



June | 2020

Incluye edición en español

We are excited to share the release of the Lakeview Reading Channel, located on the Lakeview Facebook Page. The Reading Channel has allowed the Lakeview staff to virtually read a book to their Wee-Bees daily. Both English and Spanish books are read to students! This is a challenging time for us all, but we are thrilled that the Lakeview Reading Channel has provided a sense of community, and has allowed our Wee-Bees to continue learning from home. Check out the Lakeview Facebook Page for daily storytime! <https://zion-6.org/vjp6p>

DISTANCES APART BUT Close To The Heart

District 6 schools have been going above and beyond to make sure their students know how loved they are, and how much their teachers miss seeing them each and every day. From pictures, to signs, to videos, our schools have thought of it all. Check out just some of the awesome messages our schools have been sending to their students.

We may not be physically together during this time...but that's not stopping our District 6 school community from showing their school spirit! Students, families, and staff alike have been enjoying participating in Virtual Spirit Weeks across the district. Themes have included "Superhero Day" (honoring all the superheroes out working each day), "Sports Day" (honoring all of the sports and sport teams that are currently sidelined), "Talent Show Day" (focusing on the talent each one of us has), "Pajama Day", "Hat Day", "Dress for Success", "Crazy Hair Day", and much more! As social distancing and school closures continue to keep us apart, participation in Virtual Spirit Week activities is helping to bring our school families together.



NORTH SUBURBAN ELEMENTARY DISTRICT

STAND for children *Illinois*

In February, Zion District 6 was selected to join forces with Stand for Children IL. Stand is focused on ensuring that all students receive a high quality, relevant education, especially those whose boundless potential is overlooked and under-tapped because of their skin color, zip code, first language, or disability. District 6 participated in the Stand Evidence-Based Funding (EBF) video project - a series that has now been launched on their YouTube channel. We were thrilled to share our D6 story, and explain just how much EBF has positively impacted our district.

WATCH OUR FEATURE STORY
<https://zion-6.org/pzsp4>

Additionally, Dr. Roberts was invited to join a panel to share more EBF success stories, and how three years of the State's EBF investment has helped District 6 to weather the storm of COVID-19 and remote learning. It is more important now than ever to highlight the great work that Evidence-Based Funding has enabled. We are excited that we were given the opportunity to showcase how our district is using these very important funds to further the education of our students.



Be Counted In The 2020 Census

Don't forget to register for the 2020 Census to ensure that our state population accurately reflects our needs. For more information, please visit <https://2020census.gov/>

Register Your Child For The 2020-2021 School Year Registration Now Open!

To maintain safety guidelines and social distancing, registration processes have been modified.

Please call 847-379-0106 for assistance or questions.

New Students

Contact **847.379.0106** to receive your registration paperwork.

Residency verification with physical documentation will be mandatory for all new and transfer students prior to enrollment in our district.

A birth certificate, Illinois transfer form (if coming from another Illinois School) and residency documents will be required at time of registration.

Please call **847-379-0106** for assistance.

Residency Verification

Documents can be electronically submitted to registration@zion6.org or mailed and/or dropped off at:

District 6 Administration Office
2800 29th Street, Zion Illinois

Documentation can be deposited in the District 6 drop box located at the front of the administrative office building.

Required residency documents can be located on the district website, and are available to be picked up or emailed to families.

Returning Students

Students' registration SnapCode sent via the mail and email to the address on file by **6/24/2020**.

Students will be enrolled at the school attended during 2019-2020 school year, unless advancing from PreK or Grade 6.

Residency verification details will be provided in August to families via the email address on file.

ONLINE REGISTRATION

Complete student registration using any technology device with internet access.

NO INTERNET OR EMAIL ACCESS?

Contact registration@zion6.org or call 847.379.0106.

New for 2020-2021...

1:1 Student Computer Take Home Program

Details coming soon!

Breakfast and lunch meals available daily for students



Zion Central Middle School
1716 27th Street, Zion IL

grab-n-go



Friday meals can be picked up on Thursday

M-TH

Las comidas de los viernes se pueden recoger los jueves

June, July, August
Junio Julio Agosto

listo para llevar

Desayuno y almuerzo disponibles todos los días para estudiantes





D6 Receives Property Tax Relief Grant

This grant, awarded by the state of Illinois, allows eligible districts additional state funds in exchange for cutting a portion of their property taxes. According to the Illinois State Board of Education, a total of 233 districts applied for the grant.

DISTRICT 6 IS ONE OF FIVE LAKE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICTS TO BE AWARDED A 2020 PROPERTY TAX RELIEF GRANT.



