

Challenge. Collaborate. Create!

THE 109 WAY

A bi-annual publication of the sights, sounds,
and news from Deerfield Public Schools District 109

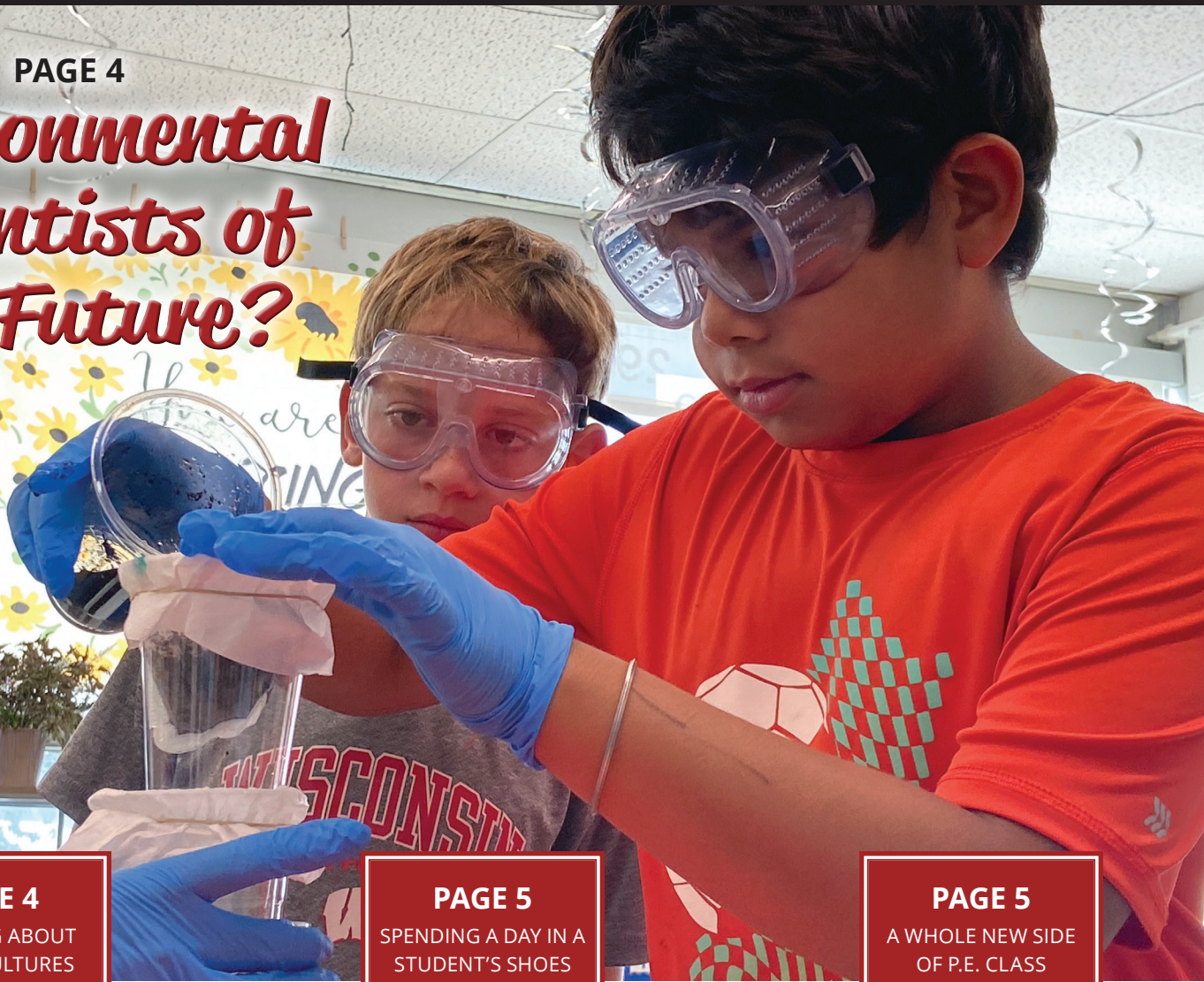


Fall 2023

www.dps109.org

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A WHOLE NEW SIDE
OF P.E. CLASS





The DPS109 Board of Education

Listed from left to right:

Dr. Mitch Dornfeld

Mrs. Kate Joyce

Mrs. Kelly Jakymiw, Secretary

Mrs. Sari Montgomery, President

Mr. Ryan Kuo, Vice President

Mrs. Rosie Bonar

Mr. Andrew Morrison

A Word from Mike

To the 109 community,

Watching the entire town turn out for the first day of school was one of my earliest observations in Deerfield. In addition to the flood of parents walking their students to school, everyone in the village joined in the celebration. Public schooling is a team sport here. Since that time, the partnerships between and among elected officials and bodies has furthered those initial impressions of community support for our schools and each other. In a season of thanksgiving and celebration, the most apt expression of appreciation is for our community servants' extraordinary level of collaboration and professionalism. It will come as no surprise that our students pick up on these practices and expectations.

