



GURNEE SCHOOL DISTRICT 56

Education that Inspires... Opportunities for All

DR. JOHN HUTTON, SUPERINTENDENT

SEPTEMBER 18, 2015

KIDDOS, More Than Hot Lunch



One of the questions I have often received during my tenure as your superintendent is "Why doesn't the District provide a hot lunch option for kids?" That is why when the PTO decided to embark on a partnership with KIDDOS to provide a hot lunch option for kids, I was totally on board with the idea. In the past, clubs and programs sporadically offered pizza by the slice and other lunch options as part of a fundraiser activity, but most days we did not have a hot lunch option for our students. I always thought we could do better than that.

I want to make sure everyone understands that KIDDOS is a fundraiser too. One dollar for each lunch sold is returned to the PTO, and that money is used to support learning across the District. Band and drama booster clubs receive money from the PTO. Money is also being ear marked for a new Spaulding School playground. The PTO also funds teacher requests from all D56 schools. I hope it is clear that KIDDOS is much more than a hot lunch program.

Please take a second look at KIDDOS as not only a hot lunch option, but also as a way to support D56 clubs and organization. By buying one hot lunch per week, parents would be providing their children with a hot, nutritious lunch, and equally important, they would be supporting opportunities to enhance learning for our children.

To learn more about KIDDOS, click on the following link: kiddoscatering.com. Please consider supporting this fundraiser while providing your child a hot lunch that you do not have to prepare.

DISTRICT 56 BOARD MEMBERS

Dr. Jim Blockinger Becky Kotsinis Odie Pahl Mark Pos Lynn Schroetter Helen Scott Brian Weir

School Walk Through



Getting to Know Miss Stacey Gritz

This week, we are highlighting Miss Stacey Gritz, a music teacher at Prairie Trail School. Miss Gritz began her teaching career at District 56 six years ago. Along with teaching general music classes, she is also the director of Prairie Trail School's choir and co-directs the District's fifth grade drama program.



Miss Gritz received her BS in music education from the University of Illinois and is currently pursuing her MS in education from Concordia University with a focus on teacher leadership. She has been a musician for most of her life, starting in fourth grade when she chose to play trombone, which she considers one of the best decisions she ever made. Since then, she has performed in many performing ensembles, including the nation's premiere marching band, "The Marching Illini."

Miss Gritz enjoys traveling, reading, and watching sports. She is particularly hoping for a World Series championship on the north side soon. She also enjoys spending time with her family and friends, especially in her new apartment in Libertyville.

Miss Gritz has been a great addition to the Prairie Trail School faculty.



Follow us on Twitter

Social media is an important aspect of our communication with parents and the community as a whole. Our highly acclaimed weekly communicate is an electronic newsletter that highlights the events in our schools each week. The Gurnee School District 56 Facebook presence continues to grow, as nearly 1,000 people currently “like” us on Facebook.

We have established a District Twitter account, @Gurneed56, and are working on creating our universal hash tag, #d56achieves. Most administrators and many teachers are actively tweeting information on a regular basis, and I have been tweeting school and community events on my Twitter account (@jhuttond56). All Facebook posts are also automatically shared on our Twitter account. I hope you will consider following us on Twitter.

I would also like to encourage parents to consider downloading the District App. The App can be downloaded from the App Store by searching “Gurnee School District 56”. This App will give users access to school and staff directories, Skyward Family Access, school calendars, weekly communiques, Facebook, and Twitter. Gurnee District 56 information can be easily accessed using the App and your smart phone.

“Let’s Talk” is another means available to parents to communicate with us. This new tool will provide the community with the opportunity to contact and discuss issues of interest with the administrators in the District. I would like to encourage you "to touch your toes in the water" and use Let's Talk to ask questions or comments about our new strategic plan. Let's Talk is very intuitive to use, and we would appreciate your feedback.

We are very proud of our social media presence and look forward to sharing the successes of this District with you through that medium.

2015-2016 Destination Imagination

Destination Imagination (D.I.) is a global extra-curricular program that provides a venue for teams of students to learn about the creative process from imagination to innovation in order to solve open-ended challenges and present their solutions at tournaments. The District 56 D.I. teams are open to students in all grades (K-8), and teams will be forming soon!

To learn more about D.I. and to sign up for a team, please attend the upcoming informational meeting with your child/children on Wednesday, September 30, 2015 at 6:30pm in the Viking School Lunchroom. For more information, visit: d56di.weebly.com.



Festival of the Bands



Don't Ask. Know.

