

## Sisters of St. Casimir Honored For Service

## Parent Workshops At Curie High

## Volleyball Sweep For St. Richard School



Sr. N. Streitmatter



Sr. D. Lopez

The second annual National Catholic Sisters Week is being celebrated from March 8th-14th, in conjunction with National Women's History Month.

The Sisters of Saint Casimir have ministered in a number of ways on the southwest side for over 100 years. Two of the Sisters were recently honored for their contributions at Holy Cross Hospital which was sponsored by the Sisters of Saint Casimir from 1928 until it was transferred to Sinai Health System in 2013.

Sister Nancy Streitmatter, SSC, MD, FACC, FASE, has received recognition for her work in cardiology from the American Board of Cardiology and the National Institute of Medicine.

She was appointed as a Senior Consultant in Cardiology to the American Board of Cardiology and designated as a Distinguished Master Laureate, and appointed a Distinguished Senior Consultant in Cardiology in 2014 to the National Institute of Medicine.

Sister Nancy developed echocardiography

labs at Loyola University Medical Center, Illinois Masonic Medical Center, and Holy Cross Hospital. She also initiated the cardiac catheterization lab at Holy Cross Hospital which was the first lab credentialed in Chicago.

She has been in practice for over 40 years and has been on the staff of Holy Cross Hospital since 1979. Her residency in internal medicine was completed in 1976 and a fellowship in cardiovascular disease in 1978, both at Loyola University Chicago Stritch School of Medicine.

She served for 20 years in the Englewood neighborhood at the St. Basil Free Clinic, treating uninsured patients, and travelled 20 times to Bolivia for mission work.

Sister Dolorine Lopez, SSC, was recognized by Holy Cross Hospital with the "Above and Beyond Employee of the Month Award." An educator and principal for almost 50 years, she moved to the SSC Motherhouse, in 2004. Upon hearing that she could be of service to Spanish-speaking patients at Holy Cross, Sister Dolorine did not hesitate to embark on this new ministry.

Curie High School, 4959 S. Archer, invites all parents, students and the community to attend a series of workshops to promote positive communication between parents and children.

Workshops are conducted by Psychologist Ferney Ramirez Hernandez who has been a professor of psychology and education at the Universidad San Buenaventura in Columbia and currently coordinates training programs for adolescents and parents in the Chicago Public Schools. He is also the author of 11 published books focused on adolescents.

Upcoming dates and topics are as follows: Monday, March 30th, "10 Keys to Having Indestructible Self-Esteem"; Friday, April 24th, "How to Raise a Child with Firm Will."

All workshops begin at 6 p.m. and will be conducted in Spanish. Additional workshops are scheduled for May 8th and 27th and for June 3rd and 10th.



St. Richard Catholic School completed its volleyball season at Hale Park with its 6th grade team winning the championship and its 5th grade team finished second. Pictured from top left are Lisandra, Nadia, Erien, Brianna, Isis, Sarah, Julianna, Sofia, Alexis, Angelina, Briana, Lilianna, Ariana, Ionie, Magaly, Gladys, Sophia, Juliana and Anela. Not pictured are 5th grade coach Amy Boyer and 6th grade coaches Kathy Garcia, Gail Rybakowski, and Rocio Banuelos.

## Chosing Principals

## MPCA Honors Educators Of Year



By Dr. R. Pletsch

How do schools choose their principals? Some choose someone on staff they already know and can deal with. Other times, they look for people that look or sound like the kids in the school. I once worked on a selection committee, some parents came and asked me to select a Black guy because the kids needed a role model and several teachers came to me and said pick anyone but a woman, they are too hard to work for. Well, in short, we chose a White woman and I was lucky to work for her for eight years.

Since retiring, I've had a few calls to return to work, but most were in the Northern suburbs -- too much traveling and they'd probably be Cub fans. Sometimes they even call on the phone, the problem with this I experienced when a friend accepted a job on the phone in Rock Island. Trouble is, she thought it was by Blue Island and then had to move several hundred miles.

