

# Fridley Public Schools District Bulletin

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Independent School District 14, Fridley, MN 55432

Spring 2012

## Fridley Junior Wins National Scholastic Art Award



Congratulations to Aliya Tourville, a Junior Fridley High School Diploma Programme Visual Art student, who is a recipient of a National Scholastic Art Silver Medal Award for her photograph "Story Block." After winning a Gold Key Award at the state level, Aliya is one of only

thirteen Minnesota student artists to receive a Gold or Silver Medal and is one of the National Winners of the 2012 Scholastic Art & Writing Awards, the country's longest-running and most prestigious award and recognition program for creative teenagers.

She was also an American Visions Nominee (only five of these "best of show" awards were given out of more than 1,375 submissions) and received a \$2,300 scholarship to attend an Minnesota College of Art and Design (MCAD) Summer Sessions Camp. Aliya is the first Fridley student to receive this high honor.

These students and teachers will be invited to the Nationals Awards Ceremony to be held on June 1, 2012 at the world-famous Carnegie Hall in New York, and selected pieces will be included in an exhibi-

tion in Soho. The national winners will be honored on stage alongside well-known illustrator and Award alumnus Edward Sorel at a special ceremony, and to extend the festivities, select Award-winning art and writing will be exhibited at Parsons The New School for Design in Manhattan through June 16, 2012.

The recognition of outstanding young artists and writers culminates in a year-end event in New York City where winners meet their creative peers, view and read the work of other exceptional teens from across the nation, and are introduced to professionals in New York City's creative industries through panels and interactive workshops.

*Read more about the 2012 MSAA Award winners on page 10.*

### District Bulletin

The Fridley Public Schools District Bulletin is published three times a year and is mailed to every home in the Fridley School District. All editorial correspondence should be sent to:

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6000 West Moore Lake Drive  
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# Superintendent's Column

## Preparing our Students for Promising Futures



As we begin the last third trimester of the school year – students are busy with culminating activities in classrooms showing what they have learned. In particular, 10th graders have completed their Personal Project in which each student has selected a passion that they have, completed research, and then presented to each other, staff, parents and the community.

Fourth graders have been working on their Exhibitions – a group project in which they are inquiring in to “how the world works”. The Exhibitions will be presented in May. Also students will be taking end of the year examinations for Minnesota Comprehension Assessments, MAP testing in reading and math, and International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme exams.

These first days of spring mean we are gearing up for the next 2012-13 school year. We begin by looking at enrollment trends and do our best at anticipating our projected enrollment for next fall.

Simultaneously, students and parents are registering for next year – from anxious new kindergartners (and parents) thinking about their first year of school to anxious seniors (and parents) thinking about their last year of school. If you have any questions about registration for the 2012-13, I encourage you to contact the building principals for more information.

Over the past several years, the District has been able to avoid budget cuts because of our increased student enrollment. Nevertheless, during the budget process we carefully scrutinized each budget making sure that we are operating within our means and being good stewards of our funding.

The State of Minnesota reduced our state aids from 70% of the allocations that should be paid to schools to 60%. This money was used to balance the state's budget. This shift forced the Fridley School District to borrow nearly \$8 million for cash flow purposes for this school year.

Now, due to increased State revenue, on March 15, the State will begin to repay schools by increasing our funding from 60% allocation to just over 64%. This is a good step towards eliminating the shift but it is essential that the legislature do its part to help all school districts in the next biennium. Without significant increases in funding in the next biennium, Fridley will likely begin experiencing the cuts that many of our neighbors have had in the past three or four years.

Despite the financial challenges, the Fridley School District School Board and staff continue to focus on our mission, vision, and goals to prepare our students for the world they will face in the future rather than the one we came from in the distant past. We appreciate the support of this community as we continue to work together.

Dr. Peggy Flathmann  
Superintendent of Schools

# District Finance Update...

As we close another calendar year at Fridley Schools it is important to note that we are only mid way through our fiscal year which ends on June 30, 2012. This article includes a brief update on three pinnacle topics in school finance: the year-end fiscal audit, the levy certification, and the revised budget.

The fiscal audit for FY 2010-11 was completed in November 2011. The district auditors expressed a "clean" opinion on the district's financial statements. This means that in their opinion, the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Fridley Schools.

The fund balance is a measure of the district's financial health and ability to provide stability in edu-

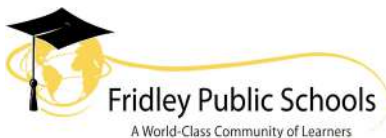
cational programming and staffing. We ended the year with a restricted and unassigned general fund balance of \$606,842 and \$1,858,253 respectively with a combined fund balance of \$2,465,095. The unassigned amount is 6% of our unassigned expenditures which is at the low end of the board policy target of 5-8%.

The school board adopted the FY 2011-12 budget at the June 2011 meeting. In January the district asked the board to approve the revised budget. The adopted budget includes a projected deficit of \$219,000. This is expected to escalate for the revised budget due mainly to the pressure of a modest state aid revenue increase coupled with increasing costs of programming and commitments. In a year

where economic strain has taken its toll on many families in the community, the Fridley taxpayers will see a decrease in their school tax levy for 2012 of 4.8%. The largest factors contributing to this decrease is the property value decreases in Fridley and less health and safety projects compared to last year.

