

# THE LINK

*Together for Excellence*

## Calendar

### July

**Read Under the Trees**

Details on District 33 website, [wego33.org](http://wego33.org)

**10-13 Band/Orchestra Camps**

9-10:30 am, LMS Band/Orchestra Rooms

**10-13 Mariachi los Rayos de LMS**

10:30-11:30 am, LMS

### August

**7-11 Band/Orchestra Camps**

9-10:15 am, LMS Band/Orchestra Rooms

**14-17 Mariachi los Rayos de LMS**

9:00 - 10:00 am, LMS

**15 LMS Walk Your Schedule**

2:00 pm - 6:00 pm Grades 6-8

**21 LMS Walk Your Schedule**

3:30 pm - 6:00pm Grades 6-8

(More Details Inside)

**24 First Day of Classes in 2016  
Grades 1-8 - Full Day**

**28 First Day of Classes Kindergarten**

**29 First Day of Classes Preschool**

### September

**4 Labor Day - NO SCHOOL**

**Help Your School  
Win the PTO  
Sponsored  
Summer Reading  
Trophy!**



Just sign up for the summer reading program at the West Chicago or Winfield Public Library. The school with the highest percentage of students participating will win the PTO sponsored Summer Reading Trophy.

## A Letter from the Superintendent

In District 33 we continue to make excellent progress on the implementation of our new strategic plan. Critical to the successful implementation of the plan across the entire district is the use of SMART Goals.

**SMART** is an acronym:

- S**trategic and **S**pecific,
- M**easurable
- A**ttainable
- R**esults Oriented
- T**ime bound



While SMART Goals are not new in education, D33 is taking a broad based and systemic approach to their use. To make sure that the goal development process is used correctly and with integrity, all of the principals and the academic leaders are being trained as SMART Coaches. The training is being provided by the Consortium for Education Change, the same organization that assisted in the development of the strategic plan. The training sessions are held with leaders from several other school districts ensuring collaboration and shared experiences.

Principals are using this method with their School Improvement Teams to closely review data and determine Greatest Areas of Need within their schools. After determining solutions for these needs, the teams develop action plans that have the elements of a SMART goal. Once the building goals are finished, they are shared with the grade level teams at each building. These teams, during their Professional Learning Team time, review student performance and share best practices to help struggling learners catch up and ensure that advanced learners continue to be challenged.

Each school has SMART Goals based on its own needs. As the goals are finalized, School Improvement Teams are posting them prominently in buildings. This is an important part of accountability and transparency.

So far, the work has had major impact on our schools. School Improvement Teams are very focused and we're seeing academic growth gains throughout the district.

*Sincerely,  
Dr. Charles Johns*

## New School Hours Beginning August 2017!

**LEMAN MIDDLE SCHOOL HOURS**

**7:55 AM – 2:40 PM**

- » Zero Hour 7:00 AM
- » Bldg Opens for Breakfast; 7:40 AM
- Student Supervision Begins
- » School Starts/First Bell 7:55 AM
- » Students Dismissed 2:40 PM

**ELEMENTARY SCHOOL HOURS**

**8:40 AM – 3:25 PM**

- » Breakfast begins 8:15 AM
- » Supervision of students begins 8:30 AM
- » School Starts/First Bell 8:40 AM
- » Students Dismissed 3:25 PM

The West Chicago Park District offers a before-school program at Indian Knoll, Wegner, and Turner Elementary Schools. For more information on the program and how to register, please contact West Chicago Park District Recreation Coordinator, Samantha Donovan, by email at [sdonovan@we-goparks.org](mailto:sdonovan@we-goparks.org), or call 630.231.9474. [www.wego33.org](http://www.wego33.org)

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# Meet THE New Administration

Through careful financial planning, the district is now able to return and add positions that are critical to our future success. *We are excited to introduce our newest administrators:*



Principal Currier School

## MARK TRUCKENBROD

Mr. Truckenbrod has been serving as interim principal at Currier School since August, 2016. Beginning in November 2016, the District began a thorough search and interview process to hire a permanent principal for the 2017/2018 school year, which allowed the input of different stakeholders and helped determine the best candidate for this position.

