



# The Link Together For Excellence!

West Chicago  
Elementary School  
District 33  
www.wego33.org

Fall 2016/2017

## CALENDAR

### October

- 10 NO SCHOOL – Columbus Day
- 25 LMS Chorus Concert  
7pm LMS Cafetorium
- 26 LMS Band & Orchestra Concert  
7pm, LMS Cafetorium

### November

- 2 P/T Conferences  
Evening Hours Only
- 3 P/T Conferences  
(All Day & Evening Hours)
- 4 NO SCHOOL – Non-attendance Day
- 7 NO SCHOOL – Improvement Day
- 8 NO SCHOOL – Election Day
- 23 Non- Attendance Day
- 24–25 Thanksgiving Break

### December

- 13 LMS Choir Concert  
7pm, LMS Cafetorium
- 21 Last Day of Classes in 2016
- 22-1/4/17 Winter Break

### January

- 5 First Day of Classes in 2017

### A Letter from the Superintendent

The school year is off to a great start and with a new Strategic Plan, approved by the Board of Education this summer, to guide decision making in the district over the next 5 years.

It is with sincere gratitude that I thank the members of the Strategic Planning Team for their service to the District 33 community in the completion of the new strategic plan. Membership of the Strategic Planning Team was highly reflective of the key stake holders in our District, including; members from all employee groups, parents, community members, partners, and board of education members.

I believe this new Strategic Plan will give the district a firm foundation for future improvement within our district. The plan provides the District with a mission, a vision, values and goals.

### The mission answers the question why. Why do we exist? What is the fundamental purpose?

The mission of West Chicago Elementary School District 33 is to create an educational culture where each student thrives academically, physically, socially, and emotionally.

### Our vision answers the question what? What must happen in order to accomplish our fundamental purpose?

Our vision provides a sense of direction and a basis for assessing both the current reality and the potential strategies, programs, and procedures to improve upon that reality. The vision of District 33 is an educational culture where each student thrives academically, physically, socially, and emotionally.

### Our core values answer the question how? How must we behave to create the district that will achieve our purpose?

#### The core values and commitments of District 33 are:

- High Expectations
- Two-Way Communication
- Collaboration
- Trust
- Timely data and clear information
- A culture of diversity

### How will we know if all of this is making a difference? Goals identify the targets and timelines that enable the staff to answer this question.

Four goals with high leverage strategies for action that will be used to help the District achieve these goals were developed by the committee:

Goal One: Student Growth and Achievement

Goal Two: High-Quality Staff

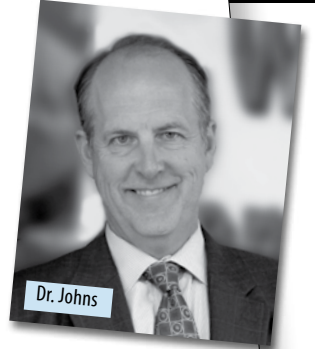
Goal Three: Family and Community Engagement

Goal Four: Effective and Efficient Use of Resources

I encourage you to visit the District website, [www.wego33.org](http://www.wego33.org) > Board > Strategic Plan, for more details and information.

Sincerely,

Dr. Charles Johns



Dr. Johns

**WE ARE ON  
FACEBOOK AND  
TWITTER**  
[www.wego33.org](http://www.wego33.org)

## MEET THE NEW PRINCIPALS

D33 new administrators come with years of experience in the educational field and, most importantly, come with the motivation and enthusiasm to help us in our path for excellence in education.



**CURRIER - MARK TRUCKENBROD** comes to Currier from East Aurora District 131, where he most recently worked as director of leadership development. He also has served as a middle school principal, a music teacher and chairman of Waubonsie Valley High School's fine arts department.



**INDIAN KNOLL - JENNIFER TAPIA** worked for 13 years in East Aurora District 131, most recently as an assistant principal. She has master's degrees in educational leadership and literacy from Northern Illinois University and experience working as a bilingual facilitator and literacy coach. She is a Golden Apple nominee and taught fourth grade for seven years.



**WEGNER - KAREN APOSTOLI** is a longtime member of the District 33 community. Growing up, she attended Gary School, the junior high and West Chicago Community High School. She still lives within Wegner's boundaries and one of her three children will be attending the school this year. She has taught at Gary and Wegner schools and was a gifted specialist at Indian Knoll, Turner and Wegner.



