

SIX TIMES

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF SPECIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 6

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Minnesota's First K-12
IB World Schools District

IN THIS ISSUE:

Celebrating the Success of Our Graduates

CLC Students Inspire Local Author on
New Book Series

Officer Gravem Retires

Kaposia Culture Club Learns from
Flamingo Restaurant Owners

Beauty of the Extra Chromosome

Representing South St. Paul at Augsburg
College

Community Theater Summer Production

Getting Ready for the 2014-15 School Year

South St. Paul
Public Schools



CELEBRATING THE *Success* of our GRADUATES

On June 12, South St. Paul Public Schools held its 107th annual commencement at Ettinger Field, where friends and families of South St. Paul gathered and celebrated the accomplishments of 205 graduating students. As the Packer tradition, graduates marched around Ettinger Field and were greeted by an ensemble of student musicians as they entered the field.

The Class of 2014 is creating a new history for the next generation of Packers. There are members in this class who are on track to do something that no other graduate in the history of South St. Paul has ever been able to accomplish. Seven seniors are positioned to graduate from South St. Paul with three diplomas: a South St. Paul High School Diploma, an International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma, and an Associate in Arts Diploma from Inver Hills Community College.

The A.A. Degree candidates are Rachel Bakke, Hunter Blaeser, Cynthia Callais, Ben Holst, Michael Houle, Hannah Hoven and James Kolar. These students have completed all IB Diploma requirements by achieving a 4 or higher on all IB exams, and as many as six additional courses to meet the requirements of the A.A. Degree. They will receive two years of college credit that will be transferable to the college or university that they decide to attend.

Students are also given the option to take part in the IB Diploma program courses only. The program consists of pre-university curriculum, providing students with an international education that encourages an understanding and appreciation of other cultures and societies. At the end of the school year, South St. Paul Secondary recognizes students for their academic achieve-

ment within the IB program and for their participation in CAS, the component of the IB program which includes the students' achievements in Creativity, Action, and Service. Students who qualify for IB Honors are recognized at the end of their senior year. IB Certificate candidates received a silver medal to wear at the graduation ceremony, and IB Diploma candidates received a gold medal.

These students has shown that they are knowledgeable, hard-working, risk-takers, inquiring, principled, reflective, open-minded, caring, and confident Packers ready to take the challenges of their generation in order to make it the best generation ever.

The following students have fulfilled or surpassed the requirements for IB Honors:

DIPLOMA CANDIDATES

Rachel Bakke	Ben Holst	Jenna Novak
Hunter Blaeser	Michael Houle	Jenna Phelps
Cynthia Callais	Hannah Hoven	Alyssa Podgorski
Kendall Corty	Natie Kesti	Hannah Rose
Kelly Delgado	James Kolar	Ian Schmidt
Jennifer Felton	Abigail Luhrs	Taylor Hageman-Payne
Noah Herzfeld	Mara Nevitt	

CERTIFICATE CANDIDATES

Kelly Counihan	Alexis Pearson
Brooke Fisher	Victoria Poole
Naomi Hazard	Allison Ray
Josilyn Hendrickson	Jacob Wright



South St. Paul Secondary has successfully administered the IB Diploma Program since 1985. The IB program encourages students to be active learners, well-rounded individuals and engaged community members. To be a part of the IB program, students must show ability, interest, self-discipline, and an awareness of others. Although not all of our students achieve the IB diploma, more than one-third of our students are enrolled in at least one IB class.

One step closer to graduating college

Class of 2014 A.A. Degree Candidates



Hannah Hoven

Montana State University
Engineering

"I took the IB Diploma and A.A. Degree programs for the college experience and curriculum, not so much for the recognition. The knowledge I've gained from these programs is the true award that will stick with me the rest of my life."



James Kolar

University of Minnesota, Duluth
Science and Engineering



Rachel Bakke

Hamline University
Creative Writing

"I chose to take on the A.A. Degree because I wanted a challenge and a new experience. The biggest challenge was time management, but the rewards for me is that college is going to be a lot easier for me. That's not to say it won't be challenging, but I know that I will be able to handle it."



