



Prospect Heights School District 23 October 13, 2017

Welcome to the 2017-18 School Year!!

Dear District 23 Families,

The 2017-18 school year is off to a great start. This year, we welcomed more than 1,550 students to Eisenhower, Betsy Ross, Anne Sullivan, and MacArthur schools. We were happy to see our returning families, and we extend a warm welcome to those who are new to the District. I also want to welcome our new MacArthur Principal, Mr. Cam Nystrom, and the new teachers and staff who have joined our District community.

We're also kicking off the year with some key facility, curriculum, and technology changes:

- Thanks to a partnership with District 214, newly renovated STEM and Family and Consumer Science classrooms and labs await our MacArthur students.
- Inquiry based teaching and learning will be highlighted in the new science curriculum, Mystery Science, adopted for grades K-5.
- As we continue our 1:1 iPad initiative for students at Sullivan and MacArthur, we have also built a 2:1 shared iPad cart environment at Ike and Ross. This level of access will support our teachers in engaging students in active, creative learning.

Lastly, our Board of Education approved our Strategic Blueprint that articulates the various goals and priorities of the District. One focus we hope you will notice is an increased commitment to transparency and ongoing communication. This School Scene Newsletter will be the primary vehicle for direct communication and serving as a hybrid of the traditional monthly "Board Highlights" and quarterly "School Scene" newsletter. This email is directed to the "primary email" address provided during the registration process. Additional addresses may be requested to be included through the school office. We also encourage families to follow the District and schools on Twitter using the links at the bottom of this newsletter.

Best wishes for a fantastic school year!
Sincerely,

Don Angelaccio, Ed.D.
Superintendent

[Click here to view our district website](#)

**Technology
Enhancements in D23**



The use of technology tools to enhance teaching and learning has been an ongoing goal for our District. This year, we have entered Phase 3 of our [Tech Plan 2.0](#), which provides classes in grades K-3 with one iPad for every two students to use at school, and we are continuing with the 1:1 iPad initiative for all students in grades 4-8.

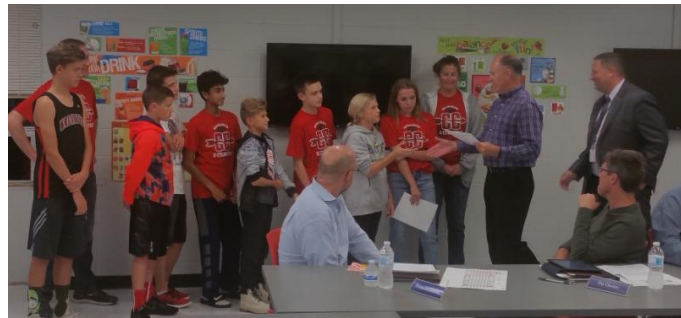
[Read More](#)

Highlights

September 13 and October 11, 2017 Meetings of the Board of Education

Good Luck at State - XC Teams

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by MacArthur students from the Cross Country teams and their coaches. These students earned the right to compete in the IESA State Cross County on Oct. 14th in Normal, IL. We wish them the best of luck!



Tenured Teachers and New Staff Welcomed

District 23 teachers who have accomplished tenure at the beginning of the 2017-2018 school year were recognized.

Congratulations to: Lindsay Castronovo, Michael Howitz, Laura Jackson, and Allison Mass. Each were presented with a certificate. Also recognized were all our new staff members: Joanne Engstrom, Jessa Gianneschi, Elizabeth Guza, Anna Hallman, Alyssa Hirsh, Violet Jimenez, Zani Kola, Jessica Lelito, Samantha Lynn, Camron Nystrom, Bryan Quesa, Vicki Samiotakis, Stacey Hendricks, and Jennifer Luke.



Budget Adoption

A public hearing on the proposed 2017-2018 Annual School Budget was held during the meeting, followed by a vote to approve. Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations, Micheal DeBartolo, explained the impact of

State funding and the District's plan for revenue and expenses this Fiscal year.

Please visit the Business Office page for more information



Student Performance and Growth Report

Dr. John Gatta of the ECRA group presented a summary of our students' performance and growth data. Dr. Gatta also included an overview of the current trends related to assessment models and State/Federal Policy as it impacts our District. We are excited to share that all of our schools continue to meet their growth targets!

