



DISTRICT 75 UPDATE

SUMMER 2021

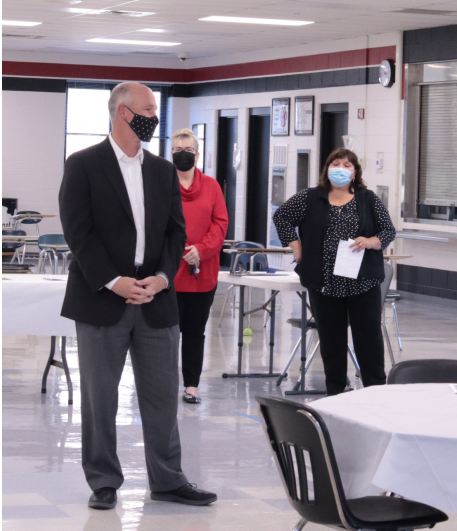
SPOTLIGHT



Lia Kagan portrays Ariel in Carl Sandburg's production of Disney's "The Little Mermaid Jr." Photo courtesy of Hector Gonzalez.

WHAT'S INSIDE

At District 75, we are dedicated to supporting our students' needs and providing diverse learning opportunities that challenge, nurture and educate students. Our faculty is dedicated to inspiring students and providing them with the necessary tools to grow into unique individuals.



IN THIS ISSUE, LEARN HOW WE...

- Celebrate the accomplishments of our students and staff
- Promote literacy within the district
- Welcome new administration to the district
- Adapt to new learning environments



KEVIN MYERS, PHD
DISTRICTS 75/120
SUPERINTENDENT

SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

The 2020-2021 school year has truly been a unique experience for everyone. With the many challenges that were unveiled this year, I am proud to say that as a school district and community, we worked together to do what is best for our students.

In this publication, you find that the determination and perseverance of our students have resulted in a wide range of accomplishments. The many efforts that they have made are truly inspiring.

Throughout this school year, our families, administration, faculty and staff have gone beyond measures to ensure students not only receive a quality education but also continue to do what they love despite the pandemic. Many of our student clubs, athletics, and band and musical students have continued to compete, perform and give back to the community.

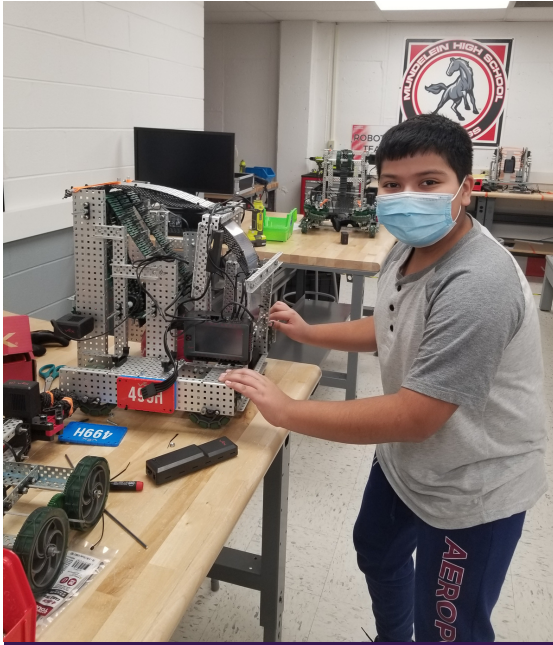
As summer break and promotion approach, we hope that everyone takes a much-needed break to recharge, relax and spend time with family and friends.

During the summer, the administration team will continue to implement and grow the literacy initiative that we started this school year. As we continue on this journey and the ever-changing year, I have no doubts that our school district and community will prevail against any challenges that may arise. We are Mundelein Strong!

—Kevin Myers, PhD
Superintendent of Districts 75/120



DISTRICT 75 ROBOTICS



Carl Sandburg VEX Robotics Team rank second and third in state tournament

Due to COVID-19, robotics competitions around the world are being held virtually. In a tournament hosted by the University of Alabama, two robotics teams from Carl Sandburg ranked second and third in state.

For the tournament, students built a robot to drive in a 12 x 12 ft competitive field mat. Baskets and various colored balls are located throughout the field mat. In one minute, the robot must pick up certain colored balls and drop them in different baskets for points.