Ben Holst

University of Minnesota,
Twin Cities
Veterinary Medicine



Cynthia Callais

Washington State University
Political Science, emphasis in Pre-law

"I chose to take the IB Diploma courses because I enjoy the challenge. Studying for IB often means long nights, many note cards and study sessions with friends. I, however, have never felt so prepared to enter college."



Hunter Blaeser

University of Minnesota,
Twin Cities
Politics

In 2013, South St. Paul Public Schools and Inver Hills Community College entered into a partnership that gives our students the opportunity to earn a high school diploma, an IB diploma, and an Associate in Arts degree by the end of their senior year of high school.

For more information on the IB Diploma program and A.A. Degree partnership with Inver Hills, please visit the district's website at www.sspps.org.

IB Diploma Program Coordinator
Conrad Anderson
canderson@sspps.org
651-457-9454

CAS Coordinator
Katie Ellis
kellis@sspps.org
651-552-2980



Michael Houle

University of St. Thomas
Engineering

OFFICER GRAVEM RETIRES



Students, staff and faculty of SSP Secondary wrote messages and thank you notes to Officer Gravem before his retirement.

Officer Steven Gravem started his career as city police officer at the South St. Paul Police department in 1990. After serving many roles on the SSPPD, Officer Gravem eagerly accepted the role of the department's very first School Resource Officer at South St. Paul Secondary.

Steven has held the position of School Resource Officer for the last 13 years, and was influential in building the success partnership between the school district and the police department.

During his years as a school resource officer, Officer Gravem became a mentor, a counselor and a friend. For those students who Steven has worked with for the past 13 years, he will always affectionately be known as O.G., Officer Gravem.

We want to thank Officer Gravem for his dedicated service throughout the years, and we wish him best as he enters his retirement.

CLC STUDENTS INSPIRE LOCAL AUTHOR



"With thanks to Brianna, Analeysa, Nayalie, and Ari," - Patrick Jones

So begins one of the books in the "Alternative" series by local author Patrick Jones.

Jones, a young adult literature author, has been working with students at the South St. Paul Community Learning Center (CLC) for over five years. His relationship with the CLC students began when counselor Mindy Haukedahl invited him to visit the school and share his passion for reading. His background working with at-risk youth has led him to write a series of books which focuses on students in alternative high schools.

When creating this new series, Jones spent time visiting with staff and students at the CLC in order to better understand how an alternative high school functions. After discussing his book ideas with the entire student body, a small group of students volunteered to meet with him weekly to share their school and life experiences. After these initial meetings, Jones wrote manuscripts, which he then shared with these students. The students edited, offered suggestions, and changed language to best reflect their thoughts and experiences.

The "Alternative" series is scheduled to be released summer, 2014 with more books to follow. Patrick Jones continues to work with students at the South St. Paul CLC and is currently creating another fictional series for struggling readers which will be set in South St. Paul and surrounding communities.

PAVING THE WAY TO KINDERGARTEN



The Latino Families Parenting Class celebrates the end of a year of learning. During the year, they learned about the importance of early education for children birth to five years of age. These early experiences directly impact how children develop learning skills, as well as social and emotional abilities.

In the Parenting class, families learned about the areas of Early Childhood Development, Parent-Child Relationships, Parent Development, Family Development, and Culture and Community. Parents learned to be more involved in their children's education to support their learning. Through these classes, both parents and children acquire good learning habits that will help them to become life-long learners.

The teachers emphasize the importance of their children being prepared for kindergarten so that they experience more academic success at the higher grades. This year, many of these children will start either preschool or kindergarten.

Diverse learners benefit the most from family educational classes. The goal is to help Latino parents build a better future for their children.

KAPOSIA CULTURE CLUB



The Kaposia Culture Club had a very busy year. Culture Club provides the opportunity for students to become more internationally-minded through interaction with interesting speakers. This year, they invited speakers from Russia, the Philippines, Kenya, India, and Australia. They also explored the traditions of Hannukah and Santa Claus around the world. To cap off the year, 18 students and advisors Chris Zanmiller and Tana Steenson went on a field trip to the Flamingo Restaurant in St. Paul.

