FOX POINT BAYSIDE SCHOOL DISTRICT

Significantly Exceeds Expectations 2012-2025

603 E Ellsworth Lane, Bayside, WI 53217
(414) 247-4167

FOX POINT-BAYSIDE DISTRICT NEWSLETTER
SPRING 2026

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UPCOMING EVENTS

JUNE 22 - JULY 2 Summer Pathways Session 1
Stormonth Elementary School and Bayside Middle School

JULY 7 - JULY 17 Summer Pathways Session 2
Stormonth Elementary School and Bayside Middle School

AUGUST 18 Regular & Annual School Board Meeting
6:00 p.m. at District Office

SEPTEMBER 1 First Day of School
Stormonth Elementary School and Bayside Middle School



Stormonth Elementary School
A SCHOOL OF RECOGNITION
by the Department of Public Instruction [2023-24 & 2024-25]

A distinction recognizing schools that rank in the top 10% statewide for academic achievement in reading and mathematics.

11 YEARS rated "SIGNIFICANTLY EXCEEDS EXPECTATIONS" by the Department of Public Instruction

BEST Public Middle School in Wisconsin by Niche [2026]

TOP 15 BEST
Best Wisconsin Elementary Schools by the U.S. News & World Report [2026]

Bayside Middle School awarded
NATIONAL BLUE RIBBON
by the US Department of Education [2022]

This year, Fox Point-Bayside was honored with numerous accolades that reflect a shared commitment to excellence across our school community. These recognitions celebrate academic achievement and are a direct reflection of the dedication, curiosity and engagement our students bring to learning each day, as well as the leadership, care and creativity of our incredible faculty and staff, many of whom also received regional and state-level recognitions.

AWARD WINNING EDUCATION

Brandon Blahnik nominated for National History Day Teacher of the Year (Junior Division) | Jillian Heise served on the 2026 Caldecott Selection Committee | Bayside Music Department awarded the NAMM Foundation Best Communities for Music Education Award | Shaina O'Sullivan awarded the Certificate of Excellence for General Music Education by the Milwaukee Civic Music Association.

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA!

Fox Point-Bayside School District
Bayside Middle School
@baysidefpbs
Stormonth Elementary School
@stormonthelementary

LISTENING TO OUR COMMUNITY,

PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

Dear Fox Point-Bayside Families and Neighbors,

Looking back on this tremendous school year, this year has been defined by excellence both inside and outside the classroom. You'll see many of these achievements and accolades highlighted in the pages of this newsletter.

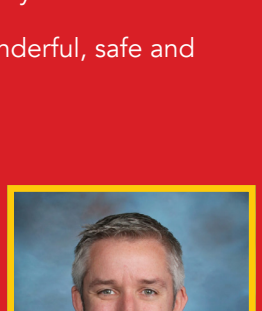
Beyond the recognitions, the heart of our success lies in the experiences of our students. Just this year, I have been inspired to see our students stretching their boundaries: from high-level explorations in science and history to outdoor education adventures in canoes, and even stepping out of their comfort zones with field hockey lessons and music galore!

Whether you are a parent supporting learning at home, a neighbor cheering from the sidelines or a staff member giving your heart to our classrooms, you make our schools what they are. Thank you for your continued partnership. I am excited for the years ahead!

I wish you all a wonderful, safe and restful summer.

With gratitude,

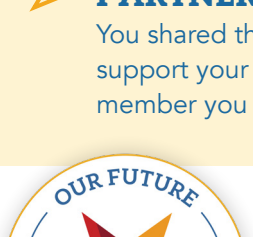
Michael Weaver, Ph.D.
Superintendent



This past year, we asked our community for honest feedback through our districtwide survey that was mailed to every household. Community members expressed **exceptionally strong confidence in the quality and value of our schools.**

Several key highlights from the data stand out as a reflection of our **school culture:**

- **SAFETY & BELONGING:**
  Families overwhelmingly shared that their children feel safe at school, enjoy coming to school and are treated with dignity and respect by our staff.
- **ACADEMIC RIGOR:**
  You expressed high satisfaction with how much your children are learning and affirmed that our schools maintain high expectations for every student.
- **SUPPORTIVE ENVIRONMENTS:**
  Parents noted that their children get help when they need it, are learning to navigate emotional challenges, and that school facilities are clean, welcoming and well-kept.
- **PARTNERSHIP:**
  You shared that you feel welcome in our buildings, know how to support your child's learning and have at least one trusted staff member you feel comfortable contacting.



