



DeLaSalle Enters Robotics Event



Thirteen students from De La Salle recently competed in the First Robotics Competition held at the Credit Union 1 Arena on the campus of the University of Illinois at Chicago.

Representing De La Salle were: Kyle Brown '22; Jacquelin Camarena '19; Zhi Chen '21; Adam Creighton '20; Matthew Dixon '20; Victor DeAvila '20; Brandon Goeden '22; Enrique Herrera '21; Cameron Laviste '20; Joshua Moy '19; Ashley Naveja '21; Louis Nuno '20 and Felicity Sierra '21. The team was led by faculty member Ian McNair.

Poster Contest For YOUmedia

The Chicago Public Library is sponsoring a YOUmedia 10 Year Anniversary Poster Design Contest through May 15th.

Ten finalists will be selected by Library staff and notified by May 23rd and receive a swag bag. Submissions will be judged on originality, aesthetic quality and impact.

Three grand prize winners will be selected in the categories of People's Choice, Alumni Selected and Juried Prize. Grand prize winners will receive a \$100 prize and prints of their posters.

Library patrons will vote on their favorite People's Choice design from the 10 finalists May 28th to June 11th. For more information, visit www.chipublib.org.

McKinley Park Basketball Champs



The girls' 7th and 8th grade basketball team from Burroughs School recently completed a successful season with 13 wins and the McKinley Park League Championship. Front row: Lizbeth Ocotxtle, Jessyca Gonzalez, Heidy Valdes, Abigayl Almaraz, and Karen Escobar. Back row: Coach Omar Martinez, Roselyn Vazquez, Kaila Gracia and Anjelize Camacho.

School Funding



By Dr. R. Pletsch

This is the time that State legislators are working on State funding for local schools. Every state has a formula system that decides how they spend their money in that state. It is sad that equal shares of money is never considered. All states that I have been able to research give more money to districts that are minority and/or poor - the implication is that minority students and poor kids cannot perform with the others unless they are favored.

I was a principal for 18 years in poor and minority schools. I felt it was racist by the politicians to assume that without more money my students would never compete with kids in other neighborhoods. The states work on a per capita base with extra money in most states going to schools that are either below the poverty level or have bilingual students and most also set extra funds aside for Special Ed students.

The idea of rewarding schools that do well is being argued in Texas, Arizona and Ohio have already implemented a reward system for schools that are successful. The states give money per student. In Texas, they also give \$1,450 extra for every student achieving 3rd Grade Reading proficiency and extra \$2,015 for every one of their students in high school that has a Senior enrolled in college, joined the mili-

tary or and industry-accepted certification program. While these rewards statistically seem to meet all criteria, there are many critics because the entire proposal is 165 pages long.

One idea I have is to pick another grade, example 5 and 6, and follow these kids for a year. Reward the schools of these students that individually improve more than a year in a year. This way a student who is three years behind who makes up a year can reap those financial benefits on their school. Another problem schools have is that they are judged for attendance on a date set by the politicians. It is understood that this is necessary. But that date usually has to be in December. Population is often stable at this time in Texas. But by September, many districts might be overloaded with new immigrant kids who did not come until August. The states are working to fund these schools but the state has already allocated their funds.

I believe if you actually compare the same kids to themselves, the money will go where it is earned. For example, a 5th grader this year scores a 3.5 and then as a 6th grader gets a 5.0, the student is not at norms yet but has improved significantly and could bring extra funding to their school. Another student who is in a more affluent school starts 5th grade with a 7.0 and in 6th grade is tested as 7.5, the student is over expectations, but showed little improvement. To my estimation, the school should not be entitled to extra funds. These are all ideas that are settled in the State Legislatures. Hopefully, they will think of the students in the state and not their political party.

Library Plans ChiTeen Lit Fest

The 4th annual ChiTeen Lit Fest will be held at the Harold Washington Library Center, 401 S. Plymouth ct. on Friday, April 26th and Columbia College Chicago, 1104 S. Wabash ave. on Saturday, April 27th.

Guest headliners will be Akenya, Haley Cao, Eve L. Ewing, Ricardo Gamboa, A.D. Jameson and Natalie Moore.

The Friday Night Kick-Off Party will feature performance by Akenya and Maria Lourdes and music by DJ Cash Era along with free food, music dancing, and snazzy button making.

On Saturday, teens will tell stories through music, art, and writing, take walking tours of public art, talk to published writers and established writers and artists, make stuff, and get insider knowledge to improve creative skills.

Contact jkoslowski@chipublib.org for further details and scheduling.

This event is only open to teens age 13-19.

