



Thursday, December 22, 2016

## Winter Break starts tomorrow

There is no school for students in School District 622 from Friday, Dec. 23 through Monday, Jan. 2. Classes will resume on Tuesday, Jan. 3. Have a safe Winter Break and happy New Year!

## Points of Pride

### Schools give back during the holiday season

Students and staff in School District 622 have been giving back this holiday season. From collecting toys to serving others, District students and staff are finding ways to make a difference and giving back to those in need. Below are just some of the ways District 622 students and staff are making a difference in their communities:

- Students from **Tartan High School's** Student Council, in collaboration with the Oakdale Chamber of Commerce (OCC), teamed up for the 27th Annual Holiday Helping Hands program. Together, a total of 94 families (close to 300 children of all ages) from the Maplewood and Oakdale communities were assisted by the program. Tartan classes volunteer to sponsor 27 of these families. Volunteers, both from OCC and Tartan's Student Council, delivered the presents that were donated from the sponsors, to the families in their homes. New this year, students partnered up with a local senior home and assisted in making Christmas a special time for the elderly there that don't necessarily have family in the area. This program was once again a huge success for the families of our community and for the Holiday Helping Hands program itself.
- For the 16<sup>th</sup> year **North High School** once again held their annual "Yeah for Toys" campaign. Organized by the National Honor Society students, the entire school raised over \$5,000 for gifts and food benefiting over 40 families this holiday season. With the donated money, students shopped, wrapped and delivered gifts to FamilyWise, a local nonprofit organization, and families in the 622 community.
- Oakdale Elementary students and staff are supporting a food drive to help out Oakdale Elementary families in need over the long winter break. The focus is on breakfast and lunch items that are easy to prepare on their own. Bags of groceries will be distributed to families the week before break.
- The **Richardson Elementary** 5th Grade Leadership Council organized a Toy Drive. Richardson students donated 1,856 toys to the North St. Paul Toy Shelf. The group dropped off the donation earlier this month.
- **Skyview Middle School** will hold their second annual Week of Giving, Dec 19-22. Students bring food or money donations for the North St. Paul Area Food Shelf in order to wear various theme day apparel. Themes included Pajama Day, Hat Day, Ugly Sweater Day, Western/Plaid Day. Donations last year totaled 897 pounds of food! They are hoping to beat that record this year.
- **District Education Center** staff members collected donations and food items for the North St. Paul Area Food Shelf. The staff donated \$833 in cash as well as 8 boxes overflowing with food items. The monetary donations topped the record high donation from last year.
- John Glenn Middle School staff, Cross Lutheran Church and Holiday Helping Hands came together to adopt/assist 50 John Glenn families with gifts and gift cards during the holiday season.
- The multiple needs center-based classrooms at **Next Step** are partnering with Shoe Away Hunger again this year. So far the students have collected 564 pairs of shoes. For every pair of shoes donated, Shoe Away Hunger can feed one person with essential groceries for one week. Shoe donations will be accepted through Earth Day 2017.

## Feedback Wanted

### District 622 Annual Parent Survey

ISD 622 is interested in your feedback! Parents and guardians of District 622 students are invited to complete a short survey and offer feedback on the quality, safety, and engagement of their schools. Your responses help us understand how well we are serving our students and families and inform improvements to our offerings and practices.

Survey links:

- English: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/622parentsurvey-eng>
- Hmong: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/622parentsurvey-hmg>
- Spanish: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/622parentsurvey-spa>
- Somali: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/622parentsurvey-som>

The survey may take 5-10 minutes to complete. Please complete the survey once for each school in District 622 your children attend. Your responses are anonymous and will not be associated with your name or those of your children. If you are unable to complete the survey online, paper copies can be picked up and returned to any school building office. The window to submit survey responses closes January 27th, 2017.

Parents should complete the survey once for each school in District 622 they have students attending. There is a link at the end of the survey to submit another response.

## Upcoming Events

### SPARC (Schools, Parents & Resources Connecting) meets on Monday, January 9

SPARC, formerly known as the 622 ADHD Parent Support Group, meets on Monday, January 9 from 6:30 – 8:00 pm at the District Education Center, 2520 East 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue, North St. Paul.

This month the group will hear from Chris Bedford, MD, from the CALM Clinic as he talks about "**ADHD Secrets: Interventions that Work.**" He will speak from 6:30 - 8:00, then will take questions from 8:00 to 8:30.

These sessions are free and open to all parents, caregivers and community members. See the attached flyer for more information about this meeting and upcoming meetings. If you have any questions contact Diane Peterson at [dpeterson@isd622.org](mailto:dpeterson@isd622.org) or 651-748-6765.

## Community Events

Many community non-profit organizations offer meaningful enrichment activities and events to students and families within ISD 622. Visit [www.isd622.org/e-flyers](http://www.isd622.org/e-flyers) often to see which activities might be of interest to your family. All activities flyers are posted in a PDF format and available any time from any device.

*e-flyers*

### Coming up:

Maplewood Nature Center – New Year's Eve Day Nature Chill Out – **Saturday, December 31**

## Work for 622!

Visit [www.isd622.org/employment](http://www.isd622.org/employment) to find out more about how to join the 622 staff!

### Follow Careers@ISD622 on Twitter

Follow Careers@ISD622 on Twitter. To see a list of positions available with ISD 622, visit [www.isd622.org/employment](http://www.isd622.org/employment)

## Follow 622 on Social Media



## Community Education News



### Discount Offer

Like us on [Facebook](#) and receive an offer for \$5 off a community education class, including youth and adult enrichment, Adventure Connection and swim lessons. The discount is valid for fees paid between January 1-31, 2017. [Browse our catalog online](#) today to see all of the opportunities available for you and your family.

### Aquatics



#### Winter Swim Lessons

Winter swim lessons begin right after winter break. Lessons are available for children ages 6 months through adult. Now is a great time to learn to swim or build on skills already learned. Financial assistance may be available. Sign up today! Call us at 651-748-7439 or visit us [online](#).

### Adult Basic Education

#### IT Careers

Start the new year on the path to a new career. Free IT courses are offered at Harmony Learning Center (corner of White Bear Ave. and County Road C). Gain the skills and certification to become a Tier I Helpdesk Support Professional. For more information or questions, please call 651-748-6208 or email [shelland@isd622.org](mailto:shelland@isd622.org).



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School District 622

NORTH ST. PAUL | MAPLEWOOD | OAKDALE

Ready for tomorrow