You may have noticed our **Future in Action icon** (to the left) throughout our newsletters and social profiles. This icon is used to highlight an effort that is aligned with our strategic plan.

To learn more about the Framework for Our Future, visit **www.foxbay.k12.wi.us/district/framework.cfm.**

FRAMEWORK FOR OUR FUTURE

FOX POINT-BAYSIDE SCHOOL DISTRICT

FRAMEWORK FOR OUR FUTURE:

BUILDING ON EXCELLENCE

One of the things that makes Fox Point-Bayside special is our **commitment to continuous improvement,** even when our schools are performing at the highest levels. **That commitment is guiding us this summer as our team works hard to refresh our strategic plan, the Framework for Our Future.**

Our community survey results made one thing abundantly clear: **our families and community remain connected to the pillars that have defined our district's success.** Informed by the strong feedback we received through our community survey, our core focus will remain anchored in the same pillars you know well.

While these pillars remain our foundation, we are updating the specific metrics we use to measure success to ensure they reflect the evolving needs of our students. We look forward to showcasing these updated benchmarks with you in the fall!



PILLAR ONE:

ENGAGING ACADEMIC CURIOSITY

At the heart of our strategic plan is a commitment to Engaging Academic Curiosity – creating learning experiences that spark wonder, inspire questions and help students connect their learning to the world around them.

Across our schools, students are actively exploring, creating, collaborating and discovering each day. Whether conducting **hands-on science experiments, planting trees during Arbor Day celebrations or bringing history to life through experiential learning opportunities like the middle school trip to Washington, D.C.,** our students are developing the skills and curiosity that will serve them far beyond the classroom.

These moments of learning in action reflect our belief that education should be meaningful, engaging and rooted in authentic experiences.





As a community, we can all take pride in the vibrant learning culture taking shape in our district. **Engaging academic curiosity is about more than academic achievement.** It is about helping students become **thoughtful problem-solvers, compassionate citizens and innovative thinkers.** We are grateful for the support of our families, staff and community members who help make these opportunities possible. Together, we are building schools where **curiosity is encouraged, learning is celebrated and every child is inspired to grow.**







FINANCIAL STATE
OF THE DISTRICT

As we conclude another successful school year, we want to update our community on the District's financial outlook.

Our District has long prioritized responsible stewardship of the resources our community has generously provided us. Through careful budgeting, responsible spending practices and ongoing efforts to improve operational efficiency, the **District is projected to finish the 2025-26 fiscal year in a stable financial position.**

STATEWIDE FUNDING CHALLENGES

While our year-end financial outlook remains solid, the District continues to face the same long-term fiscal challenges that affect school districts across the state. State funding has not kept pace with inflation, with rising costs in every area of operation, including:

- Classroom supplies and instructional materials
- Special education and student services
- Employee salaries and benefits
- Utilities and transportation
- Facility maintenance
- Life-safety systems and infrastructure
- Property and liability insurance

In the fall, our community responded to our District-wide survey. **Based on your feedback, the Board of Education will continue to discuss and finalize an operational referendum renewal proposal adjusted to $3.95 million.** This process ensures our school funding matches today's economic reality while maintaining the high-quality education and staff our community expects.

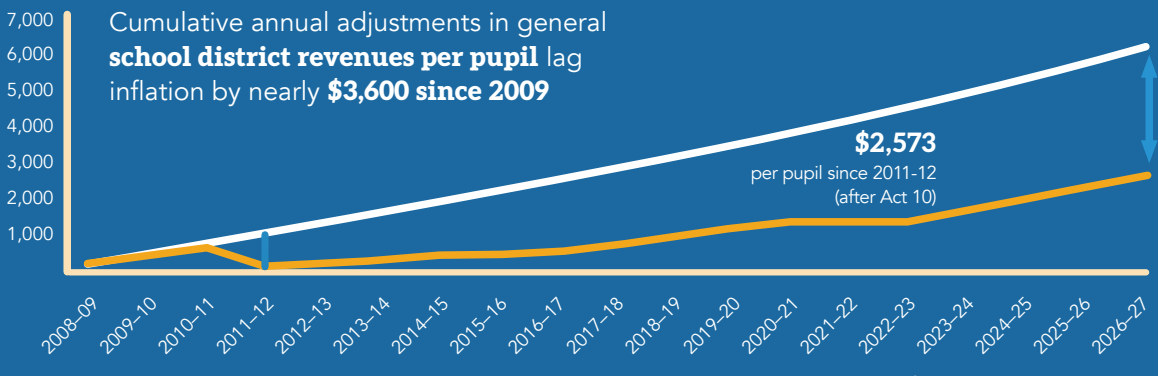
BALANCING RESOURCES AND STUDENT EXPERIENCE

