

# KANE COUNTY JUVENILE JUSTICE CENTER



## A Note from the Superintendent

What it really means to be an essential employee right now. It means having the worst looking yard on your block because you do not have time for yard work. Understanding, but having just a little bit of resentment when you are the only person on a conference call who is actually at work. Feeling bad for that kid working at the local coffee shop and wondering if a venti soy latte is really essential. Trying your best to suspend judgement when you see someone under 50, who looks to be in good health wearing a brand new N95 mask to the grocery store. Not hugging your kids after work and distancing yourself from your family because subconsciously, you cannot shake the fear that you might get them sick. It means swallowing your fear and serving others and your community. On the upside, we don't have to worry about which TV series we will binge watch next, dig through photo albums for something to post to social media, or listen to celebrities talk about coping with the stay-at-home order from their sprawling estates.

This issue of the Kane County Juvenile Justice Center Newsletter is dedicated to all of the brave, selfless people working at our facility. In the midst of the COVID-19 Pandemic, we remain progressive in our approach to serving our kids and community. We are providing our kids with the safest, most nurturing environment possible, while doing everything we can to keep our team members safe and letting them know how much we respect and appreciate them. Aside from sharing what we have been up to for the past few months, we will provide insight into how we have adjusted to working through a pandemic, and hopefully, add a little levity to your day. To our wonderful team at the Kane County Juvenile Justice Center, law enforcement, corrections, medical professionals, caregivers, custodians, grocery store clerks, gas station attendants and everyone doing what is necessary and right, I offer a heartfelt thank you.

*Mike Davis*

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## COVID-19 Response

All of our employees are now wearing surgical masks while inside the secure perimeter and every resident and staff member has their temperature taken daily. We are screening and quarantining new admissions for 14 days and following CDC guidelines regarding employees returning to work after potential exposures or illness. We have revised our detention screening instrument and worked with the courts to get lower-risk offenders released. All meals are delivered to the units to prevent unnecessary movement throughout the building and we do our best to schedule youth counselors consistently to the same unit. We are frequently sanitizing surfaces, holding groups, attempting to calm fears and answering any questions the kids have; in addition, we have distributed a COVID-19 fact sheet to the kids. Because it was necessary to suspend visitation, we offer SKYPE visits on Saturdays and Sundays and have increased opportunities for the kids to use the phone to keep in contact with their parents and loved ones.



Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, the Kane County Juvenile Justice Center has temporarily suspended family visitation. Attorney visits are allowed on a modified basis. The kids are being offered increased opportunities to place telephone calls and the JJC is happy to offer a 10 minute weekly SKYPE visit to parents/guardians. **Skype visits are on Saturdays from 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM and Sundays from Noon - 3:00 PM.** You must call the JJC in advance to schedule a visit **(630) 406-7478** and must download the **Skype App** (for **FREE**) on your cell phone, laptop, tablet or computer. If using anything other than a cell phone, devices must be connected directly or via Wi-Fi to an internet connection.



On January 29, 2020, Random Acts Matter treated our team to lunch. Chief Judge Hull also stopped by to acknowledge our youth counselors. We thank them for taking an interest in our facility and for acknowledging our dedicated staff members. Special thanks also goes to Jenny Maxwell, our wonder volunteer, for nominating us. Jenny has provided posters, activities and treats for our kids and we appreciate her very much.

<https://www.randomactsmatter.com>





## Opportunity for Food Farmers

### Local Food Procurement

The Kane County Juvenile Justice Center is committing to serve fresher, more locally grown foods to the children under its care.

Each year, the Juvenile Justice Center cafeteria serves meals to between 800 and 900 youth. Beginning this year, the JJC will be offering incentives to vendors who commit to sourcing a minimum percentage of preferred unprocessed food items originating from farms in Kane County and neighboring regions.

The new procurement policy was derived from the planning process and subsequent USDA grant that catalyzed the JJC's Farm to School Program. The program was designed to introduce a population of underserved youth from our communities to healthier food choices. Furthermore, as an accredited year-round school, the JJC looks to build a learning environment that links nutrition and food system lessons with the hands-on experience of growing food. Now, the JJC aims to leverage its purchasing power to sustain a healthier food service and learning environment.

Qualified vendors can gain a competitive advantage by partnering with Kane County food farmers to fulfill a portion of the JJC's food service needs. When available, the JJC will be seeking fruits & vegetables, meats, and/or dairy items that are grown locally and in-season. The administrative cook/food purchasing manager has prepared a list of preferred food items that will be made available to interested vendors. Kane County will begin accepting food vendor applications.

#### How can your farm be a supplier?

Upon request, interested growers/producers can obtain the JJC's list of preferred local and seasonal food items. Farmers can use the list to determine whether their operation could supply any requested food items.

