

District 194 Focuses on Student Safety

School District 194 is fully committed to providing a safe learning environment for all students. This includes students' everyday travel to and from school. District 194 has worked extensively with local law enforcement in both Steger and South Chicago Heights to improve safe travel while crossing streets near each of our three schools. District 194 utilizes crossing guards paid by the South Chicago Heights and Steger Police Departments. It is also important that parents and community members are cognizant and aware of changes in speed limits near school zones. The following ordinances are currently in place in both Steger and South Chicago Heights:

Sec. 82-342. - Special speed limit while passing schools.

(a) On a school day when school children are present and so close thereto that a potential hazard exists because of the close proximity of the motorized traffic, no person shall drive a motor vehicle at a speed in excess of 20 miles per hour while passing a school zone or while traveling upon any public thoroughfare where children pass going to and from school.

(b) For the purpose of this section a school day shall begin at 7:00 a.m. and shall conclude at 4:00 p.m.

(c) This section shall not be applicable unless appropriate signs are posted upon streets and highways. Such signs shall give proper due warning that a school zone is being approached and shall indicate the school zone and the maximum speed limit in effect during school days when school children are present.

(Code 1969, § 71.602)

State Law reference— Similar provisions, Ill. Rev. Stat. ch. 95½, § 11-605.

District 194 asks that everyone observe these ordinances in order to ensure the safety of our students.



District 194 Celebrates Red Ribbon Week

National Family Partnership, formerly the National Federation of Parents for Drug Free Youth, was established as a grassroots, nonprofit organization in 1980

by a handful of concerned and determined parents who were convinced they should begin to play a leadership role in drug prevention. Nancy Reagan was an Honorary Chair of NFP. Since its founding thirty years ago, NFP has devoted

its efforts to the well-being of youth. Today, NFP is a national leader in drug prevention education and advocacy. Its mission is to lead and support our nation's families and communities in nurturing the full potential of healthy, drug free youth.

Students across School District 194 celebrated Red Ribbon Month with a Spirit Week. "Wear Red Day" and "Disney Day" were some of the week-long events. Students also participated in Pajama Day, Hat Day, Chicago Bears Day and of course, Halloween costumes. Drug and Bully Free are the way to be.



Columbia Central Students Begin Production of Mulan Jr.

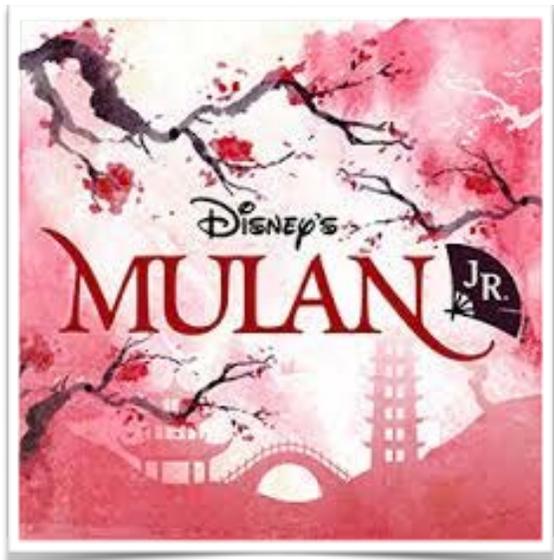
After many hours of rehearsals, costume designs, and set construction, Columbia Central is all set for its next big musical, Disney's Mulan Jr. The show will run on Thursday, Dec. 13 and, Friday Dec. 14. The cast and crew of 60 are made up of students in 5th through 8th grade.

Based on Disney's Oscar-nominated film and the story, Disney's Mulan Jr. tells the story of Mulan who saves her elderly father from fighting for the emperor by disguising herself as a male soldier to fight in his place. With her dragon sidekick, Mushu, and a motley band of misfit soldiers, Mulan discovers herself as she grows as a soldier and a heroine along the way. Since the original film's release in 1998, Mulan has been a favorite of kids and adults alike who appreciate the story's message of empowerment and courage.

Tickets will be on sale November 26th at Columbia Central.

District 194 students -\$3

Non-Students - \$5 if bought before the night of the show \$6 at the door.



Notes From Around the District

PBIS Kickoff Rallies at SIC

Steger Intermediate Center is off to a great start with PBIS (Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports). Students participated in kick-off trainings of behavior expectations throughout the building. Students are showing positive behavior each day!