ZION D6

All districts may apply for the grant yearly, pending appropriations. Eligible districts must have the highest tax rates within their organization type out of all districts that applied. Districts then have until March 30th to submit an abatement resolution to the county clerk, after which the ISBE will distribute the grant to each eligible district. After this process is complete, District 6 will receive about \$1,139,922.00 in grant funds which will allow a portion of property taxes to be cut.

Do You Have Questions? We Have Answers!



The D6 Info portal is designed to help answer district-related questions. We welcome questions regarding academics, programming, parent involvement, and current events. We hope that this will serve as a resource to families and community members alike, and are excited to offer this to our community stakeholders. Please visit our district website where you will find the new D6 Info page under the "D6 Info" tab, or go directly to www.zion6.org/d6info. Answers to questions that are received will be provided in a timely manner.

"BEE-ING" A PART OF THE JOURNEY ONE LETTER AT A TIME

Our District 6 spellers were working hard through their journey, progressing through different Spelling Bee levels.

First up, each school hosted a school-level spelling bee between the days of January 6th and January 24th. From there, the top placing spellers had an opportunity to compete against each other at the **ZE A Bee** – a spelling bee created for the purpose of providing our students with more practice before moving on to the next official round. Carlos Cambray (Elmwood) took second place at the **ZE A Bee**, and James Greene (Shiloh) took first place!



Top from left to right: Carolina Ocampo (West), Mackenzie Miller (East), Demion Alexander (West), Rubi Egurrola (Beulah). Bottom from left to right: Leilany Ampuero (Elmwood), Carlos Cambray (Elmwood), James Greene (Shiloh), Joseph Rios (Elmwood)



ZCMS Spelling Bee



Kyra Bogans

Next, our top spellers moved on to the Sectional Competition, held on Thursday, February 20th at Carman-Buckner Elementary School in Waukegan. All District 6 spellers did an amazing job. Our very own Kyra Bogans (ZCMS) took fifth place out of 24 participants, and Carlos Cambray (Elmwood) tied for first.

Carlos then had the chance to compete at the Final Competition at the College of Lake County on Tuesday, March 10th.

**CONGRATULATIONS
TO ALL OF OUR
DISTRICT 6 SPELLERS
ON A JOB WELL DONE!**

FaceCafe

A New Virtual Gathering Place

A new opportunity for our District 6 families, which is being sponsored by BPAC/PAC! We are excited to share an avenue to bring our community together at a time when schools are closed. Make a reservation to join our upcoming FaceCafe. Reserve your spot now...attendee participation can accommodate up to 25 participants.

- Place your reservation through the FaceCafe Reservation portal.
- Your place in the group meeting will be reserved until participant capacity is full.
- Reserved attendees will be contacted with details for joining the FaceCafe.
- Participation can be via, phone or technology device (tablet, computer, smartphone).
- The meeting will encourage video participation, but not required. Audio participation is acceptable.

FACECAFE RESERVATION PORTAL
[HTTPS://ZION-6.ORG/DRFRP](https://zion-6.org/DRFRP)





CELEBRATING COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

ZION FIRE DEPARTMENT

Fire Chief John Lewis and members of the Zion Fire-Rescue Department were recognized at the Zion Elementary District 6 Board Meeting on January 27th.



Not only does the Zion Fire Department provide our schools with fire drill support and fire safety presentations, but they extend even further to help us with the execution of District events, and much more. We are thankful for the partnership that has been created, and look forward to its continued growth.

TRIO EDUCATIONAL TALENT SEARCH SCHOLARS

The TRIO Educational Talent Search Scholars Program was recognized at the Zion Elementary District 6 Board Meeting on February 24th. The director of this program, Dr. Sharon Sanders-Funnye, was in attendance, and received a certificate of recognition from Dr. Keely Roberts.

The TRIO program provides teens in our district access to various grant-funded programs such as career fairs, college tours, workshops, STEM events, "Mad City Money" sessions, and more. Such programs provide an opportunity for 6th-8th graders in our district to experience and learn about college from a young age, at no cost to the student or District 6. The TRIO program has been instrumental in helping to ensure the success of our students, and we look forward to the continuation of this important partnership.



Cultivating The Love Of READING

District 6 is excited to announce the kick off of a campaign for our students, "Reading Matters". This campaign provides an opportunity for our youth to access of a variety of books in print. Thanks to a recent partnership with Oak Grove School in Green Oaks, who utilized our district as a partner school in their recent fundraiser, our schools have received a large donation of

books. Students and families are encouraged to peruse the selections available in the front office of each school, take them home, and keep them as their own. This program is at no cost to the reader, and we are excited to provide our students with a window to the world through literature.



