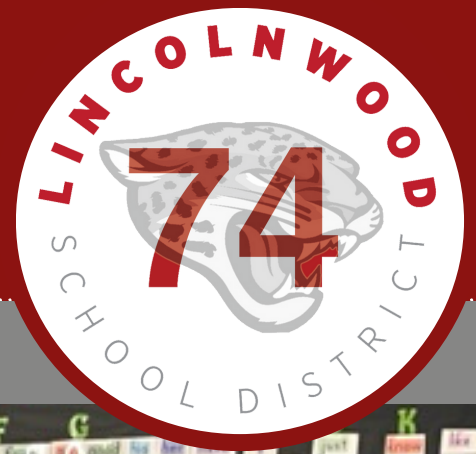


# THE JAGUAR

WINTER 2023 EDITION



## IN THIS EDITION...

2 - From the Superintendent & Assistant Superintendent  
3 - Community Connections  
4 & 5 - Eye on Education

6 - Arts & Athletics  
7 - District Happenings  
8 - Upcoming Spring Musical

# From the Superintendent & Assistant Superintendent



Dear Lincolnwood Learning Community,

Happy New Year! Welcome to 2023 and the Winter Edition of *The Jaguar*. We hope that the first few weeks of the new year have proven to be joyful. The District is excited to build on the momentum generated in the first months of the school year as we enter the second semester. In this edition, you will discover that the fall semester was filled with initiatives directly impacting teaching and learning along with events to inaugurate new facilities and build community.

As you will read, the District received an unexpected surprise in the form of an incredibly generous donation from SD74 alumnus, Barry Berger, and his wife, Taffy. After a successful career in home health care, the Bergers have pledged a donation totaling \$500,000 over the next ten years to the District as a means to demonstrate appreciation for the upbringing and

education Mr. Berger received from the Lincolnwood community and schools. The first \$50,000 donation was accepted by the Board of Education in December. The funds provide exciting opportunities as we factor the donation into planning for campus improvements over the next decade!

In the second half of the school year, we want to continue to foster a strong partnership with all community members. We hope that you sign up for the District's Twitter feed (@lincolnwoodsd74) and check the District's website ([www.sd74.org](http://www.sd74.org)) regularly to get current information on the numerous events that will happen on campus in the coming months. We encourage everyone to come out to cheer on the Jaguars in basketball, volleyball, or soccer; listen to one of our ensembles perform; or watch the annual Lincoln Hall musical in our state of the art auditorium. The students of Lincolnwood School District 74 possess so many talents, which are on display in numerous ways on a daily basis. The chance to engage in our students' achievements is key to our community's success. Have a wonderful 2023!

In Educational Partnership,

David L. Russo, Ed.D.  
Superintendent of Schools

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Dear Lincolnwood School District 74 Community,

Happy New Year, we wish everyone nothing but the best in 2023! As we recap some of the great curricular initiatives that were kicked off during the 2022-2023 school year, I also want to preview the important work that lies ahead.

In this edition you will find information on the District's social studies curriculum adoption. All grades, kindergarten through eighth grade, started a new social studies program in the 2022-2023 school year. These titles were chosen as the result of a full-year program adoption process that took place in the 2021-2022 school year. Throughout all of last year, representatives from every grade level came together to review multiple social studies programs in order to make a well-informed decision on which program to adopt for this year. As you will read, the faculty has so far been pleased with the content and activities that these programs have presented!

In the second semester, the Curriculum Department continues to review programs to make recommendations for next year. We are looking at a new mathematics curriculum at the middle school level with our middle school math team, and we are also reviewing our kindergarten through fifth-grade science curriculum. By maintaining a regular curriculum review cycle, we can assure that the District is always on the leading edge of the most up-to-date resources and practices.

We look forward to continuing to build excitement and momentum with our current programs!

