



Morphology



By Dr. R. Pletsch

In recent months as I have browsed Educational Journals, I have found very few articles that have been dealing with non-political issues. I came across a skill for developing Reading, while not new, it is not referred to much. That is morphology. Simply put, it is teaching the children in a frame of mind that shows the children a method of breaking words apart, therefore, morphing them together to form a word that many might not otherwise understand. It can help many students understand the meanings of words.

Reporter Sarah Schwartz from Education Week explains this method while talking about the 9th grade Science class in Pine Bluff, Arkansas. She

notes that they spend 15 minutes a day a couple of times a week as needed to help the students more easily understand the vocabulary of the units. They have found that those with apparent lower vocabulary skills have become successful.

There are not many students having testing to indicate vocabulary skills in 6th grade. You teach the meanings of word parts, prefixes, suffixes and root words. Then combining the parts (morphing) into words in the lesson. The theory is teaching the structure of words is beneficial to many and English learners especially. The students can also use parts of words they know from their native languages.

There have been a few districts that have tried using morphology as a part of the class. They claim that using these parts of the words improves student decoding. The Pine Bluff district basically begins in 3rd grade and by 5th grade, several curricula are incorporated into the program with words to build upon.

You, as an adult, may use morphology in much that you do, helping students already or in reading your own magazines or newspapers. It is nice to think that teachers should always be willing to attempt any process that shows success. It might not work for your class, but maybe it will for those few kids having difficulty.

Group Program For Solar Switch

Cook County is partnering with the Midwest Renewable Energy Association and the Citizens Utility Board to co-sponsor another round of Solar Switch Chicagoland. This group buying program offers high quality solar education and a more affordable way to install rooftop solar panels and optional battery storage. By coming together as a group, residents can secure a discounted price on a rooftop solar installation for their home or small business.

It is free to register online at SolarSwitch.com/CookCounty and there is no obligation to purchase solar. Residents will have the option to move forward with a solar installation based on program-negotiated pricing that includes the group discount with a qualified installer.

During the most recent program, participating households were able to save \$4,000 on average on a typical-sized solar installation. Combined state and federal incentives can further reduce costs by 60%. Solar Switch participants will have access to free educational webinars on solar 101 and installer webinars. For a schedule, visit SolarSwitch.com/Webinars.

For more information and to apply, visit: www.SolarSwitch.com/CookCounty.

Park District Recruits Lifeguards



Photo credit Chicago Park District

The Chicago Park District announces that the Summer Lifeguard application is open earlier to ensure the active recruitment of qualified lifeguard candidates during the winter break session, and to provide candidates with ample time to train and become eligible to apply.

With funding from the American Rescue Plan Act, the Park District is poised to hire additional youth, as well as provide job-training and year-round employment.

The first step of the process is applying for the position online. Summer lifeguards start as early as May and the season runs through early September. At the end of summer, seasonal employees can be considered for full-time employment, giving them an opportunity to turn their temporary job into a lifelong career.

Swimmers interested in applying, must be 16 years of age by July 1, pass specific skill tests and be properly certified. For more information, visit www.chicagoparkdistrict.com/lifeguards. In addition to paid training and certification, the Park District is also compensating qualified lifeguards for attending the final Lifeguard Training Academy, where hired summer lifeguards learn about the safe operation of a beaches and swimming pools.

To streamline the application process, candidates may register for a Skills Test as part of the Lifeguard Application. The next swim test is scheduled during Winter Break on Dec. 22nd to accommodate winter schedules for high school and college students.

The first 500 applicants that complete the Lifeguard Skills Test will receive a \$50 Amazon gift card. The test includes a 200-yard timed swim, 20-yard underwater swim and retrieval of a 10-

pound object from a depth of 10 to 14 feet. The next skills tests are scheduled for Dec. 22nd, Feb. 3rd and March 9th.

After fulfilling the swim test requirements, candidates will be assigned to an American Red Cross Blended Learning Waterfront Lifeguard Training Course. In addition to the class being offered for free for the second consecutive year with \$85 fees covered, the Chicago Park District is also providing participants with \$400 for completion of the course, and \$100 for recertification. Classes are available during evenings and weekdays. Candidates are trained in first aid, CPR and AED, waterfront skills, bloodborne pathogens, asthma inhaler, epinephrine auto injector, and in administering emergency oxygen.

The Lifeguard Explorers Training Program is a stipend-based training session that offers Chicago residents, between the ages of 15 and 22 years, the opportunity to learn the required skills needed to successfully pass the Lifeguard Skills Test. The class will run for 15 sessions twice a week, and participants will receive a stipend of \$475 for completing the program that is being offered from Jan. 8th through March 1st.

Qualifying participants must register online at www.chicagoparkdistrict.com/lifeguard-explorers.

