FENTON COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL

Happy New Year! Welcome 2021.

As we look back at this challenging year, we celebrated the Great Class of 2020 who endured the initial phase of COVID-19, and we CELEBRATE our student accomplishments: Commendable School Designation from the state officials, a 94% graduation rate, 97% 9th Grade on Track to Graduate, 12,784 hours of Community Service, 59 students qualified for state, and one state champion. Our students continue to succeed and flourish at Fenton.

In early March 2020, the enormity of the pandemic overshadowed some of the important work that was underway.

Our Portrait of a Graduate created a vision for what qualities and capabilities our children should possess after 12 years of schooling. It was jointly approved by Fenton 100, Bensenville School District 2, and Wood Dale School District 7 back in March. Fenton printed the logo on the cover of our student handbook and included the qualities on an inside page, but the many other activities we had in store were put on hold.

We also had architects on campus in early 2020 to evaluate the condition of our building, which was originally constructed between 1955 and 1975 with limited renovations since then. They worked diligently with teachers and other staff to document various limitations and compare current uses to anticipate future trends in education. COVID-19 interrupted that valuable comprehensive facility assessment.

In addition to COVID-19, there was the murder of Mr. George Floyd of Minneapolis, Minnesota and the demand for racial justice and social justice that was heard across our nation. As I shared in early June, “it was painful to explain to my kids how real and ubiquitous racism is in America. There are so many people hurting right now, and my heart and prayers are with them. This sadness and the events that led to these emotions should not exist in our country. Everyone deserves respect and human rights.” Fenton is committed to equity and social justice. We take great pride in serving every family who are from many ethnicities, races, religions, socio-economic statuses, gender identities, physical capabilities, immigration status, and languages. Let’s continue to love and care for each other, our students, our parents, and love the folks who might disagree with us. Let’s continue to live the BISON WAY and raise the next generation that will end institutional racism and oppression.

What should we expect for this upcoming school year?
1. We want our students back in the building when it is safe. When this time arrives, our families will start by choosing either remote learning or a hybrid/ in-person schedule,
2. We will continue with our facility audit and find ways to improve our campus and learning environment,
3. We will start the talks regarding a new Strategic Plan, as the current plan expires in 2021,
4. We will continue with our equity work at Fenton. It has and will continue to be the lens we look at teaching and learning.

I conclude by again thanking you for your support and understanding during these challenging times.

Sincerely,

JAMES ONGTENCO | Superintendent

SPOTLIGHT ON: NEDFYS

Since 1998, Northeast DuPage Family and Youth Services (NEDFYS) has provided mental health and social services to the residents of Bensenville and surrounding communities.

NEDFYS works with the local police departments, schools, and public libraries to provide youth, adults, and families with programs and services that promote physical and mental wellness, healthy relationships, and cognitive and social skills development. In 2019, NEDFYS served over 400 DuPage County residents and provided over 3500 counseling sessions. NEDFYS offers all its services in Spanish.

NEDFYS is excited to announce that beginning January 2021, we will be offering the PATHWAYS program, a virtual support group for women struggling with anxiety, depression, isolation, and parenting. The program will provide mental health education, coping skills, and parenting strategies and be offered bi-weekly in English and Spanish. Program participants will also receive referrals for additional services if needed. For more information, please contact us at intakes@nedfys.org or call 630.693.7394.

At NEDFYS, we want those we serve to believe they can change, feel better, do better, and be better! For more information about NEDFYS or to support the life-changing work we do, please visit our website at nedfys.org.

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The statements and opinions expressed in this newsletter do not reflect the views, opinions, thoughts or beliefs of each member organization. The member organizations are not responsible for opinions or statements made individually or by other organizations. For information, contact sparkison@benlib.org. Deadline for March/April is January 27, 2021.
Bear Down Fenton High School!

ERIC MORENO AND NICKOLAS BENN WIN CHICAGO BEARS COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL ALL-STAR AWARD

The Chicago Bears named Fenton senior lineman Eric Moreno as their first-ever Community High School All-Star award winner in early November, and then two weeks later returned to select senior quarterback Nickolas Benn.

The new Bears program, which is co-sponsored by Athletico Physical Therapy, highlights nine high school football players throughout Illinois who are making a positive impact in their community and school.

Eric Moreno and Nickolas Benn were each given an official NFL game ball that was hand-painted with their names on it, the words “for demonstrating excellence in service to the community” and the All-Star program logo.

Both Eric Moreno and Nickolas Benn have volunteered many hours at the Bensenville-Wood Dale Food Pantry, Faith Community United Church of Christ Food for Families, Feed My Starving Children, UNICEF, and several group projects with Fenton’s National Honor Society -- among other volunteer activities.

More specifically, the Bears were in awe of Eric Moreno’s work at Goldfish Swim School teaching swim lessons for underprivileged Hispanic youth, helping them to learn and enjoy a safe hobby with positive role models.

Similarly, the Bears took note of Nickolas Benn’s work with special needs students and an instance when Nickolas intervened to stop an act of bullying. The heroic act of compassion extended beyond the chance encounter in public during summer months. Nickolas regularly checked in with the special needs student to ensure he was safe and secure in the academic setting throughout the ensuing school year.

