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ABOUT:

Farmington School Reporter is a publication of Farmington Area Public Schools, ISD 192. Please direct comments or questions to Sally McConaughy at (651) 463-5079 or smcconnaughy@farmington.k12.mn.us

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Kindergarten Enrollment Now Open for Fall 2025!

In Farmington Area Public Schools, kindergarten provides a safe, nurturing, and challenging environment for learners to think creatively and critically while growing their knowledge and skills. We are excited to welcome the next class of kindergarten learners and their families to our school community.

If your child - or a child you know - is ready to start kindergarten in fall 2025, now is the time to enroll at farmington.k12.mn.us/enroll. Enrolling now ensures you're in the loop for all upcoming events and communications and it gives schools a chance to plan so they are fully prepared to give your child

the best start possible. If you have any questions about kindergarten or the enrollment process, please call our enrollment office at 651-463-5052.

We look forward to welcoming the Class of 2038 to our Tiger Community!



SCAN HERE TO ENROLL!



Budget Alignment Following Failed November Operating Levy

In November, Farmington Area Public Schools' operating levy referendum was not approved, and the school board and administration are now moving forward with the process to reduce the district's budget for the 2025-2026 school year.

At its meeting on Monday, Dec. 9, the ISD 192 school board approved the budget reduction target of about

\$4.4 million for next year. The board has also scheduled three public sessions to provide information around the 2025-2026 budget:

- Thursday, Jan. 16th, 6 p.m. virtual session
- Tuesday, Jan. 21st, 6 p.m., North Trail Elementary School

- Wednesday, Feb. 5th, 6 p.m., Farmington Library

The current plan is for the board to approve the budget target and reductions in late February or early March. The district will continue to keep stakeholders informed throughout the budgeting and planning processes.



Thankful Thursdays Bring Positivity to FHS

Throughout November, Farmington High School embraced the spirit of gratitude with Thankful Thursdays, a month-long initiative to promote mental health and positivity among students and staff. Learners were encouraged to write notes of thanks to friends, family and staff, spreading appreciation throughout the FHS community.

The impact was remarkable, with both the writers and the recipients of the heartfelt messages experiencing a boost in happiness. The simple act of gratitude served as a reminder of how small gestures can help reduce stress, ease anxiety and improve our overall well-being.



Thankful Thursday also gave learners the opportunity to practice the art of writing thoughtful, handwritten notes - a timeless skill in today's digital world.

In December, FHS continued their gratitude practices by encouraging everyone to take a "Positivity Minute" to thank someone in their lives. Gratitude is contagious and together we can keep spreading joy and connection in our school and beyond!



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Farmington School Board Welcomes New and Returning Members

We are excited to welcome one new member to the Farmington Area Schools School Board and congratulate Kyle Christensen and Hannah Johnson on their reelection. Kelsey Jezierski will also be joining the board beginning in January.

We'd also like to thank Jacilyn Doyle who finished her term this past December. Her service to our district and community has had a positive impact. We are grateful for her time and dedication!

EXPLORE. LEARN. GROW.

Programs and Opportunities for All Ages

EARLY CHILDHOOD

- Early Childhood Family Education
- Early Childhood Screening
- Preschool

KIDS & TEENS

- ACT Prep & Tutoring
- After School Clubs
- Art, Fitness & Music Classes
- Child Care
- Birthday Parties
- Cheerleading
- Driver's Education
- Non-School Day Programs
- Gymnastics & Parkour
- Swim Lessons

ADULTS

- Adults With Disabilities Programs
- English Classes
- Enrichment Programs
- Fitness Classes

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Akin Road Hosts STEM Night in Partnership with the Bell Museum

On Nov. 14, Akin Road Elementary held its second annual Parent Teacher Partnership (PTP) sponsored STEM night. The purpose of this gathering is connecting families, learners and our Akin Road community around powerful, collaborative learning experiences. The event featured more than 20 engaging, hands-on science learning opportunities including building small rockets, learning about how animals are named, designing a lunar lander, using chromatography to create a

beautiful paper flower and many other activities. More than 450 learners and their families were in attendance!

