



CUSD 201 Newsletter

small schools **2018**
LARGE OPPORTUNITIES

February



Serving families and students from Westmont, Clarendon Hills and Downers Grove

Community Unit School District 201 has an unwavering commitment to our students and school community. We are focused on maintaining a teaching and learning environment in which each learner is expected to learn at high levels. We have adopted a growth mindset where there are no failures, only learning opportunities. If students do not learn a concept the first time, we provide additional instruction. We are committed to providing the necessary support so that all students can learn at high levels. As a result, we are seeing significant growth in student achievement.

Manning, Miller and Westmont Junior High School continue to perform above the State average on the PARCC State assessment. CUSD 201 continues to lead the way in education by offering all-day kindergarten and dual language at the elementary level. Westmont Junior High is one of the few junior high schools to have a service learning graduation requirement. Westmont Junior High School students have volunteered thousands of hours to various charitable organizations and the Westmont Community. CUSD 201 has implemented a one-to-one technology initiative for grades second through twelve to provide our students with the best learning environment possible.

Westmont High School continues to be considered one of the top high schools in the State of Illinois and the country. The high school graduation rate was 98.8 percent. There are very



*District 201 Superintendent
Kevin Carey*

From the Superintendent's Desk

few high schools in the state or country that have a graduation rate that high. This is a reflection of our commitment to all of our students. The *Washington Post* ranked Westmont High School in the top two percent of high schools in the nation. Our High School had 55 Advanced Placement Scholars and 243 Advanced Placement Tests placed. These are all-time highs for Westmont High School. Success in Advanced Placement courses is a predictor of future success in college.

Congratulations to Westmont Junior High School Assistant Principal Amy Quattrone for being named the Assistant Principal of the Year for DuPage County and the State of Illinois by the Illinois Principals Association. Amy is one example of the many high quality administrators and staff we have working with our students.

CUSD 201 is proud of its accomplishments as we continue to find ways to improve and provide the best education possible. CUSD is a small giant in the world of teaching and learning.

2018-19 Kindergarten Registration



Registration in Community Unit School District 201 for incoming kindergarten students for the 2018-2019 school

year will take place at both J.T. Manning Elementary School and C.E. Miller Elementary School from Monday, April 9, through Friday, April 13, 2018 — 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. to 3 p.m. CUSD 201 offers a full-day Kindergarten program at both Manning and Miller as

Continued ➔

Televised Board Meetings

CUSD 201 Board of Education meetings are broadcast on both Comcast Cable Channel 16 and AT&T Channel 99. Board meetings can also be viewed live on the Village of Westmont's YouTube Channel at www.westmont.illinois.gov/youtube, along with on demand.

In addition, video recordings of the meetings are available on demand through the CUSD 201 website at www.cusd201.org/boardofed.

2018-19 Kindergarten Registration continued

well as a full-day Bilingual Kindergarten program (housed at Miller Elementary for all district kindergarten students).



The State law requires that the child must be five years of age on or before September 1, 2018. In order to be admitted to kindergarten, we must have a notarized copy of your child's birth certificate with the embossed seal. Hospital birth certificates are not acceptable.

If you do not have a certified copy of the child's birth certificate, you may obtain the certificate by phone or mail:

Children born in Cook County:

Cook County Vital Records
P.O. Box 642570
Chicago, IL 60664-2570
312-603-7790

Children Born in DuPage County:

DuPage County Clerk
421 County Farm Road
Wheaton, IL 60187
630-682-7035

South School

Every day our students enjoy gross motor time in our gymnasium. The early childhood classroom is so fortunate to have started a weekly gross motor class held by our physical therapist, Kari Walker. Mrs. Walker



creates rich lessons using whole body movements and involves the large muscles of the body to help develop core strength in our students. In addition, students practice taking turns and following instructions.





KIDS Kindergarten Assessment

Miller Kindergarten teachers were trained in a new observation tool used to gather information about kindergarten students during the first 40 days of school. This tool is a state mandate and data has been sent to the state for analysis and review. The assessment is called KIDS.

The Kindergarten Individual Development Survey (KIDS) is an observational tool designed to help teachers, administrators, families and policymakers better understand the developmental readiness of children entering kindergarten. KIDS is core to the Illinois State Board of Education's (ISBE) goal that every child in Illinois deserves to attend a school wherein all kindergarteners are assessed for readiness. In Fall 2017, ISBE required districts and kindergarten teachers across the state to use KIDS.

