

Pilot School News

December 22, 2023 | Volume #8



UPCOMING EVENTS >>>

Dec. 25, 2023 – Jan. 5, 2024

No School – Winter Break

January 8, 2024

School Resumes

January 15, 2024

No School – Martin Luther King Jr. Day

January 16, 2024

Murray PTO Meeting

6:00pm – 7:15pm

January 22, 2024

8th Grade Parent/Student Forum
Como Park High School Pathway

6:00pm – 7:00pm

January 25, 2024

Activity Day

January 26, 2024

No School – Professional Day

January 31, 2024

Showcase

5:30pm – 7:30pm

My teacher gave me the best gift of all...believing in me! **Author Unknown**

Speaking of believing in our Pilots, Ms. Denae directed our Murray musicians through a wonderful band and orchestra performance Wednesday night! The auditorium was packed, the kids were nervous/excited and the music was amazing. It was great to see our students that have grown over the years with their skills as well as the large numbers of beginners that are finding a new passion for the arts. Ms. Denae is doing a wonderful job of growing our performing arts participation at Murray and we are so very grateful for all of the support that our community continues to provide. It was a great treat leading into our break. Well done, Murray musicians!

The long break is upon us and the weather remains balmy. I feel sorry for all of the snow lovers out there, but I am loving this weather! The snow will eventually be here so I am soaking up every day being able to wear a light jacket, not slopping around through slush and having dry roads for driving. In the counselor corner section of this newsletter, we have provided some resources for families with activities and community organizations. Please review this section if you are looking for activity ideas or are in need of a particular community connection.

I wish everyone in our community well over the long break. Be safe, stay healthy and I hope that everyone gets a chance to take time and be close with friends and family.

We will see you all in 2024!

Celebrations:

[#Pilotprops](#) of the week! Mr. Kareem would like to celebrate Ethan Imbertson. Ethan has been a steady force in Global Studies all year by taking care of his work and making valuable contributions to class discussions. He has an easy-going attitude with a good sense of humor to boot!

[#Pilotprops](#) of the week! Ms. Croone would like to celebrate Fritz Power. Fritz comes in each day with a smile, a greeting and a wanting to do his best! This young person has a kind and compassionate side that looks out for all those around him. Thanks for being a day brightener!

Your Co-Pilot,

Jamin McKenzie
Principal, Murray Middle School

Activity Day Forms Due

January 10th!!!

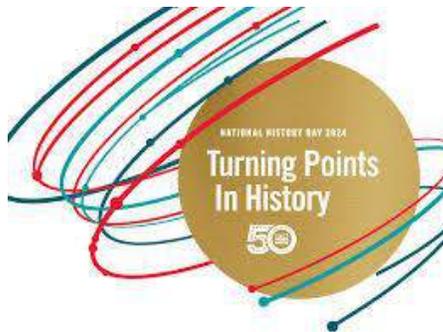
Sixth Grade

Social Studies with Ms. Atchison and Ms. Pfeiffer:

Last week students learned about how and why the United States government and our Indigenous nations entered into treaties through a skit and our textbook.

This week students made a podcast discussing the treaty-making process on the land that is now MN. One student will play the role of host and the other of expert guest as they discuss why and how treaties were made between Indigenous nations and the United States, and the impacts of treaties.

The last thing students will do before winter break is start researching their History Day topic. This year's theme is Turning Points in History. We will work on this project in class throughout the month of January.



Seventh Grade

English with Ms. Steinhoff:

Seventh graders are continuing to work through their Charles Dickens author study unit! We were so thankful to have the opportunity to see a performance of "A Christmas Carol" at the Guthrie last week. Students had an amazing time from what we heard! Our classes will carry on with the author study unit by reading "Great Expectations", "Oliver Twist" and "A Christmas Carol". In class we read the play versions of "Oliver Twist" and "A Christmas Carol" where students get the opportunity to read a part out loud. Ask your student if they have "played" a part or if they plan to! We hope everyone has a safe and happy winter break.

Social Studies with Ms. Atchison and Ms. Newman:

7th Grade American Studies

Seventh Grade Historians are marching towards World War I. We will be analyzing how international issues affect the United States and our eventual role in World War I.