To streamline the process of connecting interested growers/producers with prospective vendors, Kane County staff will be generating a prioritized list of farmers with expressed interest in being suppliers. This list will be made available to vendor candidates with discretion to contact those farmers and determine if a sourcing partnership would be feasible. Interested farmers should confirm their interest to guarantee a spot on the prioritized supplier list.

**For a list of the JJC's preferred food items or to have your farm added to the supplier list as an "interested farm," please contact Matt Tansley, Kane County Planning Division, at [tansleymatthew@co.kane.il.us](mailto:tansleymatthew@co.kane.il.us) or 630-232-3493.**



Shoe, mask and quilt painting projects from Graphics Arts class with Ms. Tilly. Thank you to Catherine Tilly and the Regional Office of Education. Catherine is also responsible for the majority of the murals throughout our building. We sincerely appreciate her time, generosity and creativity.

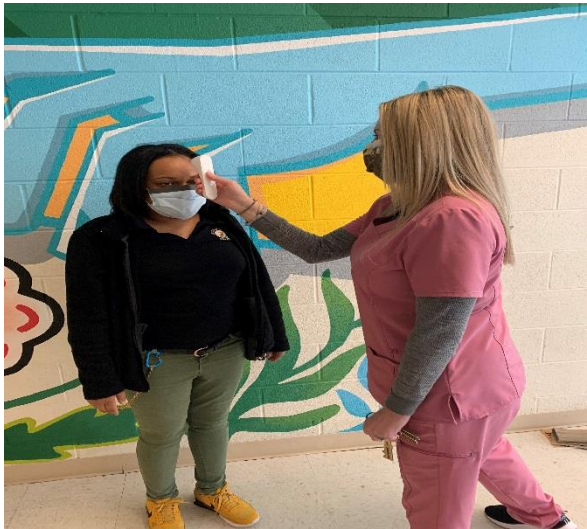
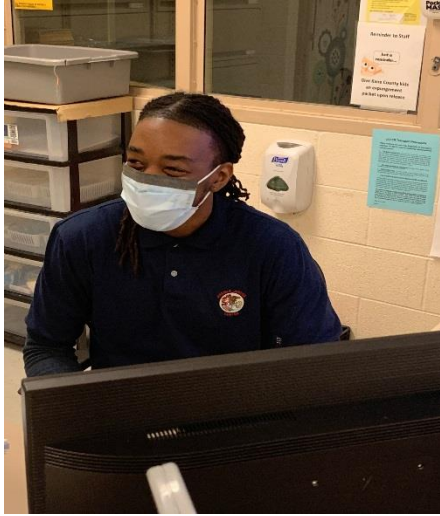
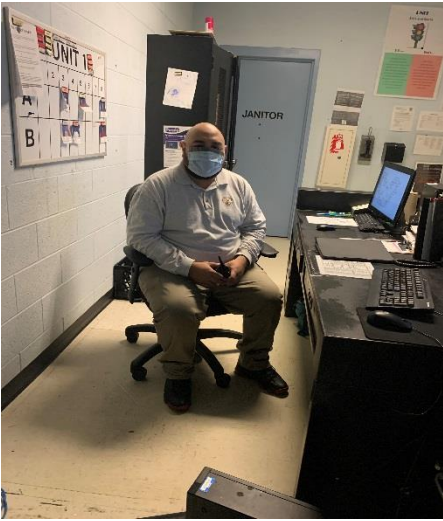
[www.catherinetilly.com](http://www.catherinetilly.com)



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# UNSUNG HEROES



## Two grants awarded to the JJC!



The JJC applied for and received a School Food Service Kitchen Equipment Grant through the Growing for Kane Program. We plan to use this money to purchase a salad bar to increase the kids' consumption of fruits and vegetables. Some food items will be fresh from our JJC garden and other local farms.



### Illinois State Board of Education

100 North First Street • Springfield, Illinois 62777-0001  
www.isbe.net

Darren Reisberg  
Chairman

Dr. Carmen I. Ayala  
State Superintendent of Education

We also applied for and received a grant to purchase a new convection oven and food warmer for the JJC kitchen. This grant is through the Illinois State Board of Education – National School Lunch Program.

Thank you to the Illinois State Board of Education and the Illinois Farm to School Network for awarding us the grants and to Pam Ely for applying for them.

## ECC GRADUATION

On February 14, 2020, six proud JJC residents completed a college-level dual credit course, College 101 Student Success, which is offered by Elgin Community College (ECC) on-site at the JJC through an on-going unique partnership between the Kane County ROE, ECC, and the Kane County JJC. The course was taught by ECC instructor Kris Sommer and supported by JJC School teacher Jimmy Pawola. Students learned important concepts and strategies to succeed in college and life, and made presentations on their findings. Dr. Sam, President of ECC and Rodrigo Lopez, Director of Partnerships for College and Career Success for ECC, were on hand to congratulate the JJC students. Residents have an opportunity to receive scholarship help for attending ECC through Dr. Sam's office.