Each student was given $500 to donate to a charity of their choosing and they both chose to support the Shriners Hospital for Children - Chicago. The football team visited in July 2019 to tour the facility and spend time with patients. Eric and Nickolas said the trip was a life changing experience.

COACH LYNCH NAMED NFL HIGH SCHOOL COACH OF THE WEEK

Before the November 16 Chicago Bears game on Monday Night Football, ESPN released a short segment naming Fenton Football Coach Matthew Lynch as the NFL High School Coach of the Week. He was nominated by the Chicago Bears after team representatives had positive experiences visiting Fenton to present awards to two football players. The 20-second nationally broadcasted recognition praises Coach Lynch for inspiring his players to regularly give back through community service. Check our YouTube channel to see the clip.
PRESIDENT WEDEMANN WINS EQUITY AWARD FROM ILLINOIS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

The Illinois State Board of Education selected Fenton School Board President Paul Wedemann as the 2020 recipient of the Thomas Lay Burroughs Award, which recognizes one elected official per year who demonstrates extraordinary leadership on behalf of education at the local level.

The award specifically focuses on leadership that closes achievement gaps, expands educational opportunities for underserved students, and results in more equitable outcomes during a crisis.

Created in 1991 in memory of the late ISBE Chairman Tom Burroughs, the award is presented each November at a conference hosted jointly by the Illinois Association of School Boards (IASB), the Illinois Association of School Administrators, and the Illinois Association of School Business Officials. That conference was cancelled this year.

Mr. Wedemann was honored during the November 19 ISBE virtual board meeting. In his acceptance speech, Mr. Wedemann shared the recognition with current and past Fenton 100 school board members, as well as current and past employees who all brought valuable recommendations or performed many of the challenging tasks.

“Finally, I want to share this award with our amazing students, their parents, and the community members who embraced The Bison Way and supported our efforts through thick and thin,” Mr. Wedemann said. “In fact, this is less of an award and more of a sign that we at Fenton High School are on the right track.”

Mr. Wedemann, who has served on the Fenton Community High School District 100 Board of Education since 2015, said there is still a lot more work to do in creating and maintaining a fair and equitable school for every child in Bensenville and Wood Dale.

FOCUSED ON EQUITY
FENTON CONTINUES WITH ITS ETERNAL QUEST FOR EQUITABLE STUDENT OUTCOMES.

Disrupting inequities deeply embedded in educational systems will advance anti-racism, anti-sexism, anti-classism and additional forms of marginalization upon historically disenfranchised groups of people.

According to the Midwest and Plains Equity Assistance (MPEAC), which is funded by the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Civil Rights, equity is:

When educational policies, practices, interactions, and resources are representative of, constructed by, and responsive to all people such that each individual has access to, can meaningfully participate, and make progress in high-quality learning experiences that empowers them towards self-determination and reduced disparities in outcomes regardless of individual characteristics and culture identities.

Dating back to 2015 (as seen in our timeline), Fenton has collaborated with numerous organizations for staff training to improve or add more equity in the areas of:

- Student access and opportunities
- Student identity and voice
- Teaching and learning
- Anti-Racism
- Social-Emotional Learning
- Restorative practices

Most recently, in late 2020, representatives from the Illinois Association of School Boards led a Fenton School Board retreat with a program titled Equity: An Educational Imperative.

Looking ahead, equity consultant Ivette Dubiel will continue working with Fenton’s District Equity Leadership Team (DELT) to review the equity audit completed last year and create an action plan for years to come.

Timeline of Equity PD Partnerships

PADRES UNIDOS
¡Saludos amigos!

A pesar de las restricciones que nos impone el virus Corona, Padres Unidos ha continuado planificando los recursos para padres. En noviembre, los padres recibieron un video grabado y presentado por el Sr. Castro que demuestra cómo acceder y aprovechar al máximo el sistema de información estudiantil de Fenton: Powerschool. Aunque no pudimos reunirnos como grupo, lo positivo del video grabado es que los padres pueden ver el video tantas veces como quieran mientras practican con su cuenta personal de PowerSchool.

Todavía estamos planeando otras reuniones de Zoom en vivo para la primavera. Mientras tanto, el Sr. Castro proporcionará otros recursos para padres ya que vamos cerrando el semestre de otoño.

¡Felices Navidad y próspero año 2021!
Padres Unidos de Fenton
VILLAGE OF BENSENVILLE

2020 HOLIDAY TOY DRIVE | THANK YOU!

Thank you to all who donated to help make this year’s Village Toy Drive possible. Significant donations from the following organizations played a key role in ensuring our 50th annual Village Toy Drive was a huge success! This year’s need was much greater than any other year. The community came together and distributed over 2,000 toys.

Bensenville Chamber of Commerce  
Bensenville Youth Services Coalition  
Call Me Inc.  
Century Metal Spinning Company  
Chicago Blues Hockey Association  
CPT Network Solutions  
DuKane Chapter A.B.A.T.E of Illinois

Grand Subaru  
Hair Shapers  
Roesch Ford  
Semlex  
Teamster Horsemen Motorcycle Association Chapter 25  
Armando Perez | State Farm Insurance

HOLIDAY TREE AND LIGHTS SPECTACULAR

THANK YOU GRAND SUBARU FOR BEING OUR GOLD SPONSOR!

