

Chauncey H. Duker School

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District 15 Mission Statement: McHenry Elementary School District 15 is a child-centered community that values connections between people and learning in an environment fostered by mutual respect.

IMPORTANT DATES

Saturday, January 7	Chili Cook-off, Parkland School, tasting begins at 11:30AM. Please come and vote for Duker School's chefs!
Monday, January 9	ACCESS testing begins (bilingual students)
Tuesday, January 10	Recycling Lessons in the classrooms Board of Education meeting, 7:30PM, Valley View School
Wednesday, January 11	Recycling Lessons in the classrooms
Thursday, January 12	Recycling Lessons in the classrooms---AM
Friday, January 13	Early Release Day, dismissal begins at 1:23PM Report Cards go home Blood Drive, Duker School, 1:45-5:45PM Market Day pick-up, 3:15-5:00PM
Monday, January 16	Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Birthday--NO SCHOOL
Tuesday, January 17	Recycling Lessons in the classrooms
Wednesday, January 18	Recycling Lessons in the classrooms
Friday, January 20	Iron Chef Assembly, 1:30-3:00PM Next newsletter goes home
Friday, January 27	Duker Dragon Day---wear PJ's to school Family Game Night, 7:00-9:00PM, Bingo No cost---all families are invited!

MANY THANKS!---Many thanks to all who helped with our Holiday Shop before break! **Tracy Simon** and **Cindi Strickland** did a great job spearheading this project. Volunteers included: **Jim Simon, Stephanie Strach, Mia Correra, Jen Bodecker, Kim Schroeder, Tracy Tobin, Michelle Kusch, Lisa Listi, Stacy Phannenstill, Stacy Gende, Kirsten Strickland, Susan Lea, Louise Strickland** and **Mike Strickland**. Many thanks to all!

Many thanks also to the families who donated leftover Halloween candy to Conlon & Thompson Orthodontics to be sent to our troops. Our school received a check for \$127.60 for the Candy Buy Back Program.

Many thanks from our 5th grade Leadership Team. The Team raised \$391.35 from the sale of candy grams before break. Money was used to buy gift cards for some of our families.

CHILI COOK-OFF---Please join us tomorrow morning, January 7th, at Parkland School for the Annual Chili Cook-Off. Our staff chefs and decorators, **Mrs. Krofel, Miss Christl, Mrs. Ulrich, Miss Schwall Mrs. Rockers,** and **Mrs. Jozwiak** are counting on our Duker families to come to Parkland School to vote for Duker's chili! The tasting begins about 11:30AM and only lasts until the chili is gone (usually about an hour). Incentives are available for your child if your family attends! If your child is participating in the 3 on 3 Tournament there too, please stop in for chili samples in the cafeteria!

END OF SECOND QUARTER---It's hard to believe that the school year is half over. It goes so fast! Today was the end of the second quarter. Report Cards will come home next Friday, January 13th. Next week will begin a new quarter and a fresh start for all of our students...a good time to begin New Year's resolutions, if need be.

NEW FOOD SERVICE PROGRAM---McHenry School District #15 is excited to announce that starting February 1st, a NEW Food Service Program will be utilized district-wide. This new system will offer online flexibility to parents and students. Benefits will include easy online payment options for school lunches, as well as parental tracking in Skyward Family Access, of the payment history and balance of your student's accounts. The food service department is extremely excited and looking forward to working with the community to create and utilize this new well-balanced approach for the everyday business and functionality of our school cafeterias. More information and details will be forthcoming during the upcoming month.

McHENRY ELEMENTARY EDUCATION FOUNDATION FAMILY BOWLING EVENT---The McHenry Elementary Education Foundation invites all District #15 families and friends to a Family Cosmic Bowling Day at Raymond's Bowl in Johnsburg on Sunday, January 22nd. There will be two bowling slots beginning at 12:30-1:30 and again from 2:30-3:30. The cost is \$8:00 a person, per hour. A free soft drink ticket and pretzels are included, as well as shoe rental.

