TUSCOLA NORTH WARD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL RECEIVES EXPANDED AND UPGRADED PRE-KINDERGARTEN PLAYGROUND

inside
4 Sleep in Heavenly Peace
6 Taylorville Kiwanis and HSHS Help Kids—and Teachers
from the
GOVERNOR
2019–20

October 1 is fast approaching and with it, the start of a new fiscal year for our District New Year! Each New Year brings renewed hope for a brighter future, for serving kids, improving communities, growing membership, fellowship with one-another, and just plain fun. My wish for each of us is that we turn each of these hopes into opportunities.

Our International President says this year should be based on action, not words. Opportunity only knocks so often. It is through action that we will be able to open the door and answer that knock. Are we prepared to answer the call?

Kiwanis International tells us that ‘Kids Need Kiwanis.’ I believe that to be true. The question is, what does Kiwanis need? To me, the answer is simple: Kiwanis needs leaders. We need leaders at every level in this organization—leaders with a vision of where a club, a division, the district, could be on September 30 of a given year. We need to develop individuals, through education, dedication, and hard work, to step up to the plate and accept leadership positions. We need individuals who will lead by example, who will say, “Come work with me to accomplish our goals and dreams”.

I am grateful to those who have placed their trust in me to offer some guidance and ideas for our Illinois-Eastern Iowa District in 2019–20. I do have some ideas of where we could be next September 30 and will share those ideas with you during Governor Visits in October and early November. However, my ideas may not coincide with yours, so I would very much like to hear from each member their idea(s) for the coming months or years. I hope you are making plans to attend the visits and to participate in our conservation. Wherever we go, wherever we end up, it will be a joint effort by us all. Together we can change our world and that of the kids we serve. Together we can succeed in all our goals and aspirations; together we can help this district get busy living.

Join me, your Club Presidents and your Divisional Lt. Governor in 2019–20 and, together, we will enjoy a great ride. I look forward to working with you for the betterment of the Illinois-Eastern Iowa District of Kiwanis International.

CHARLES SMITH
I-I DISTRICT GOVERNOR

Correction

In the Convention Review Illeiowan and the District Convention Amador Award Luncheon booklet, the name of one of the award recipients was misspelled. Dean H. Ortinau of the Decatur Early Birds Kiwanis Club was awarded medallion #530, and although his last name was correct in the biographical info, it was misspelled in the booklet page header and in the Amador award listing in the Convention Review issue.

Our apologies to Mr. Ortinau for the oversight.
Happy fall to everyone in the I-I District! Another year has flown by and we have had another incredible Kiwanis year! I’m hoping everyone is completing their year-end items. Many clubs (over 30%) have not submitted their Club Election Reports online for 2019–20. There are many resource emails club leaders will not receive this year if these are not submitted immediately. Even if your officers have not changed, you must complete the report or no officers will be listed for your club. And please be sure these items have been completed for your club:

**Background Checks**

Background checks for the Kiwanis Advisors for all Sponsored Leadership Programs (SLP) need to now be complete with Kiwanis International, so please get those completed ASAP. More details found at: https://www.kiwanis.org/clubs/member-resources/training/risk-management/background-checks

**How does a Kiwanis advisor get a background check?** Answer: The Kiwanis club secretary will update the Kiwanis advisors (including their correct email addresses) for each of the SLPs on the secretary dashboard. Kiwanis International will then email advisors who need a background check to provide instructions and the web link for completing the background check process.

**Monthly Reports and Annual Report**

Please be sure all of your monthly reports are completed by October 31 so the Annual Report can automatically generate. You do not “submit” anything manually.

**Award submissions**

Award submissions are due in the District Office October 31 for the following:

- Interclub Banner Patch
- District Newsletter Contest
- District Club Website Award

You will find all the needed information on the District Website Awards Page at: http://www.iikiwanis.org/Page/22750

I want to thank Governor Alan Arbuckle and First Lady Grace Arbuckle for their year of service and dedication to the I-I District. A BIG welcome to Governor-Elect Charles Smith and First Lady Pam Smith for stepping up to serve us all in the coming year! ☺

**ANDREA RAYCRAFT**

I-I DISTRICT EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

On September 21, the Salem Kiwanis Club manned a booth during Applefest at Bryan Memorial Park in the Salem, IL. An 8-min. video may be viewed by clicking the inset image or go to https://youtu.be/vbj8iWWnd60.
On September 28, 2019, the three Kiwanis Clubs in Quincy, IL (Quincy Noon Kiwanis, Gem City Breakfast Kiwanis, and Golden K Kiwanis Clubs), held a bed build day for Sleep in Heavenly Peace. This was not only a Kiwanis One Day event but also the Centennial Service Project for Quincy Noon Kiwanis, which will celebrate 100 years of serving the Quincy Community in 2020. Fellow Kiwanian of Quincy Noon Kiwanis, Tim Maguire, graciously offered the use of his shop to allow set up and building the beds—the project required about 1,500 square feet to accommodate all of the volunteers and tasks.

