



Preparing Students to Return to Class



By Dr. R. Pletsch

Most students and some adults believe what they hear and do not understand the nuances and underlying biases, and 2) If your child has an IEP (Individual Educational Plan) reread it and make sure it will be adhered to. Our community has some excellent case managers and they are willing to help in this regard.

It appears that once again the parents will be the teacher for their students at least part of the week. These are some of the items I have suggested to my own family and friends. Of course, some do not have to be mentioned because parents have already gone through this for four months. 1) stress that during your scheduled time for schooling, education is the number one priority. 2 be consistent. Get up and do it. No over-sleeping, if you set three hours a day for it, make it the same three hours. 3) admit to your students if you are not sure. Use your family and friends, or prepare a question for the teacher at the time available. 4) make sure you take the time to correct their work daily. 5) be as outwardly positive as you can. The pandemic is listed as "an act of God". Leave it at that. Kids do not need to learn hate from mom and dad and other adults at the home.

I believe schools can be open safely. But you as a parent or guardian have the ultimate decision for your child. You may consider these points I have given, or not. They are simply my opinion. We do have to consider that this is what we have. We should make the best of it because it means the world to our kids.

All area polls conducted about returning to school indicate that parents overwhelmingly are looking for their students to return. The latest proposal for CPS is for students to attend in person twice a week. Most parents want the students in more than twice a week. But in order to keep social distancing, space becomes a problem and the Board is still considering a high school schedule because parents want all their kids to return. Parents received information from the CPS Board asking their opinion. If you have not already done so, use your voice in answering. It does not take long.

Here are what I consider some of the more important things you can do for your elementary aged children, regardless of which school your children will be attending, CPS, charter or Catholic. 1) limit the news programs on TV when the children can hear it especially those so called news programs that are often more opinion than fact.

Amigos Meat Conducts Free Chicken Distribution



Amigos Meat, 3526 W. 51st st. conducted a free Chicken Give-Away on July 26th. Shown at a planning meeting for the event are Manny Rangel, Jr. (CFO, Amigos Meat), Craig Chico (Back of the Yards Neighborhood Council), Bobby Martinez Olson (Community Activist), Tom Baliga (Archer Heights Civic Association), Alderman Raymond Lopez (15th), Maximino Hurtado (CEO, Amigos Meat), Alderman Edward M. Burke (14th), Alderman Silvana Tabares (23rd), Commander Frederick Melean (008th District), and Jose Mendez (Managing Partner, Amigos Meat). Also participating but not shown are Alderman George A. Cardenas (12th), Alderman Marty Quinn (13th), Alderman Stephanie Coleman (16th), Alderman Michael Rodriguez (22nd) and State Senator Tony Munoz (1st District).

Library Schedules On-Line Events

The Chicago Public Library has scheduled online events with registration required at chipublib.org.

Preschool Story Time for ages 3-5 and their caregivers will take place on Zoom, Thursdays, Aug. 6th and 13th from 11 to 11:30 a.m. The program includes books, songs, rhymes, flannel boards, and suggestions for at-home crafts.

Register by 10 a.m. the day before the event. Only one registration per household. You'll receive an email with a link to the secure meeting information about 24 hours before the program.

Bilingual Preschool Story Time is recommended for ages 3-5 and caregivers via Zoom on Thursdays, Aug. 6th and 13th from 11 to 11:30 p.m. Register by 10 a.m. on Wednesday of each week. Only one registration per household.

Terrific Twos story time for ages 24-35 months will be conducted

via Zoom on Thursdays, Aug. 6th and 13th from 10 to 10:30 a.m. Register by 9 a.m. the day before the event. Only one registration per household.

Tummy Time is story time for infants and caregivers on Mondays, Aug. 3rd and 10th from 10 to 10:30 a.m. This event takes place on Zoom. Register by 9 a.m. the day before the event.