I had one of these calls. It was one of the caller ID said "unavailable" and we seldom pick those up. But it was an offer to be a principal at a new private school where teachers were respected and the system was going to hire 100 new teachers. They offered a great salary, I said Thanks, but no thanks. Later I saw this system on the internet with the same information. I just thought the commute would be a little too far. It was in Abu Dhabi in the United Arab Emirates. Those not sure where it is, that's across

the Straits of Hormus, a few miles from Iran and has a border with Saudi Arabia. I'm sure they just got a list of retired principals, but what might be surprising to you is the great respect they have for American education. In this area where Americans feel despised these people want American schools with American curriculum, and American teachers. This country even has a higher literacy rate among women than of the men. In fairness this system is run by the oil companies, but the school is largely local children and they say they have a waiting list so long that they are building new schools.

We, as Americans, are fortunate that someone in our family decided to move to the USA. The world still looks to us. The more some groups hate us, the more that want to come here and a part of our national psyche is we know we are the "best in the world" yet we also beat ourselves and self-deprecate more than anyone. It seems because we are so good we expect to be perfect. It is nice to see the respect that some men this area hold our efforts to try and educate everyone.

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## Lith. Museum Plans Exhibit

The Balzekas Museum of Lithuanian Culture, 6500 S. Pulaski will present an art exhibit of light sculptures by Audrius Pliplys titled, "Siberia Souls" on Friday, March 27th at 7 p.m.

He organized the Hope and Spirit exhibit in 2011 to make the 70 year anniversary of mass deportations from the Baltic republics to Siberia. With the recent events in the Ukraine, it appears that history is repeating itself.

Admission is \$5. For more information, call (773) 582-6500.

## Auto Classes For Seniors

The Chicago Park District will conduct automotive classes for seniors citizens age 60 and older at West Lawn Park Auto Garage, 4232 W. 66th st. on Fridays from 1 to 4 p.m., beginning April 3rd. Registration fee is \$15.50.

Registered seniors may bring in their cars for a check up for the brakes, charging system, cooling system, air-conditioning, heater, tires, belts and computer system.

For further information, call (773) 284-6143 or (773) 284-2803, weekdays after 1 p.m.



The McKinley Park Civic Association recently held its Community celebration and honored Educators of the Year for Community Service. Pictured are: Agnes Bednarkiewicz, MPCA president; Heydi Calderon, Blessed Sacrament Religious Education; Suzanne Pletsch, Community Service Award winner; Daniel Mugavero, N. Greene School; Richard Sawicki, Evergreen Academy Middle School; Stephanie Garibay, Namaste Charter School; Chris Bania, MPCA Secretary; Janet Allen, Kelly High School; Sister Josita Krzeminski, De La Salle Institute - Lourdes Hall Campus and Elizabeth Schar, Everett School. The next meeting of the Civic Association is scheduled at the McKinley Park Branch Library, 1915 W. 35th st. on Wednesday, April 1st at 6:30 p.m.

## Auto Classes At West Lawn Park

West Lawn Park, 4233 W. 65th st., will offer the spring session of Auto Repair Classes beginning the week of March 30th.

The schedule includes Automotive Technology and Systems on Mondays & Wednesdays from 1:30 to 4 p.m. The activity is geared toward drivers who want to have a better understanding of what modern technology offers in cars. The fee is \$38.

Auto Repairs - Basics on Mondays and Wednesdays from 7 - 9:45 p.m. Participants will learn the basic skills to perform routine maintenance on a car. A variety of topics are covered such as brakes, sparkplug replacement, and oil and filter change. This activity is for a person who has little or no auto mechanic skills. The fee is \$58.

Auto Repair - Fuel Injection & On-Board Computers on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 7 to 9:45 p.m. Designed for individuals who know something about cars and want to expand their knowledge. The fee is \$58.

Automotive - Drivability Programs on Fridays from 1 to 4 p.m. Students will gain in-depth knowledge about drivability problems in this course, what are typical problems, what causes them and how they are repaired. The fee is \$31.

Open Auto Shop on Tuesdays - Thursdays from 1:30 to 5 p.m. and Fridays from 7 to 9:45 p.m. This is a free activity for registered students.

All students will have the opportunity to bring in their car. Seniors age 60 and over receive a 50% discount on all activities.

