing.

Students learned many ways to play in friendship and fairness at home and at school.

Parents came to **Woodbine School** in January to participate with their children in a TIMS (Teaching Integrated Math and Science) experiment. They worked together in groups in their children's classrooms learning math, science, vocabulary, and scientific methods. Parents discovered how they could support learning at home. Survey results indicated that parents loved working in the classroom and being engaged with learning. Monthly newsletters are sent home to Woodbine parents with more ideas for helping their children learn at home.



## Field Trips and Special Events Enrich Education

District 99 is committed to bringing enrichment opportunities to students. Many of these occur outside of the classroom while some are held at the schools. A few recent enrichment events are:

### Opera Outreach

**Unity Junior High** seventh graders hosted a special visitor in December. Sponsored by **Freddy's Pizza**, professional opera singer **Christine Steyer**, co-founder and artistic director of Bellissima Opera, Oak Park, sang arias and other songs for students. Her powerful voice reached throughout the hallways. Students asked Ms. Steyer questions about singing, opera, training and performing. The singer also emphasized the importance of healthy eating and good habits to maintain the voice and stay healthy.

### Coast Guard Arrives

The **U.S. Coast Guard**—Marine Safety Unit, Chicago—invited **Goodwin School** fourth graders to help with the Coast Guard's 100-year-old tradition of bringing Christmas trees to needy Chicagoans. The students aided the Coast Guard, then raised money for a trip to Navy Pier to receive a special tour of the *U.S. Coast Guard Cutter Mackinaw*. The students interacted with Coast Guard officers who served as chaperones. Because of the students' excellent behavior and their interest in the program, they are invited back for next year.

### Holocaust Awareness

Three hundred seventy **Unity Junior High** eighth grade students had a valuable learning experience when they visited the Illinois Holocaust Museum and Education Center in Skokie, Illinois, in January. A generous grant from the **Bank of America** paid for the trip. The students were greatly moved by the accounts of the survivors with whom they spoke as well as the museum's photographs, films and artifacts. Afterward, teachers were impressed by the students' reactions to the experience. One student stated, "This extraordinary field trip changed my thinking in so many ways."

## Inside Our Schools

### Behavior Program Begins

This year, several schools will implement the PBIS (Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports) Program, which helps teach expected behaviors throughout every part of the school day. In January, **Liberty School** students watched a movie of themselves displaying correct and incorrect behavior. Correct behavior earns students “Eagle Eggs” from teachers and staff that are entered in special prize drawings. For two days, teachers and students visited locations around the school, where the children role-played the correct behaviors for each area. Parents are encouraged to teach and model these behaviors at home, and ask their children what kinds of behaviors earn Eagle Eggs.



### Celebrating Good Behavior

On January 14, **Cicero East** students enjoyed the second quarter PBIS (Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports) Celebration, with hula-hoop and jump rope competitions, relays, and a sit-up contest. Winners received prizes, certificates and congratulations from their classmates

### Colts on a Mission

**Columbus East** students are showing their Colts’ pride by learning the school’s mission statement and developing personal academic and social goals. The goals will be linked to activities offered at the school’s Career Education Week in March. The mission statement reminds students why they attend school. Students are taking ownership of their own education and helping each other stay motivated and learn.



### Panther Pride

**Drexel School** classrooms can win the honor of keeping Drex, the school’s panther mascot (in stuffed animal form), for two weeks. Classrooms that win competitions such as having perfect attendance being the first to complete an important assignment,



*Drexel School students in room 307 won Drex, the school panther, for two weeks.*

may receive the mascot. When a classroom has Drex, the students may also receive a special treat!



### Hands on Matter

**Columbus East** fifth grade students in teacher Kristin Rea’s class are studying matter in science, engaging in many hands-on activities. They worked with household items to create atomic structures after first using their math skills to find the number of protons, neutrons and electrons in an element. They made molecular structures from candy and toothpicks.

### Students Perform

**Cicero East** students presented the fun-filled musical, “Elfis and the Sleigh Riders” to parents and fellow students as their holiday program. Students not only performed, but also directed, made props and created and set up scenery. One of the props they made was a gingerbread house that can be used in performances for years to come.

### Cards Around the World

**Goodwin School** students engaged in a holiday card exchange with students from 52 schools throughout the U.S., Canada, Italy, Thailand, Spain and Australia. The students wrote information

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## There’s Music in the Air

There’s music in the air: band has returned to the Cicero Schools. After much preparation, 150 students in grades four through six have joined the district’s new band program. Under the leadership of band directors Marcia Garza and Kate Pohl, band members are meeting in small groups once a week in the Unity Commons to learn to play their instruments. Some of the instruments they are learning are the flute, trumpet, clarinet, trombone, and drums. When the band directors determine that students are ready, the students will begin rehearsing together. A band concert will take place at the end of the school year.



