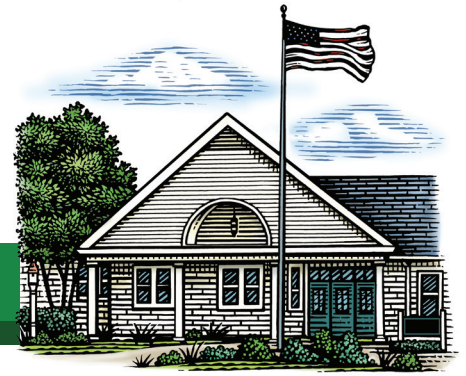


Bannockburn Bulletin

BANNOCKBURN SCHOOL DISTRICT 106

WINTER 2019



Student Lessons in Service to Others

Students at Bannockburn School have made a difference both locally and internationally through service projects, which are part of an emphasis on giving back to others that permeates throughout the entire school.

“Community service is an important part of the learning at Bannockburn School”

“Community service is an important part of the learning at Bannockburn School,” Principal Debbie Barnes says. “Instilling the values of serving others is a vital part of the overall curriculum. These are lessons that enrich our students’ lives and the lives of others.”

“Student Council is one of the many ways students at Bannockburn School help others,” says Student Council Advisor Joanie Lampert. She organizes the group and shares that each year students help determine a major service project during the winter. In addition, they typically select two other projects throughout the school year. “Our projects have varied greatly, from assisting Nepalese orphans to helping North American gray wolves,” she says.

One of the more impactful projects occurred when the students provided school supplies to a school in Kenya. That project led to a direct connection with the students in Kenya, mainly through computer video conference software. During several conversa-

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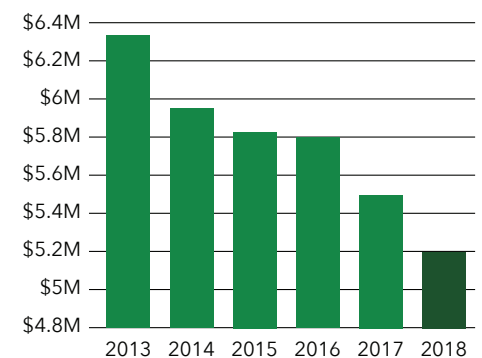
Students participated recently in a food drive for a local food pantry that was part of a Soup-er Bowl food drive.

Tax Collections Lowered Again

A portion of each property owner’s overall tax bill is based upon the elementary school district’s tax levy. While most school districts and other taxing bodies take the opportunity to collect the maximum amount permissible each year, Bannockburn School District has actually done the opposite and reduced the tax dollars collected over the past several years. As a result, more than 90% of Lake County elementary school districts have higher tax rates than Bannockburn.

“The levy has been reduced by nearly 20% or more than \$1 million dollars in the past 6 years,” Bannockburn Superintendent Dr. Scott Herrmann says. Bannockburn School currently collects fewer tax dollars than any year since 2009. “We are grateful for the support of our community and believe strongly that we need to be fiscally responsible and good stewards of our residents’ tax dollars,” Herrmann says.

Bannockburn School Levy



Facilitating Engaged Learners

Finding ways to engage and excite students to learn is the ultimate goal of all great schools and the best teachers. Bannockburn School recently implemented an approach that has captivated many students ... then the district almost immediately expanded it.

During the summer of 2015 the computer lab, library and music room underwent renovations that created two new dynamic learning spaces. Both an Imagination, Computation and Innovation (ICE) lab and a Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) lab were created. The labs are utilized by many teachers each day for project-based learning in an approach meant to immerse students in hands-on projects.



Students collaborate together on a project as part of the STEM focus at Bannockburn School.

"My biggest goal is for students to understand that when faced with a challenge, they can find a way to solve it," says Kathy Garneau who coordinates the STEM learning at Bannockburn. She shares that even the definition of the adult role at school being seen as a "facilitator" of learning rather than a "teacher," puts the emphasis for learning on the students. "With this approach you will often hear the adults say, 'I wonder what you can do about that?' or 'I wonder where you can find a solution to that problem?'" she says. "Instead of providing answers, the adults ask questions to guide students to find, build, or create their own solutions."

