Warren Township High School District 121

Warren Connection: February News

February 17, 2022





February is Black History Month!

Thank you to our Black Student Union for leading events and activities to celebrate both the struggles and achievements of black leaders. Teachers are using resources to make relevant connections to each subject regarding significant black history figures and events.

We are very excited for our Black History Month Celebration on Friday, February 25,

at 7 p.m. More information on the event will be on the d121.org homepage. Please join us in the O'Plaine Campus auditorium to honor black excellence! Click the link to the YouTube channel. A video will be posted no later than 6 p.m. on February 25.

https://youtube.com/channel/UCaqXbWGY02CvxgV-XZany9g

RANDOM ACTS OF

KindnessWeek

Kindness Week February 14 – 18

See what students are doing to promote kindness on pages 7 and 8.

We appreciate your patience and support as we work through our Return to School potential transitions and our mitigation efforts as we continue to receive updated guidance from the Illinois State Board of Education. We will keep you updated as information becomes available.

Do you have questions regarding Warren Township High School District 121 Referendum?

Would you like answers?

Come, learn more.

School representatives will be at Starbucks
7105 Grand Avenue, Gurnee from 8 to 9 a.m.
every Saturday
to meet and greet the public in an informal setting.

District 121 Referendum Informational Meeting for the Community

District 121 will host a community informational meeting focused on the tax rate increase referendum on the June 2022 ballot.

Wednesday, February 23, 2022

Warren Newport Public Library 224 N. O'Plaine Road, Gurnee

English presentation at 6:30 p.m. Spanish presentation at 7:30 p.m.

STAY CONNECTED TO WTHS



Warren's website, at www.d121.org, is a key link to staying connected with our current programs and projects.



https://www.facebook.com/WTHSDistrict121

#WeAreWarren

PowerSchool



Please make sure your contact information on file is up to date. This will ensure you receive all communications in a timely manner.

PowerSchool can also be used to access student schedules, grades, attendance, and other useful student information.



Principals' Twitter

Almond Campus Principal Twitter Account

O'Plaine Principal Twitter



Principals' YouTube

Almond Campus Principal YouTube Account

O'Plaine Principal YouTube

Board of Education News



Would you like us to provide an informational forum for a school or community group to learn about our revenue challenges and the referendum question? Please reach out to Dr. John Ahlgrim at 847-548-7144 or email jahlgrim@wths.net.

Meet and Greet
Every Saturday
8 a.m. to 9 a.m.
at Starbucks
7105 Grand Avenue,
Gurnee

Do you have questions regarding Warren Township High School District 121 Referendum?

Would you like answers?

Come, learn more.

School representatives will be at Starbucks
7105 Grand Avenue, Gurnee from 8 to 9 a.m. every Saturday
to meet and greet the public in an informal setting.



Have we answered your question?

Check out the Frequently Asked Questions on the District's website at www.d121.org/referendum

Join us for a District 121 referendum informational meeting for the community focused on the tax rate increase referendum on the June 2022 ballot.

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WTHS Board of Education

Paul Schulz, President
John R. Anderson, Vice-President
Bency Beals, Secretary
Katherine Blair, Member
Tony DeMonte, Member
Thomas Drake, Member
Natalia Alvarez Martinez, Member

Recap of the February 8, 2022 Board Meeting The Board recognized and congratulated the National Letter of Intent Signers in January.

Presentations, reports and discussion regarding the following items:

- Parent-Teacher Advisory Committee, January 25, 2022
- Department Reports, Business, Fine Arts and Athletics and Activities
- Return to School Update
- Referendum Update

The Board approved the following items:

- Approval of personnel recommendations for eight candidates or employees
- Payment of bills dated February 8, 2022 in the amount of \$925,095.86
- Regular Meeting minutes and Executive Session minutes of January 18, 2022
- Approval of Six Month Review of Closed Session Minutes
- Approval of Resolution Authorizing the Destruction of Certain Verbatim Recordings
- Second Reading and Approval of District Board Policies and Exhibits
- Approval of Intergovernmental Agreement with Village of Gurnee for Regular Gasoline
- Approval of Transportation (Bus Driver)
 Compensation for the 2022-2023 School Year

Superintendent's Corner

by Dr. John P. Ahlgrim, Superintendent of Schools



Get the Facts about the Referendum Question at www.d121.org/referendum

On August 17, the Board of Education approved a 60-cent operating rate increase question that will appear on the ballot June 28, 2022. If approved by voters, it would provide approximately \$13.25 million in additional revenue annually, with an estimated annual tax impact of \$200 (\$16.67 per month) per \$100,000 of a home's fair market value.