Learn to swim classes start at the age of 18 months and are offered for youth and adults. Patrons are encouraged to learn more about the First Free program for the Learn to Swim course, which gives patrons, ages 6-17 years old, the opportunity to take a 10-session introductory swim class for free. Most classes start the week of Jan. 8th.

Park District Winter Programs

The Chicago Park District offers an array of low-cost programs for all ages, ability levels, and families that operate Jan. 8th to March 24th.

In-Person Registration is accepted Saturday, Dec. 9th or Monday, Dec. 11th, if spots remain after online registration.

Review the Registration Checklist to facilitate the online process.

Aquatics programs include Parent and Tot Swim; Tiny Tot Swim; Youth, Teen and Adult Learn to Swim; Swim Team; Water Polo; Aquatic Exercise and more.

Ages 6-17 get the First Session of Youth Learn to Swim Programs Free

Walking Club For Seniors

The Forest Preserves of Cook County will conduct a free Senior Walking Club at Dan Ryan Woods Visitor Center, 87th & Western on Wednesdays, Dec. 13th, 20th and 27th from 8 to 9 a.m.

Participants will meet and mingle with those who have a shared interest in health, wellness and the outdoors. For more information, contact (312) 415-2970.

Family Events At Beverly Arts Ctr.

The Beverly Arts Center, 2407 W. 111th st. will present "The Christmas Schooner", Dec. 14th - 23rd. Based on the true story of the Rouse Simmons, a schooner ship which brought the first evergreen trees to Chicago by way of the treacherous winter waters of Lake Michigan. This story of love, faith, and family is bound to become your family's new Christmas tradition.

The Chicago Kids Company's holiday classic, "Mrs. Claus! A Holiday Musical" will be presented through Dec. 23rd.

14th Annual 19th Ward Children's Film Festival will be shown Thursday, Dec. 28th. The feature has "PAW Patrol: The Mighty Movie" at 10 a.m. and "Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles: Mutant Mayhem" at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$1 and available on a first come, first served basis.

The Second Friday Artist Reception: "Silent Haiku" by Julian Wang is scheduled for Dec. 8th from 6 to 8 p.m.

The School of Fine Arts Winter/Spring 2024 catalog is now available. Learn more about classes for dance, visual arts, music, theatre, senior, fitness and more.

For ticket information, visit beverlyartscenter.com.

Support Letters For Veterans

The Illinois Department of Veterans Affairs launched the 2023 "Operation Rising Spirit," campaign encouraging service organizations, schools, communities, and individuals to write letters of appreciation and support to veterans residing at the state veterans' homes in Anna, Chicago, LaSalle, Manteno and Quincy.

Notes may be sent directly to Crystal Womack, The Illinois Department of Veterans Affairs, Central Office, 833 S. Spring st., Springfield, IL 62794-9432. Letters will be disseminated equally to the five homes.

Notes may also be sent directly through the IDVA website: https://www2.illinois.gov/veterans/services%20benefits/homes/Pages/send-a-note.aspx

Ornament Workshop At Polish Museum



The Polish Museum of America will offer its annual Christmas workshop on the art of ornament making on Saturday, Dec. 9th from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. The workshop fee of \$10 person includes a tour of the museum. All ages are welcome; children must be accompanied by an adult. Submit reservation by Dec. 7th to PMA@PolishMuseumOfAmerica.org.

Open House At Cultural Center

The Chicago Cultural Center offers diverse, free arts offerings year-round programmed by the City of Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events. Visitors can experience visual art exhibitions, films, and opportunities to engage with artists and observe the artistic process. Visit ChicagoCulturalCenter.org for the latest events and updates.

All ages are invited to enjoy the third installment of the Open House Series, Saturday, Dec. 9th from 1-6pm. The free family-friendly event features live performances from Uniting Voices Chicago, Changing Worlds and more, films from the Chicago International Children's Film Festival, fun activities presented by SLOOMOO Slime

Activation, puppet making workshops by Chio's Puppetry, a building-wide BINGO game and more. View the full schedule online; RSVP's are recommended but not required.

The Chicago Film Office continues to offer a wide spectrum of cinema experiences both for learning and enjoyment. The Claudia Cassidy Theater hosts film screenings from the Chicago Film Office, in partnership with industry and community organizations—including films from the Chicago International Children's Film Festival, Dec. 9th.

In January, DOC CHICAGO will present a program of local filmmaker Tom Palazzolo's non-fiction work screened on 16mm film as part of a multi-venue, weekend-long retrospective. February will feature a Lunar New Year celebration, with a screening and live performance courtesy of Asian Pop-Up Cinema. In April, One Earth Film Festival will join the Film Office for an Earth Day screening, along with a showcase of local environmental groups.

