

## COMMUNITY SCHOOLS QUARTERLY



### COMMUNITY SCHOOL PILLARS AT A GLANCE

Racine community schools use four pillars to guide their goals and work. The pillars are integrated student support, expanded and enriched time and opportunities, active family and community engagement and collaborative leadership.

**Integrative Student Supports:** Community schools are supporting the whole student by offering services that meet physical, emotional and social needs. In Racine, services are offered through partnerships with organizations that provide mental health counseling, food drives, community nights and more.

**Expanded and Enriched Learning Time and Opportunity:** A fancy way of saying that community schools offer learning opportunities outside of the classroom and normal school hours. Students are encouraged to participate in extended learning (on-site after school programming) and off-site programming, such as Juntos, a program that teaches the whole family about college readiness, which has traditionally been hosted in the community.

**Active Family and Community Engagement:** Community schools want to have family members of students and community members be part of the school family. They are invited to help plan events, volunteer and serve on leadership teams.

**Collaborative Leadership:** Community schools value the voice of all stakeholders (students, parents, teachers, community members and others). Each community school has different opportunities for stakeholders to be part of the decision-making process such as parent groups, leadership teams and various committees.



### COMMUNITY NIGHTS

Community Nights are monthly events hosted at community schools that meet all four of the pillars at once:

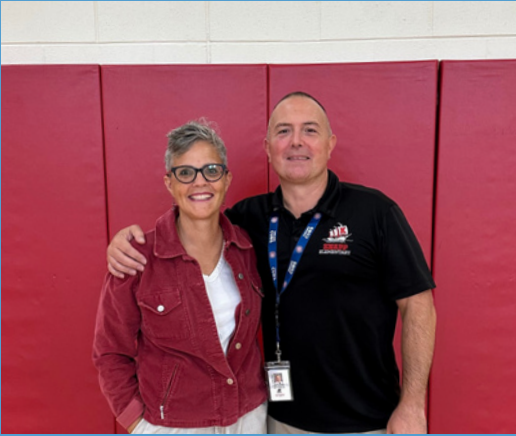
- Community partners are present to offer resources to families.
- Community nights are after school and have an educational focus.
- Families and community members are invited to attend or even volunteer to help plan or run.
- Community nights are planned with students, parents, staff and partners.

Above is a picture from a Black History Month community night at Mitchell in 2023. At this event, students performed step, dance and drumming. Attendees learned about gradients of color, played math games popular in Black culture and learned about important people in Black History from projects students created.

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## NOTES FROM YOUR ADMINISTRATORS

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### KNAPP

In our September benchmark for literacy, we saw significant progress among our K-3 students. Kindergarten achieved a proficiency rate of 56%, while 1st grade reached 34%, and 2nd grade achieved 37%. Our goal is to raise the proficiency rate to 55% for all three grade levels. Let's keep up the great work!



### JULIAN THOMAS

Julian Thomas' goal for the second quarter is to continue to increase academic achievement by continuing professional learning and coaching for all staff members. By using the Plan-Do-Study/Check-Act (PDS/CA) model, staff will be able to use what they've learned from their own training to help students succeed.



### THE ACADEMIES OF RACINE AT MITCHELL COMMUNITY SCHOOL

In the month of October, students in grades 4-8 started their journey in reaching our multiplication fluency goal of 75% of our students knowing all multiplication facts from 0-12. One of their centers for math is multiplication-centered.

## Knapp Community School Highlights

### Upcoming Events

**Holiday Celebration  
Community Night,**  
Tuesday, Dec. 12  
5:30-7 p.m.

**Black History Month  
Celebration Community  
Night,**  
Tuesday, Feb. 13  
5:30-7 p.m.

### Past Event Photos



Family Photo Day



Community Night: Carnival



Knapp Literacy Camp 2023

### A message from Knapp's Community School Coordinator

Hello! Knapp hosted some amazing events in the first quarter! On Sept. 25, Knapp Elementary, in partnership with RUSD: Title I Family Engagement, Racine Video Production, and United Way of Racine County, hosted an extension of Picture Day for families. Everyone came out in their best outfits to participate in family photos, eat some free food, and learn about new resources.

