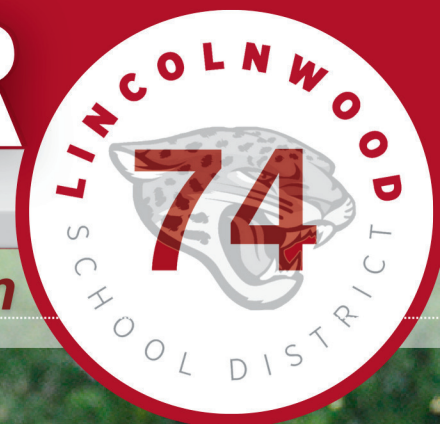





THE JAGUAR

Fall 2023 Edition



SD74 students were all smiles at our Ice Cream Social, the kickoff event to the '23-'24 school year.

IN THIS EDITION ...

-  From the Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent
-  District Happenings
-  Eye on Education
-  Community Connections

From the Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent



Dear Lincolnwood School District 74 Learning Community:

We welcome you to the Fall 2023 edition of *The Jaguar* and the opening weeks of the 2023-2024 school year. The first weeks of a school year are such a unique and special opportunity. This is the moment of the year when significant time and attention is paid to accomplishing tasks that have the greatest impact and meaning when addressed at the beginning of the year. In the midst of all the other planning and preparations for impactful learning experiences throughout the year, our faculty and staff placed emphasis on exploring the best combination of activities to develop a classroom culture and environment that is fun and connected; as well as meaningful and purposeful.

In these opening weeks, students have been able to envision their goals and aspirations for the year. At the same time, teachers are seeking ways to match students with available resources and programs to assist students with making these goals a reality as the year progresses. In this edition of *The Jaguar* there are several articles highlighting the ways our District seeks to make continual improvements in the same way that we strive for growth in our students. Readers will be introduced to our new Board of Education member, new Administrators, an enhanced middle school math program, and physical improvements to our campus.

On that note, I want to thank our Board of Education and community for the resources and the prioritization to continually upgrade, maintain, and beautify our schools. As you will read, there were improvements to several building systems; as well as changes that will directly be enjoyed by students and the community. It amazes me what can be accomplished in a few short weeks.

As the year continues to unfold, take time to consult our District website (www.sd74.org) and follow the District on X (formerly known as Twitter) at [@lincolnwoodsd74](https://twitter.com/lincolnwoodsd74) to learn more about ongoing events, catch a Jaguar team in action, or enjoy the musical talents of one of our many ensembles.

We are looking forward to a wonderful year ahead!

In educational partnership,

David L. Russo, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools



Dear Lincolnwood School District 74 Learning Community:

I hope this message finds you and your families in good health and high spirits as we continue our journey through what we hope is an exciting and enriching academic year!

This year in the Curriculum Department, our teams will be diving into the 6-8 science curriculum, as part of the regular six-year review cycle. Science education is crucial for fostering critical thinking, problem-solving, and a deep understanding of the world around us. Our middle school science teachers are dedicated to ensuring that our science curriculum is engaging, relevant, and aligned with the latest Next Generation Science Standards.

We will also be reviewing the K-5 math curriculum, and monitoring the progress of our Accelerated and GATE math programming at Rutledge Hall, and our math programming at Lincoln Hall, both of which have made the shift to newly adopted math materials by *Carnegie Learning Middle School Math Solutions*.

Later in this issue, you will learn more information about the Carnegie program. You'll also read first-hand accounts from two of our math teachers who were members of the review committee that spent much of the 2022-2023 school year analyzing other popular and widely used programs before ultimately recommending Carnegie to the Board of Education.

This year is shaping up to be full of exciting and meaningful work on the curriculum and instruction front! I want to sincerely thank you for the opportunity to serve our students. I am excited about the growth and learning experiences that SD74 students will encounter throughout the year!

Thank you,

Dominick Lupo, Ed.D.
Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction

District Happenings

Meet Maxie

New Board member is an SD74 alum

Maxie Boynton's family has lived on the North side of Chicago for 100 years, but her parents settled down in Lincolnwood, specifically, in the '80s. Boynton was raised a stone's throw away from Rutledge Hall and growing up in Lincolnwood, which she describes as having a small-town feel, left an indelible mark on her. "Everyone knew me as 'the girl from the pink house,'" she says.