*Band is back! Band teachers Marcia Garza (pictured) and Kate Pohl are working with band students.*

## Our Focus is On Reading! (Continued from p. 1)

### A Dollar Goes a Long Way

**Columbus West** received a \$5,000 Back-to-School "Readers are Leaders" grant that will purchase 400 new Spanish language books for the school. The books appeal to the children's interests and also support their research projects. The Columbus West learning community is grateful to have received this grant from the **Dollar General Stores**.

### Independent Readers

Over 200 **Lincoln School** students in kindergarten through sixth grade participated in daily independent reading. Students were required to read for 20 minutes each day, or read a total of 320 minutes over the winter break. Students who succeeded received rewards, a certificate,

and a book of their choice. Parents helped keep track of students' minutes. The successful program will be repeated over spring vacation.



### Super Reader Returns

**Cicero West** students and teachers are reading every day in eager anticipation of a visit from their own caped superhero: Super Reader from the planet Lexicon! Super Reader comes twice a year to encourage reading. Super Reader is part of a grant program, Reading is Fundamental (RIF), that allows every student in the district to select a book three times a year to take home and own. **Nicor** is a corporate sponsor of the RIF program at Cicero West.

## Inside Our Schools

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about themselves in English and in Spanish. Students used a large map to track the countries where cards came from every day and the mileage from Goodwin School to those schools.

### Work is Rewarded

**Woodbine School** celebrates the end of every quarter with popcorn and an attendance raffle. Students who have shown effort and are current on their school-work attend. Each week, students with perfect attendance receive an entry for a drawing that is held at the celebration. At the end of the year, students with perfect attendance can enter a drawing for big prizes.



Several Columbus East students display their science projects.

## Cicero School District 99 Board of Education

**Jorge Rueda, President**

**Larry Polk, Vice President**

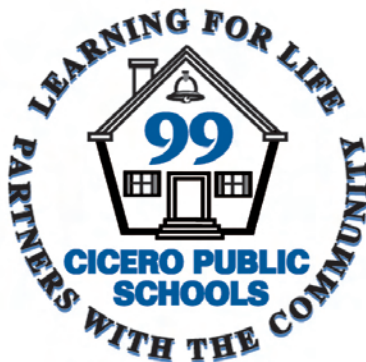
**James Terracino, Secretary**

**Mario Lopez**

**Deborah Mikolajewski**

**Graciela Segura**

**Thomas Tomschin**



The public is cordially invited to attend District 99 board meetings, which are held at 6:30 PM. The remaining meeting dates and locations for the school year are:

- March 11 - Roosevelt
- April 8 - Woodbine
- May 13 - Lincoln
- June 10 - Columbus East

## Cicero District 99 Facilities

### Burnham School

1630 S. 59th Avenue  
(708) 652-9577

### Cicero East School

2324 S. 49th Avenue  
(708) 652-9440

### Cicero West School

4937 W. 23rd Street  
(708) 780-4487

### Columbus East School

3100 S. 54th Avenue  
(708) 652-6085

### Columbus West School

5425 W. 31st Street  
(708) 780-4482

### Drexel School

5407 W. 36th Street  
(708) 652-5532

### Goodwin School

2625 S. Austin Blvd.  
(708) 652-5500

### Liberty School

4946 W. 13th Street  
(708) 780-4475

### Lincoln School

3545 S. 61st Avenue  
(708) 652-8889

### McKinley School

5900 W. 14th Street  
(708) 652-8890

### Roosevelt School

1500 S. 50th Avenue  
(708) 652-7833

### Sherlock School

5347 W. 22nd Place  
(708) 652-8885

### Unity East Jr. High

2100 S. Laramie Avenue  
(708) 863-8229

### Unity West Jr. High

2115 S. 54th Avenue  
(708) 863-8268

### Warren Park School

1225 S. 60th Court  
(708) 863-2220

### Wilson School

2310 S. 57th Avenue  
(708) 652-2552

### Woodbine School

3003 S. 50th Court  
(708) 652-8884

### Warren Park EC Center

5631 W. 16th Street  
(708) 652-1144

### District 99 Service Center

5835 W. Roosevelt Avenue  
(708) 863-3774