

SIX TIMES

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF SPECIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 6

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IB World Schools District**



SPRING ISSUE | FEBRUARY 2014

ENGINEERS IN THE MAKING AT LINCOLN CENTER



Mrs. Niederkorn's second grade class at Lincoln Center has been working on the Unit of Inquiry: "How the World Works." Students have been learning about different types of engineering. They discovered that an engineer has to work in a team to ask questions, plan, create, test and improve what they are working on. The students have also been learning about how motion and force can change the way things move and can sometimes cause an engineer to change a plan he/she may have had.

The class had a great opportunity to invite guest speakers to come and talk to students about engineering. The first guests were engineers from Aecom Engineering and they shared all the different kinds of engineers one can be and the jobs that different engineers do. Students were very excited as the engineers showed pictures of projects or buildings they have helped design. Students were familiar with some of the projects such as the Regions Hospital building and the Green Line light rail. At the end of the presentation, students participated in an experiment showing how force can impact a bridge.

The second guest speaker was very special because he is a recent South St. Paul High School graduate, Jacob Gustafson, who is currently attending the University of Minnesota to become



South St. Paul graduate, Jacob Gustafson, answering questions.

an engineer. He answered questions about what he is learning and shared the projects he worked on in class. With all the new knowledge about the engineering process, motion and force, the second graders were ready to build their own bridges.

Students were put into "engineering teams" and as teams, they decided what kind of bridge they wanted to build and what materials they would need to build it. With the guest speakers' advice, students made a plan, designed the bridge, gathered materials and using teamwork, built the bridge. They

discovered that, like real engineers, some of their designs needed to be changed and improved. In the end, they made some amazing bridges that held up against force and motion. It was amazing to hear students' conversations and discussions such as "we need to add more beams because the span is too big and when the force is on it, than it won't hold up" or "hey, why don't we try this." Their enthusiasm and excitement about learning was contagious and I am sure we have a few new engineers in the making!

SMITH QUALIFIES FOR STATE BPA



The South St. Paul Chapter of Business Professionals of America participated in the Region 2 Competition on January 9 at Century College. South St. Paul members competed in Interview Skills, Banking and Finance, and Prepared Speech.

Sophomore Logan Smith placed 4th in Extemporaneous Speech. Logan will now compete at the State Leadership Conference on March 6-8 at the Minneapolis Hyatt.

GOOD LUCK LOGAN!

BOOK AUTHOR INSPIRES STUDENTS AT KAPOSIA



Eric Odie playing guitar for the class.

Kaposia Education Center proudly hosted author, singer, and songwriter, Eric Odie. He is the author of several books for children, including *Dan the Taxi Man* and *The Boy and the Dragon*. Mr. Odie lives in Washington, but travels with his guitar, pirate hat, and tambourine to bring children and families an interactive connection to literacy.

This energy-filled Literacy Event included a second grade assembly, second and third grade classroom visits, and an evening family program available for the whole school. Throughout the day, students listened to lively and engaging stories, learned how creative ideas are generated for writing, gained a better understanding of the writing process, and even wrote and performed their own class-created blues songs.

The students greatly valued this unique and inspiring experience, and they are actively applying writing and reading concepts to the Unit of Inquiry: "How We Express Ourselves." This event was generously supported by the South St. Paul Educational Foundation.

IMPROVING STUDENT LITERACY WITH PHYSICAL ACTIVITIES



Mr. Moore of Lincoln Center working with student.

South St. Paul Public Schools recently acquired money through a grant from the county that allows for implementation of programs that increase physical activity and nutrition awareness. A strategy we will be implementing is incorporating fitness into our academic teaching. Studies show that preparing the brain with specific movements may improve communication from one part of the brain to another.

We are happy to announce the implementation of a program that will do just that. Starting the first week in February, two mornings a week for a half hour, Mr. Moore at Lincoln Center Elementary, and Dianne Spannbauer and Erin Gross at Kaposia Education Center will implement the *Physical Activity to Improve Literacy Program*. This program will review reading, writing and spelling content through movement. This has been found to be an ideal way to review skills, and the retention of skills improves. Teaching new content through movement will help many students understand and retain information.

