

Spring Lake Park School District 16

EDUCATION TODAY

Blaine ■ Spring Lake Park ■ Fridley

High Expectations, High Achievement For All. No Excuses.

FIRST IN THE STATE FIRST IN THE STATE FIRST IN THE STATE FIRST IN THE STATE

It's been a great year so far, filled with lots of pride, excellence, and achievement.



See inside for details on "first in the state" stories to go along with these pictures . . .



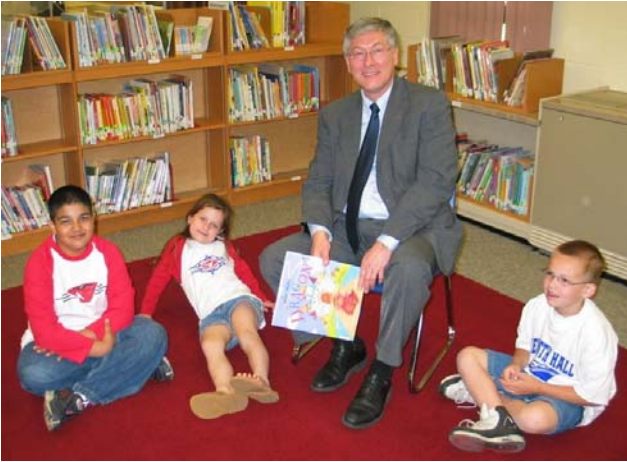
Always visit www.springlakeparkschools.org for the latest news

What's Inside?

- Opportunities in Emergency Care teams are 1st, 2nd, and 3rd in the state
- Dance Team is state champ for three consecutive years
- Elementary, middle school academic teams 1st, 2nd in the state
- Dr. Helmstetter is 2007 Minnesota Superintendent of the Year
- Academic and athletic honors at the conference, section, and state levels
- Community Update: on the Facilities Improvement Plan

Special 18-page pull-out section featuring details and drawings for summer 2007 projects in the ongoing plan to improve facilities for this and future generations of students.

Excellence and pride: The district is completing its 50th year in exciting style.



Dr. Don Helmstetter with some young readers in the Kenneth Hall Elementary School media center.

Greetings!

This year has been filled with many positive milestones and events. As you will discover from looking through this edition of *Education Today*, the district is completing its 50th year in exciting style.

In addition to the Dance Team winning its unprecedented third straight state championship and three of our OEC teams sweeping its state competition, you will discover that many other academic and athletic teams have been superlative as well.

Obviously, the most significant visible impacts in our school district have been the construction projects that are underway. Some improvements were made last summer at the Westwood Intermediate and Park Terrace Elementary schools, and this spring significant work will be done at Woodcrest Elementary and the high school. We will also break ground on the brand new elementary school.

In addition, major renovations will also take place at Westwood

Intermediate and parts of Park Terrace with substantial additional work to be done the following summer.

The 18-page *Community Update on the Facilities Improvement Plan*, an insert to this newsletter, will provide you with every significant detail on the upcoming round of renovation and construction.

It was just over a year ago when voters approved an operating levy of \$95.9 million to fund a significant portion of the district's *Facilities Improvement Plan*. This plan was the product of over eighteen months of study as well as a thorough review by a staff/community *Facilities Improvement Task Force*.

Because the Task Force realized that the school district couldn't fund all that would be desired, it focused on the district's immediate needs, as well as the long-term expectations of the parents and students of this school district, and the school board unanimously accepted their recommendations.

The School Board's action shouldn't be seen as a surprise; rather, it is reflective of the Board's considerable investment of its own collective time and energy, which included studying, listening, interacting with, and ultimately making the decisions on behalf of the entire school district community.

I'm proud to be working for a school board so attuned to the needs and desires of its constituents, as well as to the needs and expectations of its students and parents.

This is a School Board that prides itself on its responsiveness and accountability, and that's an important characteristic, particularly at a time when the district must prepare itself for the renewal of one of its existing operating levies. (This renewal must be made by 2009, so you will be receiving more information in future editions of the *Education Today*).

"It is our commitment to see that quality facilities are completed on time and within the established budget."

Community members continue to have questions about the scope and size of the facilities projects. One parent recently asked: "Aren't you going to build a new high school?" We are! After three phases of significant construction, our high school will, indeed, be a "new" high school.

The decisions that the School Board has made

regarding construction at all of our sites have met the expectations of the community.

We are devoting hundreds of hours of construction oversight so students, over the next thirty or more years, can learn and achieve in quality facilities. The District is committed to making cost-conscious decisions about the construction, but also with quality in mind, reflecting the values of our school district community.

The School Board and administration know very well that we took on a huge responsibility when we received the community's support to move ahead with the *Facilities Improvement Plan*, and it is our commitment to see that quality facilities are completed on time and within the established budget.

As you read through this entire edition of *Education Today*, you should be filled with pride for our students and their many significant achievements in the classroom and in the co-curricular and extra-curricular activities as well. The facility projects underway should fill you with a sense of excitement and anticipation. They do me as well.

And while there undoubtedly will be hurdles to overcome over the next few years, we also know that, with a strong and dedicated staff and School Board, and with the continued commitment and support of our residents, our schools will, indeed, be excellent, and an ever-increasing source of pride in the years to come.

Dr. Don Helmstetter,
Superintendent



Pantherettes dance team Three state champions in three consecutive years

Nothing in Spring Lake Park High School history even remotely compares with this accomplishment.

The Spring Lake Park High School Pantherettes Dance Team is the champion of the Class AA Minnesota State Girls' Dance Team Tournament for the third year in a row.

In 2004, the Pantherettes qualified for the State Dance Team Tournament for the first time in the school's history.

They didn't win, but in 2005, they qualified again, and this time they *did* win a state championship in the Jazz/Funk category, another first in the school's history.

At the 2006 Minnesota State Girls' Dance Team Tournament, the Pantherettes were the only Jazz/Funk team to successfully defend a 2005 title and the first Spring Lake Park team to achieve back-to-back state championships.

The team's February 16-17, 2007 performances resulted in yet another state championship in Jazz/Funk, a state three-peat!

State champion team members are senior co-captains Caitlin Nolby and Taylor Klis, Casey Anderson, Sarah Engmark, Hailee Griffin, Carrie Huelsnitz, Denielle Johnson, Cassie Kaulzarich, Malory Klis, Jenna Lachinski, Carly LaVigne, Katie Pederson, Rachel Palmer, Kyleigh Perdeu, Heather Rome, Natalie Strehlo, Lindsey Vanney, and Kayla Zimmerman.