Dominick Lupo, Ed.D.  
Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction





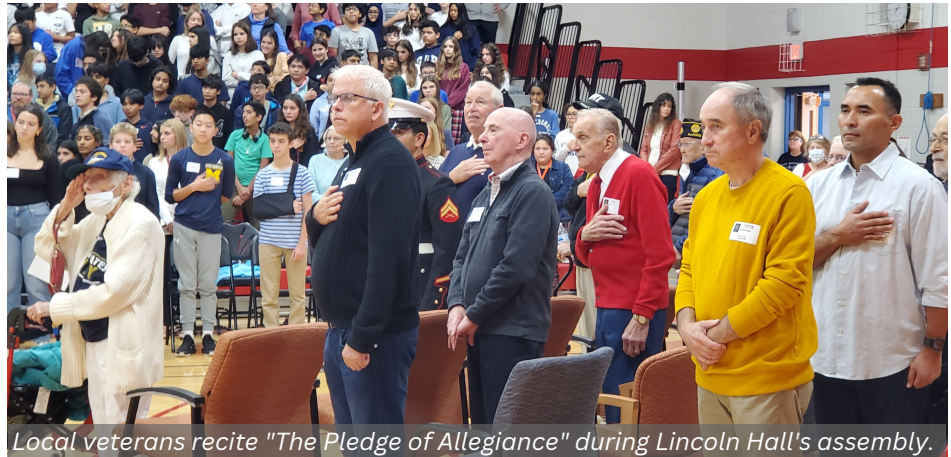
# Community Connections

## Rutledge and Lincoln Hall assemblies celebrate contributions of veterans

On Friday, November 11th, the District invited family members, loved ones, and community members who served in the armed forces to be honored and recognized at assemblies held at Rutledge Hall and Lincoln Hall. Throughout the day, students at Todd Hall also participated in a number of Veterans Day themed activities. These experiences gave students the opportunity to learn about and honor the contributions and sacrifices of veterans.

Prior to the assemblies, veterans were treated to complimentary treats, coffee, and gift bags made by students. Selected students acted as "ambassadors" having the opportunity to ask questions and learn more about each veteran's military service. With students dressed in red, white, and blue, the assemblies included student-written poetry, performances, and a presentation of the flag by a local Honor Guard comprised of members of the Lincolnwood Fire and Police Departments.

At Lincoln Hall, the Band, Orchestra, and Chorale ensembles performed patriotic songs concluding in a rendition of "Taps." After all the veterans were introduced, students at Rutledge Hall sang the Armed Forces Medley. The event included a slideshow of staff member's families who served in the armed forces. The District is grateful and thankful for those who joined us, including veterans from the local assisted living facility, Lincolnwood Place.



Local veterans recite "The Pledge of Allegiance" during Lincoln Hall's assembly.

*"As a student ambassador, I wanted to welcome our veteran guests and make them feel special. It was cool that we got to give them gifts and be the ones to serve them."*

**- Dalia D., 5th Grade Student**

## SD74 alumnus pledges generous donation to the District

Earlier in the school year, the District received an unexpected communication from SD74 alumnus, Barry Berger. Mr. Berger and his wife, Taffy, decided to "pay it backwards" by donating \$500,000 over the next ten years to the District, which Mr. Berger identifies as extremely instrumental in laying the foundation for his professional success.

Barry Berger was born in Lincolnwood and graduated from Lincoln Hall in 1968. Upon graduation from Niles West, Barry moved to Phoenix and attended Mesa Community College and transferred to Arizona State University (ASU), graduating in 1976 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Business. Barry then moved to Los Angeles and started working for a radiology company that provided nuclear medicine and ultrasound services to hospitals. In 1980, he ventured out on his own to open a home care company called Accredited Home Health. Barry met his wife, Taffy in

1984 and they married in 1985. Taffy left her job to join Barry where she grew to be a leader with Accredited Home Health.

The Bergers retired and sold the business to a publicly traded company in 2021. As a result of their successful business endeavors, the Bergers set up a charitable foundation selecting Lincolnwood School District 74 as one of their recipients.

