We have had a great first half of the school year and I’m sure the second half will be just as eventful. As you know, the second half of the school year gets a little tougher for students. Academics become more difficult and expectations become more stringent as we prepare students for the next grade level. Please contact teachers directly with any questions. We are so lucky to have your support and help at home. This is crucial to our success at school. Thank you.

We also have many things happening in the coming weeks - yearbooks are on sale, we are participating in five reading incentive programs (Chicago Wolves, Concord Monster Club, Indian Prairie Winter Read, Kane County Cougars and Six Flags), Valentine parties, Prekindergarten and Kindergarten registration, music programs and Kids Heart Challenge.

If you know of any neighbors or new families who have children who will be three, four or five years old for Prekindergarten or Kindergarten, please spread the word about Prekindergarten and Kindergarten registration. Have them call the school office at 331/481-4010. Please check out our website and NoteTotes for more information.

Stay warm,
Laura Anderson, Ed.D.

Concord Elementary School Yearbooks

Order your Concord Elementary School Yearbooks NOW! Don’t miss out on this EXTRA special chance to own this unique memento for only $18.00. Order forms are available in the Concord Elementary School Office or at Yearbook Order Form. Last day for orders is Thursday, February 20, 2020.

Reading Club Reminder

Chicago Wolves and Kane County Cougars Reading Club sheets are due February 12. Concord Monster Club and Indian Prairie Winter Reading sheets are due February 15. Six Flags Read to Succeed Reading Club sheets are due March 6. If your child is participating, please be sure the forms are turned in to the classroom teachers.
Kindergarten Registration

Kindergarten Round Up will be held at Concord Elementary School on Thursday, February 27 at 6:00 p.m.

In order to be eligible for Kindergarten, the child should have reached his/her fifth birthday on or before September 1, 2020. We have tried to keep an updated list of children who will be attending Kindergarten, but please notify any of your neighbors or friends who live in the district and are eligible for the Kindergarten Program. Call the Concord Elementary School Office with any questions and to ensure that you are on the list: 331/481-4010.

Prekindergarten Registration

Parents of three, four and five year old children, who do not yet attend Kindergarten and are residents of Cass School District 63, may register for a free Prekindergarten Screening. Prekindergarten Screening will be held on Friday, March 6, 2020. Children must be preregistered to participate in the Prekindergarten Screening sessions. Sessions will last about one hour. To register, please call the Concord Elementary School Office 331/481-4010.

Children who qualify based on the Prekindergarten Screening will be eligible to attend the Blended Prekindergarten program for FREE. Our blended program will provide high quality prekindergarten education that will be held 2.5 hours each day, five days per week. This program is taught by licensed Early Childhood teachers using the research-based Creative Curriculum. If your child does not qualify to attend the program for free, Cass School District 63 offers a tuition-based option (if space allows) that serves children aged three through five who are progressing are a rate typical of their age.
Dear Parents and Guardians,

Concord Elementary School’s Social-Emotional Learning curriculum will include Erin’s Law again this year. This is a state mandated, age-appropriate child sexual abuse awareness and prevention education program for our students.

It is estimated that one in four girls and one in six boys will be sexually abused by the time they turn eighteen years old. It is also estimated that around 90% of the abusers are people the child knows. This could be relatives, babysitters, neighbors, or other family acquaintances. Out of those sexually abused children, it is estimated that 60% will never tell someone.

In response to these startling statistics, and the hard work of Erin Merryn, who took a personally tragedy and created a positive change across America, Erin’s Law is now implemented or pending in over half the states. In February 2011, Governor Pat Quinn was the first to sign Erin’s Law for Illinois.

Erin’s Law will be taught during Skills for Learning lessons in the last week of February and the first week of March. For more information, here are some links to resources regarding Erin’s Law and sexual abuse:

Erin’s Law - [http://erinslaw.org](http://erinslaw.org) – This website details what Erin’s Law is, who Erin Merryn is, and provides many more resources, programs, and information on the subject of child sexual abuse.

Darkness to Light - [www.d2l.org](http://www.d2l.org) – This nonprofit is dedicated to educating adults about how to identify and respond to child sexual abuse.

Stop It Now! - [www.stopitnow.org](http://www.stopitnow.org) – This nonprofit is dedicated to preventing sexual abuse of children by helping adults, families, and communities take actions that keep kids safe.

If you have questions about this program, or your child’s participation in the program, please contact Helen Park, school counselor, [HPark@CassD63.org](mailto:HPark@CassD63.org).
Physical Education News

Dear Parents and Guardians,

As we enter the middle of the school year, we would like to offer several reminders about Concord Elementary School’s Physical Education program. First, students come to Physical Education every day and therefore need to have gym shoes available every day. We understand that students may need to wear snow boots to stay warm and dry, so please help your child(ren) remember to bring a pair of gym shoes in their backpack each morning. Or, consider leaving a pair of shoes in their locker for daily use.

Secondly, we are excited to share that our annual fundraiser for the American Heart Association (“AHA”) is just around the corner. This year, the AHA has changed the name of the fundraiser; it is now called the Kids Heart Challenge. We’ll be introducing the program to students during Physical Education classes on Friday, February 8 and will begin accepting donations the following Monday. The official Kids Heart Challenge event will be held during Physical Education classes on February 13 and the final turn in day for all donations is on February 22. Please keep an eye out for more details about this fun and important fundraising opportunity in the coming weeks.

As always, we thank you for your continued support of the Concord Elementary School Physical Education program as we look forward to a wonderful second half of the school year!

Sincerely,
Craig Damrow and Greg Kirchen

Winter Weather Reminder

Concord Elementary School students participate in Physical Education and Fitness at Recess (FAR) activities daily. Please be sure students are dressed properly and have necessary coats, hats, gloves, scarves, boots, snow pants, etc. for the weather conditions.