Heather Holasek is the coach, Alyssa Hadsall is the assistant coach.

In addition to the continuing success in the Jazz/Funk category, the Pantherettes have qualified for the state tournament in the Class AA High Kick/Precision category for the past four years as well. In 2006, the team earned sixth-place honors, and placed fifth in 2007.

The 2007 state dance team competition was held at St. Paul's Xcel Energy Center. This eleventh annual competition attracted nearly 20,000 fans and supporters. Teams from 49 schools competed over the two-day period.

2007-08 CALENDAR

SPRING LAKE PARK SCHOOL DISTRICT 16

Sept. 4	First day of school
Oct. 9, 11	Grades 6-8 evening conferences
Oct. 12	NO SCHOOL Grades 6-8 daytime conferences grades K-3, 4-5 & 9-12 Staff Workshops
Oct. 15, 16	Grades K-5 & 9-12 evening conferences
Oct. 17	NO SCHOOL Grades K-5 & 9-12 evening conferences grades 6-8 staff inservice
Oct. 18, 19	NO SCHOOL
Nov. 8	End of 1st quarter, middle school
Nov. 9	NO SCHOOL staff inservice/workshops
Nov. 22, 23	NO SCHOOL
Nov. 30	End of trimester I, grades K-5 & 9-12
Dec. 3	NO SCHOOL staff inservice/workshops
Dec. 24-31	NO SCHOOL Winter Break
Jan. 1, 2	NO SCHOOL Winter Break
Jan. 21	NO SCHOOL K-12 staff Inservice/workshops
Jan. 25	End of 2nd quarter, middle school
Jan. 31	Grades 9-12 evening conferences
Feb. 1	NO SCHOOL Grades 9-12 daytime conferences K-8 staff workshops
Feb. 11, 12	K-5 evening conferences
Feb. 15	NO SCHOOL K-5 daytime conferences grades 6-12 staff inservice
Feb. 18	NO SCHOOL
Feb. 28	Grades 6-8 evening conferences
Mar. 4	Grades 6-8 evening conferences
Mar. 6	End of trimester II, K-5, 9-12
Mar. 7	NO SCHOOL Grades 6-8 daytime conferences grades K-5 & 9-12 staff workshops
Mar. 10-14	NO SCHOOL Spring Break
Mar. 21	NO SCHOOL
May 26	NO SCHOOL
June 5	End of trimester III: K-5, Grade 9-12. End of 4th quarter, middle school
June 6	K-12 Staff Inservice/Workshops

Several two-hour Early Release Days are not yet identified in this first view of next year's calendar. The kindergarten start date could also yet be changed. In the event of a Snow Day during the school year, June 9 would be the Make-up Day . . . or the new last day of school.

1st, 2nd, 3rd in the state for high school Opportunities in Emergency Care academic teams

Academic teams representing Spring Lake Park High School's Opportunities in Emergency Care (OEC) program accomplished a feat on March 3, 2007 that will be tough for any high school to duplicate. They captured the top three spots in the Minnesota State Youth EMS Competition.

The state competition featured completion of three medical scenarios by each team, such as an overturned canoe and an accident victim hanging from a climbers harness. Participants were also required to complete a written exam.

Students come from throughout the metropolitan area to attend Spring Lake Park High School's rigorous medical magnet program. The list of participants on the top-three placing teams in the state confirms this.

1st place in the state

Brian Kasel (Totino-Grace), Grace Meyer (Totino-Grace), Andrew Stoesz (Spring Lake Park), Maddison Zikmund (Spring Lake Park).

2nd place in the state

Sarah Becker (Totino-Grace), Molly Chandler (Totino-Grace), Brandon Fettig (Centennial), Christine Kuspa (Totino-Grace).

3rd place in the state

Angela Breitbach (Spring Lake Park), Rob Danielson (Spring Lake Park), Nate Turner (Spring Lake Park), Wil Thwing (Elk River).

The OEC experience offers high school students more than a series of classes. For many, it can be a life-altering experience with an award-winning program. OEC is a multiple state and international competition winner.

There are in-class activities and a heavy course load, but this just scratches the surface. Students participate in a multitude of activities including taking blood pressure, teaching first aid and CPR, police and ambulance ride-alongs, emergency department



Top: First Row: Molly Chandler (2nd, Totino-Grace), Rob Danielson (3rd, Spring Lake Park), Brandon Fettig (2nd, Centennial), Christine Kuspa (2nd, Totino-Grace), Angela Brietbach (3rd, Spring Lake Park), Sarah Becker (2nd, Totino-Grace) Second Row: Andrew Stoesz (1st place, Spring Lake Park), Wil Thwing (3rd, Elk River), Maddison Zikmund (1st, Spring Lake Park), Brian Kasel (1st place, Totino-Grace), Nate Turner (3rd, Spring Lake Park), Grace Meyer (1st, Totino-Grace).

Above: An OEC practice session after the school day found program director Bill Neiss as the practice victim.

clinicals, and providing medical coverage for for local and state-wide events. The staff includes a physician, registered nurses, critical care nurses, cardiovascular perfusionists, paramedics, firefighters, police officers, EMTs, and more.

The range of activities is more than just *learning* CPR and First Aid. The students become certified to *teach* these skills. Learning is done in a wide range of areas from Self-Defense and IV Therapy to Rappelling, Moulage and Professional Conduct.

In addition to the emergency medical part of the program, the department also offers the Firefighter I program, with classroom and hands-on training. Activities include structure evaluation,

venting, hose and ladder handling and rescue.

Practice is done in a variety of scenarios including water rescues and high-level rescues. OEC even has its own ambulance for realistic training.

For more information on OEC, call program director Bill Neiss, 763-785-5556, or go to www.springlakeparkschools.org, then to "Spring Lake Park High School," "Activities," and "OEC."

1st, 2nd in the State for elementary and middle schoolers: Minnesota Knowledge Master Open and Minnesota Thinking Cap Quiz Bowl



Above: 5th grade, Westwood Intermediate, 2nd in the state

Anthony Shannon, Sarah Fetter, Taylor Kaiser, Michael Erickson, Calvin Kettering,

Jay Lohse, David Lewandowski, Nick Ludgate 6th Grade, Westwood Middle School, 1st in the state Front: Emma Beecken, Nikitha Potturi, Michele Heggerston, Jocelyn Bayer. Back: John Kallestad, Ben Allen, Andy Johnson, Matt Albers.



