

WINTER 2023

Connect 41

COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER SENT TO OVER 12,000 HOUSEHOLDS IN DISTRICT 41 BOUNDARIES

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D41

glen ellyn

There are so many exciting things happening in District 41 this year that our community needs to know about.

While this is not an exhaustive list, it certainly captures some of the BIG work happening to, with, and for our students. In addition to the important work that happens every single day in our classrooms, the district is also highly engaged in the following:

- Implementation of a Literacy Curriculum Pilot K-8
- Implementation of High Impact Tutoring with our partner, the Glen Ellyn Children's Resource Center/GECRC
- Roll out of a comprehensive Mental Health Initiative
- Superintendent Search
- Ongoing work on the Full Day Kindergarten Addition on the Churchill properties (slated to open in the Fall of 2025)

You will find more information about all these topics in this community newsletter. Thank you for your partnership and continued support of your community schools.

Sincerely,



Dr. Melissa Kaczkowski
Superintendent

ON THE COVER

Hadley 8th Grade Student Board of Education members:
Keira Boynton, Evelyn Carle and Carlos Quintero



D41

At A Glance



3,520
STUDENTS



5
SCHOOL
BUILDINGS



17 to 1
STUDENT
TO TEACHER
RATIO



245
TEACHERS



78%
STAFF WITH
ADVANCED
DEGREES



51
LANGUAGES
SPOKEN

D41 FULL DAY KINDERGARTEN COMING FALL 2025



Scan for Full Day
Kindergarten Info
www.d41.org/Domain/1351



In June 2023, the Board of Education voted to move forward with the planning process necessary to build an addition at Churchill Elementary School that will provide space to offer full day kindergarten to District 41 students. The addition will include 12 classrooms and will serve all full day kindergarten students across the district. Families will still have the option to choose half day kindergarten at their home schools.

This work has been ongoing for the past 16 years through conversations, committees, and studies on this topic. The timing of this project is significant as the Governor signed a bill that will require school districts to offer full day kindergarten by the 2027-28 school year. The district will continue to provide information about the planning process with regular reports to the Board of Education and the community in the coming months.

D41 PRESCHOOL PROGRAM RECEIVES GOLD CIRCLE STATUS

District 41 was notified by the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) that the District 41 Preschool for All (PFA) Program has again achieved a Gold Circle of Quality status in ExceleRate Illinois—the state's quality recognition and improvement system for early learning and development programs.

Congratulations to all who help support the District 41 PreK Program.



Scan for
Preschool Info
www.d41.org/preschool

D41 SUPERINTENDENT SEARCH UPDATE

Superintendent Dr. Melissa Kaczowski will be retiring at the end of this school year, 2023-24, after over 35 years in education. The Board of Education has selected the search firm School Exec Connect to lead the process to select the next superintendent for Glen Ellyn School District 41. The firm expects the

Board to approve a new superintendent by January 2024. Thank you to the community members who participated in focus groups and filled out the community survey. The new superintendent will officially begin on July 1, 2024.

D41 NEW MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLNESS RESOURCES



District 41 is excited to announce the upcoming rollout of several new mental health and wellness supports for families. These supports are funded through a Congressional Community Grant with Congressman Sean Casten supporting the district grant application. District 41 is committed to providing the following through the grant funding awarded to the district:

- **Access to an online support platform for all District 41 families called Parent Guidance.** In addition to a website, one-on-one direct parent coaching will be offered to parents by clinicians, and webinars will be held on a number of mental health topics throughout the year.
- **Implementation of a specialized platform designed for students in middle school and older called Kooth.** Kooth provides a range of support for students via an app. Students will have access to informational courses, clinician facilitated chat sessions that are anonymous, as well as access to a licensed clinician through direct text.
- **Partnership with the YWCA called Strong Families** will also offer direct support through a home visit model.

Scan for D41
Mental Health
Resources
[www.d41.org/
domain/1375](http://www.d41.org/domain/1375)



The goal is to increase access to mental health and wellness support outside of the school day. In addition, the district will put the decision making about using these resources in the hands of parents and guardians as a way to partner with parents to support families. This is an unprecedented level of support being offered through a school district. District 41 is the only district making tiered supports available in this way to all families.

D41 FOREST GLEN STUDENTS HONORED FOR SAVING A LIFE



Also pictured: Glen Ellyn Fire Chief Chris Clark,
Glen Ellyn Deputy Chief of Police Kurt Vavra,
Glen Ellyn Chief of Police Phil Norton

Four brave 5th grade Forest Glen Elementary School students were honored by the Glen Ellyn Police Department, the Glen Ellyn Volunteer Fire Company and District 41 for their heroic efforts saving a drowning person in Lake Ellyn.