We consult the weather station to determine the temperature and wind-chill factor. If the wind-chill factor is below zero and/or the temperature is below 15 degrees, the children do not go outside. If it is sleeting, extremely windy, snowing excessively, or simply too wet or messy, indoor recess is determined.

While children are outside, we monitor changes to the weather and if we need to bring the children back into the building we will communicate with the supervisors using the two-way radio.
Recently, Concord Elementary School Fourth Grade Students had the opportunity to participate in a hockey clinic presented by the Chicago Blackhawks fan development team. During a special hour long Physical Education class, the Blackhawks staff worked with the students to develop their stick handling skills through several drills, challenging the students to control the equipment safely and accurately. The GOAL (Get Out And Learn) clinic culminated with a full floor hockey game where the students played alongside the Blackhawks’ instructors. Afterwards, the Blackhawks donated hockey sticks, balls and goals to Concord Elementary School for use in future floor hockey instruction. The students really enjoyed the chance to play with the professionals as part of this program!
Principal’s ABC Recognition

The purpose of this program is to recognize and support students for demonstrating our school beliefs in strong Academic performance and good Behavior and Character. The following students were chosen by their teachers for the months of December and January.

**KINDERGARTEN**
- Ryan Beringer
- Kamile Didzgalvis
- Daniella Faye
- Olivia Jankovsky
- Raiyen Patel
- Angela Perez
- Ansh Raval
- Riyashree Ravikumar
- Aaliyah Reoh
- Vincenzo Saraceno
- Andrew Urquiza
- Alexandra Verdes

**FIRST**
- Jason Gantoi
- Madelyn Jason
- Hridhan Jasrotia
- Zara Kahn
- Charlie Kasprowicz
- Ellie Krause
- Dominyka Medeikeyte
- Kara Mitchell
- Zak Monaco
- Jaylene Morales
- Dhruv Rao
- Madelyn Schmidt

**SECOND**
- Karthik Baskar
- Dexter Davis
- Austin Lyall
- James Marzouk
- Emilia Moon
- Tomas Pazemeckas
- Calvin Tanouye
- Bentlee Wagner

**THIRD**
- Cecilia Joyce
- Juliana Knies
- Paige Kuszeski
- Fiona Labeledz
- Isabelle Lancor
- Ronit Mandal
- Jakub Mirowski
- Maksymilian Mirowski
- Carter Mis

**FOURTH**
- Lillian Balsamo
- Mauricio Gubert
- Yusra Hussain
- Kajal Kapur
- Emmy Krause
- Joshua Lewis
- Lauren Menako
- Teagan O’Connor
- Abigail Song
- Madalyn Thomas
- Aiden Worrall

Great job!
10 Benefits to Reading Aloud to Children

1. Builds vocabulary
2. Improves reading comprehension
3. Promotes empathy
4. Reduces stress
5. Boosts brain development
6. Exposes children to different experiences
7. Increases chances of later success
8. Helps develop communication skills
9. Builds self-esteem
10. Deepens family connections

Please check out The Ultimate List of the Best Children’s Books About Kindness by Kelly of Happy You, Happy Family for some ideas for new books to read about Kindness.

66 Positive Things to Say to Your Child

1. I’m grateful for you.
2. You make me proud.
3. Your words are meaningful.
4. You have great ideas.
5. I love being your parent.
6. You don’t have to be perfect to be great.
7. Your opinions matter.
8. You are important.
9. You are loved.
10. I believe you.
11. I believe in you.
12. This family wouldn’t be the same without you.
13. You are valuable.
14. You can say no.
15. You can say yes.
16. I know you did your best.
17. You were right.
18. I accept who you are.
19. We can try your way.
20. You are helpful.
21. You are worth it.
22. You make me happy.
23. I love your creativity.
24. Being around you is fun.
25. I can’t wait to hear about it.
26. Don’t be afraid to be you.
27. You’re making a difference.
28. I’m excited to spend time with you.
29. You are interesting.
30. I love seeing the world your way.
31. It’s good to be curious.
32. I love the way you tell stories.
33. What you did was awesome.
34. I admire you.
35. That’s a great question.
36. Your friends are lucky to have you.
37. I trust you.
38. That was a really good choice.
39. Seeing you happy makes me happy.
40. Being your parent is my favorite job.
41. I learn new things from you every day.
42. You make me better.
43. You are a good boy/girl.
44. Thank you for being you.
45. I’m so glad you’re here.
46. You look great.
47. I understand you.
48. Watching you grow up is the best.
49. That was really brave.
50. I forgive you.
51. I appreciate you.
52. We all make mistakes.
53. Yes, me too.
54. You are very good at that!
55. You can try again tomorrow.
56. Nobody is perfect.
57. I love how you said that.
58. Not everyone will like you, and that’s OK.
59. You did that so well.
60. I’m listening.
61. That’s a very fair point.
62. You are beautiful inside and out.
63. I love you.
64. I could never stop loving you.
65. You are enough.
66. You make my heart full.
STARTING SCHOOL ON TIME IS IMPORTANT

As part of their daily routine and learning process, it is critical that students attend school on a regular basis as well as be on time.

The beginning of the day is so very important for learning to occur in a positive, developmentally appropriate manner. When a child is consistently tardy, it is disruptive not only to your child, but to the other students and the overall learning environment.

Please ensure that your child arrives at Concord Elementary School in time for their classes no later than 7:55 a.m. each day. The car rider line starts at 7:40 a.m. each day and is always moving so that the students can get to class on time. Once in a while, due to weather or unsafe road conditions, the Concord Elementary School staff intentionally slows down the car rider line to help ensure the safety of everyone. When this occurs, no students are recorded as tardy for that day.