



Dwight D Eisenhower

Betsy Ross

Anne Sullivan

Douglas MacArthur

# The School Scene

Winter 2017

The Schools of Prospect Heights District 23



## WildStang Robotics Team Now at Mac

District 23 celebrated a new partnership with District 214's award-winning WildStang robotics team at an open house on Sunday, February 19. The event drew an enthusiastic and excited

crowd where the student-built robot took center stage. The team will use eight rooms at MacArthur to create, build and innovate and also mentor Mac middle school students interested in STEM, science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

"We are enabling middle school students to see robotics up close, to build and to think critically and to think big," said District 214 Superintendent Dr. David R. Schuler. "In District 214, and I know in District 23, we believe in partnerships that strengthen our schools and allow us to deliver the most relevant and innovative education to our students so they are prepared for futures that we can't even yet imagine. This is another step in that

## In This Issue...

WildStang (continued)	2
Registration and Student Fees	3
New Leadership	3
Financial Projections	4
School Board Elections	4
Upcoming Events	4

direction, and we couldn't be more grateful to District 23 for making this a reality."

For many years, WildStang worked out of Motorola Solutions, which also provided mentors. More recently, the group moved to District 214's Forest View Educational Center in Arlington Heights amid changes at Motorola's Schaumburg campus. The first-of-its-kind partnership with District 23 offered the promise of more room and the ability

to influence even more students. Mac will house the team's practice and building space and Mac eighth graders can

participate and earn high-school robotics credit in the WildStang program.

"As educators, it is our job to continually be looking

for opportunities like this one that expose our students to hands-on learning in fields with tangible career paths so they can discover their passions and talents early on,"

## Administration

Dr. Deb Wilson  
**Superintendent**  
847/870-5550

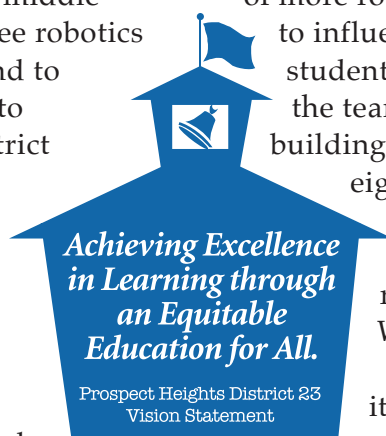
Dr. Don Angelaccio  
**Assistant Superintendent**  
847/870-5551

Micheal DeBartolo  
**Business Manager**  
847/870-5552

Maria Stavropoulos  
**Director of Technology**  
847/870-5555

Chrystyna Sroka  
**Director of Special Education**  
847/870-5580

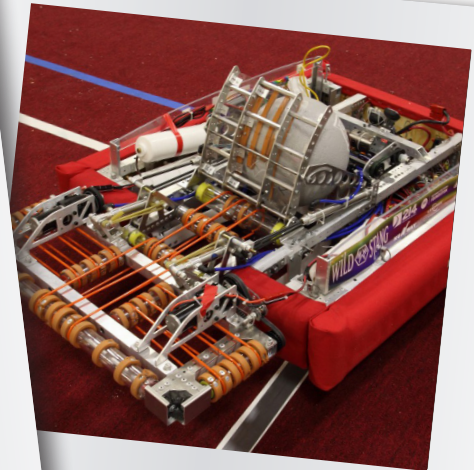
Brian Rominski  
**Director of Buildings & Grounds**  
847/870-5581



said Superintendent Deb Wilson. "This is a great opportunity for all of us."

WildStang was founded in 1996, comprised of students from Wheeling and Rolling Meadows high schools. It now includes about 70 students annually from all District 214 schools and continues to grow. The team has achieved significant success, winning three world championships and gaining entry in the FIRST Robotics Hall of Fame. Students on the team work together, under the guidance of coaches and professional mentors, to fashion robots that can complete specific mechanical tasks assigned to them for the annual competitions.

Though data suggests the demand for engineers will grow tremendously in the next decade, the program is not just about creating more scientists.



WildStang graduates go on to study and succeed in everything from engineering and computer science to business, finance, journalism and education.

"They have an incredible history of success and this partnership will help that legacy to continue to grow," said District 214 Board President Alva J. Kreutzer. "I'm thrilled to be working with another school district, whose students will

someday become District 214 students, to create more space for all our students to work and build and learn"

The team, whose members wear trademark tie-dye t-shirts, worked at Mac in advance of the open house to prepare for competition. Plans are in place to update and renovate the space with furniture and fixtures that can be moved and repositioned to allow maximum work and educational space. The new partnership has received financial support from Bosch, Bosch/Rexroth, the Bosch Community Foundation, the Golden Corridor Advanced Manufacturing Partnership, Motorola Solutions, Northrop Grumman and the Technology and Manufacturing Partnership. More funding opportunities are available to help WildStang and the partnership grow. For more information, contact Dan Weidner at 847-718-7696. ●



**Associate Superintendent for Teaching and Learning, Dr. Lazaro Lopez (above left) and District 214 Board President Alva Kreutzer**





## New Assistant Superintendent and Mac Principal

**T**wo new leaders have joined the District 23 administrative team. Dr. Christie Samojedny was hired as Assistant Superintendent, replacing Dr. Don Angelaccio who will transition into the position of Superintendent on July 1. Christie will assume responsibility for curriculum, instruction and program design while supporting staff in professional development.