The Village thanks those of you who came out to enjoy the Village’s Holiday Tree and Light Spectacular on Sunday December 22nd. Decorations included the brightly lit holiday tree donated by the Mazzulla family of Bensenville, 46 individual mini Christmas trees in the park, lights shining on the walls of downtown businesses, two 16 ft. LED video screens, holiday music, and ornament giveaway.

“While this was not our traditional celebration, we are very happy to have been able to provide Bensenville residents with a safe, holiday spirited alternative for the whole family to enjoy. Thank you to our gold sponsor Grand Subaru of Bensenville and silver sponsor ComEd for their help in sponsoring this event. We couldn’t have done this without their generous contributions,” said Village President Frank DeSimone.
HOLIDAY TREE DONATION
THANK YOU!
This year’s holiday tree was donated by Ron Mazzulla and his sister Geri Mazzulla. It was originally started from a seedling by their grandmother and eventually planted at their parents Bensenville home by Geri and her father.

The Village thanks Ron and Geri for their generous contribution and helping to bring smiles to Bensenville this winter.

VILLAGE LAUNCHES NEW WORK MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

The Village is excited to announce a new citizen-first approach to request and work management, powered by SeeClickFix and Cartegraph. Using SeeClickFix, residents will have a direct line of communication to the Village allowing them to request services and report issues such as potholes and graffiti.

Using the SeeClickFix mobile app or web tools, residents can send the Village pictures, videos, specific descriptions, and more—valuable information needed to get the job done efficiently. When maintenance requests come in, they will be instantly routed and passed into Cartegraph, the Village’s work and infrastructure management system.

This partnership not only allows Bensenville residents to report problems, but also to view, comment on, and vote to fix problems submitted by their neighbors. Citizens can even create their own watch areas to receive notifications about all the issues reported in their community, enabling them to follow the progress of all service requests—not just the ones they report.

To download the free SeeClickFix app, go to the App Store or Google Play. You can also access the tool via seeclickfix.com. For additional information, please visit the village website at bensenville.il.us.

GREEN COMMUNITY INFORMATION

This summer, the Village of Bensenville was officially welcomed into the EPA’s Green Power Community Partnership Program. Being a part of this program recognizes that the Bensenville community is using more than 10,025,000 kilowatt-hours of green power annually - 25 percent of Bensenville’s electrical use.

Green Power is defined as electricity produced from solar, wind, geothermal, biogas, eligible biomass, and low-impact small hydroelectric sources. Green power offers zero emissions and helps reduce our carbon footprint. Purchasing of the green energy comes at no additional costs to residents; residents continue to pay the base ComEd rate for electricity.

Joining the Green Power Community is just one of many ways the Village of Bensenville is working to reduce our carbon footprint. Some of the Village’s other environmentally friendly initiatives include the creation of the Village Arboretum, energy-efficient street lighting projects, establishing several recycling programs, being named a Tree City USA, hosting paper shredding events, pumpkin smash events, and much more. Becoming an EPA Green Power Community is a welcome addition to these initiatives.

To find out more about the benefits of using green power and the EPA Green Power Community Partnership Program, please visit: epa.gov/greenpower.

Tips for a More Energy-Efficient Home Provided by Nicor Gas

1. In the Kitchen
   a. Use the short wash cycle on your dishwasher, and wait to wash until you have a full load.
   b. Use cold water with the garbage disposal. You’ll save the energy used to heat the water, and it will keep grease and fats in solid form so they move more easily through the system.

2. In the Attic and Basement
   a. Check the insulation levels in your attic. Consider adding more if you have less than 14 inches of insulation.
   b. Clean or replace air filters for your furnace regularly.

3. In the Bathroom
   a. Use a low flow showerhead or get a shower timer to minimize your shower time to 4-5 minutes.
   b. Fix leaky faucets.

4. In the Laundry Room
   a. Wash clothes in cold water as much as possible.
   b. Avoid overloading your dryer, or hang your clothes outside to dry.

5. Outside
   a. Consider a natural gas grill for convenience; there’s no mess and no tank exchange.
   b. Grill outside to reduce the heat in the kitchen.

6. Other Areas Throughout Your Home
   a. Install a smart or programmable thermostat to help regulate your home’s temperature throughout the day.
   b. Keep shades on the sunny side of the house open during the winter and closed during the summer.
NATIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT APPRECIATION DAY | JANUARY 9TH

The next Law Enforcement Appreciation Day or L.E.A.D falls on January 9, 2021, and January 9th every year. Law Enforcement Appreciation Day was founded in 2015 in an effort to highlight the support and appreciation the general public holds for law enforcement officers.

Here are a few things you can do to show your support to the Bensenville Police Department:

- Wear a blue ribbon.
- Hang a blue flag off of your porch.
- Thank police officers on your business’s marquee, if you have one.
- Write a letter to your local police department thanking them for their service.
- Put a blue lightbulb in a light in the front of your home.
- Wear blue on January 9th.
- Share a positive police story on social media.
- If you see a Police Officer in person, thank them!

HELP KEEP HYDRANTS CLEAR OF SNOW THIS WINTER

In an emergency situation, every second counts! If there is a fire hydrant near your home, the Village encourages residents to do their part to keep it accessible during snowy months. Remove any snow or ice and clear a three foot perimeter around the fire hydrant to allow fire fighters enough space to work.

