

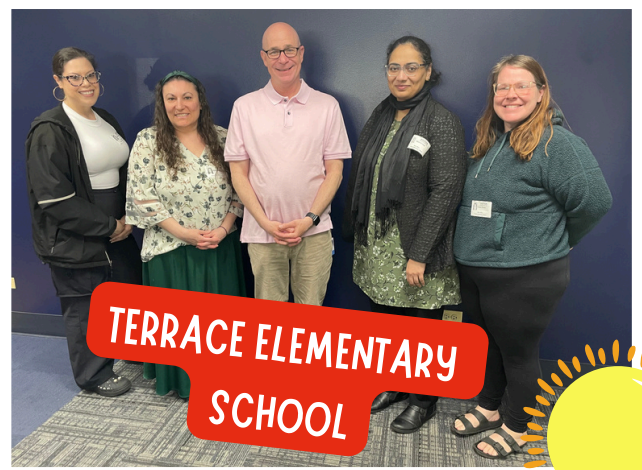
SEPAC

Special Education
Parent Advisory Council
May 2025 - Issue 5

D62SEPAC@gmail.com



**NORTH ELEMENTARY
SCHOOL**



**TERRACE ELEMENTARY
SCHOOL**

SEPAC MEMBERS COLLABORATING
WITH D62 SCHOOL LEADERS ~
WORKING TOGETHER TO
STRENGTHEN OUR COMMUNITY!!



**PLAINFIELD ELEMENTARY
SCHOOL**



**ORCHARD PLACE
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**



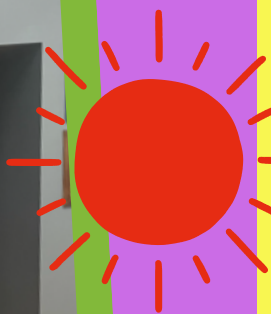
**SOUTH ELEMENTARY
SCHOOL**



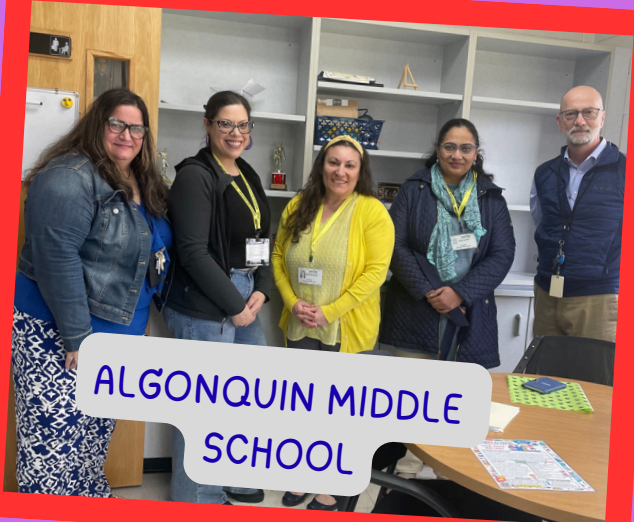
**IROQUOIS COMMUNITY
SCHOOL**



**WESTERHOLD EARLY
LEARNING CENTER**



**ALGONQUIN MIDDLE
SCHOOL**



**CUMBERLAND ELEMENTARY
SCHOOL**



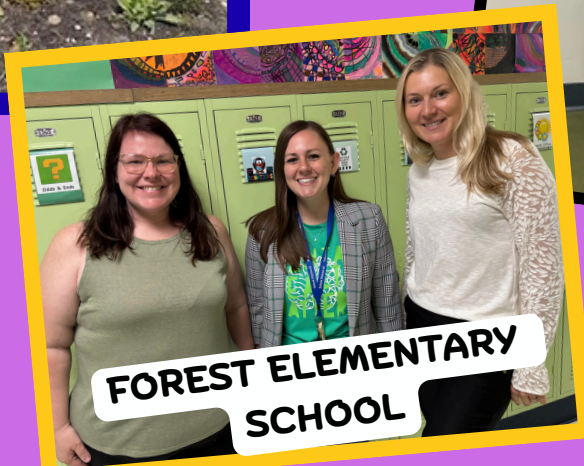
**CENTRAL ELEMENTARY
SCHOOL**



**CHIPPEWA MIDDLE
SCHOOL**



**FOREST ELEMENTARY
SCHOOL**

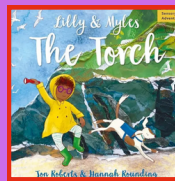


BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS

MAGGIE'S PICKS

Lilly and Myles: The Torch

Author: Jon Roberts & Hannah Rounding



Ages 5-7

Lilly, accompanied by Myles her assistance dog, explores the beach in a wonderful story that introduces autism to young children. The book is beautifully illustrated, easy to follow, and shows simply and emphatically how neurodivergent individuals experience the world and why we all should be more accepting of each other's differences.



Lizzie & Lucky: The Mystery of the Missing Puppies

Author: Megan Rix

Lizzie desperately wants a pet, but there's a dog thief on the prowl. Can she follow the scent, solve the crime, and be lucky? This sweet, feel-good mystery story, accompanied by warm and playful black-and-white illustrations, centers around a deaf family, discusses accessibility, and celebrates sign language.

