

EAST PEORIA ELEMENTARY DISTRICT 86

Moments, Milestones, and Memories

Reflecting on the end of the school year is always a special moment to appreciate just how much our students have grown. Academic success is clear through rising scores, performances and concerts that shine a light on the continued talent of our students, and team success is celebrated on the field of competition. There is no doubt that this year, through all of the hard work and challenges, has resulted in a lot to celebrate for the students, staff members, and community of East Peoria Elementary School District 86. We hope that you are able to see so many celebrations in this edition of the good newsletter.



BOARD BROADCAST

Mission: East Peoria Elementary District 86 is dedicated to continually improving achievement of all students

Information from BOE Meeting on Tuesday, June 16, 2026

NEW BUSINESS/ACTION ITEMS

- Approvals
 - Volunteer Softball and Volunteer Baseball Coaches
 - District School Improvement Plan
 - Title I SchoolWide Plans
 - Consolidated District Plan
 - IASB Policies
 - Revisions to ICESA's Special Education Procedures
 - Budgetary Interim Payments
 - Strategic Plan Goals
 - Delegate and Alternates to IASB Convention
 - Re-Appoint Board Treasurer/Investment Officer and Remuneration
 - Counseling Services through Tazwood Mental Health for CJHS
 - Counseling Services through Tazwood Mental Health for District 86

NEW BUSINESS/ACTION ITEMS

- Approvals (cont.)
 - ROE 35 Illinois School Meals Cooperative Intergovernmental Agreement
 - Agreement with Google Workspace for Education Plus
 - Foundations Curriculum
 - Asus Chromeboxes from Trafera

OTHER BUSINESS/INFORMATION

- Cafeteria Manager's Report
- Admin. End of the Year Meeting
- Tenured Staff Members
- 26-27 Staffing Updates
- K-5 and CJHS Handbook Updates
- FOIA Requests
- Transportation Update

Employment Approvals- Welcome to the District!

Krista Morrison- Teacher at Bolin School

Aspen Bruns- Teacher at Lincoln School

Next Meeting: August 20, 2026

East Peoria District 86 Board Members

Mr. Cowen - President
cowenj@epd86.org

Mr. Fidler-Vice President
fidlern@epd86.org

Mr. Cunningham- Secretary
cunninghamc@epd86.org

Mr. Tapp
tappc@epd86.org

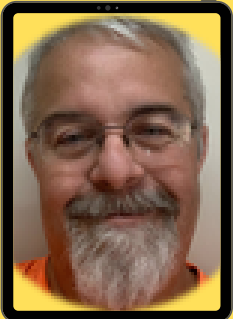
Mrs. Lindsay Hamilton
hamiltonl@epd86.org

Mr. David Schultz
schultzd@epd86.org

Mrs. Jen Williams
williamsj@epd86.org

FOUR PATHS, COUNTLESS MEMORIES

The end of a school year also brings hard and heartfelt goodbyes to dedicated individuals who have made it their daily work to attend to the safety, education, and overall well-being of our students. This year, we honor four retirees and wish them continued success and happiness as they close this chapter and begin to write a new one. They will truly be missed!



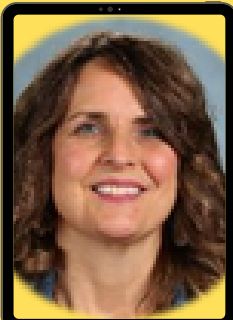
Bob Bodtke- Transportation Supervisor

Bob Bodtke began working for District 86 in December of 2016. Bob started out in the transportation department as a bus driver. He later moved to the maintenance department from June 2019-2022. In July of 2022, he was hired as the Transportation Supervisor. Bob has stated that he loves working with the people in his department, and they have shared how much he will be missed. Thank you, Mr. Bodtke!



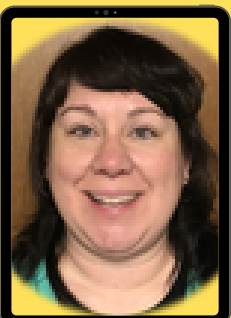
Susan Bodtke- Secretary to the Superintendent

In August of 1998, Susan Bodtke began working in District 86 as the secretary at Bolin School. She was in that position for 11 years before becoming the Secretary to the Associate Superintendent for 7 years and the Secretary to the Superintendent for 10 years. Susan stated that after 28 years in the district, she has been truly blessed to work alongside so many caring and talented individuals. Thank you, Mrs. Bodtke!



