



KCSD96

staff newsletter

Staff (staf) n., 1. a group of people working together for a common goal
Kildeer Countryside School District 96 • June 2017

From Supt. Julie Schmidt:

Maybe you feel the same way...? I find this to be a bittersweet time in the school year. There are the inevitable fond farewells to retirees and—this year—to administrative staff leaving KCSD96 to embrace hard-earned professional opportunities.

There is the full-court press effort in our classrooms and district wide to wrap up the school year and all the work that entails. Some students who don't like change need reassurance that they're prepared to succeed next year with a different teacher in the grade ahead. Others,

anticipating summer break, are distracted and squirmy, seemingly only listening for the final bell. And after months together, you've come to know them all so well....

I hope when you hear that final bell ring that you'll give yourself credit and enjoy well-earned satisfaction for an outstanding year of KCSD96 students' academic and social/emotional growth and positive learning experiences.

I hope you'll take pride in your work in closing the gap, building confidence, creating interest, encouraging, requiring, supporting,

and listening. I hope you're personally rewarded by what you've accomplished as a teacher or support staff this year, embracing the KCSD96 value of meeting the needs of every child in every school every day. The work you do matters and I recognize and appreciate all you put into it personally and professionally.

And I hope, too, that you'll have great summer weeks ahead—including lazy days to enjoy sunshine, backyard barbecues, times with friends and family, and a slower pace. Isn't it about time for that final bell?!

Enjoy,
--Julie Schmidt

BUILDING ACCESS THIS SUMMER

All Access Cards will be deactivated June 7th.

There will be no access to ALL buildings after July 1st. Staff may coordinate with their front office to see if there are any times they can access their classroom in June, though this is dependent and subject to custodial and summer projects.

Summer School is at Ivy Hall. Staff working summer school will have the appropriate access level.

MOST staff development will be held at Ivy Hall, and summer writing will be done at Kildeer. Access cards will not be needed to enter Ivy Hall or Kildeer. The doors will be opened by the custodial staff.

It's possible there might be some staff development held at Kildeer, however, so please check My Learning Plan to confirm location.

With regard to building access in August, every building will be different. Please check with your building principal for this information after August 1st.

Kelly McNamara's
Ivy Hall 4th-graders, adopted by Supt. Julie Schmidt, enjoy visiting her in the District Office.



APPLAUSE

Congratulations to Lucas Cowden, KCSD96 Technology Manager, and **Allison** on the birth last June 22 of **Archer James**. Archer, who weighed 7 pounds, 6 ounces, and measured 21 inches at birth is looking forward to celebrating his first birthday soon...

Congratulations to Lindsey and Luke Emde, Kildeer Grade 2 and PE teachers respectively, and parents of **Casey James**, born earlier this school year on Nov. 10. At birth, Casey was 7 pounds, 2 ounces, and 19 inches.

Congratulations to Elizabeth Zambo, Woodlawn special education teacher, who this month was awarded her second master's degree. She and her husband were married at the start of the current school year, on Aug. 13.

Congratulations to Prairie Special Ed. teacher **Nicole Vecchie**, mom of twins **Chase Michael** and **Delaney Dawn**, born Feb. 15. At birth, Chase weighed 5 pounds, 12 ounces, and Delaney weighed 6 pounds, 5 ounces.

Best wishes to Becca Baich, Country Meadows Grade 4 teacher, who married **Michael Goodman** earlier in the school year, on Oct. 9.

Congrats to Cathy Alland, Twin Groves math/options teacher, who has much to celebrate. Her children **Kevin** and **Tori** both are engaged and her son **Jeremy** and his wife are expecting Cathy's grandchild, due this summer.

Best wishes to newlyweds **Jane Coleman**, Ivy Hall/Willow Grove music teacher, and her husband **Mark**, married in April.

Best wishes to Jacklyn Gelman, Kildeer math coach, who will marry **Ricky Brandt** on July 2 in Deerfield. Their honeymoon will be in the Dominican Republic.

Best wishes to Stephanie Schmidt, Country Meadows special education aide, who will marry **Kyle Just** this summer on July 15 in Lake Geneva. Stephanie's mom is **Louise Schmidt**, Country Meadows literacy coach.