READING MATTERS

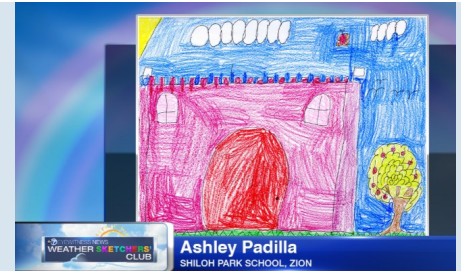
TAKE A Book READ A Book KEEP A Book
TOMAR Un Libro, Leer Un Libro, Guardar Un Libro

Weather Sketchers

THREE OF OUR VERY OWN SHILOH PARK STUDENTS ARE THE NEWEST MEMBERS OF ABC7's WEATHER SKETCHERS CLUB!



All third graders recently learned about the different stages of weather in class, and these lucky three had their weather drawings chosen to be transmitted through channel 7.



Congratulations to Xitalli, Ashley, and Emilio from Ms. Orozco's Third Grade Class.



In our efforts to continuously recruit highly qualified staff members to join our team, Zion Elementary School District 6 has expanded recruitment opportunities across not only state lines, but beyond the domestic United States.

EXPANDING STAFF RECRUITMENT From Puerto Rico to Zion

During a recruitment trip to Puerto Rico in December, the District 6 team was successful in the hiring of three talented, bilingual teachers, who made the courageous decision to leave their homes in order to make an impact on the students in our school district. Ms. Acevedo, Ms. Cruz, and Ms. Rosa have officially begun their positions as Resource Teachers in Special Education and English Language Learners classrooms, and are transitioning into life at District 6.

Our new staff arrived with a warm welcome from Dr. Roberts, District 6 Superintendent, and received welcome materials and classroom supplies to support their transition to Zion Elementary District 6.

Continued on back page.





Dr. Roberts Receives Award Distinguished Support of Music Education

Zion Elementary School District 6 Superintendent, Dr. Keely Roberts, was the 2020 recipient of the Save The Music Foundation's 15th annual Administrator Award for Distinguished Support of Music Education. This prestigious award was presented in San Diego, California at the annual National Conference on Education, hosted by AASA, the School Superintendents Association. This award recognizes one superintendent or school district CEO who has exhibited outstanding commitment to restoring

music education in his or her school district. Dr. Roberts was chosen for her deep commitment to providing students in our district with a well-rounded education that includes music.

Under her leadership, our district has built pathways that have expanded musical programming opportunities district-wide. Her guiding principle, that District 6 children deserve what every child deserves, is evident within our band, orchestra, choir, and mariachi programs. Students are now able to experiment with many musical instruments, enroll in a variety of music classes that are outside of their core content, and are given opportunities to

showcase their talent and skill to the community through multiple concerts from ensembles with varying playing abilities (beginning band and orchestra, intermediate band and orchestra, middle school orchestra, concert band, elementary choir, combined choir, and mariachi). Additionally, students now have the opportunity to enroll in summer music camps for both band and orchestra.

*"The partnerships with
Save The Music and the Country
Music Association have been
absolutely transformative
for our school district."*

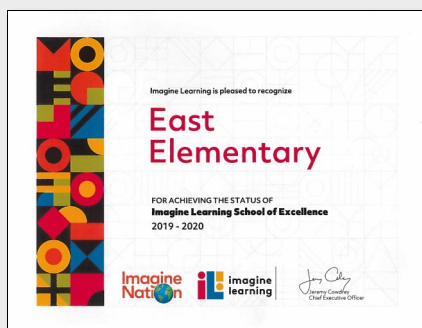
– Dr. Keely Roberts

Beginning in 2017, the first annual Fine Arts Festival, which included the Zion's Got Talent Show, was introduced. At this festival, all Zion community members are invited to enjoy the wonder of music, art, and talents of District 6 students. Such programmatic expansions have provided students with an increased exposure to a variety of musical opportunities that they may have otherwise not been afforded prior to Roberts' leadership.

Dr. Roberts praised the work of the Save the Music Foundation. "Save The Music Foundation has perhaps been most impactful in Zion District 6 in helping instill in our children the belief that they deserve the experiences and opportunities of music," she said. "It is through their generosity that we have been able to build our first ever orchestra and mariachi programs. The commitment to supporting our vision for building a world-class music department is so greatly appreciated."

The Save the Music Foundation has not only invested in District 6 schools through instrument donations, but has helped to provide all students in District 6 the opportunity to enroll in band, mariachi, or orchestra, while encouraging them to reach their full potential through the power of making music.

