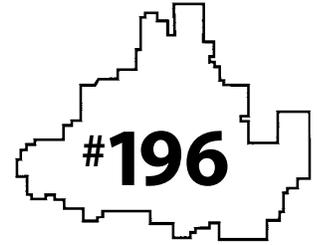


Back-to-School Issue

Spotlight



Fall 2015

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Bond addresses safety, space and technology needs

On Tuesday, Nov. 3, voters in District 196 will decide on a bond referendum question that would address needs for improved safety and security at all district schools, additional space for learning and increased access to technology for all students.

Superintendent **Jane K. Berenz** presented the resolution calling for a special election at the July 27 School Board meeting and the board was expected to approve the resolution at its Aug. 17 meeting, after this issue of *Spotlight* went to press.

The single question proposed in the resolution seeks funding for building improvement and technology needs that have been studied by multiple district committees and task forces over the last two-and-a-half years. In July 2014, the

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Coding at camp

Valley Middle School of STEM incoming sixth-grade students (left to right) **Evan Cha, Nicholas Christopherson, Mark Hentges** and **Hayden Hansen** programmed their mini-robot to follow the line and complete other maneuvers in a session on coding at the summer academy for academically talented middle school students in July. Nearly 300 students participated in a variety of sessions during the week-long academic camp at Falcon Ridge, including robotics, writing and the science of crime scenes.

Program provides food for students facing hunger on weekends

Two years ago, a group of Greenleaf Elementary School staff members noticed students coming back from lunch with food stuffed in their pockets, items from the cafeteria they would put in their backpacks to take home. On Monday mornings, these same students seemed extra-hungry and had trouble staying focused on learning.

With help from a few key parent volunteers, these concerned staff members started a weekend food backpack program that was funded with donations from Greenleaf parents and community

members. The program provided weekend food for about 60 Greenleaf students the first year, in 2013-14. The food was mostly single-serve items and snacks, purchased and packed by the volunteers and staff, and discreetly provided to students inside backpacks every Friday.

While looking for ways to streamline their operation in year two, the group came across The Sheridan Story, a Minneapolis-based nonprofit that got its start in 2010 much the same way Greenleaf did. Named after the Minneapolis elementary school where the organization started,

The Sheridan Story leverages community and school partnerships to fight child hunger by providing a weekend's supply of food to hungry children. The organization facilitates partnerships between community organizations such as churches and schools. A church or other organization can partner with a school by providing funding for students to receive a weekly food bag throughout the school year. The cost is \$130 per child for the entire school year.

Partnering with The Sheridan Story

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Four School Board seats up for election p.4

New principals at three elementary schools. p.5

Students shine at speech and debate nationals p.6

Bond

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School Board established the Strategic Planning Facilities and Equipment Task Force to conduct a comprehensive review and develop recommendations to address current needs and support the district's strategic initiatives into the future.

When the task force began meeting last August it had been more than 10 years since the last bond referendum for facility and equipment improvements in the district, which was in 2004. The 10-year capital project levy that was approved as part of that vote expired at the end of last school year, leaving the district with no dedicated source of funding for ongoing technology needs. Other needs stemmed from the following:

- Concerns about the control of visitor access to district schools, outdated security equipment, and pedestrian and traffic safety at specific school sites;
- A shortage of elementary space due to the start of full-day kindergarten last year, the expansion of school-based preschool for students with the greatest needs, and enrollment growth in the southern part of the district;
- A shortage of properly equipped space to support district strategies to increase science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) education and magnet school choice opportunities;

- Use of space that does not meet district standards, and
- A need to substantially increase student access to technology as an essential tool for learning.

Much of the research on these needs was provided by earlier task forces on early learning, long-range elementary space needs, and learning technology. Recommendations for building security improvements were also provided by the District Emergency Team, which reviewed safety procedures and building and site security following the Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting in December 2012.

The facilities task force also analyzed building capacity and enrollment data (history and projections) for every school, and reviewed individual building needs that were identified by principals and program coordinators. Task force members used all of this data to develop preliminary recommendations that were presented to the public and staff at numerous meetings over the next two months.

The preliminary recommendations were presented to focus groups of 120 citizens and staff over three nights in early December 2014, with one meeting each in Rosemount, Apple Valley and Eagan. They were also presented to the site council at every school, all district advisory councils, district staff and the superintendent's parent leaders and key communicators groups, all of which had also received previous updates about the task force.

After considering minor changes suggested during the focus groups and meetings, the task force drafted final recommendations that were presented to the School Board in March. The board received the recommendations and authorized the administration to hire a polling firm to conduct a scientific community survey of district residents. Survey

respondents gave the district high marks for quality, performance and value, and 65 percent said they would support the estimated property tax increase to make the recommended improvements.

The following improvements would be made only if voters approve the special election question on Tuesday, Nov. 3 to provide funding necessary to complete them.

SAFETY AND SECURITY

Secure entrances - Modify entrances at all schools to improve control of visitor access and identification of all visitors.

- Move offices or reconfigure entrances to route visitors directly into the office at all 18 elementary schools and five of six middle schools.
- Construct a secure vestibule with electronic sign-in system and small greeter area at all five high school main entrances and Dakota Hills Middle School (combined with Eagan High).

Security equipment - Replace obsolete surveillance cameras, improve exterior door controls and install emergency response buttons in all school offices.

Site safety - Modify student drop-off/pick-up areas, access roads and/or parking lots to improve pedestrian and traffic safety at 16 sites: Cedar Park, Deerwood, Diamond Path, Glacier Hills, Highland, Northview, Parkview, Red Pine, Rosemount and Southview elementary schools; Black Hawk, Rosemount, Scott Highlands and Valley middle schools, and Apple Valley and Rosemount high schools.