This increased funding would allow the District to preserve the eight-period school day, improve academic supports and mental health services, restore and protect activities and clubs, and restore and protect athletics. It would also allow us to lower student fees to rates comparable with other Lake County high schools.

We aim to provide clarity and details regarding how students would be impacted with and without this funding over the next two years.

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Return to School Update (as of 2/15/2022)

We are working to prepare our WTHS community for a potential transition to a mask-optional environment in our buildings. We anticipate a potential transition could take place in the upcoming weeks.

Currently, masks remain required for all students, staff, and visitors at WTHS.

In the coming weeks, a potential shift to optional masking will not eliminate the existing mitigation strategies and expectations in place this school year. We appreciate the cooperation of our community as we navigate COVID-19 together.

Whether we are masked or unmasked, all members of the WTHS community value each other. It is important that all students feel supported and safe.

As a reminder, our protocols include the following:

- WTHS will continue placing an emphasis on the three W's: Wash your hands, Watch your distance, and Wear a mask. These are recommendations of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.
- WTHS will continue to provide masks for students who request them as they
 enter the building.
- Masks are required on school buses, which fall under the same public health guidelines as public transportation. This may change in the future, but it is currently required under federal law.
- We will continue to maintain a social distance of at least 3 feet between students within classrooms as long as it does not present a barrier to inperson learning.
- WTHS will work with students or staff who are immunocompromised to ensure we have accommodations in place when necessary.
- WTHS will continue to have hand sanitizer stations throughout the building.
- Our health office staff will continue to test students who have a parent permission form on file. We will work with families to provide information and health concern resources.
- Individuals should not come to school if they have symptoms on the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) COVID-19 updated list, which includes a temperature above 100.4 degrees.
- WTHS will continue to provide remote instruction for students while they are under quarantine due to being positive for COVID-19, as consistent with guidance from the Lake County Health Department (LCHD) or the IDPH.
- Our cleaning service will continue to focus on high-touch areas.
- WTHS will be thoughtful when it comes to gathering large groups of students in areas/spaces in the building.
- WTHS will adhere to any additional required mitigations as prescribed by the LCHD, IDPH or the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE).

For the time being, masks are still required for all students, staff, and visitors at Warren Township High School. We anticipate receiving additional guidelines and details on these items from ISBE and/or IDPH in the weeks ahead. We will continue to update our families as we learn more.

As always, thank you for your ongoing flexibility and support!

News from Instructional Services

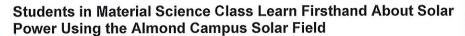
by Christopher J. Geocaris, Assistant Superintendent of Instructional Services



The WTHS Study Table program is back in full swing as we continue to move through the second semester. Students who attend Study Table can receive assistance on homework, study for their courses, and have questions answered in the areas of English, Science, Social Studies, and Mathematics. The Study Table Program is available to all WTHS students.

In-Person Study Tables are available in Math, English, Science, and Social Studies at both the Almond and O'Plaine campuses, immediately after school on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Students who attend the O'Plaine study table are eligible to take a late bus home.

Virtual Study Tables are available on Mondays and Wednesdays from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Links to access the Virtual Study Tables are available on the Academics Resources Page of our website: https://www.d121.org/Page/754.



Material Science teacher Mr. Kreunen and his class follow the real-time electrical production log of our solar farm. Two display panels show how we make more power than we use and get credit by supplying it back to the electrical grid. The rolling statistics allow students to understand the details of kilowatts and kilowatt-hours. Even on seemingly cloudy days, we are making enough power for 100 homes—and many times that during the sunny and high-demand summer season.