Christie has served as an elementary principal and teacher for the past 18 years in Community Consolidated School District 15. She also spent two years working as an education consultant where she developed and conducted workshops for teachers throughout Illinois. She recently completed her doctorate of education in curriculum and instruction. Born and raised in Georgia, Christie currently lives in Palatine with her husband, Mark, and her two dogs, Mason and Dixon. She enjoys reading and spending time with family.

Camron Nystrom will serve as the next Principal of MacArthur Middle School when Steven Lee retires this year. Camron was an assistant principal for six years at Mundelein Elementary School District 75. His career in education began as a high school science teacher and football coach in Lake County. A resident of Crystal Lake, he enjoys

family activities with his wife and four children. In his "free time", he plans to work on completing his dissertation.

Welcome to the District 23 family, Christie and Camron! ●



**New Assistant Superintendent Dr. Samojedny (left) and new MacArthur Principal Cameron Nystrom**



## 2017-2018 Registration and Student Fees

**D**istrict 23 online registration for the 2017-2018 school year opens April 3. Student fees were approved at the February 8 Board of Education meeting and will remain the same as last year. ●

**The registration fees for the 2017-2018 school year are as follows:**

- **Grades 6th - 8th: \$280.** This includes a \$30 student protection plan for the 1:1 iPads
- **Grades 4th and 5th: \$225.** This includes a \$30 student protection plan for 1:1 iPads
- **Grades 1st - 3rd: \$150**
- **Kindergarten: \$50**





## District 23 Financial Projections

Recognizing the trends that will impact the District's finances is an essential tool for creating the annual budget. At the February 8 School Board

meeting, Marilee McCracken of PMA Financial Network and Micheal DeBartolo, District 23 Business Manager, presented the financial projections for 2018-2021.

Increases in transportation costs and insurance premiums were determined to be two areas which will have a financial impact on the District in the next few years. Bussing is predicted to rise by approximately \$250,000. Several factors are driving this pattern. The change in District 214's start time, beginning in the fall of 2017, makes it impossible to tier with the school district and share costs. However, District 23 will continue to maintain a transportation partnership with District 21.

Insurance premiums are projected to escalate by nine percent which will amount to approximately \$250,000 for the 2017-2018 fiscal year. To review the information presented at the meeting, [please click here for the link.](#) ●

## Life Safety and Facility Plan Review

The preliminary 10-Year Life Safety and 10-Year Facility Plan were presented at the January 11 School Board meeting by ARCON Associates, architects and roof consultants for District 23.

While ARCON's assessment of District buildings found them to be very well maintained. The purpose of the 10-Year Life Safety Plan is to identify items in need of repair or required to meet new standards. ARCON identified items totaling approximately \$240,000. The timing of necessary roof replacements will be an ongoing topic of conversation. The District will file the 10-Year Life Safety Plan in October with the Regional Office of Education.

The 10-Year Facility Plan includes everything from playgrounds and parking lots to interior and exterior upgrades such as windows, doors, siding, roofs, and furniture. For budgeting purposes, ARCON identifies the needs by year and

develops a long-range plan. Over the 10-year period, the facility needs are estimated to total around \$20 million. The District is currently in the process of reviewing the items on the plan.

To review the information presented at the meeting, [please click on this link.](#) ●





# School Board Elections

Three candidates have filed for the four available positions on the Board of Education and will be listed on the ballot for the April 4 Consolidated General Election. This means that, in all likelihood, an open seat will remain after the election.

Once the new School Board is seated on April 26, information regarding the application process for the open School Board position will be available. If you are interested in becoming a School Board member, please join us at the upcoming board meetings to learn more about the District. The Board is currently in the process of planning for future years as they study long-term curricular needs, the 10-year life-safety



plan, the 10-year facility plan and the long-range financial projections. ●



## Upcoming District Events Calendar

## March 25 . **No School**, Spring Break Begins

April 3. . . . **Classes resume, Spring Break Ends**

April 4. . . . **No School**, Teacher Institute Day

April 12 ... **Board of Education Meeting**, 7 pm

April 14. . . **No School**, Non-Attendance Day

May 10 . . . **Board of Education Meeting, 7 pm**

May 11-12 **.Mac Musical**, 7 pm

May 18 . . . **Orchestra Concert**, 7 pm

May 24 . . . **Choir Concert**, 7 pm

May 25 . . . **Mac Band “Pops” Concert, 7 pm**

May 29 . . . **No School**, Memorial Day

June 2 . . . . **Last Day of Early Childhood Classes**

**June 7 . . . . 8th Grade Promotion, 7 pm @ Wheeling H. S.**

June 9 . . . . **Last Day of Student Attendance**

June 14...**Board of Education Meeting, 7 pm** ●

# The School Scene

## Prospect Heights School District 23

700 N. Schoenbeck Road  
Prospect Heights, IL 60070  
Phone: (847) 870-3850

**SUPERINTENDENT**

Dr. Deb Wilson, Ed.D.

**ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT**

Dr. Don Angelaccio

**BOARD OF EDUCATION**

Mari-Lynn Peters, President  
Jim Bednar, Vice President  
Jeff Bowes, Secretary  
Martha Olsen  
Carol Botwinski  
Kevin Novak  
Patrick Chester

**DISTRICT WEB SITE:**

www.d23.org

**Eisenhower Elementary**  
Pre K through 1st grade  
**(847) 870-3875**

**Betsy Ross Elementary**  
2nd and 3rd grades  
(847) 870-3868

**Sullivan Elementary**  
4th and 5th grades  
**(847) 870-3865**

**MacArthur Middle**  
6th, 7th and 8th grades  
**(847) 870-3879**