Boynton graduated from Lincoln Hall in 2004. After high school, she went on to study elementary education at DePaul University, which led to a stint working as a special education classroom assistant in the Chicago Public Schools system. When Boynton and her husband decided to raise their own family in Lincolnwood, the stay-at-home mom of two was eager to explore volunteer opportunities in the village, and specifically in SD74. "I wanted to give back to the community that shaped me as a child," she says.



Maxie and family.

20 Questions with Maxie

What years did you attend SD74? 1995-2004

What aspects of SD74 make you proud? I often ask residents what they like most about Lincolnwood and almost everyone says the best part of the village is the schools.

Describe what you were like as an SD74 student. I decided to go straight to the source and asked my former teacher, the beloved Mr. Salski, to describe me:

"As a student, Maxie was very conscientious and hard working. She took her education very seriously and set the bar high. She was, and still is, so genuine, kind, and respectful."

SD74 favorites - Teacher: There are too many great teachers to choose a favorite!

SD74 favorites - Class(es): Mrs. Levy's chocolate baking class held each summer.

SD74 favorites - Memory: The 4th grade overnight field trip to Springfield.

As an SD74 student, what did you want to be when you grew up? I wanted to be a teacher like my mom. She was a substitute teacher at SD74 nearly 45 years ago.

Is there anything you miss about the SD74 you knew as a child? I miss the teachers.

How has SD74 improved since you were a student in the district? The renovations are incredible!

Describe your perfect day in Lincolnwood. My perfect day would include a family walk for ice cream.

Picture this: You just arrived at your favorite playground. Which piece of equipment are you running to first? The swings.

Who made you smile most recently? My son.

What are the most used emojis in your phone right now? 🥰👍

If you could have a superpower, what would it be? The ability to travel through time.

Who would you want to play you in a movie about your life? Taylor Swift, specifically so she could write the soundtrack.

Dogs or cats? Dogs

Morning person or night owl? Night owl

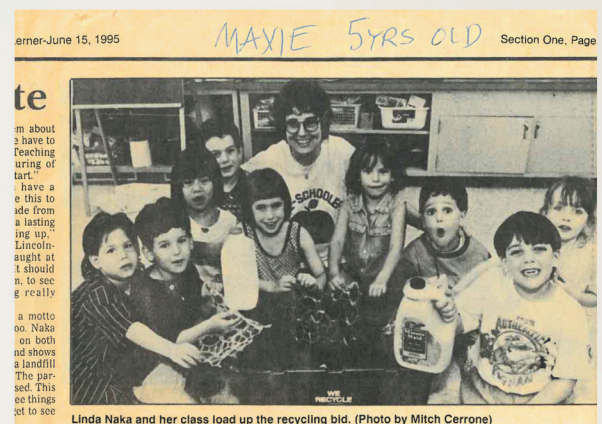
Coffee or tea? Tea

Physical book or eBook? Physical book

Salty or sweet? Sweet

Boynton campaigned for the open two-year-term seat in the most recent school board race and was elected. Not long after she was seated, Boynton's 5-year-old son started his own SD74 journey at the start of this school year ... as one of Todd Hall's newest Jaguars. Her infant daughter will follow in his footsteps – and in Boynton's – in just a few short years.

When she is not attempting to bake, Boynton says you can usually find her playing at different parks around Lincolnwood with her kids.



In 1995, Maxie's Todd Hall preschool class was featured in the Lincolnwood newspaper. Maxie is seated directly in front of teacher Ms. Naka.

District Happenings

SD74 administration introduces new faces

Jackie McGoey

Director of Communications
and Community Relations



Building authentic relationships starts with open and honest communication. That's what Jackie McGoey, SD74's new Director of Communications and Community Relations, believes.

McGoey, who was hired in July, brings more than a decade of experience in communications and digital media to the role, including five years in school public relations, specifically. She will oversee District communications, maintain the District's website, and serve as the liaison to PALS or *People Active with Lincolnwood Schools*, the District's parent-community organization, among other responsibilities.

"I am thrilled to be a part of the SD74 family," McGoey said. "It is evident that our schools are a source of pride for those in the community. And rightly so; there are so many wonderful things happening on our campus! I look forward to sharing these positive stories and continuing to foster a culture of transparent and authentic communication between the District and our stakeholders."

McGoey holds a bachelor of arts degree in English from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and a master of science degree in Journalism from Northwestern University's Medill School. She lives in Oak Park with her husband, two daughters, and dog Ludo. In her free time, she enjoys traveling, thrift shopping, and listening to K-pop.