Mechanics Grove Robotics Team makes it to State

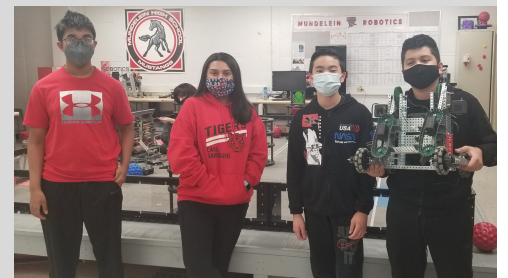
This school year, the Mechanics Grove Robotics "DREAM" Team, composed of three separate teams of 5th-grade girls and boys, coached by Bret Anno, Tony Cho and Rita Washburn, competed in FIRST Lego League, one of the top competitive robotics leagues known all over the country and the world.

At their remote regional qualifier in January, Team S.T.R.E.N.G.T.H., which stands for Strong, Teamwork, Robotics, Engineering, Novel, Game Changers, Together, and Helpful won the "Best Robot Design" Award for their innovative robot and programming and was the only team from District 75 to advance to the remote State Championships. This was an incredible feat for the 5th graders who were in their first and second year in robotics while also having to face tough competition in a league with students up to 8th grade.

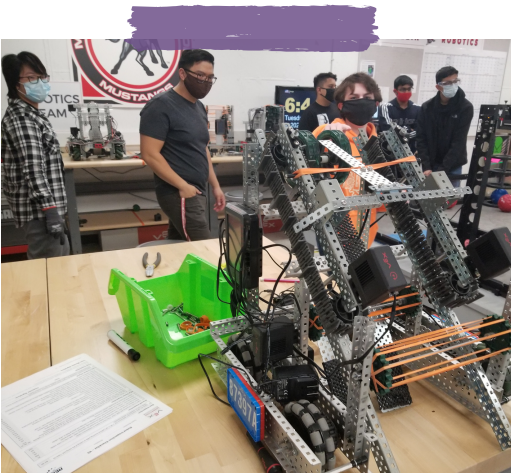
Team S.T.R.E.N.G.T.H. competed against 50 other top teams from across the state in the FLL State Championships on Saturday, April 17, in an all-day, live remote judging session. They posted a team-high robot score and performed admirably in front of live judges in a virtual setting. Although they did not win any awards at state, the team plans to continue their learning and success for the next season at Carl Sandburg.

Carl Sandburg Robotics Team makes it to Robotics WORLD Championships 2021!

This season, three of the VEX teams ranked 3rd, 4th and 5th overall in the entire state of middle school division. As a result, all three of the teams were recently invited to compete in the VEX Robotics World Championships!



One team, 87397C has chosen to accept the invitation to represent Sandburg and District 75 at the World Championships and will go against hundreds of teams from around the world.



PROUD OF OUR FACULTY



Washington teacher earns National Board Certification

Lauren Andrick, a first-grade teacher at Washington School, recently earned National Board Certification.

"I'm grateful for the journey to become a National Board Certified teacher. I was able to examine, analyze, reflect and grow in my practice over an extended period of time. I selected an Early/Middle Childhood literacy path that was my passion and allowed me to explore the impact I have on literacy instruction," said Andrick.

National Board Certification is the highest credential that an educator can earn in the United States. Board certification is a rigorous process that requires educators to showcase and meet several standards by portfolio entries and various assessments.

Board certification benefits both educators and students by providing valuable professional development that educators can implement by improving the quality of education and meeting students' needs.

Andrick, who has been teaching at Washington for eight years, explained that: "I am very appreciative of the support I was provided. I am proud yet humbled by the experience and am looking forward to continued impact on student growth and achievement."

SUBSTITUTE TEACHER APPRECIATION



With the many challenges educators have had to face this school year. The support of substitute teachers play an essential role in the success of the school district. To show appreciation for the on-call, part-time and full-time substitute teachers, D75 hosted an event to thank them for their dedication, flexibility and service to the district.

Antonio Moran and Magdalena Vickerman (pictured left) received certificates of appreciation for their flexibility in taking on long-term assignments and their commitment to supporting students and staff this school year.

TEACHING AND LEARNING

At its April 28 meeting, the District 75 Board of Education announced Dr. Sarah Cacciatore as the Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning starting on July 1, 2021. Sarah has 18 years of experience in K-12 education and is an expert in curriculum leadership. Dr. Cacciatore received her Superintendent Endorsement from Western Illinois University after completing her Doctorate in Education from Northern Illinois University. Prior to this role, Sarah spent seven years as the Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction at Oak Grove School District 68.



