

## Regional Office of Education Report

February 2024

### School Crisis Management

Chris Tennyson and Josh Knuth recently attended the trainer course from the “I Love U Guys Foundation”. The “I Love U Guys” Foundation was started in 2006 by Ellen and John-Michael Keyes following a school shooting that took the life of their daughter, Emily. On that day Emily sent two text messages... One to her mother, Ellen, "I love u guys. K" and to her father, John-Michael, "I love you guys." Ellen and John-Michael have now worked hard to create a standard response protocol for school districts and law enforcement agencies to use in the event of emergencies. The Standard Response Protocol (SRP) provides consistent, clear, shared language and actions among all students, staff and first responders for all hazards. It is action based, and allows organizations, first responders, students, and parents to share a specific vocabulary for quick and coordinated action. It also acts as a tool for training which develops the muscle memory necessary to respond appropriately in moments of crisis. Chris and Josh will now be able to work with our school districts on improving their crisis plans and provide this training for districts that would like to move to this model.

### Professional Learning & Educational Services

<b>Current Programs - Office of Professional Learning &amp; Educational Services</b>
Induction & Mentoring
Community Partnership Grant/IDPH Trauma Grant
Education Pathway Endorsement
Manufacturing, Health Science & Agriculture Endorsement Programs
Elevating Special Educators
School Improvement & Strategic Planning
School Improvement Cooperative (instructional coaching, training, networking)
Social Emotional Learning/Trauma/Youth Mental Health First Aid/TRS I-A

Early Childhood Professional Learning
Family Education & Engagement
NEXUS Family Support Services
Student Attendance

**Office of Professional Learning & Ed Services: Professional Learning & School Improvement**

- A full schedule of Professional Learning is available on our website: [www.roe47.org](http://www.roe47.org)
- A provider survey was deployed in January 2024 in order to collect current screening and program enrollment data for early childhood programming in Lee, Ogle & Whiteside counties. This data is being used to better understand program opening and needs within each community. Data collected includes: Number of student slots, Number of students on waiting list, number of screenings completed, referrals made to Head Start, cycle of program monitoring, and feedback on how coordinated intake can help with the program waiting list. The Early Childhood Capacity Builder has also visited 2 school district Preschool for All programs to work with teachers and administrators to prepare for monitoring visits.
- ROE 47 Early Childhood team, ROE 47 Pathways team, Sauk Valley Community College and Head Start are continuing conversations related to support for incumbent workforce and future educators who may need additional support and networking to promote persistence and degree/credential completion.
- ROE 47 School Improvement team staff members are working intensively with six districts on continuous school improvement.
- The office of Professional Learning & Educational Services deployed and Educator needs assessment survey in January 2024 to assess and better understand trauma, social emotional and other professional learning needs in the Lee, Ogle, Whiteside county service area. The survey includes questions related to To date, the survey has 148 responses, which will be shared with staff and Community Partnership Advisory group members.
- Watch for community and educator training related to trauma 101, as well as Youth Mental Health First Aid. This training is part of our IDPH Trauma grant.
- Upcoming and ongoing professional learning opportunities through our office includes: Librarians Networking, School Counselor & Social Worker Networking, Social Studies training, Targeted Improvement to Meet the Needs of Diverse Learners (Special Education), monthly networking for special education teachers, 2 cohorts of Developing Special Education Leaders, Transformational Leadership Academy, new teacher cadre, quarterly administrator meetings, quarterly pathway implementation sessions, and more!

