

THE FAMILY FOCUS

A Newsletter for Urbana School District #116 Families

Summer | Issue 3 | May, 2019



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Ideas

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Decision

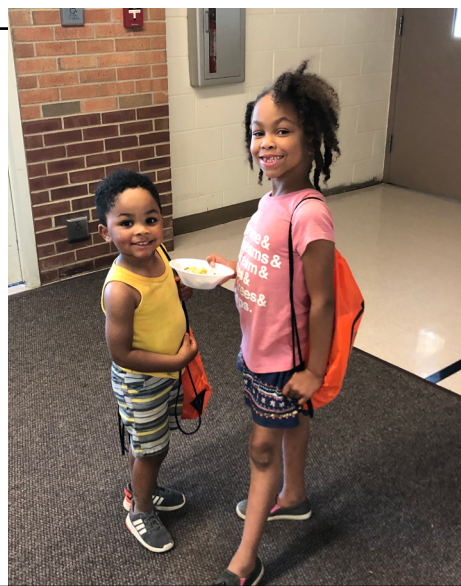
Be Internet Awesome

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Centralized Registration

Centralized Registration for the 2019-2020 school year will be held at Urbana Middle School on the dates and times below:

Tuesday, July 30, 2019

10:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.

Wednesday, July 31, 2019

8:30 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

Families who have a student who completed the previous year in Urbana School District #116 (returning students) should bring the following documentation to Centralized Registration:

- A Photo ID (Driver's License, State ID or Passport)
- **Proof that you live in Urbana** Your signed lease/mortgage or **two** of the following all listing the name of the parent or legal guardian listed on the enrollment form:
 - Utility bill (no more than two months old): gas, electric, water/sewer/phone/cable
 - Voter's Registration Card
 - Bank Statement
 - Auto Insurance Policy
 - Medicaid Card
 - Vehicle Registration
 - Military Housing Letter
- Current Immunization and Health Examination Records for each Student who is Registering for School

Free Summer Activities for Your Family



- Take Me Fishing.** May 25, 2019, 9:00-11:00 a.m. at the Activity Center, Middle Fork River Forest Preserve. Bring your family and friends out to the forest preserves for some free fishing fun! Kids will have the chance to win awards for the Most Fish, the Biggest Fish, and the Good Sport Award! Basic fishing instruction will be available to beginners. Cane poles and bait will be available to use, but you are welcome to bring your own. All event fishing is catch-and-release. Adult supervision of children 15 and under is required. FREE. All ages. For more info: (217) 896-2455 or jwick@ccfpd.org.
- Neighborhood Nights.** Bring you lawn chair or even a picnic dinner and spend the evening a lovely park setting. Each park features a different performance, from folk to soul and from rock to bluegrass. Except for July 3, the rain date is the following night in case of inclement weather. Call the Urbana Park District Rainout Line after 4:00 p.m. for postponement information: 217-367-9575 or check out the Urbana Park District Facebook page: www.facebook.com/urbanaparkdistrict. Wednesdays, 6:30-8:00 p.m.

Date	Location	Band	Type of Music
May 29 <input type="button" value="v"/>	Carle Park	Backyard BBQ Band	Traditional Country/Originals/Western Swing
June 5	Anita Purves Nature Center	Love Sign	Modern & Vintage Pop/Country/Robilly
June 12	South Ridge Park	New Souls	Neosoul/Fun/R&B/90s Hip-Hop
June 19	Blair Park	Keith Harden	Americana/Folk
June 26	Lohmann Park	Sapphire	Classic Rock
July 3	Victory Park	Jive Bag	New Orleans-inspired Jazzy Funk
July 10	AMBUCS Park	D R Dixie Band	Dixieland Blues
July 17	Crestview Park	Kilborn Alley	Blues
July 24	Larson Park	Wildwood	Bluegrass
July 31	Prairie Park	The Painkillers Blues Band	Chicago & Southern Blues
August 7	Meadowbrook PrairiePlay	Nickel and Dimes	Country/Country Rock/R&B

- **Learn to Fish.** FREE! For All Ages. People of all ages can learn to fish at these free clinics run by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources. Individuals and groups are invited to join us at Kaufman Lake. Each clinic will have two portions: education and actual fishing. The education portion will last about 45 minutes and focus on safety, fishing techniques, proper ethics and aquatic ecology. Fishing equipment and bait will be provided. Registration for this program is required. Visit the Champaign Park District website (<https://champaignparks.com/>) to register. Children under the age of 18 SHOULD be supervised by an adult. Children under the age of 13 MUST be supervised by an adult. The deadline to register is one week prior to each clinic.

