



To: Board of Education
From: Amy Melinder, Director of Community Engagement
Date: March 16, 2026
Re: District Highlights

Comments: **Jefferson teacher named Golden Apple Awards finalist**

Congratulations to Thomas Jefferson Junior High School teacher Megan Fitzsimmons on being named a finalist for the 2026 Golden Apple Award for Excellence in Teaching!

The Golden Apple Awards for Excellence in Teaching honor outstanding teachers for having lasting, positive effects on students' lives and school communities. Teacher finalists demonstrate, through their teaching and results, a significant positive impact on their students' growth and learning.

Murphy students organize sock drive

Murphy students organized a sock drive to support DuPagePads. Two large bins full of socks were donated. This successful drive supports our community and models kindness for our students.

Founded in 1985, DuPagePads is the largest provider of interim and permanent housing, coupled with support services in order to help individuals work toward a place to call home.

Read Across America Day

On February 26, every elementary classroom welcomed at least one guest reader, creating a districtwide celebration of stories, imagination, and the joy of reading. From parents and grandparents to community leaders and local partners, our students loved sharing books with so many special visitors.



A heartfelt thank you to our incredible guest readers representing the Village of Woodridge, Woodridge Park District, Woodridge Public Library, Woodridge Police Department, Lisle-Woodridge Fire District, Woodridge VFW, Woodridge Rotary, West Suburban Community Pantry, Forest Preserve District of DuPage County, DuPage ROE, and many more family and community members who took time to read with our students.

Student artists win best in show

Recently, students from our south side schools—Murphy, Edgewood, and Siple—participated in the annual Darien Women’s Club Art Fair, and two students were named Best in Show (division winner) honorees:

- Alice Fukushiro (Murphy) – 1st & 2nd Grade Division
- Alaska Tkachev (Siple) – 3rd & 4th Grade Division

We are so proud of these students and all who represented our schools with their creativity and hard work.

Student artwork on display

Throughout the month of March, Edgewood student artwork is featured in the children’s section of the Woodridge Public Library.