The district held a Truth in Taxation hearing for the public on December 20, 2011. The full presentation is available on the district website at [www.fridley.k12.mn.us](http://www.fridley.k12.mn.us). Please visit the website for other financial information including annual budgets and audit reports.

By: Rochel Manders,  
Director of Finance



**Superintendent of Schools**  
Dr. Peggy Flathmann

**Editor**  
Jael McLemore

**Fridley School Board**  
Gordon Backlund  
Fred Bischke  
Marcia Lindblad  
Brad Richter  
Christopher Riddle  
Kim Sampson

**An Equal Opportunity Employer**



Pictured (seated): Brad Richter and Marcia Lindblad;  
(standing, l-r): Fred Bischke, Kim Sampson, Chris Riddle,  
and Gordon Backlund



# Reading for Success with Books4All

By Sarah Erdman

As the poverty level continues to grow in the Fridley community, teachers are finding that more and more students do not have the resources needed to succeed in school. This has reflected in Fridley's Adequate Yearly Progress 2010-2011 report. As a district, Fridley is meeting the standards that have been set. However American Indian, Black and students on free and reduced lunch did not meet their math requirements and White students did not meet the reading requirements. Because of this and many other reasons Fridley Middle School (FMS) teachers along with the help of the community have started a program called Book Time, also known as Bks4All@FMS (Books for All at Fridley Middle School).

Book Time is modeled after Stevenson's book drive Bks4All@RLS, which allows students to swap their old books for ones that are at their reading level. The Middle School's program is slightly different; students do not swap their old books, they just get one new book to keep. The goal of Book Time is to put an appropriate reading level book in every student's hands. "Students need reading material that is at their level to meet the standards," said Fridley Middle School teacher Ms. Teegarden. "The more books we can put in kid's hands the farther forward they will move."

Flyers for Book Time's book drive can be seen around town. The flyer uses a quote from Eric Jensen's book, *Teaching with Poverty in Mind* that states, "Reading is one of the most important factors affecting the development of a child's brain. Even when low-income parents do everything they can for their children; their limited resources put kids at a huge disadvantage."

This is where the community comes in. Parents from the FMS Parenting Advisory Council have been a driving force in getting the word out and gathering the books from all around town. Thanks to the hard work of many parent volunteers like Gina Larson who works with the Middle School's book drive and Stacy Dean of the Stevenson book drive, the project has been a success. Even local businesses, like Friendly Chevrolet and Grandpa's Ice Cream have collected dozens of boxes of books that their customers have donated for Book Time. Businesses have also donated money to buy books or asked for a book list and purchased multiple copies of each book.



“This project is International Baccalaureate in action,” said Teegarden. “The community did it, all for the benefit of the kids.”

The first distribution of books this past October was such a success that another one followed in December. The students were very excited to have their own book and a common question throughout the day was “can I keep it?” Many students even checked with the parent volunteers multiple times to make sure that they could take the book home with them. Teegarden noted that for some of these kids, the book they picked out that day was the first book they have ever owned.

Sixth grade student, Sawyer Hoff said to her teacher Ms. Purdy-Ellingson, “I think that it is a good thing for students, especially those who don’t have books. I also think it is good for us to get new books that we have not read yet!”

The students’ excitement has motivated parent volunteers to make Book Time an on-going project. “It felt good to know that the effort I put in made a difference for students,” said Gina Larson. They hope to collect at least 5,000 books so that there can be four or five drives per year. This will allow students to have multiple books to read throughout the year. Book Time’s success so far has motivated Stevenson Elementary School to continue to make its own book drive larger and Hayes Elementary School hopes to have one soon too.

Parent volunteers worry though that donations alone will not be enough to keep the project going. Finding consistent funding is one of their prime goals now. If you have books that you would like to donate to the Book Time program, please drop them off at the Middle School’s front office. For more information about the program and how you can be involved please contact Ms. Teegarden by phone at 763-502-5424 or via e-mail at [Lori.Teegarden@Fridley.k12.mn.us](mailto:Lori.Teegarden@Fridley.k12.mn.us) or Gina Larson at [ginamlarson@gmail.com](mailto:ginamlarson@gmail.com). If you would like to learn how to help with Stevenson’s program please contact Stacy Dean at [pto.stevenson@gmail.com](mailto:pto.stevenson@gmail.com).

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*Sarah Erdman is a junior at Hamline University where she is studying political science and communications. She is a Fridley High School graduate, class of 2009.*

## Parent Tip

Without doubt, reading with children spells success for early literacy. Putting a few simple strategies into action will make a significant difference in helping children develop into good readers and writers.

- Invite a child to read with you every day.
- When reading a book where the print is large, point word by word as you read. This will help the child learn that reading goes from left to right and understand that the word he or she says is the word he or she sees.
- Read a child’s favorite book over and over again.
- Read many stories with rhyming words and lines that repeat. Invite the child to join in on these parts. Point, word by word, as he or she reads along with you.
- Discuss new words. For example, “This big house is called a palace. Who do you think lives in a palace?”
- Stop and ask about the pictures and about what is happening in the story.
- Read from a variety of children’s books, including fairy tales, song books, poems, and information books.

