

## Spring Has Sprung at SPEED



PAL's Spring Show's theme was music from favorite movies and TV shows.



Academy for Lifelong Learning students created yard art. It's available for sale at ALLURE, 410 Ashland Ave., Chicago Heights.

Price range from \$10 to \$20.



ELC families got all dressed up for the Mad Hatter's Tea Party.

More photos are available on Facebook.

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## Congresswoman Visits SPEED



U.S. Rep. Kelly with an art student.

U.S. Rep. Robin Kelly recently visited SPEED's campus to present Certificates of Special Congressional Recognition to two Independence High School Students.

Ninth grader Tyjah Guerra-York and tenth grader Joshua Winters participated in the Congressional Art Competition for High School Students for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Con-

gressional District.

The high school art competition was established by the U.S. House of Representatives to acknowledge and support the artistic talent of America's young adults.

"It was truly a great honor for the children," IHS Principal Otis Taylor said. During her stop at SPEED, Rep. Kelly took a tour of SPEED's programs.

She visited with students at lunch in the Early Learning Center and saw the use of SMART Boards in an early childhood classroom.

At Independence School math students showed off their skills in teacher Katie McGarr's class.

"We appreciated U.S. Representative Robin Kelly taking time out of her busy schedule to visit with staff and students here at SPEED," said Director of District Services Kristin Elliott. "We hope she returns soon for a visit to our Academy for Lifelong Learning."

### Important Dates To Remember

- **May 15, 2015, Half-Day In-Service—11:10 a.m. Early Dismissal**
- **May 25, 2015, Memorial Day, No School**
- **May 29, 2015, School Records Day — 1:10 p.m. Dismissal**
- **June 6, 2015, SPEED-Wide Resource Fair 9 a.m.—Noon**
- **June 11, 2015, Last Day of School for Students — 1:10 p.m. Dismissal**
- **June 22, 2015, First Day of Extended School Year (for those that qualify)**
- **July 22, 2015, Last Day of Extended School Year**
- **August, 24, 2015, First Day of School —1:10 p.m. Dismissal**

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# SPEED Newsletter

SPEED S.E.E.J.A. #802

## SPO Breakfast a Success

If you missed this year's SPEED Parent Organization's pancake breakfast, you'll definitely have the chance to attend next year.

"I thought the breakfast had an awesome turnout," said SPO Fundraiser Chair-



Hot pancakes were served by happy volunteers.

person Debbie Krause. "We're absolutely doing it again next year."

About 20 volunteers helped serve pancakes, sausage, fruit and beverages. Students from the Academy for Lifelong Learning also helped bussing tables.

"There were a lot of compliments," Krause said. "The kids who helped were phenomenal."

Krause said the organization wanted a way to reach out to the community, and after visiting a neighboring town's pancake breakfast, she said she thought that would work for SPEED.

SPO's First Community Breakfast reached out to more than 200 people – that included community

members, including students' and staff members' families. Funds raised are used to help students, families and programs at SPEED.

A date for the next breakfast has yet to be set.



The pancake breakfast made this diner smile.

## Longtime SPEED Teacher Remembered

SPEED mourns the loss of teacher Sue Clough.

Clough taught at SPEED for 20 years. Most recently she worked as the computer teacher at Independence School.

Co-workers remember her as the kind of person you wanted on your classroom team.

She was generous – with her time and her encouragement. There just isn't anything negative anyone could say about Susan Clough.

"Teaching was her life," said Freda Wolfenden, a longtime work colleague and friend.

"She was a very kind, considerate and loving person," Ms. Wolfenden said. "I just loved her so



Sue Clough

much. ... She was so encouraging and so strong."

Instructional Interventionist Sue Thomas worked with Ms. Clough when they were both teachers, and most recently spent a lot of time working together on administering the PARCC tests.

Ms. Clough was always willing to help people, Ms. Thomas said.

"She actually didn't know the word 'No,'" Thomas said. "She had the patience of Job and was always, always helping

people. We're all better for having known her."

Social Worker Eugenia Johnson worked on Ms. Clough's team for several years.

"Sue was the type of person who would give you the shirt off of her back," Ms. Johnson said. "She was a sweetheart of a person. She was always bending backwards for anyone. She loved those kids."

Ms. Clough cared about all of her students, Ms. Johnson said.

"You know that kid that sometimes challenges you the most? That's the kid she loved the most," Johnson said. "She wanted them to learn and they knew she had their back."