The first \$50,000 donation was accepted at the December Board of Education meeting. In the coming years, funds will be allocated to projects that are already on the District's Master Facilities Plan and eventually to other potential campus improvements. Part of this year's donation will go to renovations of playground areas and toward making the interior courtyard of Todd Hall into a multifaceted learning space. The District is appreciative of and thankful for the Berger's donation.

# Eye on Education



Mr. DuPriest's eighth grade class reviewing a recent social studies chapter.

## New social studies program offers more information and additional student resources

This year Lincolnwood School District 74 is implementing a new social studies program in grades kindergarten through eighth that offers new learning experiences and a variety of additional resources for students.

The new program was selected after a comprehensive review completed during the 2021-2022 school year. A committee of teachers representing every grade level worked through the process of reviewing and evaluating a variety of program options that resulted in each school selecting materials best suited to meet their students' needs.

At Todd Hall, kindergarten through second-grade teachers on the committee chose the *myWorld Interactive* elementary social studies curriculum. *myWorld Interactive* introduces civics, economics, geography, and history concepts to young learners. Topics are relatable to students' everyday lives and the resources are

presented in an organized manner. An engaging layout makes information accessible and captures students' attention. The social studies experience at Todd Hall affords students the chance to learn foundational concepts through written work while applying their knowledge in more hands-on learning opportunities.

"We are currently learning about different cultures and traditions to tie into the holiday season," said first-grade teacher, Veronica Schmidt. "We are exploring different countries and the winter holidays they celebrate."

*IMPACT Social Studies* was the program chosen for third through fifth-grade students at Rutledge Hall. *IMPACT Social Studies* aims to teach students about geography, history, structures of government, the economy, and immigration by analyzing sources, thinking critically, and providing opportunities for students to work together.

"The new materials incorporate advanced writing, comprehension, and literacy skills," said fourth-grade teacher, Jill Litwin. "I like that the program features additional outside resources and materials, and includes short assessments at the end of each section. This really helps determine if students are understanding the material earlier on."

Ms. Litwin's class recently enjoyed learning about immigration. One project tasked students with interviewing family members who shared their personal immigration experiences. These conversations resulted in the production of fun video segments highlighting the stories of important family members.

"I enjoyed spending time with my grandpa and learning about where he's from," said fourth-grade student, Zainab Y. "It was fun watching my classmates' video interviews and learning other cultures and also seeing if there were any similarities between our families."

*Continued on next page*



# Eye on Education

Lincoln Hall Middle School students are learning about U.S. and world history through a social studies program launched by McGraw-Hill Publishing. *United States History: Voices and Perspectives* and *World History: Voices and Perspectives* provide in-depth text and rigorous reading levels that challenge student engagement. Even within the first months of implementation, the new materials are providing students with a more comprehensive foundation of knowledge through a variety of sources.

"I like that each chapter includes additional supporting sources to answer big picture questions," said eighth-grade teacher, Travis DuPriest. "It's nice to have questions built into the text, whereas before we had to seek out this information on our own."



It has been a big difference moving on from our old material and learning experiences," said seventh-grade teacher, Mallory Weiss. "We want to maintain the integrity of old projects we used to assign students and incorporate them into new projects in the future."

Mrs. Weiss' classroom recently finished their first major project during an

exploration of the Medieval Period. She is looking forward to their next time period, which covers the Renaissance. She plans to incorporate a great deal of culture, art, knowledge, and innovative thinking; which she feels the new text goes "above and beyond" in providing background knowledge.

"Our project for the Medieval Period was a simulation of what life was like then," said seventh-grade student, Victor H. "It was a very different experience. I look forward to more projects like this."

Students and teachers will continue to familiarize themselves with the new programs throughout the remainder of the year with all three buildings agreeing that the materials have been welcomed additions to the District's resources.

## Next generation interactive display technology introduced at Todd Hall

Technology continues to be an important teaching tool to generate classroom engagement; therefore, the District follows a refresh cycle to ensure hardware does not become outdated. This past summer presented an opportunity to address aging projector and display screen technology at Todd Hall. The Technology Department explored options within the next generation of interactive display hardware. The department searched for a device that would handle all classroom tech needs in a unit that was both durable and cost effective.

