



Board Meeting

The next Board Meeting takes place on Tuesday, March 19, 2019 at 6:30pm in our Board Room.

Culver School

2-22-19



Culver Admin Corner

By ~ Mr. Suarez, Mrs. Guarraci, Dr. Smolinski

PBIS

During the months of December and January, our students worked really hard to earn green PAWS for demonstrating expected behaviors in the classroom. They were set as follows:

- Students in kindergarten through 5th had a goal of earning 5,000 PAWS.
- Students in sixth through eighth grade had a goal of earning 2,000 PAWS.

During the two months, each week there was a raffle where a winner from each grade level was selected as a winner. The winner of the raffle for each grade level got the opportunity to pick a prize of their choice from the PAW House (K-5) and the SWAP Shop (6-8).

At the end of January kindergarten through fifth grade reached their goal by collecting a total of 5,326 PAWS. Additionally, the students in 6th through 8th grade also met their goal by collecting 2,643 PAWS. Both grade level bands earned an assembly celebration that took place on February 1st to reward them for reaching their goal.

Family Literacy and Math Night

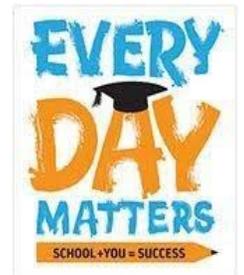
Mark your calendars for Thursday, April 25th. All Culver families are invited to Family Literacy and Math Night. The event is from 5:00-7:00 p.m. Feel free to join us for dinner from 5:00-5:30. The academic event will begin at 5:30, and it will feature several math and literacy-related sessions.

Every Day Matters

During the month of February, Culver school is taking on the "Every Day Matters Challenge". The goal of this challenge is to increase our student attendance during the month of February to 98%.

In order to achieve this goal, we need all PAWS on deck. This is how parents can help:

- Set a regular bedtime and morning routine.
- Lay out clothes and pack backpacks the night before.
- Don't let your child stay home unless s/he is truly sick. Keep in mind complaints of a stomach ache or headache can be a sign of anxiety and not a reason to stay home.
- If your child seems anxious about going to school, talk to teachers, school administrators, support services, or other



parents for advice on how to make him/her feel comfortable and excited about learning.

- Develop back-up plans for getting to school if something comes up. Call on a family member, a neighbor, or another parent.
- Avoid medical appointments and extended trips when school is in session..

Reading/Math Focus

Recently, The American Library Association (ALA) today announced the top books, video and audio books for children and young adults – including the Caldecott, Coretta Scott King, Newbery and Printz awards – at its Midwinter Meeting. Click [here](#) to see the winners. Our Culver Library will soon have a copy of the majority of these books. Happy reading!

One of the best ways for parents to support their child at home is through the use of Khan Academy. Khan Academy provides a library with hundreds of tutorial videos that allows learners to learn mathematics from early math all the way through AP high school courses. In addition to the library of tutorial videos for learners, Khan Academy also provides learners with an opportunity to practice their skills with short activities and self quizzes. Khan Academy is a great resource for educators, learners and parents, and it is all free. To access this great resource, please click on this [link](#).

What we love about Culver

With Valentine's Day in the air, we wanted to briefly share what we **love about our Culver Community:**

TOP TEN LIST

10. Culver Cafeteria Cookies
9. The Fun Run
8. The new playgrounds
7. Delicious addition of daily breakfast
6. Daily P.E
5. The extracurricular opportunities
4. School resources and supports for students
3. Our warm, welcoming staff.
2. The diversity of our community
1. YOU!

Out With the Old (PARCC) and In With the New (IAR)

A philosopher named Heraclitus was once quoted as saying, "The only constant in life is change," and that is certainly the case with the Illinois state assessment! The Illinois State Board of Education has decided that the PARCC test will now be called the Illinois Assessment of Readiness, or the IAR. Fortunately, at this time, the change is really only in the name and length. The test will be comprised of the same content and will have the same format as the PARCC test, but will have one less reading subtest and one less math subtest, totaling 5 reading and math tests.

