

## **Illini Central Grade School Administrative Report**

### **Enrollment as of 5.9.2025**

Year	Pre-K	K	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	Total
May 2025	80	45	49	40	44	44	47	349
22/23	80	37	38	44	42	38	50	329
21/22	62	270						332

### **Celebrations & Thanks**

- Thank you so much to the School Board, PTO, and local community and businesses for all the support and activities during Teacher Appreciation Week! It's always such a busy time of year, and we are incredibly grateful for the time and gifts sent our way. Thank you to all school staff who support our students and community as well. We participated in a Survivor game this week, and it's been nice to get a little silly as well as do things for other staff members to let them know how much we appreciate them as colleagues and friends.
- We also appreciate all the support of parents who have volunteered to join our field trips in the past few weeks!
- Thank you to all of our teachers who opened up their classrooms to staff members from Delavan. They are exploring possible math curriculum changes and wanted to see Eureka Squared in action. Even though it's our first year—and May—teachers bravely let them observe and ask questions they had about the program. Our students also stepped up and showed off their best behavior for the visits.

### **Kindergarten Goes to the Zoo**

*On Monday, May 5th, the Kindergarten classes went on a field trip to the Peoria Zoo. During their visit, they participated in an “Ed-zooocationl” class focused on Animal Coverings, where they had the opportunity to get an up-close look at an armadillo, a giant cockroach, and a box turtle. The students also explored the zoo and observed many incredible animals in their naturalistic habitats. A favorite stop was the African exhibit, featuring giraffes, rhinoceroses, zebras, gazelles, and more. Another highlight was spending time on a fully accessible playground, where students were excited to try out inclusive play equipment designed for everyone. We wrapped up the day by enjoying some sunshine and a picnic outdoors. It was a fun and memorable experience for all! -Megan Nissen*



### **Eureka Squared**

We continue to be very pleased with the Eureka Squared math program, and teachers have reported that benchmark testing is indicating progress in Math standards and skills.

*What is going on in 4th grade? Students are combining geometry and exercise to learn essential concepts, including points, line segments, lines, acute angles, obtuse angles, and right angles. This hands-on approach is increasing student engagement and is proving to be quite effective! Next up on their geometry journey will be to find examples of these concepts outdoors! -Julia Hischke*



### **It's the Final Countdown!**

We're counting down our final days of the 24/25 school year! We have a handful of field trips left to go, a "picnic" with our CSC Buddy pairs, and our Field Day (sponsored by PTO) on the last day of school! Our second grade also does an alphabet countdown for the end of the year. Students were excited for "P" day! Mrs. Clark made popcorn for all of second grade (and the building)! Photo credit to Janel Ripper!



### **First Annual Parent Academy**

On Wednesday, March 7th, 2025, we hosted our first Parent Academy for incoming Kindergarten students. This event was a result of our transition goals in the Strategic Plan and the work of our Transition Planning subcommittee. This year, PreK and Kindergarten staff worked together to plan the logistics, get the word out, and put together content. Our kitchen staff graciously assisted by cooking a meal for all the families that attended as well. PreK paraprofessionals and student volunteers from the high school came over as well to engage children in activities in the Cougar Center during the parent presentation portion of the evening. Every family took home a gift bag with materials used in the presentation (like math cubes, playdough, scissors, beads, balloons, practice shoelace shoe, etc.), and we gave away three fantastic door prizes. In our first year, we had over 25% of incoming students attend, and we look forward to refining and growing the event in our upcoming years. Our Kindergarten teachers are also working on a proposal to share our successes with other districts in the state at the Pump Up Primary Conference, which happens in March each year.



Thank you so much to our parent panel, who led a question and answer session with our incoming Kindergarten parents! These ladies are parents of current Kindergarten students, and we had very positive feedback about this part of the evening. Parent panel includes: Jenna Worthington, Kelly Millard, Tori Sidwell, and Blaire Montgomery



*PreK Teachers (Mrs. Braden & Mrs. Steel) put together a presentation on teaching independence for the Kindergarten Parent Academy put on by the Kindergarten teachers! Independence is a very important skill, and we shared the tricks of the trade! -Erica Braden*





Kindergarten teachers led a session to walk parents through activities they could complete with their children to help them build readiness for Kindergarten. These included fine motor skills, literacy and numeracy activities, dinner time conversation cards, and more!



Kids had a great time in the Cougar Center with paras and our student volunteers! Thanks to Karen Leinweber, Diane Oney, Ashley Flairty, and our ICHS volunteers!