**Office of Professional Learning & Ed Services: Parent Engagement & Community Outreach**

- Approximately 100 high school freshmen have been nominated to participate in our first Student Leadership Summit at the McCormick Event Center on March 15, 2024
- Family Educators and the Coordinated Intake Specialist have attended over 36 community events and reached over 10,000 families with parent-child activities, educational materials, and links to EC programs and community services through our IRIS referral platform. In FY24, from July 1 - January 1, 2024, the office has hosted or participated in community events that facilitated parent-child interaction and heightened awareness of EC opportunities, including:
  - Back to School Bash (125 participants)
  - Paw Paw Back to School Bash (100 participants)
  - Taste of Fiesta (Sterling) (500 participants)
  - Prophetstown BlockFest (11 children)
  - Ogle County Baby Shower (75 families)
  - Lee County Baby Shower (8 families)
  - Trunk or Treat - Sterling (October 25): 500 children
  - Trunk or Treat - Dixon (October 25): 475 children
  - Build A Pet Clubhouse - November 4: 31 children
  - PLT Preschool Parent Education Event - November 6: 27 parents
  - Polo Christmas - December 2: 190 children
  - Sterling Sites & Sounds - December 1: 450 children
  - Blockfest (Sterling Public Schools Early Childhood): 18 families
  - Blockfest (Oregon) - January 20: 12 families, 25 children
  - Virtual Baby Shower - January 24: 8 expectant mothers; 9 community organizations
  - Empowered Parents Session 1 - January 22: 15 caregivers
- Our family educators have been trained in facilitating Parent Cafes. These will begin virtually in April 2024.
- Letters have been sent to businesses, agencies, and community organizations in Lee, Ogle & Whiteside counties seeking donations to support our School Supply Closet, Christmas basket support, family events, and events for students
- Blockfest, Mindful Trails and Slumberkins resources are available for check out to schools and agencies
- Looking for volunteer opportunities? Our family educators are seeking volunteers to help in assembling approximately 1,000 community outreach bags each month. Outreach bags are distributed to ROE 47 schools and families and contain an activity, information
- The next Community Partnership Advisory meeting is scheduled for Friday, February 23rd from 9:00 - 11:00 a.m. at Sauk Valley College. School districts, community agencies, and government officials are welcome to attend.

- A monthly digital family newsletter has been developed and deployed through Mail Chimp on a monthly basis. Newsletters include parenting information, community family events, early childhood programming and service information, and other important links. Parents/caregivers can subscribe to the ROE Family Newsletter at <https://mailchi.mp/2cde621b466f/family-sign-up>
- The Family Educator also developed and deployed a family survey in January 2024 to assess and better understand family needs in the Lee, Ogle, Whiteside county service area. The survey includes questions related to mental health, community resources, early childhood programming, family support systems, and parent/family needs. To date, the survey has 45 responses.
- Over 1,000 community outreach bags have been distributed to area preschools, food banks, and shelters. Outreach bags include a personal care item, information on family events and community resources, community agencies, a parent-child activity card, and an activity for parents and children to do together.
- The Family Education & Engagement Specialist is hosting an “Empowered Parenting” series - a three-part series designed for parents of all ages and in all stages. Sessions will address behaviors, emotional regulation, and strategies parents can use at home.

#### **Office of Professional Learning & Ed Services: Social Media**

The department’s social media presence continues to grow. Like our page on Facebook (Regional Office of Education #47) and download our ROE47 App for weekly teacher talks, instructional tips, news, giveaways, updates & more! Follow us on Twitter @RegionalOffice47

Want to hear from educators & students in the classroom? Check out our Teacher Talks on YouTube!

# Upcoming Events

ROE 47's Spring Book Study

## WHOLE CHILD, WHOLE LIFE

10 Ways to Help Kids Live, Learn & Thrive  
by Stephanie Malia Krauss



- Runs virtually for 8 weeks
- Asynchronous Google Classroom work
- 3 zoom check-ins
- 19 PD Hours
- Feb. 19th - April 19th
- Registration Fee \$25
- Fee includes a copy of the book.
- REGISTER by February 9th

In a world that seems to grow more unpredictable and challenging by the day, how can we increase learning and joy for children while offering them much-needed support?

Providing essential information, practical advice, stories, and time-tested strategies to help kids live and learn, **Whole Child, Whole Life** is required reading for anyone who is working with, caring for, or raising young people.

**REGISTER NOW**

This PD opportunity is being supported by the ROE 47 Illinois Department of Public Health Grant.



## Universal Design for Learning (UDL) Series

As teachers, we understand that our students have diverse needs and each has their own unique mix of strengths and areas for growth. Join us as we dig deeper to explore and discuss how to identify and predict barriers to engagement, representation, action & expression through the Universal Design for Learning (UDL). This training will be provided by Novak Education and is targeted to help all teachers meet the needs of all students in the general education classroom.

