

# Connect 66

Monthly Newsletter of Canton Union School District 66

April 2017

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20 West Walnut St.

Canton, IL

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## Message from the Superintendent

Dear Parent(s), Guardians(s), and Friends:

As I write this I am watching a beautiful sunny spring day with trees starting to bloom. I am also anticipating graduation and reflecting on the past year. What a year it has been!

So far this year our district employees have worked very hard to deploy a variety of new programs while struggling with a dysfunctional legislature. For example, next year there will be 5 new STEM classes at the high school, a Gateway STEM program at Ingersoll Middle School and a STEM program within all elementary buildings. On top of that our administrators and teachers have also made plans to expand our 1:1 initiative at our elementary buildings. I couldn't be more thankful for having the privilege of

working in a district that has such a hard working staff that is willing to sacrifice for the improvement of the district and elevating the quality of education for children. Next year promises to be an even more productive year for students as well.

Next year our district will create a district improvement team comprised of teachers, parents, administrators, and community members. My vision of the team is to provide advice on how to improve our district and elevate test scores. If you are interested in serving please contact me at your convenience.

Sincerely,

Rolf Sivertsen

Superintendent

Canton Union School District #66

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## Spotlight 66

Every month we will spotlight our staff and students.

Kathy Rademaker

Ingersoll Middle School

Guidance

### What three traits define you?

I think of myself as a compassionate person. I really love my job because of all the students I get to relate to and work with daily. Some of the kids have such tough situations and I try to help them see the hope in whatever they are going through, so I guess I see myself as a hopeful person as well. The third trait would be direct. Sometimes this may not necessarily be easy, but I try and be direct and honest with others.

### What is the greatest challenge you have had to overcome in your life thus far?

I have been blessed to have not gone through any major diversity in my life, but the loss of my father was and is still difficult.

### Where is your favorite place to be?

Throughout the last 20 years, watching one of my 4 kids in an activity or sport was my favorite place to be. Seeing them grow and achieve their goals has been an awesome experience. I have also met so many wonderful families through my children's activities and have some lasting friendships because of this. As my children grow up and become independent I know this will be a part of parenting that I will miss.

### Where is the best place you've traveled to and why?

My husband and I LOVE to travel together, and have visited most of the United States. I think of all the places I have gone, riding a mule down to the bottom of the Grand Canyon and staying overnight there, has to be my favorite. A close second would be the cross country trip (think Griswalds) that we drove as a family to the Pacific Coast.

### What does true leadership mean to you?

True leadership has to include loyalty to the people you are leading, and to your values and goals you are striving to obtain. True leadership includes honesty and communication with others as well as the ability to inspire those to follow your leadership.

### What would you do (for a career) if you weren't doing this?

All the career surveys I took when I was younger said I would be good as a chiropractor or massage therapist! But in actuality, I would most likely still be working at the hospital as a social worker.

### How do you define success?

Being happy and satisfied with your role you play in life and in the lives around you.

### Tell us something that might surprise us about you.

Hmm, I am actually really competitive, and a bit of a tomboy. But my favorite color is PINK.

### Can you give me a bio as well?

I was born in Lake Zurich IL – North of Chicago. I am one of six kids, and in elementary school moved to the community, Lake Camelot, down the road from Canton. I graduated from Illini Bluffs High School and went to ISU for both my Bachelor's Degree in Social Work and my Master's Degree in Social Work. I later received my Master's Degree in School Counseling from Bradley University and started my school counseling career in Cuba, IL. I was also a high school counselor at Morton HS before taking my current position at Ingersoll Middle School. I love working

with middle school students. I am married to Matt Rademaker, a Pekin Firefighter, and together we have 4 children, Josh, Jett, Macy and Nolan. When I'm not at work, my days usually revolve around my kids, but I also enjoy reading, photography, scrapbooking, traveling, going to the gym, and a bit of retail therapy from time to time.



## Spotlight 66

Every month we will spotlight our staff and students. This is one of our exceptional Spotlights.

Dylan Dudek  
3rd Grade Student  
Eastview School



### What year are you in school?

I am in 3rd grade

### Who are your parents?

My mom is Kim Dudek and my dad is Nick Dudek

### Tell us about yourself.

I like to play baseball, act and play outside.

### What are you looking forward to most over the summer? I

am looking forward to trying out for more plays at the playhouse.

### What is the greatest challenge you have had to overcome in your life thus far?

Getting up in front of a room full of people and acting during Mary Poppins.

### Where is the best place you've traveled to and why?

Tennessee, because I got to listen to live music and get on stage with the performers. It was really fun.

### Where do you see yourself five years from now?

In 8th grade playing baseball and acting in plays.

### Tell us something that might surprise us about you.

I work at the food pantry every Friday during the summer and on breaks from school.

### Can you give me a bio as well?

I was born in California but moved to Canton when I was 3 months old. I go to Eastview elementary school. I have a little sister who is in 1st grade and an older brother who is in 6th grade. When I read I love the Diary of a Wimpy Kid series.





