



Blues teach hockey, donate equipment to school

McNair Elementary students recently were introduced to street hockey during a week-long program thanks to the St. Louis Blues and the team's Street Blues program. Students in 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade were given lessons in stick-handling, passing, and shooting and then competed in full games during P.E. class. P.E. teacher Nick Scott registered McNair for the program as a way to allow students to try something new. "I hope this gives our students an opportunity they may not have ever had," Scott said. As part of the program, the school received an entire set of hockey sticks, goalie pads and masks, and two goals, allowing McNair to incorporate hockey into its P.E. curriculum in the future. "I think it's very important to get our students involved in our community and to have our community involved with our students," Scott said.

ALUMNI STORY

Healthcare Careers

Stacie Gorden, LPC



Where do you work? I am the owner, clinical director and counselor at Of A Sound Mind Counseling.

Where did you go to school? I graduated from Hazelwood East High School and earned a Bachelor of Liberal Arts from UMKC, Kansas City, MO, a Master of

Business Administration from Fontbonne University in St. Louis and a Master of Arts in Counseling from Lindenwood University in St. Louis.

What does a licensed professional counselor do?

A part of my practice is going into the schools and working with students on any mental health issues they may be going through. This could include learning how to manage stressors, working on communication skills, or dealing with traumas they may have endured. We utilize individual sessions, mediation, and even role play.

Why did you choose this career? The career actually chose me; it was not on my radar at all. I was divinely shown that I could take my natural ability to listen and help others work through things, and utilize that to support those in need.

What is your favorite part of the job you have?

I love being able to work with our community and educate them on taking care of their mental health. I also enjoy encouraging, motivating, and helping people understand that no matter what they are going through, or how bad it may seem, to never give up, THERE IS HOPE!!!

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COMMUNITY NEWS



Supplying the tools to learn



Since 2002, KidSmart has been able to provide over \$17 million dollars-worth of free school supplies in the St. Louis area.

Submitted photo

Hazelwood-based KidSmart brings school supplies into over 3,000 underserved classrooms in need

By Charlotte Beard

KidSmart, currently based out of Hazelwood, is the only free educational supply store in Missouri and it was started back in 2002 by Jennifer Miller. Jill Laux, Director of Charitable Giving for the organization states that it is operated by five employees with the help of a host of volunteers and sponsors.

"Jennifer was a teacher in the Rockwood School District," stated Laux of the founder, "and was so blown away by the fact that she had many students coming to class without school supplies - they didn't even have the tools that are essential for learning. She was experiencing this in her own classroom and felt this passion and need to be able to provide her students with school supplies that they needed. That (passion) transformed into

figuring out that right now there are over 90,000 children in St. Louis that do not have school supplies. That's enough to fill Busch Stadium twice."

Laux shared that since 2002, Miller has been able to provide over \$57 million dollars-worth of free school supplies in the St. Louis area.

"We rely heavily on our volunteer staff, which is amazing, and donors in the St. Louis area. We've got corporate volunteers and individual volunteers that (in) what they bring to the table is mind blowing - it's awesome."

Volunteers come to KidSmart's warehouse to help in various ways not limited to unloading, packing and stocking school supplies.

Laux stated, "We also have corporate vol-

unteers who show up at the schools with us to deliver supplies to the kids. In 2018 we pushed into almost 3,000 classrooms; we were able to bring free school supplies directly into these classrooms."

"This school delivery program that KidSmart began last year, On the Go!, is one of their eight programs and partnerships. It is a partnership with Kids Vision for Life and AmeriCorps VISTA. The program's truck takes its services on the road to classrooms. A day is coordinated with each school KidSmart sponsors for the weekly program.

"In 2018, we also launched pop-up shops because we've seen that teachers love that

See SUPPLYING page 2

FRONT PAGE STORY
Confirmed with
Jessica Murphy at
KidSmart, these
photos were taken
at Keeven, Jana
and Brown.

