

BLOOMINGTON



Public Schools

SCHOOL PAGES

Summer 2015-16



Photo by Cyndi Nightengale

Jefferson and Kennedy high school students participate in the annual Peace & Diversity Day earlier this month. Highlights included keynote speaker Wing Young Huie, the Peace Run (left) and student-hosted diversity booths.



A MESSAGE FROM SUPERINTENDENT LES FUJITAKE

CHALLENGES ASIDE, BLOOMINGTON SCHOOLS SHINE



Superintendent Les Fujitake lends a hand at Normandale Hills Elementary School's spring carnival.

In a few weeks, our school doors will close on another memorable year. We've done so much together to inspire, engage and empower students. Challenges aside, we have so much to be proud of in a school system that continues to be a great place to learn and work.

From academics to activities, the fine arts to athletics, Bloomington students excel at every level. I invite you to read an abbreviated list of some of our outstanding achievements in the story at right.

District-wide, we continue to benefit from collaborations with the City of Bloomington, Hennepin County, Twin Cities United Way, Walser Foundation, Bloomington Chamber of Commerce, and numerous businesses and civic organizations to help underserved students and families access programs and services, to expand career and college readiness options for all students, and to launch efforts to attract new families to Bloomington.

We are expanding opportunities for innovative learning and teaching with a 1:1 initiative, where each student in grade 3 and up has a personal Chromebook and our younger students have access to iPads. Technology continues to enhance learning through access to digital content, anytime, anywhere.

Work continues on creating a Personal

Growth Plan (PGP) for each student. PGPs encourage students and families to set educational goals, monitor progress in academic and social skills, and better prepare for careers and college after high school. Part tool, part education and strategy, PGPs are created and stored in the Hub and supported by interactive grade-level lessons that encourage students to think about how their skills and aptitudes will shape their next steps.

This fall Bloomington Public Schools will kick-off its Centennial year as a school district. From a collection of schools that consolidated in 1917, Bloomington Public Schools has

blossomed into a dynamic district of 17 schools, nationally-recognized early childhood learning options, award-winning programs for special ability students and adults, alternative education programs and an innovative program to prepare our young people for the workplace.

We take great pride in the work we do each day to inspire learning to prepare all students for future success. We value the dedicated professionals who are committed to this important work.

Together we are Bloomington Public Schools!



Highlights from a Memorable Year

- This year we recognized 11 national Advanced Placement (AP) Scholars, 33 AP Scholars with Distinction, 20 AP Scholars with Honor, and 83 AP Scholars. The Class of 2016 will include three National Merit Scholarship semifinalists, seven National Merit Commended students, and 126 Senior Achievement award winners.
- We were well represented with individual and team competitors at Academic WorldQuest, National Junior Olympics, National Speech and Debate Tournament, and National High School Cheerleading Championship.
- State championships were captured by the Jefferson High School Cheer Team (their third consecutive title), a multi-school sixth grade robotics team, and Nordic ski and gymnastics competitors. High school Science Olympiad teams advanced to state competition, and the accomplished artwork created by Kennedy and Jefferson students earned multiple honors at the Minnesota Scholastic Art Competition.
- In the classroom, our dedicated teachers continue to inspire students to reach their potential. Bloomington students are making strong growth in reading and math, showing more than a year's growth in both subjects last year.
- Our graduation rate remains above the state average, and the 6-year rate is greater than 90 percent, reflecting a commitment to prepare all students for success beyond grade 12.
- We've had 7 "best teacher" honorees recognized by WCCO, Fox 9 News, and KS95 Radio, BestPrep, and TIES.
- Staff and School Board members were recognized by the Ordway Center for the Performing Arts, Minnesota Girls and Women in Sports, Minnesota School Boards Association, Minnesota Developmental Adapted Physical Education, and the Autism Society of Minnesota.
- We were proud to learn Kennedy graduate Pete Docter won another Oscar for his animated feature Inside Out, and Jefferson alumnus Michael J. Schmidt was recently promoted to Brigadier General in the U.S. Air Force.