**1**  
DEC

Registration from 8:30-9:30

**1**  
DEC

**Diving Deeper into UDL** 8:30 AM - 3:00 PM

Examine the UDL guidelines in more depth & experiment with what they look like in practice.

**2**  
FEB

**2**  
FEB

**Putting UDL into Practice** 8:30 AM - 3:00 PM

Learn how to proactively incorporate voice, choice, & scaffolds into goals, methods, materials & assessments to help learners overcome barriers.

Bring your technology device to get access to the shared resources

**SAUK VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE**  
ROOM 1K04  
173 IL Rte. 2  
Dixon, IL 61021

Bring \$2.5 PD Hours each day!  
Lunch is included!  
These events are FREE!

**REGISTER BY NOVEMBER 27, 2023 AT ROE47.ORG**  
IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS PLEASE REACH OUT TO SHALINA DINGES AT SDINGES@SENENETWORK.ORG



\*This poster of this flyer was developed under a grant from the U.S. Department of Education. #02232000014 However, those contents do not necessarily represent the policy of the U.S. Department of Education, and you should not assume endorsement by the Federal Government. Project Officer: Jennifer Coffey.

## MARCH 1

### 8:30-1:30



Tetten's Grain  
1684 Nachusa Rd  
Dixon

cultivating connections in  
*agriculture*

### What to Expect

A successful secondary agriculture program requires more than a classroom. Dive in to the world of agriculture education, careers, and leadership development with high school agriculture teachers, current students, and local success stories - men and women who experienced the benefits of agriculture education and the FFA organization. Consider this a review or an introduction to Illinois' well-established agriculture education family.

### Details

Check-in 8 a.m. Program begins 8:30 a.m.  
Refreshments & lunch provided  
CPDUs offered  
Open to admin, counselors, school board, FFA alumni  
Questions? Contact the committee:

- John Heiser, District 1 FCAE Program Advisor: jheiser@lged.org
- Katie Pratt, Lee Co. AITC coordinator: atc.lee@bcomcast.net
- Stacey Dinges, Pathways Navigator, ROE #47: sdinges@roe47.org
- Ashleigh Erbes, Lee Co. Farm Bureau manager: lee@bcomcast.net

**RSVP & Register by Feb. 22. Scan Code**




## EMPOWERED PARENT SERIES

*"A 3-part series designed for parenting all ages and in all stages."*

**About:**  
The Empowered Parenting Series is a three-part series designed for parents of all ages and in all stages. We will be addressing behaviors, assisting your child with emotional regulation, and gaining a new toolbox full of strategies for your home.

**Dates:**  
Monday, January 22 from 7-8 PM  
Monday, February 12 from 7-8 PM  
Monday, March 18 from 7-8 PM

**Where:**  
Online Zoom Event  
Zoom link will be sent after you register.

**REGISTER TODAY!**  
Participants who register and participate in all sessions will have the opportunity to win a gift card.

Scan to Register   
or text (815) 764-1194

For more information,  
Email: gheimerdingebaako@roe47.org







# FAMILY FUN DAY

COME AND ENJOY SOME FAMILY FUN AT BUILD-A-PET CLUBHOUSE!

**SATURDAY FEB 10 2-4 PM** Admission **FREE**

**Activities**

- ✓ Active Play
- ✓ Play Stations
- ✓ Sensory Play
- ✓ Toddler Area
- ✓ Game Room for 8 yrs +

**Build-A-Pet Clubhouse**  
502 1st Ave, Sterling, IL

RSVP by Scanning the QR Code or text (815) 764-1194



More Information [gheimerdingerbaake@roe47.org](mailto:gheimerdingerbaake@roe47.org)


# CALLING ALL FAMILIES!

## Family Survey

**YOUR VOICE MATTERS!**

Your thoughts, experiences, and perspectives are invaluable, and we want to hear them! Our Family Survey is your chance to contribute to positive change, create a stronger community, and enhance the well-being of your loved ones.

