

# Harding High School Parent Newsletter

Volume 4

April, May, June 2015

## *The Principal's PAGE*



## **Greetings from Harding High School**

### The School Year in Review

These are busy days at Harding as we look to the close of another school year. We encourage you to remind your son/daughter about the importance of staying 'on track' with assignments in classes.

Many Harding Seniors have received scholarships and grants as they look to begin their college careers. These students will all be recognized on May 21<sup>st</sup> in the Harding Auditorium. We hope that many parents will attend. This has been an outstanding year for seniors. We are so proud of these students and we thank their parents for supporting their strong efforts. It is always amazing and gratifying to see the amount of scholarship dollars awarded to Harding seniors.

Most of the juniors recently took part in the state-wide ACT.

We are well into planning for the 2015-2016 year. We are on the path to being authorized as a Middle Years Program (MYP ) International Baccalaureate (IB) school. MYP will focus on classroom instruction and student achievement for all ninth and tenth graders.

All of our students have iPads and we continue to identify effective ways to use them in our classrooms to enhance learning.

At the current time Harding is facing a 1.3 million dollar cut in our budget next year. Obviously, those cuts make it difficult to meet the needs of all of our students. Please contact your legislator to ask them to raise funding for the schools. As long as the legislature is in session, we have an opportunity to influence their final decisions. Every voice makes a difference

The next few weeks will be busy at Harding as seniors prepare to graduate and we celebrate their successes.

We thank you for your ongoing support of Harding students



## International Baccalaureate News...

### EXAMS ARE HERE!

The month of May can be a very stressful and challenging month for our IB testing juniors and seniors. Parents and guardians can support their IB students by encouraging their students to try their best on the exams, to make sure their students are getting enough sleep and are eating healthy, balanced meals.



### The IB Middle Years Program (MYP)

During the months of February and March, the MYP focused on the IB learner profile. The learner profile is a set of ten attributes (characteristics) that provide a long-term vision of education and help develop internationally-minded students. Students participated in a number of learner profile activities in their advisory. Teachers are beginning to develop lessons using the learner profile in their classes. By exhibiting behaviors from the 10 attributes, students will be more prepared for the challenges of the working world. The ten learner profile attributes are ***risk-takers, communicators, principled, balanced, caring, inquirers, knowledgeable, open-minded, thinkers and reflective.***

From now until the end of the school year we are piloting the MYP Personal Project with one sophomore advisory class. The Personal Project is designed to allow students the opportunity to pursue further learning in areas of their own unique interests. Based on their individual interests, students will form a goal for something they would like to either create or explore more thoroughly. Each student will be expected to document their action steps in a process journal, write a report of their findings and create a final project. Students will be given time to complete this project in their advisory class. They will have the full support of their advisory teacher as they go through the process. Some of the topics students chose include...

- Bullying and the negative impacts on people's emotions and how they view themselves
- Music and it's impact on a person's mood
- Gaming and it's affects on people
- Hmong culture and beliefs
- Recycling old clothes to make new clothes
- What it means to be a young African American woman

If you have questions about the MYP or would like more information, you may contact the MYP coordinator, Shandyn Benson.

Shandyn.Benson@spps.org

651-744-3263



## ALL IPADS AND CHARGERS MUST BE TURNED IN MAY 20

Harding High School will collect and inventory all iPads and Chargers on May 20 during Advisory. Please note the following schedule:

May 14: Students will receive an email about how to back up files on their iPad.

May 18: During Advisory, students will receive further instructions about preparing their iPad for the collection process.

**May 20:** During an extended advisory, students will wipe their iPads, and complete an individual turn-in checklist with their teacher.

- iPads must be fully charged;
- iPads must be in the case with name tag;
- Chargers must be in a zip-lock bag with student name.

9<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> grade students will be reissued the same iPad in the fall.

**CONSEQUENCES** for not turning in the iPad and Charger on May 20:

Seniors:

- Will not walk in graduation ceremony

9-12: iPads and chargers

- will be reported as Stolen Property with St. Paul Police Department
- will be Disabled

We appreciate students' strict compliance with this schedule to insure a smooth spring collection and fall hand out. Thank you for your support!



## NHS/Student Council Corner

### NHS Service Project

NHS welcomes 37 new members (fifteen sophomores and twenty two juniors) to the 2015 – 2016 National Honor Society.