- Tuesday, June 4, 2019, 9:00-11:00 a.m.
- Thursday, June 6, 2019, 1:00-3:00 p.m.
- Tuesday, June 11, 2019, 9:00-11:00 a.m.
- Thursday, June 13, 2019, 1:00-3:00 p.m.
- Tuesday, June 18, 2019, 9:00-11:00 a.m.
- Thursday, June 20, 2019, 1:00-3:00 p.m.
- Tuesday, June 25, 2019, 9:00-11:00 a.m.
- Thursday, June 27, 2019, 1:00-3:00 p.m.
- Tuesday, July 9, 2019, 9:00-11:00 a.m.
- Thursday, July 11, 2019, 1:00-3:00 p.m.
- Tuesday, July 16, 2019, 9:00-11:00 a.m.
- Thursday, July 18, 2019, 1:00-3:00 p.m.
- Tuesday, July 23, 2019, 9:00-11:00 a.m.
- Thursday, July 25, 2019, 1:00-3:00 p.m.

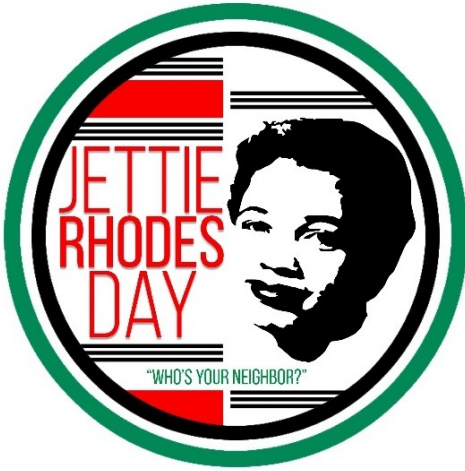


- **Folk & Roots Fridays: Brown Bag Lunch Concerts.** Fridays, June 7 and July 21, 2019, 12:00 noon-1:00 p.m. at the Lake House in Crystal Lake Park.. Join the Urbana Park District and the C-U Folk & Roots Festival on the first and third Fridays of each month this summer for great free live music.
- **Prairie Farm** is open from Saturday, May 25, 2019-August 10, 2019, Monday-Sunday: 1:00-7:00 p.m. Petting Area: Monday-Sunday: 3:00-5:00 p.m. (weather permitting). Prairie Farm is a replica of a turn-of-the century farm complete with barns, farmhouse, pond, pasture, & flower garden. It is open to the general public from Memorial Day to the middle of August. The Farm features traditional farm animals such as sheep, pigs, goats, horses, cows, chickens, and geese. No admission is charged, but donations to help feed the animals are appreciated. Note: All visitors must wear tennis shoes or boots in the petting area. No open-toe or open heel footwear allowed. Call 217-398-2583 or email jimmy.gleason@champaignparks.com