On Oct. 10, Knapp hosted its annual carnival-themed Community Night. The event was a huge success with over 500 people in attendance. The event was jam-packed with bingo, community resources, carnival games, free prizes, hot dogs, nachos, and popcorn. Fun was had by all, and we cannot wait to host this event again next year.

The kickoff to the school year has been amazing, but there is more to come in the Knapp building. View our upcoming events below and we hope to see you there!

Dec. 12, 5:30-7 p.m.: Community Night  
Holiday Celebration

Feb. 13, 5:30-7 p.m.: Community Night  
Black History Month Celebration



### Community School Coordinator of Knapp Community School

Greetings, Knapp families! I'm Zyaire Strowder. So far, my fourth year as the Community School Coordinator for Knapp has been nothing but amazing.

Knapp had a terrific first quarter and we look forward what is to come in the second quarter. We are always looking for more ways to engage our families as well as invite them into the Knapp building. If you are interested in collaborating or donating some goods, please contact me. You can find my contact info at the bottom of this page.

#### K.N.A.P.P. Parent Group

Knowledgeable, Noble and Peaceful Parents is Knapp's parent group, who are supporting Knapp and all of its events this school year. If you are interested in joining, please contact Zyaire Strowder!



Zyaire Strowder

email: [zstrowder@unitedwayracine.org](mailto:zstrowder@unitedwayracine.org) | phone: (262) 994-5025



## Upcoming Events

### Holiday Celebration

Thursday, Dec. 7  
5 - 6:30pm

### Family Game Night

Wednesday, Jan. 24  
5 - 6:30pm

## Past Event Photos



Candy Dash 2023



Hispanic Heritage Night



Trunk R Treat

Fega Coronado

## Julian Thomas Community School Highlights



### A Message from Julian Thomas' Community School Coordinator

Greetings, Julian Thomas Families!

There was so much accomplished in the first quarter of the school year! Below are a few events that took place:

On September 23rd we held our 2nd annual Candy Dash. The Candy Dash is a fun 3K run/walk where students, along with parents, relatives and siblings were able to get active, have fun and receive candy along the route. A total of 80 people attended.

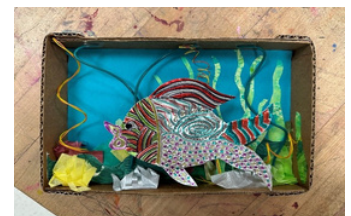
We held our Hispanic Heritage night on October 19, which brought over 300 people to JT! There were student performances, crafts, raffle baskets, a book giveaway, *lotería* and dinner for families and community members.

**COMING SOON!!**

A Parent Group!  
Julian Thomas will hold our first parent meeting on Monday, November 27.  
Hope to see you all there!

Like us on Facebook for up-to-date information and news:  
Julian Thomas Elementary School  
[www.facebook.com/julianthomas](https://www.facebook.com/julianthomas)

On Oct. 4, the Racine Art Museum held an after-school program celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month. RAM invited select 3rd- to 5th-grade Bilingual students to participate in a Latino-inspired project. Students, with the permission of their parents, were filmed for the documentary series "Uniquely Wisconsin."



Email: [fcoronado@unitedwayracine.org](mailto:fcoronado@unitedwayracine.org) | phone: (262) 994-5962

## Upcoming Events

### Holiday Fair

Thursday, Dec. 14  
5-7 p.m.

### Graffiti Night

Thursday, Jan. 18  
5-7 p.m.

### Black History Celebration

Thursday, Feb. 22  
5-7 p.m.

## Our Story



KnightDragon Jamboree



Hispanic Heritage Month



Trunk or Treat

Kira Muñoz

## Academies of Racine at Mitchell Community School Highlights

### A message from our community school coordinator

Hello Mitchell Families!

