



# 301 Gazette

WINTER 2019

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## District 301 Partners with Toys for Tots

Central High School student leaders organized our second annual Toys for Tots drive. The primary goal of the Marine's Toys for Tots program is to collect new, unwrapped toys and distribute them to help bring the joy of the holidays and send a message of hope. Every school participated in the campaign this year as well as our District Office and Transportation, Food Service, and Building and Grounds Departments. Our student leaders decorated a festive bus and dressed in the holiday spirit to visit each building on December 13th to collect the donations. They filled the bus twice during the collection, and the generosity and participation rates did not go unnoticed by the collection site. This year Toys for Tots will distribute over 7 million toys to children. Over its lifespan, the Marine's Toys for Tots program has distributed over 512 million toys to over 237 million less fortunate children. We are proud to partner with this organization to make the holidays a little brighter for children in our community.



## 2019 Illinois School Report Card

The Illinois School Report Card has been released and District 301 fared well within the summative designations. Lily Lake Grade School received an exemplary summative designation while the other six schools within the district received commendable summative designations. The summative designation received by the state encompasses a mix of factors (for example, student growth, absenteeism, graduation rates, attainment score) that results in the score. These scores represent a "public benchmark" of each school's progress towards the goal of preparing all students for success in college and/or career.

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**Dr. Todd Stirn**  
Superintendent

**Dr. Esther Mongan**  
Assistant Superintendent

## District Contact Information

District Office  
847.464.6005

Central High School  
847.464.6030

Central Middle School  
847.464.6000

Prairie Knolls Middle School  
847.717.8100

Country Trails Elementary School  
847.717.8000

Howard B. Thomas Grade School  
847.464.6008

Lily Lake Grade School  
847.464.6011

Prairie View Grade School  
847.464.6014

Transportation Office  
847.464.6052

Food Services  
847.464.6043

Athletic Department  
847.464.6038



## 5Essentials Survey—We Need Your Help!

Each year the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) conducts a survey of learning conditions in public schools. The 5Essentials Survey was developed by researchers at the University of Chicago and provides schools with data on five leading indicators for school improvement: effective leaders, collaborative teachers, involved families, supportive environment, and ambitious instruction. The survey is open to teachers, parents, and students in 4th through 12th grade. Survey results will be released to principals and superintendents in June, and a summary of the results are reported on the Illinois School Report Card website at <https://www.illinoisreportcard.com>.

This year, parents can complete the 5Essentials Survey through February 14th. We are asking all parents and guardians to visit <https://survey.5-essentials.org/illinois/survey/parent> to take the brief survey during this window. This is a great opportunity for our families to communicate with the district what they feel are our strengths as well as areas where we can improve. The results are carefully considered each year and changes are made in each building based upon the feedback we receive.



Thank you for taking the time to help us improve the educational experience for our students, teachers, and families!

## Wake Up Call Parent Presentation

Last year Central District 301, in partnership with the Kane County Juvenile Justice Council, hosted Wake Up Call, a powerful presentation for parents about substance abuse. The response was overwhelming and we have had many requests to bring this presentation back for those who were unable to attend. We are pleased to share that we will be hosting Wake Up Call again on Tuesday, March 3rd, 2020.

This presentation is geared towards middle and high school parents and guardians and offers information about the signs and symptoms of teen drug and/or alcohol abuse and strategies for intervention. Included is a life-size exhibit of a teen's bedroom with more than 20 "red flags" that can signal drug or alcohol use and locations where teens may hide drugs.

Wake Up Call is presented by Your Choice To Live, Inc., a non-profit organization founded by individuals touched by teen substance abuse. You can learn more about Your Choice To Live, Inc. by visiting [www.yourchoice-live.org](http://www.yourchoice-live.org).

Watch for more information regarding this event and how to register over the next couple of months.



*The winter break begins after school on Friday, December 20<sup>th</sup>, and continues through Friday, January 3<sup>rd</sup>. School will resume on Monday, January 6<sup>th</sup>. Have a safe and enjoyable break!*

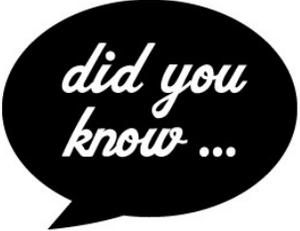
## 2019 Illinois School Report Card

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Additionally, the [report card](#) includes a summary dashboard for every school across the state and within the district. The data represents additional funding information, academic growth indicators, English learner scores and growth, special populations scores and growth, qualifications of educators, along with the summative designations and several other metrics. Internally we use this data to measure and monitor trends of student and school success, compare results, monitor programmatic success and school improvement efforts across each school and the district as a whole. The Illinois Report Card is one measure we use to represent the success of our students; however, there are many other benchmarks that are utilized throughout the year which reflect continuous improvement and achievement.

