



Prospect Heights School District 23

December 11, 2020

A Charlie Brown Christmas

Spanish Translation

Dear Parents and Staff,

Anyone who knows me knows that I am a dedicated Costco shopper! I love everything about Costco and have, for many years, purchased our Christmas tree from them. We have never been disappointed...



until this year! We brought the tree home, gave it some water for a few days in the garage, then set it up in the corner of our living room.

Not to disparage the good name of Costco, but this tree was a fitting tree for COVID 2020!

There were a number of dried out branches and dead spots. It was a sorry excuse for a tree! We were so disappointed and discouraged.

But, much like the tree in "A Charlie Brown Christmas", once we started to decorate it, and bring it to life, it turned out to be not so bad.

And like we have all done throughout this COVID pandemic, we made the best of a bad situation.

In the end, our tree, though not as "pretty" as past years, represents all that really matters. It still holds the traditions and memories of our family. It still brings joy and the holiday spirit into our home. It still reminds us of all that we are thankful for and the many blessings we have received. It still celebrates the real reason for this season and strengthens our faith as a family.



Over the past 10 months, the District 23 community has struggled to cope with and navigate the COVID pandemic. It has been exhausting, stressful, and extremely difficult for us

Upcoming Events

**NO SCHOOL
WINTER BREAK
December 21 -
January 4**



January 4
No School
Teacher Institute Day



**Board of
Education
Meeting**

**January 13, 2021
7:00 pm
At Grodsky Building or
Attend Virtually**

January 18
No School
Martin Luther King Jr.
Day Observed

**Follow these links
for more
information:**

[Back to School Blueprint](#)

[FAQ Document](#)

[D23 Transportation
Website](#)

all. Unfortunately, we still have lots of work to do and a long road ahead of us.

But also like the Charlie Brown Christmas tree, our District 23 community has been transformed and demonstrated its resilience with a focus on what really matters most. We have focused on keeping one another safe and healthy. We have focused on building strong relationships. We have focused on partnerships and collaborating. We have focused on adapting and innovating. We have focused on learning and growing.

We are so grateful for the way our students have responded: for their hard work, flexibility, sense of humor, sharing, and growth mindset. We are so grateful for the support of our families: for their understanding, perseverance, and partnership. We are so grateful for the dedication of our faculty and staff: for their adaptability, professionalism, and collaborative support.

Together we are better and have much for which we are thankful. On behalf of the District 23 Board of Education, Administration, and all of the Staff we wish your family a very Happy Hanukkah, Merry Christmas, and Happy Holidays! Whatever your faith or practices, we wish you health and happiness and many blessings. We wish you a very Happy New Year and all the best in 2021!

Best wishes,
Dr. A

[D23 Food Service Website](#)

[Extended Day Program](#)

[D23 COVID Dashboard](#)

Quick Links



Visit the D23
website



[Link to: Board of Education Agendas and Meeting Highlights December 9, 2020](#)

Back to School Blueprint - Update: Return to In Person



We continue to monitor the data and guidance related to COVID-19 and our status for remote and in person instruction. Our current Adaptive Pause is scheduled to end on January 18 with January 19 scheduled as the target date for a return to in person instruction.

As we have said throughout this pandemic, we are committed to making the best decision possible given the range of data and variables at play. The data post Thanksgiving Break have been better than expected, though still high. We hope that the downward trend of case and positivity rates will continue, both for the health and safety of our community and our ability to return to in person instruction.

Families should continue to be prepared for remote instruction in January, even past the January 19th date. If the conditions allow, however, we hope to invite our Targeted Special Education, At-Risk, Early Childhood, and Kindergarten students back, followed by a return to our hybrid model of in person instruction.

We hope to receive updates from the Governor, Illinois State Board of Education, and Illinois Department of Public Health with guidance for return to in person instruction, testing, and vaccination strategies. We have been advised that we will all need to remain patient and not to expect significant changes prior to the late Spring/Summer.



Sullivan STEAM Club

Members of the Anne Sullivan STEAM Club lead the Board of Education in the Pledge of Allegiance and shared their experiences this Fall. Building 3D models of Tiny Houses and learning about Macy's Thanksgiving Day Balloon structures were two of the favorites!



2020-21 Calendar Updates



The Board approved modifications to the 2020-21 School Calendar. The updated list calendar can be found [HERE](#). The two changes that were made are: Feb. 1, 2021 - Non-Attendance Day for Distance Learning Planning and May 17, 2021 new date for School Improvement Day.