SPACE FOR LEARNING

Elementary space - Construct a new elementary school (at a location yet to be determined) to relieve overcrowding and provide space to expand targeted

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Independent School District 196

Rosemount-Apple Valley-Eagan Public Schools

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Spotlight is a quarterly publication mailed to every household in District 196 to inform parents and other residents about district news.

Send comments on *Spotlight* to
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Si usted habla español y tiene preguntas, favor de llamar al teléfono (952)431-8993.

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If you speak (Spanish/Somali/Arabic) and have questions, call...

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State provides needed funding increase, but no help for safety, space or technology needs

By Jane K. Berenz, superintendent

On behalf of the students of District 196, I want to thank Governor Dayton and members of the 2015 Minnesota Legislature for approving an education bill that will provide funding increases of 2 percent in each of the next two years. I also want to thank the many District 196 residents and staff members who called and emailed lawmakers during the session to help convince them that these modest inflationary increases are necessary to avoid significant budget cuts in District 196 and

districts throughout the state.

Our top legislative priority this session was the 2 percent funding increase to the general education formula for each of the next two years. Our second priority was a continuation from 2014, seeking additional funding authority to improve security in all of our schools, provide additional space needed for full-day kindergarten and targeted preschool, and increased access to technology for our students. The approved education bill does not address any of these needs in our district.

Without legislative help, our School Board decided to move forward with the bond referendum that is described on the first three pages of this newsletter. Please take time to learn about our needs for improved security, additional space and increased access to technology, and remember to vote in this important local election.

Bond

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preschool at existing elementary schools. Construct phase-two addition to Parkview Elementary to relieve overcrowding.

Magnet school additions -

Construct additions to the five elementary magnet schools to increase school-choice opportunities and help relieve elementary overcrowding.

STEM improvements -

Expand, renovate and better equip space at STEM pathway schools (Cedar Park Elementary STEM School, Valley Middle School of STEM and Apple Valley High School) and renovate space at the five other middle schools to support district strategy to increase and improve STEM opportunities for students.

Space standards -

Renovate Rosemount High School main entrance and performing arts learning spaces to meet district standards, and renovate undersized classrooms and install air conditioning in gymnasiums at Diamond Path, Echo Park and Parkview elementary schools.

Furniture standards -

Replace worn-out classroom furniture at the middle schools and high schools to meet district standards and provide flexibility for different learning structures.

Vote early by absentee

Voters no longer need a reason to vote absentee; all voters can now vote early, beginning September 19.

Voter registration and an absentee ballot application can be completed online at www.mnvotes.org or in person at the District 196 administrative office or at any county service center. The absentee ballot can be returned in person or by mail. For more information call 651-423-7725 or go to www.mnvotes.org.

LEARNING TECHNOLOGY

Technology access - Increase access to technology to support district vision to provide all students a dynamic, personalized learning experience that is enhanced by technology.

- Provide a district-owned mobile learning device to all students in grades 4-12, phased in over three years, three grades per year, starting in 2016-17.
- Increase access to technology in pre-K through grade 3 to a 3-to-1 ratio.

Technology infrastructure - Upgrade technology infrastructure

districtwide, including expanding WIFI capacity to support increased network usage, replacing the outdated telephone system and maintaining interactive classroom equipment at all schools.

The total cost of the proposed improvements is \$180 million, with approximately \$35 million for safety and security, \$90 million for space for learning, \$5 million for technology infrastructure and \$50 million to increase technology access (\$5 million per year for 10 years). By comparison, the Burnsville-Eagan-Savage School District, which has approximately one-third the enrollment of District 196, asked a successful referendum question last February for building and technology improvements totaling \$90 million.

The estimated tax impact of the proposed improvements would be approximately \$12 per month to the owner of the average-value home in District 196 (\$256,000), according to estimates from the district's financial consultant Ehlers.

More information about the bond referendum is available at www.District196.org/Bond2015. The website includes videos that provide an overview of the referendum question and show the district's vision for learning technology, a property tax calculator tool and information about voting.

District jobs offer opportunities to make a difference

District 196 has openings for the 2015-16 school year for quality individuals who enjoy working with children and making a positive difference in their lives. For more information on the positions described below and to apply online, go to District196.org and click on the "Employment" tab on the right side of the top navigation bar.

Substitute teacher pay rates are \$120 for a full day and \$70 for a half day. To be a substitute teacher in District 196, applicants must have a current Minnesota teacher's license or have a four-year degree, obtain a short call substitute license from the state and attend a week-long training workshop.

The **substitute clerical** pay rate is \$11 per hour and **substitute paraprofessional** pay rate is \$12.25 per hour. Applicants must be available Monday through Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. most weeks; be willing to work as a special education paraprofessional at multiple schools; pass a pre-employment physical and background check; complete online Personal Care Assistant training and attend a clerical orientation session.

The **substitute school nurse** pay rate is \$22 per hour. Applicants must be a licensed LPN or RN (preferred), be available weekdays during the school year and attend a substitute nurse orientation.

The **bus driver** pay rate is \$16 per hour and benefits are available to employees who work 25 or more hours per week. Part-time and substitute positions are available, with preference for individuals who can be available for both morning and afternoon routes. Applicants must have a high school diploma or GED, a Minnesota driver's license with a good driving record, enjoy working with children and be able to lift/drag up to 125 pounds. The district provides training to obtain necessary licensure.

The pay rate for **food service associates** is \$14.45 per hour (\$10.20 per hour starting wage for substitutes) plus a complimentary meal each shift. Regular and substitute positions are available, three to five hours per day. Applicants must have a high school diploma or GED and be able to safely lift up to 40 pounds. Responsibilities include food preparation, meal sales and service, cashiering and clean-up.



