



the author

The purpose of District 21 schools is to provide a learning environment for all students to become life-long learners and productive citizens.



SUPERINTENDENT

Dr. Kate Hyland

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Bill Harrison, *President*

Pamela Becker Dean, *Vice President*

Staci Allan, *Secretary*

Jeff Battinus

Arlen S. Gould

Debbi McAtee

Phil Pritzker

Community members,

As you have come to expect, twice a year we deliver news about Community Consolidated School District 21 directly to your mailbox through *The Author*. We strive to provide a glimpse inside our schools, an update on District operations, and highlights from the past year.

Our staff continues to engage students in their learning and to provide experiences that are real-world and authentic. As I visit classrooms throughout the District, I am inspired by the commitment of our teachers and the growth of our students.

I take great pride in our district and am excited to share that the Illinois Chapter of the National School Public Relations Association (INSPPRA) has recently awarded this newsletter – as well as our websites – with Awards of Excellence. We invite you to visit our website and follow us on Facebook and Twitter throughout the year.

Sincerely,

Longfellow fifth graders host elected officials

Fifth graders challenged local officials with difficult questions about government operations during an October visit to Longfellow Elementary School.

State Representatives David Harris and Elaine Nekritz, Buffalo Grove Village President Beverly Sussman, and CCSD21 Board of Education member Arlen S. Gould, spoke about the various roles and responsibilities of elected officials and how different levels of government work together to support the community.

Holmes junior chef students celebrated



Holmes Middle School students showcased their chef skills this August and again at the October Board of Education meeting. The presentations celebrated what the children learned through the Illinois Junior Chef program, enrichment sessions that were added to the students' summer school experience.

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School Spotlight: Twain Elementary School

Twain Elementary School opened in 1958 and the building was later expanded: once in 1960, and again in 1992. Twain currently serves more than 450 students in pre-K to 5th grade.

Born Samuel Clemens, the “father of American literature” utilized ‘Mark Twain’ as a pen name when writing famous works like *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, *The Prince and The Pauper*, and *A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur’s Court*.

An update on District finances

The CCSD21 Board of Education tasked the administration to reduce costs by \$3 million for the 2016-2017 school year.

Through diligent planning, savings are projected to total \$4.1 million. The savings are attributed to adherence to staffing targets, a reduction in administrative and support staff positions, and a reduction in after-school activity bus routes. The additional savings came from a new contract for internet service, the conversion to a self-insurance program for employee benefits, and a change in state law for costs incurred by school districts when teachers retire.

These cost savings allow the District to fulfill its mission to support students in their academic, social, and emotional growth, while responsibly managing resources.

Last year, CCSD21 achieved \$2.5 million in savings. The District continued to save that baseline \$2.5 million during the 2016-2017 school year, while reducing spending by an additional \$4.1 million. In sum, the District anticipates realizing \$9.1 million in savings over two years.

\$9.1m

CCSD21 has reduced its expenditures by an aggregated \$9.1 million over two years.



Wellness Fair a great success



More than 400 students, parents, and community members visited London Middle School on Saturday, October 22, for District 21’s Wellness Fair. Families participated in a one-mile walk and CCSD21 students facilitated sessions along the way, like practicing yoga, understanding the importance of hydration, and learning techniques to manage stress.

Community partners and local vendors also shared information about their organizations. Stations included:

- Fitness class demonstrations provided by the Buffalo Grove and Wheeling Park Districts
- Blood pressure and glucose screenings provided by Creekside Health Center
- Healthy snack samples from Salata and CCSD21’s food service provider, OrganicLife

Thanks to all of our students, families, and community partners for contributing to such a successful event!



Students, parents learn together through Family Learning Program

CCSD21's Family Learning Program (FLP) provides affordable and accessible learning opportunities for District parents and children, empowering families to become active in all aspects of the school community.

In partnership with the Wheeling Park District and Harper College, School District 21 offers a variety of programs to families. Opportunities include English and GED classes, guitar lessons, and after-school programs.

Recently, parents and children had the opportunity to participate in a four-week-long series of evening classes. Parents took classes like art, cooking, book study, and zumba while children were engaged in their own learning.



Whitman parents create tile mosaics during a Family Learning Program art class in October.

Dr. Hyland named Wheeling Rotarian of the Year

The Rotary Club of Wheeling recently named CCSD21 Superintendent Dr. Kate Hyland as its Rotarian of the Year. The annual award is presented to a member who lives Rotary's "Service above Self" motto and has made significant contributions to support the community.

Hyland was nominated by Past President Rich Rosen for her passion for literacy within the community and dedication to and planning for the Wheeling Rotary

Club's Annual Charitable Event.

"Kate is thoughtful and dedicated and her passion for the community is evident," Rosen said. "Because of her hard work, Rotary is able to support our Wheeling Food Pantry in conjunction with the Village of Wheeling, donate books and coats to children in our community, provide scholarships to high school students, and globally, support Rotary's worldwide mission to end polio."



Rich Rosen, Wheeling Rotary Past President, presents Dr. Kate Hyland with a Rotarian of the Year pin.



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Interested in serving as a substitute?

If you are looking for an opportunity to support our schools and serve the community, apply today! We're looking for short-term or long-term teacher or teacher assistant substitutes. Find more information at ccsd21.org/substitute.