Akin Road is proud of the incredible collaboration and support of STEM Night throughout the school district and the community. Many Farmington High School National Honor Society students were in attendance as well as Rogue Robotics Team students that helped lead activities, demonstrate their skills and

the future opportunities to be involved on their team. In addition, Collins Aerospace brought several engaging activities. The entire event was organized in collaboration with

the Bell Museum, which donated the materials and directions for our activities and trained us in how to facilitate the evening. It was a fabulous evening for Akin Road families!



Building Connections: Life Skills for a Brighter Future

At Akin Road Elementary, we believe in the power of connection. To foster a sense of belonging and equip our students with essential interpersonal skills, we've introduced Connection Time—a dedicated opportunity for students to learn, grow, and thrive together.

For six weeks in the fall and again in the spring, our students

come together in two age-appropriate groups—Kindergarten through 2nd grade and 3rd through 5th grade—for interactive lessons focused on building key life skills. These sessions are designed to help our students navigate friendships, express themselves thoughtfully, and understand the impact of their words and actions.

What happens during Connection Time? Students engage in age-tailored discussions and activities exploring topics such as:

- Empathy: Understanding and valuing others' feelings.
- Tone of Voice: Recognizing how words and tone influence communication.
- Body Language: Using non-verbal cues effectively and interpreting others' signals.

- Owning Actions: Taking responsibility for behaviors and their consequences.
 - Thinking Before Speaking: Pausing to reflect on words and intentions.
- Through role-playing, group discussions, and hands-on activities, students gain practical strategies to build stronger relationships with peers and adults. These lessons are not just about addressing challenges but about empowering students to lead with kindness, confidence and self-awareness.





Meadowview Students Prepare for February Musical Performances

Meadowview Elementary School students in grades 3-5 are busy preparing for the Meadowview Musical Performance of *Joust*. *Joust* is a Medieval Musical about the legend of King Arthur and his Knights of the Round Table. The Meadowview production, directed by Music Specialist Erica Winters and 4th grade teacher Jacalyn Eisenzimmer will consist of approximately 50 students. Participants will sing, dance and embrace the spirit of Medieval times through a variety of speaking roles. Family and friends are invited to join the fun at the community dress rehearsal on Wednesday, Feb. 19 at 3 p.m. or performance of *Joust*, Feb. 20 at 6:30 p.m.!

Meadowview Tiger Trot Promotes Wellness and Inclusivity



This fall, Meadowview Elementary hosted their annual Meadowview Tiger Trot Cross Country Meet featuring each grade level participation. The students were encouraged to try their best while also being sure to cheer on all of the other students.

“Our goal is to be inclusive, which means that we cheer on everybody no matter their ability,” physical education teacher Mr. Joe McCarthy said. “Also, one of our skills the students are taught is to learn how to pace themselves, which includes starting slow, conserving energy, and finishing strong.”

The Tiger Trot raised \$28,366 in partnership with Meadowview’s Parent Teacher Partnership (PTP). The funds have helped the

school complete the finishing touches on their hill slide project. Also, the funds provide supplementary learning resources including digital and print subscriptions and extended learning experiences such as African Drumming.

Thanks to Farmington High School video production teacher Mark Toutge, he created a video that captured the essence of the event and shared students speaking about their fun experience at the Tiger Trot.



North Trail Brings Community Together for Fitness and Kindness



North Trail Elementary School welcomed the fall season with their Annual Fun Run Fundraiser! Each year, the funds raised from the event provides many opportunities for North Trail students including curricular enhancements, student experiences and a character enrichment program. In addition, the funds benefited this year’s fitness-focused event open to all students within our school community. This year’s event theme was “Castle Quest” which taught students how to be brave and live with character.

From Nov. 10-16, North Trail celebrated World Kindness Week by participating in acts of kindness throughout the school and community. Each grade level planned and executed a kindness-based community service project:

Kindergarten students made placemats for Trinity Care Center to enjoy at their Thanksgiving table.