Believe it or not, it's almost that time of year again! Beginning April 8th, students in grades 3 through 8 will take three math tests and two English language arts tests each scheduled for different days. The tests are completed on the Chromebooks and designed to last between 60 and 90 minutes. Any student who is absent on a testing day will complete a make-up test upon his/her return to school.

"Before anything else, preparation is the key to success."--Dr. Alexander Graham Bell
The IAR is a multi-faceted test that asks our students to apply, evaluate and analyze reading and math content. For instance, "How does the narrator's point of view influence how the events are described?" is a practice question taken from the 5th grade reading test, and, "Which equation has a constant of proportionality equal to 4?" is a practice question on the 7th grade math test. Preparation for the state test is taken seriously at Culver and the students have been engaged in lessons that have complex questions and follow a format similar to IAR.

So, knowing that we are a community of excellence, and not just a school of excellence, we need your help! Did you know that the electronic devices that we have become so accustomed to having at our fingertips can actually prevent a good night's sleep? When we are using our devices, our brains are active, which is contrary to the notion that we need to slow down and relax. Furthermore, the electronic screens emit a blue light that can disrupt your sleep cycle and make it harder to fall asleep. As a result, it is recommended that we put our devices down 30 minutes to 1 hour before we go to sleep. You can help by making sure that children go to bed at a reasonable time. You may want to give them prior warning that you are going to take their electronics from them at a given time so that they can go to bed and get a good night's sleep. Next, breakfast is considered the most important meal of the day, so be sure to wake up early enough to make a delicious and nutritious breakfast or consider dropping the children off at school as early as 7:40 so they can eat breakfast here!

Instruction during the IAR test looks a bit different than during other days of the year. Per the Illinois State Board of Education, schools are not to teach anything new on the days that the test is administered to the students. As a result, the students will be engaged in review and are not likely to have homework. Tests can be stressful for students, so it is important to help them keep a positive attitude and remind them that we are proud of each one of them.



Pre-School Screening

Niles Elementary School District 71 offers free pre-school screenings for residents who have children ages birth through 5.

What is a pre-school screening?

A pre-school screening is a way to determine if a child is progressing typically for his/her age in conceptual, communication, socialization, motor skill and social emotional development. It is designed to identify any child who may need further assessment or monitoring or may be eligible for early intervention services (birth through 2 years old) or special education services through the school district (ages 3 through 5).

What is the process?

1. Contact Ms. Laura Guarraci, the Director of Student Services, at 847-470-3405 or Lguarraci@niles71.org to share your concerns about your child's development
2. Come to Culver School to prove residency within the district
3. Complete a screening packet and return it to the school
4. Within two weeks of returning the screening packet to school, parents will be notified of the results of the screening.

Children ages birth through 2 who score below the cutoffs will be referred to Early Intervention for a more comprehensive evaluation.

Children ages 3 through 5 who score below the cutoffs will be considered for further assessment or monitoring by the school district.

Ms. Laura S. Guarraci

Director of Student Services

847-470-3405

Lguarraci@niles71.org

Culver School

Niles Elementary School District 71

6901 W. Oakton St.

Niles, IL 60714



Niles Elementary School District 71

The Blended Early Childhood Program will be Accepting Applications for the 2019-2020 School Year from February 1-28, 2019



Monday through Friday

Morning Session 8:30-11:00 AM
Afternoon Session 12:00-2:30 PM

Children must be 3 years old by September 1st. Children who are 5 by September 1st should enroll in kindergarten.

Preschool For All (PFA)

Culver School was awarded a grant from the Illinois State Board of Education to implement a Preschool For All program. As a result, preschool is free of charge!

Preschool students must reside within Niles Elementary School District 71 boundaries.

Preschool For All

The PFA Program has a combination of general education and special education students who are taught by a licensed early childhood teacher who is endorsed to teach general education, special education and English learners. A teaching assistant also supports the students in the preschool classroom.