STEM is a national focus in education and the Bannockburn program meets many of the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) and International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE) standards for science and technology. These standards are designed



Students work together on a STEM learning project recently.

"We could definitely see the excitement and enthusiasm students had for creating and problem solving, so it was quickly a success at the elementary grades," Ms. Garneau says. The

"The enthusiasm and excitement is so strong I can hardly get the kids to stop working each day."

specifically for college and career readiness. This year the school expanded the initial middle school program to third through fifth grade students.

goal for expanding the program is to provide opportunities for collaborative problem solving and creative projects for younger students. "Students

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Lessons in Service to Others *continued from page 1*

tions, the students in both countries learned directly from each other. Those discussions included questions about snow from the Kenyan students and questions about wild animals from the Bannockburn students. During one of the final planned conversations, Bannockburn students noticed one of the Kenyan students was not at school and asked the teacher about it. "We learned that his family could not manage the tuition," Ms. Lampert says. "The students immediately went into action and decided to use the proceeds from a school dance to pay for the student to return to school through a donation."

A new community service project to the school this year is the "Soup-er Bowl" food drive, which has been organized by the school's Fuel Up to Play 60 team. The team typically sets up healthy eating contests and NFL themed physical activities throughout

the school year. However, this fall they created the Soup-er Bowl food drive that falls in line with one of the team's missions which is to nourish the community and provide access to nutrient-rich foods for others in the community. The students determined they would request donations from the school community and provide the items to Deerfield's local food pantry.

The students culminated the event by donating more than 350 items and volunteering their time at the pantry. "It's one thing to have fun collecting items at school but to actually put some time in and see how important and necessary the food pantry is to others in our community, that was really special,"



A student moves her team's football to indicate they reached a goal as part of the Soup-er Bowl food drive to benefit a local food pantry.

says Fuel Up to Play 60 Program Coordinator Chad Vincent, who helped organize the project with the team.

are empowered to use the engineering design process as a way to solve problems and seek creative solutions," she says. "A child's innate sense of curiosity and creativity is very strong in the elementary years and tapping into that provides a bridge to the more complex projects waiting for students in middle school."

The learning requires students to plan and collaborate with partners, iterate designs and improve them, reflect on the process and learn to embrace failure as a natural part of the learn-

ing process. Projects have included 3D printing, LEGO robotics, video production, stop-motion animation, circuitry, lasers, photography and programmable circuits.

The students simply can't get enough of this type of learning. "The enthusiasm and excitement is so strong I can hardly get the kids to stop working each day," Ms. Garneau says. "Students ask if they can build during indoor recess, or tinker with leftover parts on their own time."



Students work on a circuitry project as part of one of their classes.



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Kindergarten Registration Packet Pickup Begins March 11

Bannockburn District 106 will hold kindergarten registration for the 2019-2020 school year in March. Parents of incoming kindergarteners are asked to stop at the Bannockburn School office between March 11-15 anytime from 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. to pick up a registration packet.



Parents of children ages 3-5 who have questions and/or concerns about their child’s development are asked to contact Adam Mihelbergel, Director of Student Services at 847-945-5900 ext: 2729 to schedule a developmental screening. Those screenings will be held on April 17.

Parents of pre-school aged children, and/or children who are being homeschooled or attend private schools who have concerns about their child’s

development should contact Mr. Mihelbergel at 847-945-5900 ext. 2729.

The school also offers screenings for children under 3 years of age who reside in the district. If a parent has concerns about their child in this age range, please contact the school office or Susan Stolzer, Early Intervention Transition Coordinator at NSSD (Northern Suburban Special Education District) at 847-831-5100.



ON THE WEB:
bannockburnschool.org



ON FACEBOOK, SEARCH:
 Bannockburn School District 106



ON TWITTER:
 @Bannockburn106

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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.