

October 7, 2026 - 3



South Holland School District 151

www.shsd151.org, (708) 339-1516

Facebook & Instagram

BIDE

Biweekly District Events Newsletter

A biweekly publication providing the latest school and community events to help keep our readers informed.

Taft's Hispanic Heritage Program

Upcoming Events

October

23rd

Fine Arts Open
House

27th

Eisenhower's -
Hispanic Heritage
Program

28th

Taft – Family
Reading Night

29th

Madison –
Hispanic Heritage
Program

30th

Taft & Eisenhower
Fall Fest



September 15th marks the independence of five Latin American countries. What began as a week-long celebration became a month long celebration under President Ronald Reagan. September 15th to October 15th, 2026 is National Hispanic Heritage Month.



Taft's Hispanic Heritage Program

Visit the district's Facebook page to see the wonderful videos.



PE at TAFT

Kindergarten Physical Education classes at Taft are working on their personal space unit for the 1st quarter of the 2026-27 school year. The unit focuses on safe movements, learning routines of the class, and locomotor movements. Students played various tag games, locomotor games, and started to learn throwing and tossing as well! During their weekly health lessons they learned how to listen, what's an emergency, and taking care of their own health!



Madison's Guest Reader

Madison had another guest reader, Mrs. Orth's sister, Miss Tina. She read "Just Ask", by Sonia Sotomayor! What an amazing book about celebrating our differences and a great tie into Hispanic Heritage Month!



As part of celebrating Hispanic Heritage month, **Eisenhower** school dressed up for Spirit Week.



CONGRATULATIONS!

Eisenhower Family Literacy Night winners received gas & Starbucks gift cards.

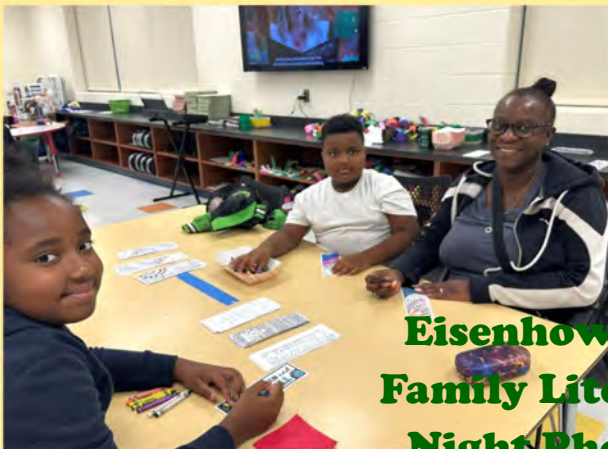


Eisenhower's Family Literacy Night Photos



**Eisenhower's
Family Literacy
Night Photos**





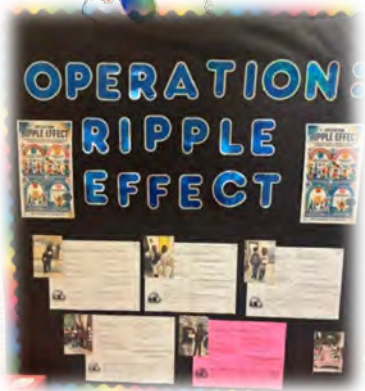
**Eisenhower's
Family Literacy
Night Photos**



PARENT ACTIVITY

Room 6 at Madison school hosted their first parent activity! Parents and students competed in a STEM challenge to build spaghetti towers! Their second challenge was the paper airplane challenge. Parents had a great time partnering with their children for the challenges!!

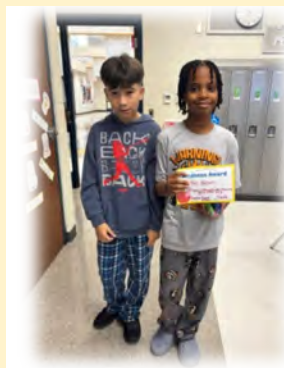




Madison had their first raffle drawing for "Operation Kindness Ripple Effect". During the month of September, nominations were submitted and a drawing was held to pick winners. For doing random acts of kindness, staff members could nominate students or staff members and students could nominate other students or staff members.