A half-century 'under the hood' for students

Chief Vehicle Specialist **Ken Kraft** (left) retired in July after 45 years of service in District 196. When he first started working on district vehicles in 1970, gas was 39 cents a gallon, said Transportation Coordinator **Randy Dukek**, pictured with Superintendent **Jane K. Berenz** at the department's year-end picnic in June. Kraft thanked his coworkers and recalled the number of good people he worked with during his career in the district.

Four board seats on November 3 ballot

Four of the seven at-large positions on the District 196 School Board are up for election in the Nov. 3, 2015 General School District Election.

The terms of **Joel Albright, Rob Duchscher, Jackie Magnuson** and **Bob Schutte** expire Jan. 4, 2016. The term of each open position is four years, from January 2016 to January 2020.

All four incumbents announced that they would be seeking re-election prior to the opening of the two-week filing period

on July 28. Filing closed Aug. 11, after this issue of *Spotlight* went to press. Names of the candidates are available on the front page at District196.org. Information about the candidates will be available from local media leading up to the election.

The School Board is responsible for developing policy to ensure the proper care, management and control of district affairs, and supporting the district's mission of educating our students to reach their full potential.

Berenz receives national literacy award

Superintendent **Jane K. Berenz** received a 2015 Teacher Leader Award from the Reading Recovery Council of North America for her leadership in promoting literacy and outstanding contributions to Reading Recovery.

Reading Recovery is a short-term intervention for first-graders having extreme difficulty with early reading and writing. Students meet one-on-one with a specially trained teacher for 30 minutes each day until they are reading at grade level or discontinue after 20 weeks. Approximately 75 percent of these formerly struggling readers reach grade level after a full series of Reading Recovery lessons.

"Reading Recovery has been described as the best of what's known about literacy instruction and the best of

what's known about professional development," Berenz said. "Reading is a necessary skill for all learning. We are fortunate to have a School Board that has been so supportive of Reading Recovery and the difference it has made in the lives of so many young readers."

Berenz was recognized in part for her role in making Reading Recovery available for struggling first-grade readers in District 196.

District 196 was the first in Minnesota to implement Reading Recovery, in 1992. Today, more than 30 Minnesota school districts offer the successful reading intervention program and many teachers from those districts have received training from teachers in District 196.

New principals leading Echo Park, Oak Ridge and Red Pine Elementary

Three elementary schools have new principals this year as a result of resignations at the end of last school year. At Echo Park Elementary, **Tina Haselius** replaced **Sally Soliday**, who left to become the district's new director of Elementary Education; at Oak Ridge Elementary, **Cindy Magnuson** replaced **Kris Scallon**, who returned to classroom teaching, and at Red Pine Elementary, **Drew Goeldner** replaced **Gary Anger**, who left to become superintendent for Zumbrota-Mezeppa Public Schools.



Haselius was most recently the principal of two elementary schools located in the same building in the South Washington County School District, one of which is a language immersion school. She led both schools for the past two years. Prior to that, Haselius worked for the St. Paul Public Schools as

an elementary school teacher, a literacy and math coach, and a teacher on special assignment in district's Office of Teaching and Learning.

Haselius grew up in Illinois and attended the University of Iowa, where she earned a bachelor's degree in music. She received her master's in elementary education from Roosevelt University in Chicago and has a specialist degree in educational leadership from Minnesota State University, Mankato.



Magnuson had worked for the Superior (Wis.) School District since 1997, when she was hired as an elementary school teacher. From 2008 to 2014, she was an elementary school principal and last year served as Superior's director of pre-kindergarten services. Magnuson earned her bachelor's degree in

elementary education, a master's degree in reading and principal licensure from the University of Wisconsin-Superior.

"It's clear from what I've seen and heard that the District 196 community is committed to providing a world class education for their youth," Magnuson said. "I am excited to be joining the team at Oak Ridge Elementary and honored to have been chosen at such an exciting time as Oak Ridge prepares to become a magnet school."



Goeldner was most recently the principal at Sky Oaks Elementary School in the neighboring Burnsville-Eagan-Savage Public Schools. Prior to that, he spent five years with the Rice Lake (Wis.) Area School District, the first two years as an elementary principal and the next three as a middle school principal. Goeldner started his career as a fifth- and sixth-grade teacher for the St. Paul Public Schools, from 1997 to 2008.

Goeldner has a bachelor's degree in elementary education from the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse, earned a master's degree in teaching and learning from Saint Mary's University and a specialist's degree in education administration from Minnesota State University, Mankato.



SES to host 20-year anniversary and homecoming event

The School of Environmental Studies (SES) is hosting a day-long 20th anniversary celebration and homecoming event at on Saturday, Oct. 24.

The celebration on Oct. 24 will begin with a 5K fun run through Lebanon Hills Park in the morning, followed by a carnival at the school featuring games for all ages, food trucks, speakers, a raffle and silent auction. The day will conclude with an evening of music by Jimmi & The Band of Souls.

The event is presented by the School of Environmental Studies Education Foundation. For more information, visit the event page on Facebook, "SES 20th Anniversary Celebration & Homecoming 2015."

Eastview girls win state softball title

The Eastview High School softball team won the 2015 Class AAA state championship in June. The Lightning gave up just two runs in their three games at state, winning 7-1, 1-0 and 2-1 in the title game over Anoka. Members of the state championship team are **Melissa Barry, Jessi Decovich, Sydney Dose, Stephanie Eilts, Grace Gall, Sam Gall, Kerrigan Hoshaw, Abby Lien, Julia Luciano, Hailey Monroe, Jamie Reynolds, Corinne Roe, Marki Sawyer, Kara Sjostrom, Brittnei Tonnessen and Courtney Wissbaum**. The head coach is **Trevor Monroe** and assistant coaches are **Danielle Johnson, Nicole Newton and Scott Oxley**. The student manager is **Danny Wagner**.