KIDS focuses on the knowledge, skills and behaviors across four key domains that most impact long-term student success. The domains are: Approaches to Learning and Self-Regulation; Social and Emotional Development; Language and Literacy Development; and Cognition–Math. (Source: <https://www.isbe.net/kids>)

Barnes and Noble Family Reading Night

Many Miller School students and their families attended Family Reading Night at Barnes and Noble in Oak Brook on Thursday, November 16. Families enjoyed fun activities, a mystery reader and raffle prizes. Families were able to purchase books with a percentage of proceeds going back to Miller School. A great time was had by all!

During the month of November students were challenged with the goal of reading 400 minutes and filling in their "Nuts About Books Calendar." Close to half of the students at Miller School achieved this goal and were rewarded with an extra recess in December. Way to go Miller Mustangs!

Veteran's Day Breakfast and Class Talks

The Miller staff cooked pancakes, eggs and sausage for the 20 veterans who visited the school this year. Our guests told stories about what it means to be a patriot and honor the country with their bravery and courage. Students were able to ask in-depth questions about personal experiences that related to what it means to be a soldier and a part of the American military.



The Miller staff cooked pancakes, eggs and sausage for the 20 veterans who visited the school this year

Elementary Choir and Band Concert



This was the first year we held our fifth grade Choir and Band Concert together with Miller & Manning and it was a huge success! Mrs. Fisher and Mr. Vaughn worked together with Mr. Heroldt to put together a unique experience during the holiday winter season. Miller PTO parents decorated the

auditorium for the event in order to make it more special. Thank you to our Fine Arts Department for building a wonderful elementary music program.

BMX America's Got Talent Winner, Matt Wilhelm

The kids loved watching Matt Wilhelm, Guinness Book world record holder for bike spinning and X Games champion, as he displayed his awesome bike tricks. The students were inspired by his "anti-bullying and be a hero" message and his dedication to never quitting.



Matt Wilhelm, Guinness Book world record holder for bike spinning and X Games champion, displayed his awesome bike tricks.

Continued 🍷



Miller School

continued



PTO Winter Fest

We celebrated the end of the quarter and winter break with games in the gym and crafts in the classrooms. Fun was had by all.

PTO Ice Cream Social

Our socials always seem to be our most successful nights. That continued to be the case at the Fall Ice Cream Social, where kids and parents alike enjoyed choosing from a table of toppings to go on their ice cream on one of the last hot evenings of the season.



The PTO Ice Cream Social was a big hit with students

Potbelly Fundraiser

During the month of December, Miller sponsored a “dinner night out” with Potbelly, which also featured a “Miller Mustang” milkshake that raised funds for Miller throughout the month.



Miller PTO BBQ and Family Social



To kick off the school year and continue to get to know our Miller community, Miller Elementary PTO hosted a family BBQ “Meat and Greet.” The last two years we have provided a breakfast on the first day of school to show support and appreciation for the staff as well as for parents/guardians.

This is a great way for parents to feel welcome, meet other parents and familiarize themselves with the school.





The new Agricultural Club, funded by a SCORE grant, joins the Say No to Drugs Club, Student Council, Environmental Club, 5th Grade Band, Drama Club and Choir.

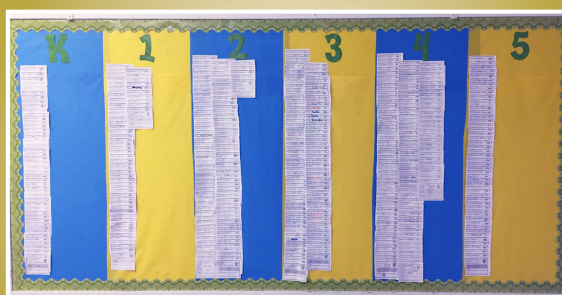


Manning School has just wrapped up a great first half with lots to celebrate and talk about. We began the 2017-2018 school year with many transitions to discuss. Principal Lindsay Pietrzak and Assistant Principal Britta Waszak joined the administrative team and received a warm welcome from the staff and community. Together they spent the first semester developing their first S.M.A.R.T. goal with their faculty using our Measures of Academic Progress Benchmarking Assessment (MAP).

Rachel's Challenge came back to our District this year and shared a common message of kindness and compassion. From this assembly, they have established "How to Be a Manning Meteor." Student Council has begun creating videos that depict

our expectations to students, while the teachers and faculty are on the lookout to catch students doing great things. Progress is tracked each month.

The number of ways that students get involved and give back to the community has continued to flourish. Ms. Ritter was awarded a SCORE grant, which funded the development of the new Agricultural Club. This club joins the Say No to Drugs Club, Student Council, Environmental Club, 5th Grade Band, Drama Club and Choir.



Faculty members are on the lookout to catch students doing great things and progress is tracked each month



Westmont Junior H.S.

