

Family Newsletter
December 2023
&
January 2024

The Heights Community School



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Fax 651-293-8977
Attendance Line 651-744-2273
www.spps.org/heights

Important Dates for Dec & Jan

December 2023:

6 Picture Retake day
9 School Choice Fair
25-29 Winter Break

January 2024:

1-5 Winter Break
8 Classes Resume
15 No School Martin Luther King Jr Day
16 PTA & SCIP Parent Mtg
19 Chuck E Cheese
25 STEM Family Night
26 No School

Cov hnub tseeb ceeb nvob rau lub 12 hlis thiab 1 hlis ntuj.

12 hlis ntuj 2023

tim 6 rov qab muaj yees duab dua
tim 9 yog hnub xaiv tsev kawm ntawv
tim 25-29 tsis kawm ntawv [Winter Break]

1 hlis ntuj 2024

tim 1-5 tsis kawm ntawv [Winter Break]
tim 8 rov qab pib kawm ntawv dua
tim 15 tsis kawm ntawv [MLK hnub yug]
Tim 16 Rooj sib tham txog PTA & SCIP
Tim 19 Muaj Chuck E Cheese
Tim 25 STEM rau txhua tsev neeg
tim 26 tsis kawm ntawv



Resources for Families

Union Gospel Mission: Throughout the year the Union Gospel Mission serves meals for people in need. Please check Union Gospel Mission's website for more information.
www.ugmtc.org

Loaves and Fishes:

<https://www.loavesandfishesmn.org/community-meal-sites/>
Call 612-377-9810 for more information.

Salvation Army Angel Tree: The Salvation Army Angel Tree program helps provide Christmas gifts for hundreds of thousands of children around the country each year. Once a child or senior adult has been registered and accepted as an **Angel** their Christmas wish list is shared with donors in your community who purchase gifts of new clothing and toys. <https://saangeltree.org>

Ramsey County Food Resources

<https://www.ramseycounty.us/residents/assistance-support/assistance/food-resources>

Open the attached Saint Paul Resources document for a list of resources including:

Food Resources

Financial Assistance Resources

Clothing Resources

Student Evaluations

Housing Resources

Furniture Resources

Mental Health Resources

The Heights website

Please check out our website at
www.spps.org/heights

Please read and discuss the Family Handbook with your students at:
<https://www.spps.org/domain/13882>

Click the link below for Title I information regarding:
The Title I Annual Meeting Slideshow
School Continuous Improvement Plan (SCIP)
Family Friendly SCIP
Family Engagement Plan (FEP)
Compact
Parent's Right to Know
<https://www.spps.org/domain/3785>

Title I information will also be available in the school office and the family resource room.

Save the Date!

STEM Family Night with the Bell Museum is happening at The Heights on Thursday, January 25 from 5:30-7pm.

Look for more information after winter break.



The Heights Community School
651-293-8815

Testing Info

Parent/Guardian Information on Statewide Testing

The Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) requires statewide standardized testing on an annual basis. For more information on statewide testing, as well as parents'/guardians' right to refuse testing click the link below:

<https://www.spps.org/Page/33916>

Tests and Testing Schedules

For information on ACCESS 2.O, CogAT, FAST literacy and MCA testing for the 2020-21 school year check out the SPPS District Testing Calendar, Test Descriptions and School Schedules at this link:

<https://www.spps.org/Page/21430>

School Hours 7:30-2:00 Office Hours 7:15-2:45



7:15 Cafeteria opens for FREE Breakfast to Go

7:30 All students must be in their classrooms or they will be marked tardy.

Please, always use the Attendance Line to call in an absent student!
(use even during regular school hours!)

651-744-2273

The Attendance Line is Available 24 Hours a Day/7 Days a Week!

Parent Survey

Please complete the online Dec Parent Survey before Friday, Dec 15 for a chance to win a \$25 Target gift card!

See page 6 for more details.

Parent Survey :

<https://forms.gle/zbU6LVMpEVYie3Xh9>



iUpdate

Complete Your iUpdate

Families should complete their annual iUpdate for each student to ensure SPPS has your current contact information and other required forms on file.

Visit <https://www.spps.org/Page/31224> to complete yours now.

News from the Health Office

Ramsey County has compiled many resources to support food access for residents.

