

## DEAR DISTRICT 39 COMMUNITY,

**W**ilmette has been my home for 20 years, and it is hard to believe I will be leaving District 39 in just a few short weeks. I am honored to have had this opportunity to serve the students, staff, and families of D39. Looking back is never easy, but I am so proud our District prioritizes inclusion of every child. We have shown that by

respecting each person's unique identity and meeting the needs of all of our students, we have a stronger community. I am deeply touched by the Board's decision to rename our preschool the Lechner Early Education Program. This inclusive program is one of my first accomplishments in D39, and it remains near and dear to my heart. Together, we have established a wonderful opportunity for students, and to know it will live on here in Wilmette is an honor beyond belief.

The level of commitment of our D39 staff, forward thinking, creativity, and engagement in our classrooms continues to amaze me. I cannot think of a better place to have spent a significant part of my career.



We so often talk about the partnership between school and home. Here in D39, it has been our way of life. I am so grateful for your support, trust, and confidence that the children are always my priority. While there have been challenges along the way, we have accomplished so much working together. Thank you!

I am confident the District is in very capable hands as Dr. Kari Cremascoli officially takes my place on July 1st. She brings her own unique style, energy, and enthusiasm; I know she embraces our student-focused mission.

Your partner in education,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Raymond E. Lechner".

Raymond E. Lechner, Ph.D.

Superintendent

Wilmette Public Schools District 39

## NEIGHBORHOOD AND COMMUNITY EMAIL LISTS

**D**istrict 39 wants to build better connections with residents who do not have children in our schools. We want to be good neighbors to those who live near each of our six buildings and keep everyone informed of any changes in traffic, parking, construction, or anything else that impacts the surrounding area. In addition, we will send an annual list of planned evening or weekend school events that might bring extra people to your neighborhood. Our goal is to keep you better informed. You can sign up on our website - go to News/Neighbor email lists - and choose the list you want. In addition to the school list, you can also select the D39 Community List, which will provide you with District news such as upcoming school board elections, board meeting highlights, or other district-wide information. You can unsubscribe from any list at any time.

## ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATES

Two principal openings for 2019-2020 were filled with internal promotions. Aaron Dubnow will be the next principal at Harper Elementary School, following the retirement of Dr. Sue Kick. Aaron began his teaching career in D39 after completion of his bachelor's degree in elementary education at the University of Illinois in 2008. He completed a master's in administration and supervision at National Louis University in 2012. Aaron taught 8th grade science, math, and social studies at Wilmette Junior High for seven years. In 2015, he was named assistant principal for 5th grade at Highcrest Middle School. Dana Nasiakos has been named interim principal of McKenzie Elementary. Dana came to D39 two years ago as assistant principal at Central Elementary School. Previously, she taught in District 31 at Winkelman School and District 28 at Northbrook Junior High. She holds a bachelor's degree in elementary education from the University of Illinois, a master's in education from DePaul University, and a master's in educational leadership from Northeastern Illinois University.



Two new principals for 2019-2020:  
Aaron Dubnow (left) and Dana Nasiakos

## REFLECTIONS

The District held its annual Reflections gathering at Michigan Shores on May 15th. There was a great turnout as we bid farewell to eight retirees, including Superintendent Dr. Ray Lechner. Each retiree is highlighted in a video and with words of thanks and encouragement from their administrator. Also honored were four employees celebrating 25 years in D39, 10 marking 15 years, and 21 celebrating five year anniversaries.



