

Dear Winfield 34 Parents and Guardians,

This past week we had wonderful weather. While we may have had snow on Halloween, our students have been able to run and play unhindered outside. On Thursday our Kindergarten students planted daffodil bulbs by the school district sign on Winfield Road. A big thank you to “Mr. Rudy” Czech, our crossing guard, and Amanda Melsa for making this experience possible. We can’t wait to see them bloom this spring. This week we have also had our fantastic book fair. It is great to see so many students finding something fun to read for our upcoming Thanksgiving and Winter Breaks. Independent reading is a powerful tool for literacy growth. Thank you to Mrs. Bothwell and the many parent volunteers who made this experience possible.

On Thursday evening the Winfield 34 Board of Education held their monthly meeting. The Board reviewed information regarding Board Policies, recommendations for Illinois Association of School Board’s Delegate Assembly, and updates regarding TIF 2. We also reviewed the proposed tax levy for the 2024-25 school year. [Here is the video from the meeting.](#)

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.
- Parkview Community Church in Glen Ellyn hosts their annual free Thanksgiving Dinner - open to anyone and everyone on Thanksgiving Day. It is a free, seated dinner on Thanksgiving Day from 12-2:00PM where you’ll find all the traditional fixings you’d expect - turkey, ham, sweet and mashed potatoes, stuffing, green bean casserole, rolls, and pies. We transform our large gymnasium into a pretty beautiful dining space. Our hope is people walk away having experienced community and a full belly! It’s totally free and there is no need to RSVP. We plan for around 500 people so there’s always enough. [Here is information on the event.](#)
- 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:
 - **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](#).
 - **8 Failures/Setbacks That Can Make a Child a Success** (December 5, 12-1:00pm) [Please click here for more information](#) and (December 5, 7-8:00pm) [Please click here for more information](#).
 - **First a Dream: Find Your Future at College Night/Primero un sueño: Encuentra tu futuro en la Noche Universitaria** (December 7, 7-8:00pm) [Please click here for more information](#).
 - **It's Ok to Not Be Okay: Solutions to Help You Heal** (December 12, 12-1:00pm) [Please click here for more information](#) and (December 12, 7-8:00pm) [Please click here for more information](#).
 - **First a Dream: Find Your Future at College Night/Primero un sueño: Encuentra tu futuro en la Noche Universitaria** (December 14, 6-7:00pm) [Please click here for more information](#).
 - **Dialing Back the Inner-Critic: Compassion and Kindness in Parenting** (December 19, 12-1:00pm) [Please click here for more information](#) and (December 19, 7-8:00pm) [Please click here for more information](#).
- From The Winfield PTO:
 - **Spirit Wear Update - New Continuous Online Store!** - All spirit wear items from our Fall Order have been delivered. If you missed our first order or if you are looking for gifts for the holidays, we now have a continuous online spirit wear store ready for orders (please note, shipping fees will apply). See the [flyer](#) and visit the [online store](#) to place your order. Contact [MaryAnn Trevino](#) with any questions.
 - **Winter Holiday Parties - Sign up Now!** - We encourage everybody to sign up now to attend and help at the winter holiday parties - we could use a few more hands! **Please sign up using this [Signup Genius link](#) for the Winter Holiday Party (12/21 for preschool, 12/22 for K-5th grades) even if you previously filled out the Google form for participating in the parties, and indicate if you are interested in helping with an activity for the party. We appreciate all your efforts into making these fun party memories for our students!**

- **Next PTO/WEF Meeting: December 6th** - Join us for our next PTO/WEF meeting on December 6th. We will recap the first half of the school year and look ahead to fun events in the new year! Come see all the ways that PTO and WEF make a difference in our school community. We hope to see you there!
- From the Winfield Education Foundation:
 - **SAVE THE DATE: The WEF/PTO Trivia Night is returning to our annual events on Saturday, January 27th.** This adults only fun night out was a favorite event pre-covid and we hope you will all consider joining us this year! More details to come as we get closer for the day of details and how to sign-up!

Volunteer Committee Members Needed: We need help with the planning of this event and are hoping individuals would be willing to join our planning committee. This committee and event chairs will help with the pre-event details of spreading the word, organizing sign-up forms, finalizing the day of details/theme and support the day of event. You can still participate in the Trivia night if you are on the committee! The venue and trivia host are booked so we don't anticipate this committee being too time consuming and should be a great way to meet other families in our school. If you are interested please email wef@winfield34.org or contact Emily Alanis by call/text at 847-721-5487.

- **Project Hope 2023**
 - **Gift Giving Program:** **Gift Sponsors for this year's Gift Giving Programs are greatly needed!** Local families in financial hardship have submitted their gift lists (3 needs and 3 wishes) and we are looking for community members to 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 Lesley Gena at 773-344-6559. Our goal is to have each child receive all three "needs" and two of their "wishes", up to a designated dollar amount this year, to brighten their holiday season!
 - **Blood Drive:** **There are still 20 slots open for our Giving Tuesday (November 28th) Blood Drive at Winfield Central in the School Cafeteria from 3:15-6:30pm.** Join us this holiday season to give the gift that can't be bought. Your donation provides local patients with the gift of hope and time! First time donors and anyone over the age of 16 welcome to sign-up. Sign-up today at: <https://tinyurl.com/Winfield34Nov28>
- **Community Partner Spotlight:** **Winfield in Action & The Village of Winfield** proudly present The Santa Run RK Run/Walk & Reindeer Romp 1K on Saturday, December 2, 2023. The race will start at 3:00pm at Winfield Village Hall 27W465 Jewel Rd. <https://raceroster.com/events/2023/81881/winfields-santa-run>

Before the Run join Santa and his elves for Snacks with Santa from 1pm-4pm at Hedges Station - 0N555 Winfield Rd. **Presented by The Tony Reyes Family Foundation, Winfield Park District and The Winfield Historical Society.** After the run by the finish line stay with all the Santas for Winfields Annual Tree Lighting Ceremony starting at 4:30pm. Carol along with the **West Chicago High**

School Choir. Unwrapped toys will be collected for the **Ronald McDonald House.** Hot Chocolate and cookies will be served!

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