



About District 41

District 41 serves approximately 3,500 Pre-K through 8th grade students from five communities - Glen Ellyn, Glendale Heights, Carol Stream, Lombard and Wheaton. There are four elementary schools (Abraham Lincoln, Benjamin Franklin, Churchill, and Forest Glen) and one junior high school (William M. Hadley Junior High) in the district. All District 41 students transition to Glenbard West High School in Glen Ellyn.



Connect 41

THE GLEN ELLYN SCHOOL DISTRICT 41 COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER



From the Desk of the Superintendent

It is my pleasure to announce our new community newsletter Connect41. Great schools matter to members of the community for a variety of reasons. One of my priorities is to continue to make connections with all of you and share information about your neighborhood schools. Whether you have children in our schools or not, we hope you will find information from our school district valuable. Connect41 will be sent to all households within our district boundaries two times a year.

This newsletter is just one part of our commitment to ongoing engagement with the community. This year we have added new opportunities to engage

with the community in meaningful ways. For example, I have been hosting open office hours at all of our schools, I am scheduled to present at several community organizations and we are participating in community events. I look forward to continuing to meet members of the community through these types of opportunities. If you have ideas of how the school district can further engage with the community, please let me know. I am always looking for reasons to get out into the community. I enjoy answering your questions and talking about our amazing staff and students!

We know you have a vested interest in our schools. We want to know your thoughts about our schools and how you

feel about District 41 overall. We will be asking for your feedback through a community survey in the spring. Your thoughts are important to us and help us plan for the future. Thank you in advance for taking the time to participate in the survey!

I look forward to continuing to get to know more of the members of the communities we serve. If you see me out and about, please stop me and say hi! In the meantime, I hope this newsletter helps keep us connected.

Sincerely,

Paul Gordon

Great Schools Matter

Community Facilities Task Force

Over the years, District 41 has been presented with a number of challenges related to school facilities. In February 2015, the Board of Education directed the administration to obtain feedback from the community about addressing facilities needs. The district invited anyone in the community to join the Community Facilities Task Force. Thirty-seven community members volunteered to serve on the task force.

The task force has been working together since August 2015 to accomplish the following:

- Review historical facilities documentation and current needs
- Evaluate the current recommendations for viability and financial implications
- Report to the Board of Education

To learn more about the task force go to www.d41.org/ff.

Thank you to the following community representatives who have volunteered to participate:

Task Force Community Leadership

Lori Taylor, Co-Chair
Tom Voltaggio, Co-Chair
Rae Guimond, Secretary

Pat Ahern
Michelle Applebee
Shelby Bakken
Scott Bots
Marty Boyd
Jeff Cooper
Colleen Costello
Bruce Currie
Linda D'Ambrosio
Erin Dieter
Robert Dieter
Willie DiFabio

Ted Estes
Micaela Furyk
Kelly Hane
Rob Herbold
Dorothy Hess
Colleen Hindman
John Kenwood
Pete Ladesic
Catherine Lemon
Kristin Massey
Paula McGowen
Kevin Moran

Barry Nelson
Ben Peterselli
Kevin Rath
Liz Saylor
William Schumacher
Lisa Seaney
Steve Seaney
Liza Sury
Joyce Talsma
Liz Vogel



The Board of Education honored Yousuf at the October 26 Board meeting.

Student Spotlight

Eighth grade Hadley Junior High School student and Glendale Heights resident Yousuf Khan was selected to serve as one of only 10 TIME magazine "TIME for Kids" reporters in the nation. Yousuf is the only TIME for Kids reporter from Illinois and was chosen out of 300 applicants.

From the *Chicago Tribune* (September 13, 2015) article featuring Yousuf, "Khan said he's been familiar with the TIME Magazine youth program throughout his elementary career in District 41. He said he and his classmates would read the articles and often think "how cool" it was that the stories were written by students their own

age. When he learned the digital and print publication was looking for new reporters for the 2015-2016 school year, he decided to apply. Khan applied for the writing position in August. 'I was thinking 'I wish I could be like them (kid reporters),' he said. 'I was thinking this would be a great experience.'"

"We are extremely proud of Yousuf. This is a significant accomplishment and we applaud his success. We look forward to following Yousuf as he begins this journey as a TIME for Kids reporter," said Superintendent Paul Gordon.

Problem-Based Learning ■ What's Your Problem?

As a way to align real-world and exploration into the classroom, teachers in District 41 integrate problem solving into curriculum. This is called Problem-Based Learning (PBL). With PBL, the teacher and the students come up with a problem together. Students read, write, use math/learn math, and study science, while being graded on the standards along the way. This is the second year teachers have used Problem-Based Learning across the district, Pre-K through 8th grade.

Community volunteers are critical to Problem-Based Learning. The district is always looking to expand the network of experts who serve as guest speakers/experts to help the students with their research and problem solving. If you are interested in volunteering and participating in Problem-Based Learning, please call Kayla Wheeler at (630) 534 - 7454 to learn more. Thank you!