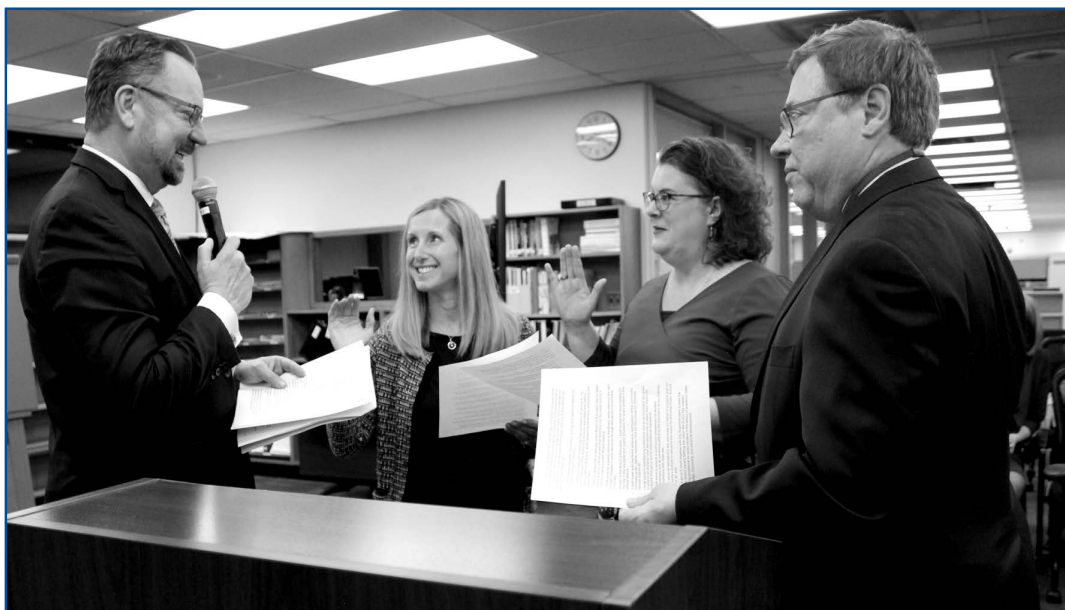
Above: 2019 retirees Harper Principal Dr. Sue Kick and D39 Superintendent Dr. Ray Lechner.

Right: 25 year honorees (from left) McKenzie teacher Kris Uhler, WJHS custodian Armando Palomares, MEC custodian Willie Edwards, and Romona teacher Bev Taylor



## NEW BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBERS

Board of Education elections took place in April and new members were sworn in at the April 23rd meeting - Amy Poehling and Erin Stone for their first terms and Frank Panzica for a second term. The new Board elected officers: continuing Board member Lisa Schneider-Fabes as president and Frank Panzica as vice president. At the same time two members left the Board - Alice Schaff served eight years and Tracy Kearney served four. As a show of appreciation for their service, and following a long-standing D39 tradition, each of the exiting Board members was honored with a framed piece of student artwork that will remain hanging at the MEC.

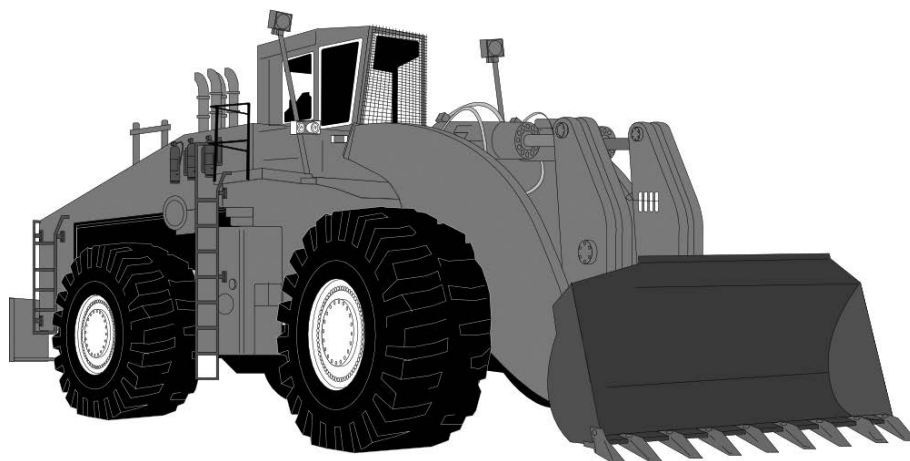


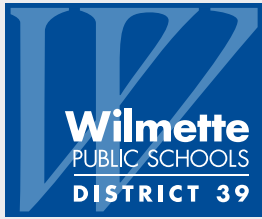
*Dr. Lechner swears in D39 Board members: (L-R) newly elected members Amy Poehling and Erin Stone, and Frank Panzica, re-elected for a second term.*

## SUMMER CONSTRUCTION

Summer construction this year will begin as soon as school is out at Harper School. This is the first step in the District's phased implementation plan for Kindergarten Enrichment. In order to not impact classroom space, this project will require two summers to complete and will provide three additional classrooms at Harper as well as interior renovations. The District's plan is to offer a fee-based kindergarten enrichment program that would allow kindergarten students to remain in school for a full day as a step toward a full day kindergarten program. All four elementary schools will require construction to accommodate kindergarten enrichment. The enrichment program would be self-sustaining. The next step for Kindergarten Enrichment will be renovations at Central School which are targeted for next summer.

