

Dear Winfield 34 Parents and Guardians,

This school year we have introduced some career learning opportunities for our middle school students. Three times a year, students from each grade level will meet with professionals in the field and learn how one enters a career and what they do on the job each day. Our first set of career experiences have focused on community service. A couple of weeks ago, our seventh grade students met with Winfield Police Officer Jason DePue. Officer DePue explained how he became a police officer, the education and experiences he needed prior to applying for training and the training he has received since entering the field. He also shared some of the experiences he regularly has on the job. On Friday, our eighth grade students met with members of the Northwestern Medicine team. Students had an opportunity to speak to a lead nurse trainer, learn about different pathways to enter different careers in the medical field, ranging from a Certified Nurse Assistant to Neurosurgeon. In December, our 6th graders will have the opportunity to meet with members of the Winfield Fire Protection District. During the second trimester, students will be meeting with members of the local business community and during the third trimester students will be meeting with members of the trades. Additionally, eighth grade students will be working on resume' development, cover letter writing, and interviewing in their English classes. We believe that these new experiences will enhance our students' understanding of what it takes to enter the workforce and be successful once they begin this journey.

On Thursday evening the Winfield Board of Education will have their October meeting. We will have a public hearing on a proposed transfer to the Bond and Interest Fund at 6:55pm. [Here is the agenda for the Transfer hearing](#). and the regular meeting at 7pm. We will be discussing our data from the Illinois School Report Card, TIF 2, and the Illinois Association of School Board's Delegate Assembly resolutions. [Here is the agenda for the regular meeting](#). Public comments can be shared through the [Google form](#) or live at the meeting. Additionally, we will be [streaming the meeting live from our Facebook page](#).

A few notes:

- A variety of wonderful pictures of our school and learning on X (using my account @mattrich0722), Instagram (using my account @mattrich22) and on Threads (using my account @mattrich22) in each situation, the staff and I mark our posts with #winfield34 so they are easily followable and searchable.
- Families that are low income or uninsured can access free flu vaccines through DuPage Health Coalition. [Here is information on how to get vaccinated](#).
- Medical debt is one the hardest issues for families. The DuPage Health coalition has resources to support. This non profit offers programs that help relieve any medical bills, past, or present, including those in collections. Here is more information on their [Medical Debt Care Program](#), [Pharmacy Program](#), and [Silver Access Program](#).
- DuPage County is providing support for families struggling to pay their energy bills. [Click here for more information on their Energy Assistance Program](#).
- The Illinois State Treasurer's Office has started a program to create low cost-tax free savings opportunities for families of students with special needs to save and invest

money to support these individuals later in life. [Here is a brochure sharing the details of this new savings opportunity.](#)

- DuPage County has just launched 211, a free, confidential information and referral service that will provide a central access point to local health and human services 24-hours a day, 365 days a year. Dialing 211 in the County will provide anyone with the opportunity to obtain immediate referrals to mental health services, addiction support and rehabilitation, crisis counseling, supplemental food programs, shelter and affordable housing options, employment and education support, and/or financial support. Information can also be accessed through the Internet at 211dupage.gov.
- [SMART911](#) is an online registry used by first responders such as Police and Fire personnel to support families with diverse needs. It can be used to inform first responders if there is someone who has a medical condition, like Alzheimers, in the house, or a family pet that might need rescuing. We are partnering with Winfield Fire Protection District and Winfield Police Department to share information about [SMART911](#) so that they can be as supportive as possible when they are helping families in the community. Please note, the information you share in here is optional and designed to assist first responders when they come to support you.
- The Glenbard Parent Series hosts a variety of Parent Education Events. [Here is an overview of their parent learning opportunities for the year.](#) Events coming soon include:
 - **Can't Do or Won't Do? Executive Functioning Skill Building to Solve Behavior Challenges** (November 1, 12-1:30pm) [Please click here for more information](#) and (November 11, 7-8:30pm) [Please click here for more information.](#)
 - **The Power of Mindfulness to Increase Calm and Joy in Young Children** (November 2, 12-1:00pm) [Please click here for more information](#) and (November 2, 7-8:00pm) [Please click here for more information.](#)
 - **Congratulations, You're Having a Teen!: The Guidebook You Always Wanted!** (November 9, 12-2:00pm) [Please click here for more information](#) and (November 9, 7-9:00pm) [Please click here for more information.](#)
 - **Update on Social Media and Teen Mental Health** (November 14, 12-1:00pm) [Please click here for more information](#) and (November 14, 7-8:00pm) [Please click here for more information.](#)
 - **Under the Influence: Addressing Vaping, Alcohol and Cannabis** (November 29, 11-1:00pm) [Please click here for more information](#) and (November 29, 6-8:00pm) [Please click here for more information.](#)
- From The Winfield PTO:
 - **Half-Day Social 10/26 At Sonny Acres** - Last year's Half-Day Social at Sonny Acres was such a hit, we are visiting again! On Thursday, 10/26, pick up your kids and head to Sonny Acres for an afternoon of fall fun! Unfortunately, Sonny Acres was not able to offer us a discounted admission like last year; they do, however, offer a wristband special with unlimited rides and a hayride (adults must purchase a ticket or a wristband to go on the hayride) for \$25. Visit [Sonny Acres website](#) for more information on the rides available and contact [Dan Adams](#) with any questions. In the case of inclement weather, there is a 3pm screening of the new animated film Inspector Sun at Cinemark Theatres (formerly Regal Cinemas) in Warrenville. Stay tuned to the weather and PTO emails for more information.

