

# Kane County Juvenile Justice Center



## A Note from the Superintendent

People don't always see eye to eye. We have different opinions on the way things should be done and how to get things accomplished. Many things influence our thoughts and feelings, but by practicing empathy, we attempt to look at situations from someone else's perspective. This is something we do every day with the children we work with, but sometimes it's necessary for we adults to do this with each other, as well.

As most of you are aware, we recently went through a protracted labor strike. Fortunately, all of us at the JJC have worked hard to build a culture based on empathy. While we aren't always going to agree, by practicing empathy we're able to better understand and accept each other's point of view. To everyone's credit, this has allowed us to quickly get back to something we all agree on, providing a safe, positive environment for the children we serve. While I'm genuinely happy to have our staff back in the building, I'd be remiss if I didn't extend a heartfelt thank you to all those who assisted in maintaining our high level of service during the labor dispute: Court Services' Probation staff, the Kane County Diagnostic Center, our intergovernmental partners (especially DuPage County) and our community partners.

Mike Davis, Superintendent

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## Meet Supervisor Durin Caplan

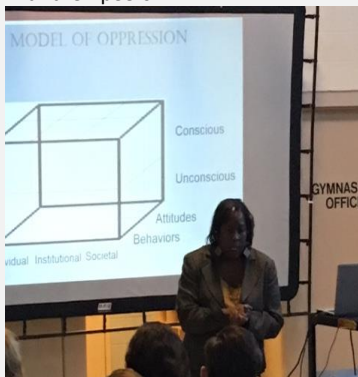


I was born and raised all around the suburbs of Chicago (current count is 17 different homes). I think I have a pretty good sense of humor and compassion for people. I graduated from Harry D. Jacobs in 1996 and went straight to military boot camp at Fort Jackson S.C. I served in the Army Signal Corps for 4 years. Once done, I attended and graduated college from Southern Illinois University Carbondale. I met my wife in college and after we graduated, she was accepted to the University of Iowa Law. While she attended Law school, I accepted a job as a teacher's assistant at South East Junior High (7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders). I worked with the autistic, MD, BD and truancy kids. I learned a lot about how to treat people over those

three years. When my wife graduated, we moved back to Illinois and I was afforded a position as a Youth Counselor and have been at the JJC ever since. Of course, what I am most proud of are my two boys, Dylan and Declan (yes all "D" names). They are finally at the ages (8 and 3) where I can coach Soccer, Baseball and Football for them and we have some intense whiffle ball games in the back yard. If I ever get any "down time", I love to relax on the couch and watch a Cubs game. Yes, I am a Cubs fan and proud of it. I also still play baseball on the weekends and play softball on Thursday nights. On rare occasions, I get to play golf with friends, which is always a great time.

### Dr. Coleman Presentation

Adrienne Coleman Ed.D, Director of Equity and Inclusion from the Illinois Math and Science Academy (IMSA), conducted a training and presentation titled "Diversity & Inclusion in the Workplace". The presentation was held on February 1, 2018, at the request of the Kane County Court Services Cultural Responsiveness Committee. The training included a presentation and discussion on the various dimensions of diversity, implicit bias, equity, oppression, and inclusion. All attendees participated in a "privilege walk" based on the work of Dr. Coleman and Paul Kivel. This activity allowed staff to assess the privileges each have been afforded while learning more about each other and recognizing the elements of unity with their peers.



## Murals

Youth Counselors Ms. Blahut and Mr. Drews are the resident artists at the JJC. They recently painted a "JJC Tree" in our intake area. The staff are decorating the JJC tree with their handprints. Thank you to Eliska Kostelny for her beautiful seascape.





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**GIVING TUESDAY**

20% OF SALES WILL BE GIVEN TO

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Town House Books will donate 20%  
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Book Store: (630) 584-8600 | Café: (630) 584-8603



Mr. Spalis, JJC Principal  
 Ms. Kurkowski, JJC Teacher  
 Ms. Sommers, EEC Instructor  
 Dr. Sams, ECC President

Friday, July 6th, 2018 marked a significant day for four Kane County JJC students who successfully completed ECC's dual credit course COL 101 Student Success. Not only did the young men earn one semester of both high school and college credit, but they learned vital principles and skills necessary to succeed in college and life. The course was offered from June 25th to July 6th through a unique partnership between the Kane County Regional Office of Education, the JJC School Program, Elgin Community College, and the Kane County Juvenile Justice Center. A grant that that JJC School Program, ROE, and JJC apply for in conjunction with St. Charles District 303 provides funding for the courses. Kris Sommer of Elgin Community College was the course instructor while James Pawola, JJC history teacher, provided supporting instruction and guidance for the students as they navigated through the required assignments and homework. The Student Success course emphasizes strategies and behaviors that contribute to success in college and life. ECC and

the ROE/JJC School Program have been offering dual credit courses since 2016. The other courses offered are GSD 120 Exploring College Majors and Careers and GSD 160, Job Search Strategies. Fifty-six students have completed these courses since the program began. Due to generous offer from ECC President Dr. Sam, JJC students completing the courses have an opportunity for a scholarship once they are ready to attend their local community college. The proud students shared their final projects highlighting what they learned in the course with PowerPoint presentations. Among the spectators were Kane County ROE Assistant Superintendent Deanna Oliver, Kane County JJC Superintendent Michael Davis, JJC School Program Principal Ivars Spalis, course instructor Kris Sommer, and JJC support teacher James Pawola. Students received certificates acknowledging their accomplishment and a pizza lunch followed. Information helping them with transitions was also shared. The hope is that students completing these courses will use them as a springboard for real life success.



Mr. Pawola, JJC Teacher  
 Ms. Sommers, ECC Instructor

## Fine Art and Yoga Courses Offered at JJC

Since the summer of 2016, the Kane County Regional Office of Education and the Kane County JJC School Program, which it administers, have been providing fine art classes such as Music 101 and Art 101 to JJC students. Yoga classes also are offered. These courses usually run for six-week increments and are taught by instructors contracted through the ROE. Such classes broaden the horizon of JJC students and give them an opportunity to receive expert instruction in areas they may not typically have in juvenile detention. Fine arts and yoga complement the social emotional learning emphasis that the school program has and also reinforces the cognitive-behavior training program implemented by the facility. Megan Cholewa has provided excellent art instruction since 2016 and Lisa Bertke of PRANA yoga and her instructors Kristen Kauke and Noreen Vence have also devotedly taught since the inception of the program. Bethany Hughes came on board this year to teach music and has brought her expertise and enthusiasm along. A grant that the ROE, school program and facility apply for annually in conjunction with St. Charles School District 303 helps to fund the courses.



Mr. Spalis awarding a resident their certificate.

## Liberation Library

The JJC has recently partnered with the Liberation Library, which was founded with the intent to provide books to young people in detention to encourage literacy, imagination, self-determination and connection to the outside worlds of their choosing. Liberation Library supports the intellectual and academic freedom of our readers, and believes it is essential to their emotional health and success for them to be exposed to a wide variety of material and information. Twice monthly, the kids are allowed to choose a book which is then mailed to them along with a handmade bookmark and a letter of encouragement. The kids are allowed to take the books with them when they're released. The Liberation Library runs on volunteers and donations and we very much appreciate their generosity. For further information, you can visit their website at [liberationlib.com](http://liberationlib.com).

# Thank You for your Support!!

