

Friday, September 30, 2011

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Dear Families and Guardians,

On Tuesday, Sept. 27 our students had an assembly for the guests from the International Youth Summit. The summit has consisted of students and staff from the countries of Finland, Germany, Hungary and Russia. Each grade level of students sang an American song or a song in one of the four languages. I have had many parents comment that their child has also sang their song for them at home. What I thought was going to be a short assembly to simply say welcome, turned into a truly magical event. Many adults and visitors were quite touched by the children singing in a different language.

After the assembly 10 of our fifth graders became "student ambassadors" and led the visitors on tours through the school. The fifth graders were well spoken and showed our visitors what classes were like in an American elementary school. I sincerely thank all the students and staff involved in planning this event. The visitors are having a wonderful time visiting our school district!

Sincerely,
Kari Page, Principal
kpage@stanthony.k12.mn.us



Wilshire Park All-School Flag Ceremony Sept. 14, 2011

Important Phone Numbers:

Wilshire Park School Office: 612.706.1200

Wilshire Park Attendance Line: 612.706.1204

MN Central Bus Company: 651.633.0300 or 651.430.3311

INTRODUCING OUR NEW STAFF:

Ms. Alissa Brink- 3rd Grade Classroom Reduction Teacher



Hi All! My name is Alissa Brink and I am excited to be the new 3rd grade reduction teacher! I grew up in Champlin/Maple Grove and went to college at Winona State University. I studied Elementary Education with an emphasis on early childhood education and preprimary specialty. I have spent the past six years teaching preschool and am eager to now use another aspect of my licensure. In my free time I enjoy reading, camping (being outdoors in general!), taking pictures, baking tasty treats, and especially spending time with my family! Thank you to everyone for a warm welcome at Wilshire- please don't hesitate to ask if you ever need a hand!

Ms. Sarah Kiehne - Grade 4 Teacher



Greetings! My name is Sarah Kiehne and I am a new member to the Wilshire Park family. I grew up in Stewartville, MN, a small town just south of Rochester. I ventured over the border to get my undergraduate degree in Elementary Education from the University of Wisconsin-River Falls. After graduating, I spent about a year in Alaska, substituting in the Anchorage School District and enjoying the great outdoors in the "Land of the Midnight Sun"! I ended up settling back in Rochester, getting my Masters of Science in K-12 Education from Winona State University, and landing my first job in the Rochester Public Schools. I taught 5th grade for seven years, 3rd grade last year, and now find myself surrounded by a dedicated crew of fabulous 4th graders here at Wilshire Park Elementary. Go Pandas! In my spare time you can find me reading, biking, running, or on adventures with my dogs, family and friends. Thank you for the wonderful warm welcome I have received from students, parents, staff, and community members. I am looking forward to a great year!

Mr. Jason Haluska - School Psychologist



Hello, my name is Jason Haluska and I am the School Psychologist. I am excited to be working for this exceptional district. I completed my bachelor's degree in psychology and family studies, my MSE-School Psychology degree, and my Ed.S. School Psychology degree at the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire. I have recently moved here from Hibbing, Minnesota where I worked in the Nashwauk-Keewatin and Floodwood school districts. At St. Anthony-New Brighton, I help children and youth succeed academically, socially, and emotionally. School Psychologists have specialized training in both education and mental health and know how to identify and lower barriers to learning. These barriers can include developmental or learning disabilities, behavior difficulties, teaching styles, school or classroom climate,

problems at home or with friends, substance or alcohol abuse, violence, and mental health problems such as anxiety or depression. My goal is to collaborate with parents, school staff, and other professionals to create safe, healthy, and supportive learning environments so that all students can learn. Sometimes I may work with students individually or in groups, as well as address school- and district-wide issues such as bullying prevention and positive behavioral supports. I am looking forward to a great school year and I am always available to support the families and children of this district.

Jason Haluska, Ed.S.
School Psychologist
612.706.1083

jhaluska@stanthony.k12.mn.us

WELCOME

What Are Our Students Learning?

News from Physical Educators, Mr. Allison and Mrs. Egan:

In October our Physical Education classes will be participating in an in-house skating program through Skatetime. The skates will be delivered directly to the school. Due to insurance purposes, we will be exclusively using Skatetime's skates. We will provide helmets, wrist guards and knee pads. However, if your child has their own helmet we strongly encourage them to bring it to their physical education classes.

- Mr. Allison's classes will be skating from October 3rd -October 19th.
- Mrs. Egan's classes will be skating from October 25th –November 9th.

The teachers are aware that students will be bringing their helmets to school. Your child may store their helmet in a plastic bag on their backpack hook during our roller skating unit. If you have any questions please let us know.

