

Dear Winfield 34 Parents and Guardians,

Summer has arrived. So has the summer heat. As I see many of our students bicycling through the community, please encourage them to stay hydrated while they are out with friends. In school, we have a much smaller team. Our custodial team has been working extremely hard cleaning carpets, scrubbing bathrooms, and doing all the deep cleaning to help us start the school year right. We have begun our summer construction projects. The old water heaters at Winfield Central have disappeared and some nice new units are being installed. It's amazing how technology can change over decades. We have been coordinating with the Winfield Public Library for some preschool events at the library this summer. There will be two readings at the library with a chance to explore the children's section also. On Tuesday, June 18th and Thursday July 11th from 5-6pm we will be at the Library. Mr. Scott Meech and Dr. Matt Rich will read with the students and families some fabulous books. While this is aimed at our youngest learners, as always we want to encourage all of our students and families to read some great books over the summer.

On Thursday evening the Winfield Board of Education will have their June meeting. The meeting will begin at 7pm. We will be reviewing our Spring Data Presentation, learning about tools to understand student use of their school Google accounts, and presenting a draft of the 2024-25 Budget. [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.
- Preschool will be hosting a screening for children ages 3-5 on Tuesday, August 13th. [Click here for more information](#).
- The GPS 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:
  - Dr. Aliza Pressman with Dr. Lisa Damour - Start The Year Off Strong: 5 Essential Skills to Raise Students Who Can Weather Life's Storms (August 22, 12pm and 7pm) [Please click here for more information](#).
  - Dr. Amy Cuddy with Julie Lythcott-Haims - Presence: Using Body Language and the Mind to Boost Confidence, Performance Under Stress and Social Bravery (August 26, 12pm and 7pm) [Please click here for more information](#).
  - Alok Kanojia - How to Raise a Healthy Gamer: Navigate Power Struggles and Build Better Screen Habits (to Transform Your Relationship With Your Kid) (August 27, 12pm and 7pm) [Please click here for more information](#).
  - Dr. Ann-Lousie Lockhart - Early Childhood Event -- Solutions for Fear, Worry and Anxiety in Young Children (August 28, 12pm and 7pm) [Please click here for more information](#).
  - Dr. Becky Kennedy - Good Inside: A Guide to Becoming the Parent You Want to Be (September 4, 12pm and 7pm) [Please click here for more information](#).

- Dr. Ali Mattu - HYBRID EVENT -- Anxiety and Stress Reduction Strategies for Teens and Adults (September 11, 12pm and 7pm) [Please click here for more information](#).
- Dr. Hector Montenegro - B-PAC: Lecciones de Vida para Criar a un Adolescente del Siglo XXI / Life Lessons for Raising a 21st Century Teen (September 12, 7pm) [Please click here for more information](#).
- VaLarie Humphrey - IN PERSON FUSE EVENT: Own Your Own Future & Student Recognition Event (September 17, 6pm) [Please click here for more information](#).
- Michelle Zauner - COMMUNITY READ -- "Crying in H Mart: A Memoir" (September 18, 7pm) [Please click here for more information](#).
- Chris Herren, former NBA player - HYBRID EVENT -- Prevention Starts With All: The Chris Herren Story (September 19, 7pm) [Please click here for more information](#).
- Dr. Andrew Solomon - Far From the Tree: The Many Ways of Unconditional Love and Acceptance (September 26, 12pm and 7pm) [Please click here for more information](#).
- Dr. Edward Hallowell - Driven to Distraction: The New Science to Shift from Deficits to Strengths – ADHD & More (September 30, 12pm and 7pm) [Please click here for more information](#).
- The United States Department of Agriculture is sharing this Summer EBT/SUN Bucks information ([English](#) & [Spanish](#)) with families. Summer Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) or "SUN Bucks" is a federally funded program that provides grocery-buying benefits to low-income families with school-aged children when schools are closed for the summer. The Summer EBT is a one-time, \$120 per eligible student benefit for summer 2024 administered by the Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS). Most eligible families will be automatically enrolled in the Summer EBT program. Families can contact Nuvia to make sure their low-income indicators are up to date. The issuances and notices will be sent to eligible households at the end of August. A Summer EBT application will be available over the summer. Illinois Department of Human Services will have a screener available **July 1** for families to check if the agency has the information needed to process their child's Summer EBT benefit, an application is required, or an updated address is needed.
- Ongoing Resources
  - 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](#).
  - The Behavioral Health Collaborative, a partnership of organizations in DuPage County, has made [these crisis supports available to families](#).
  - 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](http://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.

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

Matt