Sleep in Heavenly Peace is a group of volunteers dedicated to building, assembling and delivering top-notch bunk beds to children and families in need. The organization has grown steadily over time, and it is working to open more chapters in different states to serve more people. A 501(c)3 non-profit organization, Sleep in Heavenly Peace had its start like many other charities, in a garage. It was Christmastime, a time of joy and happiness, a time of giving and love, but also a time of bitter, cold weather and snowstorms. A project that started with the build of one bed for a single family developed into a whole lot more. With wood left over from the first bunk, another idea was created. “Who else could benefit from this bunk”?

The local chapter in Liberty, IL and Director Darren Funk teamed up with the three Kiwanis clubs to build beds for children who did not have one. Can you imagine a child having to sleep on the floor? SHP’s slogan is “No Kid Sleeps on the Floor in Our Town”. The goal was to raise $10,000, that amount was exceeded. We wanted to build 56 total beds, and we raised enough to do that. It costs $350 per bunk, which is two twin beds, so $175 per bed. The goal on September 28 was to try to build 25–30 beds, and we built 48 beds. More than 40 volunteers participated—many Kiwanians and many from the community were involved as well. Even our Quincy Noon Kiwanis SLP/Aktion Club, Circle K, and Builders Clubs volunteered. It was a Kiwanis Day, and we had a great time. According to Darren Funk, he has 61 applications for beds. He covers Adams, Brown, and Pike Counties in Illinois, and Ralls and Marion Counties in Missouri.

Sleep in Heavenly Peace needs more chapters. It is where it is today because countless individuals asked the question, “What can I do?” The answer is: there are many ways to get involved! From volunteering time and energy on a Build Day, to making a donation to a local chapter in need, to sponsoring a local build day, there are countless ways you can help ensure that “No Kid Sleeps on the Floor in Our Town”.

No Kid Sleeps on the Floor in Our Town
in Our Town!” There are many other ways to donate to SHP besides a financial contribution. Chapters are always in search of twin-size bedding, wood and other construction materials, and of course tools. You can also opt to volunteer your time or your talents, you can learn more about that here. Or you can make an in-kind donation to a chapter. When you do this, you offset their operating costs, allowing them to build more beds.

“God was truly at work”, stated Joanne Dedert, QNK President, as she brought Kiwanis and SHP together. Brad Essington, QNK President-Elect told a local reporter with The Quincy Herald Whig, “It was a great way to bring all three clubs together, to show this community what Kiwanis is all about, serving the kids. The article was in the publication’s September 29 edition.

Those involved with this Kiwanis One Day Event were: Joanne Dedert (Quincy Noon Kiwanis President), Brad Essington (QNK President-Elect), Dennis Bingheim (Gem City Breakfast Club President), Ron Dedert (Golden K), Darren Funk (SHP), Tim Maguire (ServPro), and Joe Henning (QNK Secretary), Rachael Brink (QNK Aktion Club Advisor), Brittany Ellerman (QNK Circle K Advisor), Chris Wiemelt (QNK Builders Club Advisor), and countless others that donated food, snacks, and drinks. ☺
TAYLORVILLE KIWANIS AND H.S.H.S. HELP KIDS—AND TEACHERS!

The Taylorville Kiwanis Club and Hospital Sisters Health System (HSHS) Medical group office staff in Taylorville teamed up to collect and donate supplies to be used for students in the coming school year. The project was initiated by the HSHS Taylorville staff that wanted to provide some assistance to teachers and nurses. The items collected included tissues, disinfecting wipes and hand sanitizer, items that are normally purchased out of pocket by the teaching staff. Kiwanian Martin Vota was made aware of the effort and contacted HSHS, offering support from the Taylorville club. HSHS sought assistance with distribution of the items collected by their employees. When club members learned the effort was to assist the local schools and children, they also donated items to the cause. Elementary school nurses gratefully accepted the supplies, expressing their appreciation for the support that Kiwanis and HSHS has for the community. More projects are in the works partnering these two groups. ☺

A recent meeting of the Kewanee Kiwanis Club featured a few notable events, including honoring club member John Blachinsky with an Amador Medallion.

Making a guest appearance was a 10-year-old young lady from Lincoln, IL diagnosed with Spina Bifida, who attended Camp Independence for the first time. Attending the meeting with her mother, she shared a little about her experience as a camper. Her week-long visit to the Camp was the first time in her life that she had been separated from Mom and Dad for a full week. She can’t wait to return again next year, and now Mom can’t wait either! ☺
The youngest students at Tuscola North Ward Elementary School had something extra special to look forward to when they started school on August 21, 2019—an expanded and upgraded pre-kindergarten (pre-K) playground. How did this project come about?