### Student Council

Student council has been as busy as ever! In March we celebrated our Sno Daze week with a variety of fun dress up days. Our pepfest honored our royalty that were crowned at a coronation prior to the school dance. Seniors Ariel Gutierrez and Amber Lee were crowned 2015 Sno Daze King and Queen. Jerhontier Bryant was crowned the coronation Joker. 11th grade Prince and Princess were Pao Thao and July Yang. 10th grade Lord and Lady were Benjin Thao and Mai Kong Chang. In February Harding continued their community involvement with a well attended Blood Drive with Memorial Blood Drive. This blood drive saw more 1st time donors than ever before! We will end the year with our spring Clarisse Grimes Memorial Blood Drive in May. These spring months our groups have made cupcakes for the Ronald McDonald House, blankets for local shelters and will be leading a book drive to fill up the SPPS little libraries throughout the east side. Many thanks for our fabulous Student Council President, Isabella Thor for all your leadership and dedication to giving the Harding and East Side Communities strong commitment and attention.



## A Vous La Parole

**BRAVO** Harding French! You did it again!

Harding French Students in all levels participated in the annual "A Vous La Parole" oral competition at the University of Minnesota on April 21. Students participated in song, poetry, original theater, large group song and extemporaneous readings. All students earned a ribbon with 33 blue ribbons (highest honors) 7 red ribbons and 4 white ribbons. Bravo!

### **Athletic Department News**

Our winter sport teams had great participation - were very competitive- and our athletes and teams represented Harding very well.

The 9th grade boys' basketball team won the conference championship and also were the Twin City champions. Two of our wrestlers advanced to the state tournament. Senior Keinnan Thacker was the conference champion, finished on top in sections and wrestled well in state tournament - sophomore Jet Mi Ka finished second in the section and advanced to the state tourney.

Girl's basketball improved over past seasons and won many games - beating Johnson for the first time in many years. Many of our winter athletes received all conference honors and awards.

Ismael Kamara is being honored as a High School Scholar Athlete by the National Football Foundation. Ismail is a football, basketball, and track athlete, vice president of the senior class, and a great student - and is involved in everything!

Cynthia Walker was honored as Harding's 2015 Athena winner - she is a volleyball, basketball, and track athlete. She also is a good student and active in Harding activities.

Spring sports are in full swing - Harding's boys' tennis team is the defending city conference champions and are hoping to repeat again and advance in section play. All of our spring teams are improved - baseball, softball, badminton, track, boy's and girl's golf - and the spring weather has also been much improved this year.

The Harding athletic banquet to honor our senior athletes - and athletes that have earned special awards will be held on Wednesday May 27.

Fall sports for next fall are going to be starting a little earlier - three weeks before school starts - so we must work on getting our fall athletes signed up and get forms and fees completed before the end of this school year. Any questions call the athletic office for information and answers - 651 744 3236.

# American Indian Studies

American Indian Studies (AIS) is excited to be hosting the first **Dakota Language Quiz Bowl** in Minnesota here at Harding High School. We are collaborating with the Dakota Language Program at the University of Minnesota. Teams are invited from across the region to compete for trophies and honor. There are 2 categories, with openings for 8 youth (middle and high school) teams and 8 adult teams.



The competition will take place on Saturday, April 18<sup>th</sup>, starting at 9 am. Free and open to the public! There will be vendors selling various items, as well as a mini-college fair. We hope to see many supporters of Dakota Language scholars!

For more information, go to the website at [z.umn.edu/dakotaiapi](http://z.umn.edu/dakotaiapi).

AIS has 14 students who are currently working towards the **Distinction in American Indian Studies**. To earn the Distinction, students must complete a series of requirements, such as volunteering at least 20 hours within the Native community, maintaining a 3.0 or higher grade point average in AIS classes, and participating in leadership activities. Students that earn the Distinction will be recognized at the Harding graduation ceremony, wearing an AIS stole over their garments. They can use this Distinction when applying for colleges and scholarships.

Our current class of Distinction students includes the following:

#### SOPHOMORES:

Bayli Seltzer  
Phoua Thao  
Skyler Kuczaboski  
Isaac Marshall  
Cierra Bulau

#### JUNIORS:

Pachia Thao  
Elizabeth Otto  
Brian Arthur

#### SENIORS:

Nicole Peel  
Naomi Berglund  
Kaoyeng Vang  
Hollie Fredericks  
Alex Garvie  
Andrew Fairbanks

This year many of our students have been volunteering at the SPPS Indian Education monthly powwows. They help set up, arranging tables and chairs. They assist with the food sales (fry bread tacos!) and do clean up afterwards. The students have been doing great work and are much appreciated at these events.