Best wishes to Cara Ying and her fiancé **Garth Anderson**. They will marry in June in Naperville and take their honeymoon in Maui.

Congratulations to Maureen Kelly, Prairie Grade 3 teacher, whose son **Robert** will marry **Anastasia Guletsky** on Sept. 30.



Staff celebrating 20 years of service include: (back row, l to r) Steve Vosefski, Amy Gluck, Howard Frishman, Rich Polidoro, Mary Stotz, Lisa May (front row, l to r) Teresa Dennis, Kim Miller, Jason Pazol, and Linda Tandet. Not pictured: Miriam Novak

APPLAUSE

Congratulations to Ann Kozub, KCSD96 public info dept., for her family's graduation trifecta. Her children (D96 alumni) all are celebrating graduations in 2017: **Jenna** from the Univ. of Kansas (MSE, Curriculum & Instruction), **Tyler** from Stevenson H.S. (will attend Indiana Univ., Kelley School of Business), and **Zachary**, in Dec. 2017 from Miami University, Farmer School of Business, Oxford, OH (BS, accounting).

Congratulations to Ellen Gartenberg, Woodlawn math/options teacher, whose daughter **Brittany** graduated from Illinois State University. Also, congratulations are due to Ellen, as well, for her selection to participate in the International Education Japan program this summer.

Congratulations to Carol Pio, Twin Groves special education teacher, on the birth of her son **Maxwell Anthony**, born April 15.

Congratulations to Mara Barry, Willow Grove language development coach, on her son's graduation from Stevenson High School. **Marty** will attend the University of Georgia.

Congratulations to Woodlawn technology aide Deborah Feldman and her daughter **Jamie**—a KCSD96 Twin Groves alumna—who was married on May 13. Jamie is current prosecutor for the Lake County State's Attorney Office.

Congratulations to Sheila O'Gara, Willow Grove PE teacher, whose son **Connor** married his college sweetheart from Indiana University last Sept. They live in Altamonte Springs, FL.

Congratulations to Gloria Ufheil, Woodlawn Grades 7 & 8 social studies teacher, on her daughter's graduation (summa cum laude) from Drake University. **Angela Ufheil** earned a double major in writing and journalism and works at *Midwest Living Magazine* in Des Moines.

Best wishes to Woodlawn math teacher Kristyn Keehnast Everett and Justin Everett, married early this school year on Sept. 24. In July they will travel to Italy for their honeymoon.

Congratulations to Hilary Kugler, Twin Groves speech-language pathologist, on the birth on March 28 of **Scarlett Lauren Kugler**. At birth Lauren weighed 7 pounds, 10 ounces, and measured 21 inches.

Congratulations to Vail Kieser, Kildeer principal, and **Brent**, who welcomed **Colton Clifford** on Apr. 25. At birth Colton weighed 8 pounds, 2 ounces, and measured 20 inches. **Nolyn** is his proud big sister.

Congratulations to Scott Eichaker, District Office head custodian, and **Kim** on the birth of **Hailey Sparks** on Apr. 12. At birth Hailey weighed 7 pounds, 11 ounces, and measured 19.5 inches.

Congratulations to Jaclyn Griffin, Country Meadows ELL teacher and mom of twins born May 1. **Nora Kathleen** weighed 6 pounds, 6 ounces, and **Patrick William** weighed 7 pounds, 10 ounces, at birth.

Congratulations to Katie Sheridan, and **Adam**, on the birth of **Graham Eli Sheridan** on May 21. At birth Graham weighed 8 pounds, 14 ounces, and measured 22 inches.

Congratulations to Marcy Ortegon on the birth of **Joshua Edward** on May 29. At birth, Joshua weighed 7 pounds, 2 ounces, and measured 20 inches.

Congratulations to Barb Zarnikow, expecting twin grandsons due July 14. Their dad Kevin is a KCSD96 alumnus.

Best wishes to *all* KCSD96 2017 retirees:

Debbie Blair, Peg Brucato, Jose Castro, Rosie Crawford, Lynn Johaneck, Maureen Kelly, Mary Ellen Kraemer, Barb Mitchell, Randy Warren, and Sue Winston. Some of our retirees share their reflections and plans for their next chapter....