### **Reading Tips for Parents**

Published by: U.S. Department of Education

# Meet our Fridley Elementary School Counselors

By Margo Rothenbacher  
*Fridley Schools Counselor*

School counselors play a very important role in the education of all students. Professional school counselors are certified/licensed educators with a minimum of a master's degree in school counseling. They are uniquely qualified to address the developmental needs of all students through a comprehensive school counseling program addressing the academic, career as well as personal and social development of all students. Counselors work with ALL students to help them be successful in the school setting.

During the elementary years, students develop and acquire attitudes toward school, self, peers, social groups and family. At both Fridley elementary schools, School Counselors present classroom guidance lessons and meet with students in groups and individually to assist with social and academic growth. Elementary counselors work with teaching staff and families to provide assistance and support so that all students can be successful in the classroom.

In light of this, we are very excited to welcome two elementary school counselors to our school district. Christa Sanders will be working with students at R.L. Stevenson and Leena Callan (Jacob) will be working with students at Hayes Elementary. They both come to us with a wealth of experience. Please see their short biographies following this article.

When students transition from elementary to middle school, they experience a variety of changes. Middle school is a time of personal exploration and physiological rapid growth. This can be a very challenging time for students. Middle school counselors provide students with a safe place to discuss issues that arise and teach social skills and decision making that allow students to engage in healthy relationships with other students.

The counselors' goal is to help students build personal, social and academic skills, as well as explore interests, careers and options for high school and beyond. They do this by providing classroom lessons, individual and group counseling. School Counselors work in collaboration with other student support professionals and staff, teachers, families and the community to help students be successful.

When students come to Fridley High School, the School Counselors/Deans meet with students and work with them to establish a four year educational plan and prepare for post-secondary options. Counselors/Deans also continue to work with students in areas of academic, career, personal and social development. The 900+ of our current high school students are divided alphabetically by last name and each Counselor/Dean monitors his or her assigned students for the four years that they are at Fridley High School. This allows for consistency, continuity, and relationship building.

In addition, School Counselors/Deans help students and parents develop an academic plan if a student gets into trouble with grades and/or credit. They assist students as they apply for college, help fill out applications, apply for scholarships, and write letters of recommendation.

All school counselors meet with students about issues concerning; peer interaction-relationships, social skill building, conflict resolution, anger management, relationship building, and other areas of personal/social development.

The Counselors/Deans wear many hats and are compassionate and caring, creative problem solvers, and knowledgeable about their students. If you have a concern about your child, please contact the counselor at the school they attend.

## **Contact information:**

**Stevenson Elementary School**  
Christine (Christa) Sanders  
christine.sanders@fridley.k12.mn.us  
763-502-5306

**Hayes Elementary School**  
Leena Callan (Jacob)  
leena.callan@fridley.k12.mn.us  
763-502-5200

**[www.fridley.k12.mn.us](http://www.fridley.k12.mn.us)**



# Helping your Child



## **CHRISTA SANDERS**

My name is Christa Sanders and I am thrilled to be the new School Counselor at Stevenson! I have spent many years working with families and students in the community. Prior to coming to Fridley I served as an educational advocate for families and students who are homeless. I also

have a background working with students struggling with addiction to drugs and alcohol. I received my School Counseling license at Adler Graduate School in Richfield. When I am not at Stevenson I am busy chasing after my 4 year old and 1 year old children!



## **LEENA CALLAN**

Hello! I am Leena Callan (Jacob) and I am the new school counselor at Hayes Elementary School. I have a Masters degree in Community Counseling and a K-12 School Counseling license from the University of Minnesota. Prior to working in the schools, I worked as a Case Man-

ager in a Transitional Housing Program and with at-risk youth in an employment readiness program in St. Paul. My passion is working with families and children to empower them in their goals. In my free time, I enjoy reading, doing yoga, and spending time with family and friends.

Get to know your child's teachers and counselors.

Continue to attend open houses or parent nights at school to meet your child's teachers.

Request parent-teacher conferences when you think they are needed.

Pay attention to your child's behavior and friends.

Be aware if your child's grades drop or if your child is sad or angry.

Be attentive. Stop your child immediately when bad behavior appears. Show him or her what to do and provide an opportunity to do it correctly. Discipline should be appropriate and consistent.

Talk to your child about any concerns you may have.

Consult with counselors, social workers, school psychologists or others trained in and helpful with solving adolescents' problems.

**BE THERE.** Just be there for your child—to answer questions, to listen, to give advice, to encourage and to speak positively about his or her life. Be there to support your child whenever needed.

*Parent Power - Building the Bridge to Success*  
U.S. Department of Education, 2010.

# Hayes Elementary Students Are Wild About Books



## Hayes Elementary School Wild About Books students reading together

Top picture (l-r): 1st grade student Lyanasia Daniel and her reading mentor 3rd grader Sheck Kaba

Middle picture (l-r): 1st grade student Kira Halveson and her reading mentor 3rd grader Grace Bryant

Bottom picture (l-r): 3rd grader and mentor Mal Dang reading with 1st grade student Ethan Leene

What do you do with a kindergarten or first grade student who is a reluctant reader and a 3rd to 5th grade student who is a proficient reader?

Why, you pair them up in a successful mentoring program at Hayes called Wild About Books! Of the 225 K-1st grade students at Hayes, 110 were not reading at least 2 books a week.

To encourage and promote reading, Hayes staff set a goal for each K-1st grade student to read 20 books in 10 weeks. That meant that each student would read at least two books a week.