Engaging students in movement while learning will help build better bodies and minds. Making another connection and building a relationship with another adult in the building is a proven way to enhance the desire to learn. This is just another way of reaching our students and encouraging them to grow in their educational process!

UPDATES ON CONSTRUCTION



Lincoln Center Elementary

As you may have noticed, vertical construction has started for the three-classroom addition at Lincoln Center Elementary. The brutal cold snaps seem to be coming at a rapid pace, but we are pleased to report that the construction projects are still on schedule and not experiencing any delays. We anticipate completing all construction at the Lincoln Center site, with the exception of the resurfacing of the track, by mid-summer. We are anticipating the track project to be completed in mid-August.



Kaposia Education Center

Similar to Lincoln, we are also pleased to report that we are on schedule with construction at Kaposia Education Center. At this site, we are building a six-classroom addition which will host our expanded early learning programs for the upcoming school year. We are set to complete all construction work by mid-summer at Kaposia.

Secondary Building

All the interior plans for the Secondary Building construction project are being finalized. We anticipate opening bids for the Secondary Building project on April 8. Once the school year is completed, we will immediately begin our Secondary Building project starting with the sixth grade center which will be located directly between our auditorium and our current seventh and eighth grade classrooms.

PEACEJAM FUN AND LEADERSHIP



Courtesy photo: Polar Bear Plunge 2013

PeaceJam at Lincoln Center has been very busy this school year! In the fall, PeaceJam participated in the Special Olympics of Minnesota Unified Sports State Bowling Tournament. Our athletes and their partners bowled well and had a wonderful time. Our PeaceJammers were able to celebrate inclusivity through competitive sports and spread the word of respect for our friends with intellectual disabilities.

Currently, the Lincoln Center PeaceJam is preparing for another leap into the very cold waters of Lake Calhoun for the 2014 Special Olympics Polar Bear Plunge! If you would like to support our team and this terrific event and organization, please visit our team website at www.plungemn.org/team/peacejamplungers. We have a current goal of raising nearly

\$5,000 (last year we raised \$3,000) and are a little more than 25% of the way there! Send us warm thoughts on February 28!

The Friday following the plunge, we will be learning from and with Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Leymah Gbowee of Liberia at the Nobel Peace Prize Forum at Augsburg College. This is an inspirational and educational event in which young people are able to learn leadership skills from each other and world leaders. It promises to be a very exciting opportunity!

If you have questions about PeaceJam at Lincoln Center, please contact Aric Babbitt at ababbitt@sspps.org. Aric Babbitt and Laurie Callies lead the fifth and sixth grade PeaceJam group and Heather Gysbers and Janet Nelson lead the fourth grade PeaceJam group.

“GEO BEE” COMPETITION WINNERS



Congratulations to all the students who participated! Throughout the weeks of preparation, they truly showed what it means to be PYP students!

Left to Right:
Emma Bauer [3rd Place],
Allison Benning [1st Place],
Sam Dwelle [2nd Place]

Sixteen students at Lincoln Center recently competed in the National Geographic School Level “Geo Bee.” These students spent 10 weeks studying various themes of geography.

On January 15, they put their knowledge to the test as they answered questions in seven preliminary rounds. The questions ranged from multiple choice questions on United States geography to open-ended questions about all the countries of the world! Nine students went on to compete in the Final Competition.

The competition continued until the Championship Round when Allison Benning took the lead. The next step was for her to take a 75 question paper-pencil qualifying test that was submitted to National Geographic to determine which students in Minnesota will move on to the state-level competition.

ACTIVE LEARNING



Fifth Graders at Lincoln Center recently finished a unit on Environments and Ecosystems. Our students used water tables on loan from the Science Museum of MN to learn about the effects of dams on an ecosystem.

The tables were a replica of the Elwha River and we learned how environmental engineers studied and worked to remove the real Elwha Dam with as little damage to the environment as possible.

ACTION SUPERHEROS



In the middle of January, Kaposia Education Center recognized students who are showing action by consistently living the Learner Profile.

