

District Reporter

STEGER
DISTRICT 194

Spring 2018

Steger School District 194 Celebrates a Homecoming For Terry Boers

Students at Columbia Central were visited by recently retired author, sports commentator and journalist Terry Boers. Boers, a graduate of Steger Central, spoke about having goals and dreams, that students' success in life is dependent on taking a personal interest and connection in the people they meet throughout their lives.

He spoke warmly about an essay he wrote in his eighth grade English class about the then recent assassination of President John Kennedy. Boers recounted writing the essay comparing the assassinations of John F. Kennedy and Abraham Lincoln. He told students how complimentary his teacher had been and that she had submitted his essay to a national writing contest. This was the catalyst that would eventually lead him to his calling.

He spoke about that same teacher visiting him years later while he played softball and telling him how proud she was that he had pursued journalism.

He encouraged students to follow their teachers because all of their hard work is done with their students' success in mind.

Mr. Boers spoke to students about the many successful people that have come from Steger. "I'm not the exception," Mr. Boers said. "There are so many success stories that have



come from this town." Mr. Boers spoke about making personal connections and finding one's passion. He said that one of the best pieces of advice he'd ever received was from the famous golfer Arnold Palmer. "Arnold was known for his demeanor in a room. He'd walk around and talk to everybody. He was friendly with everybody. He made them feel important, like he knew them."

Students hung on every word as Mr. Boers talked about getting his break as a beat reporter for the Chicago Bulls in the 1980's and that his sons were astounded when Michael Jordan walked by in the tunnel and said glibly, "Hey T.Boes." Their astonishment was shared by eighth

grade students who asked questions after the presentation.

Students asked Mr. Boers' opinions on all manner of sports from Kerry Wood's twenty strikeout game to comparing Jordan to LeBron James. His wisdom in all things sports-related brought wonderment to the students. Mr. Boers talked about his personal relationships with Ron Kittle and how great it had been to be present when Michael Jordan celebrated his first championship with his father.

By the conclusion of the event, students were inspired, teachers were awed, and Steger was shining. Thank you Terry Boers, you make us all proud.



District 194 Confronts School Violence Through Education

March 14 marked one month since the deadly shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School — students across the country looked for a somber way to pay tribute to the 17 people killed in the Parkland massacre. Nationwide, thousands of students and teachers began walking out of their classrooms on Wednesday, March 14, as part of the the #Enough! National School Walkout to raise awareness about issues of school safety and the impact of gun violence. The nationwide march, organized by Women's March Youth EMPOWER, began at 10 a.m. Many marches lasted 17 minutes, to represent each of the victims of the shooting. Students from Marjory Stoneman Douglas were, of course, some of the most prominent participants.



In Steger School District 194, teachers spoke to students about the importance of staying in class and offered alternatives to walking out of the school. With safety as a primary concern, teachers allowed students to choose from a range of activities that would confront violence in school while remaining in the classroom. Students were encouraged to discuss issues surrounding school violence including bullying. Students could choose to create artwork, poetry, or music as a personal response to emotions they felt over the Parkland shooting. In addition, students were granted time to write letters to State Representative Anthony DeLuca of Illinois expressing their personal opinions on school violence prevention. In response to those letters, Representative DeLuca visited Columbia Central on March 27. Students participated in an open question-and-answer session. They were curious and open-minded about the legislative process and the discussion that was happening at the state level regarding gun control and personal freedom.

Farmers Insurance Winners for March

Steger Schol District 194 once again thanks the community of Steger and South Chicago Heights for their daily voting in the Farmer's Insurance Thank America's Teachers Contest. During the month of March, four teachers from District 194 won grants of \$2500 for their classrooms. They are:

- Lynn Husmann – hands-on student resources
- Mary Kirk – interactive resources for enrichment
- Sara Stuka – hands-on student resources for ELL students
- Nancy Walton – listening center

Over the life of the Thank America's Teachers program, Steger SD 194 teachers have won \$140,000.

Thank you for keeping the votes coming in and best wishes to our four contestants.



Curriculum and Instruction Corner

Welcoming Parents

With the end of the school year quickly approaching, District 194 will once again be providing our students and families with a summer reading book and family engagement activities. It is our hope families will read the book together. After reviewing some articles from various websites such as Education World, Reading Rockets, Edutopia, ISBE, etc. one thing was evident, parent involvement greatly enhances a child's success in school. The following quote is from the National Center for Education Statistics. "School-aged children in both two-parent and single-parent families are more likely to get mostly A's, to enjoy school, and to participate in extracurricular activities and are less likely to have ever repeated a grade and to have ever been suspended or expelled if their fathers or mothers have high as opposed to low levels of involvement in their schools." We always encourage building bridges with families and rolling out the welcome mat. This year the books for each grade include:

- Kindergarten moving to first – *The Lunch Box Surprise* and *Look! I Can Read*
- First grade moving to second – *Henry and Mudge The First Book*
- Second grade moving to third – *Freckle Juice*
- Third grade moving to fourth – *The Fabled Fourth Graders of Aesop Elementary School*
- Fourth grade moving to fifth – *Sideways Stories From Wayside School*

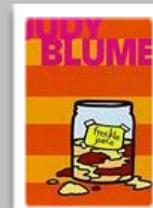
Students will receive an envelope at the end of the year with the book and family engagement activities. In addition, there be a brochure outlining some of the key objectives covered in our reading and math curriculums. Additionally, the Steger-South Chicago Heights Library has provided information pertaining to programs and book ideas.