Recognizing that some students did not have books readily available at home, teachers collaborated and collected books which were given to students to read at home. In addition, struggling K-1st grade students were paired with 3-5th grade students who would be their reading mentors. The pair of students would then get together at school and the

older student would read with the younger student to help strengthen their reading skills.

The results? In its first 10 weeks, the number of books being read went up and Ms. Deb Janssen's kindergarten class which has 24 students topped the list by reading 1,300 books!

Each student in Janssen's class averaged 5 books a week, far exceeding the 2 books per week reading goal. Of the 225 students, after 10 weeks of the Wild About Books reading mentoring program, only 40 students did not meet the 20 books goal - although they each read 15 books during the 10 week period.

The mentor students reported that they liked reading to the younger students and that helping in that way made them feel good. The younger kids wanted to read more because they enjoyed reading with a partner.

When asked how he felt about being a reading mentor, third grader Sheck

Kaba replied that "I get to help other kids and that feels good."

His reading partner Lyanasia Daniels who is in first grade also enjoys reading with her mentor. "I really like it," Lyanasia said, "reading makes you feel like you are learning." She also gets to read books about Clifford, one of her favorite cartoon character.

First grader Kira Halverson whose reading partner is third grade student Grace Bryant, said that she understood the stories better when reading with a partner.

All the mentors agreed that their parents were very proud of them for volunteering for the reading mentor program.

If you would like to donate children's books to this great program, please send the books in with your child or drop them off at the school.



## Johnson Finalist in the 2012 Competition for National Merit Scholarship



Fridley High School senior Dan Johnson has been named a finalist in the 2012 National Merit Scholarship Program.

He is one of approximately 8,400 high school seniors who qualify as finalists and will have an opportunity to receive from 8,300 scholarships valued at more than \$34 million to be offered later this spring.

About 1.5 million juniors in some 22,000 high schools entered the 2012 National Merit Scholarship Program by taking the 2010 Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test (PSAT), which served as an initial screening of program entrants.

Dan was one of the 16,000 national semifinalists, which represents less than one percent of all U.S. seniors and included applicants with the highest-scoring entrants in each state.

Dan's contributions to Fridley High School have been outstanding through participation in Youth in Government, Speech, Tennis, One-Act, Senior Mentor Captains in Action, as well as Drama and Science Clubs. He has maintained a rigorous course load as a full International Baccalaureate Diploma Candidate and has earned A's in all his courses.

As one of the 8,400 finalists, Dan will be considered for National Merit Scholarships to be offered later this spring. The total awards will make up about 34 million dollars. Merit Scholarship designees are selected on the basis of their skills, accomplishments, and potential for success in rigorous college studies.

## FMS Math Team Wins St. Cloud State University Math Contest



On March 29, 2012, St. Cloud State University (SCSU) held its 45th Annual Math Contest where 1,731 students in grades 7-12 competed for awards against the top 10 percent of students at each grade level and representing 46 schools from across Minnesota. Fridley Middle School 8th grade math team made up of Parker Brady (pictured left), Darartu Gamada (middle picture)



and Jakob Hofstad (pictured right), won the St. Cloud Math Contest! In addition, Jakob Hofstad, had the top score of all 8th grade students in the math competition. The contest, which is open to students in grades 7-12, has been sponsored by the St. Cloud State Departments of Mathematics and Statistics and Computer Science since 1968.

# Fridley High School Students Earn Top State Awards

Nine Fridley High School student artists are recipients of this year's Minnesota Scholastic Art Awards.

A statewide regional affiliate of the National Scholastic Art Awards program, the Minnesota Scholastic Art Awards (MSAA) recognizes our state's most creative teenagers and offers scholarship opportunities for graduating high school seniors. This year, the MSAA competition received 1,376 individual artwork entries and 170 portfolio entries.

There are three levels of distinction in the MSAA program. Gold Key is the program's highest distinc-

tion; pieces awarded a Gold Key are included in an exhibition at the Minnesota College of Art and Design (MCAD) and winners also advance to the national competition in New York. Silver Key denotes high distinction; these pieces are also included in the MCAD exhibition. Honorable Mention is given to pieces noted by the jurors as deserving of merit. Of the 11 Gold Key Portfolio awards received statewide, Fridley earned 3!

Congratulations to junior Aliya Tourville who was one of five in the entire state selected as a Gold Key, American Vision Nominee! Gold

Key, American Vision Nominees represent five pieces voted 'Best of Show' that continued on to the national competition, where one piece was selected to represent Minnesota in the National Art Exhibition.

The 2011-2012 Minnesota Scholastic Art Exhibition was available to the public from January 30 to February 26, 2012 at the MCAD Gallery's Concourse Gallery.