Phase II Construction at Highcrest will also take place this summer and has two components: the renovation to special education classrooms will be completed over the summer, and the Learning Commons is targeted for completion by November.





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# DISTRICT 39 EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION UPDATE

**S**pring 2019 has been busy with exciting D39 Educational Foundation news.

The unveiling of the Ray of Light Fund in honor of Superintendent Dr. Ray Lechner on April 17th was a proud moment. This fund honors Dr. Lechner’s support and advocacy of special education and inclusion over his 20 year tenure. Inclusion efforts supported by this fund will encourage positive, mutually respectful, educational and social experiences to inspire students of all needs and abilities to learn alongside one another and foster positive relationships. To donate to the fund in honor of Dr. Lechner’s retirement, go to <http://www.d39foundation.org/make-donation/ray-of-light-fund/>.



June 4th, 3:15-5PM at WJHS is the Foundation-hosted art show of WJHS student photography entitled (Un)framed: Empowered to Be Yourself. Sponsored through the Foundation’s Sam Mikaelian Fine Arts Fund, students express their ideas, passions, and even fears through photos.

Spring 2019 Gripp Grants were awarded to two groups of teachers

impacting students in all D39 elementary schools and WJHS. Each elementary school will have a Sensory Path, which is an organized course in a hallway to encourage routine and predictable motor breaks as well as “brain breaks” during the school day. Students at WJHS will have 29 MERGE cubes to support the initiation of the D39 Augmented Reality program. MERGE cubes allow students to visualize complex computer systems by turning 3D models into a virtual object, which students can manipulate.

In Fall 2017, Mayaan Sloan and Samantha Sutton, Highcrest Technology Integration Specialists, were awarded a Gripp Grant to purchase video and recording equipment to transition the weekly WHMS News into a live student written, directed, and executed broadcast. WCIU’s The JAM recently featured WHMS News on a live broadcast <https://www.facebook.com/TheJamTVShow/videos/2174113409334719/>. Check it out!

The “Best In Show” movie fundraiser April 11th was a success! Many thanks to the Wilmette Theatre for donating the theatre space to us for the event.

“Math In The Real World” continued this year with Dr. Michelle Larson, President and CEO of The Adler Planetarium, speaking to WJHS students about how she uses math in her job. She shared how her curiosity and drive to problem solve propelled her to become the first female President of this Chicago institution.

Thank you to the Wilmette Pub Crawl for donating a portion of the May 16th event’s proceeds to the D39 Educational Foundation. What a gorgeous evening for a special community event.

Looking for an end of the year gift for that special D39 teacher or staff member? Honor them with a D39 Educational Foundation Teacher Appreciation Certificate at <http://www.d39foundation.org/make-donation/appreciation-certificates/>.

## DISTRICT 39 BOARD OF EDUCATION

Lisa Schneider-Fabes, President	fabesl@wilmette39.org
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Ray Lechner, Ph.D., Superintendent	lechnerr@wilmette39.org

**WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!**  
 We are interested in your ideas, feedback, and suggestions, whether or not you have children in our schools. Find us on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.  
 Email us at [opinion@wilmette39.org](mailto:opinion@wilmette39.org) or contact Dr. Ray Lechner at 847-512-6030. Mail can be sent to the Mikaelian Education Center, 615 Locust Road, Wilmette, IL 60091.

## DISTRICT 39 SCHOOLS

CENTRAL	Rebecca Littmann, Principal Dana Nasiakos, Assistant Principal	littmanr@wilmette39.org nasiakod@wilmette39.org
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MCKENZIE	Rachel Filippi, Principal Meghann Young, Assistant Principal	filippi@wilmette39.org youngm@wilmette39.org
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