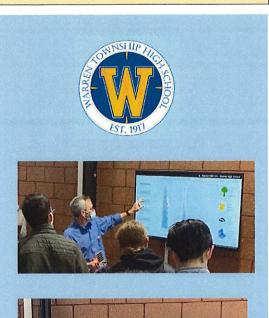


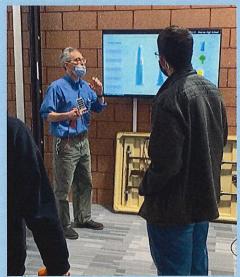
Material Science is a senior elective course that covers applied engineering topics related to polymers, metals, woods, and ceramics. The class is project based and involves many hands-on labs and unique projects.

Students learn about photovoltaic cells and measure the voltage produced using lab panels. They do a lab project to build a working solar car model to race outside on a sunny day. Students engage with these labs relating to current technologies, especially when they get to learn by building and testing projects.

The WTHS Science Department is taking full advantage of the new solar system. Science teachers have used the solar field to bring real-world application of scientific concepts in the curriculum to our students. Warren's Physics, Material Sciences, and Environmental/Earth Sciences programs have used data from the solar field in their curriculum to further enrich the experiences of our students—with hopes of inspiring a new generation of scientists.

Thank you to Performance Services, Inc. for providing two display panels for each campus!







News from Student Services

by Dr. Patrick W. Keeley, Associate Superintendent of Student Services



5Essentials Survey and Illinois Youth Survey

Each year, the State of Illinois requires schools to conduct the 5Essentials survey. It identifies five indicators that lead to improved outcomes for all students, including improved attendance and larger test score gains.

The five indicators that positively affect school success are:

- 1. Effective Leaders
- 2. Collaborative Teachers
- 3. Involved Families
- 4. Supportive Environments
- 5. Ambitious Instruction

Research derived from the 5Essentials has proven that schools strong on at least three of the items above are 10 times more likely to improve student outcomes.

This past academic year, schools across Illinois participated in the ninth annual 5Essentials Survey of Learning Conditions: Organizing Schools for Improvement. The survey generates valuable data that districts can use to guide their ongoing efforts to improve schools and offer students an excellent education. It is another improvement tool that allows districts and the state to share data to inform parents and community members about the school's learning environment.

The Illinois 5Essentials Survey is administered online by Chicago Impact at the University of Chicago, on behalf of the Illinois State Board of Education. Data and indicators result from an anonymous administration of the survey.

WTHS will conduct the survey during physical education classes between January 11 and March 11.

Illinois Youth Survey - March 24th

The Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS) has funded the administration of the Illinois Youth Survey (IYS) biennially since 1990. The



IYS is a self-report survey administered in school settings and is designed to gather information about a variety of health and social indicators, including substance use and perceptions, bullying, school climate, nutrition, and physical activity.

The administration of the IYS has two main goals:

- To supply local data to schools and school districts throughout Illinois. During state-funded survey years (e.g., 2018, 2020, etc.), the survey is available to all eligible public and private schools in the state at no cost. Each participating school is eligible to receive a report specific to their students' responses. These local reports provide critical information to school administrators, prevention professionals, and community members as they work to address substance abuse issues in their communities.
- To provide a scientific estimate of health and social indicators for the state of Illinois. The scientific estimate is based on drawing a random sample to represent the state population of 8th, 10th, and 12th graders in Illinois public schools. WTHS surveys all grade levels to improve our data points and reports. Each year, the data provides us with direction regarding initiatives and focuses our support programs for kids.

I'm First Club

Did you know? WTHS has an I'm First Club for potential first-generation college students! The club meets monthly with junior and senior firstgeneration students after school in the College and Career Center to discuss the college search and application process, financial aid, scholarships, ACT/SAT testing, transitioning to college, and more! Our club constitutes first-generation students whose parents did not graduate from a U.S. college or university. The process can be very confusing and challenging, and we are here to support you! New members are always welcome. Contact Mrs. McGahan or Mrs. Hartley if you have any questions. Meeting dates are announced on social media and in our school announcements each month.