Film Fest Winner



De La Salle Institute recently held a Film Festival in which students submitted their own short films. Senior Isaiah Griggs (right) earned the prize for Best Motion Picture after submitting his animation portfolio for Columbia College. The festival was overseen by faculty member and Theatre 100 moderator Rich Fern '06 (left). Isaiah is a graduate of Our Lady of the Snows elementary school.

IDOT Sign Contest Announces Winners

The Illinois Department of Transportation is recognizing winners for their creative ideas to improve safety as part of the department's digital message sign contest. More than 1,400 entries were submitted in six categories.

The winners will receive a personalized street sign and their messages will be in rotation on approximately 100 overhead message signs statewide.

The topics are "Put Down The Phone And Nobody Gets Hurt" by Leanne Harbour for Distracted Driving; "Only

the Casserole Should Be Baked, Don't Drive High" by Grant Mitchell for Impaired Driving; "You Look So Cute In That" by Audra Noyes for Occupant Restraint; "Dashing Thru The Snow? Slow Down!" by John Shukites for Speeding; "Drive Like Your Family Is In The Next Car" by Gene Larkin for Vulnerable Users and "Someone I Love Works On Roads, Slow In The Zone!" by Lisa Hansen for Work Zone.

Visit lifeordeathillinois.com for more information.

Computing Award



A. BOLDEN

De La Salle congratulates senior Amanda

Dean's List At Augustana College

Augustana College of Rock Island, Illinois has named Lauren Ng, majoring in Biology, and Monica Wong, majoring in Public Health, to the Dean's List for the 2018-19 winter term. Honorees must maintain a grade point average of 3.5 or higher on a four-point scale.

Bolden '19 earned The National Center for Women and Information Technology's Aspirations in Computing Award. Recipients are chosen for their demonstrated interest and achievements in computing, proven leadership ability, academic performance and plans for post-secondary education. She was recommended by faculty member Diniyah Dean from the Advanced Web Page Development class.

Basement Sale At Holy Cross

The Holy Cross Ladies Aid will conduct their annual Basement Sale in the church assembly hall, 3116 S. Racine ave. on Saturday, May 4th from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Donations of used goods including books, recordings, toys, kitchenware, home decor, tools and small furniture will be accepted Thursday mornings. No clothing or electronics.

To schedule a donation drop-off or for more information, call (773) 523-3838.

Planetarium Mission Aboard Antares Rocket

On April 17th, the Adler Planetarium's Far Horizons program will be sending its first mission to space aboard the Antares Rocket used to resupply the International Space Station. The team will be traveling to Virginia Space as part of the ThinSat Program. With this mission, the Adler Planetarium will become the first planetarium in space.

The brainchild of nanosatellite pioneer Professor Bob Twigg, ThinSats are tiny satellites which are launched into space at a low altitude, and usually come down in about a week. They will travel millions of miles around the Earth and experience the hard vacuum and high radiation of outer space.

The ThinSats will launch as a secondary payload on Northrop Grumman's Antares 230 launch vehicle from Wallops Island, Virginia, on an International Space Station resupply mission. They will deploy on the second stage of the rocket that will be left in

extremely low Earth orbit so that it will burn up quickly. Once the ThinSats have been deployed, the remaining cargo will travel on the Cygnus spacecraft towards the ISS.

The Adler's Far Horizons program is collaborating with teens from the ITW David Speer Academy, with an aim to increase participation of minorities in STEM fields. Working alongside professional engineers and scientists over the course of 20 weeks, the students acquired the necessary skill sets in electronic hardware, soldering, programming, and data analysis to aid in the development of ThinSat.

The Adler's first mission will be a test to measure the changing colors of light as seen by the satellite as it passes over different regions of the Earth. With these measurements, students will learn how to recognize different features of land and water by studying the wavelengths of light they reflect.

New Principal At PJPII School

By Y. Cano

Pope John Paul II Catholic School is pleased to announce they have a new leader; Dr. Lisa Griffiths will be their principal starting July 1, 2019. The principal search committee, led by Rev. Tom Boharic, school parents, teachers, staff, and representatives from the Office of Catholic Schools and Big Shoulders Fund, was particularly impressed with Dr. Griffiths' commitment to students, families and Catholic education.

Dr. Griffiths has 16 years of experience as an educator working in a variety of public and private settings with diverse student populations from Preschool through 8th grade. She holds a doctoral degree in Organizational Leadership from Argosy University. Dr. Griffiths has served in several roles as classroom teacher, International Baccalaureate teacher, teacher mentor, staff developer, Advanced Ed lead teacher, elementary principal and served as the Vicariate VI Council Secretary.