Nine Chicago-based dancemakers have been selected to receive space, time, and funding to create new works through June. A panel discussion on December 12th at 6 p.m. introduces the cohort.

State Will Not Proceed With Brighton Park Shelter Site

Following a thorough review by the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency of the Brighton Park environmental report, the State of Illinois will not proceed with an asylum seeker shelter at the 38th and California site. IEPA cited concerns related to insufficient soil sampling and remediation. Given the significant time required to conduct additional sampling, to process and analyze results, and to implement corresponding further remediation, the State will work with the City to identify alternate shelter options.

The State is expediting efforts to launch the previously announced brick-and-mortar shelter site in Little Village with plans to have 200 beds available to families and people with disabilities. Since the City of Chicago selected the Brighton Park site, the State has requested alternate sites from the City as any additional shelter will operate as part of the City's current shelter system. The State is also working with the Archdiocese of Chicago to explore additional options for brick-and-mortar shelter sites.

"My administration is committed to keeping asylum seekers safe as we work to help them achieve independence," said Governor JB Pritzker. "We will not proceed with housing families on a site where serious environmental concerns are still present. My administration remains committed to a data-driven plan to improve the asylum seeker response and we will continue to coordinate with the City of Chicago as we work to expand available shelter through winter."

"IEPA would not approve the proposed Brighton Park site for residential use, based on our regulatory standards for

remediation of contaminated properties," said Illinois EPA Director John J. Kim. "The well-being of residents and workers at the site is our highest priority, and current and planned site conditions do not adequately reduce risks of human exposure to known and potential environmental conditions."

IEPA conducted a thorough review of the Environmental Investigation and Corrective Action Summary prepared for the City of Chicago and identified several concerns with the sampling and remediation work performed at the Brighton Park site.

IEPA found: The limited nature and insufficient number of soil borings conducted at the site does not provide a comprehensive assessment of environmental conditions across the site.

Additional soil sampling is needed to further determine if there is additional contamination at the site and to fully investigate potential sources of contamination that were identified from historical site use.

The remediations implemented thus far do not satisfy IEPA stan-



ILLINOIS GOVERNOR J.B. PRITZKER

dards and are insufficient. At a minimum, an expanded engineered barrier between contaminated soil and human exposure would need to be installed to address exposure concerns. Further investigation might also identify additional contamination that would require additional remediation.

Using IEPA's Site Remediation Program guidelines, the insufficient sampling and remediation at the Brighton Park site does not meet State cleanup standards for residential use.

Urge Payment Of Property Taxes



COOK COUNTY TREASURER M. PAPPAS

Cook County Treasurer Maria Pappas urges property owners who have not paid property taxes that were due in 2022 to act quickly to avoid the Annual Tax Sale.

To find out if your property is on the Annual Tax Sale list: Go to cookcountytreasurer.com. Use the purple box on the home page labeled "Your Property Tax Overview" and search using an address or Property Index Number (PIN). A banner with an urgent warning will appear if your property is on the Annual Tax Sale list.

You may also use the website to correct your mailing address. Each year the U.S. Postal Service returns thousands of certified notices sent to owners of properties on the Annual Tax Sale list because property owners have not kept their mailing addresses up to date.

The Annual Tax Sale will occur Jan. 9-12, 2024, for properties with unpaid 2021 property taxes due in 2022. The Annual Tax Sale occurs

13 months after the due date.

Owners of 52,401 properties owe more than \$236 million in taxes that were due in 2022. Nearly 30,000 owe more than \$1,000 while 22,884 owe less than \$1,000, including owners of 15,944 properties in Chicago and 6,940 parcels in suburban Cook County.

The Treasurer's Office is mailing certified notices alerting property owners their unpaid taxes are to be offered for sale, which would put a lien against their properties. It is the first step in a process that can end with a property owner losing their home, business or land. Besides the mailings, the Treasurer's Office will publish lists of properties with delinquencies tax lists in local newspapers.

Payment can be made in five ways: Online for free at cookcountytreasurer.com. In person at any Chase Bank location in Illinois. In person at any of more than 100 community banks where you have an account. By mail. In person at the Treasurer's Office.

Homeowners can use the website to make sure they are receiving exemptions including the Homeowner, Senior Citizen and Senior Freeze.

Investors buy delinquent tax debt during the Annual Tax Sale. The Annual Tax Sale does not involve the sale of actual properties.

If your taxes are sold your options include redeeming your taxes, seeking a Sale-in-Error Declaration or filing a statutory "Redemption Under Protest."

Visit cookcountytreasurer.com for more information.

Local Graduates At UW-Madison

Over 1,300 students received doctoral, bachelor's, master's and professional degrees in August from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

While there is no commencement ceremony in August, many of the graduates take part in the ceremonies the previous spring or in December.