Please check out the link below:

<https://www.ramseycounty.us/residents/assistance-support/assistance/food-resources> : includes a food resource guide for the upcoming holiday, resource guides by neighborhoods, materials in multiple languages, and food resources for specific groups of people

Do Not Send your child to school if sick with the following:

***Fever** 100.4 degrees or higher
***Throwing up/diarrhea** in the last 24 hours
OR

*If **medications** have been given to keep fevers down in the last 24 hours

*Cold Symptoms, Cough or other concerns - send/bring your child to school and have our health team assess your child. We're here to help!



News from the Specialists

Music: Mr. Anderson

Hello Heights Families,

We are settling into a great start to a new year in music. We have begun using daily vocal warm-ups to start our day in music class. Third graders have started playing their instruments and other grades are soon to follow. We were able to get new headphones, books and games in music to help support our classroom. Students are finding ways to interact with the music lessons this year using different spaces throughout the music room. We are using I pads for practicing our skills as well as writing, reading and creative play. I am thankful to be a part of such a great learning community. Thank you all!

Science: Mr. Welke

5th Grade is working on identifying mystery materials using observation and measurements.
4th Grade is continuing their work on force and motion.
3rd Grade is also beginning to understand force by looking at playgrounds.
2nd Grade is continuing to learn about the landscapes and landforms of the United States.
1st Grade is finishing up it's unit on how the parts of plants help them survive.
Kindergarten finished up what plants need to survive and are now moving on to what animals need.



Physical Education: Mr. Beason

HAPPY HOLIDAY SEASON HEIGHTS FAMILIES!

K'S-2ND GRADES HAVE BEEN WORKING ON THROWING/TOSSING SKILLS IN NOVEMBER. DECEMBER WILL BE STRIKING SKILLS WITH; HAND, PADDLE AND RACKETS. IN GRADES 3-5, STUDENTS HAVE BEEN WORKING ON BASKETBALL SKILLS OF; DRIBBLING, PASSING AND SHOOTING AND SMALL TEAM PLAY. DECEMBER WILL INCLUDE STRIKING SKILLS AND MORE RACKET SKILLS. GRADES 4-5, HAVE BEEN GETTING INSTRUCTION FROM ST. PAUL URBAN TENNIS COACHES. THIS WILL CONTINUE THROUGH THE SCHOOL YEAR.

ALL GRADES HAVE BEEN FOCUSING THIS FALL ON STANDARD #4. I ACT FAIRLY AND RESPECTFULLY WHEN I PLAY IN P.E. CLASS. PARENTS PLEASE TALK WITH YOUR STUDENTS ABOUT THIS AS MANY STUDENTS STRUGGLE WITH PLAYING FAIRLY. BUNDLE YOUR KIDS UP AND PLAY OUTSIDE WITH COLDER WEATHER!!!

ENJOY FAMILY TIME OUTSIDE!



Happy Holidays Heights Community!

Fabulous functional art is budding in the studio during 2nd-5th grades! Mx. Rosno built a website featuring Fashion Design Croquis, or sketches of people, that you can screenshot and edit to add clothes with your favorite drawing app, even over breaks! Students are invited to ask their family members about what clothing is valuable to their

culture and what are the uses and significance of specific looks. **A diverse collection of fashion design croquis and an online design submission form is available on the website accessed by the above QR code.** The Heights Kindergarten and First grade students have been studying the color wheel with cool cats and hot dogs and trying wax-resistance with watercolors.



Art: Mx. Rosno

SPPS: The Right to Read Movie Night Registration

Join Saint Paul Public Schools for SPPS Reads movie nights! We will be showing the award-winning documentary "The Right to Read". The film has served as a source of inspiration for our teachers and district leaders as SPPS makes shifts in how literacy is taught in our classrooms using instructional practices aligned with the Science of Reading research.

Each event will begin at 5:30 p.m. with a free dinner served in the school's cafeteria. The documentary will be shown in the school's auditorium starting at 6:15 p.m.

Please register at the link below to let us know you are coming to the event!

<https://www.spps.org/righttoread>

Flyer Information in English, Spanish, Hmong, Karen, and Somali is in the link below:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1bxM1JS-i5pXq8HBI6_s38kUYPoY85KtJ/view?usp=sharing



Join Us for **SPPS Reads Movie Nights!**

We will be showing the award-winning documentary "The Right to Read". Executive produced by host of PBS' "Reading Rainbow" LaVar Burton, the film follows the story of the literacy crisis in America and what we can do about it.