The district is proud to have Mr. Truckenbrod continue as permanent Currier School principal for the 2017/2018 school year.



Coordinator for Student Services

## LORI COOMES

Lori Coomes attended the University of New England where she earned a bachelor's degree in elementary education. She began her career as a sixth grade teacher in Chicago Public Schools. While

teaching, Ms. Coomes started working for Camp of Dreams, a community based organization that provided out-of-school time programming for Chicago area youth. She went on to serve as Director and then board member for 12 years. After earning her M.A. in social service administration from the University of Chicago Lori became the first case manager/social worker for Bronzeville Lighthouse Charter School. While at Lighthouse Lori was nominated and accepted into the UIC Urban Education Leadership program and the Chicago Leadership Collaborative. Lori has been a resident principal and most recently an assistant principal in Chicago Public Schools.



Assistant Principal at Early Learning Center, Trinity and Winfield

## HEATHER SANTIEMMO

Mrs. Santiemmo, brings to District 33 years of experience in early childhood education, including pre-k and kindergarten teacher for an at-risk program, director of early child care and preschool programs, and most recently, director of the early childhood lab located at Roosevelt University in Schaumburg.

Mrs. Santiemmo received her undergraduate degree in early childhood studies from Northern Illinois University and a master's degree in educational leadership from Roosevelt University. Throughout her career she has worked as a leader and has honed her skills in mentoring teachers, developing programs and building strong community relationships.



Assistant Principal at Currier

## KELLIE BARROS

Kellie Barros and her husband moved to the West Chicago community seven years ago. Kellie has a master's degree in curriculum and instruction with an ESL and a bilingual endorsement and a master's degree in educational leadership. She has worked in the field of education for 10 years, and has taught kindergarten through eighth grades. The majority of her teaching career until now has been in bilingual classrooms. Kellie has worked in D33 for 4 years, where she has expanded her horizons and honed leadership skills by teaching in the general education classroom, working as the lead teacher at summer school, and most recently as an ESL and instructional coach.



Assistant Principal at Gary

## IRENE VILLA

Irene Villa received a degree in elementary education from Northern Illinois University, a master's degree in school leadership and a bilingual and ESL endorsement, both from Aurora University. She

also has a superintendency endorsement from Northern Illinois University and is currently working on her dissertation. Irene started her teaching career in Elgin District U-46 as a bilingual associate; after receiving her teaching degree in 2000, she worked as a bilingual reading specialist, a first, second, fourth and fifth grade teacher. Irene also served as a student services coordinator in Naperville/Aurora Indian Prairie School District 204 and as an assistant principal in Aurora District 131. Most recently she served as principal at Henking Elementary in Glenview.



Assistant Principal at Indian Knoll

## JACQUELINE CAMPOS

Jacqueline Campos was born and raised in Chicago, IL. She holds a bachelor's degree in education, a master's degree in curriculum and instruction, with an emphasis in bilingual and English language

learners, and a master's degree in administration, both from National Louis University. She has worked as a bilingual interventionist, ELL teacher, bilingual classroom teacher and a bilingual special education teacher and consultant. Ms. Campos embraces the importance of incorporating special events in the schools to preserve the family's culture and increase parent involvement.



Assistant Principal at Pioneer

## MARY KASSIR

Ms. Kassir holds a master's degree in Spanish literature from Northern Illinois University and a master's degree in educational leadership with a principal endorsement from North Central College where she focused her efforts heavily on bridging the achievement gap.

Her educational job experience includes working in Chicago Public Schools where she instructed in the Spanish language across varying ability levels both in conjunction with the special education department and through the advanced placement program. Most recently she taught AP Spanish at Waubonsie Valley High School, in Aurora, where she is the sponsor of the Spanish Honors Society and liaison to the Hispanic Parent Advocacy Group. She is also a member of her school's Equity Team, championing the cause for increased participation by minority students in Advanced Placement courses. For her efforts, Ms. Kassir was awarded the Spotlight Teacher Award by the Illinois Association of Latino Administrators and Superintendents.