They received over 90 nominations. Five lucky winners were able to pick prizes from the prize cart.

The winners were: 4th graders Noelle Green and Jayce Anthony; 5th grader Ronald Burden, 5th grade teacher Mrs. Orth, and Ms. Leticia from the cleaning crew.



Go TIGERS!

Coolidge Tigers Soccer team in action!



Fall Break

October 5, 2026
through
 October 16, 2026

South Highland School District 151

2026 • 2027

[illegible]

COLUMBUS DAY

INDIGENOUS PEOPLE

day

THE DISTRICT IS CLOSED

10/12/2026

A Day at Taft School

Mrs. Favi's pre-k students at Taft school interacting in the classroom centers, presenting family projects and following the daily routine.



Apples

At Taft, Miss Gale's class spent the week learning all about apples. They talked about different types of apples, the parts of an apple, and how apples grow! They had an apple taste test, did a few apple crafts, made apple volcanos, and even made homemade applesauce!

Visit the district's Facebook page to see more photos.



Pumpkins

Mrs. Olson's 1st grade class at Taft school was busy dissecting pumpkins, turning and talking, collaborating with each other. They ended 1st quarter on a positive note! 1st grade rocks!!

Visit the district's Facebook page to see more photos.



Safety at TAFT

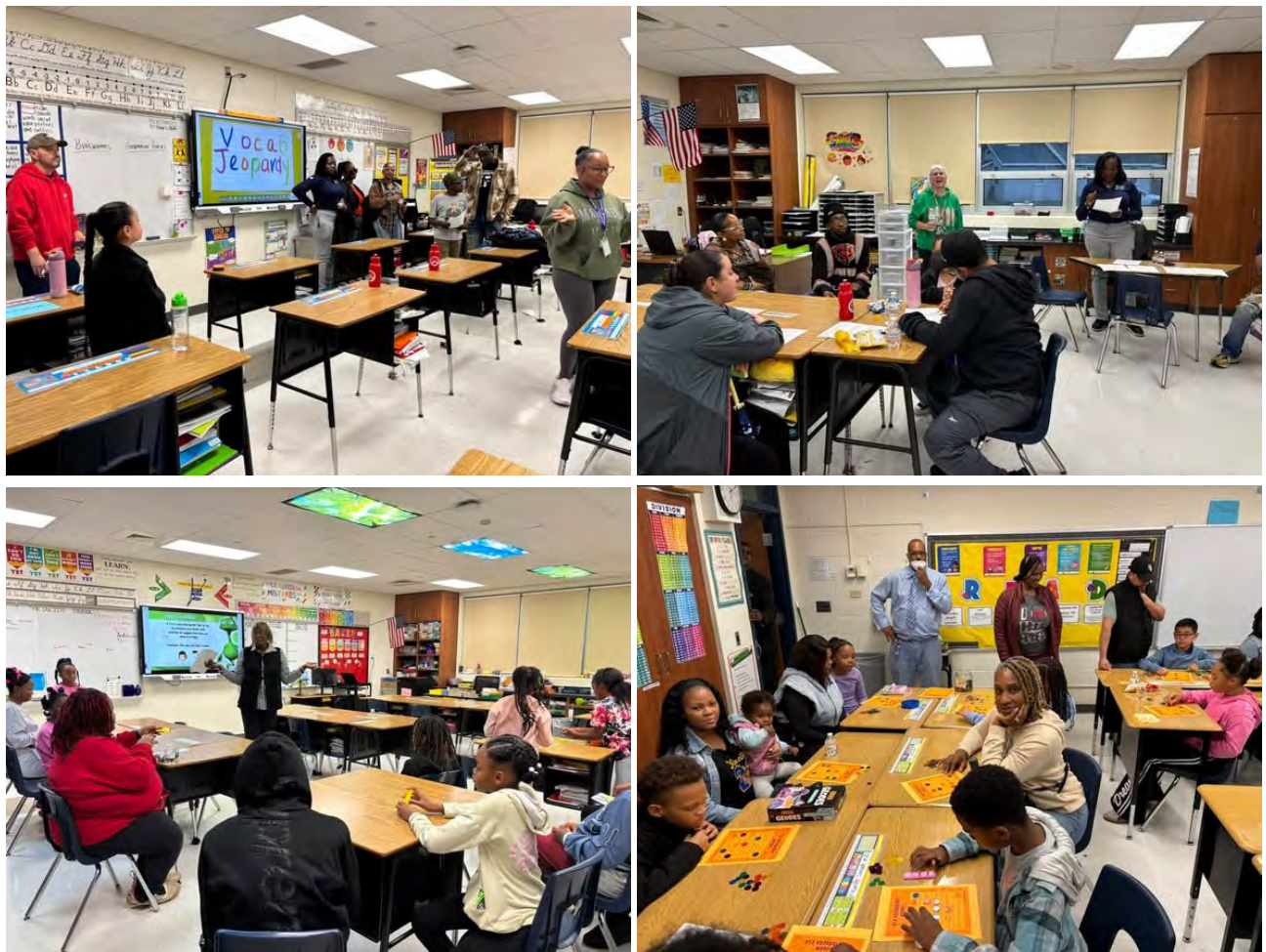
Officer Gale visited Taft school to talk about safe people and safe choices.