**Thursday,
December 7
5:30-8 p.m.**

Humboldt High School

High School



**Tuesday,
December 12
5:30-8 p.m.**

Central High School

Event Details:

- Please note that the film can only be shown in English.
- Literacy resources for families will be available in other languages at the beginning of the event.
- Dinner will be provided.
- The film will be shown in the school's auditorium starting at 6:15 p.m.
- While children are encouraged to watch the documentary, childcare will be available in the cafeteria during the film.



Register online at [spps.org/righttoread](https://www.spps.org/righttoread)



School Choice Fair

<https://apply.spps.org/>



Looking for more information online? Video tours, school websites, and information on the application process visit <https://apply.spps.org/>

Join us for the Saint Paul Public Schools PreK-12 School Choice Fair

Saturday, December 9, 2023, from 9:30 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Saint Paul RiverCentre (175 Kellogg Boulevard West, St. Paul, MN 55102)

Visit the School Choice Fair to talk to SPPS staff members and learn more about our schools, programs and services.

- Free, on-site Early Childhood Screenings (ages 3-5)
- Flu vaccine clinic with M Health Fairview
- Interpreters will be available in Hmong, Karen, Somali, Spanish, Oromo, and ASL

Looking for open house information? Check out the SPPS open house calendar for all schools here: <https://www.spps.org/openhouses>

5th Grade Middle School Tours & Open Houses

<https://apply.spps.org/>

School Choice Fair

- Online app will be available starting the day of the Fair
- **Priority application deadline - February 9, 2024**
- Small number of School Selection Guides will be sent to each school site
- Reserved seat letters for current PK at Early Childhood Hubs, 5th and 8th at sites not offering the next grade will be mailed to homes in December prior to choice fair noting where the student has reserved enrollment for next fall.

Open Houses will take place in January and February. Check out the SPPS open house calendar here:

<https://www.spps.org/openhouses>

<i>SPPS School</i>	<i>Dates of Event</i>	<i>Additional Information</i>
American Indian Magnet	Wed, January 24, 2024, 1:30pm – 2:30pm	
Battle Creek Middle School	Wed, January 17, 2024, 4pm – 6pm	
Capitol Hill	Tue, January 23, 2024, 5:30pm – 6:30pm	
Creative Arts 6-12	Tue, January 23, 2024, 6pm – 8pm	
E-STEM Middle School	Thu, February 1, 2024, 6:00pm – 7:30pm	
Farnsworth 5-8 Campus	Thu, January 25, 2024, 4:30pm – 6:30pm	
Global Arts Upper	Fri, January 19, 2024, 9:30am – 11:30am	
Hazel Park Prep Academy	Thu, January 11, 2024, 4:30pm – 6:30pm	
Hidden River Middle School	Thu, January 25, 2024, 5:00pm – 6:30pm	
Highland Park Middle School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● School Tour Dates: Dec 13, Dec 15, Jan 19, and Jan 24 from 8:45 - 9:30 ● Open House January 17, 2024 from 5:45 - 7:00p.m. 	Contact the school for more info and registration for tours.
Humboldt 6-12 School	Thu, February 1, 2024, 5:00pm – 6:30pm	
Murray Middle School	Wed, January 31, 2024, 5:30pm – 7:30pm	
Open World Learning	Thurs., January 18, 2024, 6:30pm – 8:00pm	Contact the school for more info about tours and shadowing during the school day
Online Middle School	Thu, February 1, 2024, 5pm – 6pm	
Txuj Chi Hmong Language and Culture - Upper Campus	Thursday, January 18, 2024 5pm – 7pm	
Washington Tech Magnet Middle School	Thu, January 25, 2024, 5pm – 7pm	

Parent Survey 2023

Fall Parent Survey 2023/Encuesta para padres de otoño 2023/Kev Tshawb Fawb Kev Poob Niam Txiv 2023

<https://forms.gle/zbU6LVMpEVYie3Xh9>

Greetings Heights Families,

We need your help to let us know how things are going so far this year. Please use the link to answer a short survey. The survey is anonymous. The information that is gathered will be presented to staff for their professional development.

Emails will be collected but they will not be attached to the answers submitted. Emails will be used for a PTA drawing for six \$25 Target gift cards.

Please complete the survey by Friday, December 15.

Thank you for your help.



Saludos Familias de Heights,

Necesitamos su ayuda para hacernos saber cómo van las cosas en lo que va del año. Utilice el enlace para responder una breve encuesta. La encuesta es anónima. La información que se recopile se presentará al personal para su desarrollo profesional.

