



SUPERINTENDENT NEWSLETTER

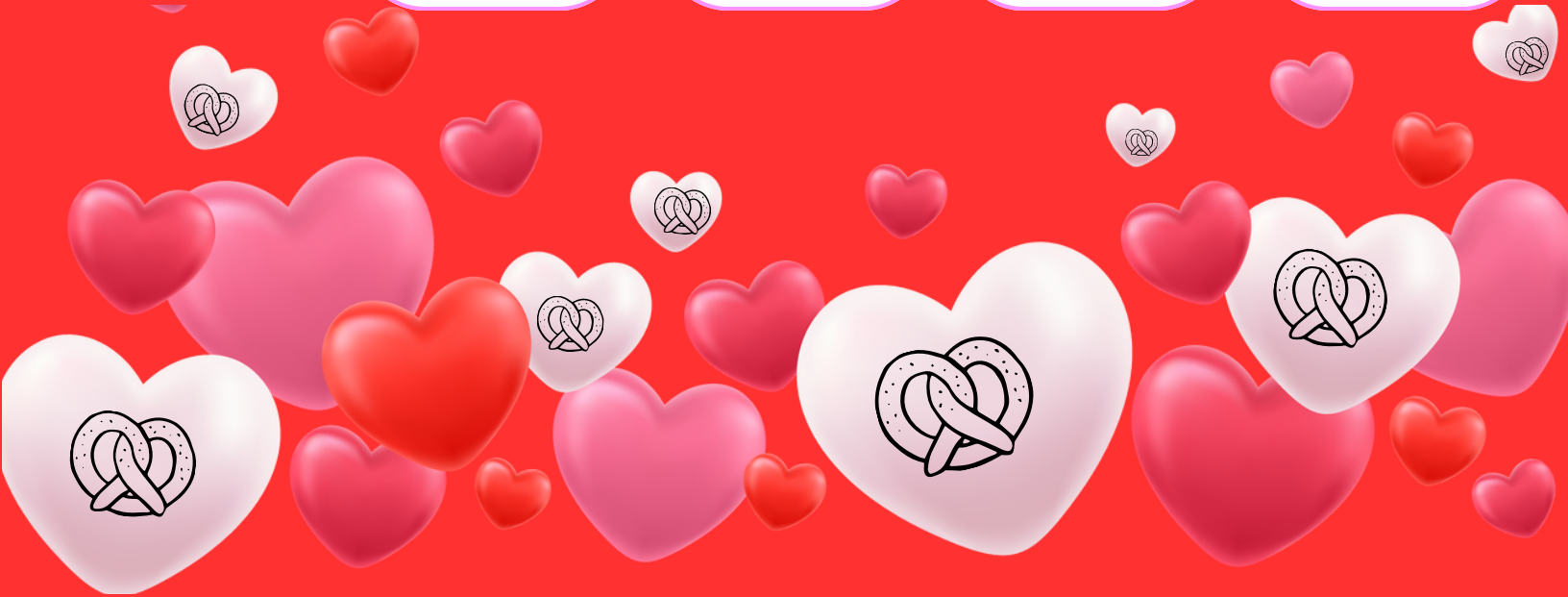
click each for info

[Around The District](#)

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Happy Ground Hog Day!



Thanks Punxsutawney Phil, for indicating Spring is on the way!!

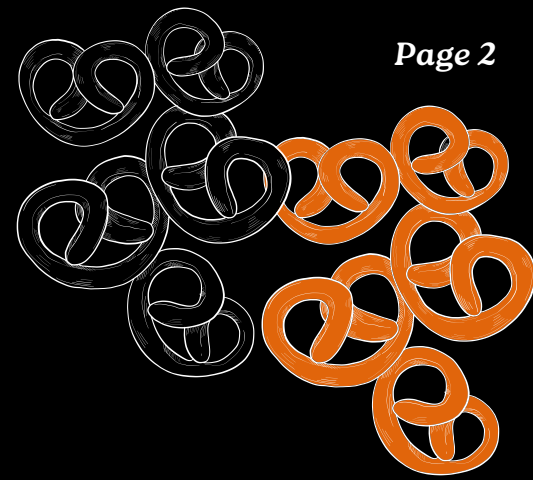
In the last couple of weeks, I have had the opportunity to support our students in music, sports, speech, and spelling. What amazing talent exists in our student body in their respective activities. I want to take this time to wish our students, coaching staff and their families well as they participate in regional, sectional and hopefully state competitions. Know that we are proud of you, cheering for you, and that **“You Are 145!” GO PRETZELS!**



As we welcome February, we embrace the celebration of **Black History Month**. Black History Month is an annual celebration of achievements by African Americans and a time for recognizing their central role in U.S. history.

Since 1976, every U.S. president has officially designated the month of February as Black History Month. Other countries around the world, including Canada and the United Kingdom, also devote a month to celebrating Black history. The 2024 theme is “African Americans and the Arts.” In addition, we will be capturing the various ways that our schools will be honoring the contributions of African Americans both local and national.





Congratulations to our District on becoming a **PlayCore National Demonstration Site**. We received this award for the design and implementation of our new elementary playgrounds. While every elementary school has new playground equipment, Blackhawk School was designated by PlayCore as the demonstration site. The recognition signage is located at Blackhawk. The award recognizes our commitment to advancing play and recreation and activating meaningful experiences for our students. [Read more about the award.](#)



IL Teacher of the Year Delivers FSD Institute Closing Keynote Address



Briana Morales, the 2024 IL Teacher of the Year, teaches English at Gordon Bush Alternative Center in East St. Louis School District 189. She served as the closing keynote speaker for our Winter Institute on Jan. 24th. Ms. Morales shared her professional journey, as well as her personal journey, inspiring FSD educators and staff as she spoke from the subject "Pain, Power, Purpose; The Story of Us". She encouraged us to build relationships with students, and to consider and understand their stories. She said "every student deserves the best we can give them."

National School Counseling Week



National School Counseling Week 2024 (#NSCW24) NSCW, Feb. 5-9, 2024, focuses public attention on the unique contribution of school counselors within U.S. school systems. National School Counseling Week, sponsored by ASCA, highlights the tremendous impact school counselors can have in helping students achieve school success and plan for a career. National School Counseling Week is always celebrated the first full week in February. The 2024 theme is "School Counseling: Standards-Based, Student-Focused." **We thank and appreciate our FSD counselors for the meaningful work they do everyday, and the impact it has on our students.**

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| Shaneka Collier | Lynn Dunn |
| Paul Heimer | Christine Hodges |
| Danielle Jackson | Katie Ries |
| Sara Shockey | Lisa Swank |



SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

President's Day Feb. 19
FSD Closed

School Improvement Day
Feb. 20

No School for Students