Language Translation Program

"With languages, you are at home anywhere."

– Edmund De Waal, British artist, master potter, and author

There are nearly 60 languages spoken by the students in our District and their families! We value our diverse SD74 learning community and aim to ensure that there are no barriers to our communications, no matter a family's native language or level of English understanding.

Families are encouraged to take advantage of SD74's translation services as needed during the school year. Please contact Jackie McGoey at 847-675-8234 or jmcgoey@sd74.org to be connected with an SD74 translator.

Available languages: Polish, Korean, Greek, Spanish, Italian, Arabic, Hindi, Gujarati, Russian, and Ukrainian.

Stay connected with SD74!

Follow @lincolnwoodSD74 on Twitter.

Read the **Tuesday Newsday**; delivered to your inbox every week. Now with a **NEW** language translation feature!

The SD74 Food Services department has a new leader at its helm. The Board of Education approved the hire of Peter Lembessis as Director of Food Services in August, in time for the start of the new school year.

Lembessis brings 30 years of food management experience in the hospitality industry to the role, having been involved in the start up and operations of six quick-service establishments and more than 30 casual dining restaurants.

He also trained alongside some of the top chefs in the Chicagoland area, taking special interest in the "back of the house," where he honed his culinary skills. One of his primary focuses during his first year at SD74 is to introduce more "from-scratch" meals into student menus.

"I am looking forward to helping the school community develop a deeper appreciation for healthy, quality food," Lembessis said. "At the end of the day, what is most important to me is that our students are well fed and satisfied."

Lembessis holds certifications in Food and Sanitation, and Allergens, among others. He succeeded longtime Food Service Coordinator Angie Schmidt, who retired in July after more than 30 years of service to the District.

Peter Lembessis

Director of Food Services



"At the end of the day, what is most important to me is that our students are well fed and satisfied."

View lunch menus at www.sd74.org: [Home](#) > [Family Resources](#) > [Food Services](#) > [2023-2024 Lunch Menus](#)

District Happenings

Building an even better SD74

Summer construction update

The District places a great emphasis on providing well-maintained and modern facilities for our students. Projects are prioritized and articulated through a multi-year Master Facilities Plan. Summer 2023 brought with it several improvement projects around campus.

A new playground for Pre-K students was built from the ground up between Todd Hall and the Administration Building. It features a slide, musical instruments, and transportation-themed equipment for students to enjoy. Remaining playground spaces also received safer pour-in-place surfaces and new equipment.

A major clean-up took place in the Todd Hall courtyard to make it a more functional learning space. Stone benches were relocated from the center of the space to its perimeter, and colorful mini-Adirondack chairs were added to provide flexible seating options for multiple classroom configurations and various types of lessons. Landscaping updates saw the removal of overgrown trees and bushes to create a more modern, open environment for learning.

Inside Todd Hall, four bathrooms were fully renovated, which included plumbing and masonry work. The nurse's office was also remodeled to accommodate the addition of a handicap-accessible bathroom.

New water fountain/refill stations were added to both the Multi-Purpose Room (MPR) and the gym at Rutledge Hall. Both spaces also received new flooring, which included a Jaguar logo painted at center court in the gym.

Continued on next page

Scan to view the
Master Facilities Plan



New Rutledge Hall Gym



New Pre-K playground



"Can you thank the District for giving us a beautiful cafeteria and gym?"

-Rutledge Hall student

New Rutledge Hall MPR



New Todd Hall courtyard

District Happenings

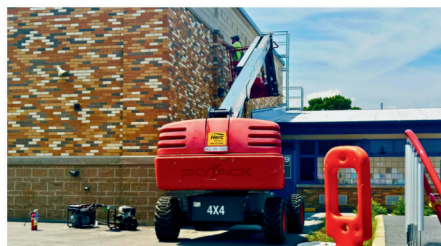
The Rutledge Hall Library saw the most significant improvements in this building, with its overall layout changing to make better use of the space. New flooring, lighting, and student furniture modernized the space, while flexible shelving will allow book collections to be moved for varying learning experiences and events. An eye-catching reading wall is the focal point of the space and allows for several students to curl up and enjoy a great book!

Beyond improvements directly accessible to students, several preventative maintenance projects were completed. Roofing, metal work, and new downspouts were installed at Rutledge Hall. The roofs at Todd Hall and the Administration Building also received attention. Tuckpointing took place in all campus buildings and new exhaust fans were installed at all three schools.