Assistant Principal at Turner

## BRIAN MARROQUIN

Mr. Marroquin is an elementary school administrator who has worked in public education for over ten years. He has a bachelor's degree in political science and a master's degree in educational

leadership with a principal prep endorsement. He has taught at the elementary, middle, and high school levels. Brian most recently comes from the Berwyn North School District where he served as assistant principal. He is fluent in Spanish and has used this skill to communicate with parents as they navigate the school system. Mr. Marroquin is a parent in the school district and is very excited to serve the students of District 33.



Assistant Principal at Wegner

## JOE TRSAR

After studying in Germany and Austria with Illinois State University, Joe began his teaching career in Taiwan. There he taught native Taiwanese students English for two years while learning Mandarin

Chinese. He holds a master's degree in Education. He has worked as an educational administrator for Language Stars, a program which teaches children foreign languages; a kindergarten-8th grade Mandarin Chinese teacher and most recently, Joe has served as a k-5th grade ESL instructor in Plainfield. Joe has served on several school and district committees dedicated to evaluating and developing both the curriculum and assessments based on performance indicators.

## Congratulations To All of This Year's Retirees

Mary Kay Brooks      Sherry Hammer  
Sue Venchus          Debbie Ackerman  
Jerri Jaeger          Maria Mendoza  
Keith Johnson        Jeanne Blanchard

**W**e wish to express our gratitude to all the retirees who have worked for so many years to ensure a quality education for thousands of students that have passed through the District.

## Gifted and Talented Education

UPDATE

**A**t the start of the 2016-2017 school year, full-time Gifted Specialists were added to each elementary building. This addition of a full-time Gifted Specialist allowed for talent students in grades 3-5 to receive reading enrichment every day, a significant increase in the number of minutes of reading enrichment than in years prior. Gifted Specialists were also afforded the opportunity to provide additional support in classrooms through co-teaching with the classroom teacher.

Identified talent math students in grades 3-5 also received talent math services daily, and were challenged to dig deeper in their learning and focus on problem solving strategies. The data from the Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) assessment has shown significant gains in the math scores of students in the GATE math program since the addition of full time Gifted Specialist. Data from the 2016 math MAP assessment shows that 59% of students in the GATE program met or exceeded growth targets. The percentage increased to 76% of students meeting or exceeding growth targets in 2017. Another exciting and unexpected result was observed in the general education classrooms. Students NOT in talent math found their voice and were ready to show what they knew and became class leaders.

In addition, the identification process for the GATE program was modified beginning in the 2016-2017 school year to capture the strengths of the whole child. The current identification process uses a body of evidence collected through student achievement data, teacher recommendations as well as parent recommendation in order to appropriately place students into the program

The Gifted and Talented pilot program that was launched at Lemay Middle School for sixth graders will roll up to include seventh grade identified students in the 2017-2018 school year. In this program identified students will have course offerings in above-level mathematics, as well as gifted literature and language arts.

# finAncIAL DATA

## finAncIAL PRoFile ScORe

Each year the State gives the District a financial profile score. While many school districts are in deficit spending, District 33 continues to remain fiscally responsible. The chart shows that 9 times in the last 10 years, the district has received the highest grade of Financial Recognition.

Financial Profile Score by fiscal year	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Total Profile Score	3.9/3.9	3.55	3.45	3.7	3.35	3.6	3.7	3.7	3.7	3.7
Designation	4/4	4	3 > 4	4	3	4	4	4	4	4

4 = Financial Recognition  
3 = Financial Review  
2 = Financial Early Warning  
1 = Financial Watch List

4.00 > = 3.54  
< 3.54 > = 3.08  
< 3.08 > = 2.62  
< 2.62 > = 1.00

District 33 has earned the highest category of recognition 9 times over the last 10 years.