The Flamingo Restaurant is owned by a woman from Ethiopia named Shegitu. Her business partner is a woman from the neighboring country of Eritrea. They should be enemies, but since meeting in the United States and given the fact that they are both refugees from their homelands, they have become best friends.

The Culture Club was treated to a delicious meal of meat platters containing beef, chicken, and lamb and vegetarian platters of cabbage, collard greens, yellow split peas, and lentils – all cooked in delicious spices native to east Africa. The students were delighted to eat with their fingers by using spongy bread called injera to scoop up the foods.

Shegitu spoke to the students about life in Ethiopia, especially her favorite holiday - the New Years. She also told of the trials her daughter faced when she first started school in the United States and about the school she is founding in the refugee camp in Ethiopia.

It was a very fun, educational experience for our students. They were able to experience a new culture and discover differences and similarities through food and conversation.

We are very grateful that the South St Paul Educational Foundation generously supported our field trip.

EDUCATIONAL FUNDING NEEDS RECOGNIZED



Representative from Trustone Financial donating a tote full with games to Mrs. Shubat's class.

Mrs. Shubat from Lincoln Center Elementary requested a project through DonorsChoose.org, an online charity where public school teachers share their financial needs for classroom projects. The project was called "A Place for Everyone" and her request was to purchase a classroom rug with color coded spaces for her students to increase student learning.

The rug will provide her students a "place." A place to stay engaged, a place for movement, a place for inquiry to happen, a place for meeting, a place for listening, a place for belonging, a place for teamwork, and a place for learning about each other. By having a place for all her students, student achievement will occur in the classroom.

11 donors committed to the fundraiser, and Trustone Financial (Teacher Federal Credit Union) in Roseville helped fund the project by paying for the balance of the project. The generosity of Trustone Financial continued with a tote full of games contributed to Mrs. Shubat's 2nd grade classroom.

BEAUTY OF THE EXTRA CHROMOSOME



On March 21, Math and Reading Intervention teacher Mrs. Kate Amlee invited two special guests to Kaposia Education Center in celebration of World Down Syndrome Day. Mrs. Amlee shared her teaching responsibilities with her 32-year-old brother, Andy, and her 20-month-old son, Charlie, both of whom were born with Down syndrome.

Mrs. Amlee's 3rd and 5th grade students read books, asked questions, and enthusiastically learned all about the chromosomal disorder. Students also made great connections to people they know in their community. The next day, students had the opportunity to meet and read with Andy and Charlie. It was a wonderful learning experience for everyone!

COMMUNITY THEATRE SUMMER PRODUCTION



South St. Paul Community Theatre is proud to present its 2014 summer community plays! There will be two different plays this summer both performing at Kaposia Education Center.

...HAPPILY EVER AFTER

The Community Theatre Junior Players (students in grades 4-8) will be performing *...Happily Ever After*, a fabulous “fractured fairytale” perfect for young actors. Nationally-renowned composer Allen Koepke magnificently entwines the characters and story lines of *Little Red Riding Hood*, *Goldilocks and the Three Bears*, and *The Three Little Pigs*, and it traverses an array of musical styles to create this musical family treasure. Through a series of misadventures and story-twisting, various fairy tale characters learn the importance of friendship, trust, and tolerance.

SHOWTIMES:

7 p.m. on July 25, 26, and 27

THE MADRIGAL DINNER

The Community Theatre will be performing *The Madrigal Dinner*. In this play, you will join the royal court of King Henry CMXLII (or Queen Isabelle CMXLII) for a night of frolic and fancy you won't soon forget! A host of wacky characters spreads the fun around thickly as your audience, playing the part of esteemed Renaissance dinner guests, experience non-stop mirth and music in this laugh-out-loud comedy for all ages. Sight gags, slapstick, and mind-wrenching word humor will have you choking on your Boar's Head. This production features singing, audience participation, improv acting, and, of course, dinner. Huzzah!