Madison's Family Literacy Night

Madison's Family Literacy Night was a blast! The parents were able to engage in Reading activities with their children, visit the book fair, win prizes, and received a gift upon their departure. It was a fun night!

Visit the district's Facebook page for more photos.



COOLIDGE MIDDLE SCHOOL HISPANIC HERITAGE PROGRAM

Check out the videos on the district's Facebook page.



6th Grade Students visit the Field Museum



To wrap up the first quarter, the 6th-grade students enjoyed an exciting field trip to the Field Museum. During their visit, they explored various fossils and artifacts from Ancient America. They also had the opportunity to see firsthand the food sources, housing, tools, and clothing of the Indigenous peoples they have been studying in Social Studies class. Ms. S. Brown



Student Government Day



The Student Council members of Madison School had the unique opportunity to participate in the Village of South Holland's Student Government Day. This experience was especially exciting because Student Government Day is typically reserved for high school and college students, making the participation of Madison's fifth graders particularly special.

During their visit, students enjoyed lunch and a question-and-answer session with Mayor De Graff, Deputy Administrator Mahon, Fire Chief Kolosh, Police Chief Staples, Communications Director Huisman, and Village Trustees De Young and Russell. The students asked thoughtful questions about the responsibilities of the police and fire departments and spoke with the Mayor about what it takes to successfully lead and operate a village.

Students also toured the fire station, where they learned about the daily responsibilities and experiences of firefighters. One of the highlights of the visit was hearing an actual emergency call come into the station, giving students a firsthand glimpse into how quickly firefighters must respond when their community needs them.

The experience provided Madison School's Student Council members with an engaging, hands-on opportunity to learn about local government, public service, leadership, and the important roles village officials and first responders play in serving their community.

Thank you to: The Superintendent, Madison's Principal, Asst. Principal, Student Council Sponsors, Administrators, and the Village of South Holland.



Congratulations!

South Holland 151 BOE Receives Board Member Awards

The Illinois Association of School Boards (IASB), South Cook Division, recently recognized several South Holland School District 151 board members for their leadership and service.

Board President, Mrs. Loretta Wells and Board Secretary Cynthia Shane both received the "Distinguished Annual Merit Board Leader" recognition.

Board Member Mrs. Patrice Burton received "Legacy Annual Merit Board Leader" recognition.



Anew visited Taft classrooms for "Hands are not for Hitting" presentations. Students learned to identify their emotions and brainstorm ways they can use their hands in helpful, non-violent ways.