For more information, call (773) 284-6143 or (773) 284-2803 weekdays after 1 p.m.

## Kwaks Create Cub Scouting Award



In December, the Kwak Family of Brighton Park created the "Lois G. Kwak Den Mother of the Year Award" to honor their mother who served an inspirational role with Cub Scout Pack 3465 of Five Holy Martyrs Parish from 1956 through 1969. Her sons were active members of the FHM Scouting program which has served the community for over 80 years. Pictured are Dan Stegvilas, Troop treasurer; Norman & John Kwak and Melissa Cisneros, Pack chairman.

## SSC Auxiliary Sets Games Party

The Sisters of St. Casimir Auxiliary will sponsor a games party at the auditorium, 2601 W. Marquette rd. on Sunday, March 22nd. Doors open at noon and games begin at 2 p.m.

Refreshments, kugelis and a bake sale will be available. All are invited, \$3 donation. For more information, call (773) 776-1324.

## On Dean's List

Daniel Hermle was named to the dean's list at Carroll University of Waukesha, Wisconsin for the fall 2014 semester.

Honorees must have a grade point average for the semester of at least 3.5 on a 4-point scale.

## MWRD Recommends Tax Reduction

President Mariyana Spyropoulos of the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago stated that the Board of Commissioners has passed ordinances directing the Cook County Clerk to reduce taxes by \$17.8 million. This tax reduction will be reflected in the second installment 2014 real estate tax bills that will be mailed to homeowners this July.

The government agency was created in 1889 to treat wastewater and provide stormwater management.

The District is funded primarily through property taxes, which are



M. SPYROPOULOS

restricted under a tax cap imposed by the Illinois General Assembly. The costs of treating wastewater are also recovered through a user charge imposed on certain non-residential users of the system. Since, 1985, the MWRD has returned nearly \$412.6 million to taxpayers and maintained its AAA bond rating from Fitch and Standard & Poor's since 2006.

For more information, visit [www.mwrdd.org](http://www.mwrdd.org).

## Edible Workshops At Lincoln Zoo

Lincoln Park Zoo, Cannon drive and Fullerton parkway will conduct Animal Enrichment Workshops on March 14th and April 11th from 1 to 3:30 p.m.

Adults and children of all ages will make edible pinatas and creative enrichment items for the animals in the Tadpole Room on Park Place Cafe.

Participants will be able to watch the animals play with their new items. The cost is \$5 for each person per workshop.

## Adult Classes At Curie High

The Parent Advisory Council of Curie High School, 4959 S. Archer, will offer free adult classes on Saturdays. ESL classes begin on March 14th from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. until March 28th; then April 18th to June 13th from 9 to 11 a.m.

Computer classes on April 25th from 9 to 11 a.m. and 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. through June 13th.

For more information, visit the main office or call (773) 535-2100. Registration is available on the Curie website [www.curiehhs.org](http://www.curiehhs.org).

## Parent Workshops On Nutrition

The Curie High School Parent Advisory Council is sponsoring a series of free workshops on nutrition in room 192 of the school, 4959 S. Archer on Saturdays, through April 4th from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.

Every workshop includes a recipe presentation, cooking secrets, light meals and information in English and Spanish.

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## Passion Play At St. Richard



On Sunday, March 1st, "The Passion of Christ" was performed at St. Richard Parish by the prayer-theatrical group Wieczernik in Chicago. Non-professional actors performed passages taken from Scripture. Father Krzysztof (Kris) Janczak is shown with the cast members.

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## Grammy Camp At DePaul U.

34 female high school students received free, expert training in Songwriting, Electronic Music Production or Audio Engineering during the Best Buy Grammy Camp at DePaul University Loop Campus on Dec. 13th.

Approximately 50 other applicants were chosen from high schools city-wide, as well as after school programs, such as those offered by the Best

Buy Teen Tech Center at Little Black Pearl Art and Design Academy and other Chicago City of Learning partner organizations like YOUmedia, Chicago Jazz Philharmonic, GlobalGirl Media, YMCA of Metropolitan Chicago and After School Matters.