Local degree recipients are Jo Gutierrez, Bachelor of Arts, Sociology; Aja Jones, Master of Science, School Psychology and Armando Sanchez, Bachelor of Science, Education Studies.

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Silver Skates Event At McKinley Park



Photo provided by the Chicago Park District

The Chicago Park District will conduct the Annual Silver Skates Speed Skating Competition for ages 6 & up at McKinley Park, 2210 W. Pershing rd. on Wednesday, Jan. 10th from 5:15 to 7:15 p.m. Adult skaters are invited to an 18 & over meet immediately following the children's meet. Participants must wear gloves, long sleeves, and a bicycle or hockey helmet to participate. Figure skates, hockey skates, or speed skates will be available free of charge. Registration will be taken from the first-served basis to the first 20 participants from each age group and gender. Register online at <https://endurancecui.active.com/event-reg/select-race?e=88309512>. Participants under the age of 18 must have a parent or guardian register them.

Open Studios At Bridgeport Art Ctr.



Provided by Bridgeport Art Center

The Bridgeport Art Center, 1200 W. 35th st. will conduct 3rd Fridays

Open Studio on Dec. 15th from 7 to 10 p.m. Enter and check-in through the Atrium Entrance off of Racine Street. +21 wristbands are available at check-in for complimentary wine bar. A Holiday Pop-Up will be held on the 5th floor.

English Literacy Volunteers Needed

Aquinas Literacy Center, 1751 W. 35th st. needs volunteers to help adult immigrants learn English. You do not have to speak another language, all tutoring is in English for 90 minutes per week.

The next tutor workshop will be conducted on Saturday, Jan 27th from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Register in advance to begin tutoring. For more information, contact the Associate Director at sabrina@aquinasliteracycenter.org or (773) 927-0512. The Literacy Center is sponsored by the Adrian Dominican Sisters.

Brighton Park Library Schedules Programs

The Brighton Park Branch Library, 4314 S. Archer has scheduled engaging programs. Hours are Monday and Wednesday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Tuesday and Thursday noon to 8 p.m.; Friday and Saturday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Sunday 1 to 5 p.m.

Help with Homework from the Teacher in the Library program is available on Mondays from 3:30 to 6 p.m.; Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3:30 to 6:30 p.m.

Graphic Novel and Manga Book Discussions will be held on Thursday, Dec. 21st from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Each month, read and discuss a graphic novel and a manga selection. Stay for the conversations that can be anything from the details of the book to the latest happenings in comic book culture.

Family Craft Night will be enjoyed on Thursday, Dec. 14th from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

LEGO Duplo Club will meet on Thursdays, Dec. 7th to 21st from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Families with children ages 5 & up will build their own design or try a design challenge. Work on your own or as a team.

Middle Schoolers in grades 6 to 8 are invited to play video games or Nintendo Switch, make crafts and art on Tuesdays through Dec. 19th from 3:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Family Story time will feature picture books, stories, songs and a paper craft activity on Tuesdays through Dec. 19th from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Preschool Story time will Mx. Dannie has stories, songs and other fun activities to practice literacy skills on Wednesdays through Dec. 20th from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m.

STEM Agent Academy - Secret Agent Science for

3rd through 8th grade is conducted on Thursdays through Dec. 21st from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Join Mx. Dannie to perform a variety of science experiments.

Poetry Workshop with Brighton Park Poets will be held on Sundays, Dec. 10th and Jan. 7th from 1:30 to 4 p.m. Participants will discuss source poems, respond to thoughtful prompts and share their work.

The facilitator is bilingual (English, Spanish). Though most of the workshop will be facilitated in English, work written in Spanish is welcome and prompts can be offered in both languages.

An Earthshakers Nature Club for ages 6 to 13 is set for a Thursday, Dec. 7th from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

A Banner Making Workshop will be taught on Saturday, Dec. 9th from 12 to 2 p.m. Artist, Aram Han Sifuentes, started the project Protest Banner Lending Library in November 2016. She facilitates free public workshops and maintains lending libraries.

An Interactive Caroling Concert by the Old Town School of Folk Music will be enjoyed on Sunday, Dec. 10th from 2 to 3 p.m.

Smartphone Photography 101: Starring Your Neighborhood will be taught on Tuesday, Dec. 12th from 6 to 7 p.m. Learn mobile photography tips and tricks, explore options for editing your creations and transition from taking pictures to making pictures. Visit chicagopubliclibrary.org to register.

New Children's Book By Zoo Veterinarian



E.M. DUTTIRE

Pao Pangolin is a new children's book self-published by Eva Maria Duttire, an Austrian zoo veterinarian who was inspired by her residency experience with pangolins at Brookfield Zoo. The book tells the story of an African pangolin named Pao who gets lost in the savannah and must find a way to survive as he is swept away by a human.