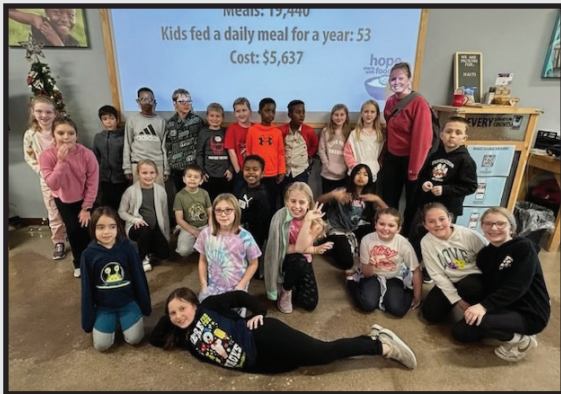
First grade students captured kindness in their hearts, hands, and halls by writing and displaying notes of kindness throughout the school building and delivering them to staff members.

Second grade students decorated mug warmers for Dunn Brothers Coffee.

Third grade students volunteered at Feed My Starving Children and packed more than 10,440 meals for children in Haiti.

Fourth grade students made kindness bracelets and delivered them to patients at Fairview Hospital.

Fifth grade students recorded read-alouds for our younger students to enjoy.



Tiger Stripes Spotlight

Dodge Middle School celebrates those who embody their core values of empathy, community and purpose with the Tiger Stripes Awards! Each week, students and staff are recognized for their contributions to making the school a caring and connected community. Whether through acts of kindness, teamwork or leading with a purpose, these Tigers show us what it means to make a difference every day. Keep an eye out for our next honorees!



Turkey Bingo Brings Fun and Kindness to BMS

Boeckman Middle School was buzzing with excitement during Turkey Bingo! The event brought learners together for an afternoon filled with laughter, friendly competition and a shared sense of purpose. To participate, each learner contributed canned goods, resulting in an impressive donation to support those in need in our local community. The joy of winning bingo was only matched by the pride in giving back. Thank you to BMS learners and families for showing the power of kindness and community spirit!



These BMS media art students are bringing their ideas to life, frame by frame, with an impressive stop-motion video project. We love seeing creativity and teamwork in action!

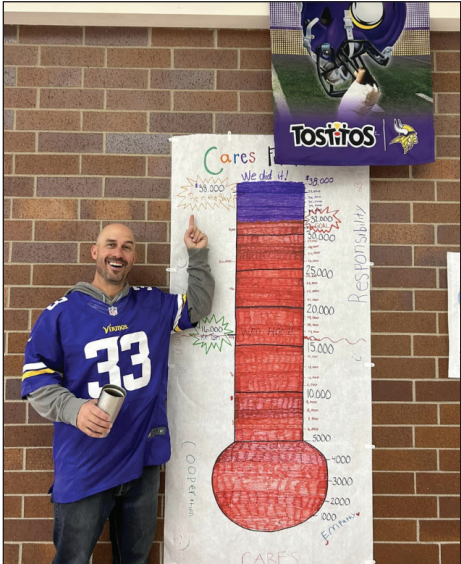
Riverview Elementary Raises \$38,000 for Enhanced Learning Experiences

Riverview Elementary School hosted their CARES Fun Run Fundraiser this fall and raised \$38,000 for the school. The funds raised benefit a variety of educational purposes including field trips, author visits, the annual African drumming residency, high interest books, STEM supplies for the maker space, subscriptions to vital learning resources, and various other school needs.



The annual CARES Fun Run is not your typical run. This event is indoors and features multiple bouncy houses, an obstacle course, a dance floor, photo stations, and a sensory course for students with special needs. Lights are dimmed and music is playing to create a fun and energetic atmosphere for students, staff and families.

Several incentives were in place to encourage students to help meet the fundraising goals. Because the goal was met, teachers camped on the roof of the school. They brought tents and blankets, read some stories to our families over Facebook Live, and even had some families come and visit and bring them food and hot chocolates. Also because the students exceeded their original goal of raising



\$32,000, the principal had to wear Vikings gear, despite being a Packers fan, and was pied in the face.

The CARES Fun Run is a wonderful way for the school to build community and support each other and their learning experiences.

"We are so grateful to the many families and community members who support our school and ensure our learners have access to wonderful learning experiences," Principal Shawn Peck said.