**inquirers
thinkers**

**knowledgeable
communicators**

**risk-takers
open-minded**

**caring
balanced**

Students in grades K-2 receive Action Superhero Awards. The award winners receive a certificate and their picture is placed on a “Principled Kid” logo on a wall in the office. These students also receive capes and may wear them throughout the day. Monthly Wall of Fame awards are given out to students in grades 3-6. These students also receive a certificate, and their pictures are hung in a hallway near the office. The following K-2 grade students were nominated by their teacher and were awarded an Action Superhero Award.

Jaydan – nominated by Mrs. Meister
Avari – nominated by Ms. Larson
Nathan – nominated by Mrs. Troup

Kaylee – nominated by Ms. Sawyer
Leo – nominated by Mrs. Gross
Mia – nominated by Mrs. Anderson

SPECIAL EDUCATION PARA EDUCATORS SHARE STRATEGIES THROUGH TRAINING



South St. Paul Special Education Para Educators are never in the same place at the same time, unless school is closed and they come together for three days of training, sharing and so much more!

Para Educators serve a diverse role in our school community. Though specific duties and student service needs vary, each is an essential member of the educational team in our schools. Not only do they contribute significantly to the academic progress of students but they also play a big part in increasing the

social and emotional success of students. Their duties include bus monitoring, classroom support, mobility, recess and lunch assistance as well as checking in with our students throughout the day - always with the goal of helping students be the best they can be.

During the January training days, the repeating theme was how much Para Educators enjoy their jobs and the students and staff they work with. Para Educators who had been in the District 30 years to four weeks shared strategies that work, challenges they face, and successes they hold dear. Para Educators explored technology - Google drive, Google apps, viewed online video training, as well as made therapy and curriculum materials.

Thanks to some cold, cold weather, Para Educators have even more skills to meet the needs of South St. Paul students.

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

We are looking forward to having your child attend Kindergarten for the 2014-15 school year. It is always an exciting time for children when they start school for the first time.

If you missed Kindergarten Registration, please know that it is mandatory by Minnesota state law that all children entering Kindergarten complete the Early Childhood Development Screening.

If your child has not completed the screening, please call Family Connections at 651-306-3602 to set up an appointment.

Please note that children must be five years old on or before September 1, 2014, to attend Kindergarten this fall.

Forms that must be filled out and returned before school begins.

- Copy of Child's Birth Certificate
- Immunization Records
- Early Childhood Development Screening Validation
- Enrollment Card
- Student Enrollment Paperwork

If you have questions or need student enrollment papers, please contact Lincoln Center at 651-457-9426 or Kaposia Education Center at 651-451-9260.

KINDERGARTEN ROYALTY



Kaposia Education Center has royalty in one of their Kindergarten classes. Alexis Coffey-Reis, a student in Mary Molumby's class, was knighted by the 2014 St. Paul Winter Carnival's Vulcans on January 29, 2014.

The students enjoyed meeting the Vulcans and learning about their roles in the Winter Carnival. Hail to the Vulcans!

SECOND GRADERS LIVING BY EXAMPLE



Lilly Rosengren, Grace Campbell and Annie Felton ringing Salvation Army Bell



Group photo of Mrs. Niederkorn's class outside Neighbors Inc.



Mrs. Niederkorn's students wrapping gifts

Second graders at Lincoln Center have recently finished PYP Unit of Inquiry: "Where We Are in Place and Time." In this unit, students learned that role models make choices that will shape communities. Role models are also risk takers and have the courage to try and make a difference. Two groups of students decided to step up and be role models to the community.

Some of Mrs. Shubat's second graders braved the cold weather to ring the Salvation Army Bell at Cub Foods in Inver Grove Heights on December 16, 2013. Lilly Rosengren, Grace Campbell and Annie Felton were truly role models to their peers and community.

On the other hand, students in Mrs. Niederkorn's second grade class adopted a family from Neighbors for the holidays. Students worked to raise money for the gifts by doing chores at home. They met on a Monday night at the West St. Paul Target. These students were armed with a budget and calculators to make sure they didn't go over their budget. They shopped in teams for toys and clothing for the family. The gifts were wrapped the next day in class and students marched down to Neighbors Inc. to drop off the gifts. They were pleased and proud to be able to help a family in need have a happy holiday and to realize that even at age seven or eight they could be a role model too.