## Fridley High School 2012 MSAA Winners

Other Fridley High School students to congratulate for their outstanding Minnesota Scholastic Arts Award (MSAA) achievements include:

Jaafar Alnabi, 12th grade: Honorable Mention Portfolio

Dan Johnson, 12th grade: Gold Key Portfolio

Selma Karic, 12th grade: Gold Key Portfolio

Sauda Karic, 12th grade: Silver Key Portfolio

Aida Konjaric, 12th grade:

Honorable Mention Portfolio

Stephen O'Leary, 12th grade:

Honorable Mention Portfolio

Tawney Smart, 12th grade: Gold Key Portfolio

Aliya Tourville, 11th grade: Gold Key, Silver Key,

Gold Key, American Vision Nominee

Asiya Youngmark, 11th grade: Honorable Mention



Back row (L-R): Dan Johnson, Aliya Tourville, Asiya Youngmark, Jaafar Alnabi, and Stephen O'Leary  
Front row (L-R): Robin Hart, Aida Konjaric, Tawney Smart, and Sauda Karic. (Not pictured: Selma Karic)



# Fridley Middle School Learners of Distinction

The *Learners of Distinction Award* is in its second year of celebration at Fridley Middle School. Students are nominated by their peers and voted on by Fridley Middle School staff for their outstanding demonstration of a trait from the IB Learner Profile. These traits are: inquirers, knowledgeable, critical thinkers, communicators, principled, open-minded, caring, risk-takers, balanced and reflective. The honorees have breakfast with the principal, are photographed for the yearbook, and receive certificates of recognition.



Front Row: Lauren Backstrom, Joey Herder, Junior Lawrence, Katie Stevenson, and Jakob Hofstad

Middle Row: Sumaya Al-fath, Alex Breitreutz, Nic Fite, Sam Stepan, Roman Kotas, Jackie Falk, Katrina Mraz

Back Row: Michael Barreira, Keanan Allen, Gaohlue Vue, Max Stumpf, Emma Broos, Abbey Duehn

*Not Pictured: Muna Mohammed, Maggie Bergman, & Howard Williams.*

## Family Connection at Stevenson Elementary

Several parents and families braved the snow and sleet on Tuesday night, February 28, 2012 to participate in family strengthening activities at Stevenson Elementary School.

This free event was the first of a three part series of the Family Connection parent trainings at the school. Families and staff had an opportunity to get to know one another during dinner before the program began.

Gale Cannon, a family education specialist from Northwest Suburban Integration School District, discussed ways that families can remain connected during good times and become even stronger during difficult times.

The next Family Connection event titled "Raising Healthy, Safe Kids" will be held April 26, 2012.



*Gale Cannon (standing) leads parents in a workshop where parents increased their knowledge of traditions, activities, and strategies that may continue to strengthen families from one generation to the next. These Family Connection activities are organized by Stevenson Elementary School Counselor, Christine (Christa) Sanders.*



## Fridley High National Honor Society Inducts New Members

On Thursday October 27, 2011, thirty new members were inducted into the Fridley High School's National Honor Society. The students were selected based on their achievements and high standards in scholarship, service, leadership, and character. Congratulations to the following 2011-2012 inductees:

Ajan Ajanic, Prima Alam, Zineb Alfath, Natalie Bailey, Drew Bergman, Sarah Berry, Matt Broos, Caitlin Huna, Zach Coleman, Danny Collins, Brenda Contreras, Taylor Danz, Maddy Earley, Max Fite, Selma Karic, Suada Karic, Erik Keeler, Crystal Long, Nicole Luppino, Erin Manley, Matt Neumann, Gemachu Rabu, Justin Ranallo, Elizabeth Readel, Ericka Readel, Damaris Ojeda Santiago, Gernay Sheferaw, Dan Stevenson, Andy Tjader and Dylan Zurn.

## IB Diploma Candidates Presents Extended Essays

International Baccalaureate (IB) Extended Essay Breakfast was held on January 18, 2012 at the Fridley High School media center where 12 seniors presented their essays to their supervisors. This annual celebration for FHS Full IB Diploma Candidates was attended

by parents, families and staff. The Extended Essay 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. It provides students with an opportunity to engage in

a personal research topic of their own choice, under the guidance of a supervisor. This 4,000 word essay encourages students to develop the independent research skills that are expected at colleges and universities. Congratulations to all our outstanding students!

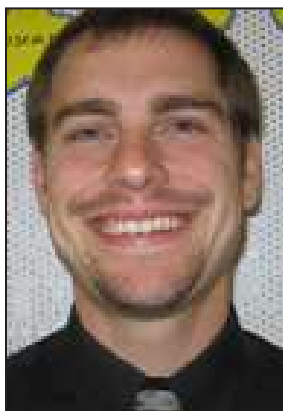


### Meet the Fridley High School Full IB Diploma Candidates for the Class of 2012!

Front Row L-R: Gernay Sheferaw, Che Lee, Haleigh Duncan, Natasha Mraz, Channen Hanson, Leah Thao.  
Back Row L-R: Dakota Fahey-Wincek, Chad Magnuson, Daniel Johnson, Eva Thomas, Zara Peterson, and William Earley.

# Fridley Teachers Named TIES Exceptional Teachers

Andy Dauer and Jim Miller of Fridley IB World Schools were recognized as TIES Exceptional Teachers at the TIES 2011 Education Technology Conference at the Minneapolis Hyatt Regency on December 13, 2011. They were among 83 teachers from 43 districts.



R. L. Stevenson Elementary School First-grade teacher Andy Dauer jumps at every chance he can get to use technology to enhance his curriculum. He and his students use Flip cameras, video editing software and scenic backgrounds to create dramatic "Readers' Theater" videos.

He introduces students to a variety of local, national and international experts using Skype, and he creates interactive stations for students to work independently on the SMART Board. Andy is a leader in the district because he's not afraid to take a chance with technology. Once he's tried a new tool or application, he's eager to share his experiences with his colleagues and all of the first-grade students.