Minnesota Thinking Cap Quiz Bowl

Spring Lake Park School District 16 academic teams placed first and second in the state in the Minnesota Thinking Cap Quiz Bowl.

A 6th grade team from Westwood Middle School placed first in the state for the fifth consecutive year. A 5th grade team from Westwood Intermediate School placed second in the state. Both schools are in Blaine.

The annual competition is a computer contest of 100 multiple-choice questions. Areas covered include math, geography, government, sports, spelling, science,

literature, English, history, general information, and just plain fun trivia. Points are awarded based on how fast students answer the questions as well as accuracy.

Members of the first place Westwood Middle School team are Matt Albers, Ben Allen, Jocelyn Bayer, Emma Beecken, Michele Heggerston, Andy Johnson, Lee Kallestad, and Nikitha Potturi.

Westwood Intermediate School's second place team members are Michael Erickson, Sarah Fetter, Taylor Kaiser, Calvin Kettering, David Lewandowski, Jay Lohse, Nick Ludgate, and Anthony Shannon.



Minnesota Knowledge Master Open

These Westwood Intermediate School 5th graders placed second in the state in the first round of the Minnesota Knowledge Master Open. The Open is a computer-based test of challenging questions, covering a wide range of curricular areas that is intended to stimulate enthusiasm and promote teamwork.

Westwood's academic team members are: Front: Anthony Shannon, Calvin Kettering, Nick Ludgate Back: Jay Lohse, Michael Erickson, Taylor Kaiser, David Lewandowski, and Sarah Fetter.

Spring Lake Park superintendent Don Helmstetter is 2007 Minnesota Superintendent of the Year

The Minnesota Association of School Administrators (MASA) has announced that Spring Lake Park School District 16 superintendent Don Helmstetter has been selected 2007 Minnesota Superintendent of the Year.

Upon learning of his selection, Dr. Helmstetter thanked school board members "for their continual and ongoing support" and praised the "administration, faculty, and staff for their hard work and commitment and for making District 16 an exceptional school district."

He also had high praise for an engaged and supportive school community "that cares deeply about education."

He has been superintendent of Spring Lake Park Schools since 1997. He has also served as superintendent in the Blue Earth, Trimont, and Martin County West school districts.

Dr. Helmstetter has served as president of the Minnesota Association of School Administrators and as a Delegate Assembly member for the Association of American School Administrators.

He has also served on Department of Education and Governor's Office committees and task forces including Graduation Standards Implementation Advisory Committee, Governor's Task Force on Fetal Alcohol Syndrome, Task Force on Graduation Standards and Transitions to College, and the State Coalition for Education Reform and Accountability.



In a nominating letter, school board chairperson Jim Amundson wrote: "The noted scholar and futurist Joel Barker has said, 'A leader is someone you choose to follow to a place you wouldn't go by yourself—the future.' Don Helmstetter is such a leader and we have all followed as he has led us into a much brighter future."

"This is truly the best of times in School District 16," Amundson added. "At the same time we are celebrating the 50th graduating class of this district, we are also celebrating a true turnaround and a promising, exciting future."

What others have said:

■ A former state senator wrote: "I have known Don for many years and you will not find a more caring or qualified candidate for this award."

■ "Dr. Helmstetter possesses an energizing Vision for the district's future," one parent wrote. "What



High expectations, high achievement for all. No excuses.
Dr. Don Helmstetter, (above) with the district's mission statement, and (left) with two future graduates.

makes him unique is his ability to articulate this vision in ways that widen the circle of people working to help our kids.

"He connects with people, whether it's one-on-one, in public meetings, or through his regular newspaper columns or other communication tools."

■ A community member said that Dr. Helmstetter's work "originates with engaging multiple constituencies: governmental units, community agencies, parents, teachers, district staff, vendors, and others interested in strengthening our communities."

"His efforts focus on improving the way we work together in order to improve outcomes for children and families."

■ A district parent said that Dr. Helmstetter "accomplishes his tasks through hard work, open communication, sensitivity to the concerns of would-be Opponents, and a clear vision of the district's future."

"His commitment, dedication, and talents provide me, as a parent and taxpayer, with a quiet sense of assurance that our school district will continue to successfully and effectively navigate its way through the changing vagaries of what we have come to know as our system of public education."

■ A former student summed it up for many in the Spring Lake Park school community by writing: "Superintendent Helmstetter is one of the greatest role models in the world."

**Community Reception
to greet
Dr. Don Helmstetter
and to honor his
selection as
2007 Minnesota
Superintendent
of the Year**

**Tuesday, April 10
4-6 pm, program at 5 pm
Spring Lake Park
High School cafeteria.**

**All are welcome
to attend.**

Westwood Middle School befriends New Orleans students who await a return to their hurricane-damaged school

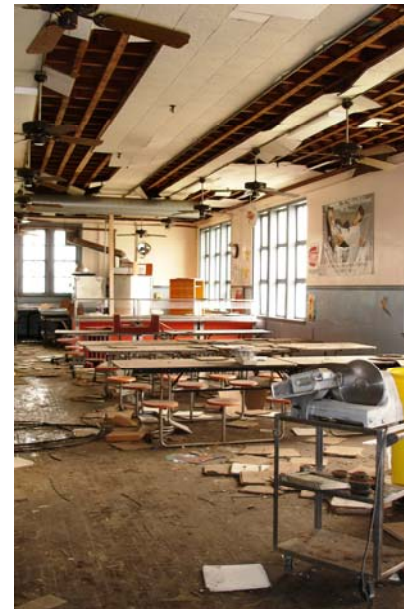
Westwood Middle School raised funds at the end of February to benefit Mary McLeod Bethune Elementary School in New Orleans, Louisiana. Bethune Elementary was severely damaged by Hurricane Katrina in the fall of 2005. Bethune students have been housed in a state facility ever since and will move back to their home school in the fall at the very earliest.

The students and their school are much in need of supplies, materials, friends, and good wishes.

Why Mary McLeod Bethune Elementary? Bryan Cole, dean of students at Westwood Middle School, is the brother-in-law of the administrative assistant at Bethune Elementary. It was a perfect connection and a good humanitarian cause that will benefit many students. In just three days, Westwood students raised over \$1,800, primarily through a "Wear a Hat on February 23 for a \$2 Donation" promotion.

At the end of February, Dr. Don Helmstetter, superintendent, traveled to New Orleans for a national conference where he was honored as Minnesota Superintendent of the Year.