Here Comes the Bus®, from Synovia Solutions (coming soon to our District), is the only mobile device app available in the U.S. that alerts parents that their child's bus is near. In addition, Here Comes the Bus enables parents and caregivers to view the real-time location of their child's bus on a computer, tablet or smartphone. With Here Comes the Bus, parents no longer have to wonder about the location of their child's bus – they'll know.

Here Comes the Bus lets parents...

- Protect their children from inclement weather and other roadside dangers
- See the location of their child's bus both before and after school
- Confirm that their child's bus has arrived at the bus stop, at school or both
- Receive a push notification or email message when the bus is a certain distance from their stop, and much more

...while helping schools

- Reduce bus-related phone calls
- Increase student safety
- Improve parent communication
- Demonstrate a commitment to innovation

[Click here for the Here Comes the Bus parent page](#)

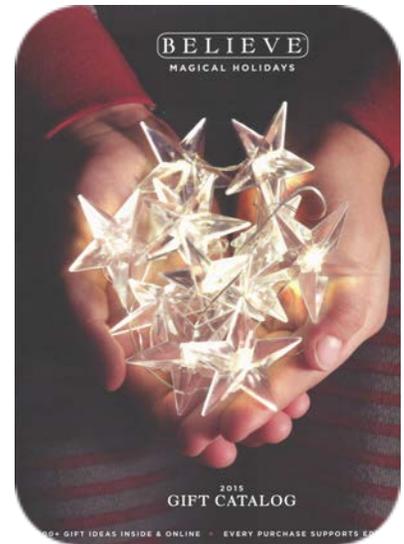


PTO News

The PTO Fall Fundraiser is in full swing! All students should have received fundraiser packets with a “Believe” catalog, order form and instructions. Your support will help the PTO raise funds for the Pre-K playground at Spaulding School and annual D56 Alumni Scholarship, along with grants for classroom and school needs. All orders along with payments are due to the schools by 9/28. Families can pick up the orders at Viking Middle School on Thursday, October 29th (Time TBD).

Did you know that KIDDOS hot lunch orders are accepted weekly? Place your child’s lunch order by 9:00am on Monday for the following week. Go to kiddoscatering.com to place your order TODAY.

The PTO has a new Facebook page. Stay up-to-date on all the D56 PTO activities. “Like” us today at facebook.com/d56pto.



Curriculum Night at Spaulding School



A Message from Officer Baker

“SQUEAL, NARC, RAT OUT, OR TATTLE”

There is an outlaw motorcycle group that has a saying, “Three can keep a secret if two are dead.” The idea behind this is that people who squeal, narc, rat-out, or tattle on others need to be eliminated. They learned a long time ago that every crime has a witness. The more witnesses, the greater the chance there is of being caught and arrested. Among the criminal organizations, the idea of telling on others has been met with severe consequences, including death. It is a protection for them to continue bad behavior. On the other side of that coin, police officers rely on those witnesses to help solve crimes. Our country’s safety also relies on people reporting criminal behavior past, present, and future.



If criminals need silence and the safety of our country needs people to tell the truth, why do parents take the criminal side of this debate? Have you ever heard a parent telling a child to quit being a tattle-tail or to work it out on their own? Is this attitude designed for the parent to avoid dealing with naughty behavior or to help the child deal with injustices on their own? What inevitably happens is that the child stops “tattling” and bad behavior goes unchecked. When bad behavior is unchecked, it gets worse until something really bad happens. Then the parents get upset because the child did not tell them. Do you see the hypocrisy?

I’ll bet if we posted a list of bad behaviors, the parents who read them would not agree on the seriousness of each behavior. If adults cannot agree on the seriousness of the behaviors, then how or why are kids expected to know and understand?

When parents reprimand kids for telling on each other, the kids quit telling. This could be why children do not tell mom or dad when they are being bullied, assaulted, or ridiculed to the point of tears. Maybe they have been hearing mom or dad say things like, “I don’t want to hear it,” or “Learn to deal with this on your own,” or “Quit being a baby and grow up.” Too many children suffer alone, afraid to tell mom or dad about bad behavior. Maybe, this is the reason for keeping quiet.

I will be the first to admit that it is easier to have kids deal with things on their own. But maybe the reason they come to us with this information is because they don’t know how to deal with it on their own. I want my kids to tell me when someone is being naughty or mean. I can deal with the bad behavior a lot easier than the kids can. I also believe that when the kids see me, they will learn how to properly deal with these issues on their own later in life. In the big scheme of things, what is ultimately worse, knowing about bad behavior or letting it go unchecked? I would hate for my apathy to be the reason my child suffers in silence.