Thinking ahead is History Day! The theme is Turning Points in History. Our goal is for students to choose a topic they are passionate about and we will help them make the connections to the theme as they research!

History Day Minnesota is hosting a Hullabaloo at the Roseville public library on Saturday, December 16th from 11- 3.

Every Saturday the East Side Freedom Library is hosting sessions for help with History Day topics from 10-12. Email the Peter at peter@eastsidefreedomlibrary.org so they can pull resources for you!

Eighth Grade

Math with Mr. Hayden:

In Integrated Math we are finishing up our unit on linear functions. We reviewed some things most students learned last year such as domain and range and function notation, but we also looked at some new topics such as linear transformations and how functions are shifted, compressed or stretched based on whether we add or multiply values either to the input or output of a function. We also briefly studied scatter plots, lines of best fit and positive and negative correlation.

In Algebra 1, we are finishing up part 1 of our unit on analyzing linear equations. We introduced/reviewed the concepts of slope, y-intercepts, unit rates and constant of proportionality and learned how some of those things are very closely related. After winter break, we will learn about various forms of linear equations such as slope-intercept and point-slope form.

Social Studies with Ms. Croone and Mr. Kareem:

8th Grade Global Studies

In 8th grade Global Studies we are continuing to learn about the Middle East and North Africa. This week we are focusing on the most important natural resource of the region: oil. Is it a blessing or a curse? Students are also beginning to narrow down topics for History Day and will start doing some more in-depth research as soon as they have a topic locked in.



Activity Day

Murray has a mid-year all school celebration called Activity Day. Activity Day takes place on January 25th. All students are invited to attend one of 4 field trips: Badlands Snow Park (Snow Tubing), Grand Slam (Arcade, Batting Cages, Bumper Cars, Laser Tag, Mini-Golf, Ninja Course), Ice Fishing and Skateville (Rollerskating).

Permission forms were sent home through Foundations and are available in the main office and through the newsletter.

Please turn in form, money, permission slip, and waiver (Grand Slam) to Stefanie Folkema (1005) by Wednesday, **January 10, 2024**. You can also pay online at the following link:

[Activity Day - Class Registration v3.0 - Saint Paul Public Schools \(rschooltoday.com\)](https://rschooltoday.com)

EVERY MEAL

Please fill out our QR code or this link if you are interested in getting items from the Murray food pantry sponsored by Every Meal. Link: <https://forms.gle/Uu7GTHWuTCiZgZ9b9>. We have food available at Murray for students to pick up at the end of the day on Fridays. It is in our Food pantry – see Google Form for more info. Please write down your name, your contact information, and which items you'd be interested in your student picking up each week. Students will take these items home in their backpacks.

Contact Justine Revermann (justine.revermann@spps.org or 651-744-7130) or Lisa Engelstad (lisa.engelstad@spps.org or 651-744-2397). You can reach out to us to schedule an appointment to pick up some food items.



flipside
the opposite of boredom.
Afterschool activities for middle school youth.

Registration for Flipside Session 2 is available now. We have some great options! If you are interested in signing your student up for Flipside Session 2 applications can be found [here](#), in person, and in the office!

If your student is currently in Flipside, please only fill out the class choice form. If this is your first time signing up for Flipside, complete the entire form. First choice isn't a guarantee, so pick a second option for each day.

The classes start January 29th; your student will get their schedule the week of the 22nd!

If you or your students have any questions or concerns, email Ms. Abby abiola.adegeye@spps.org Call: 651-744-3189, or visit office 1011

Happy Registering!

Murray Middle Presents...Mary Poppins, Jr.

Performances will be:
Friday, March 22nd, 7:00PM
Saturday, March 23rd, 7:00PM
Sunday, March 24th, 2:00PM

Thank you for supporting the arts!

Parent Forum

We're very excited to announce Como Park High School Principal Dr. Diana Brown will be joining us to speak at our Parent Forum, January 22, 2024, at 6:00pm.

She will share with us the "Really Good News" of Como Senior High and answer any questions you may have.