Fridley High School's Jim Miller has been a leader with the district's Moodle efforts for the last five years. As the High School Math Department Chair, he was one of the first on the block to get his whole team creating classes on Moodle and the district's first to fully "flip" his classroom. He participates in a variety of local and state-wide tech user groups and is a member of the TIES Project Based Learning Cohort.



The teachers were chosen by their superintendents for the TIES Exceptional Teacher award, which recognizes teachers who model the best practices in using technology in their classroom and engaging students in learning. Besides being recognized at the conference, each teacher is featured in the TIES Exceptional Teachers publication and received a certificate.

School districts participating in the TIES Exceptional Teacher award program are members of TIES, an education technology consortium of 46 Minnesota school districts.

## Hayes Elementary Selected As A Minnesota Reading Corps Site

Congratulations to Hayes Elementary School for being selected as a Minnesota Reading Corps site for the 2012-2013 school year. This selection means that Hayes will get a full time reading instructor who will work with students to raise reading proficiency.

Elementary Literacy Tutors work one-on-one with K-3 children who need help learning to read. This

full time position is being hired through the Minnesota Reading Corps. These AmeriCorps members are trained in research-based strategies and use prescribed literacy interventions and conduct weekly progress monitoring to ensure the student they are working with is on track to read at grade level by the end of third grade. Reading Corps is proud of the impact that its AmeriCorps members have

in helping close academic achievement gaps and working to ensure all students read proficiently by the end of third grade.

If you would like to apply for a Reading corps position at Hayes or Stevenson Elementary school, see page 18 for more information on the application process, job description as well as qualifications.

# Fridley Honors Employees of the Month



**Wendy Thelen**  
*December 2011*

**Wendy Thelen**, is an instructor at Stevenson Elementary School's Tiger Club. Her peers consider her a very hard working employee who takes her job seriously, yet is still able to put fun into her job. And many who know her well at Stevenson consider her a wonderful person and a great asset.

Wendy has a vibrant and caring personality that lights up every room. She is caring, hard working, and very genuine.

Wendy has developed excellent rapport with the children. She knows how to hold their attention and provides students with a variety of interesting, appropriate, hands-on activities.

Her love of children and teaching has been apparent throughout her years at Stevenson.



**Shirley Gourde**  
*January 2012*

**Shirley Gourde** is a paraprofessional at Fridley Middle School who is considered an outstanding assistant in the classroom by her peers.

She offers students help whenever she sees someone struggling. She nudges them into positive behavior. She cares that the students are learning and they respond by getting on task.

She spends time creating learning tools or modifying tests. Her greatest strength is being respectful and caring to those students who need attention the most and her contributions to teachers in the classroom is invaluable.

Her generosity and willingness to do all that she can whenever and wherever she is needed has earned her employee of the month, January 2012.



**Sue Culbertson**  
*February 2012*

**Sue Culbertson** demonstrates care to students, staff, and families, and is one of the most reliable and dependable people in the school district. She is always supportive, patient, helpful, and wise.

Culbertson's extraordinary organization brings a level of confidence to the main office which flows over to teachers, students and families. Because of her exemplary skill, the high school has a friendly, helpful and caring reputation.

Culbertson, who is described as the heart of the high school building, is always willing to lend an ear and listen to concerns and complaints and helps out wherever she can. Her commitment to total professionalism and excellence in all that she does has earned her the February 2012 employee of the month award.



**Marsha Schrupp**  
*March 2012*

**Marsha Schrupp** deeply cares about each student and will do what is best for students above all else. As a paraprofessional, she is self-directed, reflective, and a risk taker. She delves into the concepts to make sure she understands the curriculum before assisting the students.

She does the "homework" and reflects on her own learning to be able to best assist the students. She recognizes the need for students to be cared for physically so that they can learn. She shows compassion, empathy and respect. She is a curious, independent and active learner and always seeks out new learning opportunities.

She is a woman of integrity, honesty and fairness when working with others and a great asset to the high school staff team.



# Around the District...

## Transition Imaging at Fridley

Do you have stacks of slides or negatives of pictures that you don't know what to do with? Transition Imaging is ready to help you scan those images and catalog them for proper storage! Transition Imaging is a new business venture by Fridley Public Schools' Transition Program. The focus of the transition program is to assist students 18-21 years old who have completed four years of high school as they progress from an educational setting toward living and working as independently as possible in their community. For more information, please contact Bob Carrigan at 502-5065 or Kim Olszanski at 502-5066.



## Jack Pearson visits Hayes Elementary

Jack Pearson, award winning musician and storyteller from Minneapolis, brought his guitar and shared music and storytelling with students at Hayes Elementary School on March 20-21, 2012. Jack is well known in the upper Midwest and West Coast for his unique instrumental skills on guitar, banjo and fiddle. From banjo, fiddle, guitar, and drums, students had an opportunity to listen to and practice music with Jack during his two day visit and enjoy his immense musical talents.

Do you have books that you or your children no longer read? If so, please consider donating them to our elementary and middle schools Books4All reading program. You can drop the books off at any one of the schools main office or send them in with your child.

## Fridley Schools Foundation

The Fridley School Foundation supports the mission of the Fridley Public Schools, by raising and disbursing funds, which enhance the quality of educational experiences. Money grants are provided to teachers, administrators, and support staff in areas of classroom enrichment, faculty and staff instructional improvement, organization enhancement, and facilities improvement. For more information, and how to donate, please contact Toni Craft at 502-5104.