Intermediate Center Celebrates Birthday Of Children's Author, Roald Dahl

In September, the Steger Intermediate Center celebrated the 102nd Birthday of author, Roald Dahl. Students dressed like some of his famous characters, enjoyed some fun classroom activities and each student received a Wonka Bar with a special Golden Tickets hidden inside. It was a great celebration!



SPC Kindness Challenge – Fill Your Bucket

The Steger Primary Center team promotes kindness and we are once again doing a school-wide Kindness Challenge. All students read the book "How to Fill Your Bucket," prior to beginning the challenge on Oct. 1. Each classroom has a clear bucket and pom-poms. When teachers notice students being kind, they add a pom-pom to the class bucket. There is a school kindness display and bucket in the cafeteria. When classes fill their bucket, they dump it into the school kindness bucket. They also add their class name to the "IT'S COOL TO BE KIND" wall of fame. When the school bucket is filled, there is a celebration. We encourage parents to get in on the fun and create a kindness bucket at home for the whole family.

Farmers Insurance Contestants

Steger Schol District 194 once again thanks the communities of Steger and South Chicago Heights for their daily voting in the Farmer's Insurance Thank America's Teachers Contest. During the month of October, 7th grade teachers Laura Smokoska, Jessica Toran, and Hailey Pickrum from Columbia Central submitted proposals for the contest. Your votes will help provide funding to offset the cost of the 8th grade trip to Washington D.C.

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

Steger School District 194 continues to strive for excellence in many ways. Our most important goal focuses on the most important aspect of education - LEARNING. Specifically, we are focusing on four critical strategies to move our students' academic achievement forward.

1. What do we want our students to learn?
2. How will we know when they have learned it?
3. How will we respond when students are having difficulty learning?
4. How will we respond when students have already learned it?

As part of the current work, district staff will focus on collaborating with one another to explore the underlying factors that can contribute to a student's learning needs. Furthermore, the power of examining data to drive discussions and help make individual decisions about students are at the forefront of our work.

These collaborative solutions are the first steps in producing significant impacts on our students. In the world of equations – collaboration + student needs + data = higher achievement levels.

Our goal in the end is to improve student learning. A student's capacity to learn increases when he/she feels more connected and has ownership of the learning. District 194 has a collective commitment to increase the capacity for all students to learn and build positive and proactive systems that increase our students' capacity to learn. For example, we are working to extend our day through tutoring for those students who need academic support as well as for those who would benefit from enrichment. This work is well-aligned to our mission of ensuring all our students develop the enduring knowledge and skills to thrive in a changing world.



STEGER DISTRICT 194

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

Columbia Central
94 Richton Road, Steger, IL
753-4700

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

Safe, gentle, effective.

These three words describe our school district's reasoning for becoming a "green cleaning" school district. Last summer, we completed an investigation of what types of cleaners were being used by teachers, custodians, and food service personnel and as a result, we established new guidelines for cleaning and disinfecting within the district. In classrooms and other student areas of the schools, this has resulted in a two-step process. Here is a summary.

Teachers concentrate on cleaning.

In their classrooms, teachers concentrate on cleaning. For example, along with regular hand-washing for both teachers and students, baby wipes are used to clean up desks and other student-use areas. Classrooms have also been equipped with a green cleaning solution and microfiber cloths. These cloths are designed to have more surface area to remove dust, dirt, and germs than traditional cloths and paper towels do. Microfiber cloths can also be laundered and reused to eliminate waste.

Because of our findings, the use of antibacterial wipes has been eliminated in classrooms. They have been removed from parent supply lists and replaced with a request for baby wipes. We ask that parents keep this in mind as they purchase teacher-requested school supplies each summer in anticipation of the start of the school year.

Custodians concentrate on deep cleaning and disinfecting.

Deeper cleaning and disinfecting need to be completed in schools on a daily

basis. This is the job of the custodians and this work happens in the evenings when students and staff are not present. They use green cleaners and disinfecting solutions for this purpose to be sure that the classrooms and other areas are clean, disinfected, and safe for use by teachers and students the following school day.

In conclusion, we feel that the district's move to green cleaning provides a safe, gentle, and effective method of cleaning and disinfecting that results in a healthier environment for all. I would like to thank Eric Diehl, Steger 194 Business Manager/CSBO, for spearheading the research of the green cleaning approach in our district and for his thorough research and leadership in this effort. Additionally, the careful implementation of the new guidelines by Maintenance Director, Anthony Graziani and his custodial, staff have been instrumental in making the seamless move to green cleaning possible.

Patricia Hahto, Ed. D.
Superintendent



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