We hope to see you there!

Tours

Tuesdays, January 9th, 16th, 23rd and 30th.

3:15p.m.

Check in at office – registration not required

Yearbooks

Yearbooks cost \$21.00. Students can pick up an order form from the office or see Ms. Pittman. The easiest way to buy a yearbook is to purchase it online at <https://www.jostens.com/yearbooks/high-school-yearbooks.html>



Counselor's Corner

All families:

In-School Therapist Information:

We have a partnership at Murray with Change Inc. Through that partnership, we do have an in-school therapist/mental health provider on site. Our in-school therapist's name is Fatima Mohamed and she currently has openings. Please contact one of the Murray counselors to get more information or to get a referral for your student to meet with Fatima.

You can also reach out directly to Fatima at FMohamed@thechangeinc.org or 612-462-1128.

8th grade families:

By now, students and families should have received in the mail their school assignment for the 2024-25 school year. If you do not want to attend that specific school, you need to apply to go to a different school by February 9th. Here is the application link for the Placement Center <https://apply.spps.org/>. The main office also has paper copies available as well.

Upcoming events:

Como Park High School:

- Tour/Shadowing information for Como:
 - 8th graders/Families: If you are interested in shadowing at or touring Como Park Senior High School, please contact Jamie Hoffman at Como: jamie.hoffman@spps.org or 651-744-5529.
 - Como Park HS Showcase Night at Como Park HS (740 Rose Ave W): Wed, January 17, 2024, 5pm – 7pm
 - Event for Murray Students & Families for information about Como Park HS: Monday, January 22nd at 6:00 PM at Murray Middle School
 - New program for 2024-2025 school year for Como 9th graders: [3DE Info here](#)

Central High School: Flyer included in following pages for more information

Central HS Showcase night: Thurs, February 1, 2024 6pm-8pm at Central HS

- Registration Night for those enrolled at Central: March 28, 2024

Tour dates for Central:

Jan 16, 18, 23, 25, 30 all at 10-11 am (adults must accompany students)

[Link to register for tours: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/16COn4GYH1nkBN46e0uq-YlylrsZa0i8dPuffbJeP6_U/viewform?edit_requested=true](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/16COn4GYH1nkBN46e0uq-YlylrsZa0i8dPuffbJeP6_U/viewform?edit_requested=true)

Link to all dates for Open Houses and Showcases in SPPS: <https://www.spps.org/openhouses>

Earn as you Learn:

- There is a district-wide opportunity for 8-12 grade students to learn new skills while earning money through the Earn as you Learn program.
- Earn a \$300 stipend while exploring career interests, working on industry certificates, preparing for the workplace, and learning financial literacy! Students can complete the work from home.
- Courses offered in: OSHA, MS Word, PowerPoint, Excel, and Access.
 - \$300 stipend for completion of each course
- More information here: <https://www.spps.org/Earnasyoulearn>
- Earn as You Learn Application/Registration: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeHkAhKqym7hecQgBofleTby1yL0-EWfrYN2fClxbLSjCkkCw/viewform>

Right Track:

Keep your eyes out for Right Track information coming out soon. The application will be open on January 15 until February 29. The general link is here: <https://www.stpaul.gov/departments/parks-and-recreation/right-track>. The application isn't open until Jan 15 though. It's for summer paid jobs!



COMMUNITY & SCHOOL COLLABORATIVE

Your Mental Health Practitioner



*Fatima Mohamed, M.A.
School-Based Mental Health Therapist*

I AM HERE TO SUPPORT
STUDENTS AND FAMILIES!

SERVICES INCLUDE:

- Child, Adolescent & Family Therapy
- Skills/Support Groups
- Professional Development for Staff
- Psychoeducation & Support for Parents/Guardians
- Online sessions via Zoom

The Community School Collaborative (CSC) is a project of Change Inc. providing prevention, early intervention and mental health services.

The CSC is supported by the Saint Paul Public Schools, Ramsey County, MN Department of Human Services, AND insurance reimbursement.