While in New Orleans, he presented a check from Westwood Middle School to Bethune Elementary students and staff, toured the students' temporary school facility, and visited students' home school, still severely damaged over a year-and-a-half after the hurricane and breached levy forced them to flee.



Clockwise from top left: Supt. Don Helmstetter and Westwood Middle School dean of students Bryan Cole present a check for over \$1800 to Tizona Watts, administrative assistant at Mary McLeod Bethune Elementary School in New Orleans. Seated behind them are 3rd grade students,

who just completed their musical program for Black History Month. The school is conducting classes in this building, owned by the State of Louisiana, until the original Bethune Elementary reopens next fall.

The library at the original Bethune Elementary School survived the hurricane and subsequent flooding, but later fell victim to vandals, who stripped the school of its copper wiring.

Westwood student council members Paige Zarbo, Gina Lindquist, Daniel Felton, Michael Kutek, Emma Beecken, and Kelly Stifter presented a check for Dr. Helmstetter to deliver to students of the Bethune Elementary School.

Westwood and the school district hopes that this is only the beginning of an ongoing relationship with this New Orleans school. Contributions to this now ongoing fund to provide assistance for Mary McLeod Bethune Elementary students are still being accepted. Send your tax-deductible donation (make payable to: Westwood Middle School) to "Bethune School Donation," Westwood Middle School, 711 91st Ave. NE, Blaine MN 55434

Make the world a part of your family

Imagine inviting a student from another country into your family as your international son or daughter.

Families are currently being sought for the 2007-08 school year. Visiting students are between the ages of 16 and 19 and live as a member of a local family while attending Spring Lake Park High School.

Please consider being a host family. To learn more, call Sue Davis at 763-784-9318.

Sports Shorts and Activities Accounts 1

Excellence and pride: a few of the year-to-date highlights

State Championships, State Honors, State Meets

1st, 2nd, 3rd in State: Opportunities in Emergency Care

Academic teams representing the high school's Opportunities in Emergency Health program placed 1st, 2nd, and 3rd in the Minnesota State Youth EMS Competition. **1st place:** Brian Kasel, Grace Meyer, Andrew Stoesz, Maddison Zikmund. **2nd place:** Sarah Becker, Molly Chandler, Brandon Fettig, and Christine Kuspa. **3rd place:** Angela Breitbach, Rob Danielson, Nate Turner, and Wil Thwing.

1st in State, Three Years: Pantherettes Dance Team

The Pantherettes Dance Team won the state title in the Jazz/Funk category for the third time in three years, a first in school history. State champion team members are Casey Anderson, Sarah Engmark, Hailee Griffin, Carrie Huelsnitz, Denielle Johnson, Cassie Kaulzarich, Malory Kliis, Taylor Kliis, Jenna Lachinski, Carly LaVigne, Caitlin Nolby, Katie Pederson, Rachel Palmer, Kyleigh Perdew, Heather Rome, Natalie Strehlo, Lindsey Vanney, and Kayla Zimmerman.

10th in the State: Mock Trial

The high school's Mock Trial team competed in the State Mock Trial tournament for the first time in school history, finishing 10th in the state. Student "attorneys" and "witnesses" were Lauren Purcell, Erika Smith, Jessica Hayes, Nora Powers, Yasmin Odowa, Phoebe Johnson, Anupam Mishra, Christina Borg, Aaron Booth, and Liz Augustoviz.



Varsity boys basketball team headed to the state tournament on March 21.

Mock Trial Team members Jessica Hayes and Phoebe Johnson were named to the All-State team.

8th in State: Boys Swimming and Diving

The boys swimming & diving placed 8th in the state tournament. Kyle Winiecki earned All-State honors and was state champion in the 100 meter backstroke, and place 2nd in the 100 freestyle. Tom Biedron won All-State honors, placed 5th place in 100-meter breaststroke, and 5th in 200-meter individual medley. Kyle Winiecki, Tom Biedron, Ryan Hay, Tyler Shifflett were 9th in state in the 200-meter medley relay; Kyle Winicki, Tom Biedron, Ryan Hay, Josh Skoglund were 10th in state in the 400-meter freestyle relay; Sam Loesch as 12th in the state in diving; Walter Morris was 13th in the state in diving; and Andy Loesch was 6th in the state in diving.

State Wrestling

Brian Leonhardt placed 5th in the state in the 215 lb. weight class; Ben Chandler placed 5th in the state in the 171 lb. weight class.

Boys Basketball

The boys basketball team earned a berth in the state basketball tournament that began on March 21.

Senior Baily Ranum was selected to sing the national anthem at the Class 3A State Boys Basketball Semi-Finals game.

Nordic Skiing

Congratulations to Stephanie Haas who was named All-State Academic for Nordic Skiing and Matt Rengo who participated in the state meet for the third consecutive year.

Academic All-State Girls Tennis Team

Senior Kerry Delfs was named to the 2006 Academic All-State Girls Tennis Team.

All-State Football Team

Jordan Waiwaiole was named to the 2006 Minnesota Associated Press All-State Football Team and the St. Paul Pioneer Press All-State Football Team.

Class 4A Academic All-State Football Team

Jake Sundberg was named to the Class 4A Academic All-State Football Team, one of only a handful of selected players throughout the state to receive this honor. This award is based on academic excellence, leadership ability, and outstanding football ability. Jake is the third Panther football player in the last two years to receive this prestigious honor.

Section Champions and Honors

Boys Basketball

The boys basketball team was champion of the Section 6 tournament.

Swimming and Diving

Performances by eight members of the swimming and diving team at the Section 2 swim meet qualified them for the state tournament. They were Kyle Winiecki, Tom Biedron, Ryan Hay, Tyler Shifflett, Josh Skoglund, Sam Loesch, Andy Loesch, and Walter Morris.

Nordic Skiing

Matt Rengo placed 8th overall in the Section Championships

Wrestling

The wrestling team qualified three wrestlers for the state tournament based upon performances in the Section 4 Meet. They were Brian Leonhardt, Matt Weber, and Ben Chandler.

Mock Trial

The high school's Mock Trial team beat Eden Prairie and Lakeville South to take the Section title, a first in school history.

