



# WELCOME BACK TO SCHOOL!



TIGER CLUB FAMILIES GATHER FOR ANNUAL PICNIC

## SCHOOL AND DISTRICT NEWS

### Tiger Club families enjoy annual end-of-summer picnic

Fridley Public Schools Tiger Club families gathered to celebrate the end of their summer program on August 23, 2017 at the Fridley Community Center.

The sixth annual Tiger Club Family Picnic allowed parents to visit their children in the middle of the workday to enjoy an early afternoon of sunshine and activities. Nearly 250 children and their parents and grandparents gathered at the event to participate in lawn games, play in the bouncy house and meet other Tiger Club families. Participants also enjoyed bag lunches, pop-

sicles and ice cream sandwiches during the picnic celebration.

The Fridley Tiger Club, a program of the district's Community Education department, is a 4-star-rated Parent Aware program that provides childcare for parents during the day. The program accommodates the needs of working families by providing high quality childcare in a safe and secure environment to children from age infants to sixth grade. Through the program, children are able to enjoy various educational and enrichment

activities throughout the day such as art, literacy, community service projects and field trips.

Tiger Club coordinator Kristi Sabby likened the event to an extended family reunion with children, parents and Tiger Club employees spending time together and enjoying each other's company. "Each year our Tiger Club Family Picnic gets bigger and better," said Sabby. "It is a wonderful way to celebrate the end of our summer program and bring our community together."



## WELCOME BACK, TIGERS!



### Welcome class of 2021

Ninth graders at Fridley High School were welcomed with cheers and excitement by the Fridley High School Link Crew on September 5. The Fridley High School Link Crew is a peer-mentoring group of upperclassmen who assist students with the adjustment from middle to high school. As positive role models, the Link Crew helps freshmen to discover what it takes to be successful during their years at the high school. The Freshmen Orientation day was filled with activities to help students get to know each other and learn more about the high school. The Link Crew will also be connecting with students throughout the year to ensure success. Fridley High School students in grades 10-12 began school on the following day, September 6.



### Welcome back to school, Tigers!

Fridley Public Schools welcomed back over 3,000 students during the first days of school on September 5-6, 2017. Many students returned to school to renovated learning spaces, facilities, and for the Area Learning Center students, a completely new location.

Starting off the school year, Fridley Public Schools debuted new parent and bus drop-off and pick-up locations at both Fridley Middle School and Stevenson Elementary School. As part of the levy referendum that was passed by the community in 2015, the district relocated and enhanced the drop-off

and pick-up areas to ensure a safer environment for students.

Also part of the referendum, Fridley Middle School saw many upgrades and improvements over the summer. These renovations included a new gym, renovated classrooms, enhanced safety and security features and more. The district also relocated its Area Learning Center from its former home at the Fridley Community Center. The ALC is now operating in its own space at the district's Educational Services Center.

Stevenson Elementary students were in for a pleasant

surprise on their first day when Principal Daryl Vossler unveiled the brand new playground. They could barely contain their excitement when he announced that six more swings would be added within the next few weeks of school.

On September 5, fifth graders were welcomed into Fridley Middle School and freshmen began their high school careers with an orientation day filled with activities and games facilitated by the Fridley Link Crew. Pre-kindergartners, kindergartners and the remainder of middle and high school students started classes on September 6.





## 2017 Resource Fair serves District 14 families

Fridley Public Schools held its sixth annual Back-to-School Resource Fair on August 26, 2017. Hundreds of families lined the block early that Saturday morning, waiting to receive backpacks and school supplies for their children in preparation for a new school year.

The Back-to-School Resource Fair is an annual community event that supports district families by providing school supplies to allow all students prepare for and be successful at school. Local businesses, churches and families donate school supplies and/or give money to be used to purchase backpack items for the fair. Any family with a student enrolled in the district can attend the Resource Fair and receive a free backpack.

Family Outreach Liaison Aloda Sims began the initiative six years ago. Sims said the Resource Fair is a great way to kick off the school year and also serves as an opportunity for staff to reconnect with parents and students before the year begins.

Staff set out booths for families to explore which activities and resources are available in the school district. Booths included information on transportation, nutritional services, Fridley Parks and Recreation and many more. Other resources included vouchers for free haircuts.

Sims said one of the best parts about the Resource Fair is seeing the community come together to help serve students in need. She thanked the volunteers who



Over 500 backpacks were given to more than 300 families in the district.

were enthusiastic and excited about contributing to this initiative, as well as all the local churches, businesses and local community groups who donated to the cause.