The No Book Club will meet on Mondays, Aug. 31st, Sept. 28th and Oct. 26th from 1 to 2 p.m. Share your thoughts about a book you've read and hear what others are reading. The discussion is fun and informal. This event takes place on Zoom. Register by e-mailing info@foelchicago.org.

Reporting Time for kids, ages 5 and up will meet on Zoom, Mondays Aug. 3rd and 10th from 1 to 1:45 p.m. Kids will take turns sharing their books and creations. Register by 2 p.m. the day before the event.

Scout Troop 1441 On Virtual Campout



On the weekend of July 17th, members of St. Mary Star of the Sea Boy Scout Troop 1441 held a virtual campout and hike. Scouts put up tents in their own back yards to participate in breakfast and dinner for their families. Scouts also participated in a hike around West Lawn Park and surrounding areas plus pre-planned virtual daily meetings on their computers. Pictured are: Lulu Rodriguez (Troop Secretary), Eloy Corral Jr., Damian Moreno, Adan Moreno, John Massura (Scout Master), and Michael Kozel (Senior Patrol Leader). Not shown is Pedro Moreno (Committee Member). Any boys ages 6 to 17 who are interested in Scouting can have a parent contact Ed Melkonian at (312) 316-5825 for more information.

Virtual Encounters For Shedd Penguins



Photo credit: ©Shedd Aquarium/Brenna Hernandez

As online fanfare of the penguins at Shedd Aquarium continues, the aquarium has launched a digital opportunity to go behind the scenes and learn more about the flightless birds. This Virtual Penguin Encounter pivots the onsite Penguin Encounters that are currently paused as the aquarium remains in the early phases of reopening. Small groups of families and friends are invited to gather around a computer and learn about the two species of penguins

at Shedd as their caretakers broadcast live from the habitat.

Guests can send questions through Zoom chat to Shedd's animal care team, as they share interesting details about penguins like their ability to "fly" underwater, stay warm in cooler waters and more.

This program is available through Aug. 8th seven days a week at 9:30 a.m. and 1 p.m.

Guests can learn more, view dates and check availability on Shedd's website: <https://www.sheddaquarium.org/experiences/virtual-penguin-encounter>.

The experience is \$59.95. The encounter is priced per screen, and groups of up to four per purchase are recommended.

Virtual Summit For Expungement

Dorothy Brown, Clerk of the Circuit Court of Cook County will present a Second Chance Virtual Expungement Summit.

This is an opportunity to receive free legal consultation regarding criminal records relief and, if eligible, to file petitions to expunge or seal.

The Kick-Off Presentation will be held on Saturday, Aug. 1st from 9 to 11 a.m. via ZOOM.

When registration has been accepted, volunteer attorneys, under the supervision of Cabrini Green Legal Aid will begin researching cases in advance of the Expungement Summit.

For more information, call (312) 603-5200 or 4641 or visit cookcounty-clerkofcourt.org/SecondChange.

Food Depository Expands Access

The Greater Chicago Food Depository will expand food access with new food distributions in communities that have been devastated by the combination of COVID-19 and insecurity.

Local Pop-Up Pantries are located at Our Lady of Fatima, 2751 W. 38th place on Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 12 noon; New Life, 4155 S. Rockwell on Aug. 11th and 25th from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. and New Life, 5101 S. Keeler on Aug. 15th from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Organ Donor Poster Winners

Secretary of State Jesse White honored four Illinois students who were the winners of the 23rd biennial Organ/Tissue Donor Poster Contest.

The 2020 overall contest winner was Allie Parks, a 7th grader at Adams School in Creal Springs. Allie received a congratulatory plaque, a personalized Illinois Blue Book and a \$100 gift certificate to Barnes and Noble from Donate Life Illinois. Prints of her poster will be displayed throughout the state.

Currently, there are nearly 7 million people registered to become organ/tissue donors in Illinois; however, 4,000 individuals are on the waiting list, and about 300 people die each year waiting for an organ transplant. One donor can save or greatly improve up to 25 lives. To register to become an organ/tissue donor, visit www.LifeGoesOn.com.