The story demonstrates how even the smallest of creatures can be brave, while also educating young readers about the illegal wildlife trade and animals being threatened by extinction.

Pangolins are small, scaly mammals found in Africa and Asia. Due to demand for their scales and meat, pangolins have become one of the world's most trafficked animals, with sources estimating up to 200,000 are taken from the wild illegally each year. The eight species range from vulnerable to critically endangered on the

Legion Post 1028 Invites Veterans

American Legion Central Park Post 1028 will hold its end-of-the-year meeting at 6945 W. Archer on Friday, Dec. 8th at 1 p.m.

A chicken dinner will follow and door prizes, provided by La Preferida Foods will be distributed. The Post seeks new members and this will be an opportunity to meet with fellow veterans.

For information, call John Divizio (708) 423-5922 jdivizio566@gmail.com or Henry Roa (733) 247-1522 mexfolroa@ameritech.net

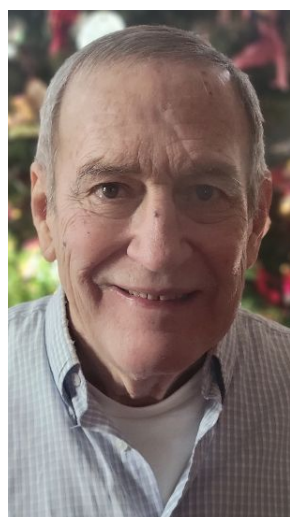
Obituaries

JOHN PATRICK CORLESS of Garfield Ridge and formerly of Brighton Park passed away on Nov. 22nd at the age of 66. He was the husband of 44 years to Diane Marie Corless (nee Franz); father of Kathleen Anne (Samuel Krasnik) Corless and John William (Jessica) Corless; grandfather of Issy, Gus and Nadia; son of late Barbara Jean (nee Chmelar) and late John Joseph Corless; brother of Donald and late Sharon Corless. Interment was at Fairmount Willow Hills Memorial Park, Willow Springs. Arrangements were entrusted to Zarzycki Manor Chapels.

JULIO C. LEON passed away Nov. 21st at the age of 26. He was the son of Julio Leon and Fabiola Melendez; friend of Joanna Chavez; father of 1 1/2 year old Jaziah; brother of Dillanira, Gadiel Tolentino. Visitation was held Nov. 24th at Ocwieja-Robles Funeral Home, 4256 S. Mozart. Interment was at Casimir Cemetery, 4401 W. 111th st.



MARK J. VALLE of Brighton Park, passed away on Dec. 1st at the age of 63, due to complications from Stage 4 Colon Cancer. He was preceded in death by his sister, Marcey Jo Valle; fraternal grandparents Frank and Felicia Valle and maternal grandparents John and Clara Parat. Survivors are his parents Marion and Joan (Parat) Valle; sisters, Michelle (Ted) Kash of Lisle, IL and Melissa (Valle) Tower of Hinckley, IL; nephews, Charles, William and Anthony Kash and Nicholas Tower, niece Elizabeth Kash. Visitation is held Dec. 6th, 3 to 8 p.m. at Ocwieja-Robles Funeral Home, 4256 S. Mozart. Visitation will continue Thursday, Dec. 7th from 9 to 10:20 a.m. at Five Holy Martyrs Catholic Church, 4301 S. Richmond followed by Catholic Mass at 10:30 a.m.



DOUGLAS BRADFORD JOHNSON, passed away on Dec. 1st at the age of 78. He was a part time resident of McKinley Park and Green Valley, AZ. Doug was the husband of Carmen (nee Lara); father of Misty (Pablo Solorzano) Villafuerte; grandfather of Olivia and Oscar Solorzano; brother of Mike Johnson and Leslie Shade. Private cremation was entrusted to Wollschlager Funeral Home, 3604 S. Hoyne ave.

International Union for Conservation of Nature's Red List. The Chicago Zoological Society's Brookfield Zoo is a founding member of the North American Pangolin Consortium, which works to increase the known biology, behavior, nutritional requirements, and reproductive physiology of Africa's white-bellied pangolin in the wild and in zoo settings.

Through this book, Duttire is funding pangolin conservation efforts, with 100 percent of the proceeds being donated to the North American Pangolin Consortium, which also brings together zoological institutions and other not-for-profits to respond to pangolin conservation threats and helps support field research. Duttire is a board-certified zoo veterinarian who specialized in conservation medicine at the University of Vienna and completed her residency at the Copenhagen Zoo. While on maternity leave, she was inspired to write this book. She now lives in the French Alps with her family and spends her spare time writing.