“That’s the part that gives me so much joy, knowing that we’re able to give back, reach our community and provide those resources that everyone can benefit from,” Sims said. “It’s a great day here for everyone involved.”

Since its beginning, the Resource Fair has grown exponentially, from giving away around 200 backpacks to more than 500.

Sims is excited about the growth, but said not all families in need are being served.

“As we’re walking around and seeing the families that we know may not get a backpack, we’re already planning ahead to talk to other vendors and organizations,” Sims said. “We definitely want to keep this as a sustainable resource for our families. There is a big need, and we would love to fulfill it and continue to bridge that gap for our families.”

This year’s community contributors included: Redeemer Presbyterian Church, Michael Servetus Unitarian Church, St. Williams Church St. Phillips Lutheran Church, Center Church, TEKsystems and the local Target and Walmart stores.



STUDENTS SHOW OFF THEIR BACKPACKS AT THE 2017 BACK-TO-SCHOOL RESOURCE FAIR



## Opening Workshop 2017-18



Fridley High School alumni, who now work for the district, joined Activities Director Dan Roff on stage to sing the Tigers Fight Song.

Fridley Public Schools held its annual Opening Workshop on August 28, 2017 to welcome staff back to a new school year. After a long summer, teachers and district staff gathered in the auditorium to kick off the beginning of the 2017-18 school year. This year, Fridley Public Schools welcomed a total of 54 new employees to the district.

As in years past during the Opening Workshop, the district also recognizes outstanding employees by honoring them with awards, including the Teachers of Excellence Award, the 25 Years of Service Award and the Employee of the Year Award.

Five teachers representing each of the district's schools, including the Area Learning Center, were named the 2016-17 Teachers of Excellence. This year's honorees included Diane Nordin (Fridley Middle School), Candice St. Martin-Riley (Hayes Elementary School), Jennifer Coelho (Stevenson Elementary School), Jeren Anderson (Fridley High School) and Alissa Blood-Knafla (Area Learning Center).

The 25 Years of Service award serves as a thank you to employees who have worked in the district for 25 years. The five employees recognized this year are: Kristi Sabby (Community Education program coordinator), Mi-

chelle Barrett (Stevenson Elementary School teacher), Pam Donley (Stevenson Elementary School paraprofessional), Rebecca (Thompson) Reynolds (Stevenson Elementary School teacher), and Kathy Moore (secretary to Fridley Middle School Assistant Principal).

This year's Employee of the Year award was presented to Communications Specialist David Webber. The Employee of the Year is selected among the Employee of the Month honorees over the past school year. The recognition and honor is given to a non-teaching employee who has shown dedicated and exemplary service to the Fridley Public Schools district.



2016-17 Teachers of Excellence



Employee of the Year David Webber



25 Years of Service Award winners



## Stevenson Elementary unveils new playground



Students couldn't contain their excitement when Vossler announced that an additional six swings would be added to the new playground within the first few weeks of school.

Students at Stevenson Elementary School had a wonderful surprise waiting for them on their first day back to school. Principal Daryl Vossler, surrounded by excited students, unveiled a new playground at Stevenson on September 5, 2017. The new playground project totaled about \$40,000 for new equipment, construction and landscaping.

their excitement when Vossler announced that an additional six swings would be added to the playground within the first few weeks of school.

The project was made possible by contributions from the district, as well as community members and organizations.

The school's old playground was relocated to make room for a new parent student drop off/ and pick up parking. Plans for creating the new parking for parents was part of a levy that the Fridley community approved in 2015 to enhance a safer environment for students. An exciting addition for the Stevenson students was the brand new set of swings. Last spring, Stevenson Elementary students took a vote on what type of equipment they wanted and a swing set was one of the most popular items. Students could barely contain

"It's really been a community effort," Vossler said. "We are really grateful for the support we received from so many people."

Vossler started a GoFundMe page to allow for community members to contribute to the cause. Over \$2,000 has been raised toward a \$3,100 goal. In addition to the personal donations, community organizations that donated to the project include the Fridley Parks and Recreation Department, Fridley Lions Club, and Stevenson PTO.



## Fridley Lions Club donates to elementary teachers

On August 31, 2017, the Fridley Lions Club donated \$100 Target giftcards to every elementary teacher at Fridley Public Schools to assist in purchasing classroom supplies for the coming school year. Now in its sixth year, the Lions Club has made this an annual event. Lions Club members Joanne Toews, Brian Toews and Don Holum were there to carry out the tradition. Top picture: teachers at Stevenson Elementary School, bottom picture: teachers at Hayes Elementary School.





