

CASE

November 3, 2023

BOARD REPORT



Partnering with our general education peers in October

WHITE CANE DAY

Kelly Gagen, CASE Vision Itinerant Teacher, encourages her students to teach others about people who are visually impaired. Seventh graders in D123 are on a mission to bring awareness about White Cane Day to their peers! The National Federation of the Blind celebrates White Cane Awareness Day every year on October 15th. For blind people, the white cane is an essential tool that gives them the ability to achieve a full and independent life allowing them to move freely and safely from place to place



AAC AWARENESS MONTH

Annie Chedister came to fourth grade at Winnebago to talk about AAC devices to promote AAC Awareness Month. The class is reading the book ***Out of My Mind*** by Sharon Draper and the main character uses an AAC device.

Annie gave the most wonderful and fantastic presentation to each of the fourth grade classes. She was engaging and knowledgeable and it is very clear that she is passionate about her students and AAC.





Classroom Circle to support Red Ribbon Week at the Elementary Level

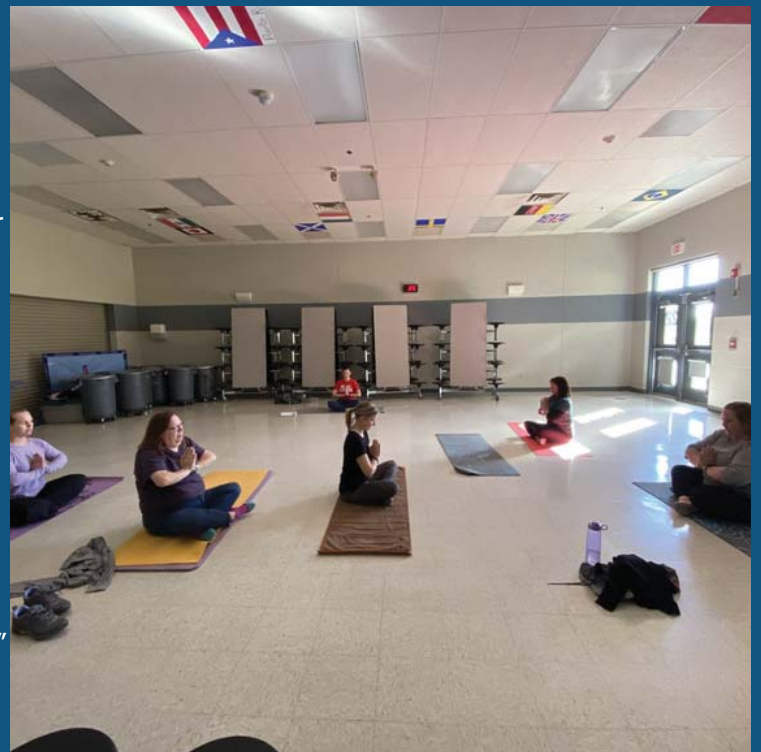
Social Worker, Erin Lescher and Speech Pathologist, Reilee Flanagan at Hall Elementary School in Marquardt D15 facilitated a circle conversation in an instructional support classroom. They read the book, "I am Human" and connected the concept of empathy with the goals of their school wide initiative for Red Ribbon Week.

Be kind to others. Be kind to yourself.

STAFF "WELLNESS HOUR" IN D16

CASE social worker Dawn Stewart-Walker in D16 recently organized a "Wellness Hour" for Glenside staff on Institute Day. It was well received, and everyone seemed to enjoy the opportunity to relax and recharge with colleagues.

CASE SLP in D16, Kathryn Caccamo, used her "Breathe for Change" training and offered yoga for Glenside staff. Thank you to Dawn and Kathryn for providing your colleagues a well deserved "Wellness Hour."





Conference Take Aways:

A Million Paper Cuts: Why Special Education Teachers Leave the Profession.—“Research shows that 50% of special education teachers leave the field within their first five years.” This session discussed key findings from research in IL as well as shared ideas to help districts combat this state wide dilemma.

Resilience Education to Advance Community Healing (REACH): A Whole School and Safety and Wellness Program.—The REACH program is aligned with ISBE’s mental health efforts. This program is working in conjunction with regional ROEs to provide a person to assist with the implementation at no cost to the district.

ABLE – Now Part of the IEPI.—This session focused on information about the “Achieving a Better Life Experience” IL ABLE program. The IL ABLE Account is a low-cost, tax-free way for eligible people with disabilities and their families to save and invest money to pay for expenses related to living with a disability. Starting this school year, IL public school special educators are required by law to provide information on ABLE to parents/guardians. Special educators are not required to be experts with IL ABLE, rather provide the general information and resources to parents/guardians.