Sports Shorts and Activities Accounts 2

Excellence and pride: a few of the year-to-date highlights



Kyle Winiecki



Katelin Rains



Jordan Waiwaiole



Laura Hamer, Dan Krueger

Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA)

FCCLA students were very successful at their regional competition. The following students advanced to the upcoming state competition: **Cassandra (Cassi) Baker**, "Job Interview," and "Speakers Bureau;" **Maria Sjodin**, "Chapter Service Manual;" **Jamie Benjaminson**, "Dad and Daughter Relationships;" **Alex Kwong**, "Everyday Equations;" **Zainab Ali**, "Toys for Tots Project;" and **Brittany Luesse**, "Interpretive Dance."

North Suburban Conference Athletic Championships

Football

With a perfect 8-0 record, the Spring Lake Park High School Panthers were co-champions of the North Suburban Conference.

Girls Soccer

For the 3rd consecutive year, the Spring Lake Park/ St. Anthony girls soccer team won the North Suburban Conference Championship

Boys Soccer

For the first time in school history, the Spring Lake Park/ St. Anthony boys soccer team won the North Suburban Conference Championship.

Boys Swimming & Diving Team

The Spring Lake Park High School Boys Swim Team captured the North Suburban Conference Championship.

North Suburban Conference Academic Championships

Football

The Spring Lake Park High School football team won the North Suburban Conference Academic Team Championship.

Swim Team

The Spring Lake Park High School Boys Swim Team won the North Suburban Conference Team Academic Championship.

Alumni

Katelin Rains

Katelin Rains (2005 graduate of Spring Lake Park High School) is a sophomore at MSU-Mankato. In February, she established an NCAA Division II national record in the pole vault.

She vaulted 14 feet to set the new national mark. She is now a two-time college All-American. For the Panthers, she was a two-sport (Track & Field, Swimming & Diving All-State athlete).

David Backes

On December 19, David Backes (2002 Spring Lake Park High School graduate) played in his first professional National Hockey League game with the St. Louis Blues. David had one assist in his team's 4-1 win. David was a former All-State Panthers hockey player.

On February 18, David scored two goals in a 5-3 Blues victory over the Minnesota Wild.

Jenny Hasling

Jenny Hasling (2003 Spring Lake Park High School graduate) was a "walk-on" member of the U of M swim team as a freshman. By her senior year, she was captain of the team. As a 7th grader, she swam varsity for the Panthers, then switched to volleyball. In her senior year of high school she played volleyball AND swam in the same athletic season. She was All-State as a swimmer her senior year after missing the previous four years.

Triple A Award

Spring Lake Park High School Triple A winners for the 2006-2007 school year are seniors **Kirsten Young** and **Dan Krueger**. The Triple A award recognizes these students for excelling in the arts, academics, and athletics.

Division I & II signings

Sandy Nelson, senior girls hockey player, accepted a scholarship to play hockey for the NCAA Division I Ohio State Buckeyes hockey team.

Seniors **Laura Hamer** and **Dan Krueger** accepted scholarships to play NCAA Division I soccer next year at Wisconsin- Green Bay.

Senior **Dennis Carter** accepted a scholarship to play Division II football at the University of Minnesota-Duluth

Athena Award

Senior **Larura Hamer** is Spring Lake Park High School's 2007 Athena Award winner. The Athena award is given to the outstanding female senior athlete based on excellence in individual sports or for participation and accomplishments in team sports.

Additional news, honors

Academic Success Spring Lake Park High School

Honor Roll ■ 2006-07 School Year ■ **Trimester I**

A Honor Roll

Grade 9

Bailey Alto
Melissa Backes
Jacob Bayer
Samantha Berry
Kalsang Bhutia
Gianna Bolf
Kevin Britz
Katherine Brown
Justin Dahl
Joshua Davies
Samantha
Delperdang
Abraham Desta
Co Duong
Hannah Ehresmann
Lauren Erath
Marissa Evans
Jenaya Farkell
Morgan Foizie
Annika Gustafson
Emma Hadler
Marissa Hamilton
Nicholas Hammes
Matthew Harris
Kathryn Hawley
Beatriz Hernandez
Jessica Houghtaling
Meagan Jaskela
Amber Johnson
Travis Johnson
Teneille Johnston
Andrea Kanani
Tyler Kelley
Angela Krumme
Scott Kryzer
Caroline Kutek
David Lehman
Alyssa Luedtke
Landon Miller
Lukin Moline
Kyle Parizek
Meranda Peterson
Matthew Petschel
Josiah Pollesch
Blaine Ponto
Colton Rantasha
Keely Rask
Heather Rome
Danielle Saiko
Razvan Stanici
Cory Strasser
Kelsey Wagner
Sandra Wakeman
Kayla Whitehead
Megan Wika
Nichol Winiacki
Stephanie Wurzer
Kelsey Young

A Honor Roll

Grade 10

Zachary Arco
Brigitte Brown
Colin Carlson
Rachel Dahlen
Hana Djihic
Aubri Frey
Ryan Hay
David Kim
Joseph Kraska
Claire Lewandowski
Nicholas Milewski
Colleen Nelson
Luke Nolby
Ashley Peet
Terese Quarberg
Sara Roberts
Troy Schneider
Elisa Serna
Phillip
Spletstoeszer
Christopher Sulzle
Kegan Sunderland
Christopher
VonRueden

A Honor Roll

Grade 11

Kaitlyn Arneson
Kyle Betland
Christina Borg
Yen Bui
Isac Cole
Sara Delacey
Christopher
Delperdang
Carrie Domino
Meghan Fears
Matthew Hardel
Wendy Haynus
Kathaleen
Hoernberg
Jeremy Hrudka
Christopher
Huelsnitz
Erin Jensen
Matthew Karnick
Regan Klarenbeek
Zachary Kolodjeski
Kyle Krueger
Bridget Mealman
Amy Myhre
Michelle Nguyen
Christina Nguyen
Dorine Onyancha
Rachel Palmer
Lauren Poniatowski
Lauren Purcell
Gregory Randolph
Amy Ritter
Kaustav Roy

David Schneider
Priscilla Siong
Erika Smith
Tien Tang
Melissa Tetzner

A Honor Roll

Grade 12

Shannon Backes
Cassandra Baker
Angela Breitbach
Christopher Burda
Kerry Delfs
Gina Dudley
Rachel Frakie
Sara Garth
Cassandra
Gonzales
Isabelle Hadzel
Rachel Hanzal
Jessica Irvin
Taylor Klis
Daniel Krueger
Kevin Kwong
Joe McDearmon
Anupam Mishra
Kristin Mitchell
Caitlin Nolby
Melissa Petersen
Heather Peterson
Martin Popelak
Vanessa Prebish
Nicole Saffert
Jenna Schleeter
Maria Sjodin
Bethany Stoffel
Christopher Thorne
Kirsten Young

