It seems that the 2016-17 school year is flying by. Somehow, through snow and 70 degrees and then snow again, we have nearly arrived at spring break. In the classrooms, students have many challenges and much excitement left in their year. And in the District office, even as we work to close this school year strong, we have begun planning for the 2017-18 school year.

With that in mind, I wanted to give a brief update on the boundary plans. The District will address our imbalanced enrollment with new boundaries for the 2018-19 school year. The boundaries will be student centered, minimally disruptive, and fiscally responsible. To reach that goal, the District will reconvene the Enrollment Committee as a Boundary Committee before the end of this school year. The expanded committee will look at all data, building plans, and previous feedback to develop a sustainable plan that provides optimal outcomes for all students.

Our plan is to present a boundary-change recommendation to the Board of Education in October 2017, with the Board possibly taking action in December 2017. The new boundaries would go into place for the 2018-19 school year. During this process, the District will continue to communicate with all stakeholders through our website, social media sites, building newsletters, and PTC meetings.

At this time, we are working on ways to reduce the number of students who could lose instructional minutes in 2017-18 when they are bussed away from their home school to balance building enrollments. I appreciate all the families and staff members who have participated in this important process.

Here are some important reminders and celebrations:

**Registration opens April 5 for returning students**

Registration opened February 27 for students who will be kindergartners in the 2017-18 school year. If you have a student starting kindergarten next year, registration information can be found here. Registration for returning students will open at 6 a.m. April 5. More information is available here.

The District bases staffing decisions and other planning on having complete registration information, so I encourage all families to register as soon as possible. You can save $10 per student by completing registration before April 30.

**Glen Crest musicians shine in competitions**

Twenty-six students earned first-place honors at the IGSMA Solo and Ensemble Competition in February. Then, in March, the Glen Crest sixth-grade intermediate orchestra earned Division I recognition, with the
second-highest scores of the day. It’s so exciting to see the hard work of students and staff being recognized. The names of the students who earned first-place honors can be found here.

Thank you for your Make-A-Wish contributions
I want to thank everyone who helped the District reach its goal of raising $4,000 for the Illinois Make-A-Wish program. Thanks to the leadership of District Nurse Sandy Lawinger, we collected $5,230, which will be used to provide unforgettable experiences to young people and families during an unimaginably difficult time. I’d also like to thank the students and families who shared stories about how they were affected by Make-A-Wish trips. You can hear the video stories here.

District will host Cultural Arts Share on April 20
CCSD 89 appreciates students and families from all over the world. I hope you will join us in a celebration of our diversity at the District’s Cultural Arts Share from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Thursday, April 20, at Westfield Elementary School. Students will share what they’ve learned through music, artwork, projects, and food at the Share.

Briar Glen teacher Linda Perlini: Teacher of the Year!
I am thrilled to let you know about a well-deserved honor that one of our own received. Briar Glen Elementary School fifth-grade teacher Linda Perlini was recently recognized as the CCSD 89 “Educator of the Year” at the Glen Ellyn Community Awards Banquet. Those you who know Linda, know she is dedicated to her craft, always striving to improve herself and others. She puts her students first, providing the extra attention each one of them needs. Read more about this amazing educator here.

District earns financial honor for 17th straight year
The District’s budget usually has a limited spotlight; it gets a lot of attention when it goes to the Board for approval. What’s often unseen is the tireless daily work done by our Finance Department to make sure we have the resources to deliver an excellent educational experience to students. I’m proud to see that for the 17th consecutive year, the Association of School Business Officials has recognized the District with its Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting. You can read more about this recognition here.

Board of Education updates
The Board of Education met on March 20. A summary of the March 20 Board meeting can be read here: https://goo.gl/qPKndU

Upcoming events
March 24: Half day for students (morning attendance)
March 27-31: Spring break
April 14: No school
April 20: Half Day – morning attendance (School Improvement Day)

I hope that you and your family have a safe and relaxing spring break. Thank you for all you do to support learning for life!

Sincerely,

Emily K. Tammaru
Superintendent
Follow CCSD 89 on Facebook and Twitter