

SUPERINTENDENT NEWSLETTER

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“When we honor the earth, we honor ourselves”

LM Wilde

Earth Day 2024

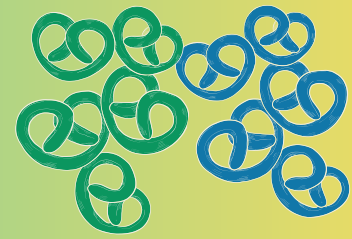
An illustration of a total solar eclipse, showing a bright sun partially obscured by the dark silhouette of the moon, with a glowing ring of light around the sun.

The unique opportunity presented by the eclipse early this week offered our students and staff and many across the country a sense of wonderment. It captured the curiosity and imagination of those of us who had a glimpse of its significance throughout civilizations and the many cultural and artistic interpretations of eclipses in the course of our world’s history. Thank you to our school administrators and staff who were able to organize eclipse-viewing events for students that created a sense of excitement and wonder.

This week, our students in grades 3-11 participated in high stakes state testing. While we recognize that there is more to educating students than what will be measured by one standardized test, it is what determines each school’s School Report Card that comes out in the fall. With the new reading curriculum that has been carefully selected and implemented this school year, I am confident that our educators were able to focus on not just fundamental skills leading up to this time, but more importantly, exposure to standards-aligned quality material that can have a positive impact long term.

Congratulations to the FHS Music Department and student performers, musicians and production staff of Showtime 44: Portraits of Life. Thank you for being part of this enduring musical tradition in Freeport.

The Freeport Board of Education has made an important decision to include an incoming Junior from FHS to become a part of the Board of Education beginning in SY 24-25. I am excited to meet with current sophomores who are interested in attending an informational meeting on Tuesday, April 16 in the FHS Library. The Board of Education recognizes the importance of including student representation when discussing policies and bringing student voice to the table. Principal Hasken will provide students and staff with details on the time of the meeting.



April Staff Recognition

Assistant Principal Appreciation Week

National Assistant Principals Week, April 1–5, 2024, is a celebration of the unsung heroes in our education system. These dedicated folks work tirelessly to bolster teachers, motivate students, support their principal, create a positive learning community, and face the many unpredictable challenges that land on their desk. We salute our FSD Asst. Principals!

Paraprofessional Educator Day

Celebrated this year on April 3, this special day is dedicated to the amazing individuals who work in our classrooms as paras. These fantastic people deliver targeted support to students who may need extra help, thus supporting our teachers! The Appreciation Day seeks to bring them to the forefront and show them a little extra love for all the incredible work they do, day in and day out.

School Librarian Day

On April 4th each year, National School Librarian Day recognizes the professionals who keep our school libraries in working order. School librarians spend long hours keeping the library organized. They are also dedicated to helping our children find the resources they need to keep learning. and they create an environment where students can learn every day of the year. Their work is an impressive accomplishment.

Volunteer Recognition Day

School volunteers come in all shapes and sizes, but they are all the real-life saints and superheroes of our District. And although they don't ask to be paid for all of their selfless work, they definitely deserve our utmost respect and appreciation, which is exactly what Volunteer Recognition Day is all about.

School Bus Driver Appreciation Day

School Bus Driver Appreciation Day, recognizes all school bus drivers and monitors for taking care of our precious cargo during the school year. Whether they are transporting our kids to school, home, activities, or to sporting events, our school bus drivers and monitors deserve recognition for the job they do.

Administrative Professionals Day

National Administrative Professional day, also known as Secretaries Day, recognizes the professionals who keep our school and building offices running smoothly every day. These dedicated individuals are celebrated on the last Wednesday in April, each year. The day recognizes the work of secretaries, administrative assistants, receptionist and other administrative support professionals. We appreciate the central role they play in keeping our office and our District overall organized and efficient.



Lincoln-Douglas School Receives ISBE Recognition

Principal Melissa Sago and her staff received recognition from the IL State Board of Education for outstanding improvement in their Annual Summative Designation on the IL Report Card, from 2022 to 2023. ISBE cited that Lincoln Douglas' hard work, dedication and focus on continuous improvement was instrumental in their success. Congrats Principal Sago & Team Lincoln-Douglas! Special recognition to their students and families!

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

May 1

School Improvement Day
No School For Students