Fridley High School students had the opportunity to spend 16 days traveling around China this summer. Pictured is the group at Tian-an-men Square in Beijing, China.

## CHINA TRIP 2017



### Fridley High School students travel abroad to China

For the first time in the history of the school district, Fridley High School students had the chance to travel abroad to China and immerse themselves in a unique learning opportunity.

For 16 days, a group of 16 students traveled to the cities of Beijing, Xi'an, Chengdu, Suzhou and Shanghai. The summer trip was led by district Chinese language teachers Hsiao-hsuan Huang (Fridley High School) and Diane Nordin (Fridley Middle School). The students who participated in this trip are students enrolled in Chinese language classes at the high school. Fridley Public Schools offers Chinese and Spanish languages to students as part of its International Baccalaureate (IB) Middle Years Programme (MYP).

With a jam-packed itinerary, the students were able to experience authentic Chinese culture from eating local hotpot dinners to spending time exploring the Sacred Path of the Ming Tomb. Beginning in Beijing, the group made their way around China. They visited big cities and main attractions but still maintained an authentic experience by participating in local activities.

In Chengdu, a city in southwest-

ern China, the students visited the Giant Panda Breeding Research Base, where they were able to get close to the incredible creatures. Visiting at a very special time for the facility, the group had the rare opportunity to see two newborn baby pandas.

Students also enjoyed a Yangtze River Cruise, where they rode past lofty peaks, precipitous cliffs and towering trees along the river. The whole group was also invited to perform a song for the crowd in Chinese during a talent show held on the boat.

Parents were able to check in with their students during the trip through the app "WeChat". Throughout the trip, the supervisors posted photos and messages, updating parents on their adventures.

Chinese language student Jozé Vescio, senior, said she highly recommends the trip to experience a culture other than your own. She added that China has preserved its history very well. One of her favorite aspects of the trip was seeing the different architecture and learning more about the the history of China.

"I really loved seeing all the different temples in every city," Vescio

said. "They were all such intricate buildings, very beautiful and so well preserved." Vescio said the trip was amazing for both educational and architectural purposes.

Huang said she enjoyed watching the excitement students felt when they were beginning to understand the language in real-life situations.

"I love when they see, for example, a store sign or when the local guide introduces something, they understand and they feel excited," Huang said. "The most important thing is that this experience inspires their motivation."

In addition to providing students with an authentic experience to motivate their learning, Huang added that the trip helped to promote students' open-mindedness as they explore cultures that are different from their own.

She added that she is very thankful to all those who participated.

"Although I did plan the trip, I'd like to thank the students and parents for their cooperation, the school district for their support, and extend a special thank you to the parent chaperones and Mrs. Nordin for their assistance on the trip," Huang said.





## FRIDLEY PUBLIC SCHOOLS 25 YEARS OF SERVICE AWARD RECIPIENTS



*Thank you for the 25 years of dedicated service!*

### ***Michele Barrett - Teacher at Stevenson Elementary***



Michele Barrett is a Stevenson Elementary School teacher. Michele has worked in various positions during her 25 years at Fridley Public Schools. One of the things that has been consistent throughout is her passion for reading. In fact, this fall, that passion will lend itself well to her new position as a reading intervention teacher at Stevenson.

Michele, who is presently working on her Master's Degree in reading instruction, has also coached track at Fridley High School and basketball at Fridley Middle School. Her hobbies include reading, singing in her church choir, playing the guitar and spending time at the family cabin north of Brainerd.

She and her husband Pat live in Fridley and have two girls; Katie, a sophomore at University of St. Thomas, and Hannah, a junior at Fridley High School. Congratulations, Michele Barrett, and thank you for the 25 years of service to Fridley Public Schools!

### ***Pam Donley - Paraprofessional at Stevenson Elementary***

Pam Donley is a paraprofessional who has been at Stevenson Elementary School for the past 25 years. She is a dedicated staff member who develops strong relationships with her students and addresses each one's unique talents and specific needs.

Pam goes above and beyond to help address each of her student's individual needs. Sue Skarolid, a kindergarten teacher who works with Pam, describes her as a, "self-directed, dedicated, reliable and highly-regarded staff member at Stevenson." Pam has two sons that attended Stevenson, and graduated from Fridley High School.

She enjoys spending time with her friends and family including her two grandsons and can often be found at her cabin on Lake Alexander on the weekends. Pam's optimistic attitude and high expectations are a positive influence on everyone in her company. Congratulations, Pam Donley, and thank you for the 25 years of service to Fridley Public Schools!