EAST ELEMENTARY SCHOOL RECOGNIZED AS IMAGINE LEARNING SCHOOL OF EXCELLENCE



We are very proud to announce that the District 6 Dual Language Program at East Elementary has received national recognition for their use and implementation of Imagine Learning Español. East Elementary is one of 134 schools from across the country who received the Imagine National School of Excellence award, out of over 16,000 schools who were eligible. Imagine

Learning is a leading educational technology developer of supplemental adaptive curriculum for PreK through eighth grade students. The Imagine Learning Español program ignites engagement and confidence in learners. During this time of remote learning, Imagine Learning has applauded the educators and staff at East Elementary who are working to support their students and families while transitioning their Dual-Language curriculum into an at-home learning experience with the Imagine Learning Español program.



From Puerto Rico to Zion, continued.

The continuous expansion of our bilingual staff will help meet the growing need for such individuals in our District's dual language, bilingual, and special education classrooms.

This will support the district in better serving our growing Hispanic student body, which makes up approximately 49% of all students in the district.

Having instructors who can simultaneously teach in both English, and the parents' native language, is so very important for the students and families that we serve.



Pictured (left to right): Lisette Rosa, Jessika Pencak, Mercedes Cruz, Mildred Acevedo.

DISTRICT 6 STAFF MEMBERS WAITED EAGERLY AT O'HARE INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT ON THURSDAY, JANUARY 16TH TO WELCOME THE NEWEST MEMBERS OF OUR TEAM.

AFTER HOURS OF TRAVEL, AND WITH BAGS IN HAND, MILDRED ACEVEDO, MERCEDES CRUZ, AND LISSETTE ROSA ARRIVED IN CHICAGO TO BEGIN A NEW CHAPTER OF THEIR LIVES – BRINGING WITH THEM YEARS OF EXPERIENCE AND BILINGUAL EXCELLENCE FROM THEIR HOMES IN PUERTO RICO.

THEY ARE EXTREMELY EXCITED TO HAVE JOINED THE DISTRICT 6 FAMILY.

DISTRICT 6 PERFORMS ITS VERY FIRST VIRTUAL CONCERT FOR THE COMMUNITY

On Wednesday, May 13th, the District 6 community came together for an evening of entertainment and unity during the "Together at Home" Closure Concert. District 6 may continue to face school closures and social distancing measures, however, the Closure Concert was a huge success, as students, staff, families, and community members tuned-in from a distance to witness just some of the amazing talents within our district. The evening featured an opening by Dr. Roberts, a live student drawing, a districtwide performance of "Lean on Me",

a student solo, student/teacher duets, and a performance by our District 6 music team. This is certainly a new situation for all of us, but we continue to be blessed with an incredible community, incredible families, and incredible staff. We may be physically apart, but we are together in spirit and are stronger than ever. Thank you to all who tuned-in and helped to make the first ever Closure Concert the success that it was.



Creative experiences to motivate children to be lifelong learners, express their creativity, think critically, spread positivity, be well, and just plain have fun!



MINI eXPLORE COURSES

AS THE 2019-2020 SCHOOL YEAR WAS WINDING DOWN, OUR STUDENTS AND STAFF PARTICIPATING IN "DISCOVERU@HOME" WERE JUST GETTING STARTED!

This new and exciting exploration-based learning program offered our students creative, fun experiences that helped to motivate them while they explored multiple areas of interest during the last two weeks of the school year.

"My sister Katherine and I loved all the books, thank you all."

– Student, D6 Storytime

District 6 staff volunteered their time to help ensure the success of the DiscoverU@Home courses: Indoor Gardening, Graphic Design, Global Art, Cooking With Class, D6 Story Time, Homework Helpline, Where in the World Scavenger Hunt, DIY, Project Runway, and Coding.

Though these courses were all delivered virtually, students were still able to collaborate with their class and instructor.

Additionally, students were able to pick-up needed course materials, provided at no cost to the student, from Zion Central Middle School the week before courses began!

"My students were very excited and surprised that they were able to make their own apps and small games! I am proud of all of them."

Some classes, such as gardening, cooking, and coding, met multiple times per week "in-person". Other classes, such as D6 Storytime and Homework Helpline, were available for students daily, and allowed them to participate at their own pace. Regardless of the class, students shared very positive feedback with their instructors.

We are so glad that this program was a success for our D6 students, staff, and families, and are thankful that it allowed for additional opportunities for growth in our students during such an unprecedented time.

APPLE & CRANBERRY SALAD
"I made it today it was fun. I liked the Cranberries."

– Student, Cooking With Class