SHOWTIMES:

7 p.m. on July 31, August 1 and 2
2 p.m. on August 3

Tickets will be available at the door, or by contacting Theatre Director Eric Holsen. For more information, please visit the SSPPS Theatre website or contact Eric Holsen at eholsen@sspps.org or 651-457-9430.

REPRESENTING SOUTH ST PAUL



Left to right: Mauricio Fuentes, Itzel Ramírez, Arely Flores, Daisy Arteaga, Karina Verdín, Liliana Celis Ortiz, Karla Sánchez

The Heritage Speakers class was a new addition to the Secondary Building this school year. It is designed for students grades 9-12 who already speak Spanish at home and would like to develop their reading and writing skills in the language.

During the school year, a group of students from the new Heritage Speakers Spanish class took part in the Spanish debate tournament hosted by the Minnesota Urban Debate League of Augsburg College. Among the South St. Paul participants, five were recognized for being in the top half of all speakers. The recipients of the Earning Speaker Awards were Itzel Ramírez, Daisy Arteaga, Arely Flores, Karina Verdín and Liliana Celis Ortíz.

Two of the South St. Paul teams also placed 2nd and 4th overall in the tournament. Team Karina Verdín and Liliana Celis Ortiz took 2nd place; while Arely Flores and Daisy Arteaga won 4th place.

Karla Sánchez, Mauricio Fuentes, Cindy Ramírez, and Déisy Ramírez also participated in the debate tournament.

ADULT BASIC EDUCATION GRADUATION



The South Suburban Adult Basic Education (SSABE) and Inver Hills Community College celebrated their 40th Annual GED Commencement Ceremony On May 21, 2014 at the Inver Hills Community College Fine Arts Theater. More than 100 students from SSABE consortia (South St. Paul-Inver Grove Heights-West St. Paul) earned their GED in 2014.

SSABE provides adults in Northern Dakota County with educational opportunities to acquire and improve literacy skills in order to become self-sufficient, proud employees, family members, and citizens.

To learn more about SSABE, please visit www.tridistrictce.org/

GETTING READY FOR THE 2014-15 SCHOOL YEAR



School supplies, backpacks, bus schedules, and after-school activities are some of the things you think about when gearing up your child for a new school year. However, there are far more things to be prepared to get ready for the school year.

This year, there are a few changes in the start and end dates of the school calendar due to construction. **Schools will begin one week earlier than normal on Monday, August 25.** Therefore, it is important to keep updated with the school calendar available online. Parents and students should also review the Parent/Student Handbook to make sure that you have the most up-to-date information regarding the school year.

A checklist is also available on the district website in effort to help parents and students have a smooth transition into the 2014-15 school year. For more information, please visit the district website at www.sspps.org or contact your school.

STAY CONNECTED!

Are you receiving automated phonecalls from the district, but not receiving emails? If so, please contact your school building to update your contact information.

BRING YOUR OWN DEVICE PROGRAM

The explosion of social media and technology has changed the way educators teach, how students learn, and the way teachers and students communicate. There is no question that emerging technology is having a positive impact in the classrooms. When new technologies are incorporated into everyday learning, students quickly become more interested in the material, and thus more likely to succeed.

In an effort to maximize learning opportunities for our students, South Saint Paul Schools has begun a 1:1 mobile device initiative. This means all students in grades 9-12 will have a mobile device issued to them for the 2014-15 school year. In addition, students in grades K-8 will have mobile device access.

Families wishing to partner with the District to increase mobile device capacity in our schools, have the opportunity to participate in the Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) Program. This program allows families to purchase devices that meet the recommended specifications from the vendor of their choice. While a specific device has not been mandated by South St. Paul Public Schools for the BYOD program, a device brought to school is recommended to meet minimum standards set by the District. A list of the recommended specifications is available on the District's website.

Families are also invited to go to TIES Depot to view and optionally purchase SSPPS recommended devices. Purchases made at this TIES Depot store site help support our membership in the TIES consortium. For more information about TIES, visit <http://ties.k12.mn.us>.

To learn more about the BYOD program, please visit www.sspps.org and click on the Technology link under the Parents/ Students tab.