Growth

2017 Spring MAP (all subjects)

Student Growth by School

School:	Effective Sample Size [^]	% Met Benchmark	% High Growth	% Expected Growth	% Low Growth	Growth
ANNE SULLIVAN ELEMENTARY	271	41%	21%	63%	17%	+ 0.08
BETSY ROSS ELEMENTARY	343	43%	14%	66%	20%	- 0.11
EISENHOWER ELEMENTARY	249	49%	13%	67%	20%	- 0.17
MACARTHUR MIDDLE SCHOOL	494	52%	20%	64%	15%	+ 0.07
ALL EXPECTED	1,357	47%	18% 16%	65% 68%	18% 16%	- 0.02 0.00

[^] Data color is green for all growth scores that are not statistically significant

[^] Effective sample size only includes students with at least 2 predictors

^{**} Percentages may not add to 100 due to rounding

^{***} Growth not reported for groups with fewer than 5 students



ECRA Group
Education | Consulting | Research | Analytics



Higher than Expected Growth
Growth is +0.30 or above



Expected Growth
Growth from -0.29 to +0.29



Lower than Expected Growth
Growth from -0.30 to -0.59

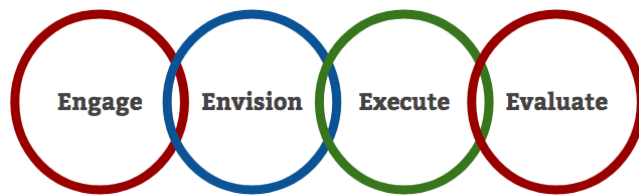


Unsatisfactory Growth
Growth is -0.60 or below

Review the Student Growth and Achievement Presentation here

Strategic Planning in District 23

Dr. Angelaccio shared the process for Strategic Planning to be used this school year. He explained three important goals to be accomplished through this process: 1) To create a culture of continuous improvement; 2)



To align the goals of the Board, administration, staff and classrooms; 3) To articulate the action steps and expected outcomes for our students. A timeline has been established to begin in November to ENGAGE our community; ENVISION the mission, vision, guiding principles, goals and objectives; EXECUTE an action plan that specifies, metrics, timelines, roles and responsibilities; and EVALUATE for long term strength and stability.

NEXT REGULAR MEETING
WEDNESDAY, November 8, 2017 at 7:00 p.m.
Grotsky Administration Building

Building Briefs

Parent Teacher Conferences Scheduled for November

Our upcoming November 9th & 16th Parent-Teacher Conferences provide an opportunity to sit down together and reflect upon your child's growth and performance. Just as important as earning grades, we are able to discuss their social-emotional progress and their classroom participation, focus, and level of enthusiasm. Please contact your child's teacher or school for information about how to sign up for conferences.



Halloween Parades and Costumes at Ike, Ross and Sullivan

The Eisenhower, Ross, and Sullivan annual Halloween Costume Parades will be on Tuesday, October 31. The morning early childhood and morning kindergarten classes will parade outside at 10:00 A.M. The Eisenhower school parade for PM early childhood & kindergarten, full-day kindergarten, and 1st grade classes will begin at 12:00 P.M. The Ross/Sullivan Halloween Costume Parade for 2nd, 3rd, 4th, & 5th Grade classes will begin at 12:45.

[Read More](#)

US Representative Jan Schakowsky Visits Betsy Ross

On October 2nd Betsy Ross students welcomed US Representative Jan Schakowsky (a former first and second grade teacher). She spoke about the importance of maintaining a clean environment, laws she has helped to pass to keep children safe, and addressing bullying in schools.

[Read More](#)



Sullivan Students Embark on Google Expeditions

On Thursday, October 5th, Sullivan students and staff had the opportunity to participate in an Augmented Reality experience through Google Expeditions. Augmented Reality allows technology to overlay



information onto a view on a screen.

[Read More](#)

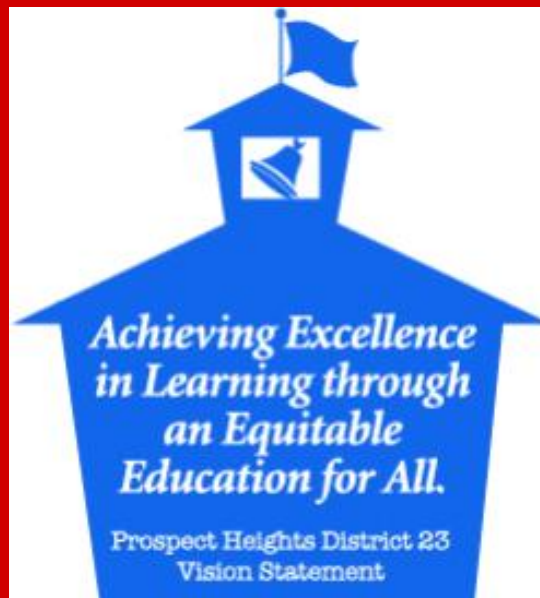
Veterans Day Assembly at MacArthur

MacArthur is once again proudly hosting a Veterans Day celebration to recognize and honor our community veterans! If you are a veteran or have a family member or friend who is, please invite that person to our celebration on Thursday, November 9, with a breakfast at 8:30 and an assembly honoring veterans from 9:30 to 10:30.

[Read More](#)



Stay Connected with us!



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Superintendent

Dr. Christie Samojedny
Assistant Superintendent

Mr. Micheal DeBartolo
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Dr. Chrys Sroka
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Mrs. Maria Stavropoulos
Director of Technology

Mr. Brian Rominski
Director of Buildings &
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