## OperAtinG funds

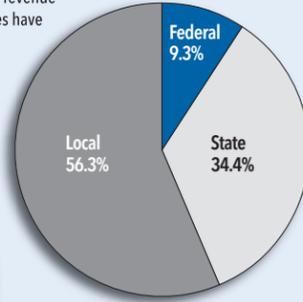
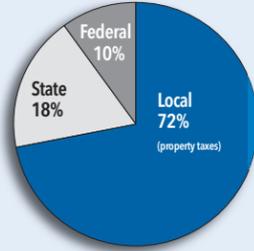
In years past, District 33 was able to maintain a solid reserve in difficult economic times. The Board's intent is to maintain fiscal sustainability and will continue to monitor and implement cost efficiency measures wherever feasible.

46.3M	45.7M	49.9M	47.8M	50.7M	53.0M	57.9M	60.8M
45.4M	46.4M	44.3M	47.8M	44.8M	48.9M	50.6M	52.8M
2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016

## Revenue Sources

Illinois school districts rely heavily on property taxes as their main source of revenue. The percentage of revenue that comes from the State and Federal sources vary slightly each year. In fiscal 2016, District 33 received 56.3% of its revenue from property Taxes, 34.4% of its revenue from the State, and 9.3% of its revenue from Federal sources. These percentages have changed significantly since 2007.

2007 Revenue Sources

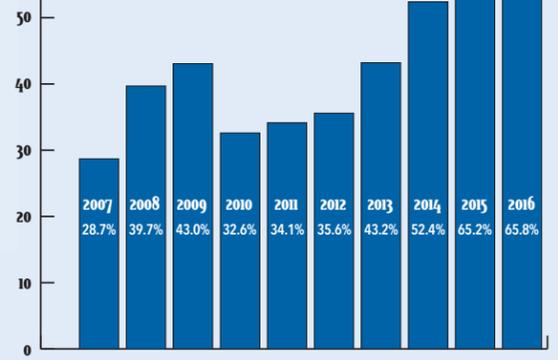


2016 Revenue Sources

## fund BALAnce

Fund balance is the total amount of reserves that the district has in place in case revenues from the state, federal, or local (property taxes) sources change drastically. The Illinois State Board of Education recommends 3-6 months of operating expenditures be held in reserve for financial stability.

(AS PERCENT OF TOTAL ANNUAL EXPENSES)



## WeGo Together Community Market



Beginning June 13 the summer hours for the WeGo Together Community Market located in Room 2061 in Leman Middle School will be Tuesdays, 3:15 - 4:45pm. WeGo Together Community Market is under the direction of Neighborhood Food Pantries and open to all West Chicago families with children birth-18.

USE DOOR 7 (ON HAZEL STREET) TO ACCESS THE COMMUNITY MARKET

## Project HOPE

Project HOPE, the district's home visiting program is currently accepting new families! This FREE program is specifically for expecting mothers and families with children under age 3.

Parents receive:

- » Visits in your home from school district staff twice per month.
- » Support with parenting and how to help your child grow and develop
- » Connections to community resources

- » Opportunities to attend parent groups at various locations throughout the community (transportation provided)
- » Screenings and referrals as needed for all children
- » Support with transitioning to preschool

Families must meet eligibility requirements. Call 630-473-0778 for more information or to have your child screened today. Enrollment is ongoing and your family can start this summer and continue when school starts.

# OUTSTANDING LEADERSHIP DISTRICT 33 SPOTLIGHT



## ALEX COWAL

COMMUNITY SCHOOL COORDINATOR - COMMUNITY SCHOOL LEADERSHIP AWARD

District 33's WeGo Together Community School Coordinator, Alexandra Cowal, was presented with the Community School Leadership Award during the 12th Annual Community Schools Forum. She was recognized for her "approach to community school work which puts families at the center of the efforts at Currier School. Recognizing that children are part of the family systems and that changing circumstances for families can lead to stronger outcomes for children, Alex focuses her efforts on understanding the challenges that families in the West Chicago community face, and engaging partnerships to help overcome those challenges."