The District will continue to identify projects aimed at improving functionality and enhancing the learning environment, and commits to maintaining equipment to ensure the buildings and grounds are kept at their highest levels.



Tuckpointing work on buildings' exteriors



New Rutledge Hall Library

"How did they make our library so cool, so fast?"

-Rutledge Hall student



New reading wall in the Rutledge Hall Library



SD74 Principals: Chris Harmon (TH), Mark Atkinson (LH), Joe Segreti (LH), and Aliaa Ibrahim (RH)

Calendar Reminders

NOVEMBER

11/20 - 11/24 Thanksgiving Break-No School for Students
11/23 - 11/24 Thanksgiving Break-District Closed

DECEMBER

12/22 AM-Only Student Attendance
12/25 - 1/5 Winter Break-No School for Students
12/25 - 12/26 Winter Break-District Closed
1/1 - 1/2 Winter Break-District Closed

View the full calendar at www.sd74.org: **Home > District Calendar**

Did You **Know?**

You can link the District's digital calendar to your preferred personal calendar application?

Scan the QR code for detailed instructions.



Eye on Education

Middle School Introduces New Math Program



New school supplies, new clothes ... new math materials? Lincoln Hall Middle School students, and students in 4th and 5th grade Accelerated and GATE math classes, kicked off the 2023-2024 school year with an all-new math program.

In a process that began last school year, a curriculum review committee comprising Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction Dr. Dominick Lupo and a cohort of 11 teachers recommended Carnegie Learning Middle School Math Solutions for adoption following an extensive examination of five widely used middle school level math programs. The Board of Education approved the program in March to replace the McGraw-Hill Glencoe Math materials.

"The Carnegie Learning program represents a positive instructional shift in the rigor and style in which math is presented to and explored by students," Dr. Lupo said. "It employs a conceptual approach versus the traditional procedural approach, meaning students learn to understand why math operations work rather than simply memorizing a series of steps to solve problems."

Math teachers wanted a balanced program that was rigorous and did a better job of addressing the topics covered in the Common Core State Standards. Carnegie fit the bill across multiple categories, including alignment to college and career-ready standards; focus and coherence; and usability.

"Students live in an increasingly distracting environment and we need, more than ever, to present our math topics in ways that will better promote understanding and retention," 7th grade math teacher Alex Lee said. "We believe Carnegie's program will allow us to achieve this goal by helping foster discussion and critical thinking to a greater extent than in the past."

Jeni Bellema, who teaches gifted (GATE) math at Lincoln Hall, has already noticed a shift in her classes, noting there is more peer-to-peer collaboration happening. "Instead of me telling them what to do, it's more of them experiencing it from task-based assignments," she said. "It brings up really good conversations and the discourse in the classroom becomes a lot greater."

Ballema also believes Carnegie's program will better prepare SD74 students for their secondary education, saying, "It follows more closely how high school classrooms structure their curriculum."

To extend students' learning beyond the classroom, Carnegie also offers a virtual component with its MATHia software. The tool utilizes an "intelligence feature," which assesses a student's current understanding and offers immediate feedback, and provides a comprehensive dashboard for teachers to help troubleshoot students' problem areas.

MATHia's easy-to-follow tutorials and guides are also expected to prove to be useful features for parents and guardians as they help their students with homework. "You can just scan a QR code and the program gives you as many example problems as you need until you get the hang of it," Ballema said.

At only a few months into its implementation, it is too early to measure any outcomes from Carnegie's adoption yet, but Lee is enthusiastic about its potential. "The first couple of years of a new curricular adoption are always a lot of work, but we are excited to see it pay dividends in the near future!"



Mrs. Ballema's GATE math students.



Looking Ahead

A comprehensive review of the K-5 math curriculum is planned for this school year. Teachers from all grade levels will be asked to be a part of the review committee, which will, once again, be led by Dr. Lupo.

"Our goal is to provide our young learners with a strong foundation in mathematics that will serve them well throughout their academic journey and beyond," Dr. Lupo said. "We are committed to aligning our curriculum with the latest educational standards and best practices to ensure that our students receive the highest quality learning experience."

Eye on Education

A Summer to Remember



Learning doesn't stop in SD74 come summertime. About a week after the school bell rings for the final time on the last day of school, students from Lincolnwood and neighboring communities jump right into Summer Adventures. This month-long program features more than 40 academic and extracurricular class offerings for students to explore.