## iPad Initiative Improves Student Engagement

Four SPEED classrooms are participating in the district's Inaugural 1:1 iPad Initiative that will bring iPads to students. Each teacher and student in two ELC classrooms and two PAL classrooms have each received a personalized iPad equipped with apps. Each classroom has a charging station and Apple TV to use the iPads concurrently with the SMART Board. Whatever is on the SMART Board will also be on the iPad, Interim Administrator Nicole Taylor said.

The purpose is to transform teaching and learning by promoting differentiated instruction to meet the needs of individual students, increasing academic achievement and student engagement time on tasks, Taylor said. Assistive Technology Specialist Fallon

Mack is helping coordinate the effort in ELC.

"The level of student engagement has increased dramatically," she said.

PAL teacher Kendra Duncan agrees. "My students are more engaged in their work than ever before," she said.

The initiative is off to a great start in



A PAL student with her iPad.

her classroom. They are using the iPads during home room and for literacy.

"It has been wonderful being able to enhance my lessons with different apps on the iPad," Duncan said.

She's been able to differentiate lessons for high level students, most recently she had her students read a story and then acted it out. Students then took on the role of director by using the iPad to film a movie.

Kindergarten and first grade teacher Laura Bivona's students are using the iPad, which are in protective blue cases, in math and literacy centers, large group activities and morning meeting. They've also used them during physical education to take pictures.

## Independence Art Exhibition at Union Street Gallery

Some of the best art work from Independence High School students is on display through May 16 at Union Street Gallery in Chicago Heights.

Recently, families, friends and staff gathered at the gallery at 1527 Otto Boulevard for an opening reception.

Art Teacher Patricia Farrell-Levange, currently on maternity leave, presented participating students with certificates and medals for their efforts.

"I really love doing this show," Farrell-Levange said. "This highlights a lot



Nkosi Chipo and his mother Tema Chipo.

when he eventually creates his own clothing line, he said.

His mother Tema Chipo smiled and said she was happy to see her son's artwork on display.

"Ever since he was 2 or 3 he's liked art," she said. "I'd buy him sketch books and he was always drawing."

Sophomore Robyn Banks painted Winnie the Pooh hugging a heart. She calls her painting *Romantic Pooh*. Her artwork was on the poster advertising the art opening.

She said she didn't really want to try painting after a failed attempt.

"She (Farrell-Levange) told me to try it again. She kept telling me to try," Banks said.

The result was a piece of art that Banks and her family really like.

"Everybody is very proud of your painting and your work," Bank's mother Pia Foster said.

The gallery is open noon to 5 p.m. Wednesday and Thursday, noon to 6 p.m. Friday and 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday.

of the good things about Independence."

Eleventh grade student Nkosi Chipo attended the art exhibit with his family, where he had a scratch art on display.

"Art is like my favorite," he said. "I like the different types of art we do and learning about new things."

He created his work of art by painting background colors of red and black and painting over that with India ink and then "scratching" a design. He chose to scratch a design that he'd like to use



Student Robyn Banks and art teacher Patricia Farrell-Levange with her one-month-old baby.

## Special Olympics Young Athletes Celebrate End of Year



An ELC torch runner smiles at the camera.

More than 100 ELC Special Olympics Young Athletes demonstrated the skills they've learned this year.

Families and staff crowded the Independence Gym to celebrate this year's Culminating Event, which featured more than 40 Marian Catholic High School helpers.

The event, which was held in two sessions to accommodate all of the students, staff and families, included a torch run, National Anthem and the Special Olympics oath.

Coach Liz Gebbia uses the Young Athletes curriculum in physical education class. Students and their families also have an opportunity to participate in monthly trainings which includes different stations to practice a new skill such as kicking, striking or just waiting.

It is the third year ELC has participated in the program.

"I love watching them develop their

skills from one year to the next," Gebbia said.

Gebbia said the students gain confidence and want to attempt to throw a ball or jump.

"It's a great program for our students to be part of," she said.



ELC students created banners.

## SPEED Racers Special Olympics Team Brings Home Gold



Ready for the race.

The events were in track and field, which the Racers practice on Mondays, Coach John Lewis said.

It's an honor for the student athletes to



Gold medal winner

More than 4,000 athletes are expected to participate in the Summer Games.

More than 2,000 volunteers help run the games, as well as 1,600 coaches and more than 3,000 family members, according to Special Olympics Illinois.

Lewis said the students and the season have been excellent.

"The students work on their athletic skills and work on their friendship and sportsmanship skills," he said.

Athletes participated in events such as the 100 meter walk, 100 meter run and a softball throw.

participate in the Special Olympics Summer Games in Bloomington-Normal in June.

Some students are able to experience dorm life when they attend the games because they are housed at Illinois State University. Others stay with their parents who make the trip down to the games.



Silver and gold winners.