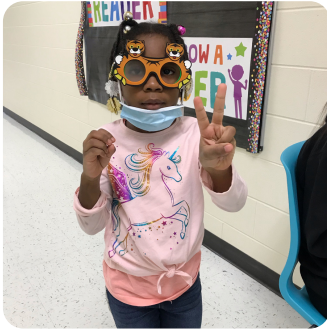


Community Schools News

YOUR RESOURCE FOR UPDATES ON COMMUNITY SCHOOL PARTNERSHIPS



Vision Screenings at Knapp



"Spring is in the Hair" at Julian Thomas



Vision Screenings at Mitchell

This Edition

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Pillar Two: Extended Learning Time & Opportunities

Our first four Community School Newsletters are focusing on the four pillars of a community school. In the month of April we highlighted Pillar 1, integrated student support. This month we are talking about Pillar 2.

Expanded, enriched learning time and opportunities is our second pillar, of the Four Pillars of Community Schools, but what does that mean? It means in addition to classroom instruction, community schools offer more opportunities and time invested to support learning outside of the classroom with activities such as after-school art programs, tutoring and summer literacy programs for students. While this pillar focuses on the students, expanded learning time and opportunities for students help support working families. According to the "Community Schools Playbook," an online guide for community school work, 83 percent of working parents/guardians shared that after-school and summer enrichment programs have helped them maintain employment.

In order to offer opportunities such as those listed above, school administration and community partners have to work closely together so learning is connected in and out of the classroom. This approach supports curricula and instruction that leads to deeper learning and fosters sustained school improvement.

Just like pillar one (integrated student support) does not make a school a community school on its own, neither does pillar two. Both of these pillars work in unison with the two other pillars – family and community engagement and collaborative leadership – to create what we know as community schools.

What is the Walking School Bus?

The Walking School Bus is a partnership between United Way of Racine County and Racine Unified School District that offers students a safe and fun way to walk to school with adult supervision. Each "bus" walks along a predetermined route with WINGS-certified adult leaders making various stops along the way to pick up children at their homes and walk them to school. The Walking School Bus not only helps reduce truancy, but it also serves as a great way to help students and volunteers get energized about their day and get some exercise in before school. The Walking School Bus runs all year at Knapp and Julian Thomas Community Schools.



Meet the Walking School Bus Coordinator



I have always respected United Way's presence in the Racine area, as I've spent the past 20 years working in social services. United Way has really been focusing on education and equity, and those two factors alone really drew me to United Way. I've truly been impressed by my peers and United Way's leadership thus far, and it's really obvious that we all feel passionate about our purpose at United Way. One of my favorite Walking School Bus memories so far was the day that one of our students, who was having difficulty following basic route instructions, greeted one of our route leaders, Julian Thomas' Officer Simon, with a hug. I knew then that there was some kind of magic occurring around our Walking School Bus!

Mental Health Moment: Mental Health Awareness

During the month of May, we get to shine a light on mental health. Positive mental health is so important in children's development and the way in which they handle stress. This month is a chance for us to change the perceptions around mental health. There are many ways to promote awareness including:

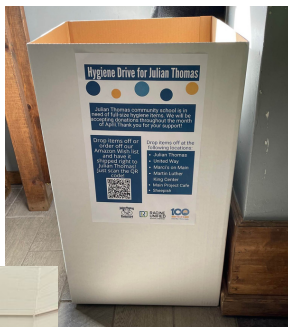
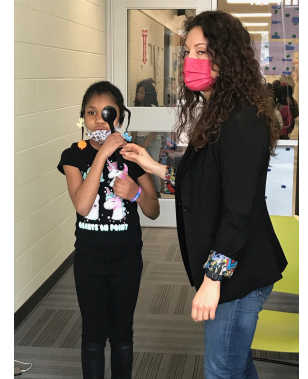
- Talk about it
- Encourage kind language
- Educate yourself
- Take time for your mental health
- Spread messages of hope
- Wear your green to symbolize awareness

For more information please visit: namiwisconsin.org/resources

School Highlights

Knapp

- Knapp hosted a successful basketball tryout, with a total of 20 5th-graders taking part. We are successfully molding these young student athletes for their future student athlete careers and a love for the game. Special thanks to all of the teachers, parents and coaching staff who are helping to make this program a reality.
- On April 12, in partnership with Prevent Blindness Wisconsin, we provided free vision screenings for over 250 students. As a result of our efforts, we were able to satisfy a need for children who may be struggling to see correctly during class periods, which has resulted in less classroom disturbances and the correction of many vision impairments.