SECONDARY ATHLETICS AND ACTIVITIES ONLINE REGISTRATION

The Secondary Activities department now offers online registration for 2014 Fall Activities. Parents/legal guardians can register and make payments for their students online.

Visit the Athletics & Activities website for more information.

FALL ATHLETIC NEWS

The Secondary Activities department is excited to announce that one extra week of junior high fall athletics has been added to the calendar.

To keep with tradition, 7th and 8th grade student/athletes will start practice on the first day of school Monday, August 25. The idea behind this effort is to establish the weekly routine, gain extra instructional time and build a sense of team.

To help transition from the Secondary building to their practice site, student/athletes will need to meet their respective coaches before practice each day at the following sites.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Activities Office at 651-457-9462.

7th Grade Football	Mr. Gustafson	B316
8th Grade Football	Mr. Geng	B114
7th/8th Grade Boys Soccer	Mr. Olson	B213
7th/8th Grade Girls Soccer	Mr. Felton	A260
7th/8th Grade Volleyball	Mrs. Cornell	A249
7th/8th Grade Tennis	Mrs. Lenarz	A204

NOTE: 7th and 8th grade football will pick up equipment at Lincoln Center on Monday, August 18 and Tuesday, August 19.

IMPORTANT DATES:

SECONDARY REGISTRATION

Thursday, August 7 & Monday, August 11
12-3 p.m. and 4-7 p.m.

GRADES 7-8 OPEN HOUSE

Wednesday, August 20
6-8 p.m.

LINCOLN CENTER ELEMENTARY OPEN HOUSE

Thursday, August 21
4-6 p.m.

KAPOSIA EDUCATION CENTER OPEN HOUSE

Thursday, August 21
4:30-6:30 p.m.

DID YOU KNOW...

that you can manage your own email address and phone number changes through your SchoolView account?

To gain access, visit your school during regular business hours with a photo ID and pick-up your access key.

South St. Paul Public Schools

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MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT



As I reflect back on the 2013-14 school year, I continue to be impressed with the amazing things I see throughout our district each and every day. For example:

1) This year, we have seven seniors who are on track to do something no other graduate in the history of SSP has ever been able to accomplish, graduate with three diplomas - the South St. Paul High School Diploma, the International Baccalaureate Diploma, and an Associate in Arts Diploma from Inver Hills Community College. 2) Our two elementary sites are nearing the end of their construction process of adding additional classrooms to accommodate early learning space at each site. 3) Beginning construction projects at our secondary site. 4) 1:1 Mobile devices for students in grades 9-12.

The success of our schools and programs is something that can't be done alone. As a district, we are proud of the partnership we have built with our students, families, and staff. Through our partnership we are able to celebrate together, the success our students are experiencing in and out of the classroom.

As we are beginning our summer months, I want to extend to you an invitation to partner with us to prevent summer learning loss amongst our students. Metametrics (R) has teamed up with the Minnesota Department of Education to offer exciting and fun challenges to help students retain the math and reading skills they learned this past school year, while ramping up their skills for next fall. These programs are free, self-directed opportunities where parents and students can have fun together.

The following link to the Minnesota Department of Education website will guide you through opportunities so you can help your children retain their math and reading skills throughout the summer. <http://education.state.mn.us/MDE/JustParent/SummerLearnOpp/index.html>

In addition, South St. Paul Public Schools is providing other summer opportunities for students to review the key concepts in core learning areas of math and reading. This year our district has enrolled the largest number of students within our summer programs to extend reading and mathematics learning opportunities for hundreds of students. These programs focus on reviewing the benchmarks that students will need to be successful in the next grade level.

If you are interested in having your child benefit from this additional instruction, contact your building directly for more information:

South St. Paul Secondary (Grades 7-11) 457-9408
Lincoln Center Elementary (Grades K-6) 457-9426
Kaposia Education Center (Grades K-6) 451-9260

Thanks again for an outstanding school year. We have so much to be proud of in our schools and in our community. I look forward to our continued partnership.

Enjoy the summer!

Dr. Dave Webb, Superintendent of Schools