

## Illini Central Grade School Administrative Report

### Enrollment as of 2.14.2025

Year	Pre-K	K	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	Total
Feb. 2025	74	44	51	40	44	43	46	342
22/23	80	37	38	44	42	38	50	329
21/22	62	270						332

### Celebrations & Thanks

- We had a blast at our SIP Day on January 29th. We split the time between three activities. First, we had a fantastic follow-up presentation from Ashley Tucker entitled [A Trauma-Informed School: Strategies to Support Social-Emotional Learning and Resilience](#). Early in January, we had an impactful presentation regarding what trauma-informed is and means. This presentation really expanded on that knowledge and helped staff to get some ideas for specific practices they could incorporate into their day and routines to actually better support our students (and ourselves). As a result of the two back-to-back staff presentations, I have really seen more staff interest in this topic, and there are other book studies and inquiries that have organically developed and grown out of the overviews presented. Several staff members are discussing and implementing ideas from *The Regulated Classroom*, which focuses on building safety and connectedness. Many teachers are also part of a book study about *The Let Them Theory* that will meet at the end of the month. This book centers on identifying what is in our locus of control and then spending our energy focused on improving what we can improve within our control, rather than stressing about things we cannot control. So far, there have been some really positive results. In another presentation, this time with Mrs. Cooley, we also dove into how AI could help teachers make their job a little easier for them, while expanding the number of opportunities for differentiation for students. Finally, we got to try out the new Cougar Center Equipment and engage in some friendly rivalry with the rest of the district. I'm proud to say that the Grade School cleaned up!



**Longest Drive Overall:** Jeff Theleritis, 288 yards

**Longest Drive by Building:**

\*\*GS: Keaton Wort, PK, 277 yards

MS: Ryan Burks, 248 yards

HS: Miles Allen, 255 yards

**Best Dressed Overall:** \*\*Erica Braden, PK

**Best Dressed by Building:**

\*\*GS: Nicole Steel, PK

MS: Ryan Burks

HS: Adrian Gonzalez

**The Golden Goose:**

\*\*Janel Ripper, 2nd Grade, 0 yards

Heather Davis, 0 yards

It continues to be a gift to have such a welcoming space to gather as a staff. We can't wait until we have the professional development/flexible space in the old APR area, but this makes a very good substitute for the time being! It also continues to give our staff and students a place to congregate at other times.



- We hit our 100th day of school, also on January 29th! It was quite a celebration! Check out these pictures from some of our Kindergarten students!



*One of our “elderly” students was doing some counting of objects. They all brought in collections of 100 items to count for class!*



*One of our phenomenal Kindergarten classes in full celebration mode! Something I've learned: No celebration is complete in Kindergarten until a crown is involved. It's a very important rule!*

### **5th Grade's First College Visit**



On Tuesday, February 4th, 5th grade students took a field trip to the Sangamon Auditorium and attended “Dr. Kaboom: Under Pressure.” After the performance, students took a guided tour of the auditorium as well as parts of the campus. Our goal is for all students to learn what college is and set foot on a college campus before they leave grade school. Mrs. Henning coordinates this field trip, and she was excited to share that the UIS staff members who provided the tour for ICGS students said that once again, our students were very well behaved!

### **Math Update**

Our teachers continue to be extremely happy with the math curriculum, even though it's a lot different than what they have done before. I am so proud of how much effort they have put into studying the modules, learning the “why,” trusting the process, and stretching outside of their comfort zones. Students at almost every grade level are working on fractions currently, either explicitly or as work that is designed to lay the foundation for a more concrete understanding of fractions. In third grade, students recently had their very first assessment over fractions, specifically identifying them and naming them. Teachers were thrilled to see the data backed up their belief that students appeared to have a deeper grasp on fractions this year—97.6% of students mastered the skill on the assessment! Teachers are also having students enter their assessments in the computer platform, which will help to prepare them for the IAR platform.

## Caring School Communities Peer Buddies a Success

As a part of our Caring School Communities program, all of our students were paired up with a “buddy” in the building. Our goal is to try to build a deeper sense of connection and community within the school, and so far, we’re seeing some positive results! In January, students were officially introduced to their “buddies.” They have done some activities together, and teacher pairs/trios are in the process of planning additional activities. We were also able to incorporate buddies into our last school assembly. Big and little buddies were seated together, and big buddies had the opportunity to help their little buddy with a rock-paper-scissors game that incorporated the entire school. It was fantastic to see our students cheering for one another and having a “little” to look out for and be a positive role model for!



*In addition to the opening Big Buddy event between the 3rd graders and Kindergarten students they got together on the 100th day to share their 100-day collections and do 100 exercises in the new space.*

*2nd and 5th grader Little/Big Buddies spread out and created getting-to-know-you posters as introductions! Students compared and contrasted their interests and “favorite” items.*

*Our 4th grade and 1st grade pairs sent letters to each other as their opening activities, then met in the turf area for a game of Pictionary.*