Thank you,

Chris Allison callison@stanthony.k12.mn.us/ 612-706-1236 or

Jamie Egan jegan@stanthony.k12.mn.us / 612-706-1238

Achieve News from Mrs. Boatman:

During the months of Sept. and October Mrs. Boatman is working with second graders. Students are practicing those creative/productive thinking skills of FLUENCY, FLEXIBILITY, ORIGINALITY and ELABORATION. Fluency means giving lots of ideas, Flexibility refers to many different ideas and being able to change thinking, Elaboration is showing details and being able to make an idea grow, and Originality is producing unique and unusual ideas. Once-a-week lessons will be presented and students will practice their creative thinking with a follow-up activity. Teachers will observe responses to better meet the needs of students. This program is a part of enriching the regular curriculum for second grade.

Thank You!



- Thank you to Dustin Halverson, father of McKenna and Sierra! The company that Dustin works for, Village Green Landscapes, along with the organization “Green for Life,” donated and planted an Emerald Lustre Maple Tree next to the playground. Green for Life donated and planted trees at 150 schools around the metro area to promote the benefits of trees to our environment. Our students have been instructed to be respectful of trees and our new tree in particular. Students will be given the opportunity to water the tree until it becomes established.
- We received a donation of winter gloves and hats recently! We are sorry that we didn't get the name of the donor. Thanks for helping keep our kids warm this winter!
- Thank you to the Loida family for their donation of school supplies. They will be put to good use as students' supplies run low or wear out.

Events

5th Grade Band Startup Night Thursday, September 29th at 7:00 p.m.

Many parents find it helpful to know now that there is a requirement of 2 years of piano if your child hopes to play percussion when he/she reaches 5th grade. There are no such requirements for any other band instruments. Please contact me with any questions you may have about 5th grade band. I hope to see 5th grade parents and their child at Band Startup Night on Thursday, September 29th at 7:00 p.m. in the Cafeteria and Multipurpose Room.

Chris Ravndal, Band Instructor
cravndal@stanthony.k12.mn.us
612.706.1274

November Conferences: Online Conference Sign-up Through Wed. Oct. 19th

Fall conferences are scheduled from 3:45-7:45 p.m. on Tuesday, November 15, Thursday, November 17 and Tuesday, November 22. One additional afternoon will be available for parents for Mrs. Cobian's half-day kindergarten students only, on Friday, November 11th. Online scheduling will be available via the school website beginning Monday, September 26th through Wednesday, October 19th at <http://www.stanthony.k12.mn.us/WP/> Please sign up for only one 15 minute conference time slot per child. If you have more than one child, please do not schedule your children's conferences "back to back"; you will need time to walk to the next classroom. Teachers have only enough timeslots available to offer one conference time per student. If your child has parents from two households, please schedule one conference time for both parents to attend. If an exception needs to be made, please contact your child's teacher. After October 19th, parents will need to contact their child's teacher to schedule a conference. Please call Helen Siggelkow at 612.706.1200 if you do not have internet access and wish to schedule a conference with your child's teacher or if you have questions about online conference sign-up. If your family would like a foreign language interpreter for your family, please contact the school office.

Picture Retake Day - Tuesday, October 11th



School pictures were taken during our Meet and Greet open house in September. Your child will soon receive his or her picture package if you placed an order. If your child was enrolled after September 6th or was not here for Meet and Greet, he or she will have their photo taken on Retake Day which is Tuesday, October 11th. Please call the school office to request an order envelope if you would like to purchase photos. If you are dissatisfied with your child's portrait from September, please send the ENTIRE picture package to school with your child on Retake Day. Your child will have a new photo taken and a new package will be printed. If you would like to have your preschooler's photo taken, we are taking appointments for Tuesday, October 11th from 8:55-9:30 a.m.

Please call the school office to make an appointment for your preschooler: 612.706.1200.

Plan Ahead: Grandparents Days at Wilshire Park Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, October 25th, 26th and 27th



Grandparents or special older friends are invited to eat lunch with your child at Wilshire Park on Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday, October 25, 26 or 27th. Students may invite grandparents or a special older friend to eat lunch with them on one of these days. Lunch reservation forms will be sent home in early October with information on the menu choices and lunch times. The cost of an adult lunch is \$3.50 which can easily be deducted from your child's lunch account.

Announcements

Be @ School Program

Our school district is participating in the Hennepin County Attorney's Office Education Neglect/Truancy be@school Program. We are working to reduce our number of students who arrive at school late. All families need to understand the importance of bringing their child to school on time because of the distraction late arriving students can cause.

Three unexcused tardies count as one full day unexcused absence. Parents will be contacted by Intervention Specialist, Anna Nelson, to work with them to get their child to school on time. After 5 unexcused tardies, morning detention (8:00-9:00 a.m.) will be scheduled.