- **Sounds at the Sunset Concert Series.** Free concert series event on Select Sundays at and in Champaign parks from 6:00-8:00 p.m.. Hosted by the Champaign Park District. Audience members are encouraged to bring lawn chairs and refreshments. Organizer: Zoe Southlynn-Savage (zoe.southlynn@champaignparks.com or 217-819-3931).
 - June 16: Commissioners Park: Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony. Bones Jugs
 - June 23: Henry Michael Park: Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony. Bashful Youngens.
 - July 21: Toalson Park. Hot Iron String Band.
 - July 28: Mattis Park. Jake & Jackson
- **C.U.A.S. Family Skywatch.** Saturdays: June 8, July 6, and August 3, 2019, 8:00-10:00 p.m. at the Champaign-Urbana Astronomical Society, Inc. Observatory. See the stars and planets through the largest public telescope in East Central Illinois. All Skywatch sessions are cancelled in the event of cloudy weather. Call 217-351-2567 for cancellation notices. Visit cuas.org for directions. Located southwest of Champaign, south of Monticello Road on County Road 700E.
- **Play Days in the Park.** Select Thursdays, 5:30-7:00 p.m., Free play day in your neighborhood. The activities offered at each park will vary. All ages and abilities are welcome. Urbana Park District staff will provide the activities, equipment, popcorn, and drinks.
 - June 13: Prairie Park
 - June 27: Chief Shemauger Park
 - July 18: King Park
 - August 1: Victory Park
 - August 8: Blair Park
 - August 22: Crestview Park
- **Juneteenth Celebration.** Saturday, June 15, 2019, 12:00-3:00 p.m. at Douglass Park. Juneteenth, the oldest known celebration commemorating the abolition of slavery in the United States. Enjoy music and visit different vendors while learning about this important holiday. Children can make arts and crafts, play on the bounce house and obstacle course, or play in the Splash Pad. Email darius.white@champaignparks.com or call 217-819-3961 for questions.
- **Strawberry Jam.** Saturday, June 15, 2019, 4:00-9:00 p.m. at Meadowbrook Park, Race Street entrance. This year is the Urbana Park District's 30th Strawberry Jam event and the Anita Purves Nature Center's 40th anniversary. Planned event activities include: hayrack rides around Meadowbrook Park, tours of Spomer Prairie, face painting, kite flying, rocket demonstrations, and dancing. Overflow parking is available at Stone Creek Church at the corner of Windsor and Race Street. Golf cart transportation will available as needed.



- **Chambanamoms Summer Playdate.** Friday, June 21, 2019, 10:00-11:30 a.m. at Meadowbrook Park. Chambanamoms and Christie Clinic have joined to host a red, white, and blue themed playdate. Special activities will be provided by CIBM Bank and Biggby Coffee. Rain cancellations will be posted on the Chambanamoms website: www.chambanamoms.com.



- **20th Annual Martin Luther King-Jettie Rhodes Day.**

Saturday, June 22, 2019, 12:00 noon-4:00 p.m. at King Park. Jettie Rhodes Day was founded by the late Mrs. Jettie Rhodes. Mrs. Rhodes had a famous quote: "Who's your neighbor?" This day is about giving back to the community with fun, family, networking, and a diverse atmosphere. Enjoy free food (while supplies last), live entertainment, kids' activities, raffle prizes, and resourceful information provided by various local nonprofits.

- **Splish Splash Water Safety Bash.** Ages 3-9 (must be accompanied by a parent/guardian), June 23, 2019, 2:00-4:00 p.m. at Sholem Aquatic Center. Learn valuable skills and ask questions about water safety at this informative clinic. This interactive and free event will teach children and parents some valuable tips for staying safe at the pool, on the river, or by the lake. Email sholemcustoomervice@champaignparks.com or call 217-398-2581 for questions.
- **Family Fun Ag Night.** Tuesday, June 25, 2019, 4:30-6:30 p.m. at Douglass Park in front of Douglass Library and July 9, 2019, 4:30-6:30 p.m. at Leonard Recreation Center. Sponsored by the Champaign Park District and the Country Farm Bureau for Ag Nights. Families can participate in games, educational activities, and explore farm equipment.. A free dinner will be provided at limited availability (first come, first served). In the event of inclement weather, the event will be moved inside the designated area's gymnasium. Email brittney.washington@champaignparks.com or call 217-819-3973 for June 23; Email shannon.meissner@champaignparks.com or 217-819-3988 for July 9.
- **Rocket Launches.** The Central Illinois Aerospace Model Rocket Club schedules launches twice a month, year-round generally on the 2nd and 4th Saturdays. Most launches are held at Dodds Park, with occasional alternate locations. In addition, there are special launches like the Great Annual Rocket Launch/GARLO of 2019 on July 20 at Dodds Park. This year GARLO will coincide with the 50th anniversary of the Apollo 11 moon landing. Bring your own model rocket and fly or watch the hundreds of rockets being flown. For further information, call 217-359-8225 or visit ciarocketry.org.