Around Town



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Weather

FRIDAY
Mostly Sunny
24/18

SATURDAY
Chance of Snow
29/17

SUNDAY
Mostly Sunny
29/21

FIRST WARNING WEATHER
prepared by meteorologist Nick
Pulich. For the latest updates
visit www.jaxbook.com/kidswz

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COMMUNITY NEWS

'SUPPLYING' from cover

experience," Laux shared of the initiative that uses approximately 100 volunteers. "We would just show up at one of our corporate sponsors' parking lots and in three hours we were able to distribute about \$300,000 worth of school supplies."

Crafts with Conviction, another of KidSmart's programs, utilizes over 1,000 offenders in Missouri correctional facilities every year who donate over 500,000 hours of their time to create educational and learning materials.

"Crafts with Conviction is something we do with the Missouri Department of Corrections," stated Laux. "We have inmates working on projects for us. Some of them have told us that they enjoy working on these projects for kids because they think [their] child may be getting to use some of (the) things that (they're) making. It's been a really important project for us."

Laux shared that any school that is 70 percent free or reduced lunch, is state certified, and has a self-contained classroom teacher, is eligible for KidSmart. The organization currently provides school supplies to 161 schools in the St. Louis area. The goal is to expand regionally.

"We have found that the need is great in a lot of rural areas and across the state in general," stated Laux.

Though KidSmart's current exact location is undisclosed to the general public, the organization is working on buying a building that will have a giant warehouse at which teachers can "shop" free for their students. A big capital campaign is underway to raise money for the building initiative.

"School supplies are consumable," stated Laux. "(Kids) may go through a couple pencils in one month. A lot of times people will focus on that back-to-school time, but we find that teachers really need us in January, and February because



the glue sticks have been gone through and the crayons are gone. So, it's a constant need. The mobile way of delivering the supplies to the school can be costly. We're always looking for underwriting sponsors."

One of the biggest ways that KidSmart is financially supported, enabling them to provide school supplies for kids, is through Joe Buck's annual back-to-school celebrity event. Plans are currently underway for the annual event.

Laux stated, "We run on donations and volunteer efforts. We truly believe that education is the way to break the cycle of poverty. So, if there are individuals, organizations or corporate groups that want to donate or be a part of volunteering for KidSmart, we would love to have them."

KidSmart may be contacted at info@kidsmartstl.org or by phone at 314-291-6211. Donations or volunteer sign-up is also available on their website: <https://kidsmartstl.org/volunteer>.

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'Street Blues' program brings street hockey to McNair Elementary

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At the end of the lessons, students were able to take what they had learned and compete in full games against one another.

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them to enjoy P.E. and the different sports P.E. encompasses."

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The Street Blues initiative began in 2015 as a way to get St. Louis-area students introduced to and interested in playing hockey.

Scott said it's a great opportunity to provide an experience for students, get active, and partner with the community.

"I think it's very important to get our students involved in our community and to have our community involved with our students," he said. "The St. Louis Blues are an amazing organization that always wants to give back."



Photo courtesy Hazelwood School District

McNair P.E. teacher Nick Scott works with students on their passing skills

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FRONT PAGE



Members of the Blues Street Team visited **McNair Elementary** on Jan. 7 to start a week-long program of teaching street hockey during P.E. class. (Full story and more photos on page 10.)

Four East High School Reps Awarded Drum Major Award

Four representatives of Hazelwood East High School received the MLK Drum Major of Service Award on Sunday, Jan. 20 during a Justice Sunday Observance of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

East High School principal Chauncey Granger, business education teacher Robert Payne, school safety officer Daymon McGhee, and parent Mrs. Maye Walter were all recognized.

The award recognizes an individual's commitment and service to their community; all four recipients were selected by Hazelwood School District administration.

Justice Sunday is an annual event for the National Alliance of Faith and Justice in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and his life of service to others.

Hazelwood School District Support Staff of the Year Announced

The Hazelwood School District 2018-2019 Support Staff of the Year recipients have been chosen. "Our support staff are vital to the mission of Hazelwood School District and helping to provide a safe and supportive learning environment," Superintendent Nettie Collins-Hart said. "It is with great pride we recognize these individuals whose contributions influence students, teachers, and administrators every single day."

