# THE DISTRICT IN REVIEW

A NEWSLETTER FOR THE NORTHBROOK SCHOOL DISTRICT 27 COMMUNITY



## FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

There is much to be grateful for and excited about in Northbrook School District 27 as we pause and reflect this winter season. Our students have spent the first several months of the school year not only growing academically, but also developing socially and emotionally as they learn what it means to be part of a strong, connected community.

One of the most joyful additions to our district this year has been our new facility dog, Nico, who has quickly become a beloved member of our schools. Whether greeting students during arrival, visiting classrooms, or offering comfort during busy days, Nico helps promote emotional well-being for both students and staff. He even took his first yearbook photo!

We continue to make significant progress on a number of capital projects that will enhance our facilities and support the evolving needs of our students. The most notable project currently underway is the planning for an addition at Hickory Point. We aim to begin construction in the summer of 2026 on a new multi-use space designed to support everyday programming, including physical education, lunch, assemblies, and occasional indoor recess. Additional classrooms are also planned to expand our early childhood and special education programming. The full scope of our capital projects, outlined on page 3, includes learning and safety enhancements at all three schools.

As we wrap up a busy and productive first part of the school year, I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to our district families, staff, Board of Education, PTA, and community partners for their continued support and dedication to our schools and our shared commitment to educational excellence.

John B. Deiter, Ph.D.
Superintendent of Schools



**MEET NICO**

## WHAT'S INSIDE




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**Follow District 27 on Instagram**

**@WoodOaksSchool | @ShaboneeSchool**
**@HickoryPointSchool | @D27FacilityDog | @NB27schools**

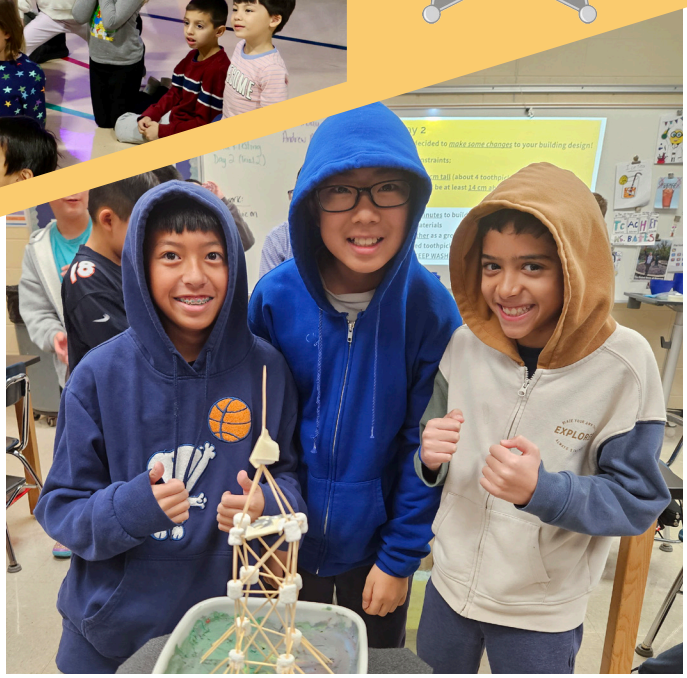
District 27 partnered with the Northbrook Police Department this fall for our annual Safety Week. Officers spoke with students about key topics, including personal safety, situational awareness, and the Rules of the Road, as well as the safe use of electric bikes and scooters. In the classroom, teachers reinforced lessons on playground safety, reporting concerns to trusted adults, and the impact of positive peer influence.

**TOGETHER, THESE EFFORTS HELP ENSURE OUR STUDENTS STAY SAFE BOTH AT SCHOOL AND THROUGHOUT THE COMMUNITY.**

## STUDENTS LEARN ESSENTIAL SKILLS DURING SAFETY WEEK







SCHOOL NEWS

## SHABONEE UNVEILS NEW INCLUSIVE PLAYGROUND

Shabonee kicked off the school year with a brand-new playground designed for all students. About 90% of the equipment is accessible via ramps or surface travel, and the play surface extends over 240 feet with no height differences, creating a seamless experience for children of all abilities.

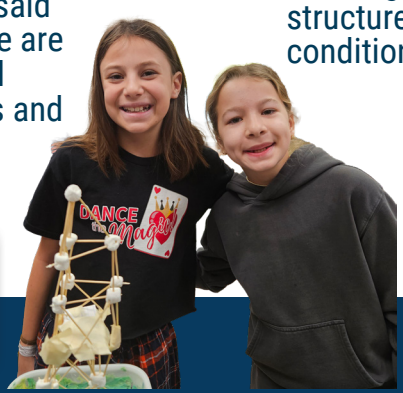
"This playground is built for every child, where imagination soars and friendships grow," said Shabonee Principal Dr. John Panozzo. "We are thrilled to open this space and know it will make a lasting difference for our students and community."