Participants earned a digital badge, which shows the skills they achieved and is stored at ChicagoCityofLearning.org in portfolios that can be shared with teachers or prospective employers.

The participants of this camp will have the chance to apply for a full scholarship to the summer residential Grammy Camp Program. Anyone interested in an immersive music industry summer experience is encouraged to apply to Grammy Camp at [www.grammyintheschools.com](http://www.grammyintheschools.com) before March 31st. For more information, call (312) 822-0505.

## B-K Baseball Seeks Volunteers

Brighton Kelly Baseball needs volunteers to serve as managers, coaches and umpires for the 2015 season.

For more information, contact League president Rick Barrera at (773) 485-1077.

## Beyer on Lewis Mock Trial Team

A sixth place finish at the regional competition earned the Lewis University Mock Trial Team a bid to the national American Mock Trial Association tournament for the 15th time in less than 20 years. The Lewis team will compete in the Opening Round Championship Series Tournament March 20th to 22nd in Geneva, Illinois.

For the second consecutive year, Anthony Scorzo (co-captain) won an Outstanding Attorney Award at the Joliet, Illinois regional Tournament.

His fellow co-team captains David De Schepper and Megan Archart led teammates Larry Beyer (60638), M'Aggie Huggins and Erica Swanberg in strong performances. Dustin Murray was the highest scoring witness on the Lewis team, missing the Outstanding Witness honor by one point. Other team members include Martin Romo, Kajal Sharma and Ashley Patek.

Larry Beyer is studying Business Administration at Lewis University.

The Flyers opened strong in the first two rounds, sweeping St. Norbert College and Benedictine University. In the third round, Lewis gave Northern Illinois University their toughest battle of the competition. NIU pulled out the win and finished the tournament in first place undefeated. The fourth round, Lewis split with University of Chicago, who also won a bid to the national tournament.

## Reception For Arts Exhibit



"Patrick The Blackhawk Kane", 20"x16". Oil on Panel, 2015 by Lessie Venardo Dixon.

"Sweetness", 24"x36". Oil on Canvas, 2015 by Erick ROHO Garcia.

Prospectus Art Gallery, 1210 W. 18th st., will conduct the opening reception for an exhibit by Erick ROHO Garcia and Lessie Venardo Dixon on Friday, March 13th from 5 to 10 p.m.

Mexican artist and soccer player Garcia was raised in Joliet and completed his masters's degree at Governors State University.

Born in Henning, TN, Dixon has been drawing since he could hold a pencil. After graduating from high school, he moved to Gallatin, TN, to pursue his career as an artist. In 2003, Lessie found a new

passion in the fine art of oil painting. He has been living and exhibiting in Chicago since 2010.

The exhibit will continue through May 1st. For more information, call (312) 733-6132.

