



SEARS

Community

Kenilworth School District 38 - Quarterly Newsletter

SPRING 2025



UPCOMING DATES

Mark your calendar with these upcoming important dates.

- **MAY 19**
7th Grade
Springfield Trip
5:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.
- **MAY 19**
5th Grade We the
People Performance
1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.
- **MAY 21**
Senior Field Day
- **MAY 22**
8th Grade Research
Project Showcase
2:15 p.m. - 3:15 p.m.
- **MAY 23**
Trimester Three
Panther Pride Awards
7:45 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.
- **MAY 26**
Memorial Day
(No School)
- **MAY 28**
Junior Field Day
- **MAY 29**
8th Grade Graduation
5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
- **JUNE 5**
Last Day of School
for JK
- **JUNE 6**
Last Day of School
(Grades K-7)
2:00 p.m. Dismissal

**VISIT THE
WEBSITE**

www.kenilworth38.org

A Career Full of Chapters:

EMILY HAYDEN'S FINAL YEAR AT JOSEPH SEARS

Working in education was not one of Emily Hayden's first career choices, but after 24 years at The Joseph Sears School, Emily has built a fruitful career educating decades' worth of students. She will retire at the end of the 2024-2025 school year, closing the door on an illustrious career at The Joseph Sears School.

A lover of math and all things numbers, Emily had initially envisioned herself taking on the role of an engineer. She also had a passion for writing and admitted that she even thought about working in the world of law. However, the Harvard grad opted for a different career path during her senior year, leading her to the realm of education.

"I had never planned to be a teacher. I loved math, so my parents wanted me to be an engineer. I also loved to read, so they thought I might be an attorney. But neither of those professions ended up being quite in line with my interests. I loved to learn, I loved being in school, and I loved being with kids, so as I was graduating, I realized that teaching should be my career, so it has been for forty years," she said.

Emily has been teaching at The Joseph Sears School since 2001. She has taught at a variety of grade levels, including first and third grade as a classroom teacher and first through eighth grade as a literacy specialist.

"I was led to Joseph Sears School by its excellent reputation, its location on the North Shore, and the dedication of the faculty and staff, which was confirmed when I interviewed in 2001 with Ann Rice and Tracey McDowell, who were



then first-grade teachers. I stayed for the very same reasons, as well as the warm and friendly atmosphere and the strong sense of tradition, which brings together families that have been here for many years and families new to the community as well," Emily said.

As she reflects on her career at The Joseph Sears School, Emily notes that she will miss her students, colleagues, and school community the most. Specifically, she cited the work ethic that her peers put into their craft, the lively, enthusiastic students she has worked with, and the dedicated parents who show their support year after year.

Over the course of any career, there are many moments one could point to as being a highlight or the most rewarding. For Emily, those highlights come from her day-to-day experiences, whether it be reading stories with students, greeting them in the morning, or putting on a Readers Theater play in a classroom.

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RESPONSIBILITY • KINDNESS • HONESTY • RESPECT



As the 2024-2025 school year is coming to an end, the District is excited to share the progress of its Master Facilities Plan. Phase I of this plan focused on remodeling the Junior Kindergarten (JK) classrooms, creating a vibrant and engaging space for our youngest learners. Phase II of the project transformed the Baker Building to create dynamic, collaborative spaces for all our students. The building's new addition, completed in the fall of 2023, is now the heart of the school. Outdoor spaces connect students with nature and provide hands-on engagement opportunities for students, staff, and families. In addition, Phase II of the plan included all-new building-wide HVAC systems.

Phase III began in the summer of 2024, focusing on the original Joseph Sears School building. The most noticeable changes were on the second floor, where classrooms and hallways were renovated. These updates pay homage to the building's rich history and architectural character while simultaneously creating modern and flexible spaces. Additional exterior fencing and gates were installed to ensure the safety of students and staff during the school day and will be open outside of school hours.

Construction for the second half of Phase III will begin on June 7 and continue throughout the summer. Work will take place on the first floor of the original Joseph Sears school building and will align with the work completed last summer. In addition and in partnership with the Kenilworth Historical Society, we are excited to bring back our Fine Art collection, along with the official

opening of The Joseph Sears School Legacy Room. Coinciding with the work inside the building, the landscaping in the front of the schoolhouse will be updated. The design goal for the landscape project included:

- **Simple repetition of spaces formed by using plant masses and distinct flowering ornamentals.**
- **Use of form, texture, and balance to celebrate each entrance with ornamental trees, evergreen shrubs, flowering trees, and ground cover.**
- **Reuse of all existing trees.**
- **Creation of a gathering spot on the sidewalk using ornamental plantings and seat walls that echo the existing Sears School monument sign.**
- **A selection of hardy plants that need little maintenance.**

Upon completing the Master Facilities Plan, the District created an ongoing Five-Year Facilities Plan. This plan is a living document that will be reviewed and updated annually in collaboration with the Board of Education. This annual review ensures that emerging needs, new funding opportunities, and unforeseen challenges will be accounted for, keeping the District's facilities strategy aligned with its mission and vision. By taking this proactive and transparent approach, the District continues its dedication to providing high-quality educational environments that support student success for years to come.