B Honor Roll

Grade 9

James Anderson
Benjamin Anderson
Benjamin Arlt
Andrew Arth
Megan Aune
Cody Axelson
Joseph Axelson
Emina Babaca
Kaylee Baur
Scott Benson
Christopher Benson
David Biedron
Dakotah Bolich
Matthew Booth
James Bredon
Joel Bruess
Devin Chase
Anglia Chen
Lisa Cole
Sara Cronquist
Nicole Delmonico

Evelyn Donkor
Sara Dupaul
Mariana Dusanic
Zachary Dykes
Hayley Eicher
Adriana Erickson
Kelly Evertz
Sara Ferdinand
Trevor Fields
Jacob Folley
Jacob Frasier
Alexandra Ganoza
Shane Gapsinski
Melissa Garcia
Lucas Gerding
Monica Godinez
Alexandra Graham
Taryn Hager
Bryana Hedberg
Kelsey Heier
Cole Heule
Robert Hildebrand
Heather Hollermann
Melanie Holmquist
Jay Hommes
Zachariah Huston
Kayla Jochum
Derek Johnson
Benjamin Johnson
Jacob Johnson
Alison Jones
Gopika Kartha
Jessica Keatts
Stephanie Keenan
Sean Klapperick
Lavonne Kniefel
Brent Koehn
Madison Koralesky
Alexander Korte
Jessica Kraska
Spencer Krischuk
Jenna Lee
John Leslie
Brooke Lewis
Wade Lewis
Achliem Lewis-
Miles
Andrew Loesch
Katrina Loomis
Alex Loomis
Travis Luckett
Tatjana Ludgate
Jayme Lueckel
Andrew Lund
Breanna Lutz
Danielle Martin
George
McClanahan
Alyssa Mckee
Jamie Medas
Corrie Mikel
Robert Miller
Lauren Miron
Asma Mohammed
Nicholas Morris

Mitchell Mulvihill
Alyssa Munsterman
Ryan Murdy
Jenna Ness
Anthony Nguyen
Kristen Olson
Brea Pearson
Devin Peltonen
Kelsey Perdew
Trevor Pettigrew
Gretchen Poster
Mario Ramirez
Jamie Ramirez
Allyssa Rapacz-
Hughes
Julio Rodriguez
Anayeli Rodriguez
Kirby Ronning
Elijah Sabah
Andrea Schlundt
Catherine Senftner
Matthew Shanahan
Adara Skjonsby
Joshua Smith
Ashley Sogla
Aimee Spencer
Morgan Stevens
Samira Sugule
Beau Tepley
Linda Thao
Nathan Theis
Alexandrya
Thiesing
Michael Thoennes
Dennis Tsoi
Nathan Turssso
Lucas Unger
Christina Vang
Mai Vang
Nolan Varani
Eric Vranish
Yewpheng Vue
Phuong Vuong
Bethany Waiwaiole
Patrick Walsh
Karlynn Weaver
Samantha Webster
Skyler Wickland
Melissa Widman
Justine Williams
Mariah Willier
Jessica Zimbeck
Tylere Zimmerman

B Honor Roll

Grade 10

Hassan Al-Hammad
Zainab Ali
Katlyn Anderson
Luqman Anshuur
Elizabeth Asproth
Elizabeth
Augustoviz
Mariah Baker

Adrienne Bemby
Jamie Berry
Kari Blood
Thomas Brooks
Erik Bryz-Gornia
Gabi Bulbula
Shannon Carleton
Colton Cates
Rachael Chilson
Anthony Chu
Logan Cole
Nicole Connolly
Amanda Corrigan
Robert Cress
Peter Dahlberg
Alexandra DeBoer
Kari Demers
Louisa Denno
Emily Dierling
Kelsey Dimberger
Jeffrey Eicher
Derek Flores
Kimberly Francis
Jesus Ganoza
Justin Gengler
Jamie Hawley
Michael Herman
Ashley Hero
Tomas Hofmann
Mark Isakson
Megan Jackson
Jose Jimenez
Lejla Johic
Jeremy Johnson
Sean Keenan
Laura Kennedy
Lubna Khatoun
David Kim
Kathryn Kirksey
Alissa Klis
Sierra Koethe
Emily Kvidera
Stephen Kwong
Nicholas Lanoue
Laura Larson
Amanda Lerew
Ross Lindquist
Ariana Ludgate
Kayla Madland
Krystal Maki
Jenna Marquette
Ashley Martin
Shelby Martin
Lauren Mathews
Corinne Matti
Jordan Mckie
Aaron Mehan
Morgan Merritt
William Mitchell
Brandi Mithun
Claire Moe
Zachary Monteith
Walter Morris
Cassandra Murphy
Jacob Neal

Academic Success Spring Lake Park High School

Honor Roll ■ 2006-07 School Year ■ Trimester I

Robert Nelson
Jonathan Nguyen
Eric Nihart
Heather Nissen
Brad Nordby
Kathryn Norlien
Katelyn Nystrom
Alen Osmanovic
David Owens
Martera Parkhurst
Emily Pyatt
Laura Randall
Laura Rasmusson
Amber Reiners
Katherine Reitan
Bernice Reyes
Dominic Rucci
Jaynee Schmid
Richard Shallbetter
Kyle Shallbetter
Adam Sloan
Caitlin Spaniol
Brett Stavos
Cyle Stoutenburg
Sean Streck
Brooke Swanson
David Taillefer
Alexandra
Thunborg
Michael Tibstra
Brandon Todd
Zachary Tollefson
Jason
Trybuchowski
Sean Tsoi
Miykao Vang
Michelle Vanney
Laura Waldvogel
Timothy Weigelt
Lauren Wimler
Joseph Wressell

Cuajleeg Yang
Pamela Yang
Jennifer Yang
Nicole Ylinen
Alexandra
Zahuranec
Kayla Zimmerman

B Honor Roll Grade 11

Hilary Albers
Samantha Albers
Megan Alpert
Justin Anderson
Christina Anderson
Jon Anderson
William Anderson
Natalie Barnard
Trevin Benson
Austin Berner
Aaron Booth
Bryanna Borden
Edward Bredon
Courtney Bruce
Bethany Burns
Amy Cha
Evan Cis
Brittany DeBoer
Lelna Desta
Jessica Dickey
Melanie Dietrich
Sierra Dooley
Derek Erickson
Elizabeth Erickson
Heather Erickson
Ashley Felix
Isaac Garcia
Ryan Girgen
Beatriz Godinez
Gonzalez