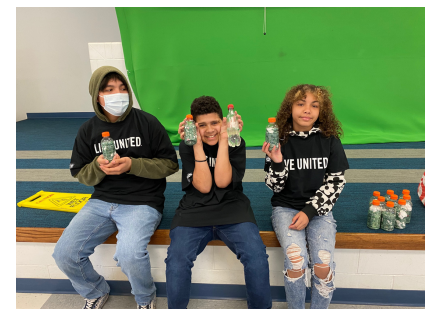


Julian Thomas

- Julian Thomas held a hygiene drive the entire month of April. With help from the community, the school received various hygiene items for all skin and hair types. Donation bins were placed at the school, United Way of Racine County, Martin Luther King Center, Main Project Café, Marci's on Main and Sheepish. Thank you to all who supported this drive!
- On April 7 Julian Thomas held its first in-person community night since COVID. The event was a huge success, with 54 families in attendance for board games, BINGO and pizza. Several community partners were in attendance to provide services to students and their families. The school's next community night will be May 26, 2022. More information to come!
- Racine Unified School District, United Way of Racine County and Gateway Technical College got together to host the first ever "Spring is in the Hair" event. Several Gateway cosmetology students came to Julian Thomas and provided free haircuts and styles to students and families.

Mitchell

- In collaboration with Extension Racine County, Mitchell launched a modified version of the Juntos for Middle School program. This program focuses on transitioning to high school and planning for college. All 8th-grade students are participating in three virtual sessions in May and 19 selected students were chosen to participate in five in-person workshops that began on April 28.
- Youth As Resources (YAR) is a student leadership group with a focus on service and funding youth-led service projects. The YAR Board oversees the allocation of grant money to these youth-led service projects. The YAR Board is made up of middle school students at Mitchell, who have been building leadership skills and learning about the grant process since March. Look out for more information on the application process launching this fall!
- YAR and Student Leaders partnered up at the end of April to complete a service project together. Many staff expressed a need for sensory items in their classrooms, and this group of student leaders worked to fill that need by making around 100 sensory bottles for various classrooms. These bottles were distributed during Children's Mental Health Appreciation Week in May.



Program Spotlight: Housing Resources, Inc.



Save the date: Saturday's Virtual HomeOwner Class
Available on:
March 19th, June 11th, September 10th, December 3rd 2022
9:00am - 3:00pm

Welcome to the Neighborhood

- Next Steps To Build Wealth
- Home Maintenance
- Home Safety
- Community Engagement
- Tax Benefits

Pre-registration is required
Racine/Kenosha area 262-636-8271
or register online @
www.hri-wi.org
Housing Resources, Inc.

**Fee: \$25.00 per person



Housing Resources, Inc., a nonprofit organization dedicated to helping individuals and families purchase their own homes, prepares people for sustainable home ownership and fosters financial empowerment. We have earned a proven track record of providing quality home counseling services to prospective low and moderate-income home buyers and have become a trusted leader in assisting hundreds of buyers in purchasing each year. For more information visit: www.hri-wi.org

Make your next move...a move into your own home!



Take the first step to owning a home... Sign up for our 2022 3-Part Workshop Series "Homeworks for Homebuyers"



5:30 to 7:30 p.m.
Housing Resources, Inc.
500 Wisconsin Ave., Suite 205
Racine, WI

Join us for one of the following 3-part virtual sessions:

You'll Learn	Month	Days
*How you may qualify for grant assistance!	January	11-13
*How much house you can afford	February	8-10
*How to apply for a mortgage loan	March	8-10
*What barriers may prevent you from qualifying for a mortgage	April	12-14
	May	17-19
	June	7-9
	July	12-14
	August	16-18
	September	13-15
	October	11-13
	November	8-10
	December	6-8

En Español: Sábado, 9 de Abril y 8 de Octubre de 9 am a 3 pm

\$50 per person cost to attend

Register by calling Housing Resources, Inc. at (262) 636-8271 or visiting www.hri-wi.org

Community Resources

Racine County Behavioral Health Services:

Racine County Behavioral Health Services provides a comprehensive array of mental health and substance abuse services including outpatient evaluations, psychotherapy and counseling and has licensed therapists and substances abuse counselors on staff to assist county residents. Cost of services is based on ability to pay.

Contact: (262) 638-6312

<https://www.racinecounty.com/departments/human-services/aging-disability-services/behavioral-health-services-of-racine-county>

Upcoming Events

Free First Fridays at RAM, June 3

Enjoy free Racine Art Museum admission, free hands-on family art activities and RAM store savings on the first Friday of each month.

Remote Runners!, Ongoing

A free global challenge to promote and maintain healthy lifestyles while we all get through this unique time in our lives. You can find more information regarding registration at 5kevents.raceentry.com