Depression and Suicide Screening

At WTHS, we believe it is important to focus on the whole student, paying close attention to the emotions often associated with the teen years. These years are marked by a rollercoaster of emotions that may be difficult for teens. We presented the Signs of Suicide (SOS) Prevention Program to all our freshmen in Health classes this semester (as we did last semester) on Monday, February 14 and Tuesday, February 15. This is a school-based suicide prevention program presented by Elyssa's Mission, a nonprofit organization dedicated to suicide prevention. It is an evidencedbased program that addresses suicide risk and depression, while reducing suicide attempts. For more information, please review the link below. A special thank you to our Social Workers for implementing this program. www.elyssasmission.org

News from Business Services and Operations

by Dr. Michael A. Engel, Assistant Superintendent of Business Services and Operations/CSBO





for an opportunity to save more than \$2,000 on student fees and food service for next year.



This year, all students at Warren have been able to receive FREE breakfasts and FREE lunches. This is part of a federal program that is set to expire at the end of the school year. Are these free meals essential to your budget? Do you need relief from the school's annual registration fees?

If your family relies on FREE breakfast and FREE lunch, apply for financial assistance benefits through the State of Illinois as soon as possible. You may be eligible for FREE or reduced meal costs for the next school year and you may not have to pay REGISTRATION fees

The application for benefits is available online at https://abe.tllinois.gov/abe/access/. Click on the "Apply for Benefits" button, Warren Township High School will also have appointments available for you to come in and complete the application on a laptop with assistance. Spanish speaking staff members will be available to help.



Help Applying for Programs

If you need help completing your application in English, please reach out to Mike Engel at 847-548-7055 or at mengelewths.net. If you need assistance in Spanish, contact Matt Jones at 847-548-6655 or at mjonesewths.net.

We will be helping families apply for the following programs:

- SNAP (Supplemental
- Nutrition Assistance Program) TANF (Temporary Assistance
- for Needy Families)
- Medicaid
- CHIP (Children's Health Insurance Program)



Please have the following documentation prior to applying:

- Social Security numbers for all members of the household
- Recent pay stubs (2)
- Bank account information



Click here for an opportunity to save more than \$2,000 on student fees and food service for next year.

Come Join Our Team!



School Bus Drivers, Van Drivers (non-CDL) and Aides Wanted

- Starting pay \$20.00/hr. (will raise to \$22.25/hr. beginning July 1, 2022 + more for experienced drivers) Paid training
- Complete benefit package

- → Referral and signing bonus
 → Apply in person or online @www.d121.org and select the Human Resources tab
 → Questions? Call Jeanne Turf, Director of Transportation at 847-599-4787 or email <u>jturf@wths.net</u>

Warren Township High School District 121

Warren Township High School District 121 is a comprehensive four-year high school with an enrollment of nearly 3,900 students. The school district covers over 50 square miles and includes all or part of Beach Park, Gages Lake, Grandwood Park, Grayslake, Gr Millburn, Old Mil Creek, Park City, Third Lake, Wadsworth, Waukegan and Wildwood.





Get the Facts about the Referendum Question at www.d121.org/referendum

Warren Township High School has the lowest per-pupil revenue of all of the high school districts in Lake County.



Revenue Per Pupil 2020

Lake County High School Districts	Local Sources	State Sources	Federal Sources	Total
Lake Ferest District 115	\$31,419	\$630	\$190	\$12,615
Highland Fork Descripted District 113	Single	\$1,162	3670	\$30,861
Libertyytäs Vernen Hills Costrict 178	\$28.345	\$1,351	\$148	\$29,945
Acial Stevenson District 125	\$26,278	1.569	5404	
Graystaka District 127	\$19,845	\$7,344	\$280	\$27,469
Zine Benton District 129	\$15,400	\$8,975	\$1,152	125,024
Antioch Lakes District 117	\$18,261	\$4,738	\$281	\$23,258
Mundelein District 120		\$1,503	\$178	
Grant Township District 124	\$13,620	\$2,865	\$400	\$17,790
Warren Township High School District 121	\$10,293	\$2,940	\$400	\$16,633
Minate Stata Board of Education, Annual Financial Report LAPR: 2020			Paramod Description Mosting, July 54, 20	

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60-cent increase would provide approximately \$13.25 million in additional revenue annually, with an estimated annual tax impact of \$200 (\$16.67 per month) per \$100,000 of a home's fair market value.

News from the Almond Principal

by Rob Parrott, Almond Campus Principal



Junior Students - April 13 and 14

All juniors at the Almond Campus will participate in two days of testing in April. The first is the school day SAT for all juniors on April 13, 2022. This is a requirement for all juniors by the Illinois State Board of Education and a requirement to receive a high school diploma.