WJHS Speakers' Corner

At Westmont Junior High School, Veterans Day isn't just a one-day celebration—it is the foundation for learning lifelong literacy, networking and social skills. After a school-wide Veterans Day assembly, eighth graders deepened their understanding of unique challenges faced by veterans through a five week research study focused on Common Core standards related to Reading, Writing, Listening and Speaking.

During this unit of study, students networked with high-level interviewees, including current and retired members of the military, leadership from the Department of Veteran Affairs and Illinois State Representative Stephanie Kifowit. Students utilized multiple media sources to dig into this challenging subject matter to determine if veterans receive adequate support when returning home from deployment.

For our culminating event on December 21, 2017, we invited over 100 volunteers into the doors of WJHS for a Speakers' Corner where students shared their learning in small group settings. With our focus on a growth mindset, students received timely feedback and the opportunity to enhance their public speaking skills with the insights they gained from volunteers. Our audience was filled with committed people who were invested in the education of our students. Students were dressed to impress and used many public speaking skills practiced in class.

Continued ➔



Dr. Edward Landreth, Chief Medical Officer at the Department of Veterans Affairs, brought a team from the VA to hear the insights of our students on their work to support our veterans.



Students participate in Speakers' Corner where they share what they've learned in a small group setting





continued



HFTD will be opening "Sip of Hope" cafe in Chicago, which will be the first shop in the world where 100% of their proceeds will support suicide prevention initiatives.

It was our great pleasure to have special guests in the audience. SSG Everett helped us to begin our research on Veterans Day by allowing us to interview him. He was also present to provide feedback to students for the culminating activity. As students highlighted evidence from his interview, they were aware that he was checking their credibility on the work they shared. Dr. Edward Landreth, Chief Medical Officer at the Department of Veterans Affairs, brought a team from the VA to hear the insights of our students on their work to support our veterans. Their participation reinforced the importance of providing balanced information that is free of bias. Having active duty members of the Armed Forces provided an important reminder that the work of our students is important for all citizens.

Students not only learned important skills, but were given a living picture of our community's commitment to their academic success.

Here is one student's perspective on the power of this event on their learning.

"Giving my veteran speech required me to achieve skills that sitting behind a textbook could never offer. Moments before my presentation, I needed a tremendous amount of confidence to present in front of so many scholarly adults. Every time I presented, I improved and became more comfortable with my speech. Outside of school, people use these same skills in their everyday work life, and I have learned how to effectively give powerful, persuasive presentations while raising awareness about our veterans. I could not picture what my future would look like if I jumped into a world without this beneficial academic experience.

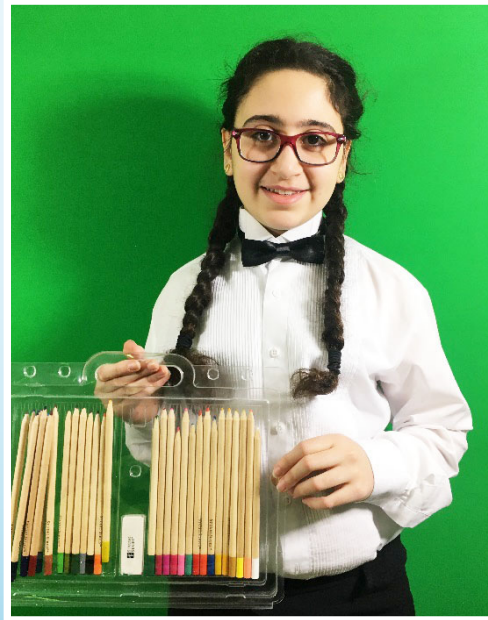
Written by: Anthony Cole

Hope For The Day

This semester, Sprouting Seeds Cafe entered a collaborative partnership with the nonprofit organization "Hope For The Day." Their outreach is focused on providing positive mental health training that teaches students to embrace self-expression and understand "It's Ok Not To Be Ok" to encourage open communication with a strong focus on self-care and peer-to-peer support.

HFTD will be opening "Sip of Hope" cafe in Chicago, which will be the first shop in the world where 100% of their proceeds will support suicide prevention initiatives. This will provide a number of exciting avenues to give hands-on opportunities for our students to enhance their understanding of business practices focused on social enterprise, including guest speakers and activities.

You can expect to enjoy seeds of this growing partnership throughout our school this semester with the development of a Self-Expression Fest, "BeatKeepers" writing workshops, connections to our Snowflake program, and a visit to Sip of Hope.



Michelle Naom is preparing a "green screen" poster for the Self-Expression Fest that is coming later in the school year.