How to Apply

1. Complete the Culver Preschool Application on the website at <http://www.niles71.org/parents/preschool> beginning Feb. 1.
2. Complete and submit the screening forms and Preschool For All Parent Form that will be emailed to you after completion of the Culver Preschool Application by deadline.

What to Expect

- Acceptance into the PFA Program is based on a variety of factors that include, but are not limited to, at-risk factors, disability status and developmental readiness.
- All applicants will be notified by email as to whether the child is admitted to the program by Friday, April 5, 2019.
- Residency must be proven for those children accepted to the program within a 2 week period of time.
- Children who are not admitted to the program will be added to the waitlist. The waitlist is sorted by eligibility criteria, so applicants do not have numbers.

Ms. Laura S. Guarraci
Director of Student Services

847-966-9280 x 1105
Lguarraci@niles71.org

Kathy Morrissey

School Nurse



February is Children's Dental Health Month

Good oral health and hygiene is directly linked to overall physical wellness. It also reduces the risk of serious illness and disease. Teaching children at a young age to care for their teeth and gums can provide a huge long term health benefit. According to the American Academy of Pediatric Dentists, "On average, students miss more than 51 million school hours each year because of dental problems or related conditions. To avoid your kids missing school, make sure that they brush regularly and visit their dentist every six months for a check-up. Visiting the dentist regularly can help prevent cavities and reinforce good dental hygiene practices." Please visit "The Mouth Monsters" for more information about oral health for children at, <http://mouthmonsters.mychildrensteeth.org/tips-for-parents/>.

Please be aware that children in kindergarten, second grade and sixth grade must submit to school the Proof of School Dental Examination by May 15, 2019 as required by Illinois law. If you have not already submitted to school the Proof of School Dental Exam, please schedule your examinations and submit to school the required form as soon as possible. Proof of Dental Examination forms may be obtained at the school and from the school website.

February is American Heart Month

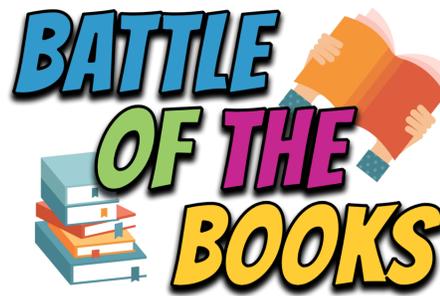
According to the American Heart Association (AHA), "High blood pressure, cholesterol, obesity, physical inactivity and smoking have always been 'adult topics'. But many children have the same risk factors as their parents." Preventing heart related disease should begin at a young age. Teaching children to make healthy life choices early on is key to preventing heart related illnesses. The AHA states that these seven factors are important to staying healthy:

1. [Avoid smoking and using tobacco products.](#)
2. [Be physically active every day.](#)
3. [Eat a heart-healthy diet.](#)
4. [Keep a healthy weight.](#)
5. [Keep your blood pressure healthy.](#)
6. [Keep your total cholesterol healthy.](#)
7. [Keep your blood sugar healthy.](#)

You can learn more about the "7 Simple Ways to Live Better" at:

http://www.heart.org/idc/groups/heart-public/@wcm/@fc/documents/downloadable/ucm_461359.pdf

At school we appreciate your support in helping advocate good decision making skills and promoting healthy lifestyle choices. If you suspect your child has a health problem please consult with your healthcare provider.



