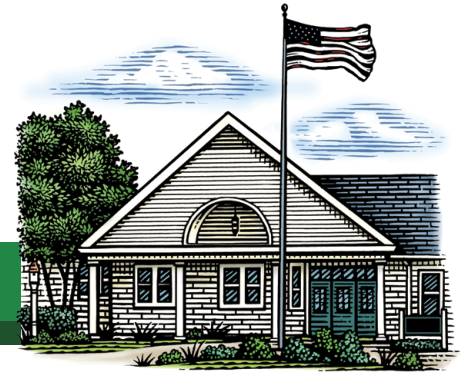


Bannockburn Bulletin

BANNOCKBURN SCHOOL DISTRICT 106

FALL 2019



Bannockburn School - 2019 National Blue Ribbon School of Excellence



Bannockburn staff recognized for the 2019 National Blue Ribbon School of Excellence Award.



Bannockburn School was recognized by U.S. Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos on September 26, 2019 as a National Blue Ribbon School for 2019. Bannockburn's recognition falls within the category of "Exemplary High Performing Schools." This means Bannockburn School is among the state's highest performing schools as measured by state assessments or nationally normed tests.

"We recognize and honor your important work in preparing students for successful careers and meaningful lives," said U.S. Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos in a video message to the honorees. "As a National Blue Ribbon School, your school demonstrates what is possible when committed educators hold all students and staff to high standards and

create vibrant, innovative cultures of teaching and learning."

The coveted National Blue Ribbon Schools award affirms the hard work of educators, families and communities in creating safe and welcoming schools where students master challenging and engaging content.

On November 14 and 15, the Secretary and the Department of Education will celebrate with school honorees at an awards ceremony in Washington, D.C.

"This is an incredible honor for our school and our community." Says Bannockburn School District 106 Superintendent, Dr. Scott Herrmann. "Our staff work tirelessly, in partnership with our families, to provide a world class education for our

"As a National Blue Ribbon School, your school demonstrates what is possible when committed educators hold all students and staff to high standards and create vibrant, innovative cultures of teaching and learning."

students. I am so proud of this recognition and we look forward to celebrating as a community."

Bannockburn School Opens “The Peaceful Place”

Bannockburn’s strategic plan calls for a more intentional focus on Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) to support students in and out of the classroom. To that end, students have been introduced to a new SEL curriculum that centers around the art of mindfulness. Mindfulness is defined as the practice of maintaining a kind, curious, nonjudgmental state of awareness of what’s happening in and around you.

This practice allows students to learn self-regulation techniques to take notice of their thoughts and emotions in order to learn to respond to them versus react.

Lauren Beversdorf, certified mindfulness and yoga instructor and Bannockburn Spanish Teacher oversees “The Peaceful Place,” Bannockburn’s new mindfulness classroom. Beversdorf works with teachers and students to integrate mindfulness activities throughout daily core curriculum and Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) instructional times. “Mindfulness is a great practice for students and teachers, and it really is just that, a practice. People have to practice the way they want to be if they truly want to get in touch with themselves,” she says. “Our students are constantly



Students practicing mindfulness in the “The Peaceful Place”.

faced with challenges and distractions during the school day. By integrating mindfulness and giving them a space to go to collect their thoughts or work through an emotion, our students can get ready to learn in a more self-sufficient and self-monitored way, thus building their independence both in and out of the classroom.”

For students who need a quiet environment to practice their mindfulness, The Peaceful Place is equipped with a number of tools and resources to foster a culture of empathy and acceptance for all students.

When teachers notice a student working to navigate some strong emotions, they may need to process these feelings before moving forward with academic tasks. This is when students are encouraged to take a visit to The Peaceful Place to work with staff on processing whatever they’ve noticed going on inside. Administrators, teachers and staff members also use the space individually and in small groups to practice any form of mindfulness, self-care or wellness so that they can bring their best selves into their classrooms to teach.

Bannockburn Students Volunteer for #NFLHuddleFor100

As part of Bannockburn School’s partnership with Fuel Up to Play 60 (FUTP60), students, staff and parents were invited to attend the National Football League’s volunteer day, NFL Huddle for 100. The NFL Huddle Up Initiative is in honor of the 100th season of the NFL. Fans were invited to contribute 100 minutes of their time by giving back to their local communities.

