

DISTRICT BULLETIN

SUPERINTENDENT PEGGY
FLATHMANN TO RETIRE

NEW FRIDLEY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SUPERINTENDENT ANNOUNCED



STUDENT SPOTLIGHT:

FHS JUNIOR BEATRICE BARKON
EARNED OUTSTANDING HONORS
AT THIS YEAR'S SCHOLASTIC
ARTS & WRITING COMPETITION

SPRING
2018

STUDENT SPOTLIGHTS PAGE 8



OUR STAFF PAGE 15



OUR STUDENTS PAGE 10



DISTRICT NEWS PAGE 16



Cover photo:

R.L. Stevenson Elementary held an assembly in celebration of Black History Month, featuring African American guest speakers who spoke to students about working hard and always doing their best.



full story on page 7

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Farewell, Superintendent Flathmann!

After nearly a decade long journey as district leader, Fridley Public Schools Superintendent Peggy Flathmann will be retiring at the end of the 2017-18 school year.



DISTRICT BULLETIN SPRING 2018

The Fridley Public Schools District Bulletin is published three times a year and is mailed to every home in the Fridley School District.

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SUPERINTENDENT
Dr. Peggy Flathmann

SCHOOL LEADERSHIP

Fridley High School
Principal: Patty Hand
Assistant Principal: Kelly McConville

Fridley Area Learning Center
Principal: Jason Bodey

Fridley Middle School
Principal: Amy Cochran
Assistant Principal: Danielle Peterson

Hayes Elementary School
Principal: John Piotraschke

R. L. Stevenson Elementary School
Principal: Daryl Vossler

DISTRICT OFFICES

Activities: 763-502-5606
Buildings/Grounds: 763-502-5008
Business & Finance: 763-502-5004
Communications: 763-502-5020
Community Education: 763-502-5100
Educational Services: 763-502-5009
Enrollment: 763-502-5081
Human Resources: 763-502-5013
Nutritional Services: 763-502-5021
Special Services: 763-502-5025
Technology: 763-502-5032
Technology Integration: 763-502-5037
Transportation: 763-502-5026
IB (DP): 763-502-5062
IB (MYP): 763-502-5036
IB (PYP): 763-502-5228 / 763-502-5317

Fridley School Board selects Dr. Kim Hiel as district's new superintendent

Fridley Public Schools is pleased to announce that Dr. Kim Hiel has been selected to be the district's new superintendent. Dr. Hiel, who was unanimously selected by the school board, will replace Dr. Peggy Flathmann who announced her intent to retire at the end of this school year after 13 years in the district.

"The Fridley School Board is extremely excited that Dr. Hiel has accepted the position of Superintendent of Fridley Schools," said Mary Kay Delvo, Fridley School Board Chair. "Dr. Hiel is a highly competent and passionate leader who is a great match for our school community. Every person we spoke to about Dr. Hiel spoke emphatically about her integrity, work ethic, passion for creating success for every student, and her ability to build and sustain positive and meaningful working relationships," said Delvo, adding that Hiel has the personal attributes and leadership skills to solidify and strengthen the district's foundation for educational equity, as well as raise achievement for all students.

Hiel brings a passion for equitable student achievement for every child and nearly 25 years' experience in education to her new role as superintendent of Fridley Public Schools. She currently serves as an Assistant Superintendent for Osseo Area Schools where she co-leads the Division of Leadership, Teaching and Learning, that includes the departments of Educational Equity; Student Support Services; Curriculum, Instruction and Educational

Standards; and Research, Assessment and Accountability. Hiel provides supervision and support to 31 sites including three comprehensive high schools, an area learning center, four middle schools, 17 elementary schools, two early childhood sites, an enrollment center and adult basic education site, two special education sites and the Educational Service Center. Dr. Hiel also co-led the development and implementation of the voluntary pre-kindergarten program at eight elementary schools in Osseo.

"I am deeply honored, thrilled and excited about this opportunity," said Hiel. As she learned more about Fridley Public Schools, she said the district's mission to "create a world class community of learners" strongly resonated with her passion for maximizing opportunities for all students so that they can reach their fullest potential in today's globally connected world. "As a world class community of learners, Fridley's mission is to develop internationally minded students, and the district challenges itself, its students and community to become caring lifelong learners who inquire to take action to create a better world," she said.

"As I met and spoke with staff, parents and community members, I heard great things about the school district, and the opportunities available, and provided to students through the International Baccalaureate programs," said Hiel. "I look forward to joining a district with a very hardworking and dedicated staff, a strong community that supports its schools, and working with a school board that is keenly in tune with the needs of its district," she said.



Hiel previously worked as a teacher and principal in the Robbinsdale Area Schools, and served as a principal in Osseo Area Schools before being promoted to assistant superintendent. In 2014, Hiel was named Minnesota Elementary and Middle School Science and Mathematics Principal of the Year by the Minnesota Principal Association and the Science Museum of Minnesota. Hiel earned her Bachelor's degree in elementary education from the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities, a Master's degree in educational leadership from Hamline University, and an educational specialist degree from the University of St. Thomas. Hiel holds a Doctorate degree in educational administration from St. Cloud State University.

The School Board will begin negotiating a contract with Dr. Hiel who is expected to begin her new position in Fridley in July 2018.

Fridley School Board



(Back row, l-r): Mary Kay Delvo, Chris Riddle, and Carol Thornton (Front row, l-r): Donna Prewedo, Avonna Starck, and Kim Sampson

SCHOOL BOARD MEETINGS

The Fridley School Board regular meetings are held on the third Tuesday of every month in the Fridley Council Chambers at Fridley City Hall, located at 6431 University Avenue NE, Fridley, MN. Meetings begin with a work session at 5:30 p.m., followed by a public forum at 7:00 p.m. and a business meeting at 7:30 p.m.