- **Champaign and Urbana Community Parks**
 - **Hessel Park** (Grandview Drive & Kirby Avenue) has tennis courts, a new playground, pavilion, walking path, and a new splash pad. "Water play" is free and open Memorial Day through Labor Day (11:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m. daily).
 - **Douglass Park** (Fifth & Grove Streets) houses the Douglass Community Center, Douglass Annex, and the Douglass Branch Library. The park has a newly-installed fitness trail, new playground, and pavilion. The splash pad is open 11:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m. daily. The Douglass Community Center has Teen Open Gym Basketball (Ages 12-17 years) on Saturday, 12 noon-2:00 p.m.
- **Champaign-Urbana Days.** Friday, August 9 and Saturday, August 10, 2019 at Douglass Park. Celebrate the Champaign-Urbana community. On Saturday, there will be live music, tasty food, children's activities, sports tournaments, a senior luncheon. No pets are allowed. For questions, email katherine.hicks@champaignparks.com or call 217-819-3971.
- **3rd Annual Free Wave Back to School Park.** Friday, August 16, 2019, 5:00-7:00 p.m. at Backpack Handout Anita Purves Nature Center. Pool Party at Crystal Lake Park Family Aquatic Center. 300 students, 100 per grade level, will receive free backpacks, school supplies, and a day pass to Crystal Lake Park Family Aquatic Center. In case of rain, backpacks and supplies will be given out at the Anita Purves Nature Center. Register by August 9 at urbanaparks.org/register.

National College Decision Day at Urbana High School



Written by Jessica Sopa

May 1st was **National College Decision Day**, and graduating Seniors should have committed to the college they plan to attend before the end of the day. In order to celebrate, Urbana High School students indicated their post-secondary plans on college pennants that were placed next to the high school's main office. Staff also displayed signs on their doors showcasing their post-secondary

education history. School spirit was seen throughout the building on May 3rd. Students and staff showed their support for higher education by wearing college apparel that represented their alma mater or college/university they plan to attend!



Be Internet Awesome



Written by Christopher Fuller

To make the most of the Internet, kids need to be prepared to make smart decisions. Be Internet Awesome teaches kids the fundamentals of digital citizenship and safety so they can explore the online world with confidence.

The Be Internet Awesome Family Guide gives families the tools and resources to learn about online safety and citizenship at home. We've created this guide for families to make it easier to incorporate and practice good digital habits in your everyday lives. Packed with good stuff, this guide will help you and your kids discuss, learn, and think about online safety together.

Five areas of Internet awesomeness:

1. Smart, Share with Care
2. Alert, Don't Fall for Fake
3. Strong, Secure Your Secrets
4. Kind, It's Cool to Be Kind
5. Brave, When in Doubt, Talk It Out

https://beinternetawesome.withgoogle.com/en_us

https://beinternetawesome.withgoogle.com/en_us/interland

https://beinternetawesome.withgoogle.com/en_us/resources

Kindergarten Transition

By Andrea Jackson, Family Engagement and Curriculum Coordinator

Starting school is an exciting time for families and teachers. The transition to Kindergarten may also feel overwhelming. There are many skills to learn: how to share, be a good listener, function in a group setting with classroom rules and expectations, and much more. There are also social skills necessary for students to learn in order to become successful. Students will learn to take turns, persevere, practice generosity, and embrace differences. Many of these concepts take time for children to learn, but by introducing these concepts to children while they are young, families and teachers prepare children for their future. As children carry these skills in the future, they will become prepared for various social settings.

Children begin Kindergarten with a wide range of abilities and readiness, both in academic and social skills. Teachers are prepared for the wide range of readiness in their classroom; however, the more prepared a child can be for the first day of school, the more confident and enjoyable the child's experience may be in school. To help a child prepare, families may support children as they practice and develop important academic and social skills before entering Kindergarten. Use the list of skills below as a guideline:

Kindergarten Readiness Academic and Social Skills:

- Identify all uppercase and lowercase letters presented in random order
- Say the sound of each letter of the alphabet
- Identify pairs of pictures that rhyme
- Write his or her name
- Draw and identify basic shapes: circle, square, triangle, etc.
- Correctly name 6 or more colors
- Identify numbers 0-20 presented in random order
- Count a set of objects up to 20
- Use the restroom independently
- Use child-safe scissors to cut across a page
- Eat independently
- Share toys with peers
- Take turns in a game with others
- Sit quietly and calmly while someone is reading or talking for 10 minutes
- Work independently on a classroom task for 10 minutes



These skills represent what Kindergarten teachers would like to see when they start Kindergarten in order to make the transition smoother. Don't be alarmed if your child doesn't have all of the abilities before beginning Kindergarten. Children's skills are continually evolving.