ILLINOIS SCIENCE ASSESSMENT

Students will also take the Illinois Science Assessment on April 14, 2022. Seniors will not be in attendance on these two days for the exams to be administered. More information and details about the testing schedule for these two dates will be sent out to parents and students in the coming weeks.

Thank you to our post-secondary counselors, Mrs. McGahan and Mrs. Hartley, who hosted workshops for our senior students to discuss scholarship opportunities that are available and how to access them!



Random Acts of Kindness Week - February 14-18

Student Council at the Almond Campus celebrated Random Acts of Kindness Week (February 14-18), as we encourage all students and staff to demonstrate kindness to themselves and others. Additionally, February 17 Random Acts of Kindness Day in the United States. There were dress-up themed days throughout the week, with many fun activities and prizes given away.

Monday:

Valentine's Day (Wear

Pink or Red)

Tuesday:

Pajama Day Wednesday: Dress to Impress

Thursday:

Disney Day

Friday:

Devils be Kind! (Wear

Blue and Gold)



RANDOM ACTS OF Kindness Week

We have hosted several fun activities leading up to Kindness Week in February. We've given students a chance to enjoy "Kella," the therapy dog that visits us every week during lunch hours. Our student services teams are also providing fun activities and prizes during lunch hours for students as they focus on establishing healthy relationships, which is a part of The Warren Way.







We have three National Merit Finalists this year! Congratulations seniors Dhruval Bhatt, Isha Bordawekar, and

Ella Harper, who have moved on in the PSAT/NMSQT competition and been named National Merit Finalists! There are only about 16,000 of these students across the nation, and it places them in the top 1% of all students nationwide in the Class of 2022.



🙌 <u>W</u>ash your Hands

News from the O'Plaine Principal

by Michele Bertola, O'Plaine Campus Principal

Random Acts of Kindness

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Disney Day

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Blue and Gold)



RANDOM ACTS OF



We have hosted several fun activities leading up to Kindness Week in February, including a kindness raffle and making Valentines for seniors in the community. Our student services teams are also providing fun activities and prizes during lunch hours for students as they focus on establishing healthy relationships, which is a part of The Warren Way. We encourage all students to treat themselves and others with kindness and respect, each and every day.







Is this your first child in high school? Want a refresher on the high school experience? Join our Parent/Guardian Boot Camp Monday, February 28th 6:00-7:00

O'Plaine Campus Main Office Topics for this session include: wellness, school security, Q&A with the principal





REMEMBER THE 3 W'S



Watch your Distance

🙌 <u>W</u>ash your Hands

News About Athletics

by Becky Belmont, Director of Athletics



National Letter of Intent Signing

Eleven Blue Devil student-athletes made the commitment to continue their athletic careers at the collegiate level!

Jeremy Walton, Baseball and Football Trinity International University

Christian Eubanks, Football Indiana State University

Aidan Lucero, Football
Grand Valley State University

Jaylen Williams, Football McKendree University

Ben Wilson, Football Drake University

Tristan Wolverton, Football University of St. Francis

Cael Harris, Soccer University of Wisconsin-Platteville

Trish Georgiou, Soccer University of Illinois-Chicago

Chloe Yoder, Triathlon University of San Francisco

Adriana Demos, Wrestling Albion College

Reyes Gonzales, Wrestling Lakeland University



Congratulations!

North Suburban Conference Sportsmanship Award Winners – Winter Season

Boys Basketball Girls Basketball Adam Rasmussen Annika Gustafson Joseph Smith Caralyn Whalen

Boys Bowling Girls Bowling Cheerleading Devilettes

Morgan Tokarz-Deram Teagan Friedlander

Gymnastics
Boys Swim/Dive

Wrestling

Charly Grinton
Ryan Sundburg
Zach Sutor



Congratulations to our **Girls Bowling** team on a very successful season. The Blue Devils won the NSC Tournament, which helped them finish their conference season in 2nd place. The team had four bowlers medal in the tournament: senior Rachel Flores-Mangaran placed 14th, junior Katelyn Siurek placed 5th, sophomore Kayla Cameron finished in 3rd and senior Brianna Smith was the individual tournament champion.