Julie George- Information Technology Teacher

Mrs. George was a new third grade teacher at Bolin School in 1990. She states that she will never forget hearing that she had been chosen as one of the teachers hired that year. Three years later she was transferred to Central Junior High School. Mrs. George highlights that the teaching profession gave her decades of memories, and purpose. She knows that she now has a lifetime of stories that will forever live in her heart. Thank you, Mrs. George!



Linda Kelley- School Social Worker

Linda Kelley began working in District 86 as a social worker in August of 2007. During her time, she has served in multiple buildings and across multiple grade levels. She identifies being a part of encouraging general education and special education students to form lasting friendships as a highlight of her career. During her retirement she is looking forward to spending more time with family, friends, and the great outdoors. Thank you, Mrs. Kelley!

Student Spotlight: Supporting the Easter Seals Mission



Shute School's own Mikey Pitts appeared on WMBD News as an Easter Seals Ambassador. Mikey shared the great opportunities and benefits for kids through Easter Seals during his interview. We are so proud of Mikey and his commitment to tell others about Easter Seals!



Life in the Coop with the Stombaugh Sisters



Charlotte Stombaugh, who is in Mrs. Bader's 3rd grade class, and Harper Stombaugh, who is in Mrs. Funk's kindergarten class were able to share a special learning experience with chicks. Mrs. Bader's class hatched chick eggs and learned about the life cycle of chickens. The chicks were then brought to Mrs. Funk's classroom, where the kindergarten students were able to continue watching them grow. Charlotte got to see the chicks hatch from their eggs, while Harper was able to observe how much they grew over time. When Charlotte returned to visit the chicks later, she was excited to see how much they had grown. Both sisters had the opportunity to observe the chicks' development firsthand.



Armstrong School raised money for St. Jude by participating in Laps for Life. The students visited summer-themed stations, ran laps, and made cards for St. Jude patients. Overall, their fundraising efforts totaled \$1,745.02. Way to go, Eagles!

Bob's Discount Furniture Grand Opening

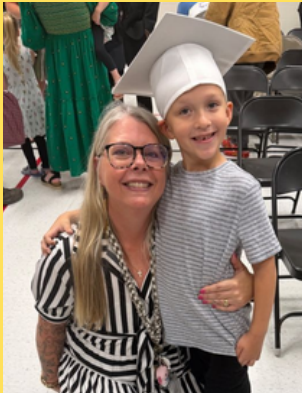


Bob's Discount Furniture presented a check to Lincoln and Shute Schools for \$2,500 as part of their grand opening. This check was a part of their Random Acts of Kindness Donations, representing their commitment to supporting education in the community. Ms. Schrank (Lincoln School Principal) and Mrs. Davis (Shute School Principal) were present and accepted to check. Thank you to Bob's Discount Furniture for their support of education in East Peoria!



Little Stars Shine Bright

Shute School celebrated our youngest learners with a special graduation ceremony. The evening was complete with songs, certificates, and lots of pictures! We are incredibly proud of our youngest shining stars and the teachers, paraprofessionals, and administrators who made this opportunity possible!



Scholastic Bowl has a New BUZZ!

The CJHS Scholastic Bowl Team held a very successful fundraiser night at Pizza Ranch. The team was able to earn \$250 from the sales that evening and they did such a great job bussing tables they also were given \$300 in cash tips! CJHS Blue and Gold Club added a generous \$500 donation to help the team purchase a new buzzer system for home matches! Thank you to the Blue and Gold Club for their generosity and to everyone who came out to support the Scholastic Bowl Team.





A Blooming Success: Gardening Club Beautifies the Building

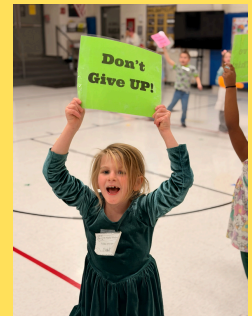
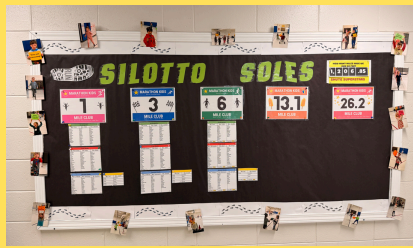
Bolin's Garden Club transformed school grounds this spring! After a long winter, our student gardeners were greeted by the rewarding sight of vibrant alliums, crocus and hyacinths which came from the very bulbs they carefully planted last fall.