LOCATION CHANGE

Due to the relocation of Fridley City Hall in fall 2018, the Fridley School Board will hold its meetings in the media center at Fridley High School beginning September 2018.

All school board meetings and work sessions are open to the public. For more information, visit www.fridley.k12.mn.us and click on "School Board," or call 763-502-5060.

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When Fridley Public Schools Superintendent Dr. Peggy Flathmann began her career as a teacher, she never imagined she would eventually serve as superintendent.

She remembers pretending to hold classes, setting up a make-believe school in the second story of her childhood farm home.

"Every day, I would go up there after school, and I would reteach everything the teacher had taught me that day. Although, my brother never really enjoyed going to school twice a day," Flathmann said. "But I just always knew that I wanted to teach and be a part of kids' lives. This has always been very important to me."

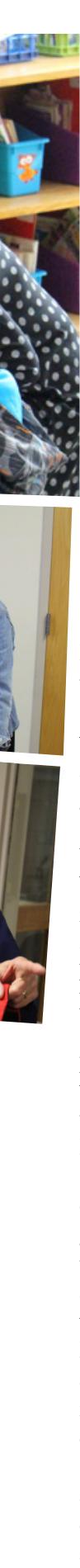
Flathmann's nine years as Fridley Public Schools superintendent follows a 40-year credentialed career in education. She has worked in teaching and administrative roles across the Midwest, as a high school principal, English teacher and counselor. In Minnesota, she previously worked in the Centennial School District, where she was a middle school co-principal, principal and district assistant superintendent. Flathmann earned her Master's Degree in Educational Administration at the University of Northern Iowa and Ed. D. in Educational Leadership from the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul.

Flathmann joined Fridley Public Schools as Director of Educational Services in 2005. Upon her arrival, the district was beginning its journey toward becoming an International Baccalaureate (IB) World Schools district. Fridley Public Schools had joined the Northwest Suburban Integration School District (NWSISD) and was in the process of becoming a magnet school district. Of the three different magnet school strands, IB was chosen because of its unique and rigorous framework for education. The program develops culturally-aware and internationally-minded students who are equipped to take on a rap-



SUPERINTENDENT PEGGY FLATHMANN

has served as Fridley Public Schools superintendent since 2009. She first began working in the district in 2005 as the Director of Educational Services. After nine dedicated and monumental years of service as district leader, Flathmann is retiring at the end of the 2017-18 school year.



idly changing world and an increasingly globalized economic market.

The goal of the Fridley School Board was to approve the district's pursuit of IB World School authorization for the schools in the district. A venture that once completed, would offer all students the opportunity to participate in IB coursework. As the Director of Educational Services, Flathmann helped lead the charge, from launching IB staff training to writing curriculum across all grade levels.

"With our diverse population of students, we knew that an IB education would offer a strong foundation and framework for our kids," Flathmann said. "It is a wonderful way to prepare our students for success in college and careers, and life in the 21st century."

Flathmann became superintendent in 2009, following Mark Robertson who held the position for six years. Her transition to the superintendent role was a natural progression in leadership.

Current Fridley School Board Vice Chair Chris Riddle was on the school board when the hiring process took place.

"When we hired Peggy to be our superintendent nine years ago, I felt we had someone that could take Fridley Public Schools to the next level," said Riddle. "What we got was a person who took us several levels higher."

"She has embraced and championed Fridley as 'A World Class Community of Lifelong Learners.' She has built an excellent leadership team, from finance to communications to nutritional services to special education services, that has followed her lead and made Fridley Public Schools an example that other districts hope to emulate," he said.

While Robertson had started the district down the IB path, Riddle said that Flathmann was "full steam ahead" when it came to securing authorization and integrating the IB programmes across the district's schools for all Fridley students.

Today, IB coursework is available to all Fridley students. All students participate in the Primary Years Programme and Middle Years Programme as they progress through the schools in the district. At the junior and senior level, students have the opportunity to continue with IB coursework even if they are not enrolled in the Diploma Programme or Career-related Programme. This allows all students to reap the benefits of participating in rigorous IB courses and develop a strong foundation for college and career readiness.

Additionally, Flathmann has incorporated culturally responsive teacher training and multiple tiers of student support to improve student achievement and foster a positive school environment. Support for students has increased to include school social workers, behavior interventionists and analysts, family liaisons and reading interventionist teachers.

"When we hired Peggy to be our superintendent nine years ago, I felt we had someone that could take Fridley Public Schools to the next level...what we got was a person who *took us several levels higher.*"

CHRIS RIDDLE
SCHOOL BOARD VICE CHAIR

"As our enrollment numbers indicate, Peggy and all of the staff at Fridley Public Schools have made Fridley a desired location for families to send their children," said Riddle. "I couldn't be happier or more proud of the job Peggy has done for our district. Her talents, drive, and vitality will be missed."

"Peggy is a rare leader, in that she is humble, authentic, and well-respected by all who interact with her," said School Board Chair Mary Kay Delvo. "She has remained deeply passionate about how schools must continue to shift and respond to what all students must have for academic, social and emotional success. She will be greatly missed."

Delvo described Flathmann as forward-thinking, a steady hand, and a masterful relationship builder.

"One of the most important measures of a leader is what they leave behind for the next leader to build on," said Delvo. "Fridley is in great shape in that regard. She leaves us prepared to build on her leadership and leverage the great work she put in place during her tenure."