New principals join district

The district has announced the hiring of principals at Jefferson High School, and Valley View and Westwood elementary schools.



Jaysen Anderson is the new principal at Jefferson High School. He previously worked in Brooklyn Center Schools, Urban League Academy High School and North St. Paul School District, where he

served as assistant principal at North High School for the past three years.

Anderson has a bachelor's degree in secondary education/social studies from the University of Minnesota, Duluth, and a Career and Technical Education Certificate from Bemidji State University. He holds a master's degree in educational leadership and administrative licensure from Saint Mary's University of Minnesota and is currently completing a doctorate in educational leadership from Bethel University.

Anderson replaces Kevin Groebner who is retiring after 39 years in education, including 17 at Jefferson High School.



Hugh Roberts is the new principal of Westwood Elementary School. Roberts has administrative leadership experience in Richfield and Stillwater public

schools. Roberts also served as an assistant principal at Valley View Elementary school for three years.

Roberts has a bachelor's degree in sociology from St. Olaf College, and a master's degree in teacher preparation and education specialist from the University of St. Thomas.

Roberts replaces Carolyn Hartwigsen who is retiring after 10 years at Westwood.



Cori Thompson will assume the principal role at Valley View Elementary School after serving as interim principal at the school this year. Thompson has been with the district for more than 12 years,

previously serving as an assistant principal and dean of students at VVE and teaching social studies at Valley View Middle School.

Thompson earned her bachelor's degree in sociology from Hamline University and a master's in teaching from Hamline's Graduate School of Education. She also holds an administrative license from Saint Mary's University of Minnesota.

8th Annual Food Drive sets collection record

WESTWOOD ELEMENTARY EARNS TOP HONORS



Students at Westwood Elementary School load their food collection.

Bloomington Public Schools set an all time record in food and cash donations during this spring's 8th Annual District-wide Food Drive.

Schools and their business and civic partners collected 19,166 pounds of non-perishable goods and \$9,732 in cash donations during the weeklong event. This year's 67,828-pound collection surpasses the previous high of 67,020 pounds set in 2013. For each dollar donated, up to five pounds of food can be purchased.

All food and cash is donated to Volunteers Enlisted to Assist People (VEAP), a non-profit agency serving Bloomington, Edina and Richfield. The food drive has amassed over 335,200 pounds of food since its inception in 2009.

Westwood Elementary School took top honors for the highest combined total of food and cash collected with 13,504 pounds. Westwood's business partner, Ziegler Cat, contributed 2,755 pounds.

Business and civic partners participating in the drive included Anytime Fitness, Avtex, City of Bloomington (fire, police and city staff), General Dynamics, Loffler Companies, Martin Luther Campus, Star Choice Credit Union, Solution Builders, Thorud Inc., Toro, Yale Mechanical and Ziegler Cat.

The Parent Teacher Student Advisory (PTSA) Council, Bloomington School Board and its Youth Advisory Council coordinate the annual food drive.



Ridgeview Elementary School



Kennedy High School

Hub provides one-stop access

The Hub, a district-created technology tool, offers parents, students and staff one-stop access to class schedules, grades, attendance, meal plans, transportation information and each student's Personal Growth Plan.

The Hub will be updated August 3 with locker numbers, passwords and bus information. Student class schedules and teacher assignments will be added on August 23.

Hub passwords for parents remain the same each year, but students will receive new passwords in August. Students and parents will receive email reminders when the passwords are available.