Several Riverview Elementary School learners took a field trip to do a community service project at Feed My Starving Children, an organization that coordinates the packaging and distribution of food to people in developing nations. The school community is proud of their students for volunteering their time to help those in need!

Twist ‘N’ Tumble Gets a Makeover: Meet TNT Gymnastics & Parkour

Twist ‘N’ Tumble has a new name but remains the same beloved Community Education staple! Now known as **TNT Gymnastics & Parkour**, the program has embraced a bold identity that better reflects its dynamic and energetic spirit. With offerings in gymnastics and parkour, TNT continues to provide engaging, skill-building activities for kids.

The rebranding to TNT

Gymnastics & Parkour underscores the program’s commitment to inspiring movement, confidence, and creativity in its students. While the name has changed, the same trusted instructors, high-quality programming, and welcoming atmosphere remain at the heart of TNT. This updated name encapsulates the program’s core: strength, agility, and fun.

TNT Gymnastics & Parkour proudly enrolled 733 students in the past year, ranging in age from 7 months to 21 years. This program is committed to continuing its growth in response to the wants and needs of the community. Offering everything from Toddler Gymnastics and Parkour to a competitive Xcel Team, as well as, Homeschool Fitness and a Special Olympics

Minnesota Team starting up this winter, there’s a class for everyone.

“We are very proud of the improvements in both our gymnastics and parkour programming,” Coach Bailey Shamion said. “We believe both disciplines are foundational and transferable to any sport.”

As TNT Gymnastics & Parkour moves forward,

the program remains dedicated to fostering skill development, encouraging active lifestyles, and building community connections. From foundational gymnastics classes to thrilling parkour sessions, TNT continues to be a hub for growth and fun. Join us and experience the exciting new chapter of TNT Gymnastics & Parkour!



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A Class for Grandparents, Inspired by Community Needs

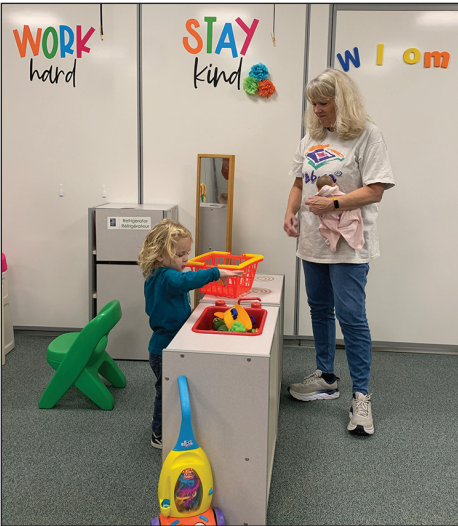
Farmington Community Education’s Early Childhood Family Education (ECFE) program is excited to shine a spotlight on A Grand Class, a new offering in early learning designed specifically for grandparents caring for their grandchildren.

In our community, we’ve noticed an increasing number of grandparents providing primary child care to their grandchildren. This inspired ECFE to create a class tailored to their unique



needs. A Grand Class builds on the connections many grandparents already found through our Marvelous Mondays Drop-In and Play sessions. Participants shared that they wanted a more traditional, weekly ECFE class that included a separate discussion time for adults. These discussions provide a safe space for grandparents to share their experiences, support one another, and dive into topics that are unique to their caregiving role.

The response to A Grand Class has been overwhelmingly positive. “Participating grandparents have thoroughly enjoyed ECFE. They have meshed as a group, so much that if their grandchild is sick or can’t come to class, the grandparent still comes to the adult discussion time,” states Early Childhood and Parent Educator Lynn Benson. The supportive atmosphere fosters meaningful connections and the feedback has been so encouraging that the class will be extended in the winter session to allow for even more time to learn and connect.



At its core, ECFE aims to build relationships – between caregivers and their children, among families, and with our program staff. We’re thrilled to see grandparents embracing A Grand Class as a way to strengthen those relationships and create lasting connections. Farmington Community Education is proud to offer programs like ECFE that respond to the needs of our community and support families in every stage of their journey.



About ECFE

ECFE provides classes and resources for parents and caregivers of children from birth to age 5, offering a supportive environment where adults can connect, share experiences, and gain insights on navigating the joys and challenges of raising little ones. View all of our ECFE class offerings here: <https://bit.ly/192ECFE>.