Scan the QR code to complete the survey.



As a token of our appreciation, participants will have an opportunity to win a gift card for completing the survey.


For more information, contact [gheimerdingerbaake@roe47.org](mailto:gheimerdingerbaake@roe47.org) or (815) 625-1495

## SUMMIT HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE:

**KEYNOTE:**  
Stephanie Malla Kraus  
Author of *Whole Child, Whole Life 10 Ways to Help Kids Learn, Live, & Thrive*.  
Working at "the intersection of education, youth development, workforce development, and human services," Kraus will help educators establish a common language for discussing broad concepts such as equity and whole child as it relates to college/career readiness, identify barriers/solutions to student success and engagement, and develop implementation strategies that classroom districts can use that will foster students' trajectory of success.

**FOLLOW UP PRESENTER:**  
Shavina Baker  
DEI Educator for the Illinois P-20 Network.  
Baker has held a variety of roles in education and business in Illinois. Her presentation will focus on identifying inequities, how educators can use UDL as template for "implementing strategies that promote and develop a culture that supports diversity, equity, and inclusion."

## 2024 VIRTUAL PATHWAYS COLLEGE & CAREER READINESS SUMMIT



Join Sauk Valley Community College's PASS Initiative & Regional Office of Education #47

### Redefining College & Career Readiness Through the Whole Child & Equity Lens

Friday, February 9  
Virtual Connection • 8:30-12:00pm




Please join us on February 9 as we work to build success for students and employees in the Sauk Valley Area

To register, visit [roe47.org](http://roe47.org) and select the PL Workshops tab  
Zoom link provided a week before the Summit

Please register by February 2

Questions? Contact Janis Jones:  
[janis.a.jones@svcc.edu](mailto:janis.a.jones@svcc.edu) • 815.499.1944

All participants will receive a copy of one of the books authored by the keynote, Stephanie Malla Kraus.






A series designed for ALL EDUCATORS!



# Empowered Educators

<b>WORKSHOP 1</b> 1/17/24 What you need to know about supporting children of trauma!	<b>WORKSHOP 2</b> 2/21/24 Educating children with a trauma-focused lens. Part 1	<b>WORKSHOP 3</b> 3/20/24 Educating children with a trauma-focused lens. Part 2
<b>WORKSHOP 4</b> 4/17/24 Educating children with a trauma-focused lens and the impact of YOU.	<b>WORKSHOP 5</b> 5/15/24 Classroom Wrap Up: The 10 things to take with you.	

ALL WORKSHOPS TAKE PLACE ON ZOOM FROM 3:30-4:30 PM




Scan to Register


6TH ANNUAL  
SOCIAL EMOTIONAL LEARNING SUMMIT


# *Building a Community* OF BELONGING




Calling all educators, counselors, administrators, and anyone passionate about empowering children and youth! Dive into a transformative Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) Summit, designed to equip you with the tools and strategies to build vibrant, inclusive communities within your schools.


*Dr. Alonzo Kelly*  
Keynote Speaker


 **MARCH 14, 2024**

 **8:30AM - 3:00PM**





 **SAUK VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

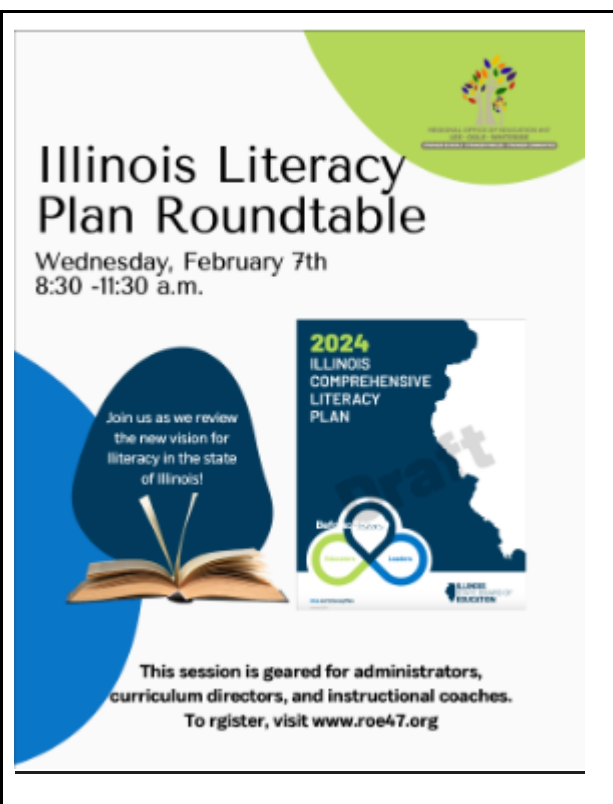
*Scan QR Code*  
to register.