Although Flathmann will leave an outstanding legacy at Fridley Public Schools, she is humble and fully credits the students and staff for the district's growth throughout the years.

"There have been so many tremendous achievements that our kids have accomplished over the years," she said. "I know there will be some incredibly distinguished alumni that are currently in the midst of their academic careers at Fridley Public Schools. I cannot wait to see the great successes that will become of the students who have graduated from Fridley during my tenure here."

The Fridley Public Schools Distinguished Alumni Awards was established during Flathmann's tenure and has been an important piece that adds to the legacy of Fridley Public Schools. The annual event honors and recognizes Fridley High School (FHS) alumni who have exemplified themselves in their chosen fields, as well as those who have made significant contributions in community service. The award ceremony also recognizes a "Circle of Excellence" award winner, which is given to a group who has made



an everlasting impact to the district and community. The Distinguished Alumni Awards has become an excellent opportunity for current students to connect with established and extraordinary individuals, all whose successes began at FHS. To date, the award program has recognized more than 60 Fridley alumni who have distinguished themselves in community service and philanthropy, in careers spanning medicine, research, education, healthcare, technology, science, arts, and more.

Flathmann has also contributed immense time and effort to the Fridley Schools Foundation, a nonprofit that supports students and staff at Fridley Public Schools. The Foundation has raised thousands of dollars for teacher innovation grants and scholarships for graduating seniors throughout the years, ensuring that all students have equal opportunities. As an ex-officio member, Flathmann has worked hand-in-hand with the board to strategize and maximize resources for the benefit of Fridley students.

Although Flathmann will be departing from Fridley Public Schools, she is confident in the leadership team that she has put in place.

"We have incredible people in leadership roles across all schools and departments who work so well as a team to make things happen," she said. "It has been an honor to work with these outstanding people and to help develop and build Fridley Public Schools into the district it is today."

Come July, Flathmann is looking forward to more family time, especially with her new grandson Ricky. She and her husband, Drew, plan to travel, relax, and of course, continue to support Fridley Public Schools.

"Peggy is a rare leader, in that she is humble, authentic, and well-respected by all who interact with her."

MARY KEY DELVO
SCHOOL BOARD CHAIR

CELEBRATING THE JOURNEY

As Superintendent Peggy Flathmann nears retirement, she looked back on the years she's spent at Fridley Public Schools. Beginning as Director of Educational Services in 2005, Flathmann says her time at Fridley holds an incredibly special place in her heart. She shared some aspects that she will miss the most...



1. *the kids, kids, kids*

"There is nothing like seeing the smiles on our students' faces, and the ideas, the accomplishments, the grit. It's pretty special to know that you have something to do with that little piece of that experience."

2. *the people who make it happen*

"It's our teachers and staff who really make such an impact on our students' lives. It's the people who connect with the kids at all levels, the people who make it happen. We really have some great staff here who are able to support and help our students grow."

3. *the cultivation of innovative ideas*

"This is a place where the cultivation of ideas are always happening; people are always coming up with innovative ways to serve our students. Whatever the experience is, we're always thinking: how can we make it better next time? It's been very special to work with people who think like that."

4. *our community connections*

"Fridley is such a great place to be, it's a second home to me. And I've noticed, no matter where you go, you always find some sort of connection to Fridley. Our community - the City itself, the hospital, the businesses, Rotary & Lions Club, our alumni - it's all so connected and able to come together in times of need."

5. *our distinguished alumni*

"There are so many great stories that come from Fridley alumni, and it's been special to recognize these huge accomplishments that have come from the past 60 years of Fridley Public Schools. But recognized or not, there are many special and intelligent people who have graduated and are proud to call Fridley Public Schools their home."

Stevenson Elementary hosts special guests in celebration of Black History Month



Pay it FORWARD

Celebrating Black History Month, Stevenson students learned about the local success stories of four African American guest speakers.

Additionally, eight students were chosen as winners of the "Pay It Forward" essay contest. Students shared their thoughts on how they would "pay it forward" to others if given the opportunity.

R.L. Stevenson Elementary held an assembly on March 7, 2018 featuring four African American guest speakers who urged students to always work hard and do their best. The event was held in part to celebrate Black History Month, and in addition to students learning about African Americans who have shaped the past, they were presented with role models who can inspire their futures.

"It is important that all students are aware of what forms success can take," Stevenson Family and Cultural Liaison Hope Laroche said. "Our guests talked about the importance of hard work, dedication, resilience, education, and following your dreams."

The special guests included Minnesota Timberwolves player Jamal Craw-

ford; Fridley alum Akeem Akway, a local entrepreneur and barber who cuts hair for many famous professional sports athletes; Fridley alum Jimmy Mireri, a current 4th grade teacher at Stevenson; and former Stevenson student Nathan Sheferaw, a local entrepreneur who operates his own food delivery business in the Twin Cities.

Laroche said, "We are trying to make a push for students to realize that we as a staff at Stevenson are championing their success, regardless of the path that takes. It is important for students to hear that they are believed in and supported."

As a former Stevenson student, Sheferaw wanted to give back to students since he had a similar experience when someone had given back to

him as a young student. Due to Sheferaw's generosity, students entered a "Pay It Forward" essay contest, where the prompt was to write about how students would "pay it forward" to others if they were given \$200.

"We received over 50 essays and had to narrow it down to the top 8 finalists, which was difficult because all the essays were written with care and were bursting with empathy and compassion," said Laroche.

Eight winners were announced during the assembly and were awarded with a pizza party and gift baskets, donated by Sheferaw. He also gave the contest winners the ability to pay it forward to Stevenson with toys for the gym and recess program that all students will be able to share.