Her expertise includes organizational structure and improvements, increased enrollment, curriculum and instruction, design and evaluation of professional development, and K-8 literacy. She serves as a part of the curriculum advisory board and principal mentor for the Archdiocese of Chicago. Along with her efforts, she has been awarded the Polk Brothers Leadership Award and is a part of the Sullivan Leadership



DR. L. GRIFFITHS

Fellow Program.

Throughout the summer, Dr. Griffiths will be visiting Brighton Park parishes to meet the community plus there will be an opportunity to visit the school and meet with her before the school year begins. Pope John Paul II Catholic School is the only Catholic school in Brighton Park, which has five parishes providing a safe, faith-based education for its students. May God continue to bless PJPII!

Dance Honors



Yazmin Torres, a 5th grade student at Pope John Paul II Catholic School, competed at the EnerGy National Dance Competition. Her solo routine received High Gold, placed 5th overall and was awarded the Superstar award by the judges. She is also part of the Elite Team at Strive Dance Company in Lyons, which received High Gold and 4th place overall on their two routines.

Fitness Classes For Sr. Citizens

The Garfield Ridge Senior Satellite Center, 5674 S. Archer, offers Fitness Plus group exercise classes on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays at 8:45 a.m.

For more information, call (312) 745-4255.

Luncheon For Golden Meteors

De La Salle Institute will be hosting a Golden Meteor Brunch in the Harrison Hall multipurpose room of the Farmer Activity Center, 3434 S. Michigan ave., on Tuesday, April 30th from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Alumni from the decades of the 50s, 60s and 70s are invited to meet De La Salle president Fr. Paul Novak, OSM for a presentation and campus tours.

For more information or to RSVP, contact Alumni Relations Coordinator Toney

Howell '06 at (312) 842-7355, ext. 143 or howelltd@dlis.org.

BrightonParkLIFE.com

To complement our weekly edition The Brighton Park-McKinley Park Life has launched a website. On it can be found general information about us, recent and past issues, advertising information and a calendar of free local events. We encourage our readers to check back often for new updates!

Soccer Clinics At McKinley Park

Chicago Kicks will conduct Soccer Skills Clinics at McKinley Park, 2210 W. Pershing rd. on Sundays, April 14th through June 9th at 10 a.m.

Register at chicago-kicks.com

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Rep. Ortiz Visits PJPII School



Newly elected State Representative Aaron Ortiz (left) visited Pope John Paul II Catholic School on April 8th to meet with parents who shared their personal stories on why Invest in Kids' Tax Credit Scholarship is important. The program offers a 75 percent income tax credit to individuals and businesses that contribute to qualified Scholarship Granting Organizations, such as Empower Illinois and Big Shoulders Fund. The SGOs then distribute scholarships to students whose families meet the income requirements to attend qualified, non-public schools in Illinois.

County Tax Sale Starts May 3rd

Delinquent Cook County property taxes totaling \$189.6 million on 56,976 properties is scheduled to be auctioned at the Annual Tax sale that begins May 3rd. Lists of all the properties, by municipality and Chicago ward, are published on cookcountytreasurer.com.

Nearly 21,000 owners may be unaware of the Tax Sale because the U.S. Postal Service has returned their bills and subsequent notices. About 22,000 owe \$1,000 or less. Over 2,000 homes are probably owned by senior citizens. As many as 900 seniors would see their homes removed from the Tax Sale if they applied for property tax exemptions they received last year.

Homeowners can avoid the Tax Sale by paying all delinquent taxes and interest before the sale begins. To see if your taxes are delinquent—and to make a payment—visit cookcountytreasurer.com and select

"Avoid the Tax Sale." You can search by address or by Property Index Number. The May 3rd Tax Sale is for homes, businesses, and land with unpaid bills for Tax Year 2017 (originally due in 2018).

Summer Program For Ages 14-24

The Chicago Department of Family and Support Services announces the launch of the One Summer Chicago application. The program will support 32,000 jobs and internship opportunities for youth to gain work experience and support services. Youth ages 14 to 24 may apply through May 20th at www.one-summerchicago.org.

The 2019 program will run for six weeks from July 1st through Aug. 9th for infrastructure jobs; camp counselors; urban agriculture and outdoor forestry projects; and private sector experience.

Distracted Driving Awareness Month

During April, National Distracted Driving Awareness Month, the Illinois Department of Transportation, Illinois State Police, city and county law enforcement agencies are reminding drivers to put down their phones and focus on driving. Motorists will see increased patrols and enforcement zones across Illinois to ticket drivers using handheld devices.