### ***Becky (Thompson) Reynolds - Teacher at Stevenson Elementary***



Becky (Thompson) Reynolds, started her career as a student teacher in kindergarten and first grade at Stevenson Elementary School. A year later, she was hired to teach first grade at Stevenson where she has been ever since.

Becky connects with her students on an individual basis and brings students together for a common cause each year that helps build a strong classroom team. When asked about Becky, one parent stated, "My grandson learned to speak to people of all ages in a respectful and forthright manner. His academic achievements that year were profound."

Her peers enjoy working with her and love her great sense of humor. A newlywed, Becky recently bought a house in Zimmerman and enjoys spending time with her dog at her cabin in northern Minnesota. Congratulations, Becky Reynolds, and thank you for the 25 years of service to Fridley Public Schools!



## ***Kathy Moore - Secretary to Assistant Principal at Fridley Middle School***



Kathy Moore is the face of the Assistant Principal office at the middle school. There is never a dull moment being on the front lines in the student support office - Kathy responds to students and teachers needs serving as a triage to help them in any way that she can.

She will go out of her way to find resources for students. Kathy always makes sure that our clothes closet is filled so students have access to clothing especially during the winter months. She is highly organized and pays attention to detail, ensuring that students needs are met whether that be for schedules, lockers, attendance, or just a smiling face.

Kathy will take on any role with a smile and is always up for the challenge. Fridley Middle School is lucky to have her and her work in the district has not gone unnoticed.

## ***Kristi Sabby - Program Coordinator at Fridley Community Education Department***

Kristi Sabby has worked for the past 25 years in the Fridley Community Education Department in the Tiger Club program where she has served as coordinator for the past 10 years. Her colleagues say that Kristi sees and brings out the best in both staff and children in her care. Highly enthusiastic, she creates energy, enthusiasm and a respectful place for kids to learn, flourish and grow.

When asked about Kristi, a Tiger Club parent said, "Kristi goes out of her way to really connect with kids and builds genuinely special relationships with them. She is always so positive."

Kristi is a creative and hands-on leader who can be found rocking a baby, leading a science club with school-agers, or working in costume to the delight of all. Even in the face of challenges, her optimistic attitude and sense of humor are truly an inspiration to those around her.

Kristi has a daughter and son who both graduated from Fridley High School. She enjoys spending time with family, friends and her two granddaughters and loves to garden. She is a dedicated staff member and an asset to the Fridley Community Center and our district. Congratulations Kristi Sabby, and thank you for the 25 years of service to Fridley Public Schools!



## **CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2016-17 EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR!**

### ***David Webber - Communications Specialist***



David Webber is the Communications Specialist in the District's Communications and Community Relations Office, a role that he has held since August 2015. In this position, David creates and produces videos about schools and district events, he also assists in producing district publications that include school calendar, District Bulletin, Annual Report, Did You Know (a bi-weekly digital newsletter), and numerous marketing materials promoting district events, programs and opportunities.

When first hired in the summer of 2015, David's role was to support communications efforts in implementing a communications campaign plan for the November 2015 building bond referendum and operating levy renewal. His depth of knowledge and technical skills in video production quickly made him indispensable. He is a hardworking and principled professional who's quick wit and outgoing personality has endeared him to many staff members, students and families in the district.

His can-do attitude and spirit of collaboration makes him a valuable asset to any team work and volunteering efforts. Whether taste-testing a new lunch menu item (and we all know how much he loves that), volunteering to arm wrestle Rick Roble for access to the high school yearbook pictures, listening to student presentations in Tim Leistikow's Theory of Knowledge class, working with Waldo to figure out the new equipment in the updated auditorium, helping a senior put together an audition tape for a college application, or helping a graduating senior and her family connect to potential mentors in a chosen field of study, David often volunteers to support student projects and assist staff members wherever he can.

He also cares deeply about his role in telling the Fridley story. A perpetual learner, he is open-minded enough to know that there is never a single layer to any story, and is always reflective of the not-so-obvious layers that sometimes surface in the process of writing a story, filming B-roll, or interviewing a secondary contact.