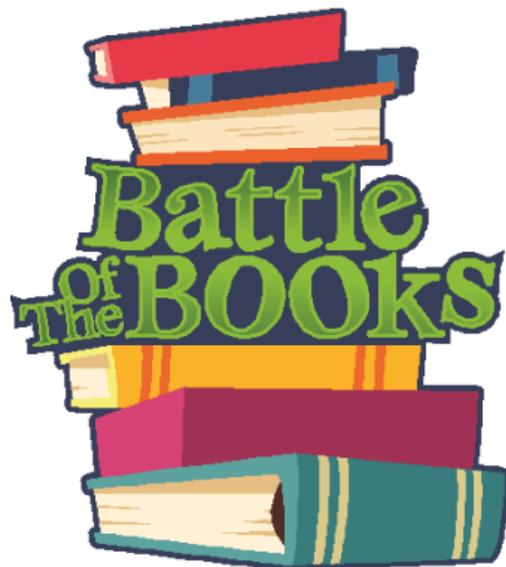
Battle of the Books
2018-2019

The Battle of the Books is a book reading club for grades 4-6. I'm very proud of our 2nd place finish this season. I am inspired by their passion for reading and their team synergy. Each week our team showed great leadership, determination, and enthusiasm. I want to take the opportunity to thank the parents and our Culver staff/administration for their unwavering support this year.

Mr. Rybicki,
Battle of the Books Coach

Gideon Aguilera
David Chudoba
Alanna Fernandez
Anni Huang
George Hurducas
Eman Imran
Neesa Joshin
Katie Lee
Alexandra Morcarska
Zainab Nathani

Mario Olteanu
Annaliese Pagan
Katelyn Regules
Jedric Rendon
Avin Shrestha
Lilianna Swenson
Elyse Tregoning
Caroline Varghese
Marilyn Vintimilla
Jessica Zhu



CHOIR DAY

CULVER CHORUS



HIGHLIGHTS

Culver Chorus members are grateful for the opportunity they had to attend Choir Day at Niles West High School on January 9th. Along with other township choirs, we had an amazing day. Some highlights include observing a rehearsal, participating in warm-ups, having combined rehearsals and learning a new round, *Dona Nobis Pacem in Latin*. We were inspired by the performances of other groups, especially by a guest performing group, *Xtension Chords*.

It was a joy to see so many of our Culver Alumni excelling in the vocal performance groups. Congratulations Janelle Rodriguez, Timmy Melfi, Sofia Joseph, Dina Limperatos, June Wei, Moe Dasser, and Inara Ali.

Mrs. Dworak

4TH GRADE

Fourth Grade Teachers

Fourth grade is reading a novel on Pearl Harbor during Language Arts. It has helped us understand the attack on Pearl Harbor through the perspective of a young boy living there. We are learning about our country's history and the sacrifices people made to help others.

Edwin and Faith

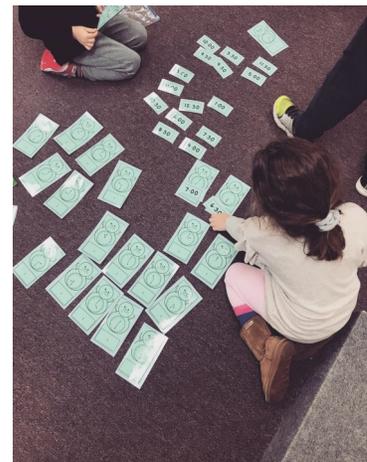
The branches of the government are super cool! There are actually 3 kinds of branches. The different branches are the Legislative branch, Executive branch, and Judicial branch. The Executive Branch is where the President is the leader. The Legislative Branch includes the Senate and the House of Representatives. Lastly, the Judicial Branch includes the Supreme Court. Learning about the different branches is interesting. We get to learn more about how the world works. So as you can see we like learning about the branches of the government!

Gabriella & Lily



1st Grade

As the cold, winter days often force students to stay inside, the first graders are using that time wisely to improve upon their math skills. First graders spend about 25 minutes each day participating in math centers. The centers are comprised of engaging and motivating games that provide students opportunities to practice mathematical skills and concepts such as: computation, patterns, place value and so on. These games are critical opportunities for students to strengthen and deepen their mathematical understanding - all while having fun!