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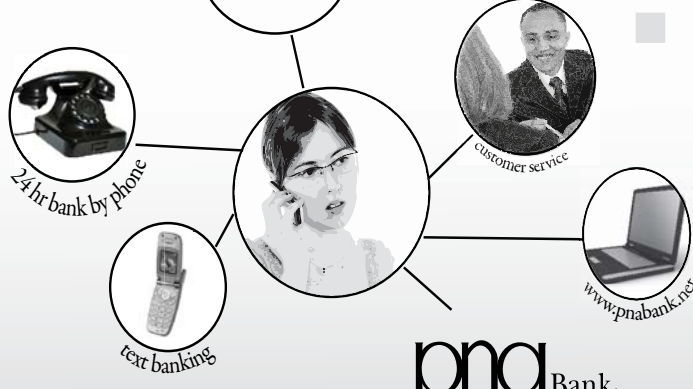
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<b>Nescafe Classic</b> 5 <sup>99</sup> 7 Oz.	<b>Mayonesa</b> 3 <sup>49</sup> McCormick 28 Oz.	<b>Azucar Sugar</b> 2 <sup>49</sup> Dominos 4 lb.	<b>Galletas Hawaiianas &amp; Surtido Rico</b> 1 <sup>99</sup> 15 Oz.
<b>Aceite Mazola</b> 6 <sup>49</sup> Corn Oil 96 Oz.	<b>Sopas</b> 3 for \$1 La Moderna 7 Oz.	<b>Galletas Saladitas</b> 1 <sup>59</sup> Gamesa 14 Oz.	<b>Jalapenos San Marcos</b> 9 <sup>9c</sup> Peppers Entero 26 Oz.
<b>Kellogg's Cocoa Puffs &amp; Reese Puff</b> 2 <sup>99</sup> 11 Oz.	<b>Sunny Delight Citrus</b> 2 <sup>99</sup> Gallon	<b>Salsa de Tomate</b> 8 Oz. 3 for \$1 LaPreferida Tomato Sauce	<b>Manzanas Rojas</b> 7 <sup>9c</sup> lb.
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<b>Papa Idaho</b> 2 <sup>29</sup> lb. Potatoes	<b>Cilantro</b> 3 for \$1	<b>Naranja en Bolsa</b> 1 <sup>99</sup> bag Oranges	<b>2XX Beer</b> 12 <sup>99</sup> 12 Pk. Btl.
<b>Corona Beer</b> 24 Pk. Btl. 24 <sup>99</sup>	<b>Modelo Beer</b> 18 Pk. Can 18 <sup>99</sup>	<b>Sol Beer</b> 12 Pk. Btl. 12 <sup>99</sup>	<b>Whiskey Buchanan's</b> 750 M.L. 28 <sup>99</sup>
<b>Miller High Life Cerveza</b> 30 Pk. Can 12 <sup>99</sup>	<b>MGD Beer Cerveza</b> 18 Pk. Btl. 10 <sup>99</sup>	<b>Kahlua Coffee Liqueur</b> 750 M.L. 18 <sup>99</sup>	<b>Vodka Svedka</b> 750 M.L. 11 <sup>49</sup>
<b>Whiskey Chivas Regal</b> 750 M.L. 22 <sup>99</sup>	<b>Vodka Tanqueray</b> 750 M.L. 18 <sup>99</sup>	<b>Rumchata</b> 750 M.L. 16 <sup>99</sup>	<b>Cazadores Tequila</b> 750 M.L. 26 <sup>99</sup>
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## Food Drive At Washington Fed.

Washington Federal Bank will be hosting another food drive to support the local food pantry through April 15th.

Currently, 15% of residents in the area don't have regular access to nutritious food. The Benton House Food Pantry works to meet this need by distributing thousands of pounds of food to over 100 families every week.

The response to previous food drives has been tremendous.

Some of the recommended items are: canned fruit and vegetables, cereal, chili, jelly, macaroni and cheese, pasta, pasta sauce, peanut butter, rice, soup, stew and tuna which can be dropped off at 2869 S. Archer or 1410 W. Taylor St.

## Regional Honors At Science Fair

On Jan. 30th, four students from Burroughs Elementary School competed at the regional level at Kennedy King College.

Sixth grader Citlalli Reyes, conducted an experiment titled "The Physics of Cheating in Baseball." Using a batting mechanism and bats that had been hollowed out and filled with different materials, it was determined that baseballs travel farther when the bat has been modified.

7th grader Miguel Cisneros collected data over a period of weeks to determine how various types of food affect the growth of Venus flytraps in his experiment, Food Promotion with Mr. Flytrap.

7th grader, Patricia Vazquez, studied the energy transformations that take place in chemical reactions with her project titled Endothermic and Exothermic Reactions.

8th grader Jaqueline Ortiz demonstrated that radiation in the right amount, can either promote or restrict plant growth in her project titled Microwave Radiation vs Plant Growth.

Jaqueline and Miguel received the highest distinction (Outstanding) at the regional science fair. They now advance to competition at the city level. Citlalli won the 6th grade competition and will be honored at a luncheon for 6th grade science fair winners.

## Feast Day Dinner At Rhine VFW

Rhine VFW Post #2729 at 5858 S. Archer will conduct its St. Joseph and St. Patrick annual Feast Day dinner on Saturday, March 14th from 6 to 10 p.m. Tickets are \$15 and may be purchased in the canteen on Monday and Thursday evening at 7 p.m.

Parking is available on the west end of the parking lot across from Archer Ave. For more information, call (773) 284-9025.

