

SEARS *Community*

QUARTERLY NEWS FROM KENILWORTH SCHOOL DISTRICT 38

WINTER 2022

Reinventing the Classroom with Project Lead the Way

CALENDAR

February 11, 2022

Parent/Teacher
Conferences

February 14, 2022

7:00 p.m.
Board of Education
Meeting

February 23, 2022

3:15 p.m.
Special Olympics
Polar Plunge

March 3, 2022

9:00 a.m.
Building & Finance
Meeting

March 4, 2022

Student & Panther
Pride Awards
Ceremony

March 14, 2022

7:00 p.m.
Board of Education
Meeting

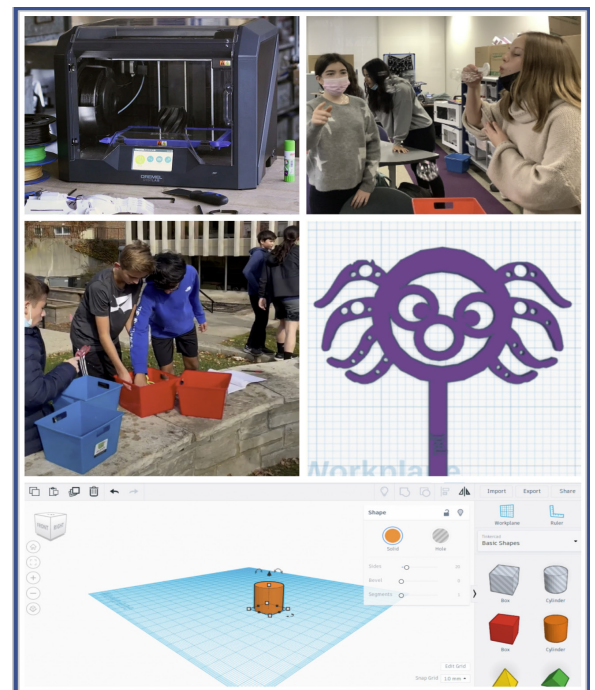
March 21 - 25, 2022

Spirit Week

Kenilworth School District 38 is excited to showcase its work around Science Technology Engineering Math (STEM) education for the 2021-22 school year and share the roadmap for growing the program over the upcoming years. STEM is a teaching philosophy that integrates all four disciplines into a single, cross-disciplinary program offering real-world applications and teaching methods. Our STEM mission is to inspire and empower all to create innovative solutions to complex real-world problems through hands-on activities that require perseverance, collaboration, and a deep understanding of the engineering design process.

The STEM concepts have been introduced to Joseph Sears students in grades 5-8 using the Project Lead the Way (PLTW) curriculum. PLTW is an organization focused on empowering students and transforming the teaching experience. Since 1997, PLTW has grown from a high school engineering program to offering comprehensive PreK-12 pathways in computer science, engineering, and biomedical science. In Junior High PLTW programs, students develop STEM knowledge and in-demand, transportable skills that they will use both in school and for the rest of their lives, on any career path they take. Junior High is a time of exploration when students are figuring out what they're passionate about today and how that relates to who they'll become tomorrow.

This school year, students are enjoying the Design and Modeling course where they are discovering the design process and developing an understanding of the influence of creativity and innovation in their lives. Students are then challenged and empowered to apply what they've learned throughout the unit to design a therapeutic toy for a child who has cerebral palsy. Students engage in the design process and use it to generate ideas, create innovative products, and solve authentic problems using 21st-century technology. Tools like 3D printers, 3D CAD software, and essential measurement skills empower students to solve real-world challenges and inspire them to reimagine how they see themselves.



RESPONSIBILITY • KINDNESS • HONESTY • RESPECT

Allison Drew (6th-8th grade) and Margo Parkes (5th grade) teach the PLTW curriculum. Both teachers attended PLTW Core Training during the summer of 2021 and worked together to create an innovative learning experience. PLTW students are learning more than just how to build and design. They learn how to communicate, negotiate, compromise, and think critically.

"Most recently, six through eighth-graders built unique bubble wands. Students joined groups that creatively brainstormed ideas, researched and tested current models, and later designed and 3-D printed the prototypes. Many groups learned about the iterative process of engineering and design as they made changes to their original models when things didn't work out as expected. It's wonderful seeing students take charge of their learning in creative ways."



Allison Drew, Innovation
Technology Teacher

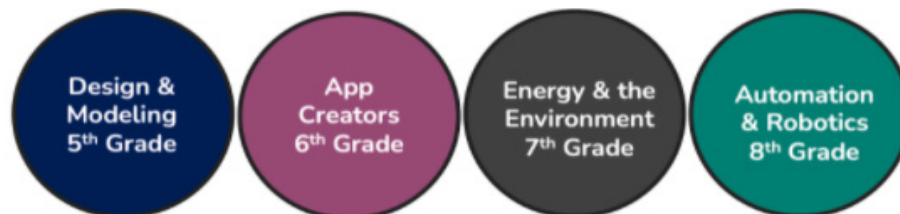
"It is so inspiring to see students take a project and run with it. When that lightbulb of understanding goes off and immediately turns into help for other students who are struggling is truly a great moment to be part of. We are now working on creating and engineering air skimmers. This was a completely student-led initiative, which the entire grade will now use."



