Have You Heard?

Super staff: District 279 employees named statewide award winners

We’re proud of the dedicated educators and leaders who help us achieve our mission for all students every day. Three district employees were recently honored with prestigious statewide awards.

- Pang Yang, Hmong for Native Speakers teacher at Park Center Senior High, received the Teacher of the Year award from the Minnesota Council on the Teaching of Languages and Cultures.

- Dr. Rev Hillstrom, director of educational equity, earned the Outstanding Administrator of the Year award from the Minnesota Indian Education Association and the Ron McKinley "All My Relations" award from the Minnesota Education Equity Partnership.

- Michael Lehan, principal at Osseo Senior High, was named Minnesota High School Principal of the Year by the Minnesota Association of Secondary School Principals.

A celebration of exploration at STEAMfest

Zanewood Community School: A Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math (STEAM) School hosted its first STEAMfest event of the year in mid-November. At STEAMfest, scholars, families and community members had the opportunity to participate in STEAM learning and activities, engage with local partners from Boston Scientific and Mississippi Gateway Regional Park, try out robotics, and more!

Strategic planning process underway

Osseo Area Schools is in the process of creating a new strategic plan to guide future work. Input from student, family, and staff stakeholder groups will be gathered this spring; development of draft mission, vision, values and strategic directions will begin this summer. Community feedback on the draft plan will be solicited in late summer/early fall before the school board adopts the strategic plan next school year.

Stay in touch!

- Subscribe to 279Connect, the school district’s e-newsletter at www.district279.org

- Questions? E-mail welisten@district279.org or call 763.391.7000
Building a Better Future: School board hears facilities planning update

At the Jan. 14 work session, Osseo School Board members heard reports from groups that studied four areas included in Building a Better Future, the district’s comprehensive facilities planning process. Those areas include: enrollment and capacity management, K-12 next generation learning spaces, safety and security, and athletics facilities. Each group made recommendations that will require further consideration by a district-level Oversight Task Force. Some recommendations may be considered for short-term implementation, others for long-term implementation, and others may be removed from any further consideration. Visit bit.ly/279facilities to read a summary of the recommendations.

Osseo educators Kori Brown, Jan Radder and Jessica Spurrell are among 134 teachers statewide to be nominated for the 2020 Minnesota Teacher of the Year award.

Brown (pictured left) and Radder (center) teach art and second grade, respectively, at Birch Grove Elementary School for the Arts, while Spurrell (right) is a fourth grade teacher at Fernbrook Elementary.

Semifinalists and finalists will be named this spring; the 2020 Teacher of the Year will be announced on May 3.

Everyone counts! Census 2020

It’s easier than ever for you to be counted in the 2020 census because it will be the first to be conducted electronically.

Your response helps ensure fair representation in government; is confidential (the census will not ask about citizenship); and will guide funding for many different aspects of our community, including schools (e.g., special education, meal assistance, after-school programs, Head Start, technology). Watch your U.S. mail in March for more information or visit www.2020census.gov.

Breaking records: 279 students earn AP Scholar honors

For the 12th year in a row, Osseo Area Schools celebrated a record number of students (279) who earned AP Scholar recognition from the College Board, based on Advanced Placement (AP) exams taken during the 2018-19 school year.

Congratulations to Anna Chabica (class of 2020) and Brenna Saladin (class of 2019) for earning the National AP Scholar Award—the highest AP honor and granted only to students who receive an average score of at least 4 on all AP exams taken, and scores of 4 or higher on eight or more of these exams. Check out bit.ly/AP_Scholars for rosters of all Osseo Area Schools students who earned AP honors.

Read more about these stories at www.district279.org