Glen Ellyn Chief of Police Phil Norton presented the students with life saving awards. These awards are given only for extremely special circumstances.

The students were also celebrated in the media on local TV news and in the *Daily Herald* newspaper.



D41 STUDENT BOARD MEMBERS SEATED

Three Hadley Junior High 8th grade students, Keira Boynton, Evelyn Carle and Carlos Quintero, have been selected to serve as student representatives on the Glen Ellyn School District 41 Board of Education. Each student will represent one of the grade levels at Hadley and will serve for the remainder of this school year. They were officially seated at the regular Board meeting on October 16, 2023.



Evelyn Carle is the representative for 6th grade.

One peer recommendation read, "This student is the most responsible student I know. This student is always on time with assignments and is very well behaved.

This student is a wonderful public speaker. This student has been in two Hadley plays and is very comfortable speaking in front of others."

Carlos Quintero is the representative for 8th grade.

One of his peers shared, "He is nice and polite as well as friendly to everybody. He is a leader, he can take charge with his responsibility and intelligence." A staff member's recommendation included this about Carlos, "Carlos brings a positive, can-do attitude to school every day."

The role of student Board members is to provide advisory input to the District 41 Board of Education. As student members, they have the unique ability to represent the student voice during Board conversations and decisions. Student Board members are not voting members of the Board and they will not have access to confidential information.

Keira Boynton is the representative for 7th grade.

"This student is respectful while socializing and understands the dynamics of different groups," said one peer recommendation. "This student is good and careful with her words and makes sure not to interrupt." A teacher who recommended Keira shared, "I am thrilled this student stepped forward to apply for this position."

D41 HADLEY JUNIOR HIGH IS NATIONAL SCHOOL TO WATCH

The Hadley Junior High Schools to Watch team was officially recognized at the Association of Illinois Middle Grade Schools National School To Watch Conference. Illinois Horizon Schools to Watch demonstrate academic excellence, developmental responsiveness, social equity, and organizational structures and processes designed to support a trajectory toward excellence.



*Pictured left to right
Front Row: Brian Leadaman,
Principal Steve Diveley,
Assistant Principal Bob Guzzetti
Back Row: Karla Montes de Oca, Kelly Hayes,
Beth Ewoldt, Christie Frame*

NEW BOARD MEMBER APPOINTED

The District 41 Board of Education took action on September 26, 2023 to appoint **Dr. Stephen Miko** to fill a vacant Board position.

Dr. Miko has been a resident within the school district boundaries for 22 years. In his application to become a Board member, he shared, "I believe that access to education is a right to all young people in the community, regardless of individual circumstances. Successful learning must be in a safe and welcoming environment, free from bullying and outside distractions. Teaching methods should be technologically innovative when possible and include audio, visual, kinesthetic, and experiential learning."

Dr. Miko is full-time professor of Criminal Justice Studies at Sauk Valley Community College. Prior to this position, he served as a police officer in Glen Ellyn for 20 years before retiring and starting a new career. During his time with the Glen Ellyn Police Department, he served in Glen Ellyn schools as a juvenile officer and as a community education officer. He also taught D.A.R.E. in all of the elementary schools. In addition, he served as the Glenbard West High School resource officer.

Dr. Miko earned a bachelor's degree and master's degree in Law Enforcement and Justice Administration from Western Illinois University and a Doctorate of Education from Northern Illinois University.



HADLEY MUSIC STUDENTS SELECTED TO PERFORM AT ILMEA FESTIVAL

Congratulations to Hadley Jr. High 8th Grade Band and Orchestra musicians selected to participate in the prestigious Illinois Music Education Association District 9 Festival. **Simon Ellis** (Euphonium), **Joleen Jayme** (Violin), **Chloe Kim** (Viola), and **Emilie Scarleski** (Violin) participated in the ILMEA District 9 Festival on Saturday, November 11th at West Aurora High School.

Congrats to all the students who prepared and recorded auditions. Hadley Band teachers Ms. Samantha Tribley and Mr. Chris Cooper and Orchestra Director Ms. Georgia Alemis are so proud of their student's dedication and musicianship.

