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2023 - 2024 SCHOOL YEAR

# NEWSLETTERS



During the school year, WITS Program Coordinators keep parents and teachers updated with program highlights by sending out WITS Newsletters. Here are some of our favorite newsletters from the past school year.

Visit [witschicago.org/programs](https://witschicago.org/programs) for more information about WITS programs.



# WITS NEWSLETTER

[COOK ELEMENTARY] | [GROSVENOR WPM] | [4/9/2024]

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## Program Updates

We are delighted to share the latest highlights from our WITS program at Grosvenor this year! Students and mentors have had a great time bonding over program activities, homework help, and shared reading. Pairs have been reading non-fiction books about animals, graphic novels such as *Dog Man*, and the all-time favorite, *Diary of a Wimpy Kid*!

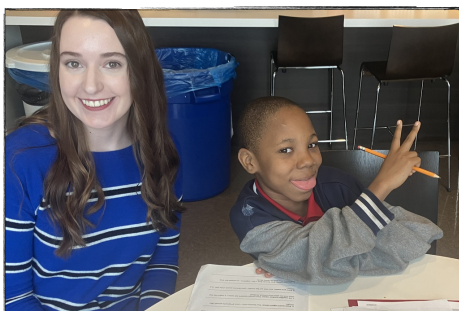


## Student Mentor Spotlight

Meet reading pair Anayla and Ally! They are currently reading *Diary of a Wimpy Kid: The Third Wheel* by Jeff Kinney. Anayla and Ally both love the color purple. If Anayla had a superpower it would be mindreading while Ally's would be flying. Anayla admires Ally's "personality, kindness, and...everything!" Ally admires Anayla's "energy and fun personality. She is fun, smart, and kind!"

## Favorite Thing About WITS

When asked what their favorite thing about WITS was, students replied that they enjoyed talking to their mentors, playing games, reading together, completing word puzzles, and learning new things. Oh, and they also love the snacks!



## Learn More

At WITS, part of our mission is to empower Chicago elementary students to discover themselves through reading. Visit [witschicago.org/blog](https://witschicago.org/blog) to read more about how literacy programs help students succeed.

Please contact Jessica Gilliam at [jessica@witschicago](mailto:jessica@witschicago) with any questions.





## Program Updates

We are delighted to share the latest highlights from our WITS program at Deloitte, where students and mentors come together to embark on exciting reading adventures. Our friends from Chavez Elementary have been particularly enjoying graphic novels and books about coding! Before the reading begins, pairs take part in warm-up activities like scattergories and Rebus puzzles.



## Favorite Things about WITS

When asked what their favorite thing about WITS was, students replied that they enjoyed the warm-up activities, snacks, and spending time with friends. However, the resounding favorite among students was their mentors. This dedicated group of volunteers brings invaluable support and guidance, providing students with a full hour of personalized 1-on-1 attention. We're immensely grateful for their commitment and involvement in WITS.



## Learn More

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Please contact Victoria Larson at [victoria@witschicago.org](mailto:victoria@witschicago.org) with any questions

# WITS NEWSLETTER

[ DRAKE ELEMENTARY ] | [ MID-DAY MENTORING ] | [ APRIL 2024 ]



## Program Updates

Dear Parents and Guardians! It has been a pleasure to have your child in the WITS program this year. Throughout the year, our students and mentors have cherished their time together, bonding over shared conversations and the joy of reading. After winter break, I introduced Reading BINGO to the students. This has been a fantastic way to encourage students to explore a wide range of books, spanning various genres, authors, and stories, all while earning prizes. It has been a pleasure seeing students come up to the book bins and dive into books of their interest. Some of these series include: Princess in Black, The Lunchlady, Lil Shaq. etc.



## Student Mentor Spotlight



Meet Jayda and Samira! Jayda and Samira are currently reading *Jada Jones: Rockstar* by Kelly Standing Lyons. Jayda and Samira both have pets at home. If Jayda were to have a superpower it would be flying and invisibility. Samira would like to be a shapeshifter. Jayda admires that her mentor is pretty! Samira enjoys working with Jayda! Samira states that Jayda is a sweet child, and it's been fun getting to learn about her personality and watching her blossom into a strong, confident reader!



Please contact: Tra'Lisha Renteria at [tralishar@witschicago.org](mailto:tralishar@witschicago.org) with any questions.







## Program Updates

We are delighted to share the latest highlights from our WITS program at Harrison Street, where students and mentors come together to embark on exciting reading adventures. Our friends from Everett Elementary have been particularly enjoying *Diary of a Wimpy Kid*, the *Dog Man* series, and books about space! Mentors are more than happy to take turns reading out loud and allowing their partner to read to them.

Additionally, we welcomed a new student last week! Ariana and her mentor Caroline bonded over having pets and their love for crafts.



Ariana + Caroline



## Favorite Thing About WITS

When asked what their favorite thing about WITS was, students replied that they enjoyed reading, playing games, getting help with homework, and their mentors themselves. The group of mentors at Harrison Street are dedicated and consistent. One student replied that their favorite thing about WITS “is the people who take care of us”.



## Learn More

At WITS, part of our mission is to empower Chicago elementary students to discover themselves through reading. Visit [witschicago.org/blog](https://witschicago.org/blog) to read more about how literacy programs help students succeed.



Please contact Victoria Larson at [victoria@witschicago.org](mailto:victoria@witschicago.org) with any questions

# WITS NEWSLETTER

[BROWN S.T.E.M MAGNET] | [MID-DAY MENTORING] | [APRIL 2024]

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## Student Mentor Spotlight

Meet DaJohn and Jessi! They are currently reading *Tag Team Warriors*. DaJohn and Jessie both enjoy cooking. If DaJohn could have any superpower it would be invisibility and Jessie would want super speed. Jessie admires how smart and hardworking DaJohn is and DaJohn likes that his mentor is tall.