GIVING BACK TO OUR COMMUNITY



Carl Sandburg Community Service Club delivers books to kindergarteners

To ensure students have access to books not only at school but also at home, the Carl Sandburg Community Service Club purchased and delivered books to all of the remote and in-person kindergarten students at Washington School.

To purchase the books, The Carl Sandburg Community Service Club hosted a virtual book drive and raised \$655, surpassing their goal of \$500.

"We decided to buy books for kindergartners in District 75 with our funds because we want to promote a love of reading within the Mundelein community. We thought a good place to start was with some of our youngest members," said Jane O'Malley, who advises the club along with Nicole Seibt. "Growing lifelong readers is the goal of our community."

On April 27, The Carl Sandburg Community Service Club loaded up a bus with books to hand deliver to each kindergarten student. Remote students received their books during material pick-up.

Carl Sandburg Middle School Principal Mark Pilut also helped with distributing books.

"I am so proud of the efforts put forth by the Tiger Community Service Club! It is awesome to see the smiles on the kindergarteners' faces as they receive the books and the smiles on our middle schoolers' faces as they give them out. These Tiger Students truly demonstrated living the Tiger CODE! Creating Community through Effective Effort," said Pilut.

As a surprise, the kindergarten students presented the Community Service Club members with handmade thank you notes and cards.

Carl Sandburg Girls on the Run Club participate in A-May-Zing Mundelein

The Carl Sandburg Girls on the Run Club participated in the 26th Annual A-May-Zing Mundelein event to help senior citizens with household chores.

On this annual day of caring, residents throughout Lake County volunteer to help those who have difficulty completing household chores that include mowing lawns, cleaning gutters, washing windows and moving heavy objects.

"I'm proud of the girls for taking time on a Saturday morning to help out their neighbors. They all worked really hard and showed a great sense of community," said Suzanne Klosinski who advises the club along with Cathy Wentink, Kelsy Cain Nelson, Valeria Cardenas and Lea Adolphs.



For the last eight years, Girls on the Run have participated in A-May-Zing Mundelein.

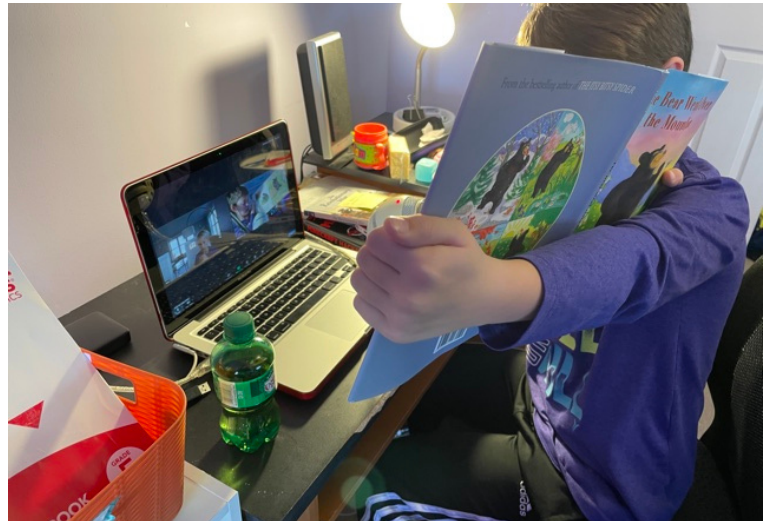
"I like helping people in need, like elderly people who can't do it for themselves. That's what I'm here for," said Brisett Lozano, an eighth-grade student at Carl Sandburg. Girls on the Run is an all-girls program at Carl Sandburg that focuses on improving physical health, promoting healthy social habits and increasing self-esteem.

D75 teachers collaborate on Zoom Buddy Reading to promote literacy during pandemic

For the first-ever Zoom Buddy Reading, fifth-grade students from Mechanics Grove read two of their favorite fall poems and showed a picture book to Washington first-graders.

With remote learning being a struggle for some students, Jackie Ewing, a fifth-grade teacher at Mechanics Grove, explored how she can promote literacy and build confidence within her students while in a remote setting.