TIPS TO AVOID FROZEN PIPES

Once temperatures start dropping outside, it’s important to take steps to keep your pipes warm and your water running. Below are a few helpful tips to keep in mind this winter.

- Keep your garage door closed as much as possible.
- Open kitchen and bathroom cabinet doors to allow warm air to reach your pipes. This is especially important if your pipes run along the exterior walls of your home.
- Let water drip from a faucet. Doing this helps prevent your pipes from freezing.
- Keep the thermostat set to the same temperature during the day and night.
- If you plan to be away from your home for an extended period of time, be sure to set your thermostat no lower than 55 degrees.

For a long term solution, you can also add insulation to attics, basements, and crawl spaces.
DIGITAL PROGRAMMING FOR ALL AGES—LIVE ON ZOOM!

Registration for our live Zoom programs is required through our online calendar or by phone; space is limited. If free craft materials are provided for a program, they will be available for pickup at the Library one week prior to the event; participants must be registered prior to pickup and must be a BCPL cardholder. One per person, please. Registration closes one day prior to the event. Invitations to access the Zoom event will be emailed to all participants after registration closes, and will contain the Zoom link for the online event.

BULLET JOURNALING

Do you buy planners and realize that you don’t have enough space to write everything down? Are you the type of person that has a wall full of sticky notes by your desk? Do you constantly reset your passwords because you don’t remember where you wrote them down? This program is for you! Organize your life and have fun doing it by creating a planner system that works for you and your lifestyle. AGES: teens & adults.

New Year, New You!
The Basics of Bullet Journaling
WEDNESDAY | JANUARY 20 @ 7 PM | LIVE ON ZOOM

Namaste: How To Use Bullet Journaling for Self-Care and Meditation
WEDNESDAY | FEBRUARY 17 @ 7 PM | LIVE ON ZOOM

GENEALOGY DISCUSSION GROUP
WEDNESDAY | FEBRUARY 17 @ 7 PM | LIVE ON ZOOM

Join Elizabeth Morris, the Library’s Digital Librarian & Archivist, for an all-skill-level group discussion on getting started with genealogy using Ancestry.com, and overcoming roadblocks in your research. If you have a genealogy journey that you would like to share with the group, you are invited to share how you started, stayed organized, and saved your journey back in time.

DOG MAN BOOK PARTY!
THURSDAY | FEBRUARY 11 @ 4 PM | LIVE ON ZOOM | AGES: 6 YEARS OLD AND UP

Do you love the Dog Man graphic novels by Dav Pilkey? Then come celebrate all things Dog Man with an assortment of Dog Man crafts and activities!

MADAM PRESIDENT
THURSDAY | JANUARY 28 @ 7 PM | LIVE ON ZOOM

After President Woodrow Wilson suffered a paralyzing stroke in the fall of 1919, his wife, First Lady Edith Wilson, began to handle the day-to-day responsibilities of the Executive Office. Join us as author William Hazelgrove discusses her largely forgotten legacy as First Woman President.

FAMILY NIGHT: VIRTUAL CANDY LAND
TUESDAY | FEBRUARY 23 @ 6:30 PM | LIVE ON ZOOM | AGES: 3 TO 11 YEARS OLD

Do you like friendly competition? Do you like board games? You’re invited to play virtual Candy Land! Your computer screen will transform into the game board with YOU as the game piece. Compete with your family for your Candy Land prize!
PRESCHOOL ART CLUB
WEDNESDAYS @ 10:30 AM | JANUARY 13 AND 27, FEBRUARY 10 AND 24
LIVE ON ZOOM | AGES: 2 TO 5 YEARS OLD
Join Miss Kyrie for a morning of painting, gluing, and cutting! Wear clothes you don’t mind getting messy as we get creative – at home - with some toddler and preschool friendly projects. Register at benlib.org or by phone. Materials available one week prior to event.

STAMP MAKING FOR KIDS!
THURSDAY | JANUARY 14 @ 4 PM | LIVE ON ZOOM
AGES: 6 YEARS OLD AND UP
Join Miss Sophie as we learn how to make our own stamps for printmaking from a variety of fun materials! Register at benlib.org or by phone. Materials available one week prior to event.

INTRODUCTION TO TAI CHI
THURSDAY | JANUARY 21 @ 7 PM | LIVE ON ZOOM
Learn new ways to calm your mind and body! Come learn Tai Chi, a Chinese martial art practiced for defense training, health benefits and meditation. Instructor Jarett Sanchez will teach us the 24 standardized movements and exercises on relaxation, breathing and coordination to rebalance the body’s own healing capacity. Register at benlib.org or by phone.

THE 1918 SPANISH FLU PANDEMIC, WORLD WAR I, AND WILSON
SUNDAY | FEBRUARY 7 @ 2 PM | LIVE ON ZOOM
Historian Jim Gibbons will take you on the rollercoaster ride of your life: the 1918 Spanish Flu Pandemic, the decade of the 1910’s and World War I. Gibbons will describe all the ups and downs, twists and turns, fear, mourning and joy of the 1910’s that will take you into the excitement of the Roaring 20’s! Register at benlib.org or by phone.