These skills represent what Kindergarten teachers would like to see when they start Kindergarten in order to make the transition smoother. Don't be alarmed if your child doesn't have all of the abilities before beginning Kindergarten. Children's skills are continually evolving. Kindergarten teachers are prepared to support your child progress at his or her own pace. The tips below provide ways to support for your child before school begins.

Tips for Supporting Your Children's Transition to Kindergarten:



Spend a few minutes per day working on specific skills at home. For example, teach your child to identify the first letter in his or her name. Support your child in locating the letter in a book. Encourage your child to find the letter within his or

her everyday environment (at the grocery store, in the neighborhood, at preschool, etc.). Have your child trace the letter with his or her finger or build the letters using clay or play-doh. Continue teaching each letter in the child's name. Work on shape identification by helping your child notice circles in his or her environment.

- Schedule a visit at your child's school before school begins. Talk to the Kindergarten Transition Teacher and principal about any specific needs or challenges (strengths and weaknesses) your child has and how they can be addressed. Ask questions about the field trips and school events your family may look forward to for the school year.
- If your child feels apprehensive about attending a new school, discuss their concerns. Validate your child's feelings by listening to their worries, but encourage them to focus on the new positive experiences they'll have in Kindergarten.
- Read to your child for 10-15 minutes everyday. As you read, pause to discuss what is going on in the story. Rhyming books, alphabet books, and number books will help your child practice more academic skills.
- Practice noticing colors by playing games. Show your child an object that is red. Encourage your child to find other things in his or her environment that are red.

Urbana Schools Parent Militia

R. Turner-Winston #tigerMoM

The mission of the Urbana Schools Parent Militia is to respond to schools within USD116 that are in crisis to assist administration, teachers and staff in restoring calm and order. USD116 Administration cannot restore order alone. USD116 teachers and staff cannot restore order alone. We as parents are going to have to come in like the national guard and assist the administration, teachers and staff with restoring order. We must form a parent militia to restore order in the village. Joining forces with administrators and teachers will present the kind of united front that students within the district need to see. If we continue to infight and focus on assigning blame, the children will be left to their own devices and use this poor example for navigating the difficulties within their school environment.

What can we do???

- Be willing to actively participate in the process.
- Respond to communication from your child's teacher in a timely manner in the spirit of collaboration.
- Take ownership for your child's behavior.
- Offer assistance to your student's teacher or team. Not all tasks require a physical presence on school premises.
- Read all communication from administrators and central office with an open mind to receive the information that is being communicated.
- Realize that even in a transparent organization, not all stakeholders can be part of the decision-making process.
- Post up in the halls during morning entry, lunch and/or afternoon dismissals to provide additional adults to deter behavior issues.
- Attend planning meetings hosted by central office and administration to problem solve issues in the district.
- Join PTSA (you are the "P") at your students school to increase our voice by lobbying, supporting and contributing to the needs of our teachers and schools to government entities.



R. Turner-Winston is a parent within USD116. The viewpoint presented in this article is solely hers and not necessarily representative of her affiliation with the Urbana Middle/High School Parent Teacher Associations (PTSA), the Urbana Schools Parents Advocacy Group (USPAG) or Urbana Family Advisory Committee.

Urbana School District #116 held its first Camp-Read-a Lot on May 16, 2019 for kindergarten through fifth grade students. Each student received a Camp Read-A-Lot drawstring bag, a grade level specific summer reading workbook, a book, a bookmark, camp themed snacks, and a great deal of fun! This was a camp-themed family literacy night. The purpose of the event was to provide families with reading strategies and skills to use support their children's academic growth during the summer. We will hold this event again next year. We hope to see you there.



The Yankee Ridge Running Club



The Yankee Ridge Running Club was recently formed by several teachers! The club emphasized the importance of staying active, perseverance and building a sense of community. Over 70 students joined the club and many practiced in preparation for the Busey Illinois Youth Run at Memorial Stadium on April 27th.

The students cheered each other on, showing what it means to be a part of the Yankee Ridge Family. Yankee Ridge had the most students run at the Youth Run and won the honor of being the keepers of the trophy for the Fitness First Award for the next year! There are already

exciting ideas for continuing to develop the running club next year!



For more information about Family Engagement in Urbana School District #116, please visit our website:

<http://familyengagement.usd116.org/>

Please also visit our Facebook and Instagram Pages: Urbana Family Engagement