Open House

An open house is another great opportunity to connect with students' teachers, familiarize families with the classroom, and learn about the expectations for the coming year. More than that, it is the perfect opportunity to get involved with the school. This year our open houses will be earlier than in the past. We will be holding our open houses in August.

Columbia Central	August 21, 2018	6:00 - 7:30 p.m.
Steger Intermediate Center	August 22, 2018	6:00 - 7:30 p.m.
Steger Primary Center	August 23, 2018	6:00 - 7:30 p.m.
First day of school	August 24, 2018	8:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Finally, we hope to see parents and families at our many springtime and end-of-the-year events.



Columbia Central Sports Corner

Girls Volleyball The Columbia Central 7th and 8th grade girls volleyball teams completed another successful season with records of 12-11 and 23-2 respectively. The seventh grade team fell one win short of a Regional Championship. The 8th grade Lady Cardinals were able to win both the Conference and Regional Championship before falling one win short of a second State Finals appearance.

Boys Volleyball The Cardinal Boys Volleyball teams completed successful seasons that saw huge potential for the future. Finishing one win shy of a Conference title, the future of the seventh grade Cardinals looks bright.

Soccer For the first time in the history of Columbia Central, the school is fielding both boys and girls soccer teams. The season is currently underway with coaches Mr. Coleman and Ms. Toran working hard to build successful programs.



Steger Primary Center Celebrates the 100th Day of School

Kindergarten students at Steger Primary Center celebrated the 100th day of school in February by rotating through stations and completing activities centered around the number 100. The students traveled to different classrooms and had the opportunity to participate in engaging, hands-on activities with all the Kindergarten teachers that included completing 100 exercises, making gumball machines with 100 finger-print gumballs, and making a trail mix with 100 pieces of food. The students enjoyed being in classrooms other than their own, and being with teachers that were new to them. At the end of the day, all the Kindergarten classes came together for a grand finale and read 100 words and popped 100 balloons together.



District 194 Celebrates Student Artists



This Columbia Central Art Club Project was completed using a grid technique of drawing and painting each piece individually. The final project is currently on display in the foyer of Columbia Central School.

On Wednesday, March 21, Columbia Central hosted the annual District 194 Art Show featuring artists from Kindergarten through eighth grade. Over 150 students had their artwork on display.

In addition, attendees were encouraged to participate in free make-and-take art projects for kids.



The Columbia Central Art Club spent several weeks painting a 6'x8' Columbia-themed mural on cardboard boxes that was debuted at the show and also was displayed at the SSJHA Fine Arts Festival.

Forty students worked together to draw the design using a grid method and then painted it. It is now on display at Columbia.



The SSJHSA Fine Arts Festival was held on Tuesday, April 10, at Washington-McKinley School in Chicago Heights. The Fine Arts Festival showcases artwork from all middle schools in the South Suburban Junior High School Association. The festival showcases both visual arts as well as music. Ribbons were awarded to the top-scoring pieces. District 194 had several students receiving ribbons including Nayana Banks (third place), Megan Mattox (second place), Raul Trevino (first place), and Marco Arcos (Instructor's Choice Award). Also representing Columbia at the show with their artwork were Sahmiya Arnold, Joshua Cruz, Maria Hernandez, Sidney Hutchinson, Bram Karris, Madison Mason, Julian Mendoza, Kevin Page, Payton Skrezyna, Jennifer Vallejo, Jorge Villalobos. Congratulations to all.



STEGER DISTRICT 194

Administration Center
3753 Park Avenue, Steger, IL
753-4300

Columbia Central
94 Richton Road, Steger, IL
755-0021

Steger Intermediate Center
3411 Hopkins Street, Steger, IL
753-4200

Steger Primary Center
3341 Miller Ave, South Chicago Heights, IL
753-4100

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[HTTP://www.sd194.org](http://www.sd194.org)

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A Word From Superintendent Hahto

Living the Steger 194 Code of Ethics

In 2016, the Steger 194 Board of Education approved a code of ethics for all employees. This is a document that clearly establishes expectations for every employee of the district – teachers, administrators, secretaries, custodians, coaches, food service personnel, club sponsors, teacher aides - anyone and everyone who gets a paycheck from or volunteers at School District 194.

The entire document, only one page long, can be found on our website on the superintendent's page. Here is the first of some notable statements in the document.

“All District employees are expected to maintain high standards in their school relationships, to demonstrate integrity and honesty, to be considerate and cooperative, and to maintain professional and appropriate relations with students, parents, staff members, and others.”

Another significant statement addresses employees as role models.

“In addition, employees of Steger School District 194 are expected to...serve as a positive role model for students, fellow employees, parents, and the community.”

And finally, a third statement addresses why the Code of Ethics is important.

“It is the belief of Steger School District 194 that the ethical conduct demonstrated by its employees influences the well-being of students, staff, and community.”

At an Administrative Council meeting in April, the Code of Ethics was reviewed and discussed by all district directors and principals and a special guest, Board President Michele Helsel, and we renewed our commitment to living and furthering the tenets of the document within all schools and among all district personnel.

Integrity, honesty, consideration, cooperation, being a role model, and affecting the well-being of all – these are values we hold dear and hope we can help to foster in others. That's what families do.

Patricia Hahto
Superintendent



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