3,166 people died in motor vehicle crashes involving distracted drivers

Hazardous Waste Collection Day

The Metropolitan Water Reclamation District will conduct Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day at Brookfield Zoo, 8400 W. 31st st., north lot on Saturday, April 13th from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

For a list of accepted and unacceptable items, visit www.mwrd.org or call (312) 751-6633.

in 2017. Illinois law prohibits the use of handheld electronic devices for any purpose, including talking, texting or using apps. Drivers under 19 are prohibited from using any electronic devices, even handsfree.

Visit lifeordeathillinois.com for more information.

Dinner Dance For PJPII School

Pope John Paul II Catholic School will sponsor a dinner dance at Abramowicz Hall, 4325 S. Richmond on Saturday, May 4th from 5 to 11 p.m.

Tickets at \$45 are available at the school main office and include food, beer or wine, and dancing. Proceeds will benefit the technology programs for students.

For more information, contact Yamili Cano at events@pjpiischool.org or (773) 523-6161.

City Promotes 2020 Census

Mayor Rahm Emanuel established the City of Chicago's Complete Count Committee to ensure every resident is accounted for in the 2020 U.S. Census. The committee is tasked with creating a strategy to ensure an accurate and complete count of Chicago's population with a particular focus on hard-to-count populations, including African Americans, Latino, Asian Americans, immigrants and non-native English speakers, homeless individuals, children under age five and the elderly.

In Chicago, 34 percent of households did not mail back their 2010 questionnaire, and required the Census Bureau to conduct an in-person follow-up. The United States Constitution requires a

decennial census of all residents. This information is used to determine representation in Congress; distribute \$675 billion in federal funds each year; and allocate resources for job creation, housing, infrastructure, and more.

Residents will need to have completed their census questionnaires by April 1st, 2020. The Census Bureau anticipates hiring at least 23,000 individuals in Chicago. Anyone interested in applying for jobs can go to www.2020census.gov/jobs.

Library Schedules Brainfuse Program

The Chicago Public Library is offering brainfuse to ignite your mind.

Online homework help is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Students can connect with a live tutor, 2 to 11 p.m., 7 days a week. Lessons, practice tests, video tutorials and more are free with your Chicago Public Library card.

Access Brainfuse at home or at the library by visiting chipublib.org/brainfuse.

Fundraiser For PJPII School

Chuck E. Cheese's, 5030 S. Kedzie, will conduct a fundraiser for Pope John Paul II Catholic School on Friday, April 12th from 3 to 9 p.m. Up to 20% of the sales generated from this event will be donated to the school.

Participants should notify the cashier when purchasing food, merchandise, and Play Points.

The Mad Hatters At G-R Library

The Garfield Ridge Branch Library, 6348 S. Archer will present "The Mad Hatters" on Saturday, April 13th at 11 a.m.

Ages 3 & up will enjoy songs, skits, and stories designed to encourage the love of reading.

For more information, call (312) 747-6094 or visit chipublib.org.

NLEI Schedules Free Job Fair

The National Latino Education Institute, 2011 W. Pershing road, will conduct its annual free job fair on Thursday, April 18th from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Participants should wear business attire and bring their resume. Free parking will be available.

Registration is required at (773) 247-0707, ext. 264.

CAPS Beat 912 Plans Meeting

9th District CAPS Beat 912 will meet at St. Maurice Church Hall, 3625 S. Hoyne on Wednesday, May 8th at 7 p.m.

The area is roughly bounded by 31st st., Pershing road, Western ave. and the south branch of the Chicago River (Bubbly Creek).

Problem and crime conditions will be discussed.

Program On Climate Change

The McKinley Park Branch Library, 1915 W. 35th st. will present a program, "Solving The Climate Challenge" on Saturday, April 20th at 2:00 p.m.

Guest speaker will be Justin Pelczarki, co-leader of Chicago's chapter of Citizens' Climate Lobby. For more information, call (312) 747-6082.

Application For Summer Jobs

The One Summer Chicago program is accepting applications through May 1st at one-summerchicago.org.

Summer jobs are available for youth ages 16-24. Earn \$8.25 an hour, work up to 20 hours a week.

A limited number of mural painting jobs are available for 14 & 15 year olds. Earn a \$450 stipend.

A limited number of coding class slots are available for youth ages 16-24. Learn coding basics in 6 weeks while getting

paid. If you need application assistance or access to a computer, contact Ed Garcia at (708) 373-5178.

Book Club At A-H Library

The Book Discussion Club at the Archer Heights Branch Library, 5055 S. Archer, meets on the fourth Wednesday of each month from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

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