TO MAKE A REFERRAL CONTACT:

Justine Revermann
School Counselor
justine.revermann@spps.org

Lisa Engelstad
School Counselor
lisa.engelstad@spps.org

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Fatima Mohamed
FMohamed@thechangeinc.org

CHANGE INC.





Mental Health Team

Winter Break Resources



Ways to have fun

- Read
- Sledding (Como Golf Course)
- Make art
- Do a meditation, rest, and relax
- Journal, listen to music
- Go on a walk or hike
- Play/Open Gym at a [Rec Center](https://www.stpaul.gov/departments/parks-and-recreation/recreation-centers) - <https://www.stpaul.gov/departments/parks-and-recreation/recreation-centers>
- Catch up on schoolwork
- Learn to code
- Make Slime
- [Como Zoo](https://comozooconservatory.org/) - <https://comozooconservatory.org/>
- [MN History Center](https://www.mnhs.org/historycenter) - <https://www.mnhs.org/historycenter>
- Learn a new skill
- Try a new recipe, bake cookies
- Follow along to PE exercise videos on Youtube
- Play a brain training app
- Attend a [sporting event](https://www.stpaulcity.org/g5-bin/client.cgi?G5button=13) - <https://www.stpaulcity.org/g5-bin/client.cgi?G5button=13>
- [Sprockets St. Paul](https://www.sprocketssaintpaul.org/) - <https://www.sprocketssaintpaul.org/>
- [St. Paul Public Library Events](https://sppl.org/winter-break/) - <https://sppl.org/winter-break/>



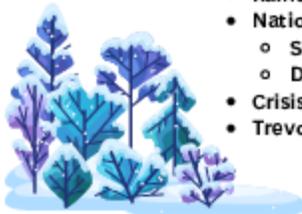
Community Resources

Several community organizations provide free meals for families around Saint Paul.

- [Minnesota Food Helpline](https://www.hungersolutions.org/programs/mn-food-helpline/): <https://www.hungersolutions.org/programs/mn-food-helpline/>
 - Call 888-711-1151 for assistance, Monday-Friday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- [Ramsey County Food Resources](https://www.ramseycounty.us/residents/assistance-support/assistance/food-resources): <https://www.ramseycounty.us/residents/assistance-support/assistance/food-resources>
- [Interactive Food Locations](#) (Scan QR Code for link):
 - (Food shelves, groceries at low or no-cost, farmer's markets, meals at no-cost)
 - Customer Contact Center 651-266-8500 (Monday - Friday, 8 am - 4:30 pm)
- [Keystone](http://keystoneservices.org/food-shelves/): <http://keystoneservices.org/food-shelves/>
 - Call 651-917-3792 or 651-487-2792
- [Neighborhood House](https://neighborhoodhousemn.org/): <https://neighborhoodhousemn.org/>
 - (Food support, housing stability, educational programs) 651-789-2500

Mental Health Resources

- Suicide and Crisis Lifeline: 988
- Ramsey County Children's Mental Health: 651-266-7878
- Ramsey County Children's Mental Health Collaborative
- National Suicide Prevention Lifeline: 1-800-273-8255
 - Spanish: 1-888-628-9454
 - Deaf and hard of hearing: 1-800-799-4889
- Crisis Text Line by texting HOME to 741741
- Trevor Project: Text Start to 678678 or call 1-866-488-7386



*Scan QR Code to access links and live document



SHOWCASE!

Why Murray? Come check out the great things happening!

Wednesday, January 31, 2024
5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

Murray Opportunities:

- Accelerated course opportunities for high school credit in math
- Athletics
- Band and Orchestra
- College and Career Readiness Support
- History Day
- In-School Activities -Academic All-Star, Activity Day, Dances, Food Drive, Recreation Time, Spirit Week
- Middle School Model that emphasizes teaming, elective options and social/emotional growth
- Murray Musical (Theater program)
- Performing and Visual Arts electives
- Student Leadership through Boys' Group, Girls' Group, Journalism, Mental Health Leadership Group, National Junior Honor Society, Restorative Practice Leadership, Student Council, Student PBIS Team, WEB Leaders (Where Everybody Belongs)
- Flipside after school enrichment classes

Murray Partnerships:

- University of Minnesota
- U of M Raptor Center
- Wolf Ridge Environmental Learning
- Ujamaa Place
- COMPAS Artists
- Trout Unlimited

Showcase brings together school staff, families, community members, and neighbors from across Area E to build stronger relationships and collaboratively support our young people.