## DAVE BARCLAY

SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER - MASTER BOARD MEMBER

Dave Barclay, member of the District 33 Board of Education since 2002, obtained the status of Master Board Member with Illinois Association of School Boards (IASB). School board members earn points for their service and participation on committees, focus groups and IASB meetings and workshops. Mr. Barclay has earned enough points to be recognized as a Master Board Member.



## DR. CHARLES JOHN

SUPERINTENDENT - IALAS

Dr. Charles Johns, Superintendent, was honored with the Administrator Spotlight award by the Illinois Association of Latino Administrators and Superintendents (IALAS). In recognition of this award, IALAS acknowledged his phenomenal work as an educator, innovative role model, leader and Superintendent. He was recognized for his support in West Chicago District 33 in expanding the Dual Language program, specifically, and his significant effort in being an advocate for ALL students.



## NICOLE ALLEN

TEACHER AT CURRIER SCHOOL - NATIONAL BOARD CERTIFIED TEACHER

Nicole Allen was recognized by the Board of Education for becoming a National Board Certified Teacher. Recognized as the "gold standard" in teacher certification, the National Board believes higher standards for teachers mean better learning for students. This is the highest professional credential available for teachers.

National Board Certified teachers must complete a rigorous review of their skills and work, which includes teacher portfolios, student work samples, videotapes, and thorough analysis of the candidates' classroom teaching and student learning. Teachers also complete a series of written exercises that probe the depth of their subject-matter knowledge and their understanding of how to teach that material to students.



## GLORIA TREJO

PIONEER SCHOOL PRINCIPAL - ALAS LATINO ADMINISTRATOR OF THE YEAR

Gloria Trejo was named Latino Administrator of the Year by the Association of Latino Administrators and Superintendents (ALAS).

She was recognized with school district superintendents and administrators from across the nation at its third annual Leaders in Education Awards Gala, held April 27, 2017, in Washington, D.C.

"Over the years, Mrs. Trejo has established a strong rapport with students, families and staff at her school. She has worked diligently with all stakeholders to increase literacy for all students. Mrs. Trejo has helped increase parent leadership in her building by collaborating with her staff. They have worked to encourage, assist and develop parent leaders. Their hard work of recruiting and educating parents continues today."



## HUMBERTO BENITEZ

CUSTODIAN, INDIAN KNOLL SCHOOL - INSPRA DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

Mr. Humberto Benitez was awarded the Distinguished Service Award by the Illinois chapter of the National School Public

Relations Association (INSPRA) as public education ambassador in the category of Support Staff.

Mr. Benitez has worked for Elementary School District 33 for 17 years, with 16 of those years being the custodian at Indian Knoll Elementary School and has always treated the school like his second home. He was nominated for this award by principal Jen Tapia and staff at Indian Knoll. As stated in the nomination, Mr. Benitez truly loves and takes pride in, not only the school building, but also the students, staff and parents.

# District 33 Preschool Program Expands

In October, District 33 was awarded the Preschool for All Expansion Grant, giving the district \$602,319 in new money for the expansion of the preschool program. This grant has enabled District 33 to serve an additional 40 students in a full day program. To accommodate this expansion, the district entered into a leasing agreement with Winfield District 34. Additionally, this agreement enabled District 33 to consolidate its preschool programs from potentially four sites to three.



Preschool students in two sections of housed in Turner Elementary School moved to the Winfield site along with the addition new students, for a total of 120 students (and their attending staff) at the Winfield site.

Aside from funds allocated for rent, the grant funds: two teachers, two para-educators, one instructional coach, two lunch supervisors, one family liaison position, and one administrator position.

This new location has been up and running since January 9, 2017.

# District 33 Board Welcomes Newly Elected Members, Recognizes Outgoing



On Tuesday, May 2, 2017 at a Special Board of Education meeting, outgoing board members Sue Stibal and Julie Pearson, who served on the board for 12 years and 8 years respectively, were recognized by the Board of Education for their dedication and outstanding leadership for West Chicago Elementary School District 33.

The Board acknowledged the certified election results from the April 4th election. The recently elected members returning to

the Board, Brenda Vishanoff and Karina Villa, along with newcomers Kalpesh Dave and Chad McLean took the oath of office as newly elected school board members.