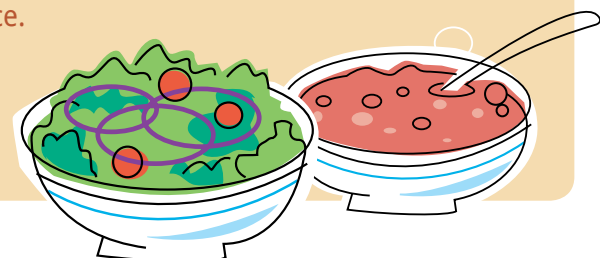
SchoolView Info on Hub

SchoolView will be deactivated on June 23 as we move to new student information systems. Much of the information currently found in SchoolView is available in the Hub; parents and students can find additional information in the Infinite Campus portal that will be available in October.

Student Meal Accounts

Student meal account numbers remain the same each year. Menus, meal account and balance information is on the Hub. Parents are encouraged to enroll in PayPAMS to easily monitor lunch money, payments and cafeteria purchases online for each child.

Need help paying for school meals? The district offers assistance with meal costs for qualified families. The application for meal plan benefits will no longer be mailed, as it will be available online in August. Families that may qualify for free or reduced price meals should visit bloomingtonschools.org/food in August to complete an application. Families must submit a new application for each school year. Applications will be available in English, Spanish, Somali and Vietnamese. Call 952-681-6570 for assistance.



A FOND FAREWELL

Thank you for 1,242 years of service

Bloomington Public Schools' Celebration of Service will honor 68 employees with a combined 1,242 years of service. The annual reception recognizes employees who have left or retired within the last year and have more than 10 years of employment with the district.

We applaud the following employees who have more than 30 years of service.



Leta O'Neil

Teacher, Developmental Adapted Physical Education (DAPE)
31 years of service

Leta O'Neil began as a substitute teacher in 1980, then served as a physical education teacher at Normandale Hills and Ridgeview elementary schools and Jefferson High School before becoming a DAPE teacher in various district schools. O'Neil coached adapted athletics and girls gymnastics and track at Olson Middle School and girls track at Jefferson.

She is an organizer for the annual DAPE Sports Extravaganza at Augsburg College for students with disabilities.

"I've always been so proud to say I'm a Bloomington teacher," said O'Neil. "I have always felt Bloomington was ahead of the game educationally, and the staff members I have worked with have been exceptional."



Joanne Tracy

Teacher, World Languages
37 years of service

Joanne Tracy began her career at Jefferson High School as a student teacher in 1978 and was hired full-time the following year. With the exception of a two-year leave during which she taught at the International School of Brussels in Belgium, Tracy has taught Spanish and French at Jefferson ever since. In addition to teaching, she served on several

district committees focusing on world language curriculum review, classroom technology and graduation requirements. She was also chair of the World Language Department.

Tracy is especially proud of the students who are inspired to continue learning, to travel or to live in a foreign country. A former Bloomington student herself, Tracy appreciates the caring staff who, "encouraged me to go to college and continued to mentor me when I became a teacher."



Gale Reina

Social Worker
37 years of service

Gale Reina is a social worker who has served at many of the district's schools, including the last 15 years at Olson elementary and middle schools. She also served as chair of the Social Work Department. She has enjoyed working with students, parents and staff over the years and will miss those relationships.

"My years in Bloomington have been enjoyable and worthwhile," said Reina. "School has changed a lot over those years, and I have too. Hopefully in the process, I have made a difference in the lives of those around me."

We thank the following dedicated professionals and wish them success in their future endeavors.