Screen at 3!

Ensure your child is ready for kindergarten by scheduling an Early Childhood Screening today!

Screening provides an overview of your child’s development starting at age three. This FREE service offers families valuable insights into their child’s growth and development and helps address any health or development concerns well before kindergarten begins.

In Minnesota, screening is required for all children before starting kindergarten and is recommended shortly after their third birthday. Farmington Area Schools offers this important service at no cost to families.

Screening Appointments: Get Your Child Kindergarten-Ready!

Register today through Farmington Community Education online at www.FarmingtonCE.com/early_learning or call 651-460-3200. Please note that while the appointment is free, completing the registration process—including the \$0.00 checkout step—is required. You’ll receive a confirmation email once registration is complete.

The Countdown to Kindergarten

Kindergarten Prep Checklist

-  **Enroll online today at** farmington.k12.mn.us/enroll. 
-  Attend our **Kindergarten Information Night** for Parents and Guardians. **Wednesday, Jan. 15, 6 p.m.** **Farmington High School**
-  Schedule a free **early childhood screening**. More information on page 8. 
-  Mark your calendars and attend a **Spring into Kindergarten event**.
-  Download the **Kindergarten Handbook** to read more about our philosophy, kindergarten readiness, frequently asked questions and more. 
-  Watch your email in August for important **back-to-school information**.

You’re invited to Spring into Kindergarten!

This spring each of our elementary schools are hosting a Spring Into Kindergarten event for future kindergarteners and their families. This is your chance to tour the school, meet the teachers and staff, ask any questions you have, and learn more about kindergarten in ISD 192!

Akin Road Elementary
Thursday, May 8, 3:30-4:30 p.m.

Farmington Elementary
Tuesday, May 13, 4-5 p.m.

Meadowview Elementary
Thursday, May 8, 4-5 p.m.

North Trail Elementary
Tuesday, May 13, 4:30-5:30 p.m.

Riverview Elementary
Tuesday, April 29, 5-6 p.m.

If you have any questions about kindergarten or the enrollment process, please call our enrollment office at 651-463-5052.

We look forward to welcoming the Class of 2038 to our Tiger Community!

Farmington Community Education’s Tigers SERVE Volunteer Program Opens a Free Little Food Pantry

Tigers SERVE, a student volunteer program offered through Farmington Community Education at the Farmington High School (FHS), was awarded a Sodexo Stop Hunger Foundation Youth Grant through Youth Service America (YSA). The grant has supported Tigers SERVE in leading a community service project that addresses the issue of childhood hunger in the form of a Little Food Pantry.

Before COVID-19, it was estimated 35 million people across the United States – including 10 million children – suffered from food insecurity. That number is expected to increase to as much as 50 million people. This is a problem that can be solved, and young people are a part of the solution.

Tigers SERVE identified a need for more access to food in Farmington and began brainstorming on how to make this possible. The idea of a Free Little Food Pantry emerged, and they sought out Farmington Lutheran Church (FLC) about housing it. FLC was interested, and shared that Eagle Scout Andy H., from Troop 119, was interested in building one. With this partnership, Tigers SERVE students Gianna B., Kaliyan O., Elsie F., and Alina H., applied for the grant and

held a food drive, while Andy H. led his troop in constructing and installing the pantry.

The Little Food Pantry is located at Farmington Lutheran Church off Akin Road in Farmington, MN which officially opened on Nov. 9, 2024. It provides 24/7 access to non-perishable food for all community members. Throughout the year there will be multiple food drives to replenish the pantry. Community members are also welcome to drop off food at the pantry (non-perishable boxed foods are accepted, however, canned goods cannot be put out during freezing or hot months).

“There were many steps, and it was enjoyable to see it all come together and learn the process of leading a team and building,” Andy H. commented.

“As an individual who has gotten to work with so many different people through this project. I grew skills with communicating with others whether in person or through email. It’s amazing to see what a little talking can do,” Elsie F. shared. “This project was very fun to be a part of throughout the entire process and it is amazing to see it come together after a year of planning,” Gianna B said. “I hope



that the installment of this pantry will impact those who need it most. We hope that families and community members feel welcomed to take what they may need, as well as give as they please,” said Kaliyan O.