Debbie Blair

Physical Education Teacher, Kildeer Countryside Elementary School

I have felt so fortunate to teach in a district that recognizes the importance of daily PE. I am so grateful to have been a part of such an amazing staff that supports and respects one another and strives to ensure the success of every student.

The friendships I have made at school will last a lifetime, on a daily basis more than the students' smiling faces with the excitement shown

My plans for retirement include working at a needlepoint shop 2-3 days a week, spending more time with my family, and never forget all of the happy years I spent at Kildeer!

"I am so grateful to have been a part of such an amazing staff...."

throughout my 26 years at this school and I will miss being together more than words can say. I will also miss as they enter the gym along with me when they master new skills!

include working at a week, subbing just for PE, and my seven grandchildren! I will

Jose Castro

Head Custodian, Prairie Elementary School

I liked standing on the four-wheel cart and riding past the Prairie School office windows smiling and waving. This would always make the office people laugh.

I also enjoyed teasing Prairie Administrative Assistant **Linda Johnson**.... When I got locked in the elevator, I'd yell, "Help me, help me! I can't breathe...." (I thought it was funny.)

My advice is to be proud of your job and proud of your building.

"Be proud of your job and proud of your building...."

Rosie Crawford

Nurse, Woodlawn Middle School

I remember the first week I worked here.... I was hired after school had started, so it was a catch-up time for me. The nurse's office was busy from my first day onward. That first week I had to administer an Epi Pen and deal with possible anaphylactic shock, ambulance protocol, and all the "hoopla" this medical emergency has to deal with,... AND perform the Heimlich maneuver on a student gagging and having difficulty breathing.

All I could think was..."Boy, this place REALLY does need a nurse!" From that moment on, my work was much tamer.

Although I have been here for 4 years, it seems like a lifetime. The friendships made and the memories created have enriched my life and made my smile even broader. I will miss the students, my co-workers...all of them!! Each one has impressed my heart with a lasting recollection and an unbelievable treasure of memories.

My advice to those who will continue working is this: Choose to think on those "things" that are good, worthwhile, and hopeful. I believe then that your work will always be measured in valued effort. Smiling helps, too!

The most appealing attribute about retirement is throwing the alarm clock away! I plan to take more time to be with my family, my granddaughter **Emma**, and my friends. I will not need an excuse now to have fun—any time of the day.

One last thought for all of you: How lucky I've been, to make saying good-bye so hard. Bless all of you, for you have certainly blessed me!!!

"How lucky I've been, to make saying goodbye so hard...."

Maureen Kelly

Grade 3 Teacher, Prairie Elementary School

I will miss the students and my colleagues. The KCSD96 community is very special and professional. I have many friends whom I will no longer see on a daily basis and I will miss that.

"The KCSD96 community is very special and professional...."

I think my best advice to my new and seasoned colleagues is to accept change. It will help you to grow. While it's always hard when it's happening, you realize the value of change once you've done it.

In reflecting on her years at Prairie, recalling a chaotic classroom incident makes Maureen smile:

Once when we were working on the prairie unit, a chameleon jumped out of the container and landed on my shoulder. A little girl named **Isabella** volunteered to grab it so it wouldn't get away. When she grabbed it she screamed. It got away and ran loose in the classroom with everyone running to catch it.

Looking ahead:

I will find it appealing to plan my own schedule, and to get exercise during the day, instead of when I'm tired. I will also read books for pleasure and travel more. I plan to enjoy my son's wedding in September and complete projects on my house.

Barb Mitchell

Kindergarten Teacher, Willow Grove Early Learning Center

On Friday nights, a few of us stay late to prepare for the next week. Between the weariness of the week and the lateness of the hour, we start laughing. **Jen Chappas** would be overtired because it was past her bedtime (6:30 p.m.). I would be in my usual state of confusion over which target we were assessing: KNBT.c.C-4ab.6 or KNBT.c.C-4bc?