Students speak of food drives, a sense of service, and a recognition that they've got it better than others. These themes punctuate messages at our board meetings making us proud and further grateful to be part of such a giving community. We have (finally!) enjoyed a "normal" start to our school year and as we head into a well-earned winter break with our students, we wish you safe travels, joyous gatherings, and restoration during this season of gratitude and appreciation.

Sincerely,

Michael V. Simeck, Superintendent, Deerfield Public Schools District 109



The 109 Board is only one of 45 to receive the 2023 School Board Governance Recognition designation from the Illinois Association of School Boards.



Deerfield Working As One

We are thankful to have tremendous relationships with the other governing bodies in our district.

On the right, the leaders of DPS 109, the Village of Deerfield, West Deerfield Township, the Deerfield Public Library, the Deerfield Police Department, and the Deerfield Bannockburn Fire Departments gathered to share updates and look for ways to better serve all of our constituents.



Taking the Board to Another World

Students from South Park Elementary School presented to the Board of Education during its November meeting about the exciting new virtual reality headsets that they have for use in the library. Students are able to explore different environments like the planet Mars, a jet propulsion lab, U.S. national parks, and the changing of the four seasons. South Park obtained the equipment through money raised in their Read-A-Thon last year.



Above: Mr. Kuo, Mrs. Montgomery, and Mr. Simeck check out the VR landscape.

Every meeting starts on a good note! Since 2022, the Board has welcomed over 150 students to its meetings to be recognized for their accomplishments and showcase what they are learning as part of "What's Good in 109?"

Live streams and recordings of all meetings are available at dps109.org



Above: Dr. Dornfeld, Mrs. Joyce, and Dr. Arnold do the same.

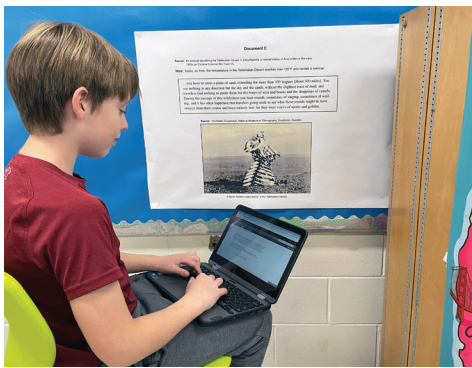
A Look Inside the Classroom

Social Studies

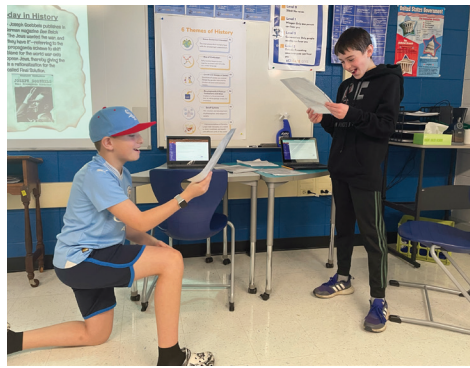


During the 2022-2023 school year, our middle school social studies curriculum was under review. This year, noticeable changes have been made in 6th - 8th grade. As an example, all classrooms are now incorporating Document-Based Questions (DBQs). A DBQ is an essay prompt that requires students to analyze historical documents, find intersections

between the documents, and make a claim using evidence. The DBQ process challenges students to use higher-level thinking skills, engage with historical content, and create informed arguments. It also prepares students for high school coursework.



In an Ancient Greece Unit, Caruso 6th graders traveled around their room participating in a variety of learning activities including analyzing documents together!



As Caruso students traveled around their room, one of the learning activities was reading from a Greek play and then answering thought-provoking questions.



Shepard 7th graders learn about the stock market.

Cooperative Learning



In January and August 2023, all District 109 teachers and administrators participated in the first two (of five) trainings to support the implementation of cooperative learning structures in all elementary and middle school classrooms. Cooperative learning structures are intentionally designed

to engage all students in simultaneous interactions to learn academic content and practice social skills. Using the structures improves student engagement, builds positive classroom relationships, and enhances academic achievement.



Quiz-Quiz-Trade! South Park kindergartners learn what each letter of the alphabet sounds like by taking their cards around the room and quizzing one another.



Mix-Pair-Share! Kipling first graders go around the room and the kiddo with the biggest hand gives their answer first.



Rally Coaching! Caruso 7th graders pair up to work through math problems, each explaining how they got to the correct answer.