Pao Pangolin is available for purchase on Amazon, Barnes & Noble, Walmart, Target, and on-site at Brookfield Zoo. For more information, visit CZS.org/SaveThePangolin.

Civic Meeting In Archer Heights

The Archer Heights Civic Association will conduct a general membership meeting in the St. Richard Church Hall, 50th and Kostner at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 13th.

Topics for discussion will include updates on several ongoing issues.

All community residents are welcome to join the meeting to keep informed. Coffee and cake will be served.

Archer Heights Library Schedules Programs

The Archer Heights Branch Library, 5055 S. Archer has scheduled a wide range of informative programs.

The Banned Books Club will meet to discuss on Thursday, Dec. 28th from 4 to 5 p.m. December's topic is *Gender Queer* by Maia Kobabe.

Wednesday Book Clubs for Polish on 3rd Wednesday each month at 6:30 p.m. and English 4th Wednesday each month at 1 and 6:30 p.m. Pick up copies at the circulation desk. No registration required.

Conversations & Coffee: English Languages are planned for Sundays through Dec. 17th from 3 to 4 p.m. Join new English speakers for 60 minutes or practice in a relaxed environment. All levels are welcome.

Maker Monday: Art Club for ages 13 to 19 will be offered Mondays through Dec. 18th from 4 to 5 p.m. Materials will be provided to create a fun art project.

Self Care for ages 13 to 19 will be offered on Thursday, Dec. 7th from 4 to 5 p.m. Each month, a new activity will give teens the tools to manage their mental health.

Beading Time: On Dec. 9th, an Illusion Necklace will be created for a special occasion or for a gift. Register at the registration desk.

The Manga and Anime Club will meet on Thursday, Dec. 14th from 4 to 5 p.m. Discuss books, shows, and discover new favorites.

Family Story and Play Time for ages 0 to 5 and caregivers is held on Thursdays through Dec. 28th from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sing and dance your way through an active story time filled with exciting books. Open play follows with giant blocks, puppets and make new friends.

Fun Club for ages 3 and up is conducted on Tuesdays through Dec. 26th from 4 to 5 p.m. Each

week explore a different craft, experiment or engineering project followed by kid-led play with LEGOs, car tracks and more.

Snowy Day stories and crafts will be enjoyed on Saturday, Dec. 9th at 11 a.m.

Create your own Candy House with Graham crackers and frosting on Monday, Dec. 18th at 6 p.m.

Craft Lab for teens and adults will feature Gift Cards on Monday, Dec. 11th at 6:30 p.m.

Homework help is available from a certified teacher on Sundays from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. and Thursdays from 3 to 6 p.m.

Popcorn Reading for children who will read aloud will be held Wednesdays through Dec. 27th from 5 to 5:30 p.m. Practice reading skills in a fun and supportive environment.

Craft Lab: Gift Cards for teens and adults will be taught on Monday, Dec. 11th from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. All materials will be provided. Register online or in person.

For more information, visit chipublib.org.

Nativity Exhibit At St. Barbara

St. Mother Teresa of Calcutta Parish and St. Theresa Chinese Catholic School will present "The Living Nativity" at St. Barbara Catholic Church, 2859 S. Throop st. on Saturday, Dec. 16th from 3 to 5 p.m.

Celebrate the Christmas season with an outdoor scene complete with barnyard animals, Bethlehem's marketplace, music and Christmas readings in multiple languages. Afterwards, attend St. Barbara Church for the 5 p.m. Simbang Gabi Mass and reception. Admission is free.

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6 AM & 9:30 AM Sunday Masses

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Masses at St. Therese

Chinatown — 218 W. Alexander

Sunday Masses

8AM & 10:30AM in English

Weekday Schedule

Mon., Wed., & Fri. 8 AM Mass

December 10, 2023

St. Barbara: 312-842-7979 St. Therese: 312-842-6777 School 312-326-2837

Feast of the Immaculate Conception, Friday, Dec. 8
8AM St. Therese · 7PM St. Barbara

Sat., Dec. 16: 3-5PM, Outdoor Living Nativity, at St. Barbara
5PM, Filipino Simbang Gabi Mass & Reception Dinner



EMERGENCY HEATING REPAIR PROGRAM (EHRP) 2023-2024

The Emergency Heating Repair Program (EHRP) is a grant program available to income-eligible Chicago homeowners for service to repair or replace their furnace or boiler heating system. Grant funds are limited and available on a first-come, first-served basis.

OPEN ENROLLMENT PERIOD

November 1, 2023 to April 1, 2024

You can call 311, go to the CHI311 app, or visit www.chicago.gov/ehrp to apply

Size of Household	80% Area Median Income
1 Person	\$61,600
2 Person	\$70,600
3 Person	\$78,450
4 Person	\$88,250
5 Person	\$95,350
6 Person	\$102,400
7 Person	\$109,450
8 Person	\$116,500

The program is open to Chicagoans who own and occupy a 1-to-4 unit residential property within the city limits. The property must be in habitable condition and not at risk of foreclosure. Commercial and mixed-use properties do not qualify.