Dave Morgan, project chairperson, met with Principal Jason Wallace in March 2019 and asked what the Tuscola Kiwanis Club could do to improve the school experience for North Ward’s students. Jason showed Dave the tiny pre-K playground and how very little playground equipment it had. Dave came back to the club and asked if the club would be willing to commit to a playground project to expand and upgrade the pre-K playground. The project was wholeheartedly approved by the club’s membership. Work began in May after school was dismissed for the year.

The budget was estimated at $20,000 to double the space, provide new play equipment, a picnic table, and covered bench seating area. That was almost exactly what the project took to complete with cash donations and donations of equipment, materials, and labor. With the help of school staff, equipment was selected and ordered to best meet the needs of the pre-K students. Donations and sweat equity from Tuscola Kiwanians and donations from community individuals and local businesses made this project possible.

The ribbon-cutting took place on Monday, August 12, 2019, with a large crowd that included Tuscola Mayor Dan Kleiss, Principal Jason Wallace, Project Chairperson Dave Morgan, Tuscola Kiwanis President-Elect Dennis Opperman, many Tuscola Kiwanians, business and individual donors, parents, teachers, community residents, and students. The kids couldn’t wait to enter the playground! This is a project of which the Tuscola Kiwanis Club and local community can be very proud!
A young child’s world is full of wonder. Every discovery is brand new and full of life with human attributes like himself.

_A Kite for MOON_ focuses on a little boy who, while flying his kite on a sandy beach, looks up at the early morning moon all alone in the sky and feels sorry for the moon. He tries to hug the moon but the moon is too far away. So he writes a message on his kite promising to someday come to visit the moon. Then he let’s go of his kite to fly up, up high into the sky.

Over the years, the boy sends more kites to his friend the moon, and the moon watches him grow. The boy studies hard and learns all about the sky and the moon, and also how to ride planes and rocket ships. Finally, one day, as a grown man, he gets into a rocket ship that shoots up high into the sky and lands on the moon. He steps onto the moon and says. Hello, Moon, I’ve come for that visit.

Jane Yolen and her daughter Heidi Stemple have combined their talents to write a charming children’s book about the enduring love and fascination of a child to the moon. They also have dedicated _A Kite for MOON_ to Neil Armstrong to mark the 50th anniversary of the first manned moon landing. This endearing picture book, enhanced by the whimsical artwork of Matt Phalen, is accessible to young children of all ages and is destined to become a family classic.

Jane Yolen has won numerous awards, having written several hundred picture books earning her the title of the Hans Christian Andersen of America and the Aesop of the twentieth century.

A young child’s world is full of wonder. Every discovery is brand new and full of life with human attributes like himself.

_A Kite for MOON_ focuses on a little boy who, while flying his kite on a sandy beach, looks up at the early morning moon all alone in the sky and feels sorry for the moon. He tries to hug the moon but the moon is too far away. So he writes a message on his kite promising to someday come to visit the moon. Then he let’s go of his kite to fly up, up high into the sky.

Over the years, the boy sends more kites to his friend the moon, and the moon watches him grow. The boy studies hard and learns all about the sky and the moon, and also how to ride planes and rocket ships. Finally, one day, as a grown man, he gets into a rocket ship that shoots up high into the sky and lands on the moon. He steps onto the moon and says. Hello, Moon, I’ve come for that visit.

Jane Yolen and her daughter Heidi Stemple have combined their talents to write a charming children’s book about the enduring love and fascination of a child to the moon. They also have dedicated _A Kite for MOON_ to Neil Armstrong to mark the 50th anniversary of the first manned moon landing. This endearing picture book, enhanced by the whimsical artwork of Matt Phalen, is accessible to young children of all ages and is destined to become a family classic.

Jane Yolen has won numerous awards, having written several hundred picture books earning her the title of the Hans Christian Andersen of America and the Aesop of the twentieth century.

_A Kite for MOON_ by Jane Yolen and Heidi E.Y. Stemple

Reviewed by Joyce Mesrobian, M.Ed.

_About Joyce Mesrobian_

Joyce Mesrobian was a preschool teacher for 30 years and an adjunct faculty member for eight years at a local college. Also, for 20 years, she wrote a children’s book review column for a major early childhood organization, the Chicago Metro Association for the Education of Young Children. Mesrobian is a member of the Lindenhurst Kiwanis Club.

What does your club or division have planned for Kiwanis One Day 2019?

Share your story and photos in the November-December Illeiowan!