CULVER SCHOOL

W E E K L Y D A T E S

February 22, Friday

Breakfast - Cini-Mini, Assorted Cold Cereal Kits, Fruit Basket, 100% Juice & Milk

Lunch – Tony’s Cheesy Garlic Flatbread

Spirit Day

7:15am Concert Band & Orchestra

7:25-7:55am Science Olympiad C Practice

3:00-5:00pm 6th – 8th Grade - Play Cast Rehearsal

4:00pm 8th Grade Boys’ Basketball Game & Cheerleading vs Golf

6:00-7:45pm Culver PTA sponsored Movie Night (West doors open at 5:45pm)

February 23, Saturday

8:00am-3:30pm Solo & Ensemble @ Lincoln Hall Middle School

February 25, Monday

Breakfast - Assorted Cold Cereal Kits, Fruit Basket & Milk

Lunch – Mini Pancakes

Box Top Labels Due Today

8th Graduation Picture Re-takes

7:15am Intermediate Band/Orchestra

3:00-4:30pm Girl Scout Meeting

3:00-4:45pm Cast Play Rehearsal – Parent Meeting after

4:00pm 8th Grade Boys’ Basketball Game & Cheerleading @ Lincoln

4:00pm 7th Grade Boys’ Basketball Game vs Lincoln

5:00pm 6th Grade Boys’ Basketball Game vs Lincoln

February 26, Tuesday

Breakfast - Assorted Cold Cereal Kits, Fruit Basket & Milk

Lunch – Tyson Chicken Nuggets

7:15am Intermediate Band/Orchestra

3:00-4:00pm CAIP

3:00-4:00pm Culver Cares Club

3:00-4:30pm Crew Play Rehearsal

3:00-5:00pm Robotics practice

3:00-5:00pm Cast Play Rehearsal

4:00pm 7th Grade Boys’ Basketball Game vs Golf

February 27, Wednesday

Breakfast - Assorted Muffins, Assorted Cold Cereal Kits, Fruit Basket, 100% Juice, & Milk

Lunch – Mozzarella Stuffed Breadsticks
Ronald McDonald Care Mobile is at Culver

7:15am Concert Band & Orchestra

3:00-4:00pm CAIP

3:00-4:00pm Art Club

3:00-5:00pm Cast Play Rehearsal

3:10-4:00pm Cheerleading practice TBD

3:10-4:30pm 7th & 8th Grade Boys’ Basketball practice

CULVER SCHOOL

W E E K L Y D A T E S

February 28, Thursday

No School

11:00am-6:00pm Parent Teacher Conferences

10:00am-8:00pm - Culver PTA School Fundraiser - Jump Night @ Altitude Trampoline Park

March 1, Friday

No School – Teacher Institute Day

March 4, Monday

Breakfast - Assorted Cold Cereal Kits, Fruit Basket & Milk

Lunch – Macaroni & Cheese

7:15am Intermediate Band/Orchestra
3:00-4:30pm Girl Scout Meeting
3:00-5:00pm Cast Play Rehearsal

March 5, Tuesday

Breakfast - Assorted Cold Cereal Kits, Fruit Basket & Milk

Lunch – Mini Pancakes

7:15am Intermediate Band/Orchestra

3:00-4:00pm CAIP

3:00-4:30pm Crew Play Rehearsal

3:00-5:00pm Robotics practice

3:00-5:00pm Cast Play Rehearsal

7th Grade Boys' Basketball Tournament @ Fairview - Time TBD

8th Grade Boys' Basketball Tournament - TBD

March 6, Wednesday

Breakfast - Assorted Muffins, Assorted Cold Cereal Kits, Fruit Basket, 100% Juice, & Milk