To participate in this event, over 40 students traveled to Douglas Park in Chicago. Students were greeted by NFL and FUTP60 ambassadors as they gathered in the Douglas Park Community and Cultural Center. From there, students had



Student volunteers photographed with NFL Commissioner, Roger Goodell.

the opportunity to enjoy a lunch with the NFL Commissioner, Roger Goodell, before beginning the day of service.

School Districts Meet to Formalize Collaboration: A Win for All Students and Taxpayers!

On September 10, the Board of Education from Bannockburn District 106, Deerfield District 109, North Shore School District 112 and Township High School District 113 held a joint Special Meeting to formalize a historic Intergovernmental Agreement. This agreement solidifies the collaboration among these four districts in a variety of areas including curriculum, instruction, and assessment. “This meeting is the beginning of what will be an impactful partnership for our students,” says Dr. Scott Hermann, Bannockburn District 106 Superintendent. “I am thrilled to be a part of this process and look forward to addressing more ways our districts can work collaboratively.”

In addition to the formalization of the agreement, the boards held a discussion

around emergency preparedness and safety in the schools. Prior to this joint meeting, the superintendents of the four districts met to discuss different opportunities for collaboration that will directly benefit students. One idea that rose to the top of this discussion was the sharing of resources to ensure the schools are aligned in safety and security measures.

“Sharing these resources means that our students will be familiar with the policies and procedures from the time they



Boards of Education from Bannockburn District 106, Deerfield District 109, North Shore School District 112 and Township High School District 113 partnering together.

“I am thrilled to be a part of this process and look forward to addressing more ways our districts can work collaboratively.”

are in kindergarten through their senior year of high school, thus increasing the safety of our schools,” says Herrmann. “In addition to the tactical resources, we are exploring ways to integrate our social emotional learning curriculum to create a pathway from K-12.”

The boards plan to meet again during the 2019-2020 school year to formalize more areas of collaboration and discuss new ideas for how this partnership can and will evolve.

After lunch, Bannockburn students attended a press conference in the park where they were welcomed and thanked for their participation by Chicago Mayor, Lori Lightfoot. After kicking off the day, students began their 100 minutes of service by participating in a scavenger hunt around the park. During the hunt, students were also participating in a timed clean up. Together, Bannockburn students picked up over 18 pounds of trash in the park!

Throughout the day, students were featured on many different news outlets for their work in the park.

The event was filmed and featured at the start of the Bears versus Packers game to kick off the NFL season. Students were celebrated nation-wide for their efforts, appearing on Twitter, NBC, CBS, and WGN News.

“It was incredible to see our students work hard to clean up the Park, while having so much fun and getting to meet so many new people,” says Liz Loughnane, Bannockburn’s Director of Teaching and Learning. “We are so grateful to be able to provide our students with a great education and great experiences like these. I am sure they will remember this day for

the rest of their lives!” Fuel Up To Play 60 is a leading in-school health and wellness program that empowers students and educators to work together to build healthier schools and create healthy, high achieving students. In addition to exclusive invites to events like these, Fuel Up to Play 60 also provides students with an array of resources and experiences that help students live a more active lifestyle. Through the partnership, Bannockburn recently hosted a Chicago Bears Mini Monsters football clinic for the entire student body.



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Community Library Hours at Bannockburn School!

Bannockburn School invites the entire Bannockburn School District community to attend Evening Library Hours! All families in the Bannockburn School community (within the school boundaries) are welcome to attend, sign up for library cards, and check out books. Bannockburn staff is excited to welcome the community into the School Library and hopes this program serves as a great resource for the Village!

*Upcoming dates for the Evening Library Hours (5:30-7:00pm):
 Thursday, November 7th • Wednesday, December 4th • Tuesday, January 7th*



ON THE WEB:
bannockburnschool.org



ON FACEBOOK, SEARCH:
 Bannockburn School
 District 106



ON TWITTER:
 @Bannockburn106

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DID YOU KNOW?
Bannockburn School proudly implements a 1:1 technology program beginning in Kindergarten! Students in grades K-2 have access to personal iPads and 3-8 students have personal Chromebooks to support innovative and modern learning practices.

Visit the Bannockburn School District 106 website at bannockburnschool.org to keep up with the latest updates and access the most recent information about the school district.