

# CRAIN'S

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### INFO JUNKIE



**Jane Mentzinger, 49**, is executive director of *Communities in Schools of Chicago*, a non-profit that coordinates arts, health and violence-prevention programs in city public schools. Her lesson plan:

**NPR** gets her out of bed, to work and home again. "It gives me the widest range of issues: local, national and international." Reads the *Tribune* and *Sun-Times* front to back. Evenings, it's "**Chicago Tonight**" on WTTW-TV/Channel 11, the "**PBS NewsHour**" and NBC's "**Nightly News with Brian Williams**."

**District 299**, a blog carried on ChicagoNow.com, gives "the unofficial inside scoop" on Chicago schools. "There might be other sources that are more objective—but it doesn't present itself as being objective."

"**Naked Economics**" by Charles Wheelan was "Econ 101, but really fun."



**Kickback TV: ESPN** (a college basketball fan, she also plays golf and tennis), AMC's "**Mad Men**" and reruns of "**The West Wing**." She spent 17 years working in Washington, D.C., for lobbying group Common Cause, so "it's interesting to see the parallels." Another favorite: "**Antiques Roadshow**" on PBS. "It's an oral history. I love hearing the stories."



A single mom to 4-year-old Tomas, adopted from Guatemala in 2006, she likes **Adoptive Families** magazine for news as well as articles on topics like talking to kids about adoption. Kid reading list: anything **Dr. Seuss** and superheroes.

Laughs out loud at **Stephanie Plum** mysteries by Janet Evanovich. Inspired by "**My Life in France**," Julia Child's memoir of "a great, strong, independent woman and her great relationship." Enjoyed the movie "**Julie & Julia**," but "the book was better."



*Christina Le Beau*