## Advisory Council At Kelly Park

The Kelly Park Advisory Council will conduct a meeting at the fieldhouse, 41st and California on Tuesday, March 31st at 6:30 p.m.

The agenda will include preparations for the Earth Day event and a special election for the position of secretary.

Earth Day is scheduled for April 22nd from 3 to 6 p.m. Volunteers are invited to help clean up the park, plant flowers and beautify the park.

## Free Dresses For Proms

The Princess Closet will provide free prom dresses and accessories at New Vision Community Church, 2552 W. 21st st. on Saturdays, March 14th and 28th and Sundays, March 8th and 15th from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

For more information visit [princess.closet@live.com](http://princess.closet@live.com).

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## PJPII School Names WinterFest Winners



Pope John Paul II School announces the winners of their annual WinterFest Raffle. Congratulations to R. DeLeon (Chicago Fire tickets), S. Favre (Cubs tickets), A. Paredes (White Sox tickets), and R. Enk who won the grand raffle for \$2,000. Two Southwest Airlines vouchers (donated by Committeeman Raymond Lopez) were won by D. Waitekus. Pictured are 15th Ward Committeeman Raymond Lopez, PJPII School Board members Debbie Waitekus and Henry Roa and Co-Principal Debbie Coffey during the drawings.

## Job Assistance For Disabilities

More people with disabilities are finding jobs with help from a special program operated by the Illinois Department of Rehabilitation Services. The Vocational Rehabilitation program helped 5,291 individuals with significant disabilities find gainful employment in 2014.

Specialized VR services are offered for people who are blind or visually impaired, deaf or hard of hearing, Hispanic/Latino, or Asian with disabilities. The program also assists high school students who have disabilities plan for their futures after graduation through the Transition and Secondary Transitional Experience Program.

The Work Incentive Planning and Assistance Program helps people who receive SSD/SSI benefits understand how working will affect their benefits. The Supported Employment Program serves eligible people with significant disabilities who want to go to work and need support services to succeed on the job.

Many people with disabilities of working age (16-64 years old) are eligible for VR services.

## Celebration of Dr. Seuss Day



Kiddy Kare Pre-School, 4401 S. Kedzie, celebrated the author Dr. Seuss by having the children reading "Green Eggs and Ham" and participating in a cooking activity lesson. The facility offers state-assisted programs for parents who qualify. For more information or to schedule a tour, call (773) 247-6642.

## Easter Egg Decorating Class



The Balzekas Museum of Lithuanian Culture, 6500 S. Pulaski, will present a workshop on the ancient art of Easter Egg decorating on Saturday, March 21st at 10 a.m.

Guest instructors will be Rasa Ibianskiene and Asta Zimkus. The cost is \$15 for adults and \$5 for children.

Included are instruction sheet, pattern sheet, etching knife and admission to the museum. Refreshments will be served.

Participants must bring 6 hard boiled dyed eggs. For more information and registration, call (773) 582-6500.

## CPS Introduces Latin Studies

The Chicago Board of Education has introduced the Interdisciplinary Latino and American Studies Curriculum, which focuses on the history, arts and culture, and contributions of Latinos and Latin Americans, along with the cultural diversity of the Americas, including Central and South America and the Caribbean.

"Latinos are now the largest student demographic in Chicago Public Schools, but for far too long their ancestral story was relegated to the back pages of our history books," said CEO Barbara Byrd-Bennett.

## City Assistance For Caregiving

The Chicago Department of Family and Support Service offers a variety of programs and services for families who are caring for their older loved ones.

The following programs and services are available to informal caregivers: Counseling, Support Groups, Workshops and Lectures, Respite, Legal Assistance, Caregiver Corners and Case Management. Some programs do have additional assessment requirements. Most are free, however, a slight donation is often requested. A few programs do have a sliding fee scale based on income and asset levels.

Topics include counseling, support groups, workshops and lectures, respite, legal assistance, caregiver corners and case management.

For further information on caregiving, call (312) 744-4016.

Departments from the Office of Teaching and Learning and the Office of Student Health and Wellness, along with teacher collaborators, developed the Matrix, Year-long Scopes, Unit Plans and Launch Lessons including Arts Education, Literacy, Mathematics, Physical Education, Health and Wellness, Science and Social Science.