"It is important that all students are aware of what forms success can take. Our guests talked about the importance of hard work, dedication, resilience, education, and following your dreams."

HOPE LAROCHE, STEVENSON FAMILY AND CULTURAL LIAISON



Picture Perfect



Fridley High School junior **Beatrice (Bea) Barkon** has a knack for photography. Her skills earned her great recognition at this year's Scholastic Art Awards, taking home three Gold Key Awards & an American Visions Nomination. She was also one of four students to win a Minnesota College of Arts & Design scholarship.

The Scholastic Art & Writing Awards recognize the vision, ingenuity, and talent of the nation's youth. Bea's Gold Key winning art pieces, *Elegance*, *Neve*, and *Fireball*, were selected among over 4,000 regional entries and will now compete at the national level. The Gold Key is the highest honor that can be awarded for a creative piece of art, and the American Visions Medal is the highest overall regional honor. Bea's piece was one of only five nominees.

Bea has a natural talent for directing the scene of a photo-shoot and has a finely tuned attention to detail that is clearly brought out in her final product.

"When I'm taking a picture, I think of what I want people to interpret," said Bea. "I'll try to capture feelings and expressions, so people can really feel what the photo is all about."

She added that as the photographer, she feels that it's her role to tell her sub-

ject's story. "Everyone has a story in their face. I'm just trying to bring that emotion out."

With the Gold Key award-winning and American Visions-nominated piece *Fireball*, Bea said the photograph is intended to bring out her friend's energetic and lively personality. The photo (*pictured top right*) is a portrait of a good friend of Bea's, looking somber but fueled with fire and passion.

"When she walks into a room, you know she's there, she's the fireball of the party," she said. "I made the background red and fiery, and her facial expression is speaking to you. That's the main goal, pulling that emotion out of her so the audience can feel it."

In addition to earning high recognition, Bea was one of four students who was awarded a Minneapolis College of Art and Design (MCAD) pre-college summer scholarship. The award

is worth \$3,600 and entitles Bea to attend a three-week residential program at MCAD in July 2018. She selected the Digital Art program to learn more about graphic design and the technical aspects of editing photographs to create artistic marketing pieces. The experience will also earn her three college credits.

Fridley High School art teacher Chery Burghardt said Bea has a natural eye for composition, as well as a vision for unusual and unexpected placement when directing those in the frame.

"Bea is always so much fun to have in class and work with. She always comes with an idea and a way to approach something she is working on," said Burghardt. "Her photos always come out so interesting, and I think for her its somewhat intuitive."

Burghardt is hopeful that Bea's natural talents will earn her additional



Bea's winning art pieces: Gold Key Award winner *Elegance* (left) & Gold Key Award & American Visions nominee *Fireball* (right). Her work earned her a summer program scholarship to the Minnesota College of Art & Design where she will complete a three-week residential program in Digital Art.

scholarship opportunities.

"I am definitely encouraging Bea to keep that photography going. She's someone that this has really resonated with and she is so talented. I think it's really important for her to continue to submit work to competitions, which can definitely open doors and earn her

scholarships," said Burghardt.

Bea is currently enrolled in the Post-Secondary Enrollment Options (PSEO) program at Fridley High School and takes classes at North Hennepin. She hopes to attend North Dakota State University or Hamline University in the future.

At the Scholastic Arts & Writing competition, FHS students earned a total of 18 individual awards. In addition to Bea's awards, Alexis Thao, BaoBai Xiong and Chris Vazquez earned Silver Key Awards. Layee Dukuly, Briana Fodstad, Jasmine Crohn and Lana Yang all received Honorable Mention Awards.

"Bea always comes to class with an idea and a way to approach something she is working on. Her photos always come out so interesting, and I think for her it's somewhat intuitive."



Gold Key Award-winning piece
Neve by Beatrice Barkon



said Cheryl
Burghardt,
FHS art teacher

FMS 8th graders present History Day projects

Fridley Middle School students successfully presented their National History Day competition projects on February 15, 2018. Several individual and group projects advanced to the Metro Junior East regional competition on March 24. This year, the theme of the National History Day competition is *Conflict & Compromise In History* and students used their creativity and research skills to create and present projects in the form of exhibits, documentaries, websites and performances.



Group project "Treaty of Mendota" by Savanna Ayers, Helen Riddle and Anita Vang earned its place in the state competition after competing at the Metro Junior East regional competition on March 24.



Ryken Farr and middle school teacher Jaime Olivera at the FMS competition on Feb. 15.

IB Diploma candidates submit Extended Essays



From Left to Right; Back row: Andrew Wagner, Caleb Brandt, Curtis Hanson, Wyatte Chaffee, Chad Haugstad, Christen Doe **Center row:** Nic Fite, Frank Valtierrez, Jennifer Ollila, Cassandra Corraya, Benjamin Stevenson, Tristan Herder, Even Nelsen **Front row:** Daegia Vang, Petra Owusu, Jasmine Pierce, Saralynn Ness, Andrew Buirge

Eighteen Fridley High School juniors and seniors submitted their International Baccalaureate (IB) Extended Essays at the eighth annual Silver Platter Breakfast Celebration on December 19, 2017 (*Pictured right*). These students are enrolled in the full IB Diploma Programme (DP) at Fridley High School, an IB World School. Students have the opportunity to earn an IB Diploma by completing DP core classes, assessments and exams during their junior and/or senior years of high school. The Extended Essay is a culminating project for those pursuing the IB Diploma. It is an in-depth study of a focused topic, chosen within a subject group, intended to promote high-level research and writing skills, intellectual discovery and creativity. This 4,000-word essay encourages students to develop college-level independent research skills.