Next two elementary magnets will have STEM and leadership themes

Echo Park and Oak Ridge elementary schools will both have themes of STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) and leadership when they open as the fourth and fifth elementary magnet schools in District 196 next fall.

Earlier this year, the School Board approved the themes of engineering and technology (as focus areas of STEM) and leadership for Echo Park, and leadership and environmental and health sciences (as focus areas of STEM) for Oak Ridge. These themes were recommended, Teaching and Learning Coordinator **Cathy Kindem** said, based on results of a district-wide school-choice survey of parents, input received from meetings at Echo Park and Oak Ridge, and considerations related to the district's three existing elementary magnet schools.

STEM is already a popular theme at two of the district's three elementary magnet schools, Cedar Park Elementary STEM School and Glacier Hills Elementary School of Arts and Science. Cedar Park is part of the district's STEM pathway that includes Valley Middle School of STEM and Apple Valley High School.

The leadership theme was defined in the survey as combining academic excellence with developing character – responsibility, respect, integrity and compassion

– to help students become leaders who strive to do their personal best.

Echo Park and Oak Ridge were selected to be the next elementary magnet schools after being designated “racially identifiable” schools by the state late last year. The designation means they have enrollments of students of color (56 and 56.6 percent, respectively) that are more than 20 percent higher than the average for elementary schools in the district last year (35.4 percent). As a result, the state Desegregation Rule requires the district to develop and implement a plan to help improve racial balance at both schools.

Faced with the same situation in 2004 with Cedar Park and Glacier Hills, the district's plan was to convert those schools and Diamond Path Elementary School of International Studies into theme-based magnets, which opened in 2007. All three have been recognized as Schools of Excellence by Magnet Schools of America for the quality of their programs. Glacier Hills is no longer a racially identifiable school because of enrollment changes and Cedar Park is close to having the designation dropped as well.

Given that success, the administration began the process of converting Echo Park and Oak Ridge into magnet schools as part of the district's plan to improve

racial balance at these schools. That work started this summer and will continue throughout the school year as the staffs at both schools prepare to open as magnet schools in September 2016.

Enrollment at Echo Park and Oak Ridge will be open to all students attending elementary school in District 196, same as the other three magnet schools. Students who do not live in the attendance area of the magnet school they wish to attend may apply to enroll at that school. Enrollment is determined by lottery and is limited to space available at each school and grade level. Students selected for enrollment receive transportation if they are district residents and live more than one mile from the magnet school.

Echo Park and Oak Ridge will be included in the magnet school application and enrollment process for 2016-17, which will begin in early November. There will be school-choice nights and spotlight on magnet school events held at all five magnet schools. The application deadline is Jan. 11, followed by the enrollment lottery, with notification of students selected for enrollment no later than Jan. 19, 2016. For more information, go to www.District196.org/MagnetSchools/.

Eagan and Apple Valley named top 10 schools at speech and debate nationals

Eagan and Apple Valley high schools were two of the top 10 Schools of Outstanding Distinction at this year's National Speech and Debate Association tournament June 15-19 in Dallas.

The tournament's top 10 schools are selected based on the number of rounds of competition their students complete in both speech and debate events. Fifteen students from Eagan and 13 from Apple Valley qualified to compete at the national tournament. Each event started with more than 200 competitors who qualified at tournaments held throughout the country last spring.

Eagan's **Bianca Nkwonta** was named national champion in humorous interpretation. She was the leader after 12 preliminary rounds of competition and finished third of the top six who competed in the final round, high enough to win the overall title. In original oratory, Apple Valley's **Keiaireyona Brown** finished in second



Bianca Nkwonta (left) and **Aekta Mouli** of Eagan High School celebrated their victories at the National Speech and Debate Association tournament in Dallas.

place, while Eagan's **Aekta Mouli** took third and was awarded the President's Bowl for having the highest score in the

final round.

Other top finishers were **Lauren Troidahl** and **Claire Doty** of Apple Valley, who took 10th place in duo interpretation; **Vaaron Pazhyanur** of Eastview High School, 14th place in international extemporaneous speaking; **Naomi Seleshi** of Apple Valley, a semifinalist in original oratory, and **Ben Portzen** of Eagan, a semifinalist in congressional debate.

Other District 196 students who competed at the tournament were Eagan's **David Immen**, **Nick Saxton**, **Jackson Cobb**, **Maddie Sell**, **Ben Pankow**, **Collin Westgard**, **Yodahe Heramo**, **Leah Dunlevy**, **Ridhima Mishra**, **Lulu Qian**, **Suraj Shah** and **Rylee Smith**; Apple Valley's **Tessa Dahlgren**, **Trevor Taylor**, **Jane Michaelson**, **Moti Begna**, **Grace Hoffa**, **Stephanie Kahle**, **Cassandra Edlund**, **Claire Hoffa** and **Margo Sanders**; Eastview's **Alex Baker**, and **William Lai** of Rosemount High School.

Fifty-three students named All-State Musicians for 2015-16

Fifty-three District 196 high school students were named All-State Musicians by the Minnesota Music Educators Association (MMEA) for the 2015-16 school year. These students, who were selected by recorded audition, participated in a summer camp and will perform at MMEA's annual conference in spring 2016.

Apple Valley High School students are **Maria Larson** and **Jacob Swanstrom**, Symphonic Band; **Habb Tan**, **Emilia Galchutt**, **Paul Nesseth** and **Joshua Hillen**, Concert Band; **Arianna Rotty**, **Zoe Gabor** and **Tessa Lexa**, Women's Choir; **Morgan Meyer**, **Katie Moynihan** and **Brett Levac**, Orchestra, and **Julie Manning**, **Elise Kuchera** and **Frank Kelly**, Mixed Choir.