**LMS Asst. Principal - AMIE CORREA** is one of two new assistant principals at the middle school, which has a total of three assistant principals and one principal. She has held several teaching positions in District 33, including dual language at Pioneer and Gary elementary schools and the middle school. She has received extensive training in teaching dual language and holds a master's degree in educational leadership.



**LMS Asst. Principal - EMILY HANLON** is pursuing her doctoral degree in education at Aurora University and has two years of experience in both collegiate teaching and education support administration. She has spent five years teaching and enjoys working with adolescents.

## STUDENT GROWTH AND ACHIEVEMENT

### READING & MATH

As part of our student performance goals, we utilized the NWEA MAP (Measures of Academic Progress) assessment. All students in grades two through eight take part in this assessment in reading and math, three times a year. This is a computerized assessment which is adaptive to the students' ability. Once the assessment begins, the program adjusts to the ability of the student. This assessment is a growth measure which is used to look at the amount of academic growth a student has had from one testing session to another. Upon taking the assessment in the fall, each student is matched with an expected growth target for the spring. The district KDPI was to have at least 50% of our students meeting or exceeding this target.



In the area of reading, 60% of our students in grades four and five met or exceeded their growth target. In grades six through eight, 54% met or exceeded the growth target.

In the area of math, 59% of our students in grades four and five met or exceeded their growth target. In grades six through eight, 44% met or exceeded their growth target. ■

### SECOND LANGUAGE LEARNERS

The D33 Dual Language Program provides children with the opportunity to learn two languages, while maintaining high academic standards. The goal of the Dual Language program is to educate our students to become bilingual, biliterate, and bicultural.



Ultimately, we want our students to achieve academic excellence in two languages and attain a multicultural understanding and appreciation for the different cultures represented in our community.

The District is moving into the second year of implementation of the dual language program districtwide. With last year's second graders moving to third grade, the district now has one way dual language programs for kindergarten through third grade in Indian Knoll, Pioneer, Turner, Wegner and Currier Schools, a two way dual language program for kindergarten through fifth grade in Gary School, and a two way dual language strand in Lemay Middle School. ■



## STUDENT GROWTH AND ACHIEVEMENT

### GIFTED AND TALENTED LEARNERS

In the fall of 2015, a Gifted and Talented pilot program was launched at Currier and Wegner schools. In this pilot, a full-time teacher supported not only gifted students, but also talented learners at each of these schools. By utilizing a more comprehensive identification process and expanding services, both schools were able to provide more appropriate instructional programming for gifted and talented students than in the recent past. Each school's gifted specialist was able to work with students in third-, fourth- and fifth-grade reading enrichment groups and provide push-in support to primary teachers whose students may later be identified as gifted or talented. Us-



ing this model, the number of students receiving services went from 18 to 148, with 100% of students in third and fifth grade being screened for gifted and talented math and reading services.

Upon review of the pilot program, the Board of Education approved the placement a Gifted

Specialist in each elementary building for the 2016/2017 school year. Each specialist pulls students in 3-5 grades for 45 minutes of reading enrichment every day. Identified talent math students in grades 3-5 also receive talent math services from a talent math teacher. Gifted Specialists also "push-in" to K-2 classes and begin the observation process on students who show great potential to be gifted and/or talented in reading and math.

In addition, a Gifted and Talented pilot program was launched at Lemman Middle School at the sixth-grade level. In this pilot, identified sixth-grade students have course offerings in above-level mathematics, but also in gifted literature and language arts. A push to have more students enrolled in a high-school-level algebra course as eighth graders has also led to the creation of the sixth-grade talent math course, in which students will learn the district's sixth-grade mathematics curriculum and part of its seventh-grade mathematics curriculum as sixth graders, and the district's eighth-grade math-



ematics curriculum and part of its seventh-grade-level curriculum as seventh graders. The effective implementation of these talent math courses should lead to an increase in the number of students taking above-level math courses by their eighth-grade year. ■

## MEET THE NEW ADMINISTRATORS

Along with new principals, there are new administrators both in and out of the district office.

**DIRECTOR OF ASSESSMENT AND ACCOUNTABILITY – PAUL BLEUHER** was a Principal for the past 10 years with the most recent position being at a middle school in Lyons, IL. He also has experience as a Director of Technology and Social Science/Technology teacher. While a building administrator, he was involved in a number of program reforms including Block Scheduling, Response to Intervention, STEM programming, Community Schools, and Assessment.