The newly seated board then elected the following members as officers for a two year term: Gil Wagner, President; Karina Villa, Vice President, and Phebe Balzer, Secretary

## A Message from the Board of Education - Affirmation of Values

The District 33 Board of Education reaffirms our continuing commitment to cultural diversity. Our schools need to be a safe and welcoming place for all. Our strategic plan recognizes that supporting families and developing a strong community is essential to achieve the best possible educational outcomes for our students. This includes our commitment to embrace and value the different cultures within our community; to support our families; and to ensure that partnerships are strong, effective, and united in common goals.

Communication and conversation can help bridge differences and can bring us together around respect and understanding rather than fear or anger. We should seek to understand the diverse views and perspectives of all members of our community. It's important that we respect those with whom we disagree. This is the essence of two-way communication.

- We will continue to stand up for our values.
- We advocate for our kids and the families we serve.
- We support the educators with whom we serve.
- We value every member of our district. Each of you is a vital part of our community.
- We will continue to work passionately to ensure your success and well-being.
- We will continue to move "together for excellence."

## BEE ReAdy for kindERGArten



D33 Kindergarten is the place to "Bee" great!

Each school will be hosting a Kinder "Kick-Off" orientation and curriculum night to allow students and parents to get orientated to with the building, classroom teachers and other staff.

Gary School	Aug. 22 <sup>nd</sup>	5:30-7:30 pm
Indian Knoll School	Aug. 24 <sup>th</sup>	5:30-7:30 pm
Wegner School	Aug. 24 <sup>th</sup>	6:00-8:00 pm
Turner School	Aug. 24 <sup>th</sup>	5:30-6:30 pm
Currier School	Aug. 25 <sup>th</sup>	10:00 am & 2:00 pm
Pioneer School	Sept. 5 <sup>th</sup>	6:00 pm

## CURRICULUM NIGHTS Save the Date!

Curriculum Nights are a wonderful opportunity for parents to visit the school, meet the teachers and principal, and hear what students will be learning for the year. Mark your calendars now so that you will not miss this wonderful opportunity.

### Currier School

Grades 1-5 Sept 6, 6:00-7:30 pm

### Gary School

Curriculum Night/Family Picnic  
All Grades: Sept. 14, 5:00-8:00 pm

### Indian Knoll School

Grades 1-5: Sept 12, 6:00-8:00 pm  
Primary Autism/Multi-Learner:  
Aug 23, 5:30-7:30 pm

### Pioneer School

5<sup>th</sup> Grade: Sept 5, 6:45 pm  
1<sup>st</sup> Grade: Sept 12, 6:00 pm  
4<sup>th</sup> Grade: Sept 12, 6:45 pm  
2<sup>nd</sup> Grade: Sept 19, 6:00 pm  
3<sup>rd</sup> Grade: Sept 19, 6:45 pm

### Turner School

Curriculum Night/Family Picnic  
All Grades: Sept. 22, 5:30 - 7:30 pm

### Wegner School

1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> Grades: Sept. 26, 6:30-8:00 pm  
2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Grades: Sept 28, 6:30-8:00 pm

### Leman Middle School

All Grades: Sept 5, 6:00-7:30 pm

WE ARE ON FACEBOOK AND TWITTER



@WEGOD33

@WEGOD33

### BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETINGS

are held in the board room at the Educational Service Center, 312 E. Forest Avenue, West Chicago, IL on the first and third Thursdays of each month, respectively, beginning at 7:00 p.m., unless otherwise indicated.

**CONTACT US:** Please send your comments, questions or suggestions to Gina Steinbrecher, Community Relations Specialist, at 630-293-6000 x201 or e-mail steinbrecherg@wego33.org.

### BOARD MEMBERS

**Gil Wagner** - President  
**Karina Villa** - Vice President  
**Phebe Balzer** - Secretary

**Dave Barclay**  
**Brenda Vishanoff**

**Kalpesh Dave**  
**Chad McLean**