"Seeing students grow and develop over the years is incredible, seeing them as they rise through the grades and go through the years and go through all the Sears experiences and traditions is second to none," she said.

In the next phase of her life, Emily describes her retirement plans as "evolving." One reason for this is that she is trying to be in the moment and enjoy her last year at Sears. However, the formative plans she has laid out speak to her character of educating and giving.

"I will probably expand the volunteer roles that I already have, add to the ever-growing stack of books that I am reading, spend more time with my family, and take my dog, Daisy, on long walks. I will probably do some writing, as well. I hope to continue to be involved in education, whether that means volunteering or substitute teaching. I will definitely keep up to date on what developments are going on in the field of literacy," she said.

As she transitions to retirement, Emily imparts a singular piece of advice that is of equal importance to both students and teachers alike.

"Enjoy each and every day, find some magic in what you are doing and share it with others, discover what you are passionate about, and follow your dreams. Take time to learn, connect with others, and develop your strengths," she said, closing with, "And one more word of advice...be sure to eat lots of ice cream!"



“
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”



Congratulations



CELEBRATING MILESTONES 2024-2025

This past school year, many faculty and staff members at The Joseph Sears School celebrated career milestones for their years of service. We honor these exemplary individuals for their efforts toward furthering our students' education and helping them achieve the *Portrait of a Sears Graduate*. Congratulations to all of our professionals!

10 Years

Debbie Beluch

20 Years

Jason Hahnstadt
Sherry Nash
Moris Quijada

25 Years

Laurie Sahn

Retirement

Emily Hayden

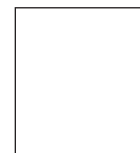




The Joseph Sears School

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KENILWORTH BOARD OF EDUCATION

Mrs. Kate Tarbert, President
Mrs. Lisa Graham, Vice President
Mr. Eric Hayes, Secretary
Mrs. Adrienne Eynon
Mrs. Jessica Katz
Mr. Brian Van Klompenberg
Mrs. Mileva Zunjic

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Dr. Stephanie Helfand, Principal
Mx. Sophie Wolfson, Dean of Students
Mr. Geoff Perlman, Assistant Principal

BOARD OF EDUCATION WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

On April 23, 2025, new board members Mrs. Adrienne Eynon, Mrs. Jessica Katz, Mr. Brian Van Klompenberg, and Mrs. Mileva Zunjic took the Oath of Office and joined the Kenilworth District 38 Board of Education (BOE).

The District would again like to thank former board members Mr. Paul Anderson, Mr. Bill Graham, Mr. Ashish Kaura, and Mr. Steve Potter for all they have contributed to the District. During their tenure, The Joseph Sears School underwent many transformative changes from our strategic plan to our Master Facilities Plan. Their contributions to our District and school are invaluable.



New Kenilworth School District 38 Board of Education Members read the Oath of Office. From left to right, Mrs. Mileva Zunjic, Mrs. Adrienne Eynon, Mr. Brian Van Klompenberg, and Mrs. Jessica Katz.

Former board members Paul Anderson, Steve Potter, Bill Graham, and Ashish Kaura were honored at the April 23 Board of Education meeting.



Mrs. Adrienne Eynon

Elected Term: 2025-2029

Adrienne and her husband, Barrett, have lived in Kenilworth for four years after moving from Lincoln Park. They have three daughters, Mimi (14), Ainsleigh (12), and Bridget (8). Adrienne is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker at The Balanced Center and specializes in children, parents, and family work.



Mrs. Mileva Zunjic

Elected Term: 2025-2029

Mileva and her husband, Guillermo, have lived in Kenilworth for the past five years, after moving from Chicago. They have a daughter, Valentina (12), and a son, Oliver (10). Mileva is a former management consultant and is currently a stay-at-home mother. She was elected to the board in 2025 and will chair the Building and Finance Committee.



Mr. Brian Van Klompenberg

Elected Term: 2025-2029

Brian and his wife, Jen, have lived in Kenilworth for three years after moving from Lincoln Park. They have two sons, Skyler (14) and Evan (12). Brian is a retired partner from the international law firm Kirkland & Ellis LLP.



Mrs. Jessica Katz

Elected Term: 2025-2029

Jessica and her husband, Dan, have lived in Kenilworth since the summer of 2021 after moving from Glencoe. They have three children: Marion (9), Oliver (5), and James (2). Jessica serves as the Director of Connections at a local church in Winnetka and also consults for a legal technology startup. She was elected to the Board in 2025 and looks forward to serving on the Policy and Building & Finance Committees.