The Office of Language and Cultural Education developed and wrote the instructional guidelines to support English learners. The Office of Diver Learners Supports and Services and the Office of Early Childhood Education contributed developmentally appropriate instructional guidelines to advantage early learners and students with diverse learning skills.

The ILLASC curriculum was released on the CPS Knowledge Center in February and this gave teachers and principals the opportunity to teach units from Kindergarten to 10th grade from the curriculum now. However, this show launch will be accompanied by professional development and allow for a deeper engagement with teachers this summer.

## Music Program At A-H Library

The Archer Heights Branch Library, 5055 S. Archer, will observe Women's History Month with "Notable Women in American Song" on Saturday, March 28th at 3 p.m.

This program is an entertaining blend of information on women and a presentation of the songs they made famous. Women featured include: Jesse Bartlett Davis, Billie Holiday, Maybelle Carter, Dorothy Fields, Julie Andrews, Fanny Brice and Carole King.

For more information, call (312) 747-9241.

## VFW Sets Wendy's Night

Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 8821 will host a "Wendy's Night" at Archer & Laramie on Monday, March 16th from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. Wendy's donates 15% of gross receipts taken during these hours to Post 8821 which donates the money to Veteran's Charities to support Fisher House, Wounded Warrior, Hospitalized Vets and Hines and Jesse Brown Hospitals and many other charities. Eat in, drive through and to-go orders count toward the donations.

## Registration For Early Childhood

N. Davis School, 3014 W. 39th place, will be accepting Chicago Ready to Learn Early Childhood pre-registrations for the 2014-15 school year.

Students must be 3 and 4 years old before Sept. 1st, 2015. For more information, call (773) 535-4540.

## Family Programs At Yards Library

The Back of the Yards Branch Library, 2111 W. 47th st. has scheduled interesting and informative programs for March.

Homework help from a certified Spanish - English speaking teacher will be available on Mondays from 3 to 5:30 p.m., Wednesdays from 3:30 to 6 p.m., Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3:30 to 7 p.m.

Programs for all ages includes open games and block play on Wednesdays, March 18th and 25th from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m.

Family programs are Rainbow-Craft on Saturday, March 14th and Butterfly Craft on Saturday, March 28th both from noon to 1 p.m.

Open play for young children, ages 0-5 will be available on Wednesdays, March 18th and 25th from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Blocks, puppets, instruments, activities and a coloring sheet will be provided.

After school fun for ages 5-12 is offered Mondays, March 16th, 23rd and 30th from 4-5 p.m.

Twens and teens 12-18 may attend YOUmedia Space on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3-6 p.m. Make Toothbrush Robots on Thursday, March 5th from 6 to 7:30 p.m. YOUmedia Makers Mondays through March 30th from

3-5 p.m. challengers design skills.

A book discussion of "Noggin" by John Corey Whaley is set for Thursday, March 19th from 6-7:30 p.m.

Animation Creation will be offered on Saturday, March 14th from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. and Light Table Drawing on Saturday, March 28th from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m.

Programs for adults (18+) include: Adults Craft Club, Tuesday, March 24th, 1 - 2 p.m.; Computers for Beginners, Wednesday, March 18th, 11 a.m. - 12 p.m. Personal Finance, 101, Friday, March 13th, 10 - 11:30 a.m. Adults Bilingual Book Club "Ripper" by Vibel Allende, Thursday, March 25th, 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.

## Congressional Art Competition Opens

Congressman Dan Lipinski is accepting submissions from all high school students in the Third Congressional District of Illinois for the 2015 Congressional Art Competition.

The winning entry will be displayed in the U.S. Capitol for one year, and the winner will receive two roundtrip tickets to travel to Washington, D.C. in June for the exhibition opening. Runners-up will have their artwork prominently displayed in Lipinski's offices for one year.

All submissions must include the Student Information and Release Form, which can be found online at lipinski.house.gov. For more information, call (312) 886-0481.