About ILMEA

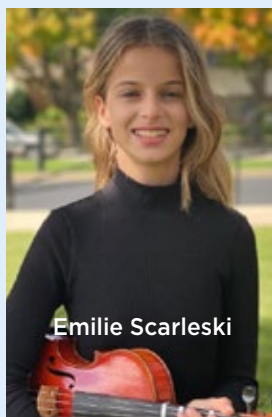
The Illinois Music Education Association exists to advocate for universal access to comprehensive music education; deliver exemplary professional development for educators; and provide outstanding musical experiences for all Illinois learners facilitated by licensed music educators.

Through auditions or nominations, students at participating schools can take part in local and state-level ensembles with other Illinois music students. Opportunities for elementary through high school students include band, chorus, general music, jazz and orchestra. ilmea.org



Joleen Jayme

Chloe Kim



Emilie Scarleski



Sam Ellis

D41 KIDS FOUNDATION WELCOMES YOUR SUPPORT

The D41 Kids Foundation is a 501(c)3 nonprofit created in 2020 by a group of residents concerned about the impact of funding cuts, inflation and policy changes on a national, state and local level that threatened the revenue of public education.

The goal was to create a pathway for community members to invest in our children by supporting our schools. In so doing, the Foundation envisions a district that, guided by evidence, fosters inclusivity, diversity, and equity to fully equip students for a dynamic world, fortified by unwavering community support. "Our mission is to strengthen public education in D41 through adaptive partnerships, strategic investments, and advocacy for initiatives that prioritize equity and prepare



students to be global citizens," said D41 Kids Foundation Chair Lynn Bruno.

Whether it is mailing books through the Dolly Parton Imagination Library, ensuring all children have the school supplies they need to succeed, providing winter outer-wear to those

in need, or meeting the needs of families in crisis, D41 Kids Foundation stands ready to do what it takes to make the vision a reality.

If you are interested in learning more, volunteering or serving on the board, please reach out to the Foundation through their contact page at D41Kids.org.



Scan for info
d41kids.org



LITERARY PUMPKINS TAKE OVER LIBRARY MEDIA CENTERS

The creation of literary pumpkins during the fall season is an annual tradition in many elementary schools in District 41. It is an activity that celebrates the love of reading through art.



At Churchill Elementary School, for example, 174 pumpkins were on display in the Library Media Center this year. The students had an opportunity to show off their creativity and favorite story characters.



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

High Impact Tutoring with Glen Ellyn Children's Resource Center



A new high-impact tutoring program, in partnership with the Glen Ellyn Children's Resource Center (GECRC), will be offered at Churchill School. The goal of the program is to work towards closing the achievement gap

in the district. This program will support students who show the greatest achievement gaps in learning due to lack of resources and opportunities. Students who attend GECRC are eligible for this specialized academic program; targeting those with high academic support needs.

TUTORS NEEDED

Tutors must be over 18 years old and complete training through GECRC and D41. This is separate from the current GECRC volunteers. High-impact tutoring in this program will include:

- Small group tutoring (2-4 students in a group) by the same tutor three days per week
 - Grades 1-3: 30 minutes
 - Grades 4-5: 45 minutes
- Sustained and strong relationships between students and their tutors
- Close monitoring of student knowledge and skills
- Alignment with District 41 curriculum—literacy focused
- Oversight of tutors to assure quality interactions



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www.d41.org/domain/1333



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Glen Ellyn, IL 60137

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Carol Stream, IL
Permit No. 101

Carrier Route Presort

*****ECRWSEDDM*****

POSTAL CUSTOMER

D41 SERVES GLEN ELLYN | GLENDALE HEIGHTS | CAROL STREAM | LOMBARD | WHEATON



**ABRAHAM LINCOLN
ELEMENTARY**

380 Greenfield Ave
Glen Ellyn, IL 60137
(630) 790-6475



**BENJAMIN FRANKLIN
ELEMENTARY**

350 Bryant Ave
Glen Ellyn, IL 60137
(630) 790-6480



**CHURCHILL
ELEMENTARY**

23W240 Geneva Rd
Glen Ellyn, IL 60137
(630) 790-6485



**FOREST GLEN
ELEMENTARY**

561 Elm St
Glen Ellyn, IL 60137
(630) 790-6490



**HADLEY
JUNIOR HIGH**

240 Hawthorne Blvd
Glen Ellyn, IL 60137
(630) 790-6450



***THERE ARE MANY WAYS
TO STAY CONNECTED***



It's everything D41—
In your pocket.



Download the D41 app

From posts with photos about what's
happening in the schools, to daily meal menus,
to school-based daily announcements—

it's all right at your fingertips!



Join our Mailing List!

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and other D41 news!

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