

SEARS Community

FALL 2021

QUARTERLY NEWS FROM KENILWORTH SCHOOL DISTRICT 38



Faculty and staff at The Joseph Sears School 2021-2022.

CALENDAR

November 4, 2021

9:00 a.m.

Building & Finance
Committee Meeting

November 8, 2021

Regular Board of
Education Meeting

December 2, 2021

9:00 a.m.

Building & Finance
Committee Meeting

December 13, 2021

Junior Kindergarten
KSD38 Residents Online
Registration

December 13, 2021

Kindergarten and
New Student Online
Registration

December 13, 2021

Regular Board of
Education Meeting

Dec. 20-Jan. 2

Winter Break

Welcome Back To School 2021-2022

Each school year brings positive change. This includes a few additions to The Joseph Sears School staff. Sears is delighted to welcome six new team members. Whether working in the classroom, keeping our technology current, or supporting our administrative team, all of these individuals contribute to our student's success.

Mrs. Lynette Bromiel joined Sears as the school Librarian. Before starting at Sears, she worked over ten years as a public librarian

and spent two years teaching ELA on the Southwest side of Chicago.

Mrs. Tatiana Pliego comes to Sears from Madrid (Spain) and teaches World Language to JK, K, and sixth through eighth-grade students. Tatiana has worked most recently as a Spanish teacher for Elementary and High School students in Dublin (Ireland). Tatiana has a wealth of experience and has taught both Spanish and Mandarin Chinese.

Mrs. Rachel White joined Sears as the

Executive Assistant to the Superintendent. Previously she worked for District 126 as the Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent and at VanderCook College of Music as the Business Office Manager.

A recently completed technology audit recommended moving more technology management services in-house. This resulted in three new hires for the Technology Department, reducing costs by approximately \$96,000 a year moving forward. Director of



Left: Lukasz Sikora, Tatiana Pliego, Nate McBride, Rachael White, Matthew Joanis, and Lynette Bromiel.

Technology and Innovation **Mr. Nate McBride** was hired from Skokie School District 73.5. He is responsible for managing all aspects of technology in the schoolhouse from infrastructure and device support to curriculum. In addition, **Mr. Matthew Joanis** joined as the IT Systems and Network Manager and **Mr. Lukasz Sikora** as the IT Systems and Data Manager. Both employees also come from District 73.5.

Welcome to the team!

RESPONSIBILITY • KINDNESS • HONESTY • RESPECT

Future Ready Learning Goals: Student Leadership



Principal's Advisory

As shared in the Sears Community Newsletter last July, we have focused this year's work on achieving our Future Ready Learning Goals developed through the Master Facilities Visioning Sessions in Spring of 2020. Our Future Ready Learning Goals are Global Citizenship, Fearless Learning, Creativity and Curiosity, Critical Thinking, Collaboration, Communication, and Mastery of Priority Standards.

We are expanding the Student Leadership opportunities to achieve these goals, including the new Principal's Advisory Council and Principal's Advisory. This group of sixth through eighth-grade students are committed to developing their Portrait of a Sears Graduate skillset as Fearless Learners, Creative Thinkers, Courageous Advocates, and Compassionate Citizens. They advise the Principal and Assistant Principal throughout the school year by sharing student perspectives of the school and supporting school or district initiatives.

The Principal's Advisory had their first annual Summit on Friday, August 20, to determine their goals and initiatives for this coming school year. Since then, they have met to continue their planning.

The Principal's Advisory will be focusing on five areas this school year and have organized themselves into



Portrait of a Sears Graduate

committees:

- Diversity, Equity, and Belonging
- Improving the Learning Experience
- Improving the School Experience (rules, policies, and procedures)
- Whole School Events/School Spirit
- Charity and Giving Back

Each committee is chaired by two Principal's Advisory Council members and is supported by one faculty member. These committees will select two main initiatives to focus on this school year. Once each committee selects two main initiatives, they will engage in the Design Thinking Process on how to best move each initiative forward. We are excited to see where our students take us as a school and community!



Principal's Advisory members attend a summit and meet to discuss school initiatives.



Master Facilities Plan

The Joseph Sears School Master Facilities Plan (MFP) serves as a guide for assessing the need for facility improvements and the capital investments to implement them. To keep informed on current MFP projects, members of the community are welcome to:

- Attend the Regular BOE meetings
- Attend the Building and Finance Committee Meetings
- Visit the Vision Sears page on the school website for project progression at www.kenilworth38.org/visionsears

Sears Early Childhood Program Showcase

With the start of the 2021-2022 school year, the school's youngest children were welcomed back to two remodeled Junior Kindergarten classrooms and the Junior Kindergarten/ Kindergarten (JK/K) 1,100 sq. ft. Hub area.

Guiding principles utilized in the new design included personalization, accessibility, flexibility, community orientation, outdoor connectivity, and sustainability.

Younger children first learn to engage with the world by connecting to their homes and the local community. The Hub was inspired by the Village of Kenilworth. It incorporates shapes representing the train station and tracks, the green floor represents the grass of nearby Townley Field, and the blue pattern represents Lake Michigan.