Lorelei Arch	administrative clerk	10 years
Carolyn Hartwigsen	principal	10 years
James Humbert	custodian	10 years
Barbara Trinidad	media center clerk	10 years
Charlotte Twyford	program management aide	10 years
Larry Waege	technology support specialist	10 years
Connie Anderson	family education instructor	11 years
Victor Bromley	bus assistant	11 years
Quincy Bryant	instructional assistant	11 years
Joyce Carlson-Rioux	CIP specialist	11 years
LaShunda Claiborn	language arts teacher	11 years
Brianna Giorgi Eisenbarth	EBD teacher	11 years
Marissa Johnson	grade 2 teacher	11 years
Jill McDermott	world languages	11 years
Filomena Sherratt	media center and office support	11 years
Kenneth Hansen	bus driver	12 years
Carl Uecker	bus driver	12 years
John Crabbe	bus driver	13 years
Doreen McKenney	instructional assistant	13 years
Julie Smith	instructional assistant	13 years
Andrew Boone	bus assistant	14 years
Carol Jernberg	media generalist	14 years
Bonnie Lommen	food prep assistant	14 years
Kristin Lund	art teacher	14 years
Lin Waldo	accounts payable clerk	14 years
Brenda Abraham	FACS teacher	15 years
Charles Andrews	bus assistant	15 years
Barbara Dullaghan	gifted and talented coordinator	15 years
Keith Johnson	media generalist	15 years
Vincent Sene	custodian	15 years
Gerald Berens	chief custodian	16 years
Laurel Kuplic	health services associate	16 years
Sandra Schaforth	student services office manager	16 years
Patricia Shimkus	media center clerk	16 years
Marina Ahart	counseling secretary	17 years
Kevin Groebner	secondary principal	17 years
Robert Wenig	MMI teacher	17 years
Timothy Anderson	exec. Director—learning & teaching	18 years
Charlotte Colbert	building/parking lot supervisor	18 years
Patricia Hoge	human resources coordinator	18 years
Sandra Sevig	language arts teacher/counselor	18 years
LuAnn Spoelstra	MMI teacher	18 years
Nancy Stege	psychologist	19 years
Gail Girard	DAPE teacher	21 years
Lynda Hansen	program management aide	21 years
Lien Thi Dang	custodian	22 years
Kathy Distel	health services associate	22 years
Lynnae Nye	program management aide	22 years
Christina Roers	health services associate	22 years
Rachel Biggs	intervention specialist	23 years
Jane Hanson	program secretary	23 years
Susan Ostlund	program secretary	23 years
Patricia Doepke	quiet room monitor	24 years
Kathleen Mills	due process paraprofessional	24 years
Nancy Larson	occupational therapist	25 years
Sharron Miller	program management aide	25 years
Shari Oertelt	commodities clerk	25 years
Mary Ubl	health services associate	25 years
Nancy Eidem	community relations secretary	26 years
Patricia Pnewski	world languages teacher	27 years
Marlene Baune	cook manager—elementary	28 years
Ruth Lanquist	ESL teacher	28 years
Sharon Berthiaume	classroom support paraprofessional	29 years
Patricia Ross	baker	29 years
Leta O'Neil	DAPE teacher	31 years
Sally Endresen	cook manager—secondary	32 years
Gale Reina	social worker	37 years
Joanne Tracy	world languages teacher	37 years

Safety improvements target last group of schools

The final four school sites to be equipped with an Access Management System (AMS) and other safety improvements will be completed this summer. Sites include Pond Family Center, Southwood Center, Washburn Elementary School and Oak Grove Middle School, which also houses the district's Educational Services Center (ESC).

New building entrances will limit school access by funneling visitors to the main office once the school day begins. School entrance doors are open before and after school to allow for easier flow of students, parents and staff.

Project work gets underway at the sites immediately following the last

day of school. Washburn will be closed for the summer for both the safety enhancements and a comprehensive school maintenance project.

Facilities under construction will have alternate access doors, including ESC. Visitors to the district offices are encouraged to park behind Oak Grove Middle School (east side) and enter door 17. Staff parking is in the front of the school (west side) and entry will be through door 9. Signage will direct visitor traffic to all temporary entrances.

Projects are scheduled for completion in early-to mid-August.

Additional school safety enhancements will be made in future years as part of the School Safety Plan approved by voters in 2013.