Eagan High School students are **Elizabeth Belfiori**, Mixed Choir; **Eric Rayman**, Jazz Band; **Anders Olson**, Concert Band; **Meg Swanson**, Women's Choir, and **Beth Steenberg**, **Melissa Wilson** and **Kyler Swanson**, woodwind/brass/percussion alternates.

Eastview High School students are **Maren Reimann**, Women's Choir; **Sean Teske**, Men's Choir; **Olivia Nichols**, **Haley Cahllgren**, **Samantha Zelenak**, **Alexis Adrian**, **Eric Bergquist** and **Bryan Joug**, Symphonic Band; **Nathaniel Vander Schaaf** and **Connor Allen**, Concert Band; **Abigail Braun**, **Brooke Berglund**, **Nick Graves** and **Cody Abel**, Mixed Choir; **Siri Underdahl**, Orchestra, and **Maya Boguslawski**, Jazz Band.

Rosemount High School students are **Isabel Edgar** and **Bailey Leuth**, Symphonic Band; **Cole Tindal**, Men's Choir; **Jacob Campen** and **Ezekiel Town**, Mixed Choir; **Madison Drinen**, **Wesley Ellison**, **Jamie Radosevich**, **Leopold Molitor** and **Michael St. Ores**, Concert Band; **Jacob Grunklee**, Orchestra, **Alysse Mazakian**, Women's Choir; **Nathan Leosch**, jazz alternate, and **Simon Roiger** and **Anna Scinto**, vocal alternates.

Did You Know?

School taxes are less this year than they were seven years ago for the owner of the average-value home in District 196.



Be a learning buddy this year

Lucretia Tahir of Apple Valley volunteered as a learning buddy to students in **Ann Peeters'** fifth-grade class at Cedar Park Elementary STEM School last year. Adult volunteers work with elementary students on reading, math and science skills in DARTS' Learning Buddies program. Volunteers commit to spend one to two hours per week helping make a difference in a child's life. To become a learning buddy volunteer at a District 196 elementary school this year, contact **Erin Walloch** at 651-234-2227 or erin.walloch@darts1.org.

Hunger

continued from front page

last year made it much easier for the Greenleaf volunteers by eliminating the purchasing and packing steps of the process. The weekly food bags from The Sheridan Story also included more substantive and nutritious items than those provided in the first year. Each bag contains four to five pounds of shelf-stable food, including canned fruits, vegetables and proteins (tuna and chicken) soup and boxed or bagged pasta, rice and beans.



Sixty Greenleaf students were served by The Sheridan Story last school year, according to Principal **Michelle deKam Palmieri**. She said students do not need to be eligible for free or reduced-price school meals to participate; parents opt in on their own.

Palmieri said the true benefits of the program can be hard to measure but are easy to see, with staff reporting fewer hungry children during the day and on Monday mornings. She said the program has also strengthened relationships between the school and the families who are grateful to be receiving the food.

Given the success at Greenleaf, the district started a partnership with The Sheridan Story earlier this year. Thus far, six of the district's 18 elementary schools have confirmed sponsorships with organizations and funding to provide weekend food bags to approximately 220 students this school year. Palmieri said Greenleaf is looking to partner with at least one local church this year and the district is looking for partner organizations to sponsor children at its 12 other elementary schools as well.

The Sheridan Story estimates that there are 100,000 children in the Twin Cities metro area living in "food insecurity," unsure when they will have their next meal.

You can help!

It costs \$130 to provide one child a weekend bag of food each week during the school year. Tax-deductible donations can be made to the District 196 Foundation. To make a donation or to inquire about partnering with a District 196 elementary school, contact Director of Community Education **Khia Brown** at 651-423-7720 or khia.brown@District196.org.

Congratulations!

A sampling of recent student and staff achievements throughout District 196

(The student and staff achievements noted below occurred since the end of the 2014-15 school year, after the summer issue of *Spotlight* went to press.)

Joseph Cunningham of Eastview High School was one of 48 Minnesota high school students to be recognized as Scholars of Distinction by the Minnesota Department of Education last spring. Cunningham was a Scholar of Distinction in Theater Arts for a playwriting project he completed titled "A Voice with a Vision."

A team of five students from Red Pine Elementary won first place in the Math Masters state competition last spring. Team members are **Ben Ellis, Ryan Leska, Alex Sell, Haroon Shahzad** and **Drew Wetterlind**.

Teams of girls from **Dakota Hills and Falcon Ridge middle schools** were both winners in Technovation[MN]'s Appalalooza Challenge, a technology competition exclusively for girls to inspire their pursuit of science, technology, engineering and math. Dakota Hills won "Best Entrepreneurial App" for their Babysitter's Guide to Success app. The Falcon Ridge team was named one of three middle school regional champions for their Access196 app and advanced to the North American competition.

Eagan High School French Teacher **Linda Albertson** received The French Academic Palms at a ceremony held at the high school in July. The French Academic Palms recognize those who have "rendered eminent service to French education" and have contributed actively to the French culture. Albertson was selected to receive France's prestigious education award for her 40 years teaching French, inspiring others to learn and teach French, and educating hundreds of students about French culture on 25 separate trips to France that she chaperoned during her years of teaching.

Fall play at Eagan High

Eagan High School will present "She Kills Monsters" by Qui Nguyen this fall. There will be a free preview for senior citizens on Sept. 30 and performances are scheduled for Oct. 1, 3, 9 and 10 at 7 p.m., with a 2 p.m. show on Oct. 10. Tickets will go on sale on the Eagan High website beginning Sept. 21.



There's always this year!