Below: A team of fifth-graders works together to prop up their water filtration system and patiently wait to see what the results are.



Wilmot 5th Graders spent a week in their science unit learning about the water filtration process. They began by learning where and how clean water gets distributed in their community and how to build a water pump. By the end of their unit, they displayed their newfound knowledge by receiving a real-life scenario with imag-

inary stakeholders with various water needs. They got into teams where they had to build their water filtration system, test their contaminated water, and run the polluted water through their treatment systems, and see if they could produce enough clean water to serve different groups of stakeholders.



Mixing the polluted water



Testing step one of filtering the water



Running the polluted water throughout the entire treatment system.

Testing their water quality



Creating A Global Community of Learners



ABOVE: Mr. Wayne, a Wilmot parent, came to speak to the 5th grade about his Saginaw Chippewa heritage. He and his son, Gavin, are pictured here with their family staff. A feather is added to the staff when a member of their family passes away.



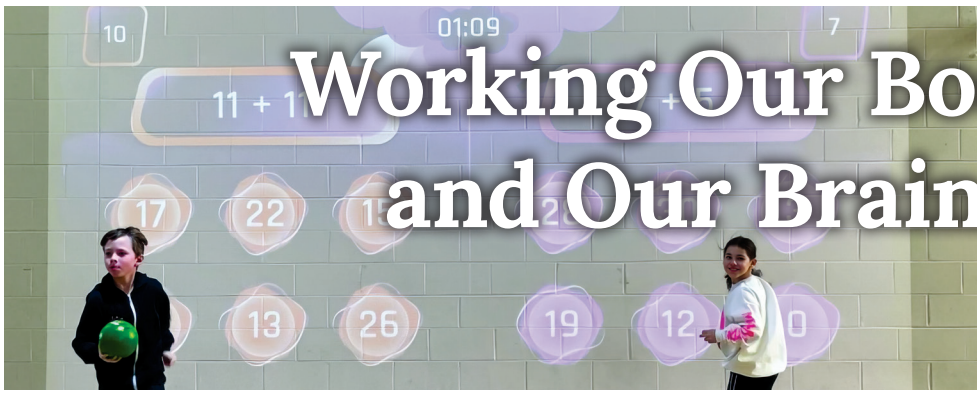
ABOVE: Kipling's Cultural Collection display is a wonderful showcase of some of the different backgrounds that our students have. Pictured here is the Strobel family, who last spring proudly displayed some special things from their Chilean ancestry.



ABOVE: Mrs. Bonnette, of our district Multilingual Specialists, reads a book to a class at Walden about the importance of including people from different backgrounds who speak different languages.

RIGHT: Our Early Learners students learned about the holiday of Diwali this fall. Aside from this henna art project, students created a giant rangoli outside the school.





Working Our Bodies and Our Brains!



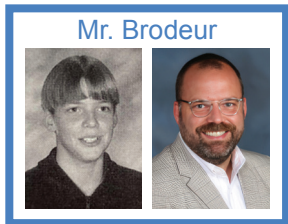
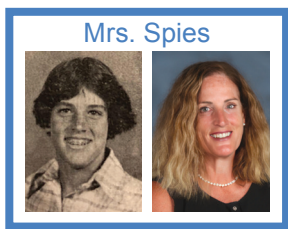
Top Left: Students solve math problems by throwing balls against the correct number; Center Left: A class divides into teams for a relay where they are tasked with doing different exercises.

Elementary P.E. class doesn't look quite the same this year in District 109 with the addition of the Lu Interactive Playground at all four schools! It's a system that has hundreds of games and activities that encourage physical activity but can also incorporate other skills like solving math problems (as seen above.)

The system, shown here at Walden, projects onto the wall of the gym and has a movement detection camera, a powerful sound system, and a fully automated multi-colored lighting system. The constantly updating library of programs ensures that there will be new content throughout the school year and that activities can be adapted by grade level. It's been a great start with the new systems and we are excited to see all of the fun exercises students do as the weather gets colder!



Going the Extra Mile to Relate to Their Students



Middle school can be a really hard stage of life for some students. That's why the staff at Caruso and Shepard go out of their way to make students feel comfortable, feel seen, and approach their work through the eyes of the student experience. Did you LOVE yearbook picture day? (We know many don't.) On the left, staff members at Caruso proudly display their middle school photos near the entrances to their classrooms and offices. This small gesture helps students to know that the adults they see today were in the same (sometimes awkward) situation as them. On the left is P.E. teacher Dana Spies and principal Tim Brodeur.

What is the day in the life of a middle schooler like? Over the past few years, Caruso staff members have volunteered to shadow a student for a day and follow their schedule exactly. Dress code for the day? Whatever a middle schooler would wear! "There's tons of group work, tons of collaboration. It's awesome to see it all because I didn't get to experience that in 7th grade myself," Julie Witczak, CMA teacher, said. Below right, she is pictured in music class.