Matthew Graves
Neil Grosse
Taylor Hall
Ty Hall
Christopher
Hammergren
Alicia Haracz
Cameron Harper
Jessica Hayes
Katrina Heier
Kaylea Hicks
Kelsey Hiemenz
Hannah Hoffner
Hannah Johnson
Bethany Jorgenson
Madison Kelley
Michelle Kennedy
Leah Lambert
Carly LaVigne
Chuefeng Houa Lee
Benjamin Leff
Brian Leonhardt
Allyson Linden
Kelsey Luedtke
Dominic Matern
Stephanie Mattson
Jared McCoy
Benjamin McLean
Martin Melberg
Timothy Merritt
Keith Monaghan
Elizabeth Moore
Jennifer Murdy
Andrew Napier
William Nash
Blake Nolby
Kelsey Orr
Charissa Perzel
Lynn Pham
Jordan Plendl
Cory Polta

Connie Prom
Kati Regan
Mathew Roberts
Talitha Robinson
Jared Rothbauer
Lucas Rutherford
Krysta Schneider
Ty Schrupp
Brell Sharp
Susan Sibell
Erika Stahoski
Sandy Swartz
Danielle Sweet
Cheeshia Thao
Chad Ulrich
Brandy Vacca
Jeffrey Vandenberg
Lindsey Vanney
John Vo
Jordan Waiwairole
Matthew Wallentiny
Kyle Winiecki
Joy Yang
Maddison Zikmund

B Honor Roll Grade 12

Alex Ampe
Casey Anderson
Heather Banister
Amanda Beam
Jamie Benjaminson
Thomas Brown
Andrew Bryz-Gornia
Michael Carlson
Jordan Carlson
Sheila Dang
Robert Danielson
Elisha Delly

Kathryn Delmonico
Jesse Dey
Ashley Drost
Monica Dubay
Kelsey Eatherton
Tricia Ely
Peter Freeborn
Karla Gaustad
Amanda Gengler
Nicole
Gonshorowski
Jacob Gregorich
Stephanie Haas
Jacob Hand
Jacob Hawley
Marian Teresa
Hernandez Urena
Dung Hoang
Chantilli
Hoppenrath
Daniel Hudrlik
Ashley Humphrey
Alexander Huset
Emily Isakson
Brianna Johnson
Stephen Johnston
Roma Joshi
Shawn Kaiser
Emily Kaup
Haitham Khaled
Shane Kvidera
Joseph Kylander
Megan Marquette
Mitchell Mekoli
Hibo Mohamed
Amanda Monson
Jeremy Moua
Michael Musson
Sandra Nelson
Victoria Nguyen
Bao Tran Nguyen

Melina Paratusic
Suzanne Patterson
Shalonda Pickford
Mercedes Plendl
Zoe Poeschl
Daniel Poland
Kelly Poster
Nora Powers
Justin Ramdular
Baily Ranum
Alexander Reichel
Adam Remick
Mercedeus Rheam
Rico Roddy
Matthew Rolfer
Joanne Sathre
Michael Schenkel
Jeffrey Scottston
Kristen Senftner
Emily Smith
Ashley Smith
Felicity Smith
Erik Stenstrom
Jacob Sundberg
Michael Tadeusiak
Jessica Tam
Eric Tran
Zachary Trappen
Nathaniel Turner
Justin Von Rueden
Peter Vu
Bich Chi Thi Vuong
Randall Wedebrand
Michael Wilson
Meagan Wimler
Tracy Yang
Johnny Yang

Updated district website to debut soon

School District 16 will soon unveil an updated website with a new look. Website services are constantly expanding, now offering thousands of pages of information and resources for parents, students, staff, residents, and those seeking to learn about our schools and community, and those seeking employment. The website is: www.springlakeparkschools.org. It's new version should debut before the end of April.

If you're not a regular visitor to the website, what you'll find there includes the Parent Portal (parent access to important up-to-date student information; news items and newsletters; videos; calendars; breakfast and lunch menus; regular, detailed updates on the Facilities Improvement Plan; E-News Updates sign-up, policies, and School Board meeting agendas and minutes.

Spelling bee champ

The district Spelling Bee was held in February at Westwood Middle School. The participants represented Westwood Intermediate School, Westwood Middle School, the district's Lighthouse Program, and Calvin Christian School. Sixth grader Victoria Fanibi (right) from Westwood Middle School was the district winner which earned her a berth in the Semifinal Regional Written Bee held at the Star Tribune. Victoria's final word, which sealed her spelling victory was "luxuriate"



Panther Foundation GrandGala raises more than \$68,000 for student grants

The third annual Panther Foundation GrandGala raised more than \$65,000 for students in School District 16, serving Blaine, Spring Lake Park, and Fridley.

"The generosity of guests and our event sponsors, Village Bank, Kraus-Anderson and Wold Architects, is just amazing," said Glenn Martin, chair of the Panther Foundation.

The money will be distributed in the school district through a grants process. In less than three years, nearly 50 grants have been awarded, serving kids from preschool through high school.

Grants have covered a variety of topics, from increasing basic skills in math and reading, to fostering talents in the arts, to innovative initiatives in enriching educational opportunities. In addition to grants, the Panther Foundation has supported a handful of investments in technology enhancements for students.

The GrandGala event started several weeks ago with sales of raffle tickets made possible by Friendly Chevrolet and DLK Audio and Video. The prizes were a Corvette for a weekend, 42" plasma TV, and an iPod. You didn't need to be present to win, but Jill and Corey Burstad, Blaine, were in attendance and surprised everyone in the room (including themselves) by winning both the TV and iPod. The weekend with a Corvette went to an appreciative Greg Sorenson, Farmington.

The GrandGala dinner with silent and live auctions held Feb. 24 at the Tournament Players Club (TPC) of the Twin Cities provided entertainment and good-natured competition to win unique items such as the chance to throw out a Ceremonial Pitch at a Minnesota Twins game or a German Heritage Dinner at superintendent Don Helmstetter's house,

Others included Caddy for a Golf Legend at the Senior PGA Tour's 3M Championship, Dinner with the 3M Championship Pros, and a Roller Blading Party for 25 from the Westwood Intermediate School staff.