MOTOWN: MUSIC THAT MOVED THE WORLD
MONDAY | FEBRUARY 15 @ 7 PM | LIVE ON ZOOM
In Detroit in the 1960’s Motown Records produced hits as efficiently as the Ford Motor Company produced automobiles - 110 Top Ten hits to be exact! Celebrate Black History Month with a musical journey to the Motor City. Register at benlib.org or by phone.

LOOKING FOR A NEW YEAR’S RESOLUTION?
READ MORE BOOKS! JOIN A VIRTUAL BOOK CLUB!
Happy 2021! Determined to spend more time reading books this New Year? The Library has a variety of virtual book clubs for you to choose from! Book clubs are a great way to get in the habit of reading, and they are also a great way to meet new people, even virtually! Whether you like to read what’s popular, horror, non-fiction, or even young adult fiction, the Library has something for you! Our virtual book clubs meet on Zoom once a month. Register on our calendar at benlib.org/calendar.
Take & Make Crafts for Adults

Craft along with us from home! Adults are invited to join us live on Zoom for DIY crafts. We’ll supply the crafting materials for free — we’ll have them bagged up ready to go and you can pick them up! Registration for Take & Make programs is required through our online calendar or by phone; space is limited. Materials are available one week prior to the event; participants must be registered prior to pickup and must be a BCPL cardholder. One Take & Make kit per person, please. Registration closes one day prior to the event. Invitations to the Zoom event will be emailed to participants after registration closes.

BEADED MASK LANYARD  
THURSDAY, JANUARY 7 AT 7:00 P.M. | LIVE ON ZOOM

ESSENTIAL OIL POSITIVE VIBES ROLL-ON  
THURSDAY, JANUARY 14 AT 7:00 P.M. | LIVE ON ZOOM

DIY HEART PINCUSHION  
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 4 AT 7:00 P.M. | LIVE ON ZOOM

DIY STRETCHY BEADED BRACELET  
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 18 AT 7:00 P.M. | LIVE ON ZOOM

Family Crafting Programs

Tuesday nights are family nights! Craft along with us from home and join us live on Zoom for family night crafts. Registration is required through our online calendar or by phone; space is limited. Registration is required for children participants only. Craft materials are available one week prior to the event; participants must be registered prior to pickup and must be a BCPL cardholder. One craft kit per child, please. Registration closes one day prior to the event. Invitations to the Zoom event will be emailed to participants after registration closes.

FAMILY NIGHT: SNOW GLOBE CRAFT  
TUESDAY, JANUARY 19 AT 6:30 P.M. | LIVE ON ZOOM

FAMILY NIGHT: NO-SEW FLEECE PET BLANKET  
TUESDAY, JANUARY 26 AT 6:30 P.M. | LIVE ON ZOOM

FAMILY NIGHT: VALENTINE’S TREE CRAFT  
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 2 AT 6:30 P.M. | LIVE ON ZOOM

FAMILY NIGHT: FUN WITH SNOWMEN  
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 16 AT 6:30 P.M. | LIVE ON ZOOM

TEEN CRAFT: DIY WOVEN MANDALA  
WEDNESDAY | JANUARY 13  
4 PM | LIVE ON ZOOM  
GRASSES: 7TH - 12TH

Join Mr. Parish for an evening of crafting as he teaches you how to create a “God’s Eye,” a woven mandala. Register at benlib.org or by phone. Materials available: 1/6.

VALENTINE’S DAY GIFT TUTORIAL: M&M COOKIES JAR  
FRIDAY | FEBRUARY 5 @ 7 PM  
FACEBOOK, INSTAGRAM, VIMEO

How do you make Valentine’s Day better? By having cookies! How do you make cookies better? By adding M&Ms! How do you make a loved one happier? By giving them a cookie-making kit! Tune in for a simple tutorial on how to make a Valentine’s Day gift jar filled with cookie ingredients anyone will love.

TEEN CRAFT: DIY STRESS BALLS  
WEDNESDAY | FEBRUARY 24  
4 PM | LIVE ON ZOOM  
GRASSES: 7TH - 12TH

Join us as we make your very own squishy stress ball! Register at benlib.org or by phone. Materials available: 2/17.

VALENTINE CARD MAKING  
WEDNESDAY | FEBRUARY 10 | 6:30 PM  
FACEBOOK, INSTAGRAM, VIMEO

Join Mr. Parish for an evening of card making as he teaches us how to make two of his favorite Valentines — perfect for your special sweetheart! Valentine’s Day is on Sunday, February 14!
NEW! SWEETHEART BALL WITHOUT THE HALL
SATURDAY | FEBRUARY 13 | 4:00-5:00 PM | PICK-UP AT DGLC

Don’t let social distancing get you down as we are bringing a fun and special night to you this year! Our Sweetheart Ball might look and feel different, but memories can still be made. Patrons will receive a dinner to go which will include cheese pizza, salad, and fruit. In addition, families will receive a sweet box of goodies and games. Don’t forget to dress up and send us your family picture to receive your complimentary picture frame! Register by Feb. 5th. $35 per family of 4, $7 per additional person.

