

Dear Winfield 34 Parents and Guardians,

Thank you for bearing with us with the crazy weather. This week has been a short week but a busy week. The snow days on Friday and Tuesday allowed students and staff to have a couple of short weeks in a row. As the weather returns to more positive tones, we will be able to get back to more traditional school days and more traditional winter recess experiences. While weather has been somewhat of a challenge, we have had some cool learning experiences already in January. Our 4th grade students went on a field trip to the Field Museum in Chicago. The students made some terrific connections between their study of civilizations and the exhibits in the museum. On Friday, representatives of our 4th through 8th grade classes participated in the Geography Bee. Students took great pride in being able to share their knowledge.

On Thursday evening the Winfield Board of Education will have their January meeting. The regular meeting will begin at 7pm. We will be hearing an update on the Winfield Primary HVAC project, Strategic Plan Action Goals, proposed 2024-25 school calendar, 2024-25 proposed school fees, and TIF 2. [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.
- 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:
 - **The Parenting Map: Step-by-Step Solutions to Consciously Create the Ultimate Parent-Child Relationship** (January 23, 12-1:00pm) [Please click here for more information](#) and (January 23, 7-8:00pm) [Please click here for more information](#).
 - **Beautiful Boy: Everything a Father Learned Through His Son's Addiction** (January 31, 12-1:00pm) [Please click here for more information](#) and (January 31, 7-8:00pm) [Please click here for more information](#).
 - **BLACK HISTORY MONTH EVENT: All Children Must Thrive: Nurturing Connection and Belonging** (February 1, 7-8:00pm) [Please click here for more information](#).
 - **Parents Don't Know Everything: What Experts are Saying about the Future of College and Careers** (February 6, 12-1:00pm) [Please click here for more information](#) and (February 6, 7-8:00pm) [Please click here for more information](#).
 - **Un plan para el éxito en la escuela secundaria, la universidad y la carrera/A Blueprint for High School, College and Career Success** (February 8, 7-8:00pm) [Please click here for more information](#).
 - **The How of Happiness in All Areas of Life: Enhancing Your Potential For Joy** (February 15, 12-1:00pm) [Please click here for more information](#) and (February 15, 7-8:00pm) [Please click here for more information](#).
 - **Live Life Well Week Event: Motivating the Next Generation to Lead Boldly and Achieve Their Dreams** (February 22, 7-8:00pm) [Please click here for more information](#).
 - **Parenting Your Young Child through Misbehavior, Meltdowns and Tantrums** (February 22, 12-1:00pm) [Please click here for more information](#) and (February 22, 7-8:00pm) [Please click here for more information](#).
 - **The Eyes Are Never Quiet: Listening Behind the Behaviors of Kids** (February 29, 7-8:00pm) [Please click here for more information](#).
- From The Winfield PTO:
 - **Next PTO/WEF Meeting February 7th** - Save the date for our next PTO/WEF meeting on Wednesday, February 7th! We have a lot to discuss - spring activities, family fun nights, and graduation planning! We hope to see you there.
- From the Winfield Education Foundation:
 - **SEATS SELLING FAST FOR TRIVIA NIGHT:** Don't miss your chance to join us for this year's Trivia Night. We have 1 full table of 10 seats remaining as of this update. We are looking forward to a fun parent's night out and in honor of bringing this back, we hope you will all have some fun with this year's theme of BLAST FROM THE PAST! Pick your favorite decade to show off and have some fun with your table decor and/or attire. Due to limited seats remaining we have turned off the QR code that was sent home but if you would like one of these remaining seats of the final table of 10 please contact WEF via wef@winfield34.org. If you have any questions feel free to also contact wef@winfield34.org or Emily Alanis at 847-721-5487 directly.

- **Tiger Run Updates:** This year's Tiger Run theme is jumping into the fun world of Arcade Games... we hope you will LEVEL UP and join us for Tiger Run 2024 on Sunday, May 19th. Logo Drawing Contest: Students are bringing home a flier this week (or see in the virtual backpack) regarding this year's drawing contest. This logo will be used on the T-shirt and in promotional outreach/fliers. All Level Up - arcade theme drawings must be turned into the office by 3:30pm on Wednesday, January 24th. Please use blank white paper and only blank ink (no shading due to logo transfer limitations)
- **2024 Tiger Run Committee Forming Now:** Please reach out to Deb Moran, debvx800@gmail.com 630-471-4963 (2024 Tiger Run Lead) and/or Emily Alanis, wef@winfield34.org | 847-721-5487 if you are interested in being a part of this year's committee. Tiger Run is a great way to start working with PTO and WEF, as we can find a committee role that fits your time availability and interests. Tiger Run is the Winfield Education Foundation and PTO's largest fundraising event of the year and we are excited that this will serve as our kick-off of our next large fundraising project to support the updating of our Preschool Area Outdoor Playset.
- **Blood Drive:** Join us for our last Winfield 34 Community Blood Drive of this school year in the Central School Cafeteria on Tuesday, January 30th, from 3:30pm - 6:30pm. Make your appointment today at: www.tinyurl.com/Winfield34Jan30 - Each Donation can help up to 3 local patients in need. January is National Blood Donor Month, to celebrate and say thank you for your donation all presenting donors receive a winter hat. Please contact Emily Alanis, 847-721-5487 or wef@winfield34.org for any questions.
- **Community Partner Update from Winfield In Action:** So NOW that we have survived mother nature's January Chicago winter weather, it's time to think SPRING! Springtime means that WINFIELD IN ACTION Baseball, Tball, Softball leagues are forming. We recommend that all registration be done online through the Winfield In Action website. Just visit Winfieldinaction.org, login, and you will then be instructed on what to do. In-Person registration on February 10, 2024 from 9am-11am @ Winfield Park District to pay cash, ask questions or verify birthdate. The deadline is February 11, 2024. No spot will be guaranteed after this date. QUESTIONS or to request a login password: info@winfieldinaction.org

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