Se recopilarán correos electrónicos, pero no se adjuntarán a las respuestas enviadas. Los correos electrónicos se utilizarán para un sorteo de la PTA de seis tarjetas de regalo Target de \$25.

Complete la encuesta antes del viernes 15 de diciembre.

Gracias por tu ayuda.

Txais tos txhua tsev neeg ntawm Heights,

Peb xav tau kev pab qhia los ntawm nej sawv daws seb xyoo no yuav muaj dab tsi. Thov siv qhov link ntawm daim survey los teb cov lus nug. Txoj kev tshawb fawb no tsis tas qhia npe. Cov lus uas nej teb tuaj yuav muab tshaj tawm rau cov neeg ua hauj lwm rau lawv coj mus kawm txuas ntxiv.

Muaj sau email tab sis nws yuav tsis txuas rau cov lus teb rov qab. Tsev kawm ntawv yuav dho npe tau \$25 los ntawm koom haum PTA coj mus siv yuav khoom nyob rau hauv Target.

Thov teb daim ntawv tshawb fawb no tsis pub dhau hnuv Friday, 12 Hlis ntuj tim 15.

Ua tsaug rau koj txoj kev txhawb nqa.

SEPTEMBER

- 4 **No School, Labor Day** PreK-12
- 5 **First Day of School** 1-12
- 5-6 **No School, Family Welcome Meetings** Pre-K & K
- 7 **First Day of School** Pre-K & K
- 25 **No School, Professional Development Yom Kippur** PreK-12

OCTOBER

- 19-20 **No School, State Teacher Meeting (MEA)** PreK-12
- 27 **No School, Conference Preparation** PreK-5
(PreK-8 schools: students in grades 6-8 WILL be in school)

NOVEMBER

- 9 **End of Quarter 1**
- 10 **No School, Parent-Teacher Conferences** PreK-5
(PreK-8 schools: students in grades 6-8 WILL be in school)
- 23-24 **No School, Thanksgiving Break** PreK-12

DECEMBER

- 25-29 **No School, Winter Break** PreK-12

JANUARY

- 1-5 **No School, Winter Break** PreK-12
- 15 **No School, Martin Luther King Jr. Day** PreK-12
- 25 **End of Quarter 2**
- 26 **No School, Elementary Professional Development / Secondary Grading Day** PreK-12

FEBRUARY

- 19 **No School, Presidents Day** PreK-12

MARCH

- 8 **No School, Conference Preparations** PreK-5
(PreK-8 schools: students in grades 6-8 WILL be in school)
- 28 **End of Quarter 3**
- 29 **No School, Parent-Teacher Conferences Secondary Professional Development** PreK-12

APRIL

- 8-12 **No School, Spring Break** PreK-12
- 10 **No School, Eid al-Fitr** PreK-12

MAY

- 27 **No School, Memorial Day** PreK-12

JUNE

- 10 **Last Day of School** PreK-12
End of Quarter 4
- 19 **District Holiday, Juneteenth**



Saint Paul
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

2023-24 School Year Calendar

- Important Dates
- No School PreK-5
(PreK-8 schools follow the PreK-5 calendar)
- No School for Pre-K and Kindergarten
(ECSE follows the Pre-K calendar)
- No School All Grades (PreK-12)
- End of Quarter

August 2023							September 2023							October 2023						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa	Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa	Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
		1	2	3	4	5						1	2	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
27	28	29	30	31			24	25	26	27	28	29	30	29	30	31				

November 2023							December 2023							January 2024						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa	Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa	Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
			1	2	3	4						1	2		1	2	3	4	5	6
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
26	27	28	29	30			24	25	26	27	28	29	30	28	29	30	31			
							31													

February 2024							March 2024							April 2024						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa	Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa	Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
				1	2	3						1	2		1	2	3	4	5	6
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
25	26	27	28	29			24	25	26	27	28	29	30	28	29	30				
							31													

May 2024							June 2024							July 2024						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa	Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa	Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
			1	2	3	4						1			1	2	3	4	5	6
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
26	27	28	29	30	31		23	24	25	26	27	28	29	28	29	30	31			
							30													



[Link to The Heights Family Calendar](https://www.spps.org/domain/8450)

<https://www.spps.org/domain/8450>

[Link to 2023-24 District Calendars:](#)

English Hmong Karen Somali Spanish

<https://www.spps.org/Page/262>