## Lets Talk about It At Fridley High

"Let's Talk About It, Anoka County" is a new community program giving the residents of Anoka County the chance to come together and learn about mental health, mental wellness, and suicide prevention. The program consists of a series of education and awareness events held in three different Anoka County cities. The second in this series was held Monday, February 27, 2012 from 6:00 p.m. at the Fridley High School Auditorium. Youth and Adult panels discussed their mental health experiences with the audience and urged adults who are in a position to observe changes in young people to pay attention and encourage those who may be suffering emotionally and mentally to seek help.

## Fridley Middle School Pennies For Patients Raises \$1,000 for Cancer

Congratulation Fridley Middle School for a very successful Pennies for Patients drive! FMS will contribute \$1,000 to the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. Students in 44 homerooms participated in this special project and Mr. Branitski's homeroom class collected the most money and won the top prize: Domino's pizza party. Ms. Nancy Zinter's class came in second and Mr. Kupcho's class came in third. This year, FMS collected over \$700 which is \$500 more than the school collected last year. The Fridley High School also contributed \$300 towards the fund-raiser.

# Fridley Middle School Earns Grains For The Hungry



FreeRice is a non-profit organization run by the United Nations World Food Programme. This is a wonderful teaming of an international organization and a local group of students who are working to make the world a better place, one grain of rice at a time. The FreeRice web site has two goals: provide education to everyone for free, and help end world hunger by providing rice to

hungry people for free. At Fridley Middle School, homerooms signed up to compete against other homerooms and earned 10 grains of rice for each correct answer in the areas of English and Geography. Ms. Rachel Cathey's homeroom has participated in this venture for the past three years promoting the program that they designed. Ms. Cathey's students campaigned to get students

involved by designing and distributing posters, writing and delivering speeches to each homeroom, and advertising on the broadcast. This year, they raised 32,475 grains of rice during practice contributions and 69,800 grains of rice from three rounds of competition for a grand total of 102,275 grains of rice.

## Box Top Coupon Fund-raiser Earnings Top \$5,000

The Stevenson Elementary School PTO's box top collection program has grown over the last several years. Last year, the fund-raiser collected over 50,000 box tops which earned the school more than \$5,000! The PTO recently voted to use the funds to purchase a new sound system for Stevenson Elementary. The system will be used by the music teacher for programs/concerts/etc, the physical educa-

tion teacher during class, and the PTO and school will also be able to use the equipment for community events such as bingo, carnival and family nights. The fund raiser, which in the past averaged \$500 annually has benefitted greatly from additional marketing strategies, dedicated volunteers running the fund-raiser, and a committed PTO leadership and members who continue to work hard to positively

impact the educational experience of students at Stevenson. So before you throw away that box of cereal, frozen breakfast, snack, candy wrapper, or soup can, turn it into cash by clipping the box top coupon and send it to the elementary school. A big thank you to the members and leadership of the Stevenson PTO and to the students and their parents who work hard every year to collect the box tops!

# 2012 Annual StarGazers at Fridley

*The annual fundraiser for the arts in Fridley Public Schools*

Fridley Schools' annual StarGazers event celebrates and highlights the artistic talents of staff, students and community members. High caliber performances entertain audiences while raising crucial funds for art programs and student scholarships.

Understanding that young people's introductions to music and the arts are essential for a well-rounded education, volunteer staff, parents and community members on the StarGazers planning team are dedicated to raising funds to enhance the arts experience for our students.

Since 2003, StarGazers has raised over \$60,000 to enrich the arts by purchasing a new potter's wheel, costumes for the acclaimed Fridley High School Show Pops group, and a number of other resources and opportunities that would otherwise not be available to our students.

If we are successful, these opportunities will spark a love of the arts that will carry over into adulthood, and our students will continue to make art and culture an important part of their lives.

"Imagination is more important than knowledge," said Albert Einstein. "Knowledge is limited. Imagination encircles the world." Fridley's StarGazers event, held each spring, is a tribute to the arts and art education.

***Save the Date:***  
**Saturday**  
**May 19, 2012**

## Early Childhood Screening

Will your child be attending preschool this year? Will your child be entering kindergarten in the fall 2012? If you answer yes to these questions Early Childhood screening is for your child.

### **What is Early Childhood screening?**

Screening is an early look at how your child is growing and developing. Between the ages of 3 ½ and 4, screening can detect possible health or learning concerns, so that children can get help before they start school. Minnesota requires every child to participate in an Early Childhood Screening prior to entry into kindergarten in a public school.

### **Spring Screening dates:**

**May 30 & 31, 2012**

**August 22 & 23, 2012**

Appointments are necessary. To schedule an appointment, please call 763-502-5111 or e-mail: [screening@fridley.k12.mn.us](mailto:screening@fridley.k12.mn.us) to schedule an appointment.

## Parent Advisory Council

Do you want to meet other parents? Are you in an Early Childhood Family Education class? Do you come to the Creative Play Center? We want to invite you to be a part of our Advisory Council. **The Advisory Council:**

- Offers ideas about classes, fees, and special events
- Provides ideas for our web pages
- Helps shape the direction of our programs
- Gives staff feedback
- Supports ongoing fund-raisers, such as Food Perspectives food tasting and Labels for Education

The Advisory Council has been instrumental in fund-raising for our playground and helping out at fun events like our annual Garage Sale and the City of Fridley Winter fest. The Council meets once a month. Most meetings in 2011-12 will be held the second Wednesday of the month from 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. All parents are welcome! Please call Joan at 763-502-5124 if you have any questions.