Westmont High School

Westmont High School is proud to announce that our graduation rate continues to rank in the top one percent in Illinois and the country. Our most recent four-year graduation rate is 98.8 percent and our five-year graduation rate is 100 percent for all students. For four years straight, Westmont has earned a 100 percent graduation rate for our Latino and African-American students. This has been a team effort and is one indicator of the dedication of our teachers, staff and the entire school community.

We invite everyone to enjoy our Spring Musical “Back to the 80s” to be presented on February 23 and 24 starting at 7 p.m. and February 25 at 2 p.m. Ticket prices are \$10 for adults, \$5 for students and tickets are free for Senior Citizens. The show features many popular songs from the 1980s. You will certainly have a good time and we hope to see you at the Westmont High School Auditorium.

Westmont High School can also claim one of the most improved and top performing Advanced Placement programs in the state and nation. In the area of Advanced Placement Scholars (students passing three or more A.P. exams) per capita, Westmont also ranks among the best schools in the United States. The following students earned the Advanced Placement Scholar distinction before they even started their Senior year – Cherish Banks, Thomas Cain, Thomas Dea, Christopher Doll, Patrick Egan, Trevino Fukar, Luke Gifford, Leesly Gonzalez-Serrano, Justin Hinz, Molly Jamison, Jacob Juska, Roben Magnaye, Emilia Maslany, Maggie McGhie, Sonja Ocasio, Ryan Pleva, Teja Potineni, Bridgett Sider, Liam Slaga, Kyle Casper, Eve Kleinz, Luke Mikolite, Jasper Requiron, Kerry

Slaga, Natalia Stroupe, Macey Chapman, Justin Gomez, Daniel Hletko, Wesley Jagielo, Benjamin Ledwon and Connor Price.

We are also proud of our Illinois State Scholars. These students are ranked in the top ten percent of all students in Illinois based on their grades and test scores. Westmont is proud to claim that almost 14 percent of this graduating class has earned the honor of being named an Illinois State Scholar. The WHS Illinois State Scholars for 2018 are Cherish Banks, Macey Chapman, Christopher Doll, Justin Gomez, Daniel Hletko, Wesley Jagielo, Chad Johnson, Eve Kleinz, Rhiannon Kosieniak, Benjamin Ledwon, Roben Magnaye, Maggie McGhie, Luke Mikolite, Kaitlyn Niemer, Jasper Requiron, Kerry Slaga, Liam Slaga and Natalia Stroupe.



Illinois State Scholars are ranked in the top ten percent of all students in Illinois based on their grades and test scores

In sports news, NBC and Saint Xavier University named our Boys' Basketball team as their team of the week in January. The team is having an exceptional season and is poised to continue their success when the state tournament begins in February. The wrestling team also had Jake Juska earn the title of conference champion, with Curtis Green-Saunders III finishing third place in conference, John Karesh was fourth and Jose Montano finished

fifth. The entire team has made real improvement. Matthew Gedraitis also qualified for the State Cross Country meet this past season.

We are committed to continuous improvement at Westmont High School, and are most proud of the positive climate and culture in our school building. The 2017-2018 school year has been a most productive year, and we look forward to a strong finish. Thank you to our entire community for your support.



Pesticide Applications

In 1999 the Illinois General Assembly passed a law requiring that public schools notify parents, guardians and employees at least 48 hours in advance of pesticide applications on school property. The term “pesticides” includes insecticides, herbicides, rodenticides and fungicides. It does not include microbial agents or insect/rodent baits.

It is the School District’s practice to restrict applications to when school is not in session whenever possible, and to use pesticides only when non-chemical solutions are ineffective.

It will be the School District’s policy to notify parents, guardians, and employees in advance when pesticides are to be applied when school is in session. Non-attendance days will be utilized for normal applications and no prior notification will be sent for those instances. In either situation, “white” flagging will be displayed to make everyone aware an application has been made to the grounds.

Any questions regarding the District’s pest management practices can be directed to Business Manager Kimberly S. Anderson at the Administrative Office (630-468-8000) during normal business hours.

Visit the Illinois Sex Offender Registry

You are encouraged to visit the Illinois Sex Offender Registry at www.isp.state.il.us to determine if a sex offender lives in your neighborhood. If you do not have access to the Internet, you may visit your local public library. You may also contact your local police department or sheriff’s office for a list of sex offenders in your area.

If you have information about non-compliant sex offenders, please contact your local police department immediately. If you have questions about the registry, the laws regarding sex offenders, or tips about inaccurate or incomplete entries on the Sex Offender Registry, please call the I-SORT (Illinois Sex Offender Registry Team) Hotline: 1-888-41-ISORT.



Community Unit School District 201

133 South Grant
Westmont, IL 60559
630-468-8000
www.cusd201.org