He is a great communicator who often takes calculated risks to try new ways to present Fridley stories in a manner that is fresh, engaging, and compellingly. Because of his innovative thinking, the district now has an active YouTube channel with numerous videos of schools and district events that can be viewed locally and globally. Thanks to David's hard work, the spotlight shines brighter on grade level concerts, musical productions, plays, district initiatives and programs, student achievements, staff accomplishments, innovative classroom projects and school programs, and recognition programs such as the Distinguished Alumni awards, Volunteer Appreciation and the recognition of years of service of retiring staff members. He is a great asset to the communications office and outstanding addition to the Fridley staff.



## FRIDLEY PUBLIC SCHOOLS 2016-17 TEACHERS OF EXCELLENCE



*Congratulations outstanding teachers!*

### ***Alissa Blood-Knafla - Area Learning Center***

The Fridley Alternative Learning Center 2016-2017 Teacher of the Year is Alissa Blood-Knafla. Blood-Knafla embraces the mighty purpose of education as not just about raising test scores, but about raising the human potential. She works day-in and day-out to help develop her students as citizens and to ensure that they are successful in the real world.

After a very tough decision to leave Fridley Middle School, she decided to move over to the Fridley Transition Program and serve the program's 18 – 21 year olds, helping them to reach their full potential, earn their diplomas and enter society as independently as possible. Blood-Knafla has taken the Transition Program and grown it into a place where students are learning independent living skills coupled with working on their own individual goals for success.

Blood-Knafla is also sought out by her colleagues as a resource and leader. Her fellow teachers say that she has the instructional leadership and ability to balance the needs of students while also helping support her colleagues. Blood-Knafla goes above and beyond to ensure that all her students and staff are succeeding. The special education department looks to her as a valuable resource of information and mentorship for fellow teachers. The district values her leadership in this department as she helps to ensure that all the needs of students are being met.



### ***Jennifer Coelho - Stevenson Elementary***

The Stevenson Elementary School 2016-2017 Teacher of Excellence is Jennifer Coelho. “Jennifer has a calm and friendly demeanor that can bring comfort to not just our most struggling students, but all students,” said Daryl Vossler, Stevenson Elementary School principal.

“I consistently hear that Jennifer has a great work ethic and has a strong commitment to her students, as well as the staff that she works with.”

Coelho has a “positive, ‘Let’s Give it a Try’” attitude. She takes her work seriously and finds time to collaborate with fellow teachers. She is thorough in her instruction and pushes and stretches students farther than what they believe they are capable of. Her colleagues say she always follows through with her responsibilities and is very dependable.



She has a positive attitude and always has a smile for another staff member or student and often uses humor when it is most needed. One of her colleagues said, “You will never know all the things that make her such an awesome teacher or person because she is so incredibly humble.”

Coelho goes above and beyond. She not only helps the school’s English Language learner students with homework, but also helps their parents search for homes as well as colleges. “She is involved in many of the events we put on for our families, often doing the difficult, behind-the-scenes work,” said Vossler.

When Stevenson’s after school Code Camp classes were getting too large and help was needed to manage the classes, she stepped up and took the class. When Vossler asked her what she knew about coding, she said “absolutely nothing,” but was willing to step out of her comfort zone and just give it a try.



## ***Candice Riley - Hayes Elementary***

The Hayes Elementary School 2016-2017 Teacher of Excellence is Candice Riley. “Instructionally, Candice is outstanding,” said Hayes principal John Piotraschke adding that Riley’s ability to gather and use data to drive instruction is a hallmark of her teaching – both in her classroom and now as a reading specialist and coach.

Riley’s strong foundation in standards and best practices, coupled with her use of data, allows her to create a high-achieving learning environment for all kids - regardless of ability level. She has the innate ability to nurture critical thinking and independent problem solving while monitoring and adjusting strategies to respond to students more effectively.

According to fellow staff members, students love working with her and they look forward to their time with her. They do so because they feel valued, cared for and challenged. She also weaves the diversity of the students’ backgrounds into her instruction and consciously develops a learning community in which individual differences are respected.

Riley has been an integral part in leading Hayes Elementary towards a 21st century school. Hayes staff continually seeks her for support in technology, best practices in reading, and data-driven instruction. She is a highly collaborative and a knowledgeable individual and has made a huge impact in the school.

“I think what I appreciate most about Candice is her ability to problem solve,” said Piotraschke. “She is an incredibly hard-working educator who models passion and excellence on a daily basis and this is observed by everyone. She is a role model for all of us and is very deserving of this honor.”

## ***Diane Nordin - Fridley Middle School***

The Fridley Middle School Teacher 2016-2017 Teacher of Excellence is Diane Nordin, a Chinese language teacher. Nordin doesn’t just teach lessons, she teaches the experience of a world language and a culture.