Left: Shepard students and staff were encouraged to dress like their counterparts earlier this year and the Spartans had a lot of fun with it! (That shaggy, sandal & hoodie wearing "student" on the bottom left is the principal!!)

Right: Caruso counselor Adrian Remeniuk spends his day in the life of a 6th grader, participating in a quiz in social studies.



Bringing Schools & Communities Together



Above: A surprise mystery reader at South Park was none other than our very own Student Resource Officer, Officer Maldonado

Out and About in Deerfield



ABOVE: Sammy Spartan, C.J. the Bluejay, and Katerina, our communications specialist, brought the Halloween spirit to the Deerfield Park District's Halloween Hoopla event!

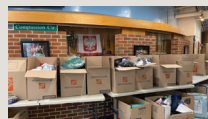
We love spending Saturday mornings with our community members at the Deerfield Farmer's Market. We had kiddos stop by and create a fish, to join our school of fish!



109 Gives Back

Food and Supply Drive

Our 4th Annual Food and Supply Drive took place in November. In a little over a week, we collected several truck hauls worth of donations. All proceeds benefit our local West Deerfield Township Food Pantry.



Minute with Maldonado



We have teamed up with our Student Resource Officer to create a mini-series of safety videos. Scan the QR code to watch.

Holiday Gift Drive

The last week of November and throughout December we host a gift drive to give local families the holiday of their dreams! We collect gifts in all six buildings and distribute them out to families the week before winter break.

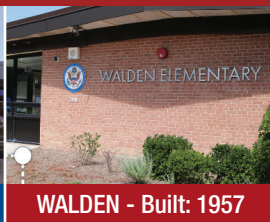




KIPLING - Built: 1948



WILMOT - Built: 1955



WALDEN - Built: 1957



SOUTH PARK - Built: 1959



SHEPARD - Built: 1961



CARUSO - Built: 1968

Taking Our Schools To The Next Level

Over the last 18 months, DPS 109 has been undergoing a master facility planning process to determine the short and long-term needs to make our schools the best educational environments possible for our community. It's exciting to see the work we have accomplished and the collaboration underway! This past spring, the Board of Education reviewed strategies and recommendations from the master facility planning steering committee as they work to vet long-range plans.

The board advised the administration to further develop Strategy C, which would involve the replacement of all four elementary schools. It would also examine if any additional renovations need to take place at our middle schools on top of all of the work that has been done over the past decade, including:



2015-2016: New science labs



2018: Renovated libraries



2019: New cafeterias



2022: Caruso auditorium

Ongoing projects include security, mechanical, and flooring/ceiling updates. We invite you to follow along with this process on our website and through periodic updates in our 109 News newsletter and at Board of Education meetings.

Learn more at dps109.org/ourfuture



AAA Bond Rating

19 Years of consecutive balanced operating budgets

Our district has been awarded the Meritorious Budget Award from the Association of School Business Officials for 14 consecutive years!



DID YOU KNOW? In the last two years, DPS 109 reduced its districtwide monthly electric bills by approximately 10-15% by installing LED lighting in every facility. The district also only had to pay a portion of the installation, thanks to a grant from the ComEd small facilities energy efficiency program.

Shepard Students Learn Finances

8th graders at Shepard are learning about how finances and stocks work, and welcomed in some very special guest experts this fall... family members who work in the industry! Students worked in small groups which allowed them the opportunity to ask questions of their financial expert, which included Mrs. Bonar of our Board of Education! (pictured below, left)



A Quick Supply & Demand Lesson in 2nd Grade



2nd graders at Kipling are learning the basics about running a business this fall and got a chance to open up their own shops for a day! Students created their own inventory...ranging from necklaces to origami creations and more and then set

their price points. Each of the four classes got to tour the markets of their fellow 2nd grade classrooms with pretend money they had earned and pick up some goodies! Things really got interesting when the teacher announced that there were only a few minutes left, and suddenly prices were being slashed and deals were being made!



Deerfield Public Schools District 109
517 Deerfield Road
Deerfield, IL 60015

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Come Work With Us!

Full & Part-Time Opportunities Available!
www.dps109.org/jobs

Incoming Kindergarten In-Person
Registration Events:

**Thursday, February 1st
& Friday, February 2nd**

For information on the events & to start the
process, visit www.dps109.org/registration

District 109 is hosting a Community
Well-Being and Safety Night on:

**Tuesday, January 9, 2024
@ 7:00 PM
Shepard Middle School**

For more details visit www.dps109.org



Look for another issue of **The 109 Way** in Spring 2024!