The first quarter of school has flown by! The Mitchell community did a lot of great things and there are more amazing opportunities on the horizon.

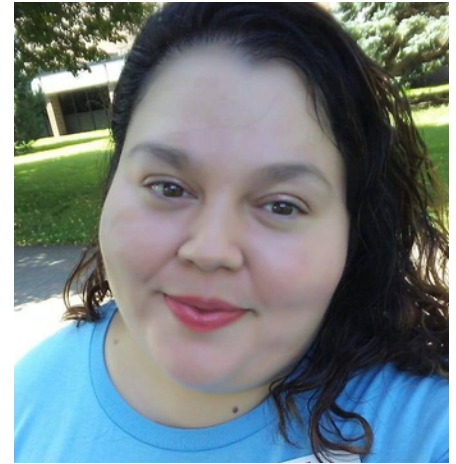
- In September, we hosted our KnightDragon Jamboree, which nearly doubled in attendance from last year. We gave away over 100 winter coats to families to help keep students keep warm when the cold months come.
- We also hosted a site visit with United Way of Greater Milwaukee and Waukesha Counties to share the work we are doing as a community school.
- We held a Pancake Day, Hispanic Heritage Celebration and our first Trunk or Treat as well.

In the coming months, we are looking forward to:

- Launching our mentorship program
- Having our Holiday Fair and Graffiti community nights.
- Hosting the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program for Mitchell community members.
- Seeing 8th-grade capstone projects make a difference in our community.
- More!

Stay up to date by following Mitchell School on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/RUSDMitchell>

If you'd like to give us feedback on your experience at Mitchell, please complete this form: [bit.ly/MitchellFeedback23-24](https://bit.ly/MitchellFeedback23-24)



### A word from the Mitchell PTSA\*

Hello Mitchell Families!

On Nov. 17, PTSA partnered with United Way of Racine County and Extended Learning to offer our second Mom and Me event. Families were able to make windchimes, decorate cookies and had a night of fun! Funds raised from this event help support Mitchell students by adding to the amount classes can request for field trips or other classroom needs.

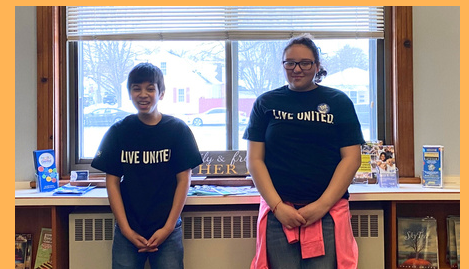
Meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month. For any questions or to join, please email [mitchellschoolPTSA@gmail.com](mailto:mitchellschoolPTSA@gmail.com).

Thanks!

Ashlee Tonar, PTSA President

### Youth As Resources

The Youth As Resources (YAR) Board is accepting applications for YAR grants. Youth groups interested in doing a service project in Racine County can apply for funding until March 8 at [unitedwayracine.org/YAR](https://unitedwayracine.org/YAR).



Email: [kmunoz@unitedwayracine.org](mailto:kmunoz@unitedwayracine.org) | Mitchell Office: (262)664.6413



# Mental Health Moment: Help Your Child Talk About Their Mental Health



**Julie Hueller**, Manager of Racine Collaborative for Children's Mental Health

## How Do I Know If My Child/Teen Has Depression?

Depression in children and teens can be a serious issue. According to Mental Health America, 16% of youths (ages 12-18) reported experiencing at least one episode of depression over the last year. Depression is one of the most common mental health issues in the United States. Depression is a mood disorder that causes sadness which can be present every day for 2 or more weeks. Children and teens may have difficulty talking about or describing how they feel. They may also try to hide how they are feeling because they don't want to bother or upset you. However, there are common symptoms that you may notice in your child that can help you start a conversation with them about how they are feeling. Here are some common symptoms that your child may be experiencing when they are having an issue with depression.

### The most common symptoms of depression are:

- They seem sad and irritable, and this has been present for at least 2 weeks.
- Loss of enjoyment in activities that used to make them happy.

