

Winter 2021

# Connect 31

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Empowering Every Student to Make a  
Positive Impact on Tomorrow's Community



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# Choose Kindness

*Pictured: 7th Grader Kindness Club member Daniel Kim spreads kindness through positive chalk messages.*

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# Letter from the Superintendent



Dear District 31 Community,

In the cold winter months, we like to spread a little warmth and focus on kindness. I am very fortunate to live and work in a community that celebrates mutual respect, diversity, inclusiveness, and giving back.

We have a very active Kindness Club at Field that has been working to spread kindness throughout the school. Our COVID vaccination numbers continue to grow, and, despite the pandemic, we continue to come together for events such as the virtual Magical Math Night, movie night, and sporting events (with safety restrictions). The PTO continues to keep spirits high with treats for teachers and staff. Many District 31 families have joined the Kids Heart Challenge to raise money for the American Heart Association. Donations continue to be dropped off and picked up from the District's Caring Corner that provides supplies for those in need. We also celebrate the ability to provide free breakfast and lunch to all District 31 students.

Although I was yearning for a year that we would not have to discuss Covid protocols, 2022 is keeping the questions and concerns about Covid forefront in everyone's minds. I greatly appreciate the level of patience and support shown by our families as we continue to tackle new hurdles. District 31 has multiple layers of mitigation in place and we are committed to keeping school safe for students and staff as we follow the Illinois State Board of Education and IDPH guidance for safely prioritizing in-person school for our students.

I am grateful for our kind community. Whatever the future may hold, let us continue to be a community in which we choose kindness.

Sincerely,

Dr. Erin Murphy  
District 31 Superintendent

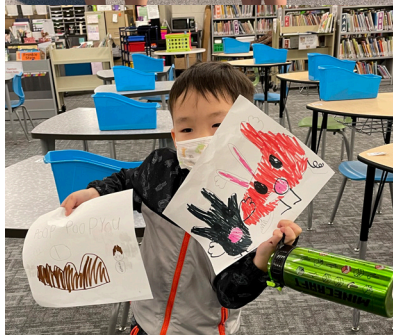
## Strategic Plan Update

The District 31 Strategic Plan lays a solid foundation for the District to follow for the next five years. The plan provides five overarching goals and a number of strategies to achieve each goal. This fall, the administrative team developed an action plan for each strategy in order to make progress towards meeting goals. Below are a few highlights of the District's progress thus far on Goal 1. Find full updates including updates on Goal 2 - 5 at [www.district31.net/strategicplan](http://www.district31.net/strategicplan).

### December 2021 Update on Goal 1 - Student Growth and Achievement

The District made progress on a number of action items for Goal 1 including launching the MTSS handbook and forming the MTSS leadership team; deploying Otus (data management tool) to increase access to student data and support teacher/team analysis; and gathering feedback and making adjustments to the assessment system and holding data team meetings and subsequent staff data reviews to prepare to make actionable decisions on support.





# 2022-2023 Registration

Registration is currently underway for PreK and K students the 2022 - 2023 School Year! Registration for 1st - 8th graders begins March 1, 2022. Registration instructions are mailed to your home or given to you by the District office upon completion of proof of residency. We look forward to providing another year of exciting educational opportunities and adventures as we empower every student.

If you have any registration questions, stop by the District Office between 9-11 a.m. or 2-4 p.m. M-F. If you cannot come during the scheduled times, please call 847-313-4416 to schedule an appointment.

## Financial Assistance

To apply for financial assistance when registering online, please select "Financial Aid" on the "Payment and Submit" page. Submit completed financial aid application along with all supporting documentation to the District Office within 30 days of registering your child.

## Health Forms

Submit Health Forms to your respective school office. Refer to grade level required health forms listed on the Winkelman and Field websites under the Our School menu Health Office tab.

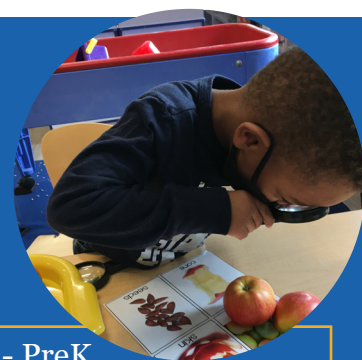
## Proof of Residency

If you have moved or are new to the school, please prove residency at the District Office.



## Little Wildcats Preschool

Little Wildcats is a high-quality preschool program that is designed to foster pre-academic, social, language, and motor development in children. Register today by emailing Anabel Santiago at [asantiago@district31.net](mailto:asantiago@district31.net).



- Spots Available Year-Round for Ages 3 - PreK
- Morning (8:30 - 11 a.m.) or Afternoon (12:30 - 3 p.m.) Class
- Support Services for Students with Disabilities and English Language Learners
- Advancing Skills to Ensure School Readiness
- Teacher-Directed Learning and Self-Directed Exploration

Visit [www.district31.net/littlewildcats](http://www.district31.net/littlewildcats) to learn more.