IN THE KNOW

Education foundation hosts annual Golf Classic



Mark your calendars for the Education Foundation of Bloomington's Chip in for Schools Golf Classic, July 27 at Dwan Golf Club. Proceeds support student scholarships and the Children's Food for Thought program. For more information, visit efbm.org/golf-classic

Senior Achievement event a success

Outstanding Jefferson and Kennedy high school seniors were honored at the 26th Annual Bloomington Senior Achievement Awards.

More than 125 seniors received awards in four categories: curricular excellence, artistic excellence, volunteerism and leadership. The students were selected from nominations by school staff, employers, parents, faith leaders and other community members and organizations. A fifth category, academic excellence, honored 81 students representing the top 10 percent of each school's graduating class.

Labor Negotiations Updates

For information on labor negotiations, visit bloomingtonschools.org/negotiations. This page is updated periodically with new information, communications and frequently asked questions.



Westwood Elementary School students learn healthy eating tips from Normandale Community College nursing students during the school's annual Health Fair.

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2016 Bloomington School Board

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Comments on this edition can be sent to commrelations@isd271.org.

BLOOMINGTON



Public Schools

POINTS OF PRIDE



■ Jefferson junior **Ian Klein** (above) will compete in Congressional Debate at the National Speech and Debate Association (NSDA) National Tournament in Salt Lake City June 12-17.

■ Hillcrest Community School fourth grade teacher **Beth McCoy** was selected by the Leonard Bernstein Center to be a National Apprentice Trainer for the Artful Learning program.

■ School Board member **Dawn Steigauf** received an Inspirations Award for advocacy from the Autism Society of Minnesota.

■ Kennedy's **Samantha Tarnowski** and **Devin Hanson** received first place honors, and Jefferson's **Dora Deak** and **Nicole Osinde** earned honorable mentions in Congressman Erik Paulsen's Third Congressional District Art Competition.



■ Jefferson junior **Matthew Jorgenson** (above) represented Bloomington at the Men's Junior Olympic National Gymnastics Championship in Battle Creek Michigan earlier this month after winning his second state title at the Minnesota State Championship, and then placing at the Regional Championship in Lincoln, Neb. Jorgenson also earned an academic all-state award.

■ Hillcrest Community School Principal **Calvin Keasling** received the Ordway Center for the Performing Arts 2016 Excellence in Vision

Award for his work supporting arts education programs.

■ Jefferson's **Victoria Krammer** and Kennedy's **Alana Currin** are this year's Athena Award winners. The Athena Award is presented each year to one outstanding senior female athlete from each school.

■ **Molly Geislinger**, interim dean of students at Oak Grove Middle School, is the recipient of the Gary Siemer's Award from the Bloomington Federation of Teachers. The annual award recognizes a teacher who shows dedication to student learning, professional growth and union involvement.



■ Jefferson chemistry teacher **Beth Kiene** (above) was awarded the Fox 9 News Top Teacher Award.

■ Oak Grove Elementary School fifth graders **Robert Traylor** and **Sebastian Tangelson** placed second out of more than 200 teams in a regional Stock Market Game.

■ Jefferson's **Morgan Gasser** and **Josh French**, and Kennedy's **Grady Cromer** placed in the top three of American Mathematical Association of Two-Year Colleges Math Leagues. They competed on behalf of Normandale Community College, where they attend Dimensions Academy High School.



■ Olson Middle School sixth grade teacher **Karolyn Shelstad** (above, center) was named a KS95 Teacher of the Week.

CORRECTION: We apologize for misstating the schools of our Minnesota Scholastic Art Competition winners in the previous issue of School Pages. Honorees are as follows:

Kennedy High School's **Sara Aamot** earned a Gold Key, and her entire portfolio earned a Silver Key. Other Silver Key recipients were **Nicole Osinde** and **Nathan Robertson** (Jefferson) and **Samantha Tarnowski** (Kennedy). Honorable mentions went to Robertson, **Alyssa Angeles**, **Dora Deak** and **Katie Weston** (Jefferson), and **Makayla Grant** and **Jackie Lucking** (Kennedy).