ELL CIVICS GRANT



South Suburban Adult Basic Education (SSABE) was awarded an ELL Civics Grant from the Minnesota Department of Education. The grant is for the purpose of "providing English language learning in the context of employment and the world of work, occupations, and employability skills, while integrating at least one of four civics concepts: naturalization, civic participation, U.S. History, and Government. Civics, for the purpose of this grant opportunity, focuses on the need for

limited English individuals to understand the world of work in Minnesota, which may include, but is not limited to, career choices and in-demand job opportunities, governmental and educational resources for employment and employment training, career pathway experiences, and other concepts that are employment and work-focused in nature."

SSABE received nearly \$40,000 to further its ability to assist students in developing their English and employment skills. This is a great opportunity to increase the impact education has on our local communities.

This grant allowed SSABE to purchase 20 ChromeBooks (personal computers developed by Google), along with a charging cart to be used by ELL students. The teachers use them to increase digital literacy skills as well as administering citizenship quizzes, creating PowerPoint presentations, researching colleges, searching for jobs and a lot more.

NEW FLEXIBLE OPTIONS THIS SUMMER FOR KIDS' CHOICE



Kids' Choice School-Age Care is offering new flexible schedules this summer at both elementary schools. Families can choose anywhere from one day a week to five, with options of full day care (6:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.) and half day care (6:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. or 12:30 to 6 p.m.). Drop-in options will also be available.

Summer programming registration begins on March 3. For more information regarding rates, registration and the summer activities calendar, visit www.spsac.tridistrictce.org or call 651-306-3631.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS RECEIVING GRANT FROM PEACEMAKER MN



The South St Paul School District is proud to accept \$37,000 in grant money from PeaceMaker MN to fund the Peace Guide positions at the elementary schools. Each elementary school received \$18,500 to pay for their Peace Guides and other peace-making programs. The Peace Guide positions were created for the schools through the South St Paul Restorative Justice Council (www.ssprj.org). The

Peace Guides are available daily during the lunch hours at both schools.

The guides assist the students with conflict resolution, respecting others, friendship issues, bullying, and offer a quiet place to talk and eat lunch. Students can come to the guides directly, or they can be referred by a teacher, administrator or other staff. Guides use common restorative practices in the Peace Room to facilitate conflict resolution. Once resolution is found, apologies are made and friendships are restored. The Guides are the first step in supporting our students and often eliminate the need for additional staff involvement. For more information or to make a donation, visit www.peacemaker.org

ADDITIONAL COMMUNITY PRESCHOOL CLASSES OFFERED FALL 2014



South St. Paul Community Preschool is excited to announce additional classes being offered for Fall, 2014. With the construction of extra classrooms at both elementary schools, preschool is offering five half days of preschool for children four years old by September 1, 2014. We are excited to enhance our current Four Start Parent Aware program that offers two, three and four days a week programming to three and four-year-olds with the addition of more classrooms for more preschoolers.

To learn more about schedules, cost and registration, visit www.sppreschool.tridistrictce.org or call 651-457-9418.

NEW THIS YEAR

Kids' Choice School-Age Care is offering Preschool Care as an option for children attending four year old preschool. For more detailed information on Preschool Care, please visit www.spsac.tridistrictce.org or call 651-306-3631.

PACKER PAD MOVING TO LINCOLN CENTER THIS SUMMER



Packer Pad is for students entering grades 6-8 and will be held at Lincoln Center this year, Monday - Thursday, from June 16-July 31. The program will open at 8 a.m. and close at 3:30 p.m. For more information, visit www.packerpad.tridistrictce.org.

ONCE A PACKER ALWAYS A PACKER!



Left to right: Jake Jensen, Tim Newstrom, Jack Bjorklund, Xavier Rhodes, Christopher Lambach

These young men graduated and played football for the South St. Paul High School Packers. These graduates are currently St. Scholastica College football players who captured the 2013 UMAC Conference Champs title and headed to the Division III playoffs.

DID YOU KNOW?

Justin Faulk, a current American professional ice hockey defenseman for the Carolina Hurricanes, is a former Packer.