# Winkelman News

## 100 Days of School!

Winkelman students, teachers, and staff celebrated the 100th day of school on Thursday, February 3. Kindergarten, 1st, and 2nd grade classrooms commemorated the day with fun activities and dress up themes.



## Holiday Celebrations

Winkelman students spent the week before winter break enjoying door decorating contests, holiday parties, and fun winter activities.



## District 31 Student Services

### Special Education

**Job Opening:** The special education department is looking for qualified paraprofessionals. If you want a career that allows you to make a difference in the community, look no further!

Requirements include:

- At least 19 years of age
- 1 of the following:
  - Associate's degree or higher
  - 60 semester hours of coursework
  - High School Diploma or GED and a score of 460 or higher on the ETS Parapro

Apply today at [www.district31.net/jobs](http://www.district31.net/jobs).

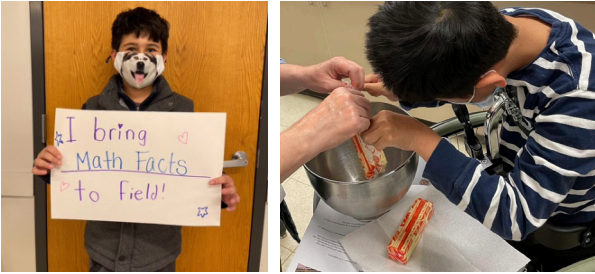
**Special Education Parent Folders:** The special education department sent home parent folders with updated information and resources including District Board Policies, information on PUNS (Prioritizing the Urgency for Needs for Services), and resources for tracking information for annual review meetings called the Illinois Student Record Tracker.



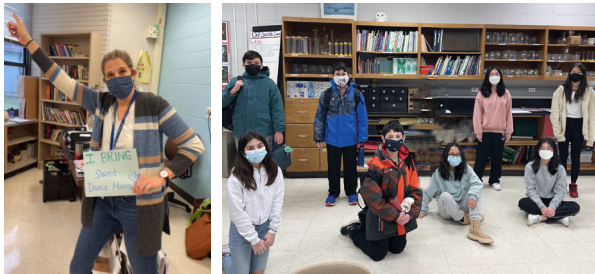


## Field Kindness Club

The Field Kindness Club is spreading kindness throughout the school and community! Each month, the club plans and executes activities to help spread kindness through messages and actions.



This winter, the club collaborated with other school groups and clubs to spread holiday cheer with cookies and plants for staff and candy cane locker tag treats for students. Members are pen pals with seniors living at the Northbrook Covenant Living Center, where they also delivered holiday plants to spread cheer. This February, the club is creating a cookbook with recipes from different cultures, staff, and families.



The Kindness Club meets every week after school with advisor Ms. Jezuit. All Field students are welcome to join.



## Winter Break Spirit Week

Field students celebrated spirit week December 13 - 17 with themed days, treats, and surprises.

## Homeless/ McKinney Vento

**Caring Corner:** Pick up warm coats, blankets, food, toys, or personal hygiene items at the District 31 Caring Corner located in the Foyer of the District Office.

## PreK Information

If you suspect your Preschool-aged child of having a disability or have questions about your child's development, contact Meghan Swift at [mswift@district31.net](mailto:mswift@district31.net) or Anabel Santiago at [asantiago@district31.net](mailto:asantiago@district31.net).

## Parent Engagement Opportunities

District 31 in partnership with True North posts weekly Inclusive Practice Videos that are available at [www.district31.net/parenteducation](http://www.district31.net/parenteducation). Additional opportunities will be posted on the District website including an upcoming presentation with Dr. Doug Bolton, a Special Education Parent Advisory Meeting, and a spring BPAC Meeting.

Questions? Contact Dr. Janine Gruhn, Assistant Superintendent for Student Services, at [jgruhn@district31.net](mailto:jgruhn@district31.net) or 847-313-4411.

# Community News

## Ed Foundation

The Education Foundation is looking for new members and new fundraising ideas! Join the Ed Foundation and be a part of a team that funds important school initiatives that provide engaging, enriching, inclusive, and safe environments for our students.

The Ed Foundation is open to any District 31 parent, guardian, teacher, administrator, or community member. If you would like to get involved and give back to the community, please reach out to the Ed Foundation at [d31edfoundation.org](https://d31edfoundation.org) or [edfoundation@district31.net](mailto:edfoundation@district31.net). We look forward to meeting you!



Join the  
Education  
Foundation!

## PTO News

### What We Have Been Up to

The PTO kicked off the school year with popsicles on the playground, a welcome-back lunch for teachers and staff, and Woo hoo/Boo hoo the morning of the first day of school with coffee and donuts for parents. In October, the PTO coordinated a movie night outdoors at Field and, in November, they coordinated a World Kindness Day book and food drive. The beginning of spring semester saw the inaugural Magical Math Night, presented online with a math magician and competitions for each skill level.