**90%** EQUIPMENT ACCESSIBLE VIA RAMPS

## WOOD OAKS STUDENTS EXPERIENCE REAL-WORLD ENGINEERING

Wood Oaks science classes recently had the exciting opportunity to test the school's new shake table, generously donated by Computers and Structures, Inc. (CSI). Shake tables are used by engineers to simulate earthquake movement, allowing students to design and build small structures, test them under simulated earthquake conditions, and observe how different designs respond.

"It's a great example of how real-world engineering concepts are being brought to life in the classroom," said Superintendent Dr. Deiter.



## CAPITAL PROJECTS FOCUSED ON SAFETY, ADDITIONAL SPACE, AND MODERN CLASSROOMS

This past spring, District 27 passed a consensus referendum in support of future capital projects designed to benefit students at all grade levels. Health-life safety improvements, including roof and HVAC replacements, are planned for Shabonee in the summer of 2026. Planning is also underway for additional multi-use space and classrooms at Hickory Point, as well as parking lot and traffic reconfigurations at Wood Oaks. Districtwide upgrades will include new fixtures, flooring, furniture, and enhancements to safety, security, and technology infrastructure. Construction is anticipated to commence in the summer of 2026.

**For more information, visit www.nb27.org/capital-projects.**

# DISTRICT NEWS

## DISTRICT RECOGNIZED FOR 16 YEARS OF FINANCIAL EXCELLENCE

District 27 is pleased to announce that it has been honored with the Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting from both the Government Finance Officers Association and the Association of School Business Officials International for 16 consecutive years. Both honors are awarded to districts that meet the highest standards of financial reporting and accountability. District 27 has received these awards for its Annual Comprehensive Financial Report each fiscal year from 2009 through 2024.

## BUDGET REMAINS STRONG FOR FY2026

The District 27 Board of Education adopted a $36.2 million budget for Fiscal Year 2026 during its meeting on September 18. The District has allocated $300,000 toward contingencies. The District ended the 2024-2025 school year with a 37% cumulative fund balance reserve.

**For more information, visit www.nb27.org/departments/finance-and-operations/financial-information**



## OUR DISTRICT 27 FACILITY DOG, NICO

We are excited to introduce Nico to our greater District 27 community! This fall, Nico began his role as the District's full-time facility dog.
Nico is a Pyredoodle – a mix between a standard poodle and a Great Pyrenees. Professionally trained, Nico works in all three of our schools to support the well-being of both students and staff. The goals of the facility dog program are to reduce anxiety, increase motivation, provide a calming presence during stressful situations, and support social-emotional learning objectives.

**Learn More: https://www.nb27.org/departments/special-education/meet-nico**

**Follow Nico on Instagram: @D27FacilityDog**

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Northbrook, IL 60062

Tarah O'Connell, Editor

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## OUR SCHOOLS

**HICKORY POINT**
Grades PK-2
Dr. Maureen Deely, *Principal*
Mrs. Lauren Weingarten, *Asst. Principal*
HickoryPoint.nb27.org

**SHABONEE**
Grades 3-5
Dr. John Panozzo, *Principal*
Mr. Joseph O'Malley, *Asst. Principal*
Shabonee.nb27.org

**WOOD OAKS JR. HIGH**
Grades 6-8
Mrs. Cari Beake, *Principal*
Mr. Paul Suminski, *Asst. Principal*
WoodOaks.nb27.org

## NOW ENROLLING: LITTLE BULLDOGS EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAM

Registration is now open for the Little Bulldogs early childhood program at Hickory Point School for the 2026-2027 school year. This program is offered five days per week and follows the District 27 school calendar. There is a morning session (9:00 to 11:30 AM – age 3) and an afternoon session (12:15 to 2:45 PM – age 4). District 27 utilizes evidence-based early childhood curriculum resources to support the needs of all students.

**To learn more, visit www.hickorypoint.nb27.org/little-bulldogs**

## ANNUAL CULTURAL FAIR CELEBRATES COMMUNITY

The District 27 PTA Council hosted its second annual Cultural Fair on November 14. This event has quickly become a community favorite with fun for all ages. Students and families can visit over a dozen booths representing various countries, featuring games and learning activities. Guests are able to enjoy food, art, giveaways, and several live performances. The Cultural Fair has been a wonderful way to celebrate our local community!



**NOW HIRING** District 27 is hiring Instructional Assistants for the current school year and next school year. We are looking for motivated, energetic, and student-centered educators to work individually with students. A bachelor's degree or greater is preferred. The hourly rate is based on experience. **Visit nb27.org for all employment opportunities.**



## OUR ADMINISTRATION

Dr. John Deiter
*Superintendent*

Dr. Katharine Olson
*Asst. Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment*

Dr. Kimberly Rio
*Asst. Superintendent for Finance and Operations*



## BOARD OF EDUCATION

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*President*

Dr. Gali Oren-Amit
*Vice President*

Mr. Opi Akuffo

Mrs. Martha Carlos

Mr. Jack Waddle

Ms. Marlyse Cohen

Mr. Daniel Walsh