Ages 5-8



The Amazing Edie Eckhart

Author: Rosie Jones



Ages 9-11

Edie has cerebral palsy, but she's used to it because she's spent her whole life being a bit wobbly. She can't wait to start secondary school with her best friend Oscar and share sausage rolls with him at breaktime. But when Oscar scuppers these plans by getting his first ever girlfriend, GROSS, Edie eventually decides to stop feeling sorry for herself and find a boyfriend, so she can prove to Oscar she's grown up too. She muses: 'when Thor was stripped of his power and banished to Earth by Odin, did he mope around and throw his hammer out of the pram? No he got on with it, bossed around Earth and found love like an absolute legend.' But while she's plotting, she accidentally gets cast as the lead role in the school play. As Edie devotes her time to the performing arts, she finds a new friend, as well as talents - and feelings - she never knew she had. She soon realizes that life in the spotlight might just be her thing after all...

ROZA'S PICK



"Wonder"

BY R. J. PALACIO

AGES 9-12

~ New York Times Bestseller and adapted into a motion picture ~
Auggie is a 10-year old boy starting 5th grade & attending mainstream school for the first time in his life following dozens of facial surgeries and homeschooling. He was born with physical facial differences and he just wants to fit in and be a kid like all of his peers. This novel focuses on kindness, friendship, bravery & courage against bullies, and accepting each other for who we are.



SEPAC and Cumberland hosted a Special Olympic poster making event to gather, build momentum, share pride, and cheer on the D62 athletes. SEPAC also attended Cumberland's ELS night to meet, greet, & share information/resources.

CUMBERLAND ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

PLAYGROUND RIBBON-CUTTING CEREMONY 5/16/25

We thank Rivers Casino for their generous support & donation! Fully accessible playgrounds were installed at Cumberland & Forest Schools with a variety of universally designed equipment and sensory-friendly features meeting the needs of all children to enjoy the fun play areas at their school and in their community.



World Asthma Day - May 5 * National Children's Mental Health Awareness Day - May 7 * World Ovarian Cancer Awareness Day - May 8 * World Lupus Day - May 10 * Global Accessibility Awareness Day - May 19 * Mental Health Action Day - May 19 * World Autoimmune Arthritis Day - May 20 * National Schizophrenia and Psychosis Awareness Day - May 24 * World Thyroid Day - May 25 * World Multiple Sclerosis Day - May 30 * Mental Health Awareness Month * Fibromyalgia Awareness Month * National Asthma and Allergy Awareness Month * ALS Awareness Month * Apraxia Awareness Month * American Stroke Month * Arthritis Awareness Month * Better Speech and Hearing Month * Bladder Cancer Awareness Month * Borderline Personality Disorder Awareness Month * Brain Tumor Awareness Month *
Mother's Day - May 11 * Memorial Day - May 26





SPECIAL OLYMPIC ATHLETES

5-10-25 @ Prospect High School




PROUD PARENT

SEPAC Parent Highlight

Janet Muñoz Vergil

Third place in the softball throw, but first place in my heart. ♥️ Watching you shine at the Special Olympics on Mother's Day was the greatest gift I could ever receive. Your strength, courage, and joy remind me every day how blessed I am to be your mom. Keep soaring, my champion, I'll always be your loudest cheerleader. 🙌🙌🙌 A huge thank you to the incredible people who cheered him on, believed in him, and helped make this moment possible, you know who you are! Your love and support mean the world to us. 🙌🙌🙌
 #ProudMom #SpecialOlympics #bestmothersdayever ♥️
 #autism #autismspeaks #ccsd62

Tercer lugar en el lanzamiento de softball, pero el primer lugar en mi corazón. ♥️ Verte brillar en las Olimpiadas Especiales en el Día de la Madre fue el mejor regalo que podría recibir. Tu fuerza, valentía y alegría me recuerdan cada día lo bendecida que soy por ser tu mamá. Sigue volando lo, mi campeón... siempre seré tu fan número uno. 🙌🙌🙌 ¡Un enorme gracias a las personas increíbles que lo animaron, creyeron en él y ayudaron a hacer este momento posible, ustedes saben quiénes son! Su amor y apoyo significan el mundo para nosotros. #OrgulloDeMamá #OlimpiadasEspeciales #olimpiadas

D62's First Special Olympics – A Proud Debut

This year marked a memorable first for District 62 at the Special Olympics. Our district had the distinct honor of lighting the torch, a moment filled with pride and unity. Our athletes shined brightly, proudly wearing their vibrant blue & green shirts that stood out in the crowd—just like their spirit. Parents beamed with pride as they watched their incredible athletes compete and represent D62 with heart and determination. It was a day to remember, and the beginning of a powerful tradition. We thank everyone involved!

Summer Camps, Inclusive Programs, & Family Resources

Have Dreams
<https://havedreams.org/>
 Des Plaines Park District

<https://www.dpparks.org/spectrum-program-and-events-guide/>
<https://www.dpparks.org/summer-camps/>

Special Gifts Theatre
<https://specialgiftstheatre.org/registration/>

MainStay Youth & Family Services:
https://mainetown.com/departments/mainestay/summer_camp.php

Maine Niles Association of Special Recreation (MNASR)
<https://mnasr.org/>

Self-Help Closet & Pantry of Des Plaines

TopSoccer
<https://www.illinoisyouthsoccer.org/illinois-topsoccer/>

Chicago Storm Special Hockey
<https://www.chicagospecialhockey.org/>

Little League Baseball
<https://chichallengers.org/>

ACEing Autism (Tennis)
<https://aceingautism.org/history/>

Premiere Martial Arts
premiermartialarts.com

Maine Township Food Pantry

Community Resources



STAY TUNED & JOIN US FOR OUR NEXT FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT NEXT SCHOOL YEAR....



SENSORY FRIENDLY SPLASH PAD HOUR!
 9:00-10:00am

\$5 per child

Sundays: June 1
 Prairie Lakes Aquatic Center Splash Pad
 55 E. Thatcher St. Oak Park, IL