The Minnesota Wild did not fulfill the dreams of local hockey fans last season, but it wasn't for a lack of spirit and creativity shown by the students and staff at Westview Elementary School, which won the team's "Wild Playoff Spirit" contest with this photo taken on the school's playground last spring.

The **Dakota United Hawks** cognitively impaired (CI) and physically impaired (PI) softball teams both finished in third place in their respective state adapted softball tournaments in May.

Eshan Varma of Eastview High School advanced to the championship match of the consolation finals at the boys' Class AA state tennis tournament in June.

Eight students from Eagan, Eastview and Apple Valley high schools won titles in six events at the boys' and girls' track and field state tournaments in June. **Josh Brown, Troy Brown** and **Sam Zenner** of Eagan each won a pair of relay titles, along with **Dallas Krech** in the 4x100 and **Joseph Williams** in the 4x200. Zenner, a senior who was a first-year member of the school's track team, was also state champion in the 100-meter dash. The other three track and field state champions are **LeRon Norton** of Eastview in the 400-meter dash, **Kieran McKeag** of Apple Valley in the shot put and **Natalie Manders** of Eastview in the discus throw. Other top three finishers at state were Eagan's **Natalie Windels, Olivia Mitchell, Kelli Praska** and **Maddie Gourley**, runner-up in the 4x400-meter relay; Gourley was also third in the 200-meter dash and **Rachel Schow** of Rosemount High School finished third in the 100-meter hurdles.

Woodland Elementary School's Little Neon Monsters team finished runner-up in the Creature Feature technical challenge at the Destination ImagiNation Global Finals in Tennessee. Team members were **Audrey Schwartz, Reed Morell, Charlie Dilla, Kristin Cullen, Fiona Gray, Billie Alexander** and **Jacob Brassow**, and parent coaches were **Missy and Donovan Schwartz**.

Eight students representing all four district high schools competed at the boys' and girls' state golf tournaments in June. Top finishers from the district were **Nick Asta** of Eagan High School, 14th place in the boys' tournament, and **Rachel Harty** of Apple Valley High School, who tied for 17th place in the girls' tournament.

The following teachers at District 196 schools in Eagan received Outstanding Teacher Awards from the Eagan Rotary Club last spring: **John Rosten, Karen Huberty, Kathy Bodeker, Mark Brandt, Kathryn Haave, Becky Hanson, Starr Wylie, David Brickner, Tonia Humble, Karen Schmitz** and **Nancy Slinger**.

Katelyn McClure, a fifth-grade student at Greenleaf Elementary School last year, won a state essay contest called InvestWrite that was open to students participating in Best Prep's The Stock Market Game.

Immunization requirements for students to attend school this fall

To enroll in child care, early childhood programs and school in Minnesota, children must show they have had the immunizations listed below or file a legal exemption. Parents may file a medical exemption signed by a health care provider or a conscientious objection signed by a parent/guardian and notarized.

This information must be on file with the school nurse before the first day of school on Sept. 8, 2015. Students will not be able to attend school until they have shown proof of vaccination or legal exemption.

To read the chart, find the child's age/grade level in one of the columns and read down to determine which immunizations are required and how many doses, shown by the number of checkmarks. Each column is meant to be read separately; do not add the rows of checkmarks for each vaccine.

If you have questions, call the nurse at your child's school or call the district's Health Services Coordinator **Joan Bertelsen** at 651-423-7909.

| Birth to Age 4 (Early Childhood programs) | Ages 5-6 (Kindergarten) ① | Ages 7-11 (Grades 1-6) | Age 12 and older (Grades 7-12) |
|--|--------------------------------------|---|---|
| Hepatitis A √√ | — | — | — |
| Hepatitis B √√√ | Hepatitis B √√√ | Hepatitis B √√√ | Hepatitis B √√√ ⑥ |
| DTaP/DT √√√√ | DTaP/DT √√√√√ ④ | Tetanus and Diphtheria containing doses √√√ | Tdap √ ⑦ |
| Polio √√√ | Polio √√√√ ⑤ | Polio √√√ | Polio √√√ |
| MMR √ | MMR √√ | MMR √√ | MMR √√ |
| Hib √ | — | — | Meningococcal √ and booster ⑧ |
| Pneumococcal √√√√ ② | — | — | — |
| Varicella √ ③ | Varicella √√ ③ | Varicella √√ ③ | Varicella √√ ③ |

√ Each checkmark represents one dose of the vaccine.

① First graders who are 6 years old and younger must follow the polio and DTaP/DT schedules for kindergarten.

② Not required after 24 months.

③ If the child has already had chickenpox disease, varicella shots are not required. If the disease occurred after 2010, the child's doctor must sign a form.

④ Fifth shot of DTaP not needed if fourth was after age 4. Final dose of DTaP on or after age 4.

⑤ Fourth shot of polio not needed if third was after age 4. Final dose of polio on or after age 4.

⑥ An alternate two-shot schedule of hepatitis B may also be used for children age 11 through 15 years.

⑦ Proof of at least three doses of diphtheria and tetanus vaccination needed. If a child received Tdap between ages 7 and 10 another dose of Tdap is not needed. Td does not meet the Tdap requirement.

⑧ One dose is required beginning at grade 7. The booster dose is usually given at 16 years but timing depends on when the first dose was given.

Looking for records? For copies of your child's vaccination records, talk to your doctor or call the Minnesota Immunization Information Connection (MIIC) at 651-201-5503 or 1-800-657-3970.