NEW! SWEETHEART BALL UPGRADE

Upgrade your take-home Sweetheart Ball experience with the help of the Village Flower Shop. The premium floral upgrade consists of carnations, daisies, and mini carnations. When you come to the DGLC to pick up your dinner kit we will have your flowers waiting. This is the perfect addition to what is sure to already be a wonderful family night in. Register by 02/01. $38 fee is in addition to Sweetheart Ball.
NEW! E-RECYCLING & DOCUMENT SHRED EVENT
SATURDAY | FEBRUARY 27 | 1:00-3:00 PM | DGLC

We will be doing our first ever E-Recycling and Shredding Event. Shredding will be free to Residents for the first bankers box and $5 for each additional box. You can shred your sensitive documents containing personal information, such as medical history forms, bank statements, personal files, and retired tax forms. Paper documents will be shredded on-site. We will also be offering free electronic recycling. Please check our flyer closer to the start of the event for approved items to be recycled.

HAVE NEW YEAR FITNESS GOALS?
Wood St Fitness is here for your new-year fitness goals. Safety is our number one priority right now. All of our equipment has been spaced minimally 6 feet apart, hand sanitizer stations are plentiful, and our entire facility gets cleaned between sessions. On top of all these safety procedures in place, our facility is still equipped with top of the line fitness equipment. Come check us out for yourself or visit us at WoodStFitness.com for more info.

VIRTUAL AND REC-IN-THE-BOX PROGRAMMING
While for everyone’s safety we may not be able to see everyone back here for in-person programming, that doesn’t mean we don’t have all sorts of fun for you. Our Winter Program Guide is packed with rec-in-the-box programming like our adventure bracelet kits, or incredible slime boxes, and virtual programs like our bathbomb class or fitness classes. Visit BvilleParks.org/Winter2020 to see all our offerings.

JOIN OUR TEAM
The Bensenville Park District requires a small army of awesome seasonal staff to make everything we do possible. If you are interested in working at our Water Park, White Pines, or the Park District visit BvilleParks.org/Employment to see all job postings and to download an application.

Your safety is our number one concern. With our response to COVID-19 being fluid, programming and facilities may be affected. Please visit BvilleParks.org for the most up to date info.
KEEP ON KEEPING ON

Head Start has hardly stopped providing in-person services to students and families throughout COVID pandemic.

Although BSD2 schools have operated remotely throughout the COVID pandemic for all but a handful of days in October, students and staff have continued to meet throughout this ordeal in the classrooms of the Head Start program operated by Metropolitan Family Services out of the Bensenville Early Learning Center at Tioga School.

Since re-opening in June, they’ve closed only one classroom for a single two-week period after experiencing one confirmed case of COVID.

Nicole Nincic, the Head Start Site Supervisor for Bensenville, said her staff has demonstrated great care, courage, and commitment in continuing to provide these in-person services that are critically important for their families in need.

The Bensenville site is one of Metropolitan’s few DuPage County locations that has remained open for in-person attendance throughout the pandemic. Mrs. Nincic credits the BSD2 administration’s strong support for the program and concern for the at-risk families it serves as a major reason why they’ve been able to remain open.

TEAM SPIRIT

In the midst of the COVID pandemic, the focus of BMS sports shifts from physical competition to social emotional learning.

Because of COVID, Blackhawk Middle School’s student-athletes haven’t been able to compete this year. Their seasons have been scrapped. Nonetheless, the BMS cross country, boys and girls basketball and cheer and dance teams have still come together online, not to compete, but to connect.

Instead of holding their typical practices, coaches have convened online meetings, leading their teams in social-emotional learning activities that connect to their sport, conducting drills, and connecting with the kids in creative ways.

For instance, this fall, the cross country team gathered via ZOOM to discuss different elements of running, goal setting, and the important elements of running and working out. Then team members ran their workouts independently in their neighborhoods before returning to Zoom for some core and stretching exercises.

And this winter, the cheer team has met twice a week on Google Meets to watch and discuss selections from the Varsity Brands Believe in You video series as a social-emotional learning activity. Afterward, they practice their regular set of basketball cheers, first learning the words, then the moves to the cheers. On Mondays, they also join the Yoga Club for its online workouts.
READY 2 READ
New partnership provides an in-person child care and remote learning support program for school-age children.

In response to local community needs, Bensenville School District 2, Tri-Town YMCA, and St. Alexis Parish have partnered to offer flexible options for families through their new Remote Enrichment At District 2 (READ) program for children enrolled in kindergarten through eighth grade.

READ is a resource that simultaneously meets the child care needs and provides remote learning supports that many BSD2 families are seeking for their school-age children. Its goal is to provide children with a nurturing experience in a mainstream environment that keeps them learning while gaining a sense of achievement and belonging and boosting their confidence and individual potential.

Offered at St. Alexis Parish, READ is now accepting enrollment in its part-day (7:30 am – 3:30 pm) and full-day (7:30 am – 5:30 pm) programs. Weekly enrollment fees include:
- Staff with backgrounds in supporting students in remote learning environments
- Breakfast, lunch, and snacks
- Sports and recreation activities
- Arts and Crafts
- Fast Wi-Fi for devices
- Child care during holiday breaks, early release days, and days off from school
- Enhanced safety and sanitation practices that support a safe environment for everyone

If your family is facing financial hardship, you may qualify for Child Care Assistance subsidy.