The students who won the other age categories each received a \$50 gift certificate for Barnes and Noble from Donate

Life Illinois and were honored with a plaque and a personalized Illinois Blue Book. Winners were selected from four age groups: grades K-2, grades 3-5, grades 6-8 and grades 9-12.

Winners of each age category for this year's organ and tissue donor poster contest are: K-2 grade:

Mirabella Burns, 2nd grade, St. Andrew School, Murphysboro. 3-5 grade: Haley Young, 5th grade, St. Alphonsus/St. Patrick School, Lemont. 6-8 grade (and overall winner): Allie Parks, 7th grade, Adams School, Creal Springs. 9-12 grade: Ximenu Morales, 10th grade, HAS McKinley Park, Chicago.

Walk To Benefit Alzheimer's Assn.

The Alzheimer's Association Walk to End Alzheimer's is scheduled for Saturday, Oct. 3rd.

The Southwest Suburban Walk is encouraging participants to walk as individuals or in small groups on sidewalks, tracks and trails across Orland Park.

An opening ceremony will feature speakers and a presentation of Promise Flowers to honor the personal reasons participants join together to fight Alzheimer's and other dementia, all delivered to smartphones, tablets and computers.

To register and receive the latest updates visit: alz.org/walk.

Cubs Scholars Welcome Davis

De La Salle proudly announces that recent graduate Abari Davis '20 has been named a Chicago Cubs Scholar.

The Cubs Scholars program, launched in 2013, offers Chicago inner-city high school students' financial contributions and a team-sponsored mentorship program designed to promote academic achievement and post-secondary educational advancement.

Each recipient receives a \$20,000 scholarship upon their enrollment in a four-year college or university and participates in a mentoring program.

Davis, who attended Andrew Jackson Language Academy, was a member of the National Honor Society at De La Salle and graduated in the top 15 percent. He has enrolled at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor.



A. DAVIS

Graduates At U of Alabama

The University of Alabama awarded 6,326 degrees this spring. Among the graduates were Vincent Capparelli (60638), Bachelor of Science in Education and Alexander Kuliak (60638), a Bachelor of Science.

Nature Play At Northerly Island

The Chicago Park District will conduct a free Nature Play Date for ages 3 & up at Northerly Island Park, 1521 S. Linn White drive on Saturday, Sept. 19th from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Sticks, branches, logs, burlap sacks, and various natural items will be provided. Children may build shelters, dig for worms, explore, and play in nature.

All youth participants must be accompanied by an adult.

Dean's List At Knox College

High-achieving students were named to the Knox College Dean's List for the 2020 Spring Term. Honorees must have earned at least 2.5 credits in the term, with a grade point average of 3.6 or better (on a 4.0 scale).

Area students and their major are: Evelyn Martinez (60632), Undecided; Julieanna Rueda (60609), Undecided; Kristina Vargas (60632), Undecided; Monica Carroza (60609), Undecided; Charlie Flores (60609), Undecided; Miguel Martinez Nava (60608), Undecided; Kari Quintana (60609), Undecided; Samuel Barouch (60608), Environmental Science and Music; Aleksandra Gicala (60632), International Relations & International Studies; Stephanie Martinez-Calderon (60632), Econo-

mics; Andrew Veloz (60608), Philosophy; Haoqiao Ye (60608), Integrative Business & Management and Economics.

Kayaking Class At Northerly Island

The Chicago Park District will conduct a Kayak sailing class at Northerly Island, 1521 S. Linn White drive on Wednesday, Aug. 26th from 8 to 10:30 p.m.

Minimum age is 10 with adult parent or caretaker. The cost of \$25 includes all equipment. Participants will learn about kayaks, water safety, paddling, launching, while enjoying spectacular fireworks over Navy Pier.

Register at chicagoparkdistrict.com/events.

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