This past summer, these offerings included math and reading readiness courses for various grade levels; classes with STEM-focused themes, such as Brick by Brick and Science Explorers; and wellness classes that taught the importance of maintaining healthy minds and bodies through mindfulness and movement.

Students also explored storybooks, wrote poetry, honed their magic skills, experienced world cultures through cooking and baking (and eating!), and created traditional and digital art. It was a summer to remember, indeed!

We look forward to kicking off another successful Summer Adventures program next year. Keep an eye out for the new brochure in February 2024.

Questions? Email summer_adventures@sd74.org or call 847-745-3703.



Community Connections

Did You Know?

Lincolnwood community members are invited to use the District's new track for recreation purposes after school hours.

The three-lane, quarter-mile track was added to the grounds as part of a renovation project in the summer of 2022.

Introducing **PALS**

PEOPLE ACTIVE WITH LINCOLNWOOD SCHOOLS

PALS (People Active with Lincolnwood Schools) is SD74's parent-community organization.

PALS' goal is to strengthen and enrich the educational and social environment of SD74 through opportunities for families, teachers, students, and the broader community to learn, socialize, communicate, and grow. PALS organizes and hosts events, such as the Ice Cream Social, and coordinates appreciation events like Teacher Appreciation Week.

Have questions about how you can support PALS?
Email sd74pals@gmail.com.



Sign up to join PALS!

Want to get involved? Join PALS today! There is no membership fee. Scan the QR code to visit the PALS webpage and sign up.

Upcoming event!

Literati Book Fair

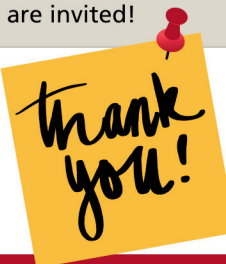
Do you have what it takes to CRACK THE CASE? Come and get clued in to the best new books at the **Literati Book Fair!**

WHEN: December 5-7, during school hours

WHERE: Rutledge Hall Library

As a kickoff to the Book Fair, join PALS on Tuesday, December 5, 6 p.m.-8 p.m., at Rutledge Hall for *Literary Sleuths: An SD74 Family and Community Night*. There will be literary games, vocabulary puzzles, and spelling contests for participating students. All families are invited!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!
Scan the QR code to sign up.



PALS' Lou Malnati's fundraiser in September raised \$700!
Thank you to everyone who dined in support of the organization.

Connect with PALS on social media



@sd74_pals



@SD74 PALS

Community Connections

Annual Ice Cream Social **Brings SD74 Community Together**

After the intense heat during the first two days of school, the entire SD74 community was looking forward to a cooler and more comfortable night for the annual Ice Cream Social on Aug. 25. And the weather did not disappoint.

The event, which is hosted by PALS and kicks off the new school year, saw hundreds of families and community members gather to reconnect after a summer away or to meet for the first time. Throughout the night, families from all three schools and every grade level found their way to the grounds of Lincoln Hall to enjoy the festivities, which included a DJ, a photo booth, a selfie station, a magician, a food truck, and of course, ice cream!

Thank you to everyone who was able to join us. We hope to see you again next year!

We also send special thanks to the The Village of Lincolnwood Fire Department, the Lincolnwood Public Library, Lincolnwood Parks & Recreation, and Will's Place for being a part of the fun.



Community Connections

Calling all alums!

Stay connected with SD74



Join the Alumni Directory

SD74 alums are invited to join the newly created Alumni Directory! Scan the QR code to submit your information.

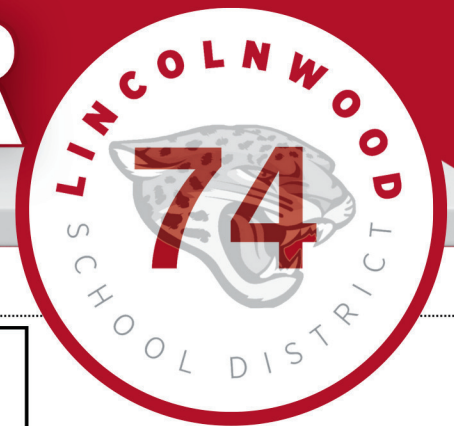
At this time, the Directory is an internal list maintained by District administrators for the purposes of record-keeping and outreach; your information will not be shared with others without your prior consent.

If you have any questions about the Alumni Directory, please email Jackie McGoey, Director of Communications and Community Relations, at jmcgoey@sd74.org.



Once a Jaguar, Always a Jaguar!

THE JAGUAR



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