



TRANSITIONS

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Transitions Progress

During a visit to any of our District's buildings, it is easy to see that many student-related Transition activities are well underway. From the colorful "Welcome Zena" posters at Crosby Elementary School, to the animated slide-shows of Sophie Finn students bonding with their new Edson classmates, to the proudly displayed pen pal letters at Anna Devine, to the new faces visiting our Middle Schools for the first time, there is ample evidence of the many changes currently taking place.

I am proud of the drive, initiative, and creativity of the faculty and staff who have spearheaded these essential efforts to help make sure that our students have the best possible experience transitioning from one school to another. I know firsthand that our faculty

looks out for the best interests of our student body; during a year full of challenges, they have worked hard to make sure this continues to happen.

What isn't so easy to see is the hard work happening behind the scenes on a daily basis. The Middle School schedule is nearly complete. Physical space in each building has been identified for all academic and service providers. We are working out the final details of the projected savings from our retirement incentive, and completing the related staffing changes. Our building and grounds department is completing a summer moving schedule, informed by the things we learned from the Meagher-Sophie Finn merger. Our food service department has executed a com-

plete inventory of equipment and supplies and is devising plans for the efficient delivery of meals in the newly merged buildings.

Because many of the plans being made are interdependent, we will only release information to parents and the community when all the details are complete.

I am proud to invite interested students, parents, and community members to the March 20, 2013 Board of Education meeting. At that time, I will give details about the new schedules, services, transportation routes, and other details. The meeting will take place at 7 PM at J. Watson Bailey Middle School on Merilina Avenue.

ZENA STUDENTS VISIT CROSBY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



At first glance, it might have seemed like a typical day at Edward R. Crosby Elementary School.

In the gym, students enthusiastically cheered on their classmates as physical education teacher Nick Morris spun a giant "egg beater" designed to simulate the heart-healthy activity of jump rope on a grand scale. In Ellen Venditti's first grade classroom,

youngsters joined together in a sharing circle with their classmates as they discussed their favorite parts of the classic children's book

Amelia Bedelia. Over in Jill Correa's third grade classroom, students practiced their writing skills as they worked on a pen pal project. The difference? Students were exercising, sharing, and writing alongside their future classmates – the student body of Zena Elementary School!

The full day field trip was made successful thanks to the hard work of teachers from both Zena and Crosby Elementary Schools. For part of the day, students were able to meet with their

"Battle of the Books" teammates, a reading incentive program that originated at Zena. Battle of the



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Edson Open House

Sophie Finn students had a passport to fun at the recent Harry L. Edson Elementary School Open House. Each new student who attended the event received a passport with a map, and were awarded stickers for completing events in different areas of the school.

Sophie Finn parents and students were welcomed by current Edson parents and students during the Saturday Open House. Members of the Kingston High School Student Government were on hand to serve as tour guides, assisting visitors as they explored the building. Students also had the opportunity to see their future classrooms and meet their future classmates.

A special thank you to the members of the Edson Parent Teacher Association and the Edson staff members who volunteered their time to make this event a success!



ZENA VISITS CROSBY

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Books is one of the many great traditions students and staff are proudly carrying over to their new school. However, activities extended well beyond Battle of the Books team meetings to library read-a-louds, computer games, and even oversize chessboard matches!

"It was great to watch the natural way students make new friends and respond to new experiences," commented Principal Anderson. "In terms of the school merger, we are off to a good start!"