Early Drop-offs/Late Pickups from School

Students should arrive at school between 8:55 and 9:00 a.m. so that they can go directly to their classrooms. The school does NOT provide supervision of students before 8:55 a.m. Children may not be dropped off in the school office before school. Please make alternate arrangements if you have a scheduling conflict.

Parents are responsible to either arrange for their child to ride the bus or for the child to be picked up when the school day is over at 3:35 p.m. Any child remaining at school past 3:35 p.m. is termed a late pickup and the parent will be called. Wilshire Park does NOT provide after-school child care. If your child waits for you at a pre-determined location, please tell your child to go to the school office if you have not arrived by 3:45 p.m. The office staff will help your child contact you. Of course, we understand that emergencies sometimes occur. If you are detained, please contact the school office immediately to establish a pickup time or alternate arrangements for your child. If the school is not able to make contact with you or an emergency contact by 4:10 p.m. an emergency situation will be assumed. The St. Anthony police may be contacted to transport your child.

Forms to Return to School

- **Wilshire Park Behavior Plan**

The Wilshire Park Behavior Plan was sent home with all students last week. Please review it with your child so they know what is expected of them and that we are working together to create a productive and safe learning environment. **Please sign and return the front page to your child's teacher right away.** Together we can make a difference!

- **Field Trip Permission Forms**

Teachers schedule field trips to provide learning experiences for students in a non-school setting. Each year, a permission form is sent home to all students for field trips. **Please sign and return the form to your child's teacher right away.** You will be informed of each field trip as it is scheduled as well as the cost of the activity and bus transportation. Bag lunches are available for field trips which extend over lunch time. Teachers will send a "Bag Lunch Order Form" with field trip information. Bag lunches must be ordered at least one week before the field trip and are deducted from the lunch account. Children may also bring their own bag lunch from home.

As a courtesy to your child's teacher, please complete and return all forms right away. Returning forms promptly helps keep our paper and duplicating costs down.

ALERTNOW Notification System

St. Anthony-New Brighton School District believes it is important to keep you informed. To assist in our communication with you, we use the ALERTNOW Notification Service. This service will allow us to send you a telephone or e-mail message providing important information about school events or emergencies.

We anticipate using ALERTNOW to notify you about school delays or cancellations due to inclement weather and to remind you about various events. In the event of an emergency at school, you will be informed immediately by phone and/or email.

What you need to know about receiving calls which are sent through ALERTNOW:

- Caller ID will display the school's main number when a general announcement is delivered.
- Caller ID will display 612-706-1000 (district office phone number) if the message is delivered through district-wide or is a dire emergency.
- ALERTNOW will leave a message on any answering machine or voicemail.

- If the ALERTNOW message stops playing, press any key 1-9 and the message will replay from the beginning.

The successful delivery of information is dependent upon accurate contact information for each student. Please ensure that we have your most current phone numbers. If this information changes during the year, please contact Wilshire Park immediately.

The primary phone number will be called for standard and emergency calls. The emergency numbers will **only** be called in an emergency and all of your phone numbers will be dialed simultaneously.

Legal Papers

In order to assure compliance with court orders on who can visit with your child while at school and who your child can be released to, we need to have a copy of your legal custody papers on file in the office. Please be assured, we will not release your child to anyone not listed on your child's Health and Emergency form without your consent.

If your child has a legal name change, please bring a copy of the court document to the office so that we can change your child's name in our files.



Bus Company Information

MN Central School Bus is the company contracted for our student transportation. Occasionally delays in student pickup or drop-off may occur for a variety of reasons. Our office staff is always available to assist during office hours but please note our office does close at 4:00 p.m. Please make your first call to the bus company at: 651.633.0300 or 651.430.3311. Transportation phone numbers are also listed on the home page of the Wilshire Park website.

Wear Your School Colors on Fridays

Students and staff are encouraged to wear school colors on Fridays (t-shirts, sweatshirts, etc.). Our school colors are royal blue and white. Our school mascot is the panda.



PANDA PRIDE!

From the Nurse

Hearing Screening at School, Flu Shots & Winter Helmet Sale

We are busy with hearing screenings at Wilshire Park. We will finish on October 13th. If your child did not pass the initial screening, they will be rescreened on October 18th. If your child does not pass the rescreen, you will be sent a referral letter in the mail. The referral letter will contain information about whether your child is being referred to a medical doctor or an audiologist. If you have any questions, please call the Health Office at 612-706-1205.

Flu shots are currently widely available and cover both the H1N1 and seasonal influenza viruses. Please consider getting your children immunized now. Contact your child's doctor or try a retail clinic (where you don't need an appointment) such as Target or CVS. Influenza vaccination is recommended for all children.