"Rather than buying and installing new projectors, we decided to get BenQ

interactive display boards," said Director of Technology, Jordan Stephen. "These boards are not only full-size interactive whiteboards but they also have 4K picture displays with built-in sound systems, fast refresh rates, and cloud-based storage."

"We use our friend 'Ben' all day, every day in my classroom," said Kindergarten teacher, Sarah Blomstrand, in reference to the nickname her students have given to their board.

"The new BenQ boards have brought a new excitement for learning in kindergarten," said teacher, Dena Swidler. "This year we have been able to use the interactive activities of the Jolly Phonics



Program to make learning phonics fun for all students. Students are able to use their fingers to move pictures, write letters and words, and play games during the phonics instruction time!"

The District will examine the hardware needs at Rutledge Hall and Lincoln Hall in the coming years, but felt installation of BenQ Boards were best suited to the needs of our youngest students. "The interactive features of the boards increase student engagement and improve learning retention," said Stephens. "They are easy to navigate and really just fun for the students to use."

# Arts & Athletics

## *Alice in Rutledge Hall!*

All third through fifth-grade Rutledge Hall students lended their artistic abilities in helping create an *Alice in Wonderland* art installation down the Expressive Arts hallway. Each grade level had a specific responsibility for the art piece; third grade created the Kandinsky forest, fourth grade created the Monet flowers, and fifth grade created colorful mushrooms to complete the project.

"The project took about six weeks to create all the pieces and about four days to actually put up in the hallway," said fourth-grade student, Laila E. "The goal was to have every student [at Rutledge Hall] contribute to the art piece."

Every student at Rutledge Hall did an amazing job of making their own unique contribution to what was a visually outstanding display.



## Impressive finishes for fall and winter sports



### **Boys Varsity Soccer Finish Season as Conference Champs**

After losing the first game of the season, the Boys Varsity Jaguars won their final nine games in a row in the regular season, finishing in first place in the Little 9 Conference. They then went on a 3-0 run in the Little 9 Conference Tournament, where they only gave up one goal while defeating Lincoln Jr. High 4-0, Fairview South 3-1, and McCracken 2-0. The Jaguars finished with a 12-1 record to cap their season as the Little 9 Conference Soccer Champions!

Congratulations to Quincy T., Ezra B., Gio D., Luke P., George G., Connor V., Baran G., Jaydon S., Gianluca R., Chris Q., Calvin S., Khaled A., Aariz A., Ally A., Daud C., Ibrahim N., Marcus P., Biniyam M., and coaches Mr. Raciti and Mr. Endo!



### **District Hosts Annual Little 9 Cross Country Invitational**

The 8th Annual Little 9 Cross Country Invitational was held September 29th with a course that traveled across SD74's campus. Several girls on the Jaguar Cross Country team earned top-10 finisher medals in their respective races.

6th/7th Grade Girls - Cadence P. earned 3rd place, Victoria G. earned 4th place and Layla K. earned 9th place.

8th Grade Girls - Antonina M. earned 3rd place, Aya A. earned 5th place and Lilah M. finished in 10th place.

Over 270 middle school student-athletes from across the Township participated in the invitational.



### **Girls Varsity Basketball Earn 2nd Place in Conference and Tournament Play**

The eighth-grade Jaguars finished regular season play tied for 2nd place in the Little 9 conference with an overall record of 7 wins and 3 losses. They headed into the conference tournament as the No. 3 seed and beat McCracken and then Lincoln Jr. High to advance to the championship game. The Jaguars played the No. 1 seed, Fairview Falcons, for the Little 9 Conference Championship on December 21st where they earned a 2nd place tournament finish. Mia M. led the team with a game-high of five points.

Congratulations to Aya A., Sia F., Anita H., Yasamine I., Bella L., Mia M., Emi O., Sara P., Harper R., Antonia S., Aleksandra S., and coaches Ms. Azarnoosh and Mr. McInerney.