### Fundraising Efforts

The PTO continued fundraising efforts with a spirit wear sale at kindergarten roundup and a fall spirit wear drive. The PTO held an online book fair and continued the very popular restaurant fundraisers. New this year is the happy birthday sign rental, providing yard signs to celebrate student birthdays.

### Upcoming Spring Events (adjusted for COVID as needed)

- Art to Remember (student art memorialized on items)
- Undernighters for K-2 (March 4) and 3-5 (March 11)
- Around the World Fun with District 31 - formerly Taste of 31 (April 29)
- Spring Fling – an afternoon of outdoor fun and book fair

### Get Involved!

The PTO is always looking for new members. Learn more about upcoming events or get involved at [www.district31.net/pto](https://www.district31.net/pto).



World Kindness Day book and food drive



Magical Math Night



District 31 Movie Night



Happy Birthday Yard Signs





## 5 Essentials Survey Parent Survey

Please help the District by participating in the statewide Illinois 5Essentials Survey designed to generate a detailed picture of the inner workings of our schools. As a parent, this opportunity allows you to share your thoughts on the important elements of school effectiveness. Please complete the survey at <https://survey.5-essentials.org/Illinois/> or use the QR Code above by March 11, 2022.

The Illinois State Board of Education's Illinois 5Essentials Survey reports will be sent to districts in May 2022 and will be included in the State School Report Card. For more information about the Illinois 5Essentials Survey, or to view previous years' Reports, please visit [www.5-essentials.org/illinois](http://www.5-essentials.org/illinois).



## Become a Substitute Teacher!

District 31 is in need of Regular, Permanent, Semi-Permanent, and monitor positions. Please consider applying at:

[www.district31.net/BecomeASub](http://www.district31.net/BecomeASub)

## 22-23 School Calendar at a Glance

### August

18 First Day of School

### September

5 Labor Day—No School  
26 Rosh Hashanah—No School

### October

5 Yom Kippur—No School  
21 No School for Students  
24 Diwali—No School

### November

7 Half Day  
8 Election Day—No School  
23 – 25 Thanksgiving Break  
—No School

### December

19 – 2 Winter Break

### January

16 MLK, Jr. Day—No School  
30 Half Day

### February

17 No School  
20 President's Day—No School

### March

6 Half Day  
27 – 31 Spring Break

### April

7 Good Friday—No School  
14 Orthodox Good Friday  
—No School

### May

15 Half Day  
29 Memorial Day—No School

### June

1 Half Day/  
Tentative Last Day of School  
2 & 5-8 Proposed Emergency Days

## District 31 Schools



### Winkelman School

Preschool - Grade 5  
1919 Landwehr Road  
Glenview, IL 60026  
847.729.5650



### Field Middle School

Grades 6 - 8  
2055 Landwehr Road  
Northbrook, IL 60062  
847.272.6884

### Board of Education

Dr. Allison Slade Rothstein, *President*

Laura Greenberg, *Vice President*

Daphne Frank, *Secretary*

Meredith Estes

Jeffrey Steres

Melissa Choo Valentinas

Dr. Maria J. Vasilopoulos

### Administration

Dr. Erin Murphy, *Superintendent*

Catherine Lauria, *CSBO Finance & Operations*

Dr. Janine Gruhn, *Student Services*

Kate Ipsen, *Early Childhood*

Becky Mathison, *Curriculum & Instruction*

Dr. April Miller, *Field Principal*

Justin Cooper, *Field Assistant Principal*

Shaton Wolverton, *Winkelman Principal*

Nino Alvarez, *Winkelman Assistant Principal*

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## Around the World Fun with District 31

"Come together to celebrate our district's cultural diversity"

Join the District 31 PTO for Around the World Fun with District 31 on Friday, April 29, 2022!

Want to get involved and represent your country/ethnicity?

- Coordinate a table with an activity and pass out information about your country.
- Submit recipes for the first-ever Taste of District 31 Cookbook

If you have questions or would like to get involved, please reach out to Laurel Shah (laawood@gmail.com) or Megan Kivarkis (megan.kivarkis@gmail.com).



## District Calendar

February 18.....	No School
February 21.....	No School for President's Day
February 24 .....	Board of Education Meeting
March 4 .....	Undersighters K - 2nd
March 10 .....	PTO Restaurant Fundraiser - Dengeos
March 11 .....	Undersighters 3rd - 5th
March 17 .....	Board of Education Meeting
March 21-25 .....	Spring Break
March 28 .....	No School for Students- Professional Development Day
March 29 .....	PTO Meeting
April 5 .....	PTO Restaurant Fundraiser - Grill House
April 15 .....	No School - Recognition of Good Friday
April 19 .....	Board of Education Meeting
April 22 .....	No School - Recognition of Orthodox Good Friday
April 27 .....	PTO Restaurant Fundraiser - La Taquiza
April 29 .....	Around the World Fun with District 31 (formerly Taste of 31)

\*All dates and times subject to change.

Questions? Contact Superintendent Dr. Murphy at [emurphy@district31.net](mailto:emurphy@district31.net) or call 847.272.6880.