DISTRITO ESCOLAR 151 DE SOUTH HOLLAND OFRECE DESAYUNO Y ALMUERZO GRATIS PARA TODOS LOS ESTUDIANTES

LAS COMIDAS DE ALIMENTOS DE VERANO SE PROPORCIONARÁN DURANTE LAS INTERSESIONES

14-17 DE OCTUBRE, 2025, 6-9 DE ENERO, 2026, Y 7-10 DE ABRIL DE 2026



FREE

**Breakfast
&
Lunch**

FOR ALL STUDENTS

Declaración de no Discriminación

De acuerdo con la ley federal de derechos civiles y las normas y políticas de derechos civiles del Departamento de Agricultura (USDA) de los Estados Unidos, esta institución tiene prohibido discriminar por motivos de raza, color, origen nacional, sexo (incluida la identidad de género y la orientación sexual), discapacidad, edad, o represalia o represalia por actividad anterior de derechos civiles. La información del programa puede estar disponible en otros idiomas además del inglés. Las personas con discapacidades que requieren medios alternativos de comunicación para obtener información del programa (p. ej., Braille, letra grande, cinta de audio, lenguaje de señas estadounidense), deben comunicarse con la agencia estatal o local responsable que administra el programa o el Centro TARGET del USDA al (202) 720-2800 (voz y TTY) o comuníquese con USDA a través del Servicio Federal de Retransmisión al (800) 877-8339. Para presentar una queja por discriminación en el programa, el Demandante debe completar el Formulario AD-3027, Formulario de queja por discriminación en el programa del USDA, que se puede obtener en línea en: <https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/ad-3027.pdf>, desde cualquier oficina del USDA, llamando al (866) 632-9992, o escribiendo una carta dirigida al USDA. La carta debe contener el nombre, la dirección, el número de teléfono y una descripción escrita de la supuesta acción discriminatoria del denunciante con suficiente detalle para informar al Subsecretario de Derechos Civiles (ASCR) sobre la naturaleza y la fecha de la supuesta violación de los derechos civiles. El formulario o carta AD-3027 completo debe enviarse al USDA por:

1. Correo: Departamento de Agricultura de EE. UU. Oficina del Subsecretario de Derechos Civiles 1400 Independence Ave., SW Washington, DC 20250-9410; o
2. FAX (833) 256-1665 o (202) 690-7442; o 3. correo electrónico:

Program.Intake@usda.gov



SOUTH HOLLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT 151 OFFERS FREE BREAKFAST AND LUNCH TO ALL STUDENTS

SUMMER FOOD MEALS WILL BE OFFERED DURING INTERSESSION

OCTOBER 14-17, 2025, JANUARY 6-9, 2026, and APRIL 7-10, 2026



FREE



FOR ALL STUDENTS

Nondiscrimination Statement:

In accordance with federal civil rights law and U. S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex (including gender identity and sexual orientation), disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity. Program information may be made available in languages other than English. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication to obtain program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language), should contact the responsible state or local agency that administers the program or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339.

To file a program discrimination complaint, a Complainant should complete a Form AD-3027, USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form which can be obtained online at: <https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/ad-3027.pdf>, from any USDA office, by calling (866) 632-9892, or by writing a letter addressed to USDA. The letter must contain the complainant's name, address, telephone number, and a written description of the alleged discriminatory action in sufficient detail to inform the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights (ASCR) about the nature and date of an alleged civil rights violation. The completed AD-3027 form or letter must be submitted to USDA by:

1. **mail:** U.S. Department of Agriculture Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights 1400 Independence Avenue, SW Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; or
2. **fax:** (833) 256-1665 or (202) 690-7442; or
email: ProgramIntake@usda.gov

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

Board of Education

Loretta Wells, President

Michele Turner, Vice-President

Cynthia Shane, Secretary

Patrice Burton , Member

Benjamin Clark, Member

Tiffany Daniels, Member

Ernestine Proctor-Harris, Member

District Administration

Kathryn Varner, Ed.D, Superintendent

Janice Opitz, Chief School Business Official (CSBO)

Ayana Hartzol, Ed.D., Director of Special Education

Neftali Sanchez, Director of Curriculum

Christopher Roth, Director of Technology

Phillip Neal, Facilities & Safety Coordinator

Mario Moody, Director of Arts & Enrichment

La'Trica Gamble-Greer, District Grants Administrator

District Public Relations and Communications

Mrs. Vanessa Bradley, Public Relations and Community Coordinator