This season, the club has focused on "Spring Stewardship." Working in collaborative teams, students have taken full ownership of the school's curb appeal, clearing debris and tidying the beds to make way for new growth. Most recently, our gardeners got their hands dirty planting a variety of annuals that will provide bright colors for our school community to enjoy through the end of the year. Whether they are rescuing lost playground equipment from the bushes or learning about the science of perennial bulbs, these students are proving that with a little teamwork and a lot of sunshine, great things can grow!



Marathon Kids

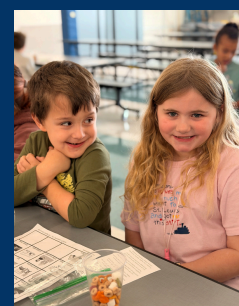
Students at Shute Elementary have been participating in Marathon Kids since the beginning of 2026. This program is designed to encourage students to set goals, provide them with motivation, build confidence and achieve their goals. The running group named themselves "Silotto Soles." Students totaled over 1,000 miles as a school. Each week, the classes met on Wednesday for PE and either ran inside the gym or outside around the baseball field or school. Students ran one group at a time while others encourage them on the sidelines. This provided the real experience of a marathon. The leaderboard is announced each week over the announcements as well as posted on a bulletin board. Marathon Kids not only taught students how to be an active participants, but how to support one another. Shute School likes to say, "Our running shoes have magic in them because we do not stop!"



Friendship Club

Students at Shute have been a part of a Friendship Club since December of 2025. They hold monthly meetings where students learn social emotional skills to apply at school and at home. First and second grade students were paired up with a buddy and have worked together throughout the year as mentors. The mentors were trained at the beginning with ideas on how to be inclusive, kind, reliable, and encouraging. Some of the skills we have worked on within our club are empathy, building trust, what makes us unique, kindness, how to identify our feelings, gratitude, mindfulness, coping with big emotions and understanding when it is hurtful or funny.

"Friendship is the only cement that will ever hold our world together." ~Woodrow Wilson



Going **COSMIC** for Kids

Shute Superstars worked hard to **STRIKE** out childhood cancer during their fundraiser for St. Jude. At the end of the bowling unit in PE, the students were able to have a real life cosmic bowling experience in the gym. This wasn't just an ordinary cosmic bowling experience, it was a fundraiser to help raise money for St. Jude. Students and families enjoyed a day of bowling, dancing, photos, games and snacks. The proceeds went to St. Jude. After a fun-filled day, the students raised an astounding \$980! Students understood the purpose of this fundraiser and worked hard to help the doctors, nurses, scientists and families of St. Jude!

"The greatest reward is the smiles on the faces of the children whose lives you've helped save." ~Danny Thomas



Counting Coins for Kindness

Bolin students battled in a "Coin Wars" incentive between grade levels to be a participant in the "Pie in the Face" assembly. The battle plan was to raise money for the Ronald McDonald House, a nonprofit charity dedicated to supporting families with sick children in their time of need. While 4th Grade was the winning grade level, the true prize was the \$2,257.97 raised for the Ronald McDonald House.





Glendale's Incredible Best Buddies Drive
Glendale School came in 3rd place for school fundraising teams for the Central Illinois Best Buddies Friendship Walk. We raised a total of \$1,049.72 and were rewarded with a donut party! Best Buddies had a great year at Glendale promoting friendship and inclusion!



5th Grade Double Feature

Fifth grade students at Bolin had two amazing opportunities this year. They were able to visit both the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum and the Riverfront Museum. Classroom connections were brought to life. As a bonus, one presenter complimented the students not only on their behavior, but also on their US History knowledge!

SRO Wins Juvenile Officer of the Year



East Peoria District 86 's Elementary School Resource Officer, Rachel Giffhorn, was recognized as the Juvenile Officer of the Year by the Illinois Juvenile Officer's Association. In addition, Officer Giffhorn was awarded the Community Policing and Engagement Award at the Tazewell County Chief's Association Awards Banquet. Congratulations, Officer Giffhorn!