- **Donations Wanted for Parent/Teacher Conference Survival Bags** - PTO is putting together "survival bags" for teachers ahead of Parent/Teacher conferences ([Sign up here if you haven't already!](#)). The teachers will receive their bags ahead of the first date of conferences, Thursday, 10/26. Please sign up on the [Survival Bag Signup Genius](#) page and drop all donations off in the black box on Debbie Krygowski's porch, 27W484 Manchester Rd by October 23rd. We thank you for your generosity in helping the teachers have snacks for these extra long days!
- **Halloween Classroom Parties and Parade *NEW SIGNUP GENIUS*** - Our first classroom parties will take place on Halloween (Tuesday, 10/31), beginning with the costume parade on the Primary School Playground at 2:15 pm, and with parties beginning at 2:30 pm (10am for AM preschool). Although everybody is welcome to watch the parade, only those who have signed up through the new [Signup Genius link](#) will be allowed in the building to participate; please be sure that each adult signs up to help facilitate entry to the school for the classroom party. Once again, participation will be limited to only 10 people per classroom party; please sign up for ONE party at this time and as space allows, there may be opportunities to sign up for additional parties. We appreciate everybody's responses on the [Holiday Party Interest Form](#) and ask that you fill that out if you are planning to help with activities at a party. Please [email the PTO](#) with any questions.
- **Box Top Back To School Box Tops Challenge Winners** - Congratulations to Mrs. Freundt's 4th grade class, Mrs. C. Nelson's advisory, and Mrs. Napolitano's 1st grade classes for winning the Back to School Box Tops Challenge - their classes will receive a special treat soon! Don't forget to scan your receipts for Box Tops throughout the school year - there are many bonuses that can turn your receipts into serious earnings. Thanks to your scans, we have already raised \$78 so far this year!
- **Spirit Wear Update** - Spirit wear orders placed with our fall sale should arrive by the end of next week. Stay tuned for more information about our new Spirit Wear Shoppe and new items!
- **Next PTO/WEF Meeting: November 1st** - Save the date and join us for our next PTO/WEF meeting on Wednesday, November 1st at 7pm in the Central School Commons. We have enjoyed seeing so many new faces at the past few meetings and it is a great way to find out everything that is going on in the school. We hope to see you there!
- From the Winfield Education Foundation:
 - **Project Hope 2023**
 - **Winter Gear Collection:** I am sure many families started pulling out the cold weather coats and gear with the cold weather. Please remember that we are collecting winter gear as part of Project Hope again this year. We will be using all gently used items to support the People's Resource Center of Dupage County and our local inventory for Winfield families in need. This year we will specifically be focusing on collecting four greatly

needed items: snow pants, insulated gloves, boots and coats. These items can be brought to either Winfield 34 school office or dropped at 0S644 East St, Winfield (Alanis House) Please leave them inside the closed in porch in the orange bin.

- **Gift Giving Program:** Families in financial hardship are invited to submit a gift wishlist (3 needs and 3 wishes) for each child and local community members help sponsor these gifts. The success of this program rests solely in the kindness and generosity of the community. If you would like to donate an item(s) or sponsor a child in need please email wef@winfield34.org or call/text Emily Alanis at 847-721-5487. **Our goal is to have each child receive all three “needs” and at least two of their “wishes”, up to a designated dollar amount this year, to brighten their holiday season!** We will be sending wish lists the first week of November. We ask for new, unwrapped donations.
- **Blood Drive:** Join us on Giving Tuesday (November 29th) to give the gift that can't be bought by donating blood. Blood products are often used in cancer treatments, accident situations, childbirth complications and organ transplants – many of these situations are not planned and do not get to take a holiday break. First time donors and anyone over the age of 16 welcome to sign-up. Deferral restrictions often change and many have greatly updated in the last two years so if it's been a while since you have checked if you are eligible, Versiti Blood Center (1-800-7TO-GIVE) are happy to help you review! Sign-up today at Versiti.org/IL.

Thank you for your continued support of our students, staff, and school community.
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