## Promote Reading To Children 0-5

The Chicago Public Library has launched the "Take 20, Read Plenty" public awareness campaign to promote the importance of reading 20 minutes a day to children ages 0-5.

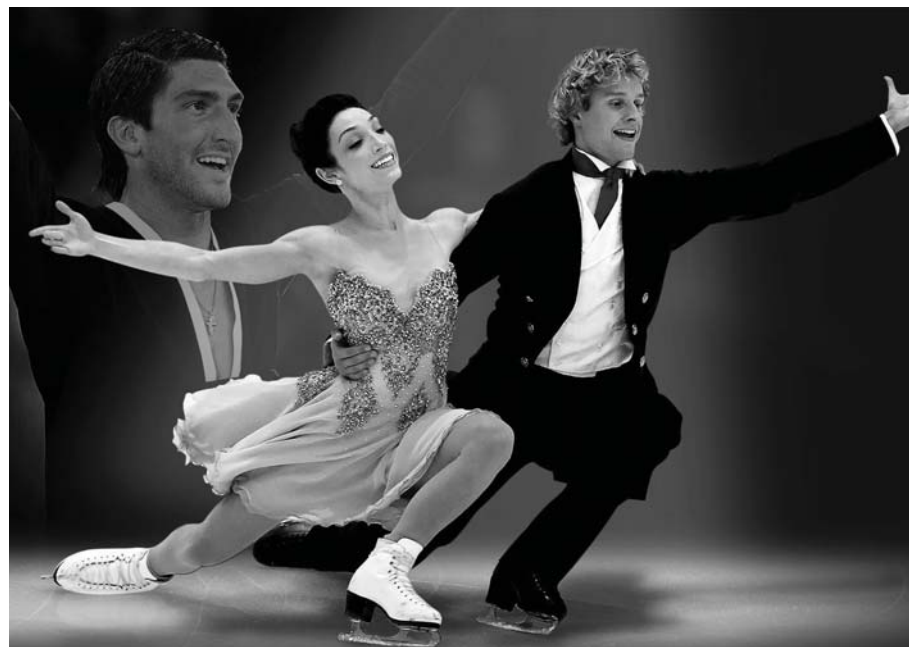
Research indicates that children are equipped with 100 billion neurons at birth, but pathways between the neurons are not yet established. Reading to children aids in strengthening those connections.

Moreover, the number of words a child is exposed to between the ages of zero and three are strong predictors of educational

success and eventual economic stability.

Seminal research shows there is a thirty million word gap between families of lower and higher socioeconomic statuses, so children living in poverty tend to fall behind faster in their development and in school. Children need to hear at least 1,000 stories read aloud before they can learn to read themselves.

Each CPL location will have a reading nook in order to model the practice of reading aloud and to provide an atmosphere conducive to reading aloud.



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## Free Tax Prep At Kelly High

The Center for Economic Progress, in collaboration with the Brighton Park Neighborhood Council, will be providing free tax preparation at Kelly High School, 4136 S. California, on Tuesday and Thursday at 5:30 p.m. and Saturdays at 10 a.m. Services are provided with funding from the United Way of Metropolitan Chicago.

Taxes will be prepared on a first come, first serve basis to people who meet the income guidelines: Families with less than \$50,000 year and individuals with less than \$25,000 year.

For more information, call (312) 252-0280.

## Free Course For GED and ESL

National Latino Education Institute has open enrollment for free GED and English as a Second Language courses.

The GED course has morning and afternoon start times and the ESL course is offered at four locations on the South Side.

Information sessions are conducted three times a week. To register, call (773) 247-0707.

## Food Pantry For Zip Code 60632

The Greater Chicago Food Depository, 4100 W. Ann Lurie Place, has established a model pantry for residents of zip code 60632 on Saturday from 10 a.m. to 12 noon.

Residents will be allowed one visit per month and bring proof of residency.

For more information, call (773) 247-FOOD.

## Panel Talk On School Bullying

The Niagara Foundation will address the issue of bullying in schools at the Harold Washington Library Center, 400 S. State st. on Monday, March 23rd at 10 a.m.

The keynote presentation by activist Patrick Dati will be followed by a panel discussion featuring Karen Gunn and Marisa Bast.

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