



Fridley students enjoy

SHOP WITH A COP



Fifteen students from R.L. Stevenson and Hayes Elementary Schools participated in the annual Shop with a Cop program on December 6, 2017 with the Fridley Police Department. The FPD Shop with a Cop is a program that provides a fun-filled afternoon for children while creating positive relationships with law enforcement. Fridley Public Schools and the Fridley Police Department have partnered for this initiative for 12 years.

“Often when a child encounters police for the first time, it’s during a crisis situation,” Fridley Police Department Crime Prevention Specialist Courtney Rolfe explained. “Shop with a Cop allows children to get to know

Fridley officers during a positive interaction. It builds a relationship of trust and the kids get to know officers in an informal setting.”

Fridley High School Resource Officer Randi Oman added that Shop with a Cop is able to help children feel more comfortable around police officers.

“The two students I shopped with this year moved to Fridley from Chicago. I asked them if they were nervous or scared to hang out with me for the evening. To both questions, they replied ‘yes.’ They didn’t know what to expect,” Oman said. “It’s not uncommon for kids to feel apprehensive about police.”

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By the end of the event, the students were able to develop a friendship with Oman, who was also able to introduce them to peers from Stevenson Elementary School.

"It's important to show them that police are 'real people' and we are there for them if they need us," Oman said.

On the day of the event, uniformed officers picked up the students after school in their squad cars, then headed over to the Fridley Walmart. A total of 21 officers, six FPD staff members, nine FPD Explorers (young adults working hands-on with officers to explore a career in law enforcement), and staff from the two elementary schools participated in the event. Each child was given a \$75 Walmart gift card, funded by the Walmart Community Grant Program, to purchase presents for their families. Following gift wrapping and labeling, the students enjoyed a meal with their police officer partner, courtesy of the Subway restaurant located within the store.

The event not only provides a positive experience and the joy of Christmas to children in need, but it also strongly resonates with the officers

of the Fridley Police Department.

"It's an incredibly uplifting event to participate in," said Rolfe, who leads the initiative. "Whether the student is participating due to a financial need or if they could just use a positive experience with local police, they get a chance to know Fridley officers as people. And seeing the pride and joy on a child's face as they describe who they were able to buy gifts for is priceless."

Fridley Middle School Resource Officer Mark Mickelson said participating in Shop with a Cop each year is very rewarding. "The gift of giving is the meaning of the holiday season," said Mickelson. "The best part about Shop with a Cop is watching the kids decide what to give to their family members. Each gift is personally selected with thought and care."

Oman added that the event is very meaningful to her. "I love to see the kids and officers smiling, laughing, joking and being silly together," Oman said. "These kids remind us of the good in the world, why we do our job, and how important it is to remember we have the support of a great community behind us. These families help to rejuvenate my sense of purpose and connection to the community we serve."

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RANDI OMAN
FHS SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER





STEVENSON STUDENTS ENJOY LIMO RIDE!



Stevenson Elementary students were treated to a pizza party and limo ride around town on November 29, 2017. These students were top sellers for the Stevenson PTO Fall Fundraiser. The money raised for the Stevenson PTO will help to fund field trips, classroom materials, help organize family and community events and support students in various other ways.

UPCOMING EVENT:

BLACK & GOLD GALA

The Fridley Schools Foundation will host its inaugural Black & Gold Gala on Thursday, January 25, 2018.

The gala will be held at the Banquets of Minnesota, 6310 Hwy 65 NE, Fridley. Check-in begins at 5:30 p.m. There will be a silent auction, followed by a dinner and live auction. Auction items include tickets to various Twin Cities theaters and events, restaurant gift certificates, experiential activities and more. A full cash bar will be available and dress is formal attire.

The Fridley Schools Foundation is hoping to raise \$20,000 at the event in an effort to bring back Teacher Innovation Grants. Fridley teachers can apply for these grants to spend on educational activities, field trips, items for classroom use and more. In addition, the Foundation wishes to donate more money to fund college scholarships to increase opportunities for our graduating seniors.

Tickets are \$95 per person or sponsor a table of eight for \$725. Prices will increase on December 21 and are in limited supply. Tickets can be purchased at FridleySchoolsFoundation.org.