# ATHLETE SPOTLIGHT: APRIL

By Jon Grzanich Athletic Director Canton USD 66



**Female: Elyse Mathews**

**Yr. in School: Jr.**

**Sports: Cross Country, Track & Field**

**GPA: 3.9**

**Favorite Subject: Biology**

**Most Memorable moment in High School: At the 2016 Mid Illini Cross Country Meet every girls came together to pray before the race**

**Plans after high school: Attend college to become a physical therapist and participate in cross country and track and field**

**Parents: Mary and David Mathews**

**Male: Preston Taylor**

**Yr. in school: Sr**

**Sport(s): Football, Basketball, Track**

**GPA: 3.5**

**Favorite Subject: Building Trades**

**Most Memorable moment in High School: Going to Semi-finals of the Class 4A State Football Finals**

**Plans after high school: Carpenter Apprenticeship**

**Parents: Rob and Angie Taylor**



*Little Giant Pride*

# Community Service

The Art Department and Technology Department at Canton High School teamed up to complete a community service project for the Voiture 40/8 (train). In Mrs. Yocum's class Nataleigh Richardson designed and fabricated a 2' by 2' Canton Little Giant and a Santa Claus head to be mounted on the train for parades. In Mrs. Eskridge's class Rylee Sehr put the finishing touches on the Canton Little Giant and Jasmine Russo put the finishing touches on the Santa Claus with their artistic abilities.

Pictured below:

Standing from left to right: Sherry Yocum, Wally Hammond, Harold Rose, Jim Watts, Jerry Surrells Seated from left to right: Jasmine Russo, Nataleigh Richardson, Rylee Sehr



# Eastview STEM

Eastview Elementary hosted a very successful STEM Leprechaun on March 16th. There were over 230 attendees. The families started in the cafeteria by listening to a story read by a Leprechaun. They were then able to make their way around the building to build a leprechaun trap, experiment with skittles and do a little planting. The students are beginning to work on STEM activities in class and this was a great event for parents and students to work together on a STEM project.



# Ingersoll Art Students Win Big

I am proud to share the list of students from Ingersoll who placed at the Town and Country Art Show this year! If you see these students please congratulate them on their achievements!

5th- Jenna Goforth -Honorable Mention

6th-Madeline Freeman- 2nd Place

6th-Shaylynn Locke-Honorable Mention

6th-Dominic Lomeli- 1st Place and 3rd Place Popular Vote

6th- Sarah Wheeler-1st Place and 1st Place Popular vote

6th- Haleigh Davis- 2nd Place Popular Vote

7th- Hanna Anderson-Davis-1st Place Popular Vote

7th - Addison Postin- 2nd Place and 3 place Popular Vote

7th- Katie Smith- 1st Place

7th- Kaitlyn Driskell-Honorable Mention

7th - Makenzie Ewalt- Honorable Mention

8th- Jade Wells -2nd Place Popular vote



## ***New Principals Selected for Westview & Lincoln***



The recent promotion of Tad DeRenzy to Chief School Business Official created an opening for a new principal at Westview Elementary. High School Tech/Dean Anne Grzanich was selected for the Westview Position. Mrs. Grzanich is a 15 year veteran of the Canton School District. Prior to her employment at Canton Mrs. Grizanich worked for Chicago Public Schools, Unit 5 in Normal and previously worked at Lincoln as an elementary teacher for 8 years. Mrs. Grzanich resides in Canton with her husband Dusty and their three children. Congratulations and welcome to Westview School!



The impending retirement of Principal Mrs. SueEllen Stephenson at Lincoln School has created a principal vacancy. Employed for the Lincoln principalship is KiLee Lidwell-McFerren. Mrs. Lidwell-McFerren has been employed as an assistant principal within the Gibson City/Melvin Sibley School District since 2013. In addition, she has also worked in Unit 5 in Normal and Pinckneyville School District. Mrs. Lidwell-McFerren is originally from Canton and will reside in Canton with her husband and two children.

## ***Reception to be Held for New Principals.***

A reception will be held for new Westview Principal Anne Grzancih and Lincoln Principal Kilee Lidwell-McFerren on April 25, 2017 from 4 to 5 p.m. This is an excellent opportunity for teachers, parents, and community members to meet the new principals and learn more about them. Please

make every effort to attend these events!

## ***STEM Night At Westview***

On March 16th the Westview Team conducted a STEM night. The event was kicked off by Principal Tad DeRenzy providing a brief overview of STEM and why it is important to Westview Students.

Activities included Bridge building, studying the effects of earth quakes on structures and other STEM related interesting activities.



# FRIENDSHIP



## 2016-2017 CUSD 66 School Contacts

**Canton High School**  
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(309)647-1820

**Principal Jennifer Watts**  
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**Asst Principal Tony McCoy**  
Tony.McCoy@cantonusd.org  
**Tech Dean Anne Grzanich**  
agrzanich@cantonusd.org  
**AD Jon Grzanich**  
Jon.grzanich@cantonusd.org

**Lincoln Elementary School**  
20 Lincoln Road  
Canton, IL 61520  
(309) 649-7594

**Principal SueEllen Stephenson**  
sstephenson@cantonusd.org

**Ingersoll Middle School**  
1605 East Ash Street  
Canton, IL 61520  
(309)647-6951

**Principal Wayne Krus**  
wayne.krus@cantonusd.org  
**Asst Principal Mark Ghidina**  
mghidina@cantonusd.org

**Westview Elementary School**  
700 West Old Vine Street  
Canton, IL 61520  
(309) 647-2111

**Principal Tad DeRenzy**  
tderenzy@cantonusd.org

**Eastview Elementary School**  
1490 East Myrtle Street  
Canton, IL 61520  
(309) 647-0136

**Principal Bridgette Dennis**  
bdennis@cantonusd.org

# PERFORMING ARTS



## Upcoming Important Dates

- 4/10 –4/17 Spring Break
- 4/18—4/20 Kindergarten Registration
- 3/9 & 3/10 Grand March/Prom Sign Up 3:15—3:45 CHS
- 4/22 Prom Grand March/Prom
- 4/24 P&O Band Club 7 p.m. CHS Band Room
- 4/25 - 4/27 Elementary Registration
- 4/30 FFA Banquet



*Little Giant Pride*