To learn more about READ, call 630.629.9622.

NOW HIRING!
GET YOUR START AS A BSD2 SUBSTITUTE TEACHER!
Are you a teacher or college graduate?
District 2 is hiring substitute teachers for the 2020-2021 school year! If you have a bachelor’s degree in any subject, you are eligible to earn up to $140 per day at a nationally recognized school district, and receive paid training before your first day of teaching!

Substitute teaching is a great way to make connections, build your resume, and even continue your job search while working in a rewarding and flexible environment.

For more information, call 630.766.5940, or apply online at bsd2.org/Employment.

WE WANT YOU!
TO BE A DISTRICT 2 BUS DRIVER!
WHAT WE OFFER:
- $21/hour to start
- Paid Training
- Safety Bonus
- Attendance Bonus
- IMRF Pension

WORK AVAILABLE INCLUDES:
- Daily Routes
- Field Trips
- Late Buses
- Summer Work Available

WHAT YOU NEED:
- Must be 21 years of age.
- Must have a valid Illinois driver’s license for three years or more with no breaks or suspensions.
- Must be CDL Class B licensed and school bus permitted.

To apply, visit bsd2.org/Employment.
For more information, contact Claire Cooper, Transportation Director, at 630.766.5940 x1114, or ccooper@bsd2.org.

WANT MORE BSD2 NEWS?
- Follow us on Facebook at Bensenville School District 2
- Follow us on Twitter @BensenvilleD2.
- Visit bsd2.org | About Us | News, Notifications & Social Media

St. Alexis Catholic Church
A PARISH OF THE ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF JOLIET

CARE CLOSET
Connecting families to valuable resources.

The BSD2 CARE Closet was created through the District’s Full Service Community Schools Grant Program to connect families to valuable resources such as cleaning supplies, clothing, diapers and food.

Located in Tioga School, next to the Community Center, it’s stocked through generous donations from partner agencies such as the YWCA, Bensenville Public Library, and Bensenville Wood Dale Food Pantry.

Donations available while supplies last:
- Clothing for adults, kids and babies
- Diapers for newborns to toddlers
- Pedialyte baby formula
- Baby wipes
- Hand sanitizer
- Car seats for babies
- Strollers
- Home cleaning supplies
- School supplies
- Food
- Face masks
- Food

For more information, contact Claudia Arreguin at 630.766.2606 ext. 4655 or carreguin@bsd2.org.

BY THE NUMBERS

216
Number of BSD2 families helped by the CARE Closet through November 2020.

A L I F E L O N G L E A R N I N G C O M M U N I T Y
GET CONNECTED
Need healthcare or legal assistance?

Through its Full Service Community Schools Grant Program, District 2 is partnering with the DuPage Health Coalition and Metropolitan Family Services to connect low-income families to healthcare and legal resources.

ACCESS DUPAGE
Access DuPage — a program administered by the DuPage Health Coalition — is a collaborative effort by thousands of individuals and hundreds of organizations in DuPage County to provide access to medical services to the county’s low-income, medically uninsured residents. The hospitals, physicians, local government, human services agencies, and community groups that partner with Access DuPage work together to build an efficient and effective health safety net. Every dollar of direct service provided through Access DuPage is matched by more than ten dollars in donated health care generously provided by every hospital in DuPage County, as well as thousands of volunteer physicians and health clinics.

The DuPage Health Coalition has trained BSD2 Community Center staff to provide families with an overview of Access DuPage and help them determine if they qualify for the program. Staff can also help families begin the enrollment process, process their applications, and explore the different services offered by Access DuPage.

Since partnering with the DuPage Health Coalition, BSD2 Community Center staff have helped connect 30 families to low-cost medical coverage.

LEGAL AID SOCIETY
The mission of Metropolitan Family Services’ Legal Aid Society is to protect and strengthen families by providing equal access to justice for all by focusing on the most vulnerable communities, including those who are impoverished, the elderly, and victims of violence and crime.

The Legal Aid Society partners with the BSD2 Community Center to provide our families legal representation and assistance on domestic violence, family law, consumer and housing issues, elder abuse and financial exploitation, human trafficking, and victims of crime.

For more information on healthcare and legal assistance through the BSD2 Community Center, contact David Martinez at 630.521.2356 or dmartinez@bsd2.org.

THE SHOE FITS
Virtual ‘Through My Sole’ program allows students to explore the history, culture and process of sneaker design.

Through My Sole is a fun and creative after-school-program for select Blackhawk Middle School students offered by Opportunities for All through the BSD2 Full Service Community Schools Grant Program.

Through Zoom, the Through My Sole program shows students how to renovate, maintain, and reinvent their sneakers, and it provides them a sneak peek at the sneaker design business. Students have also used art, technology, reading, and writing to learn how designing shoes is also a cool way of self-expression.

MEAL DISTRIBUTION
District 2 returns to Monday and Wednesday distribution of FREE breakfasts and lunches

With the District’s return to all-remote instruction, it’s food service program has also shift back to twice weekly distributions of free meals to individuals 18 years old or younger.

Distributions will occur on Mondays and Wednesday from 11:30 am-1:30 pm at all three schools and the five neighborhood bus stops listed below, and from 3-5 pm at Blackhawk Middle School.