Murray Middle School
2200 Buford Avenue, St. Paul, MN 55108
651-293-8740 | murray.spps.org
Questions?? Contact Stefanie Folkema at 651-744-3922



CENTRAL
HOME OF THE MINUTEMEN

SHOWCASE!

FEBRUARY 1
5:30-7:30 PM

Learn About:

- Course Offerings
- Arts Programming
- Family Engagement
- Student Groups
- Athletics

Schedule a Tour:

Tuesdays: January
16th, 23rd, 30th

Thursdays: January
18th and 25th

10-11am

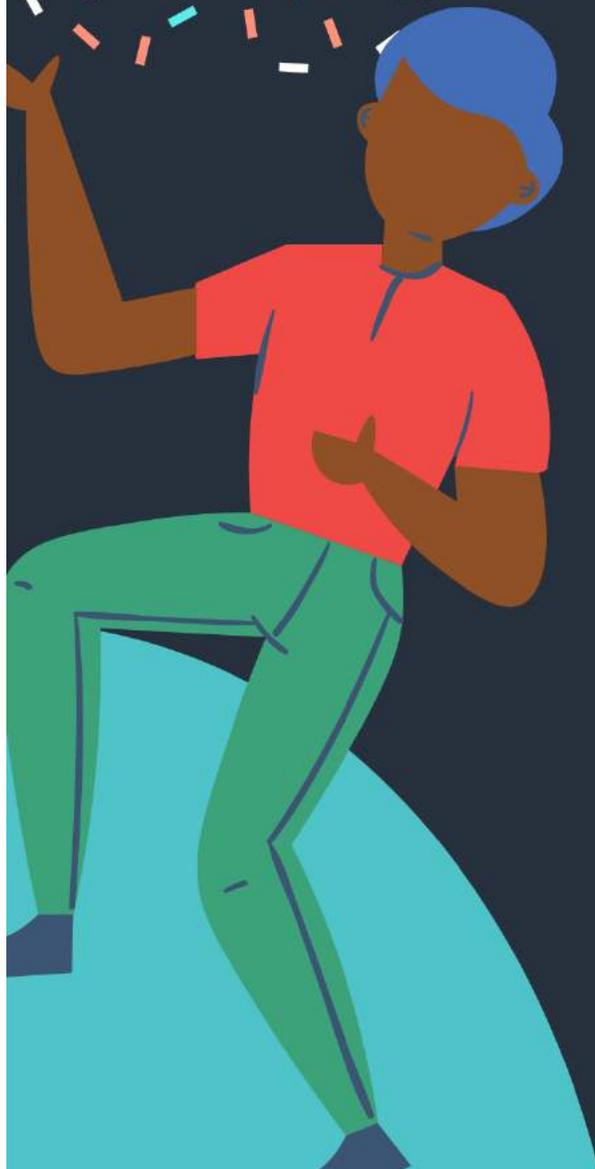
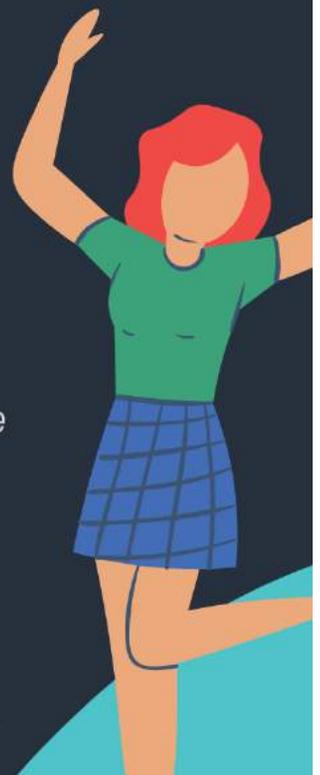
275 N Lexington Pkwy
651-744-4900

Sign up for a tour here



 **SCAN ME**

We Are in This T.O.G.E.T.H.E.R.
Since 1866



Activity Day!!!