Financial Updates

The Tax Levy for 2020 was approved by the Board of Education. This begins the budget process for District 23 and will continue throughout this Spring. As stewards of public investments, our focus on sustainable resources is essential as we navigate these challenging financial times.



Building Briefs

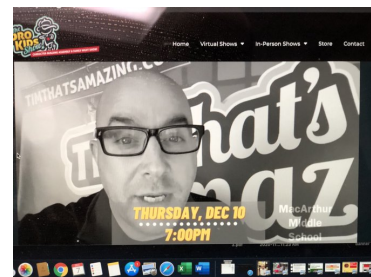
Congrats MacArthur Unified Programs!

We are so proud of MacArthur being named one of 3 National Unified Banner Schools in the State of Illinois. Congratulations to all who worked so hard to design and implement this program and a HUGE THANKS to the students who have actively participated in and led this program over the years. The video below shares more information about the program, highlights remarks from students and staff, and includes the official proclamation and unveiling.



Thank you PTO and ProKids!

Many thanks to our D23PTO for sponsoring the ProKids assemblies shared during the school days and also for the Family Night Show on December 10. If you did not have a chance to watch it live, [click this LINK](#) to view a recording. The Prokids message is so positive and uplifting and the magic is wild! Tim, THAT's AMAZING!



Meal Distribution Update



During the month of December, we will continue to partner with our food service vendor, Organic Life, to provide weekly meals for any child over the age of 18, at no cost.

Meal distributions will take place throughout the month of December as follows:

TUESDAY - 12/22 and 12/29 (Day change due to the holiday schedule)

Two locations:

- **VIP Apartments (850 Corey Lane, Wheeling) - Between 12:00-2:00 PM**
- **MacArthur Middle School Cafeteria - Between 3:00 - 6:00 PM**

As always, should you have any questions, please contact the Business Office directly. Thank you and Happy Holidays!

INFORMACIÓN DE DISTRIBUCIÓN DE COMIDAS DE DICIEMBRE

Durante el mes de diciembre, continuaremos asociándonos con nuestro proveedor de

servicios de alimentos, Organic Life, para proporcionar comidas semanales para cualquier niño menor de 18 años, sin costo alguno.

Las distribuciones de comidas se llevarán a cabo durante todo el mes de diciembre de la siguiente manera:

MARTES - 22/12 y 29/12 (cambio de día debido al horario de vacaciones)

Apartamentos VIP (850 Corey Lane, Wheeling) - Entre las 12: 00-2: 00 PM

Cafetería de la Escuela Intermedia MacArthur - Entre las 3:00 - 6:00 PM

Como siempre, si tiene alguna pregunta, comuníquese directamente con la Oficina de Negocios.

¡Gracias y felices fiestas!

Info from our Community Partners



PHPARKS.ORG
847.394.2848

Due to the new schedules for schools, the Prospect Heights Park District is extending our camp as an Elearning opportunity. Elearning Camp will be held at the Gary Morava Recreation Center for children pre-k through 6th grade. The safety precautions outlined by the Illinois Department of Commerce will be followed and are outlined in our COVID-19 Guidelines.

**Elearning Camp
Option Codes**

Monday - Friday 8am-2:30pm

Jan 5 - Jan 8 604207-40
Jan 11 - Jan 15 604207-41

Kindergarten 8am-11am

Jan 5 - Jan 8 604207-42
Jan 11 - Jan 15 604207-43

Extended care available
from 7:00 am-8:00 am for
\$25 and 2:30 pm - 6:00 pm
for \$50 a week.

PROSPECT HEIGHTS PARK DISTRICT

**One
Week
Sessions**

JANUARY 2021

Elearning Camp

8:00 am - 2:30 pm
for \$100 per week
***Grade 6 Elearning**
Camp hours will be
7:45 am-3:00 pm

REGISTER ONLINE AT WWW.PHPARKS.ORG
OR CALL 847-394-2848
FOR MORE DETAILS REGARDING THE PROGRAM

Connect With Us



Administration: (847) 870-3850

Dr. Don Angelaccio
Superintendent

Dr. Amy Zaher
Assistant Superintendent for
Curriculum and Instruction

Mrs. Amy McPartlin

Dr. Chrys Sroka
Director of Special Education

Mrs. Maria Stavropoulos
Director of Technology

Mr. Brian Rominski
Director of Buildings & Grounds



*Create opportunities
that inspire all
students to grow as
learners, individuals,
and citizens.*

District 23 Vision Statement