

Induction & Mentoring

A MONTHLY SPOTLIGHT ON YOUR I&M COLLEAGUES



Katherine Sampson – Mentee & Elizabeth Burchfield – Mentor @ North River Elementary School

UPCOMING DATES CTEP

- MARCH 2ND PD @ BREAKTHROUGH FAMILYPLEX
***EVERYONE 8:30AM - 11:30AM *MENTOR TRAINING**
***MENTORS ONLY 12:30PM-3:30PM**
- MAY 18TH PD @ BREAKTHROUGH FAMILYPLEX
***EVERYONE 8:30AM - 11:30AM**

UPCOMING DATES CPS

- February 18th – Holiday *President's Day
- April 4th – End of Quarter
- April 5TH - School improvement day & non-student attendance
- April 10TH – ES Parent-Teacher Conferences
- April 11th – HS Parent-Teacher Conferences
- April 15th – 19th Spring Break

IN THIS EDITION TEACHER SPOTLIGHT

- Katherine Sampson @ North River ES
- Elizabeth Burchfield @ North River ES
- Connor Tobin @ North River ES
- Jessica Quigley @ North River ES
- Nicole Tromotola @ Tilden HS
- Patrick Coughlin @ Hubbard HS
- Lizzy Carroll @ Barton ES

I would like to give a special thanks to everyone that contributed to the February 2019 Newsletter. It was my pleasure to come out and see all of the great work you are doing and how it contributes to the communities in which you work. I would like to continue to build our community by sharing the good work you do every day. Please reach out to me if you would like to be showcased in the upcoming newsletter. You can reach me at jmocegu@ilstu.edu. - Joanna M. Ocegura

North River Elementary School



Elizabeth Burchfield and Katherine Sampson put on a great holiday concert at North River Elementary School. North River is located on the north side of Chicago in the Albany Park neighborhood. Every grade participated. Parents and community members were invited to the concert. To open up the show, both Elizabeth and Katherine engaged in an activity with the audience. The audience was made up of parents, teachers, students, and community members. Elizabeth and Katherine would say a word and the audience had to respond by saying a word that was related to the first word. "Santa"..."Claus" and "Snow...flake" are some examples. It was great fun to see the community interacting in a school setting.

Every grade did a wonderful job performing their songs. After their performances it was the staff's turn. There was a rush of excitement when the teachers were called up to sing. The kids and parents alike laughed and cheered for all of the teachers and staff members. It was great to see our teachers support one another to pull off such a great show.

Connor Tobin pointed out the elaborate art piece that resembled a hanging sculpture. It is a piece that Katherine Sampson created along with the help from students across the school. Students collected gift wrap from their homes and brought it in to be recycled in this work of art.

Hanging art piece created by Katherine Sampson. Art piece is made of recycled Christmas wrapping paper.

Jessica Quigley – Mentor & Connor Tobin - Mentee



Tilden Career Community Academy

Nicole Tromotola took her students on a CBI trip into the community. Tilden Career Community Academy is located on the south side of Chicago between Canaryville and Fuller Park. The whole class, along with staff support, took the bus from Tilden to the Dollar Tree on 47th and Damen in Chicago. Their goal was to practice their purchasing skills and to practice taking the CTA bus. At Dollar Tree they bought gifts for their Secret Santa. Afterward, they had lunch at Subway, which was located in the same strip mall.



Nicole Tromotola - Mentee

Everything went smoothly. The trip was really well planned and organized. All of the students knew what to expect.

When I asked Nicole about preparing for the trip she said, "Yes, we practiced purchasing skills, community etiquette, safety while using public transportation (CTA bus), and the order card was for social skills to promote independence when ordering!"

At Dollar Tree, Nicole and her helpers guided their students through the payment process. Each student had their money in a baggie. They put their change into the baggie and placed the baggie in their pockets. After shopping and checking out at Dollar Tree, we headed over to Subway.



The students were all very patient. They knew what the ordering process consisted of, so they each waited their turn. They had order sheets that they had prepared in class earlier in the week. Once their food was prepared, they sat down to eat.

Everyone seemed to be having a nice time.



Adam
Wieczorek –
student @
Tilden

TrAnna Moore –
student @
Tilden



During lunch a student needed napkins and Nicole came over to support him and give him tips on how to ask for them. She said, "Wait until you see her (subway employee) before you ask. Then say excuse me..and speak up a bit louder." He did great! This trip was such a wonderful experience. Nicole and the other Tilden staff are doing a great job at setting up their students for success by teaching them to grow their independence in real world scenarios through hands on practice.

Hubbard High School

Hubbard High School, which is located on the southwest side of the city in the West Lawn neighborhood, had a blood drive that was led by Patrick Coughlin. Along with the support of the National Honors Society (NHS) and Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC), they had a great turn out. Their goal was 90 donations. This number was given to them by Vitalant. The number is calculated based on need and location. Vitalant is a non-profit community blood service provider. They provide all of the equipment including medical chairs, medical supplies, and a great group of nurses/technicians that worked with the students to find out if they were eligible to donate and then drew blood.