# District Happenings

## Fall semester highlighted by Ice Cream Social and Jaguar Jog

The 2022-2023 year kicked-off with hundreds of families and community members gathering on the evening of August 27th for the first District event, the Ice Cream Social! In the summer, a committee of volunteers and the administration collaborated on a line-up of activities that included a magic show by Randy the Magician, field games, a DJ, photo booth pictures, tacos from Tacomotora, and a visit from the Lincolnwood Fire Department. Volunteers handed out almost 1500 ice cream bars and popsicles! The Ice Cream Social was a wonderful way to reconnect after the summer, form new friendships, and start the school year on a positive note!



*Ice Cream Social*

On a sunny September morning, students of all grade levels officially inaugurated the new campus track during the Jaguar Jog event. The three lane, quarter-mile track was added to Lincolnwood SD74's campus as part of this past summer's improvement projects. Students participated in a fun obstacle course around the track where they enjoyed music, skipped, ran, popped bubbles, and

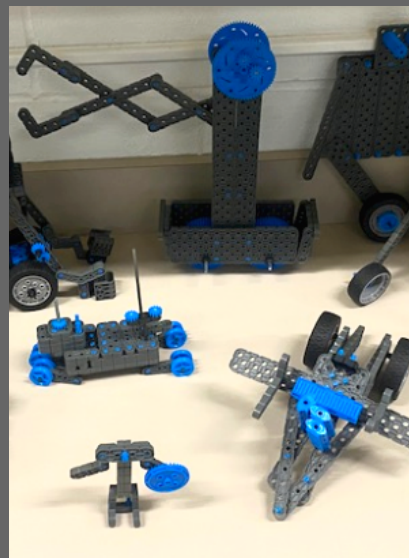


*Jaguar Jog*

did a few jumping jacks. The District added a philanthropic component to the event by collecting an incredible number of toiletries for the Niles Township Food Pantry. Later that month, students sorted and packed individual items into kits that were donated to the pantry. Over 100 bags of toiletries were donated! We thank our parent volunteers and planning committee who helped make the Jaguar Jog an incredible event. The track is open for use to community members after school hours.

## Fifth grade STEM “toy project” at Rutledge Hall

The Rutledge Hall fifth graders have been busy playing with toys! Maybe “playing” isn’t the best word, but they have been engaged in designing and building toys. Students were tasked with the challenge of using VEX Building Kits to create a unique prototype toy that had two moving parts. The design could not be something students had seen before in a toy store. Students built everything from transformers, to action figures, to helicopters, to claw extensions. Students presented their completed designs to their peers, explaining how the toy worked and discussing further enhancements that would make their prototype even better.

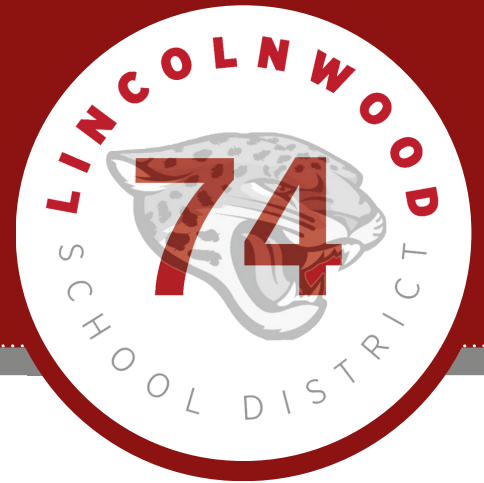


## Halloween parade



The new track also came into great use for this year's Halloween Parades. Todd Hall and Rutledge Hall students showed off their costumes as they completed a lap around the track. Parents were able to stop by and cheer on their children during the parade. Students finished off the day with a fun in-classroom party, which included a tasty treat and craft activity.

# THE JAGUAR



## **LINCOLNWOOD SCHOOL DISTRICT 74**

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## **Lincoln Hall Spring Musical**



**FRIDAY, MAY 19 AT 7:00 PM**

**SATURDAY, MAY 20 AT 2:00 PM & 7:00 PM**