# Become A Minnesota Reading Corps Literacy Tutor

Nearly one in five third graders in Minnesota is failing to reach basic levels of literacy. You can help change that.

Become a tutor! We are recruiting two full-time literacy tutors at Fridley elementary schools, Stevenson and Hayes. Literacy tutors commit to one year of AmeriCorps service. They are parents, grandparents, recent college graduates, mid-career professionals and retirees who may want to get more involved at our school, explore a new career in education, re-enter the workforce or give back to their community. We train our tutors prior to service.

As a Minnesota Reading Corps literacy tutor, you can help change this statistic and the lives of struggling readers. As the nation's largest state AmeriCorps program, we are recognized because our tutors are getting results with the students they serve and are helping to ensure that all children are successful readers by the end of third grade.

## Benefits of serving include:

- Training and coaching in research-based literacy strategies
- Impacting the lives of children who need extra support to become proficient readers
- Biweekly living allowance of \$500 (for full-time)
- Education award of up to \$5,550

Elementary Literacy Tutors work one-on-one with K-3 children who need help learning to read. These AmeriCorps members are trained in research-based strategies and use prescribed literacy interventions and conduct weekly progress monitoring to ensure the student is on track to read at grade level by the end of third grade. They commit to daytime hours and are placed in elementary schools, where they build their professional experience and network.

## Qualifications

- Strong interest in education, specifically helping children develop early language and literacy skills

- Experience working with children, preferably in an early childhood setting or as a literacy tutor
- Dedication to community service
- Computer skills, including the ability to navigate and use online database systems and e-mail
- Speak, read, and write English fluently
- Responsible, organized, flexible, motivated, professional
- Excellent oral and written communication skills
- Ability to make a commitment to complete 11 months of service (August '12 – June 30, 2013)
- High school diploma or GED and must be at least 18 years old and a U.S. citizen or lawful permanent resident.
- Preferred: College coursework, college degree, or equivalent work experience

Serve to grow. One year. This year.

Now is the time to apply for 2012-2013 positions that begin August 1st.

For more information and to apply, visit [www.MinnesotaReadingCorps.org](http://www.MinnesotaReadingCorps.org).

Contact [recruitment@mnedc.org](mailto:recruitment@mnedc.org) or 866-859-2825 with questions.

For more information about literacy tutor positions available contact:

Stevenson Elementary  
Daryl Vossler, Principal  
763.502.5300  
[Daryl.vossler@fridley.k12.mn.us](mailto:Daryl.vossler@fridley.k12.mn.us)

Hayes Elementary  
John Piotraschke, Principal  
763.502.5200  
[John.piotraschke@fridley.k12.mn.us](mailto:John.piotraschke@fridley.k12.mn.us)

**AUDITIONS**

**Sat, May 12<sup>th</sup> from 3-5pm**

**Wed, May 16<sup>th</sup> from 6-8pm**

**Sat, May 19<sup>th</sup> from 9:30-11:30am**

**Callbacks: Sun, May 20<sup>th</sup> from 1-3pm**

**FRIDLEY COMMUNITY CENTER  
6085 - 7th St NE; Fridley, MN**



**FRIDLEY COMMUNITY THEATRE**

**PRESENTS**

# SEUSSICAL

**Based on books by Dr. Seuss  
Music by Stephen Flaherty  
Lyrics by Lynn Ahrens**

**Jul 27<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup> / Aug 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm**

**\* Sunday, Aug 5<sup>th</sup> at 3pm**



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# Join us for the 1st Annual Fridley Kids In Action 5K Fun Run

Fridley Kids in Action 5K – The first annual Fridley Kids in Action 5K Fun Run will be held on Saturday, May 19, 2012 at Commons Park in Fridley. The 3.1 mile run starts at 9:00 a.m.

Fridley Kids in Action is a program that helps students in the Fridley Public Schools to understand the value of taking action to make a positive impact in their own lives as well as the world around them. This run is open to the public and all proceeds from the run will go toward Stevenson and Hayes for the kids action plans.

In the past, students have participated in service learning experiences such as packing food for victims of Haiti's earthquake, collecting shoes to be delivered to those in need in Africa, and walking to support the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation.

Stevenson is raising funds for the Angel Foundation (an organization that supports local families that are in active cancer treatment programs) and Hayes is raising money to help provide supplies for the building of a new school in Rwanda for the victims of the 1990's genocide (the "be cool build a school" program).

Students, parents, family members and the entire community is encouraged to register and participate in



this fun family event. Support our students learning experiences while having fun and staying fit. Pre-registration is \$15 for non students and \$10 for students. The deadline to preregister is May 4, 2012.

Register at [www.active.com](http://www.active.com). Search for Fridley. Call Karin Beckstrand at 763-502-5246 or e-mail [Karin.beckstrand@fridley.k12.mn.us](mailto:Karin.beckstrand@fridley.k12.mn.us) with any questions. You may also visit the Fridley Public School website at: [www.fridley.k12.mn.us](http://www.fridley.k12.mn.us) for updates and more information about the race.