SCHOOL CLOSINGS---Winter is here. An easy way to get information about school closings due to weather is to sign up for Nixle, which can provide both an e-mail and text message. Go to www.nixle.com to sign up for this free service. Our district website, as well as local TV/radio stations also carry the school closing information. Do NOT call the district Transportation Office.

FAMILY GAME NIGHT---Please save the date! Friday, January 27th, will be Family Game Night. Please join us for a night of family fun playing Bingo for prizes. All Duker School students and families are invited to a free night of fun from 7:00-9:00PM in our cafeteria. We ask that the fourth graders bring snacks and the fifth graders bring drinks to share. We need a few parent helpers for the evening too. If you are able to help set up or distribute Bingo cards or manage the snack tables or help with minimal clean up, we could use your help. Please call Mrs. Holliday or the school office (815-344-7125) if you would be willing to help for a few minutes that evening.

ST. JUDE'S MATH-A-THON BEGINS JANUARY 23RD---Duker School will participate in a Math-A-Thon to benefit St. Jude's Research Hospital. The event begins on Monday, January 23rd. Teachers will distribute flyers with the information and permission slip on Wednesday, January 18th. Once students return the permission slip, they may obtain pledges and complete a Math Fun Book on their own. The fun book is also available online. The Math Fun Book contains problems and puzzles. Students can also receive prizes based on the amount of pledges they have collected. By supporting the students, you will help raise funds for the nationally recognized hospital and also give your children some extra math practice. These funds will help St. Jude Hospital in its ongoing fight against childhood diseases. All books should be completed and money returned by February 3rd.

BLOOD DRIVE IN MEMORY OF TERRY SMART---The annual McHenry Elementary School District #15 Blood Drive will be held on Friday, January 13th. We are holding the drive in memory of our former co-worker, Terry Smart, who lost his battle with pancreatic cancer in August, 2011. You may not have known Terry by name or facial recognition, but, whether you realize it or not, he had an impact on all of our lives... Have you ever noticed our well-groomed schools? Or, that parking lot space that you were easily able to pull into on a snowy day? Terry worked as a maintenance technician and had a hand in many of the behind-the-scenes events---whether he did the work himself or delegated it to others---in the ten years that he was with our school district. (Terry's wife, Donna, is Duker School's head custodian). In all the years of our blood drive, Terry was always there to help us in any way. Terry was a hard-working, good-hearted man---with a smile always. Therefore, we are holding our blood drive this year to honor Terry and his memory. The American Cancer Society will be present with literature and purple ribbons to help increase awareness of pancreatic cancer. Please consider donating a pint of blood in honor of our friend and co-worker. Please mark your calendars: January 13th, 2012 (Early Release Day), 1:45-5:45PM, Duker School.

RUN YOUR LIFE NEWS---It's our favorite time of the year: Run Your Life Kids Clubs are here! Fitness, fun, adventure, club time, community time, journal time, embracing our environment, cardio, light running and a healthy snack together!
Club Duker, Grades 4 & 5, and Club Edgebrook, Grades K-3, Club Valley View, Grades 3-5.
Clubs Duker and Edgebrook meet after school at Duker until 4:30PM. Registration fee: \$25. Club Valley View meets after school until 5:00PM. Registration fee: \$25. Registration is limited to 25 per club. January 18th kick off! Club dates: January 18, 23, 25, 30, Feb. 1, 6, 8, 13, 15, 22. On-line registration for Run Your Life Kids Clubs:
Club Edgebrook, led by Carrie Sabatka: www.signmeup/79850
Club Duker, led by Tammy Krofel: www.signmeup/79836
Club Valley View, led by Jen Finch: www.signmeup/79816
Questions? Please contact our Executive Director at Run Your Life at runyourlife.director@gmail.com. Visit our websites for photos and more information at www.teamrunyourlife.info or www.runyourlife.org. Adults, too, can get in on the fun at www.signmeup.com/79252.