Second graders across the district participated in a Junior Police Academy Course organized by Officer Giffhorn. Students learned about police roles, bicycle safety, fingerprinting, and other topics. Graduation ceremonies were attended by many of our EPPD officers so that they could personally congratulate the students on their hard work. Students were awarded diplomas and their own badge! Thank you to the police department for their support of this program!



CJHS TOP PERFORMERS



**Maddie C.
Wildkits**



**Dravin H.
Basketball**



**Aiden M.
Basketball**



**Aiden L.
Basketball**



**Kye K.
Basketball**



**Aaliyah S.
Wildkits**



**Aaron J.
Scholastic Bowl**



**Cayleigh B.
Volleyball**



**Bentley G.
Wrestling**



**Hunter P.
Wrestling**



**Izzy M.
Volleyball**



**Roosevelt J.
Wrestling**

CJHS TOP PERFORMERS



Drake D.
Schoalstic Bowl



Cruise M.
Wrestling



Michael F.
Schoalstic Bowl



Rio B-S
Scholastic Bowl



Kylie E.
Scholastic Bowl



Jack W.
Scholastic Bowl



Violet N.
Scholastic Bowl



Roosevelt J.
Wrestling



Cruise M.
Wrestling



Hunter P.
Wrestling



Grayson C.
Scholastic Bowl

CJHS TOP PERFORMERS



Wesley S.
Scholastic Bowl



Elias F.
Scholastic Bowl



A True Work of HeART



The 2026 Music and Arts Festival took place on May 2, 2026, at Central Junior High School. While music filled the air from the choral and band performances, artwork caught the eyes of those in attendance inside. Those in attendance were able to enjoy the sights and sounds of the talents of our students! Thank you to our music department and all of the volunteers who continue to make this event possible!



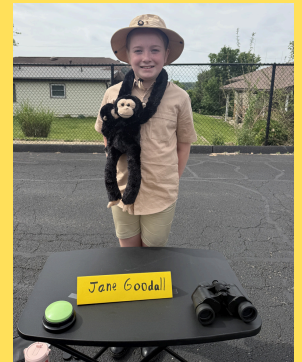
BEYOND THE SCOREBOARD

**Congratulations to the participants of our Unified Sports Team!
This year our athletes expanded their schedule, events, and
friendships. We are proud of our Unified Team!**



A LIVING WAX MUSEUM

Fifth grade students brought history to life. Enjoy the gallery of photos from their amazing presentations!



PICTURE PERFECT MOMENTS



Congratulations to Mrs. Harms, Miss Child, Mrs. Lee, Mrs. Politt, and Mrs. Titone on completing their Masters' degrees!



Congratulations to Percival Freeman and Sadie Franklin for their hard work this year and earning the student of the year award from Lincoln school!



Glendale Students Enjoy a Library Reading Celebration



Congratulations to Kendall Kolowski and Sam Blumenshine. Both students were recognized at the IPA Student Recognition Breakfast.



Thank you to everyone who attended the CJHS Book Fair. It was a packed house!



Students at Glendale enjoyed a visit from the East Peoria High School Band



The Chic-Contreras Brothers stop for a quick picture while preparing for the talent show

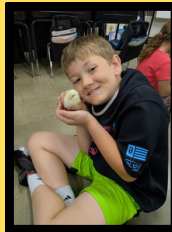
PICTURE PERFECT MOMENTS



Bolin Students completed a collaborative art project that was displayed at the Music and Arts Festival



Woodrow Wilson 2nd graders enjoyed learning and observing the life cycle of a chicken. Thank you to the University of Illinois Extension Office for this amazing learning opportunity!



Congratulations to Lincoln School Spelling Bee Winners, Maniya and Oliver



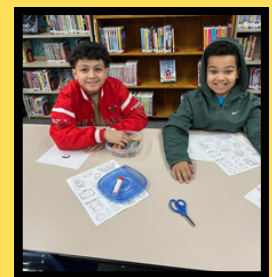
Mr. Collins was worried when he arrived at work and there was a line outside the door. We thought word was spreading about the talents of our Special Services Staff... or maybe they were looking for Luna LoveGoose, Mrs. Matthews' dress up library goose!



Mrs. Higgins' Advisory Class hosted a raffle for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital and raised \$1,730!



Smiles shine bright for the participants of the Best Buddy Program at Lincoln School



Mrs. Smith and Ms. Huwe pose with their space-themed wellness craft. Participants learned the art and flow of alcohol inks on glazed tiles. The results were out of this world!