### Did You Know?

District 301 offers several Parent University events each year with the goal of supporting our families in areas of importance to them. Past session topics have included student anxiety, social media awareness, vaping, social-emotional learning, navigating district systems and more. Video recordings of several of our past sessions are available for viewing on our [Parent Resources](#) page. Click on Parent University Videos and Resources for a complete list of available videos.



*did you know ...*

### Adult ESL Literacy Class Opportunity

At our last Bilingual Parent Advisory Committee (BPAC) meeting, members shared their interest in adult ESL literacy classes. We are partnering with Elgin Community College to discuss the possibility of beginning free ESL classes for adults at the ECC campus in Burlington. An informational meeting will be held on January 17, 2020 from 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm at Prairie Knolls Middle School (225 Nesler Rd, Elgin).

En nuestro último Consejo Asesor de Padres Bilingüe (BPAC) reunión, los miembros comparten su interés en ESL clases de alfabetización para adultos. Asociamos con el Elgin Community College en discutir iniciar clases gratuitas de ESL en el ECC campus en Burlington. Estamos ofreciendo una sesión informativa en el 17 de enero de 2020 desde las 6:30 pm hasta 8:00 pm en Prairie Knolls Middle School (225 Nesler Rd., Elgin).

### AP District Honor Roll

For the second year in a row, District 301 has been named to the Annual AP District Honor Roll! We are one of two Kane County school districts and eleven Illinois school districts to receive this honor. This achievement acknowledges the District's commitment to increasing access to AP for all students while maintaining high performance on AP exams. Click [here](#) to learn more about the AP District Honor Roll.

The complete 10th Annual AP District Honor Roll can be found by clicking [here](#).

## Upcoming Dates

Dec. 23 - Jan. 3

Winter Break

Jan. 20

MLK Day - No School  
for Students

Jan. 21

BOE Meeting

Feb. 17

President's Day - No  
School for Students

Feb. 18

BOE Meeting

Feb. 27

Half Day for Students

Feb. 28

No School for  
Students

Mar. 3

Wake Up Call  
Presentation

Mar. 16

BOE Meeting

Mar. 19

Evening Parent-  
Teacher Conferences

Mar. 20

Half Day of School

Mar. 30 - Apr. 3

Spring Break

## Emergency School Closures

We want to remind parents of District 301's policies and procedures regarding emergency closings. It is the district's policy to operate school whenever possible, but there may be occasions when we need to close or implement a delayed start. A two hour delayed start would mean that all school start times and morning bus pick-up times would be delayed by two hours, and school would conclude at the regular dismissal time. Only school closures and delayed starts will be announced. If no announcement is made, you should assume that school is in session. We will use multiple avenues to relay weather-related closing information to our families and staff. When the decision to close is made, the announcement will be made via a phone call, e-blast, district website post, and social media post. The announcements happen very quickly and it is possible that a Facebook post could reach you before your phone call. Below is a list of ways you can learn of school closings:

- A phone message to families and staff
- An email message to families and staff
- The District 301 website: [central301.net](http://central301.net)
- A District 301 mobile app alert
- The District 301 Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/centralschooldistrict301](http://www.facebook.com/centralschooldistrict301)
- Local newspapers, television stations, and radio stations
- The Emergency Closing Center website: [www.emergencyclosings.com](http://www.emergencyclosings.com)



Central schools provide students with a safe and effective learning environment. When severe weather occurs, Dr. Stirn consults with numerous people, including area school officials and the district's directors of transportation and facilities, to help make the decision to remain open or closed. The safety of our students and staff is of our utmost concern, but we understand that it is less disruptive for students, teachers, and parents if classes are held as normal. A decision will be made based on all these factors and what we feel is best for our students.

### *Season's Greetings!*

*May the holiday season end this present decade on a cheerful note and make way for a fresh and bright New Year. May your home be filled with joy, your heart with love, and your life with laughter.*

*Dr. Todd Stirn, Superintendent*