Her lessons are so engaging that there is a waiting list of students who want to sign up for and take her class. Nordin has the ability to offer her students an immersion language experience without actually attending an immersion school.

When Nordin arrived at Fridley Middle School, student participation in the Chinese language program was very low. “She has grown the program to make it competitively selected with other languages,” said Fridley Middle School principal Amy Cochran, “and for students to be talking about what they are learning and experiencing in her classroom, is testament to the enthusiasm she has generated for the program.”

Nordin demonstrates what a teacher as a facilitator is, as her classroom is student-led and students are speaking Chinese from the moment they enter the room. She is always looking for ways to improve her curriculum and has spent each year revisiting her lessons to make them richer experiences for students. She has been an early adopter of technology and utilizes it to enhance her lessons.

Nordin has created an after school program that students are excited to sign up for and to be engaged in after school hours. She has created a learning environment that is truly amazing for Fridley Middle School students.



## ***Jeren Anderson - Fridley High School***



Fridley High School 2016-2017 Teacher of Excellence is Jeren Anderson. Anderson is committed to excellence in his classroom and is a talented leader in the school and professional community. He demonstrates a strong commitment to his students, engages them in their learning, and is a fun, thoughtful colleague and friend to all staff members in the building.

He demonstrates excellence in going above and beyond expectations and is always willing to help when needed. “I see him as a strong leader in the building, who believes in doing right by students; he is willing to put in the effort to ensure students are finding success,” said Patty Hand, Fridley High School principal. “He is an extremely hard worker, who is able to stay positive and optimistic on a daily basis. I deeply appreciate this effort,” said Hand.

His fellow teachers say that Anderson consistently demonstrates excellence in his positive attitude and no matter what is going on. He also always seems to find the fun and humor in any situation. Underneath his wit and light-hearted sarcasm, he has a deep caring for his colleagues, students and their families.

He demonstrates excellence in student interaction and works hard to engage students in their learning, pushing them to do their best and holding them accountable. Anderson is able to gain their trust and always treats them with dignity and respect.



## *Fridley Key Club takes on San Antonio*



During the first week of July, seven students from the Fridley High School Key Club and Kiwanian Advisor Mary Bowen attended the Key Club International Convention in San Antonio, TX. During this convention, high school students from around the world come together to train for their upcoming year in a district office, learn about leadership and service, receive recognition from the previous year, and elect the new International Board.

This year's International Convention offered learning opportunities and brought some big wins for the Fridley High School Key Club.

During the first two days of the convention, students Daniel Ajagbusi and Gao-je Vang were

trained to serve as Lieutenant Governor and Bulletin Editor for the Minnesota-Dakotas district, respectively. Fridley Key Club President Daegia Vang, Vice President Ben Stevenson, Treasurer Jennie Ollila, and Publicist Hung Nguyen also attended workshops to improve their leadership skills.

On the third night of the International Convention, the Fridley High School Key Club was recognized for some outstanding achievements. Fridley High School was recognized as a Distinguished Diamond Level Club for the 13th year in a row. Of the 5,200 clubs in Key Club International, under 60 are granted this prestigious title every year; The Fridley High School Key Club was the only club in the Minnesota-Dakotas dis-

trict given this title. Immediate Past Lieutenant Governor Emily Rice also received the Robert F. Lucas Outstanding Lieutenant Governor award for her service the past year.

With the final night of the Key Club International Convention came the election and induction of the new International Board. Emily Rice, a rising junior at Fridley High School, was installed as an International Trustee. Emily now serves on the Key Club International Board with ten other International Trustees, the International Vice President, and the International President as they lead the 270,000 Key Clubbers of the world.

Written by : Daegia Vang  
Key Club President



## *Fridley baseball athletes selected for Minnesota/Wisconsin Challenge*



Fridley varsity baseball athletes Caleb Brandt and Noah Couwenhoven were chosen to participate in the Minnesota/Wisconsin Challenge held in Minnetonka on July 26, 2017. The Minnesota/Wisconsin Challenge is a unique showcase event which features the best underclass baseball prospects from both Wisconsin and Minnesota.

Hosted by Showtime Sports, the event is promoted across the country. College coaches and professional scouts are known to attend, giving the high school athletes well-deserved exposure and potential future prospects.

Coach Dan Nalepka nominated his

players for a showcase held in June. From the June event, Brandt and Couwenhoven were both selected to participate in the valuable opportunity. Only 12 athletes from each state are invited to participate.