Faulk was recently named to the 2014 USA Men's Olympic Hockey Team!

"TWELVE ANGRY JURORS"

South St. Paul High School Theatre is proud to present our Spring 2014 senior high play: **TWELVE ANGRY JURORS**. This play is adapted for the stage from the Emmy-award winning television movie entitled *12 Angry Men* which starred Henry Fonda.

A jury of 12 randomly selected people must decide the fate of a 19-year-old boy accused of murdering his father. One lone juror stands up for the boy's right to have all of the facts carefully considered before the verdict is reached. Performances will be at the SSP High School Auditorium.

SHOW TIMES:

March 20, 21, and 22 at 7pm
March 23 at 2pm.

Advance reserve-seat tickets are \$7 for students and seniors, and \$9 for adults. Tickets are also available at the door for \$1 more. Tickets can be ordered online at www.showtix4u.com or by phone at 651-457-9430.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Eric Holsen at eholsen@sspps.org.

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EVENTS CALENDAR

MARCH	APRIL	MAY
3 Band Concert (7-12) 7 p.m.	1-4 No School District-wide	1 Smooth Sailing into 7th Gr. 5 and 6 p.m.
5-7 Elementary Conferences	11 Spring Pictures (7-8)	2 Secondary Honors Breakfast 7:30 a.m.
6 Secondary Finals Hours 1, 3, 5	10 KPCC Carnival/ Talent & Art Show	2 Jr. High Honors Program (7-8) HS Auditorium 1 p.m.
7 Secondary Finals Hours 2, 4, 6	12 ACT Test	14 Scholarship Banquet HS Cafeteria 6 p.m.
6-7 Elementary No School	15 2-hour Late Start (Seniors only)	16-17 Theater Production (HS) 7 p.m.
8 Hilke Speech Tournament	18 No School District-wide	20 KEC Volunteer Appreciation (7-12) HS Auditorium 7 p.m.
10 No School District-wide	22 Secondary Talent Show HS Auditorium 7 p.m.	27 Academic Choir Concert (7-12) HS Auditorium 7 p.m.
14 Junior High Dance (7-8) 2:45 p.m.	25 Secondary Prom	
20-23 Theater Production (HS) "Twelve Angry Jurors" 7 p.m.		
25 Personal Project Fair (HS) 12:30 p.m.		

*Visit sspps.org for more detailed calendars.

Prepared and paid by the South St. Paul Public Schools, 104 Fifth Ave S, South St. Paul, MN 55075.
This publication is not circulated on behalf of any candidate or ballot question.

MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT



South St. Paul Public Schools (SSPPS) is committed to helping every student leave high school prepared for college and career success. This is a commitment that we strive at even before a child steps into a classroom here in South St. Paul. Here is a snapshot of ways our various sites and programs are working with you, your child's first and most important teacher.

Early Learning

In our preschool programs, we are expanding our service for the 2014-15 school year to begin offering five-days a week programming to our families that desire this option for their child. These half-day programs will also be accompanied with a half-day child care option so our preschoolers can ride our busses, attend our programs, eat a school lunch, and receive child care all in the same building they will be attending during their elementary years. This has never happened before in South St. Paul, and we believe this will help many of our families by assisting in the preparation for college and career readiness in our earliest grades.

Elementary

Within our elementary buildings, our teachers are personalizing the education for each and every child more than we ever have in the past. Teachers share multiple times each year, with parents and family members, the reading and math progress of their student

based on nationally normed tests. With clear college and career readiness targets at every grade level, our families can now best measure their own child's progress and assist in their success. The use of technology at each of our elementary school sites has increased this year by equipping every classroom with a station of computers for students to access during the day which supports 21st century learning for all.

Secondary

Within our Secondary Building and Community Learning Center, more and more of our students are completing their coursework in a hybrid format, and frequently accessing coursework, assignments, and assessments through the teacher's digital classroom interface. While at the core, we are still teaching Math, English, Science, and Humanities, allowing our students to develop 21st century skills that will prepare them for college and beyond.

Thank you for all of your support for our schools and our kids. We have so much to be proud of.

Sincerely,

Dave Webb,
Ed. D., Superintendent
South St. Paul Public Schools