**REGIONAL OFFICE OF EDUCATION #47**  
2214 E 4th Street, Suite 8 | Sterling, IL | 815.65.1495


 [www.roe47.org](http://www.roe47.org)
 @regionaloffice47
 @LOWOCE47
 @ROE4731




## Illinois Literacy Plan Roundtable

Wednesday, February 7th  
8:30 -11:30 a.m.

Join us as we review the new vision for literacy in the state of Illinois!



**2024**  
ILLINOIS COMPREHENSIVE LITERACY PLAN



This session is geared for administrators, curriculum directors, and instructional coaches.  
To register, visit [www.roe47.org](http://www.roe47.org)

**Office of Professional Learning & Ed Services: Professional Learning Events**

Check out ALL of our opportunities [HERE](#)  
February & March 2024 Schedule of Events

2/2/2024	<a href="#"><u>Practical Strategies for Implementing UDL</u></a>
2/6/2024 - 4/9/2024	<a href="#"><u>Targeted Improvement to Meet the Need of Diverse Learners</u></a>
2/7/2024	<a href="#"><u>Literacy Plan Roundtable</u></a>
2/9/2024	<a href="#"><u>Virtual Pathways for College &amp; Career Readiness Summit</u></a>
2/14/2024	<a href="#"><u>Special Educators Cohort</u></a>
2/15/2024	<a href="#"><u>Developing a School Wide Trauma-Responsive Action Plan</u></a>
2/19/2024 - 4-19/2024	<a href="#"><u>Whole Child, Whole Life (Spring Book Study)</u></a>
2/20/2024 - 4/24/2024	<a href="#"><u>New Teacher Cadre</u></a>
3/13/2024	<a href="#"><u>Special Educators Cohort</u></a>

3/14/2024

[SEL Summit](#)

### **December 2023 Participants - 158**

Friday, December 1

Diving Deeper into UDL @ SVCC  
Transitional ELA Summit @ 8:30 a.m.

Monday, December 4

New Teacher Cadre @ 3:30 p.m.

Tuesday, December 5

Targeted Improvement to Meet the Need of Diverse Learners @ ROE #47

Tuesday, December 12

LETRS Cohort @ ROE #47  
Librarians & School Library Media Specialist Networking Session @ 3:00 p.m.  
LETRS Training @ 3:30 p.m.

Thursday, December 14

Health Sciences (Pathways) Networking Session @ 3:15 pm

### **January 2024 Participants - 89**

Wednesday, January 10

Special Educators Cohort @ 3:30 pm

Thursday, January 11

Health Sciences (Pathways) Networking Session @ 3:15 pm

Tuesday, January 16

New Teacher Cadre @ 3:30 p.m.

Wednesday, January 17

School Counselors & Social Workers Networking Session @ ROE 47  
Empowered Educators Series @ 3:30 pm

Friday, January 19

Exploring EdTech Summit @ SVCC

Wednesday, January 24

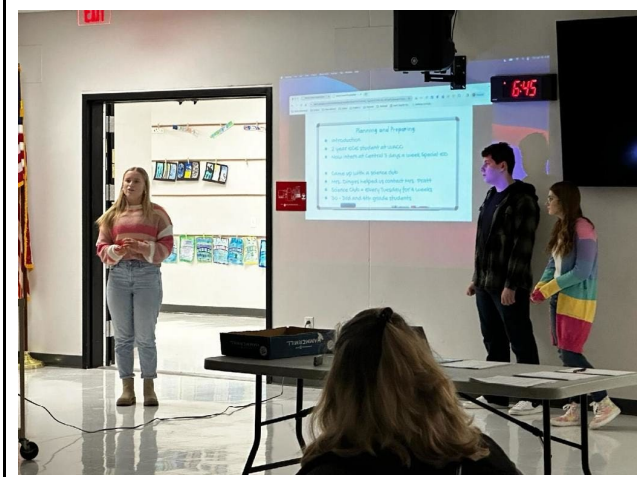
Librarians & School Library Media Specialist Networking Session @ 3:00 p.m.