FMS holds annual Inventor's Fair

Around 200 Fridley Middle School sixth graders had the chance to show off their unique creations and ideas at the annual Inventor's Fair on Jan. 18. As an interdisciplinary project, the Inventor's Fair is an opportunity for students to build their thinking skills, increase their knowledge, practice presentation skills, and gain experience of planning and building a creative project. They worked their way through the design process by brainstorming problems, researching current inventions and patents, and creating their own model from scratch. The students also created a display board to present and demonstrate their inventions to parents, staff and community members at the fair.

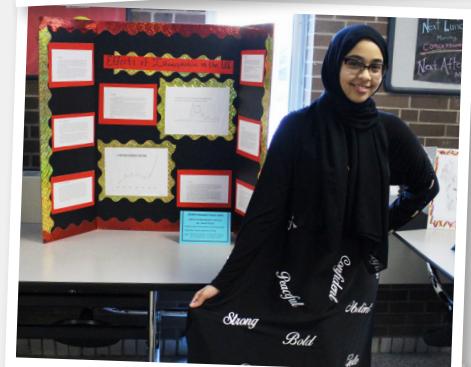


Fridley Middle School sixth grader Anna Nordin explains her project to teacher Maria Quehl and fellow students at the annual Invention Fair on January 18, 2018.

Fridley High School students present MYP Personal Projects

The 9th annual International Baccalaureate (IB) Middle Years Programme (MYP) Personal Project Celebration was held on January 17, 2018 at Fridley High School. Over 200 10th grade students presented their personal projects, which is a required culminating project in the final year of the program. It is meant to allow students to reflect on their experience through the program while demonstrating the skills they have developed.

Since topics are nearly unlimited, the personal project is an opportunity for students to produce a truly personal and creative work of their choice. The long-term project allows students to put into practice the skills they have developed throughout the MYP, including self-management, research, collaboration and critical thinking skills. Upon completion, students also demonstrate their oral and written communication skills through presentation of their project and a process paper. The process paper adds to the reflection of their skills, as well as what they learned about themselves as IB learners.



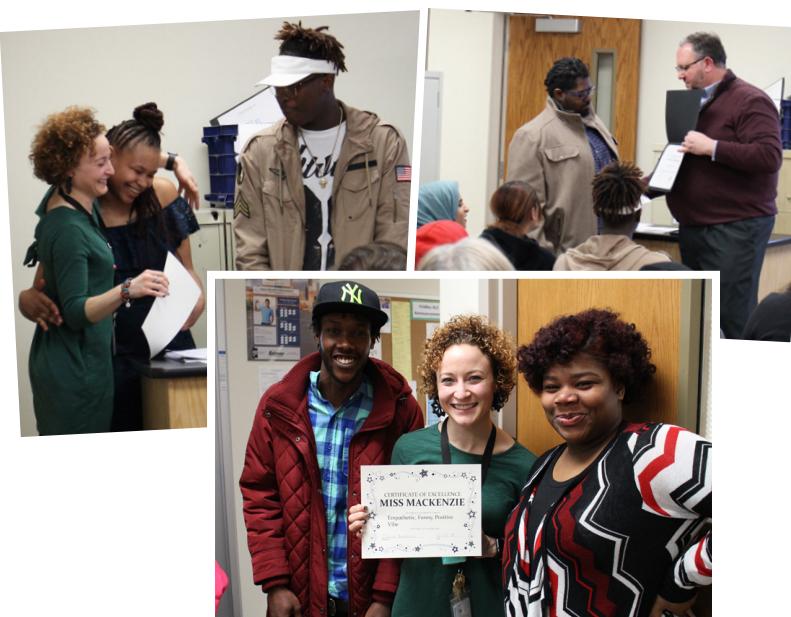
Fridley ALC holds Celebration of Excellence



The Fridley Moore Lake Area Learning Center (ALC) held its Celebration of Excellence on Feb. 22. The Celebration of Excellence is held to recognize the hard work and accomplishments of the ALC students, as well as honor the 2018 graduating seniors. The theme of the celebration was “purpose” which was selected to remind students and staff of their motivations for the hard work that they put in every day.

The Celebration of Excellence also honors student progress that has been made throughout the year. The awards given to students included recognition for academic excellence, attendance, most improved and the 3D Award (Desire, Determination, and Discipline).

The Fridley Moore Lake Area Learning Center serves north metro area students between the ages of 16 to 21 years old. The program helps students earn a high school diploma by featuring small classes, individual learning plans, flexible schedules, independent study and credit for on-the-job training.



National Honor Society students hold Red Cross Blood Drive

The National Honor Society held its second American Red Cross Blood Drive of the year on March 9, 2018. A total of 117 volunteers, including Fridley High School students, staff members and community members, stepped up to donate blood. Over 89 units of blood were collected!



Fridley Speech Team earns Tri-Metro Conference title



The Fridley Speech Team earned the Tri-Metro Conference title for the second year in a row. The Conference Speech Meet was held at St. Croix Lutheran High School in St. Paul.

Congratulations to the Fridley High School Speech Team (*pictured above*) who became the Tri-Metro Conference Champions on March 8, 2018. The team also took home the championship title in the 2017 competition.

Five students who earned champion titles included: Andrew Wagner in Extemporaneous Reading, Darius Williams and Daniel Ajagbusi in Duo Interpretation, Elisa Strecker in Original Oratory, and Christen Doe in Drama. Additionally, BaoBai Xiong earned a second place finish in Storytelling, while Kenzie Swartz earned second in Extemporaneous Reading.



