

SEDOL NEWS

SEPTEMBER 2026



Jocelyn Aguero
FAIRHAVEN STAFF

Jocelyn is enjoying the ball pit with a few students during Fairhaven's "Fall into learning" event.

Enjoy a few pictures from the Fall into learning event on the next page.





What a day for the kids!
Fairhaven's "Fall into Learning" event was a sight to be seen.
Everyone had a blast with all of the activities.





RECOGNIZING SEDOL'S STAR STUDENT

SEPTEMBER



ISABELLA MACK

Izzy has shown incredible growth over the past seven years in Physical Therapy! With staff support and an E-Pacer, she recently walked 20 feet—showing remarkable determination to tackle challenging gross motor skills. Beyond physical progress, Izzy has built strong trust with staff, deepened her communication, and embraced every new challenge with enthusiasm. Her pride, excitement, and joy were contagious as she took those amazing steps. We will continue fine-tuning her support as she keeps reaching new milestones.

We are so proud of you, Izzy—congratulations on this fantastic accomplishment! You inspire us!

[ISABELLA MACK \(VIDEO LINK\)](#)







HIGHLIGHTING SEDOL'S EMPLOYEE OF MONTH

SEPTEMBER



SMITA CHATLANI

Please join us in congratulating Smita Chatlani, our September Employee of the Month! With a nomination supported by 16 signatures from Gages Lake School staff, Smita is being recognized for her exceptional dedication to supporting educators and student learning.

Smita developed comprehensive instructional pacing guides, organized essential resources, and ensured materials were delivered promptly at the start of the school year. Her thoughtful planning helped teachers begin instruction efficiently from day one.

She also provided hands-on classroom support, collaborating with educators to effectively implement instructional materials and strategies.

Thank you, Smita, for your outstanding commitment and collaboration. Congratulations on this well-deserved recognition!





SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT



Partnerships are at the heart of what makes SEDOL special. They allow us to expand opportunities, connect families with valuable resources, support our dedicated staff, and strengthen the programs and services we provide to students. Most importantly, strong partnerships ensure that our students are surrounded by a community that believes in them and invests in their success. September provided several wonderful opportunities to celebrate and strengthen these connections:

The SEDOL Foundation Golf Outing on September 14 brought together friends, families, community members, and supporters who believe in the future of our students. The generosity and enthusiasm surrounding this event help the SEDOL Foundation provide additional resources and opportunities that directly benefit students.

- On September 18, from 9:00–11:30 a.m., families and community partners attended the Lake County Resource Fair at The Chapel in Grayslake. Events like this remind us that supporting students extends well beyond the classroom. Connecting families with community resources, services, and organizations provides valuable support in areas such as education, recreation, employment, health, and family services. When families have access to the resources they need, our students are better positioned to succeed at school and at home.

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NEXT PAGE





- We were also excited to welcome our member districts for Program Tours on September 18 and 19. These tours provide an opportunity for our district partners to see firsthand the outstanding work taking place across SEDOL programs. More than a visit, program tours are an opportunity for collaboration, conversation, and shared learning. They help us better understand one another's needs, celebrate successes, and identify ways we can continue to improve services for students and families.
- On October 4, the SEDOL community will come together at Independence Grove in Libertyville for The SEDOL Foundation's 5K "Making Strides for Special Kids." This celebration of our students and the people who support them demonstrates what can happen when a community comes together around a common purpose.

Partnerships are built through participation, trust, communication, and a willingness to work toward something greater than any one organization can accomplish alone. I am grateful for our member districts, families, staff, Foundation supporters, community organizations, and volunteers who continue to say, "How can we help?"

DR. JENNIFER THOMAS

SEDOL Superintendent





2026 - 2027 CIP PLAN

Goal 2 (Objective A).

Goal 2 (Objective A). S-Fund is the hot topic of the day and has an impact not only on SEDOL but also on our member districts. S-Fund was designed to provide districts that utilize public day schools—completely separate from the general education setting—an avenue to recoup some of those costs. In addition, it would utilize the same process as the private sector to set tuition rates, which involves the Purchased Care Review Board. There are many hurdles with how S-Fund is set to be structured that could lead to financial challenges for the institution. Work is being done with ISBE and our regional partners to study this further to determine how we can opt in to the model (allowing our districts to receive reimbursement for costs) while ensuring that our program tuition reflects the actual cost of the program. Stay tuned as this is an ever-changing topic that will have an impact on both SEDOL and member districts.

Goal 3 (Objective C).

Safety & Security Spotlight: Continuous Improvement Updates

As part of our commitment to maintaining a safe learning environment, SEDOL is advancing key safety and emergency procedures under Goal 3 of our Continuous Improvement Plan:

- **Standard Reunification Method (SRM):** To ensure a clear, accountable chain of custody during emergency situations, non-union administrative staff completed training on the 6-step sequential release process. Next steps include designating building rally points, conducting staff tabletop exercises, and assembling classroom "go bags" and reunification kits.
- **Enhanced Visitor Screening:** We have adopted the Verkada Guest Management system, integrated directly into our campus security ecosystem. This provides an added layer of safety during visitor screening.
- **Updated Campus Identification:** To easily distinguish personnel and guests, updated ID badges with color-coded lanyards are now required for all staff, visitors, and vendors while on school grounds.



SEDOL FOUNDATION SUPPORTING SEDOL STUDENTS



Get Ready for "One Special Night"!

Good vibrations are coming to Gurnee! On Saturday, November 7, the SEDOL Foundation invites you to The Ten Hotel for One Special Night, a fun-filled fundraiser featuring the timeless music of the Beach Boys!

Get ready to "Catch a Wave" of nostalgia as you sing along to some of the greatest songs of all time, including "California Girls," "Surfin' U.S.A.," "Fun, Fun, Fun," "Wouldn't It Be Nice," and, of course, "Good Vibrations."

But this night is about more than great music. It's about making a difference.

As a fundraiser for the SEDOL Foundation, One Special Night brings our community together to celebrate, have fun, and support the Foundation's efforts to enhance opportunities and enrich the lives of individuals with disabilities.

So grab your friends, bring your dancing shoes, and get ready for an evening filled with music, memories, laughter, and "Good Vibrations." Whether you're a lifelong Beach Boys fan or simply looking for a fun night out for a great cause, this is one event you won't want to miss!

To register for more information, please contact Ann Subry:

✉ asubry@sedol.us ☎ (847) 548-7032



SAVE THE DATE

**SATURDAY
NOV. 7, 2026**

**LIVE MUSIC
Ten Hotel
6161 Grand Ave.
Gurnee**

For more information or to
make reservations contact:
Ann at asubry@sedol.us
or 847.548.7032





UPCOMING EVENTS

↓ **OCTOBER** ↓

3

**LAREMONT SCHOOL
SPECIAL NEEDS RESOURCE FAIR &
FALL FESTIVAL / TRUNK OR TREAT**

10AM - 1PM

CLICK LINK



4

**SEDOL FOUNDATION MAKING
STRIDES FOR SPECIAL KIDS**

Independence Grove - Libertyville IL

RACE START TIME 8:30AM

CLICK LINK



22

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

SEDOL Administration Building - Bay Room

8:30AM



22/23

PARENT / TEACHER CONFRENCES

SEDOL Buildings

10.22.26 @ 3:45PM - 7:45PM

10.23.26 @ 8AM - 11AM



27

**PARENT UNIVERSITY
UNDERSTANDING THE IEP**

5PM - 7PM