Lunch – Penne w/choice of sauce

7:15am Concert Band & Orchestra

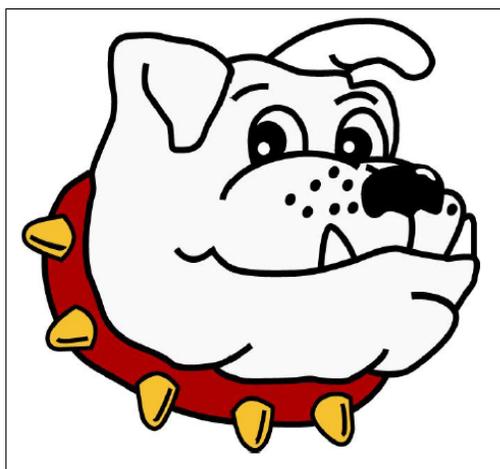
3:00-4:00pm CAIP

3:00-4:00pm Art Club

3:00-4:00pm Student Council Meeting (officers)

3:00-5:00pm Cast Play Rehearsal

3:10-4:00pm Cheerleading practice TBD



Niles Elementary School District No. 71

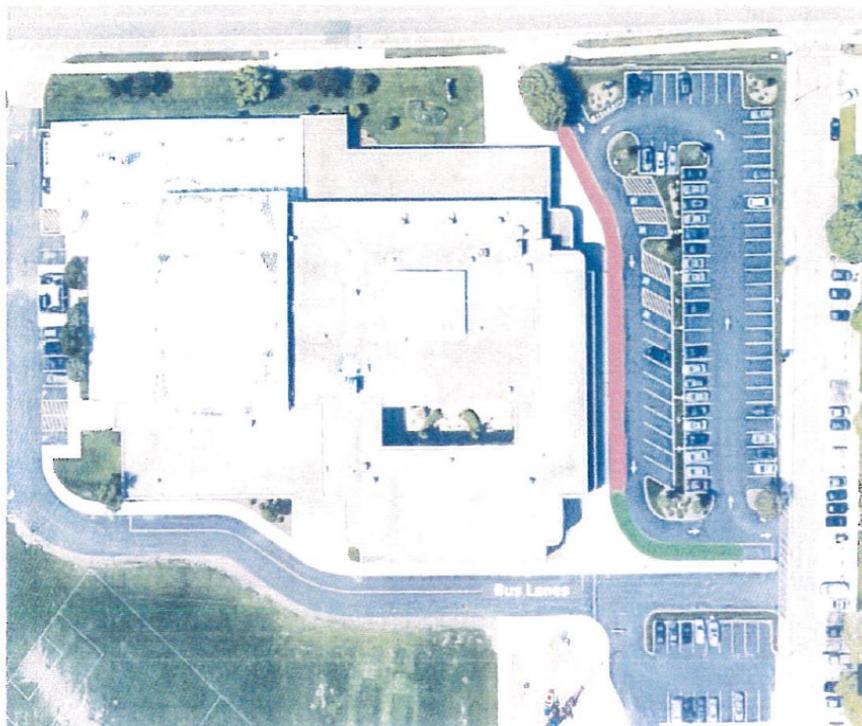
Dear Parents and Guardians,

We are really concerned about the safety of our students at both arrival and dismissal. As a result, we have instituted procedures to keep all students safe during this time. It is important that we adhere to the procedures outlined below:

- Pull forward in the green zone
- Do not drop off in the red zone next to the fence
- Unload on the passenger side
- Walk to your designated area
- If your child is not able to get in or out of the car by himself or herself, please park in the lot and walk to the designated lines

Please contact the office with any questions.

Thank you for working together to keep our community safe.
The Culver Staff





Niles School District 71

A Community of Excellence

The Niles 71 website now features a resources page! As we teach our children to ask for help when they need it, we also encourage families to ask for help when they need it. To support our mission of developing the whole child, Niles 71 is providing a list of resources for parents to access as needed. On this page we are highlighting community resources that may be useful to our families. Included in this list of resources are:

- Basic Needs
- Financial
- Mental health
- Language
- Health
- Multi-needs resources

If you have any questions about these resources or need additional resource information please contact: Kathy Morrissey, School Nurse, Linda Kraus, School Social Worker, or Liz Lawrence, School Psychologist.

These links are being provided as a convenience and for informational purposes only; they do not constitute an endorsement or an approval by Niles Elementary District 71.