Brandt and Couwenhoven were both All-Conference winners last year, as well as captains on the varsity baseball team.

Nalepka said both athletes represented themselves well in the Challenge.

"They are both exceptional leaders that we're really excited about," he shared.



Caleb Brandt



Noah Couwenhoven

He added that this year's baseball team has all but one returning players for the upcoming season.

"We have a big senior class this year, a lot of guys coming back," Nalepka said. "So we definitely have some high expectations."



## Fridley Public Schools Athletic Hall of Fame



From left to right: Mike Maas ('65), Jim Anderson ('63), Don Carlson ('65), Dr. Peggy Flathmann, accepting on behalf of William Beery, Renee Van Gorp, Emily Mondloh Drake, Ann Schuelle Peiler ('89), Joe Frank, and Jim Perry

Nine individuals were honored for their contributions to Fridley Public Schools' athletic program August 7, 2017 at the 2nd Annual Athletic Hall of Fame Ceremony. Held at Greenhaven Golf Course in Anoka, the award ceremony followed a day of golf that raised money for the district's athletics department.

Dan Roff, Activities Director at Fridley Public Schools, welcomed the attendees and honored guests. "Our mission is to inspire and develop excellence in our kids," Roff said. "I look around at our alumni here and I say 'thank you,' because I believe you're all great examples and it's so important that you come back. Our kids need to see real faces and real people."

*The following individuals were honored at the ceremony:*

**Ann Scheuller Peiler** (Class of 1989), introduced by Pat Barrett. Ann was the recipient of six All-Conference awards in three sports during her time in Fridley. She was captain of tennis, basketball and softball at the high school. She played in state tournaments for softball in 1987, basketball in 1988, and was also the recipient of All-Metro, All-Section and All-State honors throughout her career.

**William H. Beery**, introduced by Dr. Peggy Flathmann. Bill has been a major contributor to the athletics program of Fridley Public Schools since the early 1960s, both as bank president at Fridley State Bank and as an individual donor. In addition to monetary funding, Bill purchased many of the electronic scoreboards seen at the school buildings.

**Jim Perry**, introduced by Larry Senrick. Jim served as a physical education teacher and coach in the district from 1969 through 2005. He guided the Tigers football team to the State Championship in 1990 and also helped rebuild the wrestling program at Fridley Middle School.

**Renee Van Gorp**, introduced by Kelly McConville. Renee retired as Fridley High School Principal in 2016. Prior to that, she coached volleyball, basketball and softball at the high school, in addition to ten years coaching adapted soccer, adapted floor hockey and adapted softball. She guided the adapted softball team to the State Championship in 1990.

**Donald Carlson** (Class of 1965), introduced by Bob Barnette. Don was named 1965 Fridley Senior Athlete of the Year and selected to be in the Senior Athletic Hall of Fame. He participated in football, basketball and baseball, earning All-Conference honors in all three sports and seven letters during his career.

**James Anderson** (Class of 1963), introduced by Don Meyers. James was one of the pioneers of the wrestling program at Fridley High School. A four-time Skyline All-Conference wrestler, he also captured District Championships three time before taking the Regional and State Championships his senior year. He is the first



state champion in any sport for Fridley High School.

**Emily Mondloh Drake** (Class of 2001), introduced by Nancy Zinter. Emily is the greatest female swimmer in Fridley's history, holding six records that have yet to be broken. She qualified for state competition all six years of the swimming program in the district and won four individual State Championships. Emily is the most decorated individual athlete in district history.

**Joe Frank**, introduced by Walt Wenzholz. Joe was a teacher in the district from 1969 to 2000, coaching wrestling teams that competed at Conference, Re-

gion and State levels from 1969-1985. He was responsible for developing technically efficient and well-conditioned wrestlers.

**Mike Maas** (Class of 1965), introduced by Don Meyers. Mike competed in both football and wrestling, though it was in wrestling that he went to State three times. In his senior year, he was first place in the Skyline Conference, first at Districts, first in Regions and State Champion at 154 pounds.

Congratulations to our extraordinary alumni who received this accolade!



## Updated parking lots debut at Stevenson and FMS

Big changes were in order at Stevenson Elementary and Fridley Middle School during the first week of school, as both buildings debuted upgraded parking lots to ease traffic and safety concerns.

At Fridley Middle School, the lot behind the building was expanded and given a large turnaround loop; the lot is now used solely for buses. The lot in front of the building has been divided, with the half toward the building designated as parent drop-off/pick-up lanes and the other half as staff parking.