Thursday, January 25

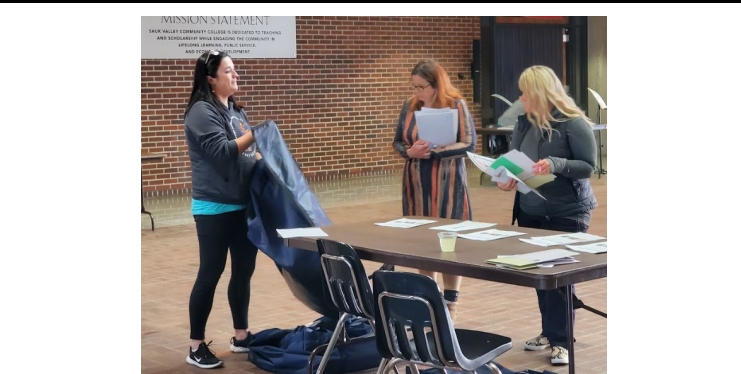
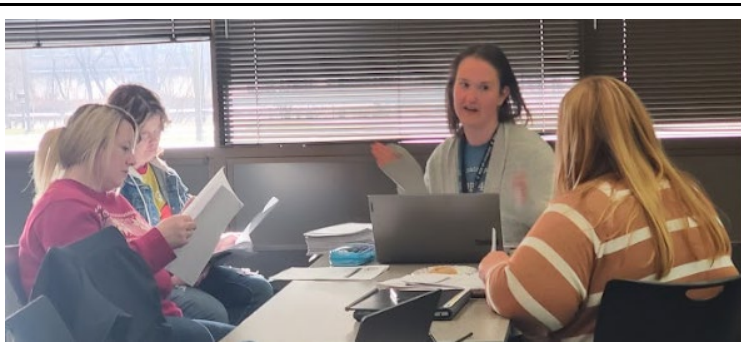
Superintendent Networking Session @ ROE #47



December & January in Photos:







## Office of Professional Learning & Ed Services: NEXUS

### **Rock Falls couple will feed 32 families on Christmas Day**

*Devon Nicklaus and Emily Juist will deliver lasagna with a side of holiday cheer*

*By Charlene Bielema*

*December 25, 2023 at 5:15 am CST*

**ROCK FALLS** – *Devon Nicklaus had one thought last month after he cooked and delivered Thanksgiving meals to brighten 15 families' holiday.*

*Do it again. Only this time, bigger.*

*And he didn't want to wait a whole year. Instead, he and his girlfriend Emily Juist pushed forward with plans for a Christmas Day menu.*

*On Monday, they will feed 32 families a holiday meal that includes lasagna and a loaf of bread, and deliver hot cocoa mix kits and Christmas cookie decorating kits alongside the food to give families something fun to do together. The couple spent Monday night at the Greater Sterling Development Corp.'s Kitchen Incubator of Northwest Illinois, prepping all the Christmas Day lasagnas.*

*"Everyone worked together. I was pleased with how everything turned out. It was flawless," Nicklaus said of the November event. "As soon as Thanksgiving was over I knew it was needed and we needed to do more."*

*Their thoughts have not only turned to Christmas but to the future. Nicklaus said plans are in the works to create a not-for-profit organization and to make and deliver meals each Thanksgiving, Christmas and Easter.*

*Nicklaus said planning the dinners has been a community effort as people have stepped forward to donate needed items. The Sauk Valley Food Bank donated the meat and sauce for the lasagna. Maria's Pizza in Dixon gave him loaves of bread to go with the lasagna.*