Parents may deny release of directory information

Notice is hereby given that District 196, pursuant to the U.S. General Education Provisions Act and Minnesota Government Data Practices Act, declares the following as "directory information" as provided in said Act, and that information relating to students may be made public if said information is in any of the following categories:

- Student's name
- *9th, 10th, 11th or 12th grade student's home address (for release to military recruiters and institutions of higher education, only)
- *9th, 10th, 11th or 12th grade student's home telephone number (for release to military recruiters and institutions of higher education only)
- Date and place of birth
- Gender
- Major field of study
- Participation and performance in officially recognized activities and sports
- Weight and height of members of athletic teams
- Dates of attendance
- Enrollment status
- District-issued email address
- Grade level
- Degrees, honors, diplomas and awards received
- Honor roll
- School of attendance
- The most recent previous educational agency or institution attended
- Student identification (ID) number, user ID, or other unique personal identifier used by the student for purposes of accessing or communicating in electronic systems or displayed on a student ID badge
- Photographs and other video and

audio representations for school-approved publications, yearbooks, newspapers, public presentations, ID badges and publication on school-approved Internet pages.

* *In accordance with the Minnesota Statute 13.01-13.09, Government Data Practices Act and Public Law 107-110 (No Child Left Behind Act of 2001), the district must release to military recruiting officers and institutions of higher education the names, addresses and home telephone numbers of students in 9th, 10th, 11th and 12th grades within 60 days after the date of the request, unless parents or students refuse to release the information. Therefore, students' addresses and students' home telephone numbers are gathered only for 9th through 12th grade students, only for the purpose of providing the information to military recruiting officers and institutions of higher education.*

Directory information does not include identifying data which references religion, race, color, disability, social position or nationality.

Any parent or guardian of a student in the district, or any student 18 years of age or older, may notify the district of their desire that some or none of the above information is to be released without their consent by contacting their child's principal and completing Procedure 505.2.4.3P, Denial of Release of Directory and Yearbook Information. If filed, the denial remains in effect until it is modified or rescinded by the parent, guardian or eligible student.

Please understand that if you choose to deny the release of all directory information, your child (or you, if a student 18 years of age or older) will be excluded from such published lists as honor rolls, news releases regarding sports achievements, honors received, and athletic, theater and fine arts programs.

District obtains required criminal background checks

Minnesota school districts are required to notify parents annually about compliance with state law requiring school districts to perform criminal history background checks.

District 196 obtains criminal history checks on everyone offered employment in the district, as well as selected volunteers and independent contractors, including volunteer coaches (except enrolled students). In exercising its discretion with

respect to independent contractors and volunteers, the district considers such factors as the amount of student contact and the duration of the contact.

The district does not perform background checks on the staff or volunteers of outside clubs and organizations that offer activities for youth in the community that are not organized or operated by the district.

Nonresident students may apply to attend District 196 schools

Students living outside the district may apply to enroll in District 196 schools through the Minnesota Enrollment Options Program. Nonresident students are encouraged to apply to the district by Jan. 15 to be considered for enrollment in the following school year.

Nonresident applicants are also encouraged to request the school(s) they wish to attend. The district assigns transfer students to schools based on their preference and whether that school has space available. Students who are accepted under the Enrollment Options Program can remain in the district through grade 12, but will be assigned to schools that have space available.

For information on how to apply, call the district Student Information Office at 651-423-7644.

Bus stop information mailed and online

Postcards will be mailed beginning Aug. 21 to families of students eligible to receive transportation to and from school during the 2015-16 school year.

The postcard includes information on bus stop locations and pick-up/drop-off times. Parents who have not received a postcard and believe their child is eligible to receive transportation can call the Transportation Department at 651-423-7685. The district also offers optional transportation service for a fee for students who do not qualify based on the current service distances; see the Transportation Department page at District196.org for more information.

Bus stop information is also available through the SchoolView parent portal, under the "Transportation" tab. This information is updated throughout the school year to reflect any changes to bus routes and stops.

Budget information and history available online

Budget information for the 2015-16 school year and previous nine years is available on the Finance Department page of District196.org. The preliminary budget for 2015-16 has been reformatted to provide additional information and ease of use. It features a 14-page introductory section that summarizes the district budget in terms people can understand.

Parents, guardians and adult students can access educational records

District 196 schools maintain educational records on all students to help plan the student's educational program, communicate with parents/guardians and comply with state regulations. Student records include information such as standardized achievement and ability test data, grades, attendance records, health/medical records and evaluations by professional staff.

Except in limited circumstances authorized by law, most information from student records will not be released to members of the public without the written permission of the student's parent or guardian, or of the student if he or she is 18 or older. One exception, which permits disclosure of educational records without consent, is disclosure to school officials with legitimate educational interests. A school official is a person employed by the school as an administrator, supervisor, instructor, or support staff; a person serving on the School Board; a person or company with whom the school has contracted to provide a service instead of using its own employees or officials

or an authorized volunteer. Legitimate educational interests include those directly related to the school official's professional responsibilities for classroom instruction, teaching, assessment and research, student achievement and progress, student discipline, student health or welfare, or other legitimate professional responsibilities.

District 196 forwards educational records (including disciplinary records) of students to other schools and school districts in which a student seeks or intends to enroll upon request of that school or school district. A parent, guardian or student who is age 18 years or older may request and receive a copy of the records which are transferred and may, pursuant to policy, challenge the accuracy of the records. The district does not, however, notify parent(s), guardian(s) or students age 18 or older prior to such transfer.

Parents(s) or guardian(s) of a student, or a student who is age 18 or older, may request to inspect and review any of the student's educational records except those

which are, by state or federal law, made confidential. The district will comply with the request immediately if possible and, if not, within 10 days exclusive of weekends and holidays. Copies of records may be obtained upon written request. A copying and handling fee will be charged.

A parent, guardian or student age 18 or older who believes that specific information in the student's educational records is inaccurate, misleading, incomplete or violates the privacy or other rights of the student, may request that the district amend the record in question. Challenges may be made by requesting and filing Procedure 505.2.11P, Request to Amend Educational Records, with the Director of Special Education.

