

NewsBits



Winter 2023

Local author Fern Schumer Chapman visits Algonquin Middle School



Chicago-based author Fern Schumer Chapman met with Algonquin Middle School's 8th grade students on January 20 in the school's Library Media Center.

As part of her visit, Schumer Chapman narrated the story of her mother Edith Westerfeld and her experiences as a Holocaust refugee. Schumer Chapman spoke to students about the Holocaust and its impact on her family.

Westerfeld was one of only 1,000 children the United States permitted to enter the country during the 1930's in order to escape Nazi Germany.

Schumer Chapman is a former reporter for The Chicago Tribune and Forbes magazine. She has written several books, all of which touch on her mother's story of her Holocaust survival. Her books include: a work of historical fiction (for middle school students), a memoir and three works of narrative non-fiction.

"We are very fortunate to welcome Fern Schumer Chapman back to our school. She has become an annual visitor here at Algonquin Middle School and each time she visits, she makes an impact on students and staff alike," said Library Media Specialist Erin Wengerhoff. "Ms. Schumer Chapman is a dynamic storyteller and one we are thrilled to have back with us this year."

This school year, 8th grade English Language Arts teachers presented the opportunity for their students to participate in The Butterfly Project. Each student learned about a child victim of the holocaust then they wrote a paragraph about them and painted a butterfly in remembrance of that child. All of the butterflies will be displayed in the Algonquin Middle School front lobby and the author will get to see them when she comes to visit.

The event was made possible by a grant from the [District 62 Education Foundation](#).

Online registration now open



Registration for the 2023-2024 school year is now open for all students, including those new to the district. In addition to any students new to District 62, Kindergarten students will begin their registration process online. Families must register via the district's web-based parent portal before making an appointment to visit their home school and

provide necessary documents that include proof of residency, birth certificate and health forms. More information can be found on the district website, www.d62.org. Additional information about District 62's online registration process can be found [here](#).

Orchard Place Craft Fair set for April 15

Orchard Place Elementary School will host a craft fair from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on April 15 at the school gymnasium, 2727 Maple Street, Des Plaines. Proceeds benefit the school. The craft fair will include raffle prizes, homemade crafts, jewelry and much more.

Those interested in hosting a booth should contact Cathy Smith at smithcat@d62.org or 847-789-5608 by April 7.

The price for admission is \$2. Children under 10 years of age are free.

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 **Calling all crafters and vendors!**

Orchard Place Elementary School seeks crafters and vendors interested in participating in their annual craft/vendor fair on Saturday, April 15, 2023

Interested?
Contact Cathy Smith
847) 789-5608 or smithcat@d62.org

Application deadline: April 7, 2023

FinanceBits

The Board of Education adopted the 2022 tax levy in the amount of \$87,709,000. This is a 8.95% increase over the prior year and it is based on the increase in the 2021 Consumer Price Index, Urban (CPI-U) of 7.0% and the projected increase in new construction within the district's boundaries. It should be noted that taxpayers on existing properties within the district will see an increase of approximately 5.0%. A public hearing was held on December 19, 2022 prior to the Board voting on the adopted levy.

District 62 hosts its first paraeducator job fair

February 1 marked District 62's first paraeducator job fair at the Westerhold Early Learning Center. The event featured welcome bags, the opportunity to talk to a current paraeducator, application guidance and on-site interviews with principals. This event brought 38 candidates to the district. We continue to seek paraeducators as well as other positions including substitute teachers to join our team. We invite you to visit our [website](#) to learn more.



District 62 Education Foundation Footnotes

As we transition from winter to spring, the [District 62 Education Foundation](#) continues its important work of supporting the staff and students of District 62 schools. We have tremendous respect for the staff of District 62 and want the very best for our students. With that in mind, we fund grants for programs that provide enhanced educational opportunities in our schools.

42 grants were proposed this year, totaling \$31,000. All were approved for funding by the District 62 Education Foundation Board. Throughout 2022, the Foundation has received an extraordinary amount of support from people and organizations closely tied to the Des Plaines community and schools. Alumni led the way in donations this year, but organizations within the community showed their support as well. The [Des Plaines Art Guild](#), [Village Bank & Trust](#), the [Des Plaines Theatre](#), as well as the staff of District 62, were all our partners in helping to make these grants possible, and some outstanding programs available to our students.

This year's grant funds are supporting experiences related to the arts, literature, music, and science, along with interpersonal skills. Authors were brought in to schools for seminars and workshops, and students were given opportunities to experience live stage performances. Funding allowed students to go to nursing homes in the community and perform their music. Exceptional musicians from outside the school community were brought in to conduct workshops, elevating the musical growth and experiences of District 62 musicians. Students were encouraged in acts of service for the community, to be kind and inclusive to their fellow students, and to pursue their interests in areas such as STEM, art, aviation, and cultural music. All of these opportunities were funded through grants and supported by teachers devoting their time and energy to make these experiences happen.

We appreciate and thank the staff of District 62 for all their hard work this school year. If you would like to support the District 62 staff and students through the work of the District 62 Education Foundation please go to our website: www.d62foundation.com