

Dear Families,

Welcome back to a promising new school year. Here are some highlights to share with you. This summer District 96 conducted three sections of Extended School Year at Central School, including the first ever transition to kindergarten class for Early Childhood Education students co-taught by general education/special education teachers. We believe these students are off to a very positive start, having learned how to work with new teachers in a much bigger school building.

A group of parents met over the summer to explore joining a special recreation cooperative. We met Sandy Gbur, Executive Director of West Suburban Special Recreation Association (WSSRA) and Susan Friend, Executive Director from South East Association for Special Parks and Recreation (SEASPAR). Special thanks to Mary Judy for coordinating these events.

Please welcome new special education staff members:

Meredith Wydra, Hauser Special Education Teacher

Allison Kamp, Central School Resource Teacher

Leanne Pender, Hollywood Speech Pathologist and general education kindergarten support

Arlene Doszak, maternity leave substitute Speech Pathologist for Michelle Imes through October 29

Meredyth Sayre, Ames maternity leave substitute for Resource Teacher Wendy Howell

Susan Battersby, Ames Paraprofessional

Nicole Kinkin, Ames Paraprofessional

Elizabeth Morriss, Ames Paraprofessional

Angela Massey, Blythe Park Paraprofessional

Sharmaine Nardone, Blythe Park Paraprofessional

Monica O'Callaghan, Blythe Park Paraprofessional

Hayley Waddle, Central Paraprofessional

Michele Cappel, Hauser Paraprofessional

Victoria Potempa, Hauser Paraprofessional

Debra Kwilas, Hollywood Paraprofessional.

We welcome Kristen McGee, who will act as our LADSE Response to Intervention (RTI) coach. Kristen will also act as RTI coach to Riverside Brookfield High School. More personnel news includes an important announcement: Erin Wilson, Fully Supported Teacher was married this summer and is now Mrs. Adelsman. Please note that Barbara Johnson is our second Fully

Supported Teacher.

We are also proud to announce that 81% of our paraprofessionals received paraprofessional training at LADSE on the first Early Release day on August 25. District 96 was the largest group of any of the 17 member LADSE districts at this training. Additionally, eight of our staff will attend professional development in the LADSE Autism strand in September and October.

Please feel free to let me know how your year is going. My telephone number is (708) 447-0706.

Sincerely,
Dr. Mary Polk