The mission of Tigers SERVE is to promote a culture of service that impacts our community by connecting learners to meaningful volunteer experiences that utilize their interests, skills, and strengths. Tigers SERVE believes that every learner is uniquely equipped to make a difference in their community, and helps youth

find and track volunteer opportunities while building a service resume by the time they graduate. High School youth can use volunteer hours to qualify for different awards associated with volunteering, including the FHS Varsity Service Letter and National Community Service Awards sponsored by the United Nations Association-USA! To learn more about Tigers SERVE, please visit www.tigersserve.com.



Farmington Elementary Making Generous Ties to the Community

Farmington Elementary School hosted their family night tied to the theme of “Live to Give.” Each year, the school finds unique ways to give back to the community. This year, more than 150 students, staff and families created 60 tie blankets to donate to the Children’s Hospital.

This theme has been carried out through the school community and is based off of the social emotional program named the Live to Give Mindset from 7 Mindsets. This program shares how we inspire students to serve others:

The Live to Give mindset teaches the importance of

serving others while maximizing our own potential. It tells us that abundance in life is a cycle: that, in order receive love, respect, and financial security, we must first learn to give those things to others. This mindset also teaches us that the greatest gift we can ever give is to find and leverage our unique genius to maximize our positive impact on the world, knowing the good things will be returned to us in kind.

Thank you to all of the Farmington families that helped make a difference in someone’s life!



UPCOMING EVENTS & OPPORTUNITIES

JANUARY 2025

- **JAN 6** School Resumes
- **JAN 10** Elementary Schools: No School/Staff Development Day; No Preschool or ECFE
- **JAN 13** School Board Meeting, 5:30 p.m.
- **JAN 13** FHS Band Concert at FHS, 7 p.m.
- **JAN 14** DMS & BMS Choir Concerts, 6 and 7:30 p.m.
- **JAN 15** Kindergarten Information Night, 6 p.m. at FHS (parents and guardians only, please)
- **JAN 16** DMS & BMS Choir Concerts, 6 and 7:30 p.m.
- **JAN 20** Martin Luther King, Jr. Day: No School, Preschool or ECFE
- **JAN 21** BMS Band Concerts, 6 p.m.
- **JAN 23** DMS Band Concerts, 6 and 7:30 p.m.
- **JAN 27** No School/Staff Development Day; No Preschool or ECFE
- **JAN 27** Non-School Day Open Swim at DMS Pool, 12-2 p.m.

FEBRUARY 2025

- **FEB 3** Tigers Preschool (2025-26) and Kid Connection (summer and school year) Registration Opens
- **FEB 10** School Board Meeting, 5:30 p.m.

- **FEB 14** Elementary Schools: No School/Staff Development Day; Middle and High Schools: Flexible Learning Day; No Preschool or ECFE
- **FEB 17** President’s Day: No School, Preschool or ECFE
- **FEB 18** FHS Winter Jazz Concert, 7 p.m.
- **FEB 20** Middle School Solo/ Ensemble Festival, 6 p.m.
- **FEB 24** School Board Meeting, 5:30 p.m.
- **MARCH 2025**
- **MAR 3** FHS Band Concert, 7 p.m.
- **MAR 4** Conferences, All Schools
- **MAR 6** Two-Hour Early Release; Conferences, All Schools
- **MAR 7** No School/Staff Development Day; No Preschool or ECFE
- **MAR 7** Non-School Day Open Swim at DMS Pool, 12-2 p.m.
- **MAR 10** School Board Meeting, 5:30 p.m.
- **MAR 13** FHS Spring Choir Concert, 6 and 7:30 p.m.
- **MAR 24–MAR 28** Spring Break: No School
- **MAR 24–MAR 28** Non-School Day Open Swim at DMS Pool, 12-2 p.m.
- **MAR 31** School Resumes

APRIL 2025

- **APR 10** SCC Jazz Festival at FHS
- **APR 14** School Board Meeting, 5:30 p.m.
- **APR 19** Community Ed: Family Dance
- **APR 28** School Board Meeting, 5:30 p.m.