Directions

(Retiree **Barb Mitchell's** Reflections - continued)

Holzman would be high on toner fumes. Whatever the reason, we would start laughing and we'd laugh until we cried. I know I will have better Friday nights in my future, but I'll definitely miss laughing with the Late Night Crew.

I know I will miss the people at Willow Grove. They are the smartest, hardest-working, most talented people I've ever met.

In the days and years ahead I'm looking forward to having TIME—time with my family, time with my friends, time with my dog, time in my garden, time to read, and time just for me.

My advice for my colleagues—young and old—is this:

Own a dog.

Plant flowers.

Read good books.

Marry the right person.

Be the right person.

Raise responsible, happy children.

Listen to a variety of music.

Drink wine.

Embrace technology, but don't let it take over your life.

Put down the device, look people in the eyes, and talk to them.

Own a dog.

"My co-workers are the smartest, hardest-working, most talented people I've ever met."

Mary Ellen Kraemer

Clerical Aide, Woodlawn Middle School

Every day at Woodlawn there is fun and laughter with our staff and students.

KCSD96 is my second family—there has never been a day that I didn't want to come to work. The students and staff bring sunshiny days each and every day.

Woodlawn staff have the biggest team anyone could ever ask for. They support you. I have built lifetime friendships with you. I feel so blessed to be a part of this

"KCSD96 is my second family...."

I look forward to spending quality time with my husband who recently retired, my pride &

Chloe, my family and friends, and also

me in my Retirement Years, including, God willing, good health and happiness from this day forward!

hearts and support are always there for that will last forever. district.

with my husband joy granddaughter whatever life holds for

Thank you District 96 for 28 special years and lots of memories to treasure forever!

Randy Warren

Director, Facilities & Transportation

It's a small world.... In 1980, I was hired for my first job in a school district as a night custodian. **Jim Monroe**—the director of buildings/grounds and transportation for School District 25—hired me. Jim was very instrumental in my success and growth in District 25 during my 21 years there. I didn't know a lot about Jim's personal life, but I did know that he lived on Schaefer Road in Long Grove with his wife and two daughters. Twenty-five years later, during my first year here in District 96, one of my first transportation calls was from a mom who lived on Schaeffer Road in Long Grove. She started our conversation by telling me that she wasn't one of the "typical" moms calling to complain about her daughter's bus stop. This mother explained that she completely understood the issues that we deal with in transportation because her dad was a retired transportation director from a neighboring district. On a hunch I asked her if her dad was Jim Monroe.... My career had come full circle!

As I retire from KCSD96, I will definitely miss all the people I work with here, but will especially miss my custodial staff. I've worked in three school districts throughout my career and can say without a doubt that this is the finest group I have ever had the pleasure of knowing. The way they consistently go above and beyond to help out, whether it's for me or another colleague, is truly exceptional. They have definitely made my job easier during my time in District 96.

"The way they consistently go above and beyond to help out is truly exceptional...."

Looking ahead, my immediate plans are to take the rest of the summer off. My wife is a teacher, so she is not too excited about me being around during "her" time, but I'm sure we'll figure it out! After that, I would like to find some part-time work, hopefully improve my golf game, travel, and spend more time with my family.

Sue Winston

Administrative Assistant, Willow Grove Early Learning Center

What about her years at KCSD96 will Sue Winston miss the most?

"Absolutely, I'll miss the people I've worked with!" she says.

For those colleagues with many work years still ahead Sue advises each to remember to treasure the time: "Believe it or not, it goes by fast."

"Believe it or not, it goes by fast...."

She looks most forward to no alarm at 5:30 a.m. She also will appreciate having time for the volunteer work she wants to do.