Date: January 25, 2024

Last Name: _____

First Name: _____

Foundations Teacher: _____

- Badlands Snow Park (Snow Tubing)
Cost: \$22.00
I would like a bag lunch provided by Murray - **(Please circle one)** Yes or No
I will bring a bag lunch of my own - **(Please circle one)** Yes or No
Do I need a waiver? No, when you buy a ticket, you agree to the terms stated on your ticket.
- Grand Slam (Arcade, Batting Cages, Bumper Cars, Laser Tag, Mini-Golf, Ninja Course)
Cost: \$24.00
(Includes Hot Dog and Soda)
- Ice Fishing
Cost: \$15.00
I would like a bag lunch provided by Murray - **(Please circle one)** Yes or No
I will bring a bag lunch of my own - **(Please circle one)** Yes or No
- Skateville (Rollerskating)
Cost: \$20.00
(Includes Hot Dog, Chips, and Pop)

Please turn in this form, money, permission slip, and waiver (Grand Slam) to Stefanie Folkema (1005) by Wednesday, January 10, 2024. You can also pay online at the following link
[Murray Middle School - Class Registration v3.0 - Saint Paul Public Schools \(rschoolday.com\)](https://spps.cr3.rschoolday.com/public/getcategory/program_id/70)
https://spps.cr3.rschoolday.com/public/getcategory/program_id/70

I can contribute to a Scholarship Fund. \$ _____

Any amount is greatly appreciated!!!



TYPE II ONLY FIELD TRIP FORM
PARENTAL/GUARDIAN AUTHORIZATION



A field trip to: _____
is planned by: Murray Middle School
for the purpose of: Activity Day

on (date) Thursday, January 25, 2024
from 8:30 a.m. (time) to 3:00 p.m. (time)

The attached form must be completed and returned before the student will be permitted to participate in the above field trip.

VERBAL AUTHORIZATION WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED FOR APPROVAL

Detach and Return

Field Trip Parental/Guardian Authorization

I/We authorize _____ to participate in the field
Student's Full Name

to _____ on (date) _____

Does the student have any special health problems or handicapping conditions which will require special attention or supervision on this field trip? Yes _____ No _____

If yes, what is this problem and what special considerations should be made?

We understand that the necessary arrangements, plans, and precautions will be taken for the care and supervision of the student during the trip.

Date _____
Signature of Parent(s) or Guardian(s) _____

Telephone: _____
Day Time _____
Address: _____

Emergency _____



EXCELLENT ENTERTAINMENT ENTERPRISES, LLC.
PERPETUAL PARTICIPANT AGREEMENT, RELEASE AND ASSUMPTION OF RISK

General Terms: Excellent Entertainment Enterprises, LLC. A Minnesota Limited Liability Company, operates entertainment facilities under the name Grand Slam Coon Rapids. These facilities offer various types of equipment for recreational use. I have had an opportunity to inspect the facilities and equipment and I fully understand the various recreational activities offered. I understand that the equipment and activities offered by Grand Slam Coon Rapids do not constitute a public service or an essential service or program, but rather provide voluntary recreational activities of the type that can be obtained through similar programs at other facilities. My choice to use the equipment and participate in the recreational programs at Grand Slam Coon Rapids are entirely voluntary.

In consideration of being allowed to use the facilities and equipment at Grand Slam Coon Rapids, I, on behalf of myself and my minor child or legal ward, agree to the following terms:

Assumption of Risk: I and/or my minor child or legal ward will be using various equipment and engaging in various recreation activities at Grand Slam Coon Rapids. I understand this equipment exposes participants to certain inherent and serious risks. I further recognize that the use of the ninja course system exposes participants to additional risks including, but not limited to, falling, muscle sprains, broken bones, bruise, cuts, or other injuries. The risks associated with the use of this equipment involve certain dangers that can not be completely avoided or eliminated, and may result in serious injury and/or potential death or disability. To the maximum extent allowed by law, I, and on behalf of my minor child or legal ward name below, **ASSUME ALL RISKS** for any property damage, personal injury, death or disability that may result from the use of this equipment including those arising from ordinary negligence of the Releasees who are identified hereafter.