FHS Speech Team members Andrew Wagner and Kenzie Swartz

IB Career-related Programme students present Reflective Projects

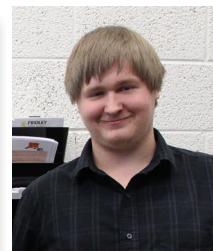
Members of the first graduating class of Fridley High School's International Baccalaureate Career-related Programme (CP) presented their culminating program projects on February 8, 2018. The inaugural celebration was held to honor the two seniors who completed their Reflective Projects. Seniors Justin Anderson and Jozefa Vescio Schreiner are the first students to complete the program at Fridley High School since the school earned CP authorization in 2016. Both Justin and Jozefa are on the Information Technology Career Pathway, one of the two CP pathways that Fridley High School offers.

The CP is a framework of international education which aims to prepare students to be career-ready upon graduation. CP coursework is designed to build knowledgeable and

highly-skilled workers and offers an opportunity to become certified in a specialized skill. Fridley High School currently offers two CP pathways, Information Technology and Emergency Medical Technician/Emergency Medical Responder (EMT/EMR).

The Reflective Project is the culminating piece of work for CP students. Within their chosen career field, students take components learned in their CP pathway and core courses to identify and analyze an ethical dilemma found in a respective industry. The project allows students to think critically and creatively to further explore different perspectives, as well as consider potential solutions to problems they may have to face in the future.

Through CP, students can also earn college credits which are transferable to many local technical colleges,



Jozefa Vescio Schreiner (left) and Justin Anderson (right)

including Hennepin Technical College or Century College. Students also have the option of earning certification. On the IT Pathway, students can earn A Plus Certification which is an entry-level computer certification for PC computer service technicians. Students on the EMT/EMR Pathway can earn EMT certification, which would allow them to become an emergency medical technician upon graduation.

Fridley students rally to protest school gun violence and advocate for safer schools



Students across the nation walked out of school to protest gun violence on March 14, 2018, one month following the deadly shooting inside a Florida high school that tragically killed 17 students and staff. Peaceful protests were held to honor the lives lost in the massacre, as well as an effort to invoke legislative change regarding stricter gun laws. The nationwide movement was one of the largest demonstrations of student activism in history.

Fridley High School (FHS) and Fridley Middle School (FMS) students participated in the demonstration with a student-organized walkout beginning at 10 a.m. As staff, school administrators and school resource officers supervised to ensure student safety, FHS students crossed 61st Avenue to the front of FMS where they gathered for 17 minutes - one minute for each life lost. Joined by FMS students, the students spoke about their right to feel safe at all times while at school, as well as the need to make a change.

Youth in Government students attend Model Assembly

Over 70 Youth In Government (YIG) students attended the Model Assembly held at the Minnesota State Capitol in St. Paul.



The event is a simulation of a state government legislative session. This year, over 1,600 students attended to gain the opportunity to learn about civics through experiential learning. Pictured is FHS senior Samira Mohamad, debating a bill in the MN House of Representatives.

African American Student Union leads discussion at Cities United Black History Month event



More than 25 Fridley High School students of the African American Student Union (AASU) participated in the 3rd annual Cities United Black History Month Event on February 2, 2018. The annual event is hosted at Hennepin Technical College by youth from the Brooklyn Park Cities United Sound Off Station. As the event is collaborative and youth-led, it serves as an opportunity for students to express viewpoints and share experiences, as well as learn from and connect with other students and community members.

Fridley AASU members put together a presentation on microaggression.

"Microaggression is an instance of a subtle or back-handed act of discrimination," said AASU President Savannah Covington. "It can be regarding race, socioeconomic group, gender, or any other minority group."

The group presented this session at the event at Hennepin Tech, as well as numerous Black History Month events around the metro area. AASU also held this informative session for students and staff at Fridley High School.

AASU is a club that helps to empower students and encourage diversity. Advisor Aloda Sims said AASU gives students an outlet to express concerns, as well as positive changes that they would like to see in their schools.

"I think it's important for youth to understand their power, their voices," said Sims. "They learn and understand how to present to their peers. This can really have a

long lasting effect on them as they go out into their communities. They are able to advocate for things that are meaningful to them, and express their passion for things that they want to see changed in their community."



Hayes Elementary Market Day

Hayes Elementary third grade students participated in the annual Market Day (*pictured below*) on March 22, 2018. Market Day, a third grade culminating project, teaches students about entrepreneurship, production and consumption and the laws of supply and demand.

Students begin by learning how to market products effectively through different advertising avenues, including commercials and posters. Students then form groups to produce a handmade product to sell on Market Day. As a team, students come up with their own ideas, creating products like homemade slime, bath bombs, hand warmers, calming jars and more. During the event, products can be purchased with “market money,” which is handed out to all third graders during the course of the unit.

The International Baccalaureate Primary Years Programme (PYP) challenges students to explore local and global issues, as well as learn from opportunities in real-life contexts. The purpose of Market Day is to bring real world experiences into the classroom in a fun and engaging way, while teaching students about global markets and the economy.



Hayes Elementary Market Day, a third grade culminating project, allows students to sharpen their business acumen while learning some realistic examples and situations. Students plan, produce, advertise, and budget, as well as learn entrepreneurial skills.

Triple 'A' Award Winners

Fridley High School seniors Olivia Fredrickson and Tristan Herder were named the 2018 Triple 'A' award winners. The award is given to one male and one female senior who have excelled in the classroom, on the athletic field and in the fine arts.