KEA Officers/ Building Representatives for 2017–2018

President: Ben Leven
Vice President: Jeff Cummings
Treasurer: Jill Leone
Secretary: Samantha Schaefer

Region Council Representative:
Kristina Harvat

Building Representatives *Country Meadows:*

Mary Fey
Tosia Sas

Ivy Hall:

Marci Fooden
Kathy Ok

Kildeer:

Leslie Norman
Marilee Sarlitto

Prairie:

Chris Morris
Erin Sauer

Twin Groves:

Lisa Ruff
Jacki McMullen

Woodlawn:

Ellen Gartenberg
Tammy Cornwell

Willow Grove:

Linda Tandet
Sheila O'Gara

Congratulations to
District 96 faculty
who earned
Advanced Degrees
in the 2016–17
School Year:

Jennifer Didech

Marcy Ortegon

Jeff Williams

Leslie Yu

Elizabeth Zambo

ESP Officers/ Building Representatives for 2017–2018

Co-Presidents:

Karen Graham & Lorna Jaegers

Secretary: Ellen Shapiro

Treasurer: Pam Kupsco

Building Representatives

Willow Grove:

Karen Graham

Country Meadows:

Open

Ivy Hall:

Scott Eichaker

Kildeer:

Julie Donofrio

Prairie:

Sheryl Schechter & Joan Dahm

Twin Groves:

Tricia Pazdioch

Woodlawn:

Terri Chiodo



Pictured with **Supt. Julie Schmidt**, District 96 staff member **Dawn Bussert** (left) is recognized for 25 years of service.



Recipients of advanced degrees include (l to r) **Elizabeth Zambo**, **Leslie Yu**, **Jeff Williams**, **Jennifer Didech**, and **Marcy Ortegon**.

Years of Service milestones...

10 YRS:

Nancy Baker-Curtis
Susan Boyce
Patricia Campbell
Nikki Comin
Cheryl Decker
Linda Dolan
Gerardo Figueroa
Rogelio Francisco
Jyoti Guerrero
Lauren Hoeft
Lynn Johanek
Vail Kieser
Cooper Koldon
Vickie Kotel
Ann Kozub
Alyson Lushpynskyj
Kelly McNamara
Jane Pedersen
Staci Rabin
Cynthia Rosenberg
Raquel Russell
Kevin Ryan
Lisa Scheribel
Shelly Scoville
Ellen Shapiro
Michele Thornburg-Koulentes

15 YRS:

Nancy Adinolfi
Candace Anderson
Eduardo Benitez
Erin Cooper
Tamara Cornwell
Chad Craw
Shaun Friziellie
Adam Greenberg
Robin LaBuda
Robin Lehtman
Nicole Luther-Heller
Jeremy Martin
Mary McDevitt
Raul Murillo
Daniel Nagle
Jennifer Smith
Claudia Stender

20 YRS:

Teresa Dennis
Howard Frishman
Amy Gluck
Lisa May
Kimberly Miller
Miriam Novak
Jason Pazol
Richard Polidoro
Mary Stotz
Linda Tandet
Stephen Vosefski

25 YRS:

Dawn Bussert

+ 25 YRS

Mara Barry - 26 years
Deborah Blair - 26 years*
Felicia Sladek - 26 years
Candace Fenske - 27 years
Kenneth Goodlow - 27 years
Julie Holzhauser - 27 years
Todd Spangler - 27 years
Nancy Wielondek - 27 years
Jeff Cummings - 28 years
Ruth Fineman - 28 years
Ellen Gartenberg - 28 years
Mary Ellen Kraemer - 28 years*
Susan Winston - 28 years*
Kathryn Naples-Angel - 29 years
James Donofrio - 30 years
Pamela Kupsco - 30 years
Carrie Dyer - 31 years
Maureen Kelly - 31 years*
James Cichowski - 32 years
Rachel Peters - 32 years
Jose Castro - 37 years*
Linda Johnson - 37 years
Christopher Kuhlman - 40 years
Patricia Hannon - 41 years
* - Retiring

District/Business Offices Summer Hours/UPDATE

The **District and Business Offices** will be open to the public on the following **summer schedule**:

June 5 through Aug. 4, 2017:

Mon.-Thurs.:

8:00 AM – 4:30 PM

Fri.:

7:30 AM – 11:30 AM

July 4: Closed in observance of Independence Day

Building Closure

The District Office building at 1050 Ivy Hall Lane, Buffalo Grove, will be closed throughout the summer for renovation after school closes on June 6.

District Office staff and administrators will work from the Ivy Hall School Office while renovation is underway. Note that their **phone extensions will not change during this period.**



District 96 staff **Pam Kupsco** and **Jim Donofrio** were recognized for 30 years of service.