

October 13, 2023



Greetings FSD Parents/Guardians & Staff,

Due to various global circumstances, districts across Illinois have observed an increase in the number of newly arrived students in recent months, many of whom are refugees resettling in our communities. In Freeport School District 145, we are seeing a growing number of newcomers from Central America, specifically from Honduras. Some immigrant and refugee students arrive in the United States with their parents, while others come with more distant relatives or guardians. Some even arrive as unaccompanied minors. Many of these newcomers are school-aged children who need to enroll in school as soon as possible, and a significant portion of them are English learners. Some may also be students with limited or interrupted formal education.

The District, in collaboration with the Bilingual Department and other departments, has been working to address the academic and emotional needs of our students while also connecting them with the various supports available in our community. We aim to connect families with community resources, assist with their basic needs, and assess and evaluate their academic placement. There is an unprecedented demand for language interpretation, translation services, and support to help newcomer families navigate the U.S. education system, and we are offering different options to remove the language barriers.

It is a great privilege to work with families and students from around the world, as they bring diverse knowledge and perspectives that enrich our district and our city. In our district, we welcome all students and strive to support them.

As we have seen the atrocities caused by war in some regions across our world today, it gives us pause to recognize the importance of coexisting in a manner that builds a community that demonstrates care and support for each other, in spite of our differences.

### **Hispanic Heritage Month**

As Hispanic Heritage Month comes to a close on 10/15, we take one last opportunity to celebrate the histories, cultures and contributions of American citizens whose ancestors came from Spain, Mexico, the Caribbean and Central and South America. From Proclamation 10446—National Hispanic Heritage Month, 2022: “Hispanic heritage holds an indelible place in the heart and soul of our Nation, and National Hispanic Heritage Month reminds us that the American identity is a fabric of diverse traditions and stories woven together.



## ~OCTOBER CELEBRATIONS~

### ❖ **National School Custodians Day**

Custodians are the driving force in keeping our buildings clean and well-maintained. The work that they do enhances the sense of pride in our buildings. FSD says “THANK YOU” to our entire custodial staff for the ways in which you contribute to the quality education that we provide to our children.

### ❖ **National Coaches Day**

National Coaches Day is celebrated every year in October. We take this time to honor and appreciate the coaches who make many of our extra-curricular programs possible. Our coaches build culture and champion inclusivity; they serve as mentors and role models and their impact extends beyond the program that they coach. We salute all of FSD Coaches for all that they do for our students.

### ❖ **National Bus Driver Appreciation Week**

National Bus Driver Appreciation Week affords us the opportunity to publicly acknowledge and thank the many FSD bus drivers and bus monitors who transport precious cargo each day. Thanks for being the first and last face of the district each day for many students.

### ❖ **National Principal Appreciation Week**

Principal Appreciation Week provides learning communities an opportunity to publicly recognize the work, commitment and importance of principals, and assistant principals. We thank our principals for their tireless dedication to education. We celebrate the impact that you make on our schools, staff and students.



### **The Magic Bookmobile**

Carl Sandburg and Jones-Farrar Schools will present **The Magic Bookmobile** on Thursday, October 26, at 7 p.m. In the Carl Sandburg Cafeteria. **Admission is free.** Please enter through the north door by the cafeteria. Forty students will perform onstage or backstage. Come give them your support!

## Around the District

Here's a special snippet of a few things going on ["Around the District"](#) over the last couple of weeks, including recognition of **Middle School Cross Country** team member **Eden Helm (pictured center)** who will represent Freeport at the IESA State Meet tomorrow

Facebook users check out our page for many more of the daily exciting things going on ["Around the District"](#). Academics, special recognitions, other extracurriculars, classroom learning, field trips, special events, we cover it all! You can also follow us on X (formerly [Twitter](#)).



## ~Upcoming Events & Opportunities~

*The organizations & events listed below are not sponsored by or affiliated with FSD 145*

The Children's Hands On Museum (**CHOM**) will sponsor "Concretes For A Cause" on Tuesday, October 17 at our local Culver's Restaurant. More Details in the [flyer](#).

The **Freeport Park District** Annual Trick or Treat Trail will take place on Saturday, October 28th. More details in the [flyer](#).

## REMINDERS

### FSD Employment Opportunities

FSD has job openings for the current school year. For more information on job openings and to apply [visit our website, fsd145](#).

### Upcoming Notable Dates:

November 6 - Parent/Teacher Conferences, non-attendance day for students  
November 22-24 Thanksgiving Holiday - FSD Closed

Have a wonderful weekend, and thank you for all that you do for our students.

Sincerely,

*Dr. Anna Alvarado,*

Superintendent of Schools