Fridley Middle School 5th and 6th grade present....

Musicville

a story about the joy
of community and music

Fridley Middle School 5th and 6th grade students presented their musical *Musicville*, a story about the joy of community and music, on December 1 and 2, 2017.

In the musical, while most of the citizens of Musicville love to sing, one evil resident, The Sorcerer of Silence, wants to silence them all. She puts a potion into the water to stop all the voices, and it is left up to Maiden Melody and Radical Rhythm to find the song that will save the town. Along their journey, the duo encounter different musical styles, make new friends and learn the importance of work-

ing together to overcome obstacles.

Director Rachel Cathey said she chose *Musicville* for this year's production because there is a wide variety of fun characters that the middle school students can easily relate to.

"I always look for a show with many interesting characters, not just as lead roles, but in the company as well, so that every student actor has a moment in which to shine," Cathey said. "Actors should feel challenged and included throughout the telling of the story."

This year, 31 middle school students participated, along with a half a dozen high school students running technical support. The group rehearsed for about eight weeks.

"It's been such a joy spending time with these students, many of whom are experiencing theatre for the first time," Cathey said. "It is also a wonderful way to see students in a different light. For some of them, this is the most successful part of their day, and for others, it is a place where they feel safe to truly be who they want to be."

"It's been such a joy spending time with these students, many of whom are experiencing theatre for the first time!"

-RACHEL CATHEY
PLAY DIRECTOR



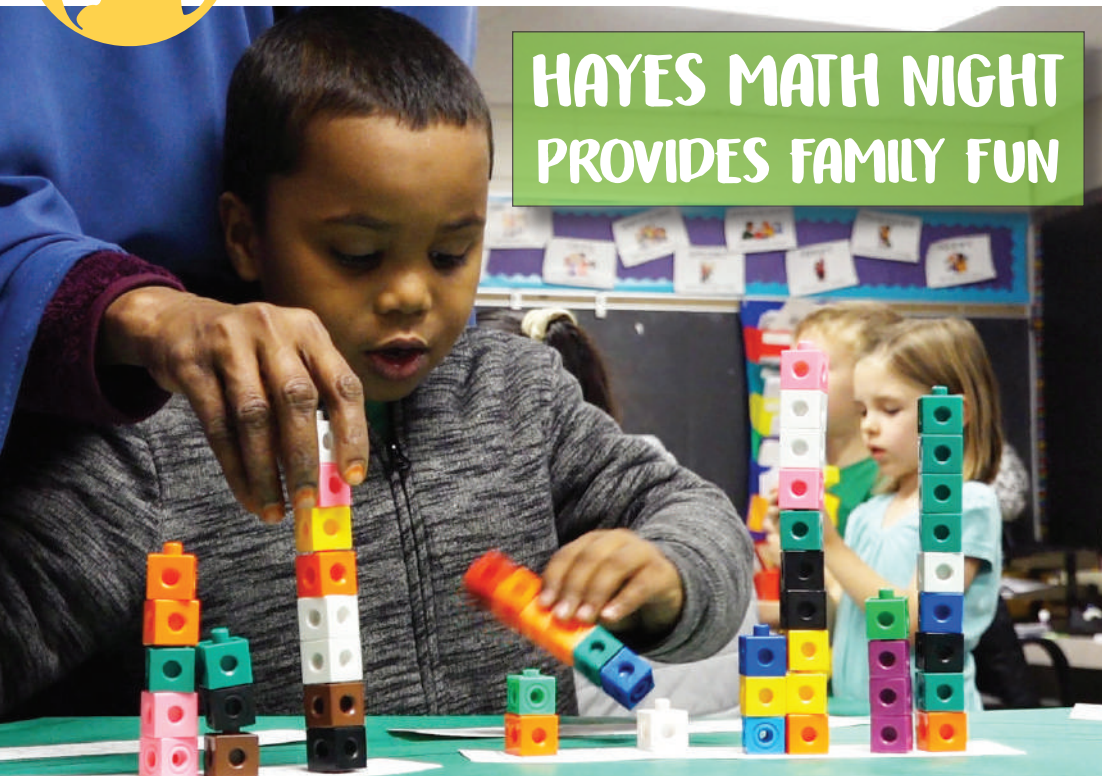
VANESSA POBUDA (MAIDEN MELODY) AND ETHAN ANDLER (RADICAL RHYTHM)