Over the past several years, the District has worked diligently to manage these inflationary pressures. We have been careful with expenditures, sought operational efficiencies and identified opportunities to share costs with our partner schools while prioritizing anything that directly impacted student experience. Additionally, our community has generously supported two consecutive four-year operational referendums, with the current referendum set to expire at the end of the 2026-27 school year. Operational referendums directly support the day-to-day educational experience of students by helping our District:

- Retain and attract exceptional teachers and staff
- Maintain small class sizes and personalized learning opportunities
- Preserve academic programs, student supports and extracurricular opportunities
- Continue protecting and maintaining the community's investment in our school facilities

In the 2025-26 school year, **operational referendum funds** represented approximately **19.5% of the district's operating revenue.**

These efforts have allowed us to deliver the high-quality educational experience our community expects while staying competitive in attracting new families and retaining our amazing teachers and staff.



Source: Kava, Russ (September 12, 2025) Legislative Fiscal Bureau Memo re: Revenue Limit Per Pupil Adjustment Indexed to Inflation; WASBO Calculations

$3,571 PER PUPIL

IMPLICATION: Buying power for each student is lower than it was in 2008-2009

Indexed to CPI
ACTUAL

SOURCE: Legislative Fiscal Bureau

LOOKING AHEAD

Looking ahead, we are currently projecting a budget deficit due to the expiration of our operational referendum at the end of the 2026-27 school year, and the ongoing statewide reality that school funding has not kept pace with the soaring costs of running a school district.

While we will continue to budget carefully, manage our staffing footprint efficiently and find operational savings, **maintaining our high-quality educational experience, supporting our excellent staff, and protecting the community's investment in our facilities will require continued local partnership.**

This summer, following the clear direction from our community-wide survey, the Board of Education will continue to discuss and finalize an operational referendum renewal proposal adjusted to $3.95 million. **This adjustment is designed solely to protect our current classroom standards, staffing and maintain the exact same purchasing power against years of cumulative inflation.** The Board expects to finalize the specific ballot language later this summer for the upcoming ballot in November 2026.

Nearly **nine out of ten Wisconsin school districts (87%)** rely on **operational referendum funding.**

We are deeply grateful for the ongoing support of our community. Together, we have built a top-performing District that provides exceptional education opportunities, and we are committed to continuing this legacy.

Later this summer, we'll share more information on social media and our website about how to participate in upcoming referendum learning sessions. In the meantime, if you have any questions about the District's finances, please contact me at kwiesner@foxbay.org.

Kathleen Wiesner
Director of Business Services





STORMONTH ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

PRINCIPAL'S NOTE

ANDREW JOSEPH,
PRINCIPAL, STORMONTH ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

STORMONTH STORM

At Stormonth, we believe in learning through experience. In and outside the classroom, **we prioritize opportunities that expand our students' perspectives** and make room for academic and personal growth. Our staff, with the support of our community partners, work tirelessly to bring real world learning to Stormonth.

As we close the 2025-26 school year, we are grateful for our PTO, Educational Foundation and the dozens of parent volunteers who create the Stormonth magic each day.



ARBOR DAY

OUR FUTURE IN ACTION

Kindergarten Earth Ambassadors and fourth grade students gathered to celebrate Arbor Day. Kindergarten students shared the little things we can do to make a big difference for our planet. Fourth graders helped plant a tree donated by our friends at the Fox Point Garden Club.