Release and Waiver of Liability: In consideration of being permitted to participate in the activities and to use the recreational equipment, including the ninja course at Grand Slam Coon Rapids, I and/or my minor child or legal ward do hereby voluntarily release, waive, and discharge all claims, law suits, and demands that I or my minor child or legal ward has or may have in the future against Excellent Entertainment Enterprises, LLC., Grand Slam Coon Rapids, or any of its officers, directors, employees, agents or representatives, and their successors and assigns, collectively referred to herein as ("Releasees") arising out of any damage, loss, personal injury, death or disability to me or my minor child or legal ward while using any of the equipment or participating in any of the activities offered at Grand Slam Coon Rapids facilities. This Release is valid and effective whether the damage, loss personal injury, death or disability is the result of any act or omission on the part of the Releasees or from any other cause. This Release and Waiver of Liability includes, but is not limited to, any property damage, personal injury, death or disability that may occur as a result of misuse of the equipment or facility by anyone, use of any of the equipment that malfunctions or breaks, improper inspection or maintenance of the facilities, grounds or equipment, any claimed inadequate instruction or supervision, or any slipping, tripping and/or falling while in the facility or on the surrounding premises, including all of those arising from negligent acts or omission of Releasees.

In accordance with Minnesota law, nothing in this Assumption of Risk, Waiver and Release of Liability Agreement should be construed as assuming any risk, or waiving or releasing any claims I or my minor child or legal ward may have for gross negligence, willful or wanton misconduct, or reckless or intentional acts by or on behalf of the Releasees.

Perpetual Effect of this Document: I agree that this Assumption of Risk, Waiver and Release of Liability Agreement extends into the future and covers any and all visits for which this Agreement applies, as well as any return or repeat visits by either myself, my minor child, or my legal ward for whom I am responsible.

Severability: On behalf of myself, my minor child and/or my legal ward, I agree that if any portion of this Assumption of Risk, Waiver and Release of Liability Agreement is found to be void or unenforceable, the remaining provisions of this document shall remain in full force and effect.



I UNDERSTAND THAT BY EXECUTING THIS AGREEMENT I AND MY MINOR CHILD AND/OR LEGAL WARD ARE GIVING UP ANY RIGHT TO BRING A LEGAL ACTION OR ASSERT THE CLAIM AGAINST EXCELLENT ENTERTAINMENT ENTERPRISES, LLC., GRAND SLAM COON RAPIDS, AND ALL OTHER RELEASEES IDENTIFIED HEREIN, FOR NEGLIGENCE OR FOR ANY DEFECTIVE PRODUCT ON THE PREMISES.

MUST BE AT LEAST 18 YEARS OLD TO FILL OUT THIS SECTION (All minors must be listed below)

Signature of Adult Participant (At least 18 years old) or Parent/Guardian: _____

Print Name: (Adult Participant or Parent/Guardian): _____

If not staying on site, please provide a phone number: _____

Today's Date: _____ Parent/Guardian and/or Adult Participant DOB (MM/DD/YYYY): ___/___/___

Birthday Party Name (If Applicable): _____

Birthday Party Start Time (If Applicable): _____

Minor Name: _____ DOB (MM/DD/YYYY): ___/___/___



14th Annual

Project REACH

COAT AND BLANKET DRIVE

Nov. 13, 2023 - Jan. 19, 2024

We are accepting **NEW coats and blankets** this year to help keep our children experiencing homelessness warm all winter.

We need **all sizes** (infant, toddler, youth, adult) of **NEW** coats & blankets for our long winter!

Please bring donations to our office at:
1021 Marion Street, St. Paul, MN 55117
or contact Heather Alden at heather.alden@spps.org
or 651-744-7173 to arrange a pick up!



Project REACH

A Saint Paul Public Schools program serving families in our district who are experiencing homelessness.

Thank you so much for your support of our students!



Saint Paul
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