EZRA DIEDERICH (GRAND STAFF) AND ZOE DIEDERICH (QUEEN GLISS)



ROSE CHESSON (THE SORCERER OF SILENCE)



Over 200 students and family members enjoyed an evening of fun and education on November 30, 2017 at the Hayes Elementary Math Night. Families enjoyed tacos in the cafeteria prior to making their way through the halls to visit themed rooms for math games and contests. Smiles filled the night, as the Hayes community took advantage of the opportunity to share time with their children and other families. At Math Night, students are able to find the fun in learning about math through fun-filled activities. Each student also received a take home math kit to continue this fun at home.

"Everywhere I looked, I saw family," said Tina Utley, math interventionist and coach at Hayes. "It is so enjoyable to see parents engage with their students and support their education."





Stevenson Elementary students participate in an



During the week of Dec. 4-8, students at Stevenson Elementary celebrated Computer Science Education Week by participating in an Hour Of Code. The Hour Of Code is a global initiative which was designed to introduce students to computer science, learn the basics of coding through tutorials and activities, and get excited about emerging technology. The initiative was launched by Code.org, a nonprofit dedicated to expanding access to computer science and increasing participation of women and underrepresented students of color.

From kindergarten to 4th grade, all Stevenson students had the opportunity to learn more about coding in the media center. The youngest students coded on Bee-Bots, a programmable floor robot in the shape of a bee. Coding a Bee-Bot to move in programmed directions teaches students about sequencing, estimation and problem solving. Older students learn coding fundamentals through courses on the computer. The interactive and fun games work to increase computer-literacy in young students.

Many students at Stevenson have previous experience in coding. In 2015, English Language teacher Dianne Rae introduced students to coding in Code Camp, an after-school program. Initially, the club began with Rae's EL students and was immediately a hit.

"They loved it and did so well, so I knew I had to figure out how to have an Hour of Code for the entire school," Rae said.

After the first Hour of Code was held in 2015, students filled out an "interest questionnaire" which indicated that over 200 students were interested in participating in Code Camp. The program has now grown to a total of four after-school Code Camps with a different group of students each night during Learning Academy. Rae has also started a t-shirt initiative, where students can earn different colored t-shirts as they advance in their coding courses.

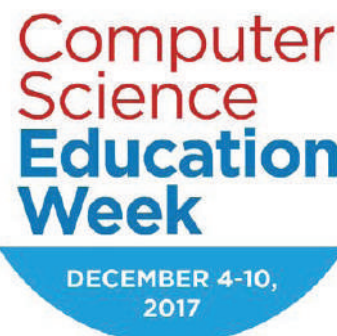
Coding has been growing in popularity among young students across the country, and the benefits that coding provides for students is virtually endless.

"Students learn computational thinking. They learn how to ponder a problem and then reduce it to small, efficient steps," Rae said. "This is a coveted higher order thinking skill."

Rae added that coding fosters creativity and allows students to build fluency in basic technology. According to the Tech Educator, a news organization that focuses on digital technology, in the future "not knowing how to code may be comparable to not knowing how to read."

"Knowing the basics of coding will be beneficial for every job in the future," Rae said. "By starting students early, they will have a foundation for success in any 21st century career they choose. This can definitely open doors to higher paying jobs for our students."

Rae said all students can find success and satisfaction in coding. "I know this is good for the kids in so many ways and I hope to keep promoting this and see computer science grow throughout our entire district."





Marcia Lindblad to retire from Fridley School Board

Longtime Fridley School Board member and current Board Chair Marcia Lindblad will retire from the board at the end of 2017. Lindblad, who did not run for re-election, will be succeeded by Avonna Starck who successfully bid for her seat.

The 29-year Fridley resident has three children, Kristofer, and twins Brent and Kort, all of whom attended Fridley Public Schools and graduated from Fridley High School in 2008 and 2011 respectively. Lindblad began her service to the school district as a parent volunteer at Hayes Elementary School, and later volunteered to support the 2005 referendum campaign.

