

# Head of the School Lines

Save the Date:

*Halloween Parade, Oct. 31<sup>st</sup> at 1:00pm*



**Welcome, Ms. Dodis!**



Our new Middle School Math and Technology Educator, Ms. Dodis, started the school year literally, with her engine running! A former engine controls engineer for Wabtec, this Northern Illinois University graduate and certified teacher looks forward to the adventures ahead with our MS students.

## *The Value of Play*

Do you remember your first set of LEGOS? Perhaps you had a large group of Duplos or maybe you played with your sibling's pirate set. Regardless of your age, you likely have a link to LEGO, Lincoln Logs or erector sets. What is it about construction and design that captures the interest of generation-after-generation? At EDS, we tend to break it down into 8 core areas of appeal for children and adults alike. They are as follows:

- 1 - **Creativity and imagination:** LEGO sets provide a blank canvas for us to create anything we can imagine. This freeform play encourages creativity and innovation as we design and construct shapes, figures, anything!
- 2 - **Problem-solving skills:** Building with LEGO sets challenge us to think critically and solve problems. Using building blocks, we must figure out how to assemble complex structures and this can be very cathartic.
- 3 - **Persistence and patience:** Building can be a test of patience for all. We may need to disassemble and rebuild our creations to achieve the desired outcome. This teaches perseverance and the value of learning from mistakes.
- 4 - **Stress reduction:** Playing with LEGOs can be a soothing and meditative experience. It helps us relax, focus, and switch off from the outside world.
- 5 - **Fine motor skills:** Manipulating the toys offers precise hand-eye coordination and fine motor skills. This can be especially beneficial for younger children who are developing these essential abilities.
- 6 - **Math and science concepts:** LEGOs introduce basic math and science concepts as children count and group pieces, create patterns, and experiment with principles like balance and stability.
- 7 - **Teamwork and social skills:** Building blocks of any type offer a collaborative activity. When children work together to construct, they develop teamwork, communication, and negotiation skills as they share ideas and resources.
- 8 - **Self-Esteem and confidence:** Completing a project can boost a child's self-esteem and confidence. It shows that with effort and determination, goals are achieved!

Ultimately, we ask that parents value the skills developed through play - of any type - recognizing these 'building blocks' can support careers in engineering, architecture, design and beyond! Take time from your scheduled events and affairs to break open the LEGOS and see where your child's imagination takes you!

Yours in education,  
Karen

**Congratulations to our newly elected LEGO LEAGUE  
ROBOTICS TEAM! Enjoy your trip to Acutec Precision  
Aerospace today!**