## THERAPY DOGS



The Kane County JJC would like to thank Marv Kombrink and his therapy dogs for their years of service to the JJC and the juveniles in detention. Marv and his dogs were the first therapy dogs at the JJC and he was instrumental in developing this program. We wish Marv and his family happiness and joy as they retire to a warmer climate. We will miss you!

We would like to welcome two new members of the Fox Valley Therapy Dog Club, Joe Sells and his German shepherd, Bella, as well as Del Lydon and her German shorthaired pointer, Cash. We look forward to working with you!



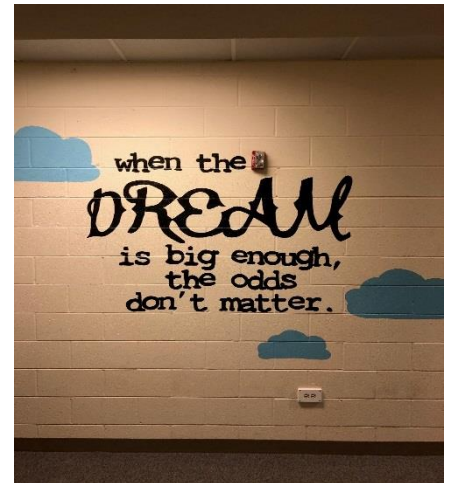
A huge THANK YOU to the **Lydon Family** for their generous donation of homemade face masks. Each mask has three layers with elastic or ribbon straps, as well as a bendable nosepiece. They are also machine washable.





# Visitation Murals

Thank you to Catherine Tilly and Eliska Kostelny for working with our kids to replicate their artwork on the walls in visitation.



Thank you to State Representative Karina Villa for visiting us on February 11, 2020. We appreciate her taking an interest in our kids and for being an advocate for children with mental health needs.



In August 2019, Governor Pritzker signed new legislation that expanded voting rights for current and previously incarcerated persons in Illinois. Under this new law, residents of the JJC who will be 18 years old on the date of the next General Election in November were eligible to vote in the March 17 Primary Election. Here at the JJC, we took the step of assigning a supervisor to oversee this task to ensure that all kids who fit the requirements were given the opportunity to obtain a mail-in ballot; this supervisor will also be trained as a Deputy Registrar for the upcoming General Election. In the end, although we had 15 residents at the time who qualified to vote, there were 3 of them who followed through on the whole process and had their ballots mailed in. Democracy is alive and well at the JJC!

## BLANKET TYING



The JJC would like to thank the St. Charles Women's Altrusa Club for their volunteer work with our kids to make "Tie" blankets. We made numerous patterns and sizes and then donated the blankets. A few kids chose to bring their blankets home. It was a fun time and we appreciate your generosity and thoughtfulness!



**Congratulations to our very own Pam Ely!!!**

Connie Kaiser Restorative Justice Award

**PAMELA ELY**

Kane County



*Pictured with Pamela Ely (center) are Connie Kaiser (left) award namesake and Tracy Burke-Carriere (right) IPCSA President*

Thank you to Eliska, our Masters in Art Therapy Intern from Adler University, for painting this mural in the mental health clinicians' office and for her work on social justice art projects with our kids.



## Fluorescent Light Filters

Fluorescent light filters were purchased for one of our classrooms. The filters turn fluorescent light into full light, reducing glare, eyes strain, headaches, stress and anxiety. In the future, we will be looking into the possibility of installing them in all of our classrooms.



BEFORE



AFTER

## Liberation Library Book Reviews

Liberation Library provides books to incarcerated youth to encourage imagination, self-determination and connection to the outside worlds of their choosing. They believe access to books is a right, not a privilege. They believe books and relationships empower young people to change the criminal justice system.

The JJC would like to thank Liberation Library for their continued service to the kids in the JJC during this time. The kids have provided book reviews to Liberation Library on some of the books they have read.

### Liberation Library

Book Review

Book Title: Once a King always a King

Author: Raymundo Sanchez

Review/Summary:

I think that this book is more of something you can learn off from and take it in to real life. Its a true story of a gang member who turns his life around and its pretty interesting.

Book Title: Wings of Fire

Author: Tui T Sutherland

Review/Summary:

These books are amazing. They're superful and action filled. I've read them all several times and highly recommend them.

Book Title: Maximum Ride

Author: James patterson

Review/Summary:

A group of mutated humans who were stolen at birth now live together while on the run from evil scientists trying to run tests on them and destroy the population. They are trying to find their birth parents with the little clues they have. Multiple times they have been ambushed and their temporary houses have been destroyed.



## THANK YOU TO OUR DEDICATED TEAM!!!

*A special thanks goes out to our Administrative Assistant, Kim Stehlin, for all of the hard work and creativity that she puts into the JJC newsletter.*