*Michelle Sanders of the Regional Office of Education connected Nicklaus, through the NEXUS program, with families who could use the extra help on the holiday. Nicklaus said he expected to help 50 families on Christmas Day; on Tuesday the number was at 32 families. He said employees with the Rock Falls branch of Sterling Federal Bank, where Juist is branch manager, also have assisted the couple.*

## Office of Professional Learning & Ed Services: Student Attendance Support

Over the last 4 months the Attendance and Nexus teams have been working to expand their data collection systems (Airtable) to build a more comprehensive system that will allow for better reports, time-tracking, family goal, and family information tracking. This system will streamline the case worker's time and reporting for State Reports.

## Parents as Teachers First Years

December and January have been challenging months for home visits. In December, our families were struggling with many illnesses and weather issues in January greatly impacted our ability to be out and about. Fortunately, the pandemic brought about virtual home visits which has made keeping in contact with families when we can't do in-person visits much easier. Even when schools were closed, if our office was open we were able to complete visits virtually!

December also brought our annual holiday party which we held jointly with our Education Outreach Program "C Side" partners (referencing that our entry door address is Suite C). It was fun to plan an event for such a large age range and it was fun to see show the EOP students what types of activities we plan for our youngest children and show what they are learning. Several of the EOP students also participated in the children's activities with their young children.

In January, we began offering Open Play days twice a month. PAT and EOP families are invited to come into our PAT lending library space during the open play time and take advantage of the books and toys and art and craft materials that we have available. We wanted to offer parents a place they could take their children for some one-on-one time where they could drop in for a while and play with some different materials, and then go home when they were done. So far we have had just one family take advantage of the opportunity, but they played together for an hour and had lots of fun!

## Education Outreach Program

In December, Parents As Teachers and EOP had the opportunity to host a Holiday Party with activities for individuals we serve. We were able to witness our students and their children interact and our students and students spend quality time together! We are so appreciative of our space we share with PAT and excited for the many more opportunities ahead.



After multiple days of class cancellations, we have to recognize something we are especially thankful for. Togetherness: Both staff and students alike have noticed the difference that working together has made. EOP uses two online study resources, Aztec Software and i-

Pathways, to help students study from home if needed. Although many of our students prefer 1-on-1 tutoring, we appreciate our online resources as an alternative option.

The conflicts of winter did not slow down our students with EOP. We have had 2 new Graduates, **Congratulations to Zak and Wraith!** We have multiple students advancing in their post secondary education with one Welding certification earned and two new Welding enrollments, a Dean's List recognition for our Multi-Craft student, and CNA classes for another! Lastly, our new student enrollment is ramping up as well and we are now introducing 9 new students to class in February with more to come. EOP has 69 active students, 21 in follow-up seeking employment or career growth, and 6 new intakes eager to enroll.

## **McKinney Vento Homeless Program**

The cooler temperatures have caused an increase in housing concerns. Thanks for the additional ARP funding resources, we have been able to help some of our families with housing issues, auto repairs, and such. Stability in the home environment is key to educational success. FAFSA is now open. This is a program geared towards helping students moving onto post secondary education. A high school diploma is vital, but we all know that more is needed for overall success in our student's lives.

## **Regional Center for Change**

The month of January has been unusual, to say the least, at C4C! The weather has been a major factor, and we had 4 snow/cold days in the month, along with 3 E-learning days. The inconsistent weather and boiler repairs caused our staff and students to unite! We have hopefully made it through this cold stretch, and the boiler is back in action. Teachers, paraprofessionals, and counselors have done an amazing job assisting students during E-Learning.

Theme for the Month of January: "Attendance Matters"

To emphasize the importance of attendance and allow our students to SHOW they are leaders, we will reward all students who can maintain 80% attendance or better for the month of January with a special award at the end of the month.

We have seen an uptick in referrals to start the second semester, and our current enrollment is 61 students. We have 8 openings in our Options program and 5 openings in our Safe School. We had 4 students graduate high school at the semester, and 1 8th grade completed the requirements for junior high. Way to go, C4C!