The girls team finished their season placing 5th in the IHSA Regional tournament which was one spot shy of qualifying for the Sectional. Kayla Cameron, Morgan Geiyer, and Katelyn Sieber scored high enough to qualify as individuals for the IHSA Sectional in Buffalo Grove.



Congratulations to the **Girls Gymnastics** team on their 2nd place finish in the IHSA Regional! Amanda Hamann placed 2nd on Vault, 3rd on Bars, 3rd on Beam, 2nd on Floor and 2nd in the All-Around advancing to the IHSA Sectional meet. Evy Haggerty also advanced to the Sectional by earning an at-large bid on the Uneven Bars. At the IHSA Sectional, Amanda Hamann continued her success and scored high enough to qualify for the IHSA State tournament in the Vault, Bars, Floor, and All-Around categories.

Congratulations to the Varsity Boys Wrestling team and coaches Brad Janecek, Bryce Howard, and Kyrie Noble on their success at the IHSA Regional and Sectional Tournaments. The following grapplers finished in the top three and qualified for the Sectional Tournament: Jeremija Hixson, Anthony Soto, Nevin Mitrovic, Evan Onstad, Reyes Gonzales and Jose Ordonez.



Evan Onstad was the Regional Champion in his weight class. At the IHSA Sectional, Reyes Gonzales took 1st place and qualified for the IHSA State Championships.

News About Athletics

by Becky Belmont, Director of Athletics



Congratulations to the **Varsity Devilettes**, and coaches Brittni Tengler and Sarah Stepek, for advancing to the IHSA State Tournament and showcasing an excellent performance!



Congratulations!

Congratulations to the **Girls Wrestling** team and coaches, Brad Janecek and Morgan Gersdorf, for their success in the inaugural IHSA Girls Wrestling Sectional! Senior Adriana Demos and freshman Justyce Sieber are the first two Girls Wrestling state qualifiers in Warren history!







Congratulations to seniors Annika Gustafson, Grace Lynch, Samantha Swanson, and Angie Truelsen on a wonderful career in our **Girls Basketball** program. Good luck to the Varsity team as they head into IHSA Regional week.





The **Boys Basketball** program celebrated Staff Appreciation Night with some of their most inspirational teachers. Staff members were honored prior to each contest—and were even adorned in retro basketball jerseys!

News about Activities

by Aimee Lonigro, Assistant Director of Athletics and Director of Activities



On Saturday January 22, the WTHS Science Olympiad team competed remotely in the Libertyville Invitational. The team received 29 team medals in 16 events. The Regional tournament will be March 12 and follow a similar format.

Congratulations to our top award winners:

Dhruval Bhatt WiFi Lab (1st), Wright Stuff (1st)
Aaron Engel Bridges (3rd), WiFi Lab (1st)

Nathan Jackson Gravity Vehicle (1st), Ping Pong Parachute (3rd)
Adityaa Rana Environmental Chemistry (4th), Gravity Vehicle (1st),

Ping Pong Parachute (3rd)



Congratulations to the **Giggles & Bits** cast on their stellar December performances. Cast members are: Andrew Evitts, Marco Guagliardo, Becca Katz, Aiden Maggiore, Maddux Masopust, Ava Meinert, Jenna Peddicord, Charles Plumhoff, and Jay Roche. Giggles will be back in action in April for anyone who would like to experience a night of laughter!

Congratulations to the **Speech Team** and coaches Christina Meads and Jamie Griffiths on a very successful season. The team completed their season in the IHSA Regional on February 5, but three Blue Devils emerged as IHSA Sectional qualifiers: Olivia Buccelli, Informative Speaking, 2nd place; Sophia Jose, Original Oratory, 2nd place; Rachael Olusean, Prose Reading, 2nd place





Congratulations to the **Varsity Winter Guard** team as they earned a 1st place finish at the Jacobs High School Invitational in their premier production!

thank you!

Thank you to the Almond **Students of Service** (S.O.S), who volunteered at the Northern Illinois Food Bank and Bernie's Book Bank last month. Additionally, they ran their annual Valentine teddy bear sales to raise money for a charity.



Thank you to the **Student Council** for spreading kindness and love during the week of Valentine's Day and Random Acts of Kindness Day!