"I thought pairing up with a first-grade class would be a good way to have my fifth graders gain confidence in their reading and take on a leadership role with younger students," said Ewing.



"Ewing presented the idea to Lauren Wilczak, a first-grade teacher at Washington. Wilczak immediately said yes and explained that "I've done buddy reading activities in previous school years, and I know how much the kids enjoy it."

"Many of our students are at home doing their remote learning and might not have many opportunities to socialize with kids outside of their class," Wilczak explained.

Each student got paired with a buddy who would complement their unique personality.

"We put some of the shy first graders with more outgoing fifth graders who could bring them out of their shells. We also paired up some students who are native Spanish speakers and encouraged them to speak in Spanish if they wanted to," said Wilczak.

"While in their breakout rooms, fifth-graders lead discussions with their reading buddy about school, remote learning and reading. The fifth graders also showed first-graders various Zoom features such as sharing a screen.

"It was so great to see how many kids embraced this opportunity. Remote learning has been a tough adjustment for all, and this is a way to mix things up and get kids excited about reading in a new way," said Ewing.

Zoom Buddy Reading was a hit with both first and fifth-grade students. Ewing shared that, "students have asked me every day when we are going to do it again. It's a good changeup of our normal schedule, and it helps to have the students have something to look forward to when it comes."

Mundelein school districts and park district collaborate to bring new Little Free Libraries to the community

As a part of the Mundelein Reads Together program, librarians from Mundelein school districts 75 and 120 partnered with the Mundelein Park District to bring six new Little Free Libraries to the community.

The little libraries resemble small houses with a variety of books inside. The books are free to the public and may be taken and kept at home.

There is a Little Free Library at each school.



Mundelein principal takes a pie to the face



With more than 150 people watching live, Mechanics Grove Principal, Tanya Fergus, took a pie to the face after students exceeded their fundraising goal.

The PTO pie fundraiser was a little different this year. Instead of dessert pie, students sold Lou Malnati's Pizza Cards to raise money for their Camp Duncan trip. As an incentive, Principal Fergus promised she would "take a pie in the face if we sell 150 cards." The top three students who sold the most pizza cards were also invited to watch in person.

"Life is short! This makes kids smile and helps give them more incentive to sell cards, which raises money to help the schools," said Fergus.

Students sold 250 pizza cards raising \$1250. The top three sellers were: Madison Doerr, Tyler Kohnen and Alison Catania.

Doerr sold 19 pizza cards, Kohnen sold 14 pizza cards and Catania sold 13 pizza cards.

Due to COVID-19, students and staff watched Fergus take a pie to the face via Zoom.

"This is my fifth year taking a pie in the face," said Fergus. "It wasn't the same without 600 screaming spectators."

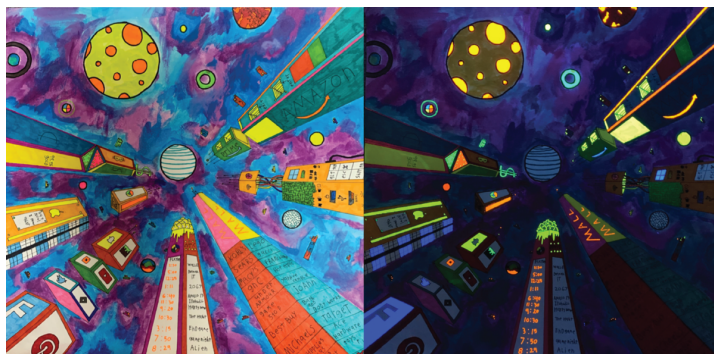
Mechanics Grove Assistant Principal, Jill Unger, threw a chocolate pie at Fergus. Before the event was over, Fergus surprised everyone as she returned the favor and threw a pie at Unger.

VIRTUAL ART GALLERY

Due to COVID-19, Lisa Shirley, a visual arts teacher at Carl Sandburg Middle School, began exploring alternative ways to showcase student artwork. The gallery is updated as students submit their artwork and a brief artist statement.

"The importance is in students being able to communicate and express their dreaming and thinking," she said. "To me, there is nothing more beautiful, inspiring and hopeful than the artwork of our youth."

Photo: "Fetch" by Logan Garbrecht, seventh-grader at CSMS.





Mundelein Elementary School District 75

470 N Lake St, Mundelein, IL 60060

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