During his high school career, Tristan, an International Baccalaureate candidate, has participated in performing arts, speech team, and swimming, as well as excelling in academics. According to Tristan, he is thankful for the theater program at Fridley High School, which has helped to develop him as a person by becoming more confident and well-rounded.

“It taught me to not be afraid of who I am but rather to embrace it and be proud. The stage is where I learned how to be the best version of me,” Tristan said.

He added that swimming has also been incredibly impactful to his life. Tristan said his coach helped to push him into becoming a stronger person and helped him understand that a little bit of effort goes a mile.

Tristan plans on attending the University of Minnesota-Duluth and major in Business Management. He plans to pursue his love for the fine arts in the theater department.



Olivia has always taken challenging and engaging courses throughout her educational journey. She is enrolled in multiple International Baccalaureate programme courses to help prepare for college, and is on track to receive an IB Scholar Award upon graduation.

Olivia is also very involved in extracurriculars. She has participated in all the bands that are offered at Fridley High School: marching band, jazz band, and pit orchestra.

Olivia is also a member of many athletic teams at Fridley, including tennis, hockey, and softball, all of which she is team captain. She lettered in golf in 7th grade, playing a total of four varsity sports. She also volunteers to coach in all three of her specialty sports, teaching tennis, hockey and softball clinics to younger students.

Olivia plans on attending St. Cloud University to major in Film Studies and Mass Communications. She plans on participating in the fine arts, as well as play Division II tennis.





Tim Leistikow among finalists for Minnesota Teacher of the Year

Congratulations to Tim Leistikow who is among the top 12 finalists for Education Minnesota's 2018 Teacher of the Year! He is a Language and Literature educator at Fridley High School and teaches the International Baccalaureate Theory of Knowledge class.

Leistikow is known as a conscientious, enthusiastic and fun teacher among Fridley students. He is always working collaboratively with his students to engage them in their learning process, as well as connecting the material to relevant aspects of kids' everyday lives.

Leistikow has always been passionate about equity in education, focusing on closing the achievement gap and discipline gap. Pursuing this goal, Leistikow volunteers to participate in a number of efforts aimed at improving curriculum and instruction to be equitable upon on all levels. He works with a cohort of teachers, focusing on culturally and linguistically responsive teaching and learning. This pedagogy recognizes the importance of including students' cultural references in all aspects of learning. In addition, Leistikow works as a trained consultant to this education approach at a national level.

Leistikow is highly respected by administration and staff. He served as an Instructional Leader for four years, providing guidance for staff through new initiatives and teaching strategies. He is also the Fridley High School IB leader of the Language and Literature department and works with fellow teachers to write and advance the IB curriculum. Leistikow also leads Fridley staff development sessions and presents on a district level on a regular basis. He firmly believes in the importance of validating and recognizing all students while building and bridging to support their academic success.

Leistikow is a TED-Ed Innovative Educator, having completed a year-long professional development program which involves K-12 educators across the country.

He is a teacher who works hard to ensure that Fridley is a positive and inclusive environment, inspires fellow teachers to excel, and students to push themselves to the next level.

FHS Principal Patty Hand said, "Without a doubt, he deserves this recognition as he continues his professional journey as an outstanding educator at Fridley High School."

Why we play the Fridley way



Fridley Public Schools Activities Director Dan Roff was recognized by the Minnesota State High School League (MSHSL), in partnership with the Super Bowl 52 Host committee, with the WHY WE PLAY Leadership Citation Award. The award recognizes school athletic and activity administrators for their leadership and commitment to education-based programs in their school community.



For 11 years, Roff has worked as the district's activities director, where he is passionate in building a strong leadership team of coaches, as well as a solid foundation for Fridley Tigers arts and athletics for years to come.

Roff knows the importance of providing athletics and arts opportunities to our students.

"Activities broaden the jurisdiction of who gets to connect with school," Roff said. "There are certain kids who are naturally strong in the academic piece, but there are some kids that aren't so strong in that area. I think activities help to broaden and open up opportunities for students to connect."

Roff shared that he is proud of the Fridley Tiger's mission statement, which is "to inspire and develop excellence."

"I'm really proud of that statement because inspiration and development are really two incredibly important things," Roff said. "Development is the technical part, learning new styles and the craft. Our coaches need to know how kids learn, they need to know best practices and how to teach them. Whereas inspiration is through relationships. We need to understand how to build relationships with each member on the team, how can we connect with our kids to really reach them and make a difference?"



Fridley Schools Foundation holds inaugural **BLACK & GOLD GALA**

The Fridley Schools Foundation held its inaugural Black & Gold Gala event on January 25, 2018. Over 150 staff and community members gathered at the Banquets of Minnesota in Fridley. The formal event was held to generate funds to support additional learning opportunities and scholarships for Fridley Public Schools students. As an inaugural event, the Black & Gold Gala exceeded expectations, raising over \$24,500 to benefit students in the district.

The grants can be used by teachers at Fridley Public Schools to purchase supplies or technology items to use in classrooms, help fund field trips or other educational opportunities that otherwise would not be possible. The money raised will also

be contributed to scholarship funds which will be awarded to Fridley High School graduating seniors.

"I am deeply grateful for the support through participation, donors, and attendance at our inaugural gala," said Fridley Schools Foundation President Renee VanGorp. "It is such a warm feeling to see the community and school district come together and make a difference to our students and faculty."

The Foundation began a tradition at the event by awarding the Golden Apple Award to an honorary member of Fridley Public Schools. This year's recipient was Margaret Leibfried, who is a former Fridley Middle School principal and a long-time member and supporter of the

Fridley Schools Foundation. Leibfried was principal at Fridley Middle School for 28 years, serving from 1995 to 2013. Leibfried also worked with the Fridley Schools Foundation since its inception, providing leadership and direction for the organization. She served as the Foundation's secretary for eight years.