Mr. Bleuher has a master's in education and another in educational leadership from Northern Illinois University.

**COORDINATOR FOR TEACHING AND LEARNING – LEA DELUCA** joined District 33 last year as assistant principal at Lemman Middle School. She began her career teaching 7th-8th grade Spanish at School of St. Mary in Lake Forest.



She completed her undergraduate degree at DePaul University, where she studied K-12 Education and Spanish. Ms. Deluca also holds a Master of Education in Educational Leadership from National Louis University.

**COORDINATOR OF PARTNERSHIPS – JOSEPHINA FRANKOVICH** interned with the Chicago Department of Public Health, Office of Violence Prevention and recently received her Master's in Public Health and Master's in Social Work from the University of Illinois at Chicago. Joie will be taking the lead on data and communications for WeGo Together for Kids.



**BIRTH TO 5 COMMUNITY SCHOOL COORDINATOR – CIARA BURNS** had been a District 33 Family Support Worker and comes to us with community school experience. Ciara has a Master's in Social Work from the University of Illinois at Chicago and has recently obtained her Social Work License. Ciara can be found at a variety of locations including the District 33 Early Learning Center, Trinity School, and Family Resource Center at Currier Elementary School.



## FAMILY AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

On September 21, 2016 the official ribbon cutting ceremony for the WeGo Together Community School Family Center at Currier school took



place. Dr. Charles Johns, Superintendent was joined by Mayor Ruben Pineda, families, principals, staff, board members and community partners in this celebration. The Family Center is a gathering place intended for families to share talents, resources and experiences with their fellow community members, to have someone to talk to,

participate in classes or simply have some fun. District 33 has embraced the community school to support strong partnerships and relationships between the schools, community and families. This approach seeks to remove non-academic barriers; promote academic success; support positive youth development; offer access to services and resources; and foster holistic family health. This past year, District 33, has been able to bring on community school coordinators for Currier and Turner Schools and all the birth to 5 programs. ■

## HIGH QUALITY STAFF

\*The Board approved 23 new full time employees for the 2016-2017 school year.

\*The Director of Human Resources, with the Principals, filled all vacancies in time to begin the new school year avoiding any interruptions in instruction.

\*Approximately 45% of the new hires are bilingual.

\*Our certified retention rate is above 90%.

\*The Director of Human Resources is currently in communications with several universities to possibly bring a bilingual cohort in-house.

\*4 staff members have enrolled in the National Board Certified Teacher process which begins this year. ■



Gsedl Graphic Design, oova92@me.com

Letters can be sent to the  
**Educational Service Center**  
312 E. Forest Ave., West Chicago, IL 60185



**West Chicago  
Elementary School  
District 33**

**Dr. Charles Johns**, Superintendent  
630-293-6000 ext. 203  
[johnsc@wego33.org](mailto:johnsc@wego33.org)

**Gina Steinbrecher**, Community Relations  
Specialist  
630-293-6000 ext. 201  
[steinbrecherg@wego33.org](mailto:steinbrecherg@wego33.org)

## WeGo Together Community Market

Formerly called *WeGo Together* Food Pantry, the WeGo Together Community Market is now open year round with new hours as well. The market is open to all West Chicago families with children birth – 18.

Days: Tuesdays

Time: 4:30pm – 6:00pm

Place: Leman Middle School

Door 7, Room 2061

For information about volunteer opportunities or questions about daily operations, please contact Sarah Harms, coordinator of the market, at [harmss@wego33.org](mailto:harmss@wego33.org).

## D33 School Board Elections 2017

Four Seats Up for Election  
Nominating petition forms for the April 4, 2017 school board election in West Chicago Elementary School District 33 are available on the Election Commission website at [www.dupageco.org/election](http://www.dupageco.org/election). For questions please call 630.407.5500.

The first day to circulate candidate nominating petitions was Tuesday, September 20, 2016.

A school board candidates' petition must be filed with the DuPage County Election Commission beginning Monday, December 12, 2016, through 5:00 p.m., on Monday, December 19, 2016.

Four (4) seats on the seven-member Board of Education will be filled at the April 4, 2017 election. Members elected in April will be seated on the board in May 2017. Terms of office will expire in April 2021.

Non-profit Organization  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
West Chicago, IL  
Permit No. 149

**ECRWSS**