MILWAUKEE SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA ACE PROGRAM

Thanks to the the Fox Point-Bayside Educational Foundation's generous support, Stormonth is excited to expand **our partnership with the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra ACE program!** Next year our third grade students will join our kindergarten, first and second grade students in the program. ACE brings world class artists and musicians to our school and helps students see the connections between music and the world around them.

SAFETY WEEK

In collaboration with the Fox Point and Bayside Police Departments, our students learned how they can have a safe and fun summer. Our students learned pedestrian and bicycle safety, visited the Bayside Communication Center and learned about all the helpers who keep our community safe. Thank you to our PTO for supporting this experience!





SECRETARY OF STATE VISIT

In celebration of Public School Library Month, **Wisconsin Secretary of State Sarah Godlewski visited Stormonth** to meet with students. Secretary Godlewski, along with other elected officials, spoke with fourth graders about the democratic process.



WANT MORE NEWS? Connect with us on social media: Stormonth Elementary School @stormonthelementary



BAYSIDE MIDDLE SCHOOL

PRINCIPAL'S NOTE

JODI HACKL
PRINCIPAL, BAYSIDE MIDDLE SCHOOL

BAYSIDE

At Bayside Middle School, students continue to **shine through a wide variety of academic, extracurricular and community-centered experiences** that make our school a vibrant place to learn and grow. This year has been filled with exciting opportunities that **encourage creativity, collaboration, leadership and school pride.** Beyond academics, our educational clubs and enrichment activities continue to thrive.

Field trips and experiential learning opportunities have also provided memorable moments for students this year. Bayside Middle School takes **great pride in recognizing and celebrating student accomplishments,** and we look forward to continuing to share and celebrate the many successes, events and opportunities that make our school such a special place for students, families and staff.



RETURN OF THE FORENSICS TEAM

The Bayside Forensics Team finished an incredible season! The team had 10 consistent competitors, 9 of whom qualified for the state meet held on March 21st. Several of those students came home with trophies and some of their highest scores of the season! Thanks to Coach Brenna DeGraff and Assistant Coach Cynthia Meier for making this opportunity possible for our students!



BAYSIDE TENNIS TEAM

The 7th/8th Grade Co-Ed Tennis Team consisted of players from a variety of skill levels and backgrounds and was coached by Samantha Holdren. We had many competitive matches where players continued to learn and grow. Each player had the opportunity to compete against other schools while learning the importance of good sportsmanship, developing new skills, and having fun along the way.

"HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL JR."

Students worked hard in rehearsals to prepare blocking and choreography for this year's spring musical at Bayside Middle School. "High School Musical Jr." was performed on the Bayside stage May 29 and May 30. The students put on an amazing show!





OUR FUTURE IN ACTION

BAYSIDE TRACK TEAM

Track and Field athletes hit the track, pits and rings with intensity and competitiveness, leading to improvements in explosive starts and grit, consistently shaving seconds off their times. Our field athletes soared to new heights, with personal bests achieved as our jumpers mastered their approach and throwers improved their explosive power. The relay teams' handoffs became seamless due to successful teamwork. Watching the athletes cheer each other on has been the highlight for the coaches, Charity James, LaToya Conner and Jonathan Jaworski.





WANT MORE NEWS? Connect with us on social media: Bayside Middle School @baysidefpbs

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

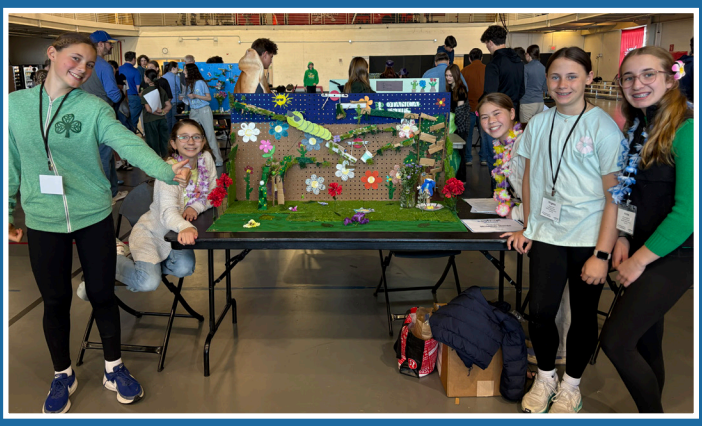
IN ACTION

MILWAUKEE SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING (MSOE)

Fox Point-Bayside School District's close proximity to Milwaukee School of Engineering (MSOE) creates a wonderful opportunity to **challenge and extend students' development in the STEM fields.** In addition to the two competitions highlighted below, **our involvement extends to grant-funded student engineering workshops and educator professional development from national leaders in their fields.**

CONTRAPT

Contrapt **challenges students to develop devices that use multiple simple machines to accomplish a goal.** We had four teams competing from sixth through eighth grade.