That same year, following a resignation on the board, Lindblad successfully applied for and was appointed by the Fridley School Board to fill the open seat. She then ran her first successful campaign for the board in November 2005 and has been re-elected for three terms for a total of 12 years.

Lindblad has served in all positions on the school board, including Chair, Vice Chair, Clerk, Treasurer and Director. She has also represented Fridley as a school board member in various organizations, including the Fridley Public Schools Foundation, Northeast Metro School District 916, Technology and Information Educational Services (TIES) Joint Board and the advisory committee for Special Education.

As Lindblad reflected back on her many years of service, she said one of the most positive and prominent changes has been the implementation of the International Baccalaureate (IB) programme.

“Every one of our students benefits from IB,” Lindblad said. “The Learner Profile works well in terms of character development in young students. It teaches international mindedness that really helps to mold our youth into global citizens.”

Lindblad said she is happy to be part of a community that strongly supports its schools. From voting to support referendums, volunteering in classrooms, or providing school supplies, it is clear that the Fridley community cares about its students and schools.

Lindblad added she is thankful to the Fridley school district and community for allowing her all these years to positively contribute.

“I was an involved parent and volunteer,” Lindblad said. “Volunteering and then serving on the board gave me a great opportunity to give back to the community.”

Lindblad’s final school board meeting was on December 19, 2017.



Fridley Public Schools Superintendent Peggy Flathmann and School Board Chair Marcia Lindblad

“Volunteering and then serving on the board gave me a great opportunity to give back to the community.”

-MARCIA LINDBLAD
SCHOOL BOARD CHAIR





Local churches donate Thanksgiving meals to Fridley families



Thank you to area churches for donating Thanksgiving meals to Fridley Public Schools families! This year, Emmanuel Christian Center, Redeemer Lutheran Church, and Michael Servetus Unitarian Society contributed to the annual tradition. District family liaisons Aloda Sims and Yusuf Mohamud helped coordinate the effort and make sure that families in need benefited from the generosity of our community churches.

Tiger Club dinner features student entertainment & family fun



Fridley's Tiger Time (school-aged) portion of the Tiger Club program hosted a spaghetti dinner November 21, 2017 at the Fridley Community Center (FCC). Over 80 family members attended the event.

While people were in line for their dinners, students told jokes and riddles, much to the amusement of parents and grandparents. The dinner was followed by Hansel and Gretel and the Creepy Woods, a modern day mash-up of the classic tale with the Seven Dwarfs, a fairy dog mother and fairy frog father coming to the kids' rescue.



"This was the first family event we've tried in just the school-aged program," said Sally Leone, assistant coordinator of Tiger Club. "Since our school-age program is all under one roof this year at the FCC, this seemed like a perfect opportunity to host an event like this."

Lindsey Crawford, the school-age program manager of Tiger Club, outlined how the performance part of the evening came about. "During the summer program, the kids came up with their own idea to put together a show," she said. "The kids worked really hard and I was so proud of them! Many of them had never been in a show before and began to get



nervous as the 'real night' approached."

The large gathering for a first-time effort did not go unnoticed by Tiger Club staff. Nor did the joy of seeing families of the children mingle throughout the night.

"Relationships are one of the key foundation areas in what we do," Leone said. "We want to create opportunities for families to meet other families, as well as meet the other children that their kids are friends with. This way, parents get to know our staff better. It is a way to encourage parents and children to feel more connected to our program and schools."



DECEMBER EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH

Andrea Baker Finance Specialist

Congratulations to Andrea Baker, Fridley Public Schools December 2017 Employee of the Month! Andrea is the district's finance specialist who works primarily in special education billing.

"Andrea is a very supportive colleague," said Stephanie Warner, Fridley High School's Work Based Learning Teacher. "She has the best interest of students in mind while completing her job in an efficient manner," she said.

Andrea came to Fridley Public Schools in 2013 in a newly created position of finance specialist. She previously worked in the special education department at Edina Public Schools.

"The finance specialist position was created to ensure that we were using special revenue in the most effective manner," said Matthew Hammer, district director of business and finance. Special revenue includes title programs, integration funding and special education funding, areas that Andrea had experience and expertise, Hammer added. "She has done an outstanding job of maximizing all available funding the district is entitled to and ensuring that students have the resources they need to be successful at school," Hammer said.