Clockwise from upper left: Dr. Don Helmstetter, superintendent; Dr. Jeff Ronneberg, assistant superintendent; and Glenn Martin, Foundation chairperson, did a little entertaining to drum up interest in their German Heritage Dinner auction item. Martin with Corey Burstad, happy winner of a plasma TV. Hollis Caver was a live auction donor as well as the winner of the Twins Game Ceremonial First Pitch auction item. Three Panther Foundation Lifetime Memberships were presented. Pictured are Colleen Pederson accepting on behalf of herself and husband Mike; Greg Dehler, accepting for Wold Architects & Engineers; and John Stroebel, accepting for the Kenneth Hall Elementary PTA.

GrandGala guests also donated generously to an ongoing project to place portable wireless computer labs ("Bringing the lab to the classroom, not the class to the computer room") in each of District 16's schools.

"The Panther Foundation and the students we serve owe a tremendous thank you to businesses who contributed to the event, including Connexus Energy, Walters Recycling and Refuse, Tournament Liquor, Bill Koschak of General Mills, Quality Document Solutions, and Allegra Printing," Martin said.

"It truly was a Night to remember, thanks to the support of our contributors, guests, and volunteers."

Panther Foundation vacancies

The Panther Foundation will soon have several vacancies. This nonprofit volunteer organization raises funds and allocates grants to enrich educational experiences of School District 16 students.

Every dollar raised comes from a community member through a donation, membership, fund-raising event, matching fund, or special gift plan.

Applications are available by calling 763-795-5155 or going to www.PantherFoundation.org. The deadline for applying is April 16, 2007.

50 years of history, 50 graduating classes



A Summer 2007 not-to-be missed event



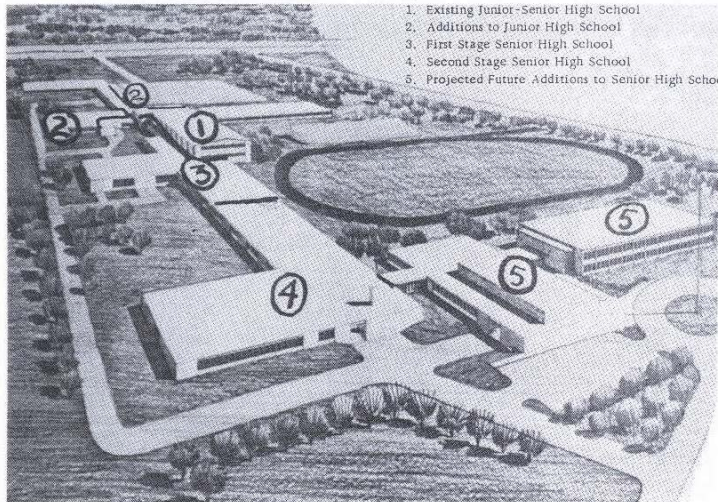
A 50th-Year Celebration

Mark your calendar today!

Spring Lake Park High School

Brought to you by the Spring Lake Park High School Alumni Association

All-Class Reunion 1957-2007



**Saturday,
August 18, 2007**

National Sports Center
Blaine, Minnesota

**It will be a BIG celebration in a BIG venue.
Here are some of the basics:**

**Planners are expecting up to 4,000 guests.
The ticket price will be \$35, \$45 at the door.
Advance tickets will be "will call" at the event,
but walk-ins can purchase tickets at the door.**



The Spring Lake Park High School Alumni Association has addresses (a huge task) for two-thirds of the over 12,000 alums. Their next mailing, the invitation, will be in late May. If you're an alum and have not received a mailing in the past, you are likely not on the mailing list.

To add your name to the list, mail your name, school class, address, phone, and e-mail address to: SLPHS Alumni Association, P.O.Box 49486, Blaine MN 55449-0486.

The school district will (soon) debut a new and improved version of its website (www.springlakeparkschools.org) that will have an online registration form for the alumni data base.

Watch for additional reunion details in the coming months:

- Spring Lake Park Alumni Association mailings
- Notices in school district publications
- Articles in local and metro newspapers
- School District 16 website

Top left: A May 6, 1965 tornado destroyed much of Woodcrest Elementary and the junior-senior high complex. School resumed two days later. Top right: The "Wilson School" when this area had a "District No. 60," was built in 1892. Center: A 1961 yearbook drawing with the caption: "Plans and Dreams. Brick and mortar. Pipe and Wire. Working together to bring to realization the Spring Lake Park High School of the Not Too Distant Future." Below: The "new" high school courtyard in 1955.



Noting the district's upgraded "A" rating from Moody's Investment Services at a School Board meeting are Jim Westrum, business manager; Kristin Hanson, Ehlers & Associates; Jim Amundson, board chair, Dr. Don Helmstetter, superintendent.

Moody's gives School District 16 an "A" Credit Rating

Earlier in the school year, Dr. Don Helmstetter, superintendent, and Jim Westrum, business manager, met with Moody's Investment Services personnel and were informed that the district's credit rating has been upgraded by Moody's to "A3."

This is the district's third such upgrade in four years.

Moody's noted the district's financial management team, improved budgeting procedures, increased reserve, conservative projections, and positive enrollment trends as factors in the steadily improving financial operations.

Kristin Hanson, from Ehlers & Associates, presented the School Board with a certificate acknowledging the achievement.



Staff Folleeez raised spirits and raised funds for students

"Raising spirits, raising funds" and "putting the fun in fundraising" were the goals. Both were met.

Over 100 School District 16 staff members donned silly outfits and valiantly performed in assorted family-friendly skits, sketches, and attempts at humor to raise money for the Panther Foundation. The Staff Folleeez entertained an enthusiastic audience of 600 and raised funds for the local community organization that awards grants to student groups as well as contributing to initiatives such as audio-enhancement equipment for classrooms and portable computer labs for schools.

District faculty and staff, administrators and principals, and the School Board, as well, were Staff Folleeez stars, bravely performing as Swan Lake swans, the seven dwarfs, Elvis, and contestants in shows including American Idol, Deal or No Deal, and Hollywood Squares. For a \$10 donation to the Panther Foundation, you could own your very own DVD of the Staff Folleeez. To enquire, call Community Services at 763-786-1338.



Spring Lake Park School District 16

8000 Highway 65 NE
Spring Lake Park MN 55432

School Board

Jim Amundson, Chair
Marilynn Forsberg, Vice-Chair
Colleen Vranish, Treasurer
Kelly Delfs, Clerk
Gary Brisbin, Director
Jodi Ruch, Director
John Stroebel, Director
Dr. Don Helmstetter, Superintendent

www.springlakeparkschools.org
Jim Elert, editor