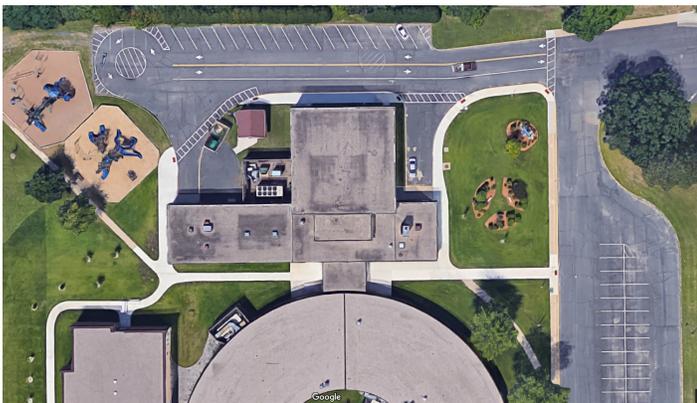
FRIDLEY MIDDLE SCHOOL

**BEFORE**



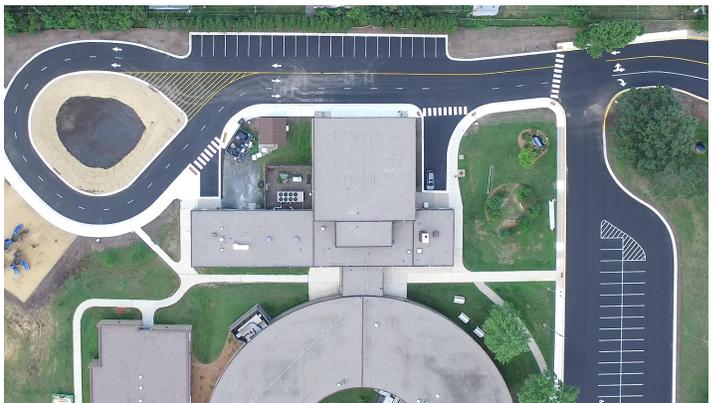
**AFTER**

Stevenson Elementary pushed its side parking lot further into former playground space and added a loop as well, but this one intended for parent drop-off/pick-up. This necessitated moving the playground, which, in turn, received upgrades as well with the addition of community-funded equipment.



STEVENSON ELEMENTARY

**BEFORE**



**AFTER**

Cindy McKay, Transportation Coordinator for the district, said student safety was the purpose of the new lots and traffic changes. “It allows parents more access to pick up their children and less moving of busses,” she said. “Buses are now parked in the same order every day, making it easier for students to know where their bus is.”

The two projects had a total cost of approximately \$850,000, with funding coming from the annual abatement bonds issued in January 2017.



## Fridley students tour the East Coast



Seventy-eight students from Fridley Middle School made their way out east this summer, enjoying a week in Washington, D.C., Gettysburg and New York. Along the way, they visited many sites they had learned about leading up to the excursion.

Todd Reiland, 5th grade math teacher, has been organizing the trip for the past two decades. The trip is open to 7th and 8th graders and occurs every other year, which gives families time to raise the money for the trip. This year's voyage had a price tag of \$1,159 plus airfare. Twenty-two staff and parent chaperones accompanied the students.

Leading up to the trip, students took part in a series of meetings where sites to be visited and protocol was discussed. "The Holocaust is a big part of history the students learn in middle

school," Reiland said. "They learn about the history of our political and government systems. We talk about Arlington National Cemetery and the guards at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. We teach them it's not just about going there to have a good time; there's a reason we take the trip."

After landing in Washington, D.C., the Fridley travelers spent the first three days visiting such notable sites as the National Zoo, American History Museum, Pentagon Memorial, Vietnam Memorial, Arlington National Cemetery and the Holocaust Museum. Then it was off to Pennsylvania and the grounds of the Battle of Gettysburg and Mount Vernon in Virginia. The students then spent two days in New York, taking in experiences including the American Museum of Natural History, Times Square, Ellis Island, Central Park

and *Wicked* on Broadway.

The main message behind the visit to the locations is not lost on the students.

"Watching the kids come out of the Holocaust Museum in tears, realizing the impact of it... they come out of there changed," Reiland said. "They weren't even alive when 9/11 occurred, and they come out of the memorial touched by it."

Four custom t-shirts per student are matched to specific days of the trip. For the evening on Broadway, however, the students dressed up in their best attire.

Reiland said the countless hours organizing the trip are all worthwhile when he sees the look in the eyes of students. "I do it because they deserve that experience," he said.