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Illinois Partners With Imagination Library

Governor JB Pritzker announces the statewide launch of Illinois' partnership with The Dollywood Foundation to provide Dolly Parton's Imagination Library. This book gifting program mails free, high-quality, and age-appropriate books to children from birth to age five, regardless of the family's income. The FY24 budget allocates \$1.6 million to the program to support early childhood learning and instill lifelong reading practice.

The Imagination Library Program is supported by The Dollywood Foundation, a nonprofit organization founded by Dolly Parton in 1988. Since launching in 1995, the library has become the preeminent early childhood book-gifting program in the world, with the mission of inspiring a love of reading in children from birth to age five. Inspired by her father's inability to read, the program was launched in her home county of Sevier County, Tennessee. It has gifted

over 220 million free books in the United States, Canada, United Kingdom, Australia, and Republic of Ireland. On a monthly basis, the Imagination Library mails over 2.8 million books.

The program is active across forty counties in Illinois with over 30,000 children receiving books and with this expansion, is expected to fully cover the entire state.

Research has shown that the first five years of life are critical for young children, with around 90% of brain development occurring during those years. Daily readings by parents or caregivers provide the greatest opportunity to prepare their child for school, and literacy is a long term major social determinant of health and economic impact. Children receiving books through the Imagination Library see increased readiness for kindergarten and higher academic achievement.

The program is available at 651 W Lake st. Visit www.imaginationlibrary.com.

Design Your Dream Gingerbread House



The Chicago Architecture Center, 111 E. Wacker dr. will conduct a Design Your Gingerbread Dream House workshop on Saturday, Dec. 9th at 1 p.m. The cost of \$20 includes one kit (suitable for 1 to 4 participants), hot cocoa and a guided tour of the classic homes portion of the Chicago Gallery.

Participants are encouraged to bring non-perishable canned goods for a food bank. Register at architecture.org. Admission to the center is free during December.

Free Help With College Applications

The Illinois Student Assistance Commission annual College Changes Everything® Campaign provides free college and financial aid application completion workshops. This year, activities will extend through the winter to better support students and families in light of the transition to and later launch date of the new Free Application for Federal Student Aid.

The U.S. Department of Education announced that the new, simplified 2024-25 FAFSA will not be available until December 2023. To align with the launch of the FAFSA, the 2024-25 Alternative Application for Illinois Financial Aid for qualifying

undocumented students will also launch in December 2023.

During November, ISAC and partners will continue to offer free college application workshops, as well as planning and financial aid presentations. Everyone who plans to complete the FAFSA will need to get an FSA ID (username and password), and the process may involve multiple steps. Free workshops encourage everyone to get their FSA ID now, so they will be ready to complete the FAFSA once it is available.

Visit <https://studentaid.gov/fsa-id>.

Santa Breakfast At Legion Post

William McKinley Post #231, The American Legion, 1954 W. 35th st. will conduct Breakfast With Santa on Saturday, Dec. 16th from 10 a.m. to 12 noon.

Other features are hot cocoa bar, photo with Santa and presents while supplies last. Admission is free.

Seasonal Fun In Millennium Park



Millennium Park will conduct Sing-Alongs in Wrigley Square on Fridays, Dec. 1st to 15th from 6 to 7 p.m.

Ice skating at the McCormick Tribune Ice Rink returns through March 3rd. DCASE presents free skating lessons (reservations required) from 9 to 10 a.m. on most Saturdays and Sundays, teaching beginner and intermediate ice skating and hockey skills

McKinley Library Schedules Programs

The McKinley Park Branch Library, 1915 W. 35th st. has scheduled interesting and informative programs.

Little Learners Story Time will be held on Fridays through Feb. 23rd from 10:30 to 11:15 a.m. Children 0 to 5 and their caregivers will join Ms. Katie for songs and stories.

Baby and Toddler Play Group will meet on Thursdays, Dec. 14th,

Music of Baroque Offers Concerts

The Music of the Baroque Chorus and Brass Ensemble will present holiday concerts that feature ethereal chant, majestic works for brass and some of the best choral music every written. Andrew Megill will conduct music by Gabriel, Paetorius and more.

Locations are: Grace Lutheran Church, 7300 W. Division st., River Forest on Thursday, Dec. 14th at 7:30 p.m.

St. Michael Church in Old Town, 1633 N. Cleveland ae. on Friday, Dec. 15th at 7:30 p.m.