To maintain a flexible and accessible space, changing and movable furniture is used. The outdoor connectivity to nature is brought to light through elements of grass, acoustical clouds, and blue acoustical ceiling tiles to represent the sky. Teachers use the active Hub to achieve their goals around the play-based curriculums.

The space allows the ability to expand the school's early childhood offerings depending on community



needs. Currently, the JK program offers morning and afternoon sessions.

"The new spaces are incredible. This allows students a great introduction to school in a bright, developmentally appropriate, interactive setting that promotes creativity, communication skills, and exploration," said **Mrs. Tracey McDowell**, Lead Teacher for the JK program at Sears.

McDowell has been essential in helping to establish a JK community that fosters collaboration and independence. She has previously served as president of The Alliance for Early Childhood and remains an active member. She is deeply involved in the organization's outreach programs and

professional development opportunities for local educators of young children.

"The Kenilworth community is fortunate to have a JK program in their community to provide the foundation to engage the child's intellect, creativity, and ability to work with others. This enables them to enter kindergarten with



Mrs. Tracey McDowell

confidence as they have developed the skills needed to succeed as curious, engaged learners and cooperative community members," said McDowell.

The Joseph Sears School Junior Kindergarten Information Session

Wednesday, November 10, 2021, 6:30 p.m.
542 Abbotsford Rd., Kenilworth, JK/K HUB

2022-23 Resident registration opens:
Monday, December 13, 2021

2022-23 Non-resident registration opens:
Monday, January 10, 2022

For more information, tmcdowell@kenilworth38.org.



Teaching Through Experience, Learning Through Play

- Morning and afternoon sessions
- Play-based learning
- Child-friendly, hands-on, literacy and math curriculum
- World Language, Music, Art, PE, Library enrichment weekly
- Scaffolded social-emotional curriculum
- Open to residents of all communities with a child who will be four years old between September 1, 2021, and September 1, 2022



THE JOSEPH SEARS SCHOOL

542 Abbottsford Road • Kenilworth, IL 60043

p: 847.256.5006
kenilworth38.org

Kenilworth Board of Education

Mr. Evan Lukasik, President
Mr. Bill Graham, Vice-President
Mrs. Mia Casey Sachs, Secretary
Mr. Paul Anderson
Mr. Ashish Kaura
Dr. Lisa Metzger-Mugg
Mr. Stephen N. Potter

Kenilworth SD38 Administration

Ms. Kate Donegan, Superintendent
Dr. Stephanie Helfand, Principal
Mr. Martin Heffner, Assistant Principal
Dr. Carrie De La Cruz, Director of Student Services
Dr. Joe Bailey, Business Manager

Non-Profit
Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 4

**Postal Patron
Local
Kenilworth, IL 60043**

Sears Faculty and Staff Receive Special Recognitions

We are pleased to share that several of our outstanding educators have recently been recognized for their work.

Congratulations to fourth-grade teacher **Ms. Jennifer Arra** for being the first classroom teacher appointed to the Board of Directors for The Nora Project! In addition to her responsibilities as a Board member, she will also chair the Program Development Committee, helping The Nora Project curriculum grow and reach more schools, both nationally and internationally.



Ms. Jennifer Arra

The Nora Project provides educators with a suite of social-emotional learning programs that dive deeply into the concepts of empathy and inclusion, explicitly addressing disability and difference as a part of human diversity. The Nora Project programs connect what students learn to the real world, offering them authentic opportunities to practice what they learn during direct instruction.

The Joseph Sears school has been participating in The Nora Project since 2018. Sears students in kindergarten, second, and fourth grades participate in

this program that helps build empathy for others and teaches inclusion as an essential aspect of life.

Eighth-grade social studies teacher **Mr. Scott Paeth** was recognized as the State of Illinois VFW Teacher of the Year for Grades 6-8 as part of the *Smart/Maher VFW Citizenship Education Teacher Award*. His path to this honor began last winter when Paeth was selected by VFW Post 1337 for a local award to recognize excellence and dedication to his profession and students. Paeth then advanced to the VFW state finals in summer 2021, when he received the teacher of the year recognition.

The Joseph Sears School is fortunate to have Paeth, a major in the Air National Guard who was previously deployed to Afghanistan and serves as the commander of the 115th Maintenance Squadron, as a faculty member.

The Illinois Chapter of the National School Public Relations Association held its annual Communications Awards ceremony to recognize the top communications in the state. School District 38 received an INSPRA Award of Excellence, the highest honor in the category, for the 2020-2021 Annual Community Report.

Sears has many reasons to be proud of its staff and their collective accomplishments this year.



Mr. Scott Paeth when being recognized as the State of Illinois VFW teacher of the year for Grades 6-8.



Kenilworth 38 Board of Education President Mr. Evan Lukasik, Superintendent Ms. Kate Donegan, and Communications Coordinator Mrs. Deb Keegan receive the District's INSPRA Award of Excellence.



**All students will be prepared to advance
and thrive, now and into the future.**