Three days of meals will be distributed on Mondays. Four days of meals will be distributed on Wednesdays.

FOOD DISTRIBUTION LOCATIONS
Blackhawk Middle School
250 S. Church Rd.
1090 W. Irving Park Road Bus Stop 1093 W. Irving Park Rd.
Tioga School
212 W. Memorial Rd.
Marshall & Argyle Bus Stop
Argyle St. and Marshall Rd.
W.A. Johnson School
252 Ridgewood Dr.
Jefferson & Marion Bus Stop
Marion St. & East Jefferson St.
Yorkbrook Apartments Bus Stop 100 George St.
Spruce & Glendale Bus Stop
Spruce Avenue and Glendale St.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sunday</th>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
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<td>BOPL Cooking Made Easy, 7pm Facebook</td>
<td>CDC Meeting, 6:30pm (see website for meeting location)</td>
<td>BSD2 Second Trimester Mid-Term BPD Committee Meeting 6pm</td>
<td>BCR, Take &amp; Make: Beaded Mask Lanyard, 7pm Zoom</td>
<td>BCR, Friday Features: Polish Storytime, 10:30am Facebook</td>
<td>Law Enforcement Appreciation Day</td>
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<td>BPL, Twilight Tales, 6:30pm Zoom</td>
<td>BOPL, Tuesday Tales: Virtual Storytime, 10:30am Zoom</td>
<td>BOPL, Preschool Art Club, 10:30am-2pm</td>
<td>BOPL, Stamp Making for Kids, 4pm Zoom</td>
<td>BCR, Friday Features: Signs &amp; Stories, 10:30am Facebook</td>
<td>BCR, Friday Features: Signs &amp; Stories, 10:30am Facebook</td>
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<td>BSD2 Martin Luther King Jr. Day, No Student and Staff Attendance</td>
<td>BPL, Tuesday Tales: Virtual Storytime, 10:30am Zoom</td>
<td>BPL, Bullet Journaling, 7pm Zoom</td>
<td>BPL, STEAM Club, 4pm Zoom</td>
<td>BPL, Friday Features: Spanish Storytime, 10:30am Facebook</td>
<td>BPL, Friday Features: Spanish Storytime, 10:30am Facebook</td>
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<td>BPL, Tuesday Tales: Virtual Storytime, 10:30am Zoom</td>
<td>BPL, Preschool Art Club, 10:30am Zoom</td>
<td>BPL, Book Bunch Book Club, 10am Zoom</td>
<td>BPL, Friday Features: Yoga Storytime, 10:30am Facebook</td>
<td>BPL, Friday Features: Yoga Storytime, 10:30am Facebook</td>
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**NATIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT APPRECIATION DAY**

**JANUARY 9**

Go to page 6 for ideas on how you can show your support to the Bensenville Police Department!
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Details</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>BCPL Cooking Made Easy, 7pm Facebook</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>BCPL Tuesday Tales: Virtual Storytime, 10:30am Zoom</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>BPD Committee Meeting 6pm</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>BCPL Take &amp; Make: Heart Pin Cushion, 7pm Zoom</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>BCPL Friday Features: Polish Storytime, 10:30am Facebook</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>BPD Sweetheart Ball without the Hall, 4pm</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>BCPL The 1918 Spanish Flu Pandemic, 4pm Zoom</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>BCPL Twilight Tales, 6:30pm Zoom</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>BCPL Tuesday Tales: Virtual Storytime, 10:30am Zoom</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>BCPL Preschool Art Club, 10:30am Zoom</td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>BCPL Dog Man Book Party, 4pm Zoom</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>BCPL Friday Features: Signs &amp; Stories, 10:30am Facebook</td>
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<td>13</td>
<td>BPD Sweetheart Ball without the Hall, 4pm</td>
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<td>BCPL Motown: Music That Moved the World, 7pm Zoom</td>
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<td>15</td>
<td>BCPL Tuesday Tales: Virtual Storytime, 10:30am Zoom</td>
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<td>16</td>
<td>BCPL Preschool Art Club, 10:30am Zoom</td>
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<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>BCPL Genealogy Discussion Group, 7pm Zoom</td>
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<td>18</td>
<td>BCPL STEAM Club, 4pm Zoom</td>
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<td>19</td>
<td>BCPL Friday Features: Spanish Storytime, 10:30am Facebook</td>
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<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>BCPL Tuesday Tales: Virtual Storytime, 10:30am Zoom</td>
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<td>21</td>
<td>BCPL Parent Teacher Conferences</td>
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<td>22</td>
<td>BCPL Family Night: Fun with Snowmen, 6:30pm Zoom</td>
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<td>23</td>
<td>BCPL Preschool Art Club, 10:30am Zoom</td>
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<td>24</td>
<td>BCPL Teen Craft: Stress Balls, 4pm Zoom</td>
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<td>25</td>
<td>BCPL Book Branch Book Club, 10am, Zoom</td>
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<td>26</td>
<td>BCPL Friday Features: Yoga Storytime, 10:30am Facebook</td>
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<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>BPD Shredding Event 1-3pm, DGLC</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
| 28   | **Take & Make Crafts for Adults**

**Check out page 9 for all the details!**