Saints Faith, Hope & Charity, 191 Linden st., Winetka on Saturday, Dec. 16th at 2 p.m.

Alice Millar Chapel, 1870 Sheridan rd., Evanston on Sunday, Dec. 17th at 2 p.m.

For more information, visit baroque.org.

Mexican Museum Offers Programs

The National Museum of Mexican Art, 1852 W. 19th st. has scheduled a wide range of programs.

Reservations for docent-led tours of Dia de Muertos exhibition can be made on the website via online form.

The Museum's youth initiative Yolcalli Arts Reach has been chosen to participate in a charitable giving campaign funded by Target. Now through Dec. 31st, vote for us through the Target Circle program. Find out more and vote at www.target.com/circle.

Loyola University Chicago is interested in understanding more about children's learning and improving the academic success by participating in two 45-60 minute conversations with a family of children ages 3.5 Families will receive \$45 and a small gift. Email cmaldonado1@luc.edu for more information.

Carlos Cortez 100 ANOS, in the Rubin & Paula Torres Gallery, Salvador Jimenez-Flores: eagle, serpiente, nopalli in the Xicaco Gallery. Nue-trar Historias: Stories of Mexican Identity from the Permanent Collection.

The Museum will offer several engaging programs during December, giving families the chance to explore the galleries while learning about Mexican art and culture. Visit our website to learn more about how to register for these free programs: Studio Saturday: Comics in the Galleries, Dec. 16th from 10 to 11 a.m.; Listo para el museo: Storytime in the Galleries, Dec. 16th at 11:30 a.m. Our website if filled with fun learning resources the whole family can enjoy. Young crafters will enjoy the en Casa Weaving Workshop.

Registration is required, email angela@nationalmuseumofmexicanart.org.

Dinner With Santa At Brookfield Zoo



Photo credit: CZS - Brookfield Zoo

Santa will make an appearance to pose for photos and hear children's wish lists at Brookfield Zoo's Dinner with Santa.

This holiday season, Brookfield Zoo has plenty of opportunities for families to spend festive time together and enjoy dinner with Santa while supporting the conservation efforts and animal care work of the Chicago Zoological Society.

There will be a kid-friendly buffet for the younger diners as well as vegetarian options. Santa will pose for photos and hear everyone's wish list. After dinner, enjoy the festivities of Holiday Magic featuring more than two million dazzling LED lights, ice carving demonstrations, caroling, and more.

Nature Art Class At Ryan Woods

The Forest Preserves of Cook County will conduct an "Art in Nature" course at the Dan Ryan Woods Visitor Center, 87th and Western on Saturday, Dec. 23rd from 10 a.m. to 12 noon.

All materials will be provided. Ages 15 and up. Registration is required at (312) 415-2970.

Seatings for dinner are available on Friday, Dec. 15th at 3:30 or 6 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday, Dec. 16th & 17th at 6 p.m. Tickets, which include Zoo admission and parking, range from \$85-90 for adults and \$40 for children 3 to 11. Children 3 and under eat for free.

For more information or to purchase tickets, visit czs.org/Events.

Travelers Aid Seeks Volunteers

O'Hare International Airport and its social services partner Travelers Aid are seeking volunteers to staff information desks and provide resources and social referrals to passengers.

Volunteers complete a comprehensive training program to understand airport operations and usually perform one five-hour shift per week.

Residents interested in becoming a Travelers Aid volunteer should visit the organization's flychicago.com and email travelersaid@heartlandalliance.org.

Ridge Library Plans Programs

The Garfield Ridge Branch, 6347 S. Archer, has scheduled an interesting schedule of programs.

Baby & Toddler Programs

Time for Tots ages 18-36 month Monday, Dec. 11th at 10:30 a.m. Read stories, learn the ABCs, sing songs and make a craft to take home.

Time for Tots, ages 18

to 36 months with a caregiver, will experience stories, songs, rhymes and a themed craft to take home. Early arrivals can color, build puzzles and play with toys. The event is offered Monday, Dec. 11th from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.

Senior Programs

Senior Christmas Party on Saturday, Dec. 9th from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Bud and Marge will serenade with holiday tunes and good cheer. Wear something festive - gold, red or green. Refreshments will be provided.

Adult Programs

Crochet 101 Series on Sunday, Dec. 10th from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. Create your own project. Bring what you have from home or we have supplies.

Register for events at <https://chipublib.bibliocommons.com/events/>

Nature Play Day At Ryan Woods

The Forest Preserves of Cook County will conduct Open Nature Play Day at the Dan Ryan Woods Visitor Center, 87th and Western on Wednesdays through Dec. 27th from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Bring your little ones and help them connect with nature, enjoy stories, eat and exploration.



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For more info, call 773-582-4444 or email ward23@cityofchicago.org

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