The eighth-grade team, **The Gardeners, received fourth place overall and a special award for "Most Innovative Step."** We are so proud of these students' work, dedication and engineering skills! They represented Bayside well!



FLUID POWER CHALLENGE

The Fluid Power Challenge gives students a chance to **explore fluid power, learn about careers in engineering and delve into the design process.** Over four weeks, students worked in teams of three to four to design a device that could grab, lift and rotate using fluid power.



Three of our five competing teams earned awards, including the first-place overall award, the team challenge award for earning the most points (after our first place team!) and the teamwork award. We are so proud of all of our students who participated in this challenging activity!



SCHLITZ AUDUBON NATURE CENTER (SANC)

With Schlitz Audubon Nature Center (SANC) in our district, we have **developed a robust environmental education partnership that includes students from K4 to seventh grade participating in learning experiences both at school and at SANC.** Our partnership has expanded to include hosting our District Art Show.

DISTRICT ART SHOW

Our third- through eighth- grade District Art Show was on display at the Schlitz Audubon Nature Center from May 12 to May 31. There was a wide variety of art that highlighted **both the talent of our students and the unique art opportunities our district offers them.** Several of our students' works of art were chosen as "Best in Show" by art educators from Nicolet Union High School, Maple Dale-Indian Hill and Glendale-River Hills school districts. Congratulations to all our students whose work was showcased.





FIELD TRIPS FOR ALL AGES

From our K4 students learning about the wanderings of wildlife in the winter all the way to our seventh graders navigating down the Milwaukee River, SANC provides opportunities for students to participate in environmental education appropriate to their grade level.





FOX POINT-BAYSIDE

PARENT TEACHER ORGANIZATION

Spring truly came alive this year, filled with an incredible sense of energy and community spirit thanks to so many fun and memorable PTO events. At the heart of everything we do is our commitment to funding programs that enrich learning across all our schools, and I'm thrilled to share how much your support has made possible.

This year, your generosity allowed us to provide **funding for field trips, book fair events, student support services, classroom innovation grants and Artist-in-Residence programs.**

- We were especially excited to welcome **Bethany Barton,** who spoke with Stormonth kids and parents about digital wellness for families.
- Bayside welcomed **Derek Aspinell** to learn more about field hockey.
- Bayside welcomed back the **Bayside Coffee House,** highlighting our students' creativity through student performances and artwork.
- A true highlight of the season was our **Family Appreciation Night at a Milwaukee Bucks game.** For many students, the chance to high-five players and catch courtside warm-ups made for magical, lifelong memories.
- **Teacher Appreciation Week,** held May 4-8, was another standout, filled with surprises and celebrations organized by our dedicated committee. **We hope every teacher and staff member felt the deep appreciation our parent community holds for their dedication and daily efforts.** Thank you to everyone who wrote notes, donated or participated in activities. Your kindness and involvement truly make a difference.

As we wrapped up the 2025-26 school year, we celebrated with **Stormonth Kids Nights Out, Bayside Activity Nights, Stormonth Safety Week, Field Day** and capped it all off with our annual **Cupcake Fun Run** on June 6.

A special thank you to Kaitlin Torres, our outgoing PTO Past President, for all of her hard work and dedication to the PTO during her terms as President and Past President.

To all our amazing volunteers: **you are truly the heartbeat of this community.** None of this would be possible without your time, energy and dedication. As we look ahead, we're eager to hear from you! Whether you're ready to dive in or just want to share your thoughts, we value your voice. Please don't hesitate to reach out anytime at **PTOteam@foxbaypto.org**.

Wishing you a joyful and restful summer!

Best,

GayAnne Ketter
2025-26 Fox Point-Bayside PTO President

To keep up with all things PTO, be sure to visit **www.fpbspto.membershiptoolkit.com** and follow us on Facebook and Instagram for updates and the latest event photos.









EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION

UPDATE

THANK YOU TO OUR 2026 SPONSORS!

GOLD $5,000

Miron | eua

SILVER $2000+

Mathnasium The Math Learning Center of Whitefish Bay and Mequon | Attolles Law, s.c. | WaterStone Bank

Rebecca Wahlberg, Peck Foundation | The Cook Family | The Kamm Family | The Stickler Family | Willette Knopp

BRONZE $1,000

AppeThai | Aramark | Fiduciary Management, Inc. | Huffman Keel Partners, Inc. | Mueller Communications | Sendik's Food Markets | The Phung Family | The Schmoldt Family | The Smart Family

SUPPORTER $500

Compunet Consulting, Inc. | Concept4 | Farnsworth Group | Go Riteway Transportation Group | L&A Crystal Services LLC | Westfahl & Westfahl. S.C. | David & Yao Andrew | Leslie Arnold & Family | Amy & Adam Bazelon | Anne & Mark Berkoff | Kristi & Tyler Carlson | Laura & Ross Cover | The Hahn Family | The Kulka Family | The Kushi Family | The Presti Family | Abby & David Schwartz | Eben Slaunwhite & Varsha Shah | The Valkenburgh Family | The Walthers Family | The Weinberg Family

FRIEND $250

WEA Member Benefits | Jessie & Jason Allen Family | Mark and Amy Levin | The Stegall & Berta Family | Tom & Kathy Nash | The Toppel Nelson Family | Linda Roberts

In-Kind: All Occasions Catering | Balloon Lab MKE | Schlitz Audubon Nature Center | Sendik's Home

As we wrap up another school year, we wanted to take a moment to thank our community for the lasting impact you've helped us make on our schools.

On March 6, more than 170 parents, friends and neighbors gathered at Schlitz Audubon Nature Center for the **Evening for Education.** It was a wonderful night, and we thank everyone who joined us and gave so generously. **We raised more than $55,000, exceeding our fundraising goal for the event!**

Your support impacts every student in the district. This school year, the **Foundation donated more than $80,000 to the district,** including its first contribution toward the **Outdoor Education Initiative to help create dedicated outdoor learning spaces at both schools.** Installation will begin this summer with outdoor seating at Bayside Middle School, followed by work at Stormonth Elementary School next year. We can't wait to share more details as those plans come together.

This year's funding also helped:

- Add an additional grade to the **Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra's ACE Program**
- **Update STEAM programming and technology** across the district
- Send every seventh grader to **Youth Frontiers' Courage Retreat**
- And more!

None of this happens without our community sponsors, donors and volunteers, including the student volunteers from Nicolet Union High School who gave their evening to help the event run smoothly. **We're grateful for you all.**

We'd also like to extend a special thank you to outgoing board members Amy Bazelon, Nicole Cook, Jolena Presti and Laura Roberts for the time, energy and dedication they've given to the Foundation and our schools.

Here's to another great year ahead!



FOX POINT BAYSIDE SCHOOL DISTRICT

Significantly Exceeds Expectations 2012-2025

603 E Ellsworth Lane, Bayside, WI 53217

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Milwaukee, WI
Permit No. 4429

2025-2026 SCHOOL YEAR

FOX POINT-BAYSIDE!



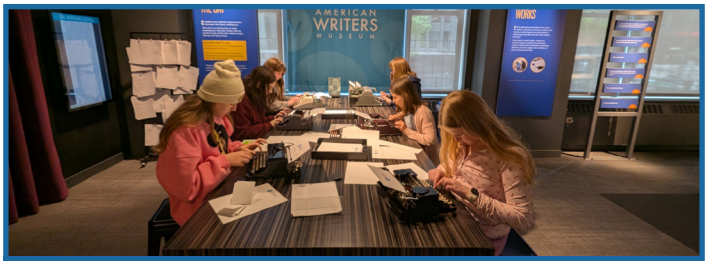
Fourth graders getting ready for their spring concert.



Fifth graders learning about careers and financial literacy at Junior Achievement's BizTown.



Stormonth's Destination Imagination team celebrating their win at the state competition.



Bayside's Art and Writing Club students finding inspiration on their spring field trip to some of Chicago's cultural institutions.