### AIS and Indian Ed After School Groups

**Drum Group:** Taught by Jerry Dearly, Lakota language and culture teacher. Open to both boys and girls—students will learn how to sing traditional Native songs and drum etiquette. Meets Tuesdays, 2:15-3:30 pm, in room 1425.

**After School Study Group:** Led by Renae Davis, Indian Education Social Worker. Students work on their school assignments. Tutors are available, and snacks are provided. Meets Wednesdays, 2:15-3:30 pm, in room 1425.

**Student Tribal Council:** Facilitated by Barry Frantum, AIS Cultural Specialist. Students develop leadership skills, participate in cultural service-learning projects, and meet with community leaders. Meets Thursdays, 2:15-3:30 pm, in room 1425.

**Dakota Language Bowl Team Practice:** Facilitated by Barry Frantum, AIS Cultural Specialist. Students practice for the Dakota Language Bowl competition. Interested students should connect with Barry. Meets Mondays and Wednesdays, 2:15-3:30, in the AVID classroom.



# Harding Knight Navy

## NJROTC Competitive Season Over For The Year

The Knight Navy cadets had their best year, by far, at the regional (Area 3 West) drill meet this past weekend. There are eight events at the drill meet (Academic, Physical Fitness, Color Guard, Personnel Inspection, Unarmed Drill, Armed Drill, Unarmed Exhibition Drill, and Armed Exhibition Drill). For the past decade or so, we have competed in six events. We haven't competed in the Exhibition events. The best we have done in the past is four trophies out of the six events. We did this both last year and the year before. This year, in a field of 15 schools from seven states, the cadets won SIX trophies (trophies go five deep in each event).

Armed Drill - 1st place  
Physical Fitness - 1st place  
Unarmed Drill - 3rd place  
Personnel Inspection - 3rd place  
Academic - 4th place  
Color Guard - 5th place

At the end of January, the cadets said they wanted to try Unarmed Exhibition Drill. We instructors, having no experience with the event, said "go for it," and they did. They did get cold feet a few weeks back, and again last week, saying they wanted to back out because they weren't ready. We told them to lower their expectations and do their best. This year is just to get your feet wet, and to set a baseline on which to build. Surprisingly, and quite encouragingly, they placed 8th out of 13 teams.

In order to win an Overall Trophy at Area 3 West, a school must compete in all eight events. This meet is a stepping stone to the National Drill Meet in Pensacola, Florida, so each of the 12 Area Managers around the states must send schools that will compete in all events. This year, had we competed in the eighth event (Armed Exhibition Drill), even if we scored zero points, we would have won the 3rd place overall trophy, based on the points we earned in the other seven events.

### INDIVIDUAL MEDALS:

Academic - The Academic team consists of 10 cadets. Out of the 13 schools that competed (130 cadets), Tueking Lo earned the 10th place medal, and Tom Rohrich the 8th place medal.

Physical Fitness - Teams consist of 8 ladies and 8 men doing pushups and situps to a cadence of 50 per minute. 14 schools competed (112 ladies and 112 men competing in each event). The top five ladies and the top five men in each exercise earn medals.

# Harding Counselors: How Can We Help You?



**It's that time of year when seniors graduate, summer is near and families make plans for the future.**

We are in the last Quarter of the school year! This is the home stretch for students who will be graduating in June, and also the time to prepare for summer school for students who need to make up credits in order to be on track to graduate with their class.

This year summer school consists of two sessions. Students have the option of attending Session 1 or Session 2. If a student needs to make up more than 3 classes, they will need to attend *both* sessions.

Session 1: June 15 – July 9 (no school on July 3<sup>rd</sup>)

Session 2: July 13 – August 6

- If your child has failed a class in the subject areas of: English, Social Studies, Math, Science, PE or Health, they will be registered by their school counselor.
- Information about summer school location and transportation will be mailed out at the end of May if your child was registered.
- **Please contact your child's counselor** if you are unsure if your child needs summer school.

If your child does NOT need summer school, please encourage him/her to visit the College and Career Center to find activities to do in the summer! The CCC is filled with information about summer camps, internships, and jobs that will help your child gain valuable experience for the future!

If you have additional questions, feel free to contact your child's counselor.

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