Patrick Coughlin – Mentee
& Gabe Tejeda – Senior @ Hubbard



Student donating blood @
Hubbard High School



Sugar station for students that
donated blood

When we arrived to the school, an ROTC officer escorted us to the blood drive. There were loads of students waiting to participate. They had a registration table and seating area. Beyond that point they had another waiting area for students to be called to take the questionnaire to find out if they were eligible to donate. If not, they could go back to class. If they were good candidates, they went on to the blood drawing area where they were greeted by the nurses and technicians who would draw their blood. Once they donated, they would rest to make sure they were able to move on to the next section. The next and final section was the sugar station. There were cookies, juice, etc. The students finished their goodies and then returned to class.

I had the opportunity to talk with a senior student, Gabe Tejeda. He is the National Honors Society President. His role was to help organize and promote the blood drive. This was not Gabe's first blood drive. He was very knowledgeable about the process and he made some changes when he saw things were not working as planned. His initiative will pay off when he goes to college later this year. He has already been accepted to 5 colleges and is expecting 5 more responses.

After the drive, Patrick contacted us and gave us the awesome results, "On a goal of 90 donations we had a total of 120 presenting donors and collected 107 donations of blood which will help us save 321 lives. Typically over the last 10 days we have had anywhere from 4 to 6 blood types with a 1 to 3 day supply on hand so this blood drive, in particular, will go a very long way to supporting our local efforts to sustain the blood supply."

The next blood drive is April 11th and in Patrick's words, "I'm hoping to crush these numbers!"

Barton Elementary School

This year Lizzy Carroll had the opportunity to organize the Barton Elementary School Christmas Concert. Barton Elementary School is located on the southwest side of Chicago in the Auburn Gresham neighborhood. Once the concert started, Lizzy facilitated the event, while still cheering on every group that came up. Her mom was there to support as well. The show was full of excitement and a variety of performances. There was dancing, signing, and even acting! The students were all very supportive of one another, whether they were on stage or sitting in the audience. Everyone did a great job and gave it their best.



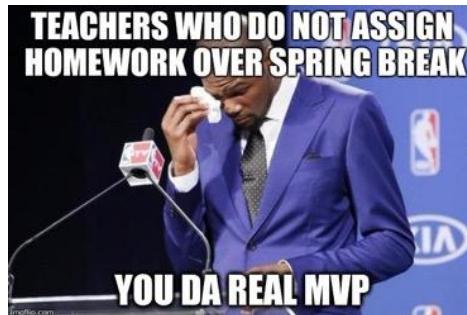
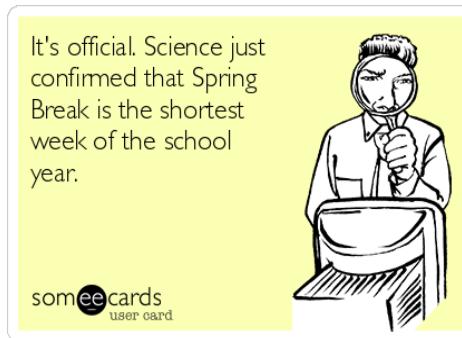
Barton students performing ballet and singing Christmas songs



Lizzy Carroll and her amazing mom

Spring Break Memes

Yes, ladies and gentlemen. Spring Break is coming!



"Leave the School There!" How to Relax During Your Break

The anticipation of holiday break is upon us and everyone is excited. You're running on fumes; your students have a lot of energy and you're just counting down the days. We have ambitious thoughts of taking home those last-minute assignments to grade and get a head start on lesson planning for the upcoming month. Every year, for me, the infamous crate/bag would come home and I would think, "I'll have all this time these next 2 weeks to get this done. It'll be a breeze!" As the days go by, you celebrate Christmas, New Year's, have a Netflix and Hulu binge-a-thon. You and your couch get back acquainted and before you know it, it's time to get back to work. That crate or bag full of papers says, "Thanks for bringing me out the classroom, you have a lovely home," but none of it is ready to be passed back to students with feedback. A few years ago, I kept getting sick and felt really overwhelmed. I told myself I was NOT going to take any work home and I'm going to enjoy my 2-weeks off.

During December, I had the opportunity to meet with my work teams to create our lesson plans for the week we got back to school in January. We planned everything out, I made all my copies and was ready to go. The week going into break, I started grading a group of papers a day. I taught high school English, so I graded a class period per day and input the grades immediately after grading them. I did this for 2 weeks. The last 2 days leading up to break I passed back all graded work to the students. Fridays were usually a light day leaving out for break so I set up rotating game tables for students to play while I cleaned off my desk and reorganized as much as I could. When I left at the end of the school day, I had me, my purse and my laptop bag, no crate, no paper grading bag.

I used those 2 weeks to spend with friends and family, catch up on my favorite shows, and celebrate having a long overdue relaxing time that I deserve. I have to say that was the most relaxed I'd ever been since being a teacher. I continued to do that for spring break and the following school year. As teachers, we feel guilty if we're not doing everything humanly possible to always be a teacher. Remember to take some time out for yourself. Before you were an educator, you were a whole person. Enjoy that person and connecting with those that enjoy you as well!

- Apryl Riley