Warner added that Andrea's skills and knowledge, beyond those of finance, has helped make the Special Services department run smoothly and effectively. She takes on more work to help others out and get the job done. "She displays all the International Baccalaureate (IB) Learner Profile attributes in her work and interaction with others," she said.

Laura Seifert-Hertling, the district's director of special services, said that Andrea



FRIDLEY PUBLIC SCHOOLS STAFF SURPRISED ANDREA WITH HER EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH AWARD ON DECEMBER 8, 2017.

is highly knowledgeable (an IB Learner Profile trait) in her field, and does her job with a high level of integrity. "She is one of those people who you know will get the job done," said Seifert-Hertling, adding that Andrea's knowledge of finance far exceeds anyone else that she has ever worked with. "Her diligent approach to problem solving and thinking creatively, continue to align funding that support many of our programs and students," she said.

Andrea's colleagues across multiple departments agree that she is a tremendous asset to the district. She is efficient, smart, quick-thinking, and approaches her work with a holistic view that looks at the big picture to be able to help make the smaller pieces that contribute to the larger picture work efficiently.

"Many administrators in the district confidently look up to Andrea to help problem solve some of our most complicated and challenging funding issues," said Hammer. "With her immense knowledge on special revenue and her can-do attitude, she has helped save thousands of dollars for the district," he said.

Seifert-Hertling echoed the same senti-

ments. "Bottom line is Andrea can figure almost anything out if it is a good thing for kids," she said.

She has done an outstanding job of maximizing all available funding the district is entitled to and ensuring that students have the resources they need to be successful at school.

MATTHEW HAMMER
DIRECTOR OF BUSINESS & FINANCE



DIRECTOR OF FINANCE MATTHEW HAMMER,
ANDREA BAKER, AND DIRECTOR OF SPECIAL
SERVICES LAURA SEIFERT-HERTLING



CONGRATULATIONS KARI REITER, SECTION 2A DIVING COACH OF THE YEAR!

Congratulations to Kari Reiter, who was named Section 2A Diving Coach of the Year!

Reiter has been coaching the boys and girls Fridley/Totino-Grace Swim and Dive teams for nearly a decade since she started teaching at Fridley Middle School. In fact, Reiter is a graduate of Fridley High School and was a varsity diver during her high school years.

"I have a passion for the sport and the fact that I can bring some past elements to connect with the current and future of the program is pretty special," Reiter said.

Reiter enjoys the family-aspect of coaching her team. "I love the combination of personalities that come together and become a big crazy family," Reiter shared. "The girls are very close and love each other like sisters. At the end of the day, they would do anything for each other and I like to think that I had a part in creating some of the closeness among them."

Fridley swim coach Emily Heille said Kari is an incredible asset to the swim-dive program.

"Having been a diver for many years herself, she is knowledgeable about the

sport and consistently holds her divers to high standards," Heille said.

She added that Reiter is able to build strong relationships with her athletes.

"This trust enables her to push the divers a little further each day until they are surpassing their own expectations," said Heille. "She cares deeply for each member of her team and wants to see everyone succeed. I've seen her at nine months pregnant, on the diving board, behind her divers, helping them achieve their goals. Watching her with her athletes is inspiring."

Looking back on this past swim and dive season, Reiter said this year was the first in over five years that she got in the water to dive with the girls.

"It was very humbling to "practice what you preach" and show that I actually know what I'm talking about when critiquing the girls," she shared.

Reiter added another special aspect about this coaching season is that she will be saying "see you later" to senior Spencer Brady, who Reiter has coached since she was in 6th grade.

"I have learned a lot about coaching and myself by working with her, and I



FRIDLEY HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR SPENCER
BRADY AND COACH KARI REITER

hope that I was able to make as much of an impact on her as she has on me."

When asked about the Section 2A Diving Coach of the Year award, Reiter said she is truly honored to have received this recognition. "I feel like there are so many people that put in the time and hard work to create great athletes, and the fact that I was chosen is awesome!" she said.

"She builds incredible relationships with her athletes. This trust enables her to push the divers a little further each day until they are surpassing their own expectations."

- EMILY HEILLE
SWIM COACH