Parents, guardians and students age 18 or older may submit written complaints of violation of rights accorded them by 20 USC Section 1232(g) to the Family Policy Compliance Office, U.S. Dept. of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW; Washington, DC 20202-5920.

Notice of pest control materials use in buildings

District 196 uses a licensed, professional pest control service for the prevention and control of rodents, insects, and other pests in and around the district's buildings. The program consists of:

- Inspection and monitoring to determine whether pests are present and whether any treatment is needed;
- Recommendations for maintenance and sanitation to help eliminate pests without the need for pest control materials;
- Utilization of non-chemical measures such as traps, caulking and screening, and
- Application of EPA-registered pest control materials when needed.

State law requires parents to be informed that the long-term health effects on children from the application of pesticides used by the district may not be fully

understood. All pest control materials are chosen and applied according to label directions per federal law.

An estimated schedule of interior pest control inspections and possible treatments is available for review at each school's main office and the Office of Health and Safety.

Parents may request to receive prior notice of each pesticide application. Additionally, parents may request to receive prior notification of any application of pest control material on a day different from the days specified in the schedule. Requests can be made to Health and Safety Supervisor **Christopher Pint** at 651-423-7735 or christopher.pint@District196.org.

(The above notice is published pursuant to Minnesota law, "Parents Right to Know Act.")

Homeschools required to report to district

Families living in District 196 who plan to homeschool their children for the 2015-16 school year must submit a yearly Full or Intent to Continue Report, as required by state law. The deadline to submit reports for 2015-16 is Oct. 1, 2015.

Both reports are available at www.District196.org/cewww/HomeSchool/index.cfm. Completed reports should be submitted to **Khia Brown**, director of Community Education, 15180 Canada Ave., Rosemount, MN 55068. For more information or to request a home school packet, call 651-423-7722.

District doesn't provide accident insurance

District 196 does not provide accident insurance for injuries that happen to students at school or during school activities. Parents who wish to have this type of accident protection are encouraged to contact an insurance company.

Did You Know?

Of the 10 Minnesota cities with the lowest total property tax rates in 2014, five of the 10 are part of District 196: Eagan, Burnsville, Lakeville, Apple Valley and Inver Grove Heights. (Source: League of Minnesota Cities 2014 Property Tax Report; cities with population of 30,000 or more)

**Independent School District 196
Rosemount-Apple Valley-Eagan Public Schools**

3455 153rd Street West
Rosemount, MN 55068

School Board

Rob Duchscher, chairperson
Jackie Magnuson, vice chairperson
Gary Huusko, clerk
Art Coulson, treasurer
Joel Albright, director
Mike Roseen, director
Bob Schutte, director

Jane K. Berenz, superintendent

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**Time Value Material
Please Deliver Promptly**

Community Education engage • inspire • enrich

Join us! Benefits of Early Childhood Family Education/ECFE

There is no time in a child's life of such rapid and dynamic growth and development as the first five years. From birth to the entry of first grade, the young child experiences rapid brain and body development. Parenting matters. Children thrive when they are provided with caregiving that is consistent and responsive to their changing developmental needs, reflects an understanding of their development and engages in children's ever growing capacity to learn. Parenting is a challenging task to say the least. Fortunately, families with young children in District 196 have access to licensed parenting educators and early childhood teachers at ECFE. The goal of ECFE is to provide parenting education to support children's learning and development.



A University of Minnesota evaluation examined parents' perceived change in parenting and their children's development across 11 skill areas. Nearly all parents (97.8%) reported significant improvement in their parenting skills after participating in ECFE. Specific improvement was noted in areas of understanding the parents' role in their child's school success and in understanding how parents' everyday decisions affect their children. Parents also reported socialization gains in their children, which in turn will help them be ready for the social environment of school. These perceptions of improved parenting were reported across the socioeconomic spectrum.

Much like a public library encourages reading by making books accessible, ECFE encourages positive parenting by making parenting classes available to all families. Join us. We'd love to meet you! Visit www.District196.org/ecfe.

Source: "An Evaluation of Benefits to Parenting and Children's Learning and Development from Program Participation: Rosemount, Eagan, Apple Valley ECFE Program" 2012



**Do you have school-age children?
Parenting questions? Concerns?**

Adult Programs are offering parenting courses covering a variety of topics this fall. Do you struggle with your child regarding homework? Enroll in **Homework: Parent's Survival Guide** on Nov. 19. Instructor Heather Garcia has a classroom and parent education background and is currently regional director with Huntington Learning Center.

Not sure which daycare to enroll your child in? Attend **Daycare: What You Need to Know** with Rita Palashewski and Rebecca McLaughlin on Nov. 11. They have nearly 30 years of combined experience in providing daycare. **Fostering Healthy Social Skills** offered Dec. 2, gives participants a better understanding of the social development of elementary school-age children, featuring Sarah Leitschuh, a licensed marriage and family therapist. Check out these courses and more in our online catalog at www.District196.org/ce, email communityed@District196.org or call 651-423-7920.

Come back and complete your high school diploma or prepare to take the GED exam today ... in addition to meeting your educational goals, you'll be modeling academic success for your children! visit www.District196.org/abe email abe@District196.org call 952-431-8316

Just for teens and young parents through age 21

Early Childhood Family Education (ECFE) and Adult Basic Education (ABE) are pleased to offer a class for pregnant or parenting teens and young adults, along with their children. Connecting with peers and meeting with a licensed parent educator will help provide the support to become the best parent possible. Children ages birth through pre-kindergarten will enjoy a chance to play and learn in early childhood classrooms. Call 952-388-1980 for more information.