Margo Parkes, Innovation
Technology Teacher

The Direction of the Program

An additional PLTW course will be added to the program for the next three school years, ending with a scope and sequence that provides the most robust STEM experience possible.



- PLTW Design and Modeling: The current course offering for students.
- PLTW App Creators: Students explore computer science by computationally analyzing and developing solutions to authentic problems through mobile app development. Students will customize their experience by choosing a problem that interests them from the areas of health, environment, emergency preparedness, education, community service, and school culture and try to solve that problem with app creation.
- PLTW Energy and the Environment: Students are challenged to think toward the future as they explore sustainable solutions to our energy needs and investigate the impact of energy on our lives and the world. They will design and model alternative energy sources and evaluate options for reducing energy consumption.
- PLTW Automation and Robotics: Students trace the history, development, and influence of automation and robotics as they learn about mechanical systems, energy transfer, machine automation, and computer control systems. Students use the VEX Robotics platform to design, build, and program real-world objects such as traffic lights, toll booths, and robotic arms.

The Joseph Sears School is part of a community of PreK-12 schools, colleges and universities, and corporate and philanthropic partners across the country united around a passion for providing students with inspiring, engaging, and empowering STEM learning opportunities.

For more information about PLTW's program, visit www.pltw.org.

PRESCHOOL SCREENINGS

Upcoming preschool screening dates are scheduled for the following mornings:

March 1, 2022

April 5, 2022

May 3, 2022

To schedule a preschool screening, please contact Angela Lascola at alascola@kenilworth38.org

An Update on Phase 2 of the Master Facilities Plan



The District has finalized the designs and begun the bidding process for Phase 2 Construction projects associated with the Master Facilities Plan, which will be initiated closer to Spring Break. DLA Architects provided Draft 3D Renderings of Phase 2 Construction that are found at kenilworth38.org/visionsears. These renderings provide a glimpse of what The Joseph Sears School will look like once renovations are completed! Also, the Sustainability Master Facilities Committee has spent considerable time working with DLA and the District's gardening consultant, "The Organic Gardener," in ongoing efforts to obtain LEED Certification, as well as to complete the design of the outdoor spaces. Some of the neat features of these spaces will include an edible garden, an outdoor classroom, and a green roof. It is the goal of the committee to ensure that these spaces are as functional as possible for all students. With this in mind, please note that both the location and selection of plants/material will be done with the utmost care and ensure that the best educational practices, will be utilized The District is excited to showcase these beautiful outdoor spaces and begin the next phase of construction.

Teacher Negotiations Update



The contract negotiations process with the Kenilworth Education Association (KEA) began in March and is ongoing. Throughout this time, the KEA has had the opportunity to fully express a broad range of concerns and issues with additional time to refine its priorities. The Board's priority in the negotiation process continues to be a collective bargaining agreement that helps deliver the best possible education to our students and is in the best interest of all of the important Joseph Sears stakeholders, including students, teachers, parents, community members, administration, and staff.

The Board's current proposal focuses on key priorities that demonstrate confidence and support for our teachers, and it benefits both students and teachers. In addition to a highly competitive economic package, it includes:

1. Providing teachers with regular ongoing professional development during the school day and school year to keep them at the top of their profession.
2. Ensuring that teachers are available to help students and parents for a specified period of time before and after school.
3. Ensuring adequate time during the school day for student instruction, planning, and other district priorities, including protected non-instructional time.

The Board remains hopeful that we can resolve the outstanding issues and that these discussions and negotiations will result in an agreed-upon updated collective bargaining agreement. Our children deserve the best educational experience possible, and we believe our highly-qualified administrators, teachers, and staff can deliver this by working together as a team.



THE JOSEPH SEARS SCHOOL

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Budget and Tax Levy Update

At the September 13, 2021, Board of Education meeting, a public hearing was held for the FY22 Budget. Business Manager, Joe Bailey, shared an overview of the FY22 Budget, while Administrative team members shared information relative to each of their individual department budgets. The Board voted to adopt the FY22 budget with a vote of five (yes), one (no), one (absent). Due to the growth in the Kenilworth tax rate and the ongoing increase to the tax levy, the Board asked the administration to continue to find opportunities to reduce annual expenditures, find new sources of revenue, and reduce expenditures per student, which appear to be the highest within the New Trier Township elementary school districts.

Additionally, the District will be accessing its reserve fund balances via a planned and budgeted deficit to cover the costs associated with the completion of its Master Facilities Plan (MFP.) The MFP is scheduled to be completed over the course of the next two-three school years and will include expenditures related to an addition, major renovations to the Baker Building, and other areas of The Joseph Sears School.

Finally, the FY22 budget also targets core operational areas for improvement, including an updated strategic plan, staffing, curriculum, culture, and technology infrastructure.

As required by State Law, The Board of Education held a public hearing for the 2021 Tax Levy at the November 8, 2021, regular meeting and voted to formally approve this levy at the December 13, 2021, regular meeting. The District requested a 4.96% levy for FY21, though it is expected that the actual levy will be closer to the FY21 Consumer Price Index figure of 1.4%.

If there are any questions relative to the District's finances or the levy/budget, please contact Dr. Joe Bailey, Business Manager, at (847) 853-3809.

