



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

Phil Pritzker, *President*
Staci Allan, *Vice President*
Debbi McAtee, *Secretary*
Arlen S. Gould
Bill Harrison
Jessica Riddick
Jennifer Tani

Community members,

As we begin 2018, I am reminded of the progress our district has made since I arrived here 15 years ago. While our mission of preparing all students for success remains unchanged, our methods, tools, and resources have constantly evolved in pursuit of that mission.

This winter and spring, I invite you to be part of our ongoing conversation. Online and phone surveys conducted in the fall identified the community's priorities. Please join us in the coming months as we continue the conversation about these priorities and work together to design the future for our children and community.

Within this edition of The Author, please find dates for upcoming Focus Groups and Community Engagement Sessions. Mark your calendar now and plan to join us as we 'Design21' to prepare future generations for success.

Sincerely,

Dr. Michael Connolly named next CCSD21 superintendent

At its December meeting, the Board of Education unanimously approved Dr. Michael Connolly as its next superintendent. He will assume the superintendency on July 1, 2018.

Dr. Connolly brings experienced leadership and a wealth of knowledge to CCSD21. Currently, he serves as the Superintendent of Keeneyville School District 20 in Hanover Park, a position he has held since 2011. The CCSD21 Board selected Dr. Connolly from a pool of local and national candidates.

"I am deeply gratified to the Board of Education for giving me the opportunity to join the CCSD21 family," Dr.



Connolly said. "I look forward to being part of a diverse and caring learning community committed to supporting all children to learn, grow, and be healthy, successful, and strong individuals."

Prior to his tenure in Keeneyville, Dr. Connolly has served as curriculum director, principal, assistant principal,

and teacher. Dr. Connolly will succeed Dr. Kate Hyland, who has served as CCSD21 Superintendent for six years. Dr. Hyland joined CCSD21 in 2003 and her retirement celebrates 33 years of service to public education. Dr. Hyland and Dr. Connolly will meet throughout the spring to ensure a smooth transition.

www.facebook.com/ccsd21

www.twitter.com/ccsd21

School Spotlight: Frost Elementary School



Frost Elementary School opened in 1965 and today serves more than 500 students in kindergarten through 5th grade.

Four-time Pulitzer Prize recipient Robert Frost has influenced generations of both devoted and casual poetry readers. His classic poems, "The Road Not Taken" and "Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening," have gained an immortality through use in graduation addresses, motivational speeches, and eulogies.



James Tarbet of Mobil gas station in Wheeling presents a check to Whitman Principal Dr. Gwen Gage.

Whitman receives STEM grant

Whitman Elementary School received a \$500 ExxonMobil Educational Alliance grant presented by Buchanan Energy. The grant is dedicated to supporting education in science, technology, engineering and math programs. Whitman is a two-time recipient of the Educational Alliance grant.

"This funding will allow us to provide more opportunities to our students to explore math and science before, during, and after school," Dr. Gage said. "We greatly appreciate the support from our community partners."



State Sen. Morrison visits Kilmer

State Senator Julie Morrison visited Mrs. Illy's kindergarten class at Kilmer Elementary School in November. In addition to reading *Big Bear Hug* to the students, Sen. Morrison shared what the Illinois State Senate does and presented the class with an Illinois state flag.

CCSD21 Financial Update and Projections

Based on the current Fiscal Year 2018 budget and estimations of revenue and expenditures for future years, projections show CCSD21 operating with balanced budgets through 2020.

The projections include the multi-year cost saving measures that have been implemented in FY16-18. These adjustments total

\$19 million over three years and, since these measures are ongoing, the District will have

saved \$40 million over the next five years.

CCSD21 continues to monitor state and federal actions which impact district finances, such as the implementation of the new state

education funding formula and changes to federal grant funding.

**\$19
million**

Budget adjustments implemented in FY16-18 represent \$19 million in cumulative savings to CCSD21 over three years.

CCSD21 launching Design21 community conversations

Today's kindergarten students will graduate high school in 2030 and be the architects of the second half of the 21st century. How can we as a community best prepare our students to assume that role? What classroom, technology, and curricular design improvements must we implement to ensure their success?

This past fall, 726 CCSD21 residents took part in our phone and online survey to identify the opinions and priorities of the community. This spring, we will continue that dialogue with targeted focus groups, examining those priorities in greater detail. For example, 95% of respondents support “expanding technology resources district-wide.” But what does that entail? Our focus groups will explore that question and many others. Upcoming focus groups, facilitated by M² Communications, will further define the community's priorities.

Feedback from the focus groups will refine the areas the community wants to pursue. Community Engagement Sessions will involve attendees in the “what” and “how” - what could a given idea look like in CCSD21 and how could we design a blueprint to make it happen.

For the latest on the Design21 process, visit www.ccsd21.org/design21.

Focus Groups

Be a part of the conversation as we work together to design the future for our students and our community! Please join us for one of the following community conversations and be part of this important work:

Thursday, February 1 at 7 PM
London Middle School

Wednesday, February 7 at 1 PM
Indian Trails Public Library

Wednesday, February 7 at 7 PM
Whitman Elementary School
Sessions conducted in English and Spanish

Thursday, February 8 at 7 PM
Kilmer Elementary School
Sessions conducted in English and Spanish

Saturday, February 10 at 10 AM
Wheeling Park District

Childcare and light refreshments will be provided at each focus group.

Community Engagement Sessions

Save these dates now and plan to be part of this final phase of the community conversation process where we will look at our focus groups' top priorities and discuss how we can make them a reality:

Wednesday, March 7

Wednesday, March 14

Saturday, March 17

Thursday, March 22

All Community Engagement Sessions will be held at London Middle School.



Community Consolidated School District 21
999 West Dundee Road
Wheeling, Illinois 60090
www.ccsd21.org

Field fourth graders spread kindness

As part of their year-long focus on spreading kindness in our community, Field Elementary School fourth grade students visited London Middle School on World Kindness Day in November to surprise the middle school students. The fourth graders, along with a few eighth grade leaders that were in on the surprise, hung signs throughout the school and posted notes on every locker to spread happiness among the older students.

Their efforts are part of a year-long Kindness Challenge. The students' gestures range from holding the

door open for someone else, writing a thank you card, donating time or items, or complimenting a stranger.

"I'm so proud of and inspired by our students and the positive impact they are making by spreading kindness throughout our community," said Kate Lapetino, fourth grade teacher at Field. "The students are so motivated by each challenge because they see how a small gesture can be meaningful to someone else."

The students track the impact of their kindness by following #fieldkindness on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.