Support Staff of the Year Recipients:

Security

- Ladonna Vaughn

Social Worker

- Carla Sheppard (North Middle School)

Nurse

- Dee Davis (West High School)

Maintenance

- Christopher Kahl

Transportation

- Denise Jennings

Food Service

- Christine Dalton (Grannemann and Keeven Elementary)

Custodial

- Martel Coleman (East High School)

- David Mann (Garrett Elementary)

Teacher Assistant/Building Aide

- Nathaniel Williams (Larimore Elementary)

- Lisa Hackmeister (McNair Elementary)

Clerical

- Alecia White (District Communications)

- Keisha Jackson (Arrowpoint Elementary)

- Paula Manis (West High School)

Christian Hospital Foundation Awards Scholarships to 4 Local Students

The Christian Hospital Foundation hosted its second annual "Embracing the Dream – The Beloved Community" Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration Luncheon on Friday, Jan. 18, from 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. in the Detrick Building Atrium, 11133 Dunn Rd. The sold out event was a celebration of inspiration, hope and healing for the community. Rev. Dr. William J. Barber II, president of Repairers of the Breach, was the keynote speaker; and Evangelist Mary Tillman, "Your" Radio Angel 95.5 FM, served as mistress of ceremonies.

Scholarships were awarded at the celebration to the following

local students, who were selected by their school districts:

- Lauryl Forrest, Ferguson-Florissant School District
- Carlenzia Gilbert, Hazelwood School District
- Taylor Edwards, Trinity Catholic High School
- Kyle Shaw, St. Louis Community College-Florissant Valley

Drum Major for Service Awards were also given out to honor unsung individuals who have given their time, talents and treasure in service of justice and equality.

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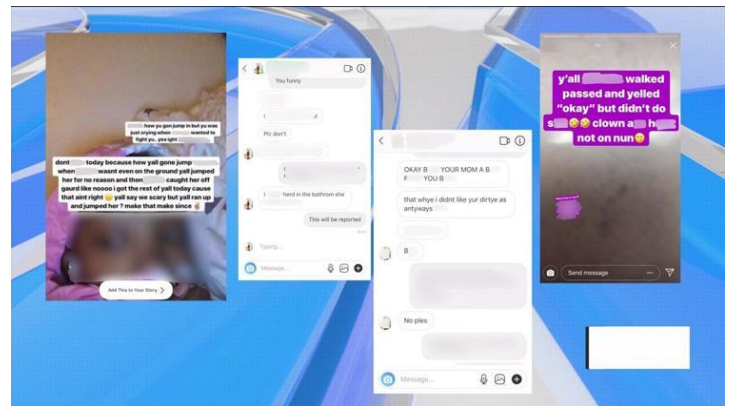


McNair P.E. teacher Nick Scott works with students on their passing skills.





'What is happening is outside of the school property;' North County district official addresses concerns about cyberbullying



HAZELWOOD (KMOV.com) - Tia Wade says her daughter has had suicidal thoughts as a direct result of cyberbullying at her school, Hazelwood Northwest Middle.

"It's been rough, it's been depressing," said Wade.

Wade is one of at least four parents who reached out to News 4 after we reported on [concerns](#) over online bullying among students.

"The whole Hazelwood School District has a problem with cyberbullying," said Wade.

News 4 wanted to address the issue with the district's Superintendent, Dr. Nettie Collins Hart. She declined an interview but the district released the following statement:

"The Hazelwood School District does not condone bullying or cyberbullying, and any statement regarding or relating to these issues is taken seriously and investigated accordingly. In response to concerns raised at Northwest Middle School, school administration has followed district behavior policy and taken disciplinary action in line with these policies. The school also has provided additional intervention including counseling for students focused on conflict mediation."

Hazelwood School Board President Mark Behlmann says the district is taking action to control cyber bullies at the school.

"What is happening is outside of the school property, kids are doing the cyberbullying, whether it's in the morning or in the evening," said Behlmann.

Behlmann says the assistant superintendents have been tasked to address the problem and that the school board will address this when it meets in February.

https://www.kmov.com/news/what-is-happening-is-outside-of-the-school-property-north/article_5a400188-1f86-11e9-900d-ebceda71a3e2.html