From raffles, games, and silent and live auctions, the gala was highly energetic and exciting for all attendees. VanGorp expressed her gratitude to the Fridley Public Schools community. She said, "While we look forward to another event next year, we are taking this moment to reflect on how lucky we are to have such a great community that supports our schools."



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- 1.** Emcee Andrew Haaheim helps auctioneer Sarah Jean Knox draw raffle ticket winners. **2.** Margaret Liebfried, former Fridley Middle School Principal and longtime Foundation member, earned the first Golden Apple Award at the inaugural Black & Gold Gala. **3.** Black & Gold Gala attendees purchased raffle tickets for their chance to win a gift basket. **4.** Black & Gold Gala auctioneer Sarah Jean Knox and Fridley Schools Foundation President Renee VanGorp



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STRONG BONDS community partnerships

Stevenson 3rd graders learn from local business owner

R.L. Stevenson 3rd grade students received a business lesson, as well as their own personal pair of mittens, on January 29, 2018. Local family business, Warm Hands Green Heart, visited Stevenson Elementary to teach students how to make mittens, as well as how the small business operates. The lesson was tied into



the Primary Years Programme unit, "How We Organize Ourselves," which involves the topic of how production and consumption require resources. After learning how Sauer's business works, students picked out mitten materials to be sewn into their very own one-of-a-kind commemorative and practical gift.

FHS Spanish Club holds clothing drive

Fridley High School's Spanish Club made a difference on behalf of the homeless this past holiday season. For the fourth year in a row, the club held a clothing drive to benefit the PRISM thrift shop. About 25 bags filled with clothes and shoes for all ages was collected in early December throughout the high school. Clothes collected can be given



to those in need or sold at PRISM's thrift store, which, in turn, raises funding for food and services for the homeless.



More than 200 students and families attended Chinese Culture Day at Fridley Middle School on February 16, 2018. Coinciding with Chinese New Year, all families in the district were invited to learn more about the Chinese culture through games, activities and traditional performances.

FMS Chinese language students hosted booths and activities for attendees to enjoy. This was an opportunity for students to practice their language skills, as well as show others what they have learned in class. Students taught calligraphy writing, an art of writing in traditional China, as well as various paper art crafts, including how to make a Chinese paper lantern, and an origami dog in honor of the Year of the Dog.

Attendees also learned how to use chopsticks; play diabolo, a Chinese yo-yo; shuttlecock, a game similar to badminton; ping pong and more. Chinese language students also performed with the diabolo, and others danced and sang along to Chinese songs.



Chinese Culture Day at Fridley Middle School

Fridley Middle School students inspired by motivational speaker Reggie Dabbs

World-renowned motivational speaker Reggie Dabbs visited Fridley Middle School on January 30, 2018 to deliver a positive and uplifting message -- "You can't change your past, but you can change your future."

Dabbs is an internationally-known public speaker and is popular with public school districts around the world. He also works with the National Football League and speaks to rookies, as well as mentors several current players.

Through his upbringing, Dabbs overcame many obstacles and is forever grateful to his adoptive parents who instilled in him strong moral values.

He has made it his life's mission to offer hope and positivity to young students around the country. His speech stressed that each student has a choice when they are faced with difficult decisions, such as choices involving drugs, alcohol, negative peer pressure, and more.



Stevenson Elementary awarded Outdoor Learning on the Riverfront grant

R.L. Stevenson Elementary was recently awarded the Outdoor Learning on the Riverfront grant through the Mississippi Watershed Management Organization. The \$3,000 grant will allow the school to expand outdoor learning opportunities by creating a rain garden and butterfly garden in the center of the newly created turnaround area near the school's playground.

The grant will also fund a partnership with Heidi Ferris of Growing Green Hearts. Ferris is an environment STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) education specialist who partners with schools and community groups to boost science literacy in programs and create on-site solutions for a number of today's environmental issues. She will be helping to design the garden area, working STEM educational pieces into curriculum, and visiting classrooms and teaching lessons.

Many of the lessons will be part of the PYP units of inquiry. First graders will have their life cycle unit tied into the butterfly garden this spring, while 4th graders will learn about water cycle in the rain garden next fall.

The grant is also inspiring this year's annual Day of Action, which is a community service project for students and staff. Tentative plans include cleaning, de-weeding, and sprucing up the current outdoor learning area near the Mississippi River behind Stevenson.





Celebrating African American Parent Involvement Day

Fridley Middle School held its 2nd annual African American Parent Involvement Day on February 12, 2018. All students had the opportunity to invite their parents to experience a few hours of school. Moms and dads were able to sit in on their classes, meet teachers and school administrators, as well as have lunch with their child and play educational games.

African American Parent Involvement Day is a national event held on February 12. The annual event is designed for all parents to come to their child's school, see what their day is like and support their child's education. The day reinforces the importance for parents of all races and ethnicities to support their children's education by being involved.

"African American Parent Involvement Day is a great way to get our parents engaged," said Aloda Sims, family and cultural liaison at Fridley Middle School. "Parents get to meet the people that their kids talk about every day. We want to be able to build that partnership and allow our parents to get this experience with their children."

Across the district, Hayes Elementary School also held its African American Parent Involvement Day on February 12 while Stevenson Elementary School welcomed parents on February 16.

"Parents get to meet the people that their kids talk about every day. We want to be able to build that partnership and allow our parents to get this experience with their children."

ALODA SIMS, FMS FAMILY AND CULTURAL LIAISON





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