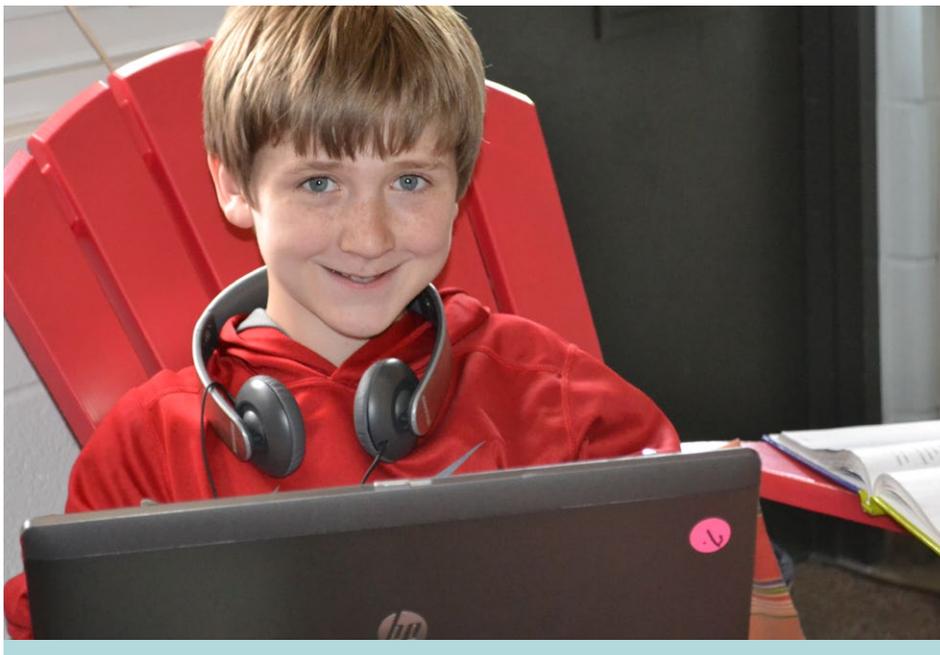


Forest Glen ribbon cutting, October 3

Celebrating New Classrooms

The 22 portable classrooms across the district that once existed at all of the elementary schools are in the process of being removed and replaced with new classroom spaces. As the new classrooms open, the Glen Ellyn Chamber of Commerce has been hosting ribbon cutting events to celebrate with each school community. The last of the elementary school portables will be removed from Churchill in the Spring of 2016. Ten portable classrooms remain at Hadley Junior High and solutions are currently being researched by a District 41 Community Facilities Task Force.

In addition to the ribbon cuttings, Forest Glen School celebrated their new classrooms with a "We Are One" campaign. The PTA purchased spirit wear for every child and staff member to celebrate being under one roof.



Tech Talk

Technology is an important tool that supports learning, especially in the upper grade levels. The district works hard to make sure all students have access to the best and most appropriate technology for their level of learning.

To help make this possible, District 41 began transitioning to the Google platform last year. First Google accounts were created for all staff and email was migrated to Gmail after Spring Break (March of 2014). During the 2014/15 school year, Google accounts were created for all

Hadley Jr. High students. This year, Google accounts are being piloted for 4th and 5th grade students throughout the district. Also, the district provides 1:1 technology for grades 6 through 8. Students in grades 6 through 8 use Chromebooks. In addition, Benjamin Franklin School is piloting Chromebooks for 4th and 5th grade students instead of the Windows based laptops that have been provided in the past.

District 41 works to ensure that all students are prepared for the use of technology at Glenbard West and beyond.

Join the Board for Coffee and Conversation

The District 41 Board of Education hosts Coffee and Conversation events throughout the year on select Saturday mornings at Glen Oak Restaurant in Glen Ellyn. Two Board members attend and talk informally with community members. The Board wants to hear from you and answer your questions! Coffee and Conversations with the Board will be held on the following Saturdays from 8:30 to 10 a.m.

December 5 | February 6 | April 9

All are welcome!



793 N. Main Street
Glen Ellyn, IL 60137
Phone: (630) 790-6400

Paul Gordon, Superintendent

Board of Education

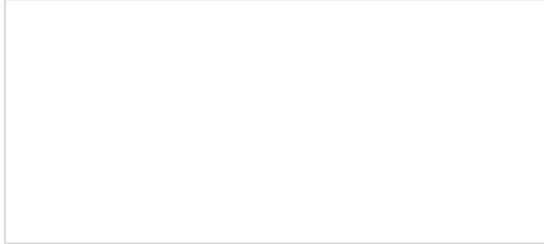
Erica Nelson, President
Drew Ellis, Vice President
Dean Elger, Secretary
Joe Bochenski
Kurt Buchholz
Stephanie Clark
Patrick Escalante

Upcoming Board of Education Meetings

December 14, 2015 – 7:15 P.M.
January 11, 2016 – 7:30 P.M.
January 25, 2016 – 7:30 P.M.

Meetings are held at the District Central
Services Office
793 N. Main, Glen Ellyn

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Connect with us!

District 41 is excited to announce the launch of a new website! Coming soon.

Subscribe to get e-mail news items and District Digest e-mail newsletter at www.d41.org. Also find us on Facebook (Glen Ellyn School District 41) and Twitter (@Glenellynd41).

We would love to hear from you! Send your comments and questions to Erika Krehbiel, Chief Communications Officer, at ekrehbiel@d41.org or call (630) 534-7218. Thank you!

www.d41.org

Connect41 is published for the residents of Glen Ellyn School District 41.