### Other signs of depression you may notice:

- Struggling with schoolwork
- Spending more time alone and less time with friends
- Having a difficult time focusing
- Appearing to have less energy or motivation to complete simple tasks
- Cries more easily and expresses more guilt or worthlessness
- Change in sleep patterns (trouble sleeping or tired all day)
- Changes in eating patterns (eating too much or too little)
- Showing self-injury or self-destructive behaviors

### Teens may also experience these symptoms:

- Hopeless about their future
- Lacking interest in personal hygiene
- Engaging in substance use

Depression is treatable and the key is to notice symptoms early. If you have noticed some of these symptoms in your child that are lasting more than two weeks, the next step is to ask them about how they are feeling.

### Some simple conversation starts about mental health are:

- "How are you feeling?"
- "I've noticed you've been down lately, what's going on?"
- "Seems like you haven't been yourself lately."

It is very important to talk openly with your child about how they have been feeling. Encourage them to share their feelings with you. Asking a direct question is the best way for your child to open up about their feelings.

One tip for you as a parent is to listen without judgement to the concerns that your child is expressing to you. Don't minimize the feelings that your child is sharing with you.

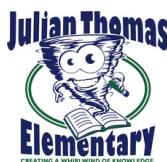
### What can I do if my child or teen seems depressed?

- If your child or teen report symptoms lasting more than 2 weeks, consult your child's doctor for an evaluation to determine if further treatment may be necessary.
- Another helping professional is your child's School Social Worker and Counselor. They can help with additional support and resources that are available in our community.
- Educate yourself about depression and community resources including mental health professionals that can help by visiting the Racine County Family Resource website at [www.RacineCountyFamilyResources.com](http://www.RacineCountyFamilyResources.com).

## Community Schools Quarterly Trivia

What is one of the community school pillars?

Submit your response to our trivia questions to <https://forms.gle/gZ9C8XaTRJhLvHye7> by Friday, Dec. 8, for a chance to win a special prize!



## A WORD FROM OUR PARTNERS

### FOCUS on Community

Focus on Community is bringing back some awesome programs to Knapp this year. The Families and Schools Together (FAST) program empowers parents and supports children's development. The Advancing Family Assets Program (AFA) offers one-on-one coaching and goal-setting. Social Emotional Learning provides weekly lessons on important topics, and the Opportunities Club and Strengthening Families programs are coming in the spring. For more info, contact K.C. Missall, Program Director at [kmissall@focusracine.org](mailto:kmissall@focusracine.org) or call/text 262-221-5552



### Carthage Collage Urban Teacher Preparation Program

The Carthage College Urban Teacher Preparation Program is a 4-year clinical model for education majors. Participants spend 3-4 years in the field under the guidance of a certified expert urban teacher. Experiences include co-teaching, tutoring, and relationship-building activities with students. Many of our participants are in Racine Unified School District elementary and middle schools. We are excited to extend this relationship with the partnership with the United Way. Participants volunteer at school community events to support the school community and have fun with students outside of the classroom. You will see Carthage students in the classrooms, hallways, and at school events. For more info, contact Siovahn Williams, Assistant Professor of Education, Master of Education Chair Director



### John 23 Educational Center

John 23 Educational Center is doing an amazing job this school year! They're helping students with academics, introducing new foods, and offering enrichment activities. Middle schoolers get support from Miss Dulce, while high schoolers have Miss Fatima and Mrs. Jordan. Thriving Thursdays are a hit with themed activities and yummy snacks. Register on their website, email [communication@john23center.org](mailto:communication@john23center.org) for questions, or scan the QR code below. Happy holidays! 🎄🎁



### Imagination Library

Imagination Library provides registered Racine County children under age five with one book in the mail each month at no cost to the household. The first book, "The Little Engine that Could," arrives approximately 90 days after registration. Books are carefully selected to be high-quality and age-appropriate. Sign up [here](#).