LITERACY IS A WORLD OF VARIOUS JOURNEYS AND WHAT I LIKE MOST ABOUT IT IS THAT PEOPLE ARE WITH YOU. MS. ALFRED

Please contact: Tra'Lisha Renteria at [tralishar@witschicago.org](mailto:tralishar@witschicago.org) with any questions.





# WITS NEWSLETTER

[MINNIE MIÑOSO ACADEMY] | [WORKPLACE MENTORING] | [MAY 2024]

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## Program Updates

Our Workplace Mentoring program between Minnie Miñoso Academy and Credit Suisse has been very exciting. Every Tuesday at 3 pm, our students meet with their mentors who are always ready to read and share with them. We've had several successful activities in the program, including '3 Words, One Picture,' Monster Match, Instascene, and Charades. Minoso's students enjoy geography books, especially those related to Italy. They also love horror stories based on real events. They're fans of 'Baby Sitter' and 'Twins,' Weird but True, as well as non-fiction books, and National Geographic's animal books. It has been a great experience for both students and mentors to choose books and develop relationships while learning from each other.



Areli, Brianna & Liz



## Student Mentor Spotlight

All mentors have stood out for their commitment to their students. Let's meet Liz Karnick, who works with Brianna and Areli. Currently, they are reading 'Twins.' They share brown eyes. If Areli had a superpower, it would be mind-reading. Brianna's superpower would be mind control, and Liz's superpower would be to blink and have everything clean. Brianna and Areli appreciate that Liz is welcoming, smart and gives good advice. Liz admires that Briana is outgoing and friendly and that Arely is loyal and warm inviting. Let's also get to know Lillian, Camden and Joyce. Despite transitioning to a new student and mentors, they have adapted well. They enjoy being part of WITS and discussing various topics, especially from the book 'Weird but True'.



## Other Highlights

The WITS program will continue for more weeks until May 14th. In the meantime, we'll enjoy new activities, conversations, and time together.

If you want to learn more about WITS, visit [www.witschicago.org](http://www.witschicago.org).



Please contact Estefania Rodriguez at [estefania@witschicago.org](mailto:estefania@witschicago.org) with any questions.



## Program Updates

Dear Parents and Guardians! It has been a pleasure to have your child in the WITS program this year. Throughout the year, our students and mentors have cherished their time together, bonding over shared conversations, homework help, and the joy of reading. The students are reading a variety of books that range from graphic novels to chapter books. I look forward to the last several weeks of program with both the scholars and the mentors.



## Student Mentor Spotlight

Meet Jazmine and Jackie! Jazmine and Jackie are currently reading *A Series of Unfortunate Events: A Reptile Room* by Lemony Snicket. Jazmine and Jackie both enjoy reading, music, and seafood. If Jazmine could have any superpower it would be to cast magic and Jackie would like to teleport anywhere and see into the future. Jazmine admires that Jackie is talkative and gives her cards. Jackie says that Jazmine has a kind and genuine personality.



Please contact: Tra'Lisha Renteria at [tralishar@witschicago.org](mailto:tralishar@witschicago.org) with any questions.



# WITS NEWSLETTER



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[DRAKE ELEMENTARY] | [WORKPLACE MENTORING] | [APRIL 2024]

## Program Updates

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## Student Mentor Spotlight

Meet Kylee and Emily! Kylee and Emily are currently reading *Timmy Failure "We Meet Again"* by Stepan Pastis. Kylee and Emily both enjoy R&B artist SZA. Kylee likes that Emily shows up and has a lot of energy. Emily noted that Kylee inspires her. Emily admires her energy and friendliness and she looks forward to every week meeting with Kylee.



Please contact: Tra'Lisha Renteria at [tralishar@witschicago.org](mailto:tralishar@witschicago.org) with any questions.

# WITS NEWSLETTER

[HOLDEN] | [WORKPLACE MENTORING] | [MAY 2024]

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## Program Updates

The program at Holden Elementary School and FactSet takes place every Wednesday at 3:30 pm. Students come to downtown Chicago to meet with their mentors and read. The books that students enjoy the most include "Weird but True," "Diary of a Wimpy Kid," "Cats vs Dogs," "Red Panda + Moon Bear," and many books about dinosaurs and animals from National Geographic. The activities that both mentors and students have liked the most are charades, Monster Match, and Scategories. Additionally, we organize Switch Days, where mentors visited Holden Elementary School and received a warm welcome from Principal Mr. Patsiopoulos and the entire school community. During the visit, they learned that Holden is the only public school in Chicago with its own recording studio. Everyone was so excited that time flew by as they explored and interacted with the students. Both students and mentors enjoy being part of the program, having a dedicated time each week for learning and fun in a supportive environment.



Desirea & Jana



## Student Mentor Spotlight

Today, we'll get to know Desirea and her mentors, Jana and Maria. They recently finished reading the book "Red Panda & Moon Bear," and Desirea described it as one of her favorite books here at WITS. She truly enjoyed reading it because it was very interesting. If Desirea had a superpower, she would choose teleportation, while Jana's superpower is empathy. Jana and Maria admire Desirea for her positivity, kindness, perseverance, and determination. In turn, Desirea admires her mentors for always being willing to help and for their fun personalities.

All the mentors in the program have made students want to come back every week, enjoying their company and the good books they share.



Please contact Estefania Rodriguez at [estefania@witschicago.org](mailto:estefania@witschicago.org) with any questions.