Please see the attached flyer for a Winter Helmet sale at Wilshire Park. These helmets are perfect for the skier or snowboarder in your household! They also work great for sledding or skating! You can also choose to order as a gift and pick up the helmet at school when they are available or we can send the helmet home with your child. Questions about the helmets should be directed to Julie Philbrook. Contact information is as follows: 612-873-8500 or Julie.philbrook@hcmcd.org

Lori Watzl-King, RN LSN
612-706-1205

lwatzl-king@stanthony.k12.mn.us

Take Note!

If Your Child is Absent or will be arriving late. . .

Please call the attendance line at 612.706.1204. Please call before 9:05 a.m. (Afternoon kindergarten, please call before 12:50 p.m.) You may leave a message 24 hours a day.

After School Child Care

Please remember to notify your child care provider if your child is ill or you pick up your child from school. Sometimes we receive calls from Kids' Connection, Nativity, etc. after school looking for children. Save all of us some anxious moments! We want to know that our children are safe.

Bus Stops

Please be aware that if a bus stop goes unused for a period of 10 days, that stop may be inactivated by our bus company, Minnesota Central Transportation. Please contact our Transportation Director, Todd Niklaus at tniklaus@stanthony.k12.mn.us or 612.706.1117 if you need assistance with your child's bus route.

Flyers

Non-school-related flyers are not sent home with students but will be made available to parents in the school office. Parents may also call the school office to request that a flyer be sent home. **Flyers currently available in the school office:**

- **Girl Scouting:** Interested in Joining Girl Scouts? Like to know more about building a girl of confidence, courage, and character? Join us for our informational night at school. TUESDAY, OCTOBER 25th, at 7 p.m. Drop your girls in the cafeteria for fun and crafts and head to the media center where you'll view a short presentation and meet with other parents regarding troops and meeting dates. If you can't make it but would like more information, contact Faye Kerber at 612-781-0169 or fmkerber@hotmail.com or Kari Tholkes at 612-208-2569 or kat@mtinternet.com Troops are forming now. Kindergartners welcomed. Bring a friend!
- **Release Time Bible Education** is offered to Wilshire Park students, grades 3-5 on Wednesdays from 1:45-3:15 p.m. from October 5-April 4 at Elmwood Evangelical Free Church. For more information, call 763.571.1219.
- **Piano Lessons** by Michelle Carpenter, a Wilshire Park mom: Individualized instruction – ½ hour lessons in my St. Anthony home. 20 years experience working with children of all abilities. Please e-mail: michellelynncarpenter@gmail.com or phone: 612.788.4679.
- **Parenting With Love and Logic:** A common sense approach to parenting that teaches easy-to-learn skills that create respect, responsibility and good decision-making in children of all ages. Class starts Wednesday, Oct. 12th (6 sessions) at Nativity Church, 3312 Silver Lake Road, Room 218 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. \$50 per household, childcare available. Registration deadline: Wed. Oct. 5. Contact Dan Doerrer, Pastor: ddoerrer@nativitychurch.org or 612-781-2766 ext. 1008

Community News

SANBE's Annual Italian Dinner: Friday, September 30th

- Dinner, Friends, and Football! Mark your calendars! SANBE's annual Italian dinner happens Friday, September 30. Time: 4:30-7:00 p.m., in the St. Anthony Village High School Cafeteria.
- A Great Deal! A ticket gets you a pasta dinner (from Vescio's) and admission to the St. Anthony Huskies' homecoming football game!
- Buy Tickets Early to Save! Tickets are available until Tuesday, Sept 27, at the Wilshire Park School office for \$9 (adults), \$6 (K - 12 students). Game-day prices will be \$10 (adults) and \$8 (K - 12 students).
- Proceeds go back to our schools for additional educational programs. Your purchase helps all our kids!

Auditions for “A Christmas Carol” on Sunday, October 2nd

The St. Anthony Community Theater will be performing “A Christmas Carol” by Charles Dickens the weekend of December 17 & 18 in the MS/HS Auditorium. Auditions are being held Sunday, October 2, from 1:00-4:00 p.m. at the Community Center. Children in Grades 2 and up are welcome to audition. For more information, call 612-562-8228 or go to www.SACTheater.org Let me know if you have any questions. Thanks!

Sharon Poland
President of the Board
St. Anthony Community Theater

Early Childhood Advisory Council’s Annual Halloween Carnival on Friday, October 28th

St. Anthony’s Early Childhood Advisory Council invites parents and their children ages birth to second grade to attend its annual Halloween Carnival on **Friday, October 28th from 5:30-8:00 p.m. at the St. Anthony Community Center, 3301 Silver Lake Road.** Proceeds from the carnival are used to purchase equipment and fund scholarships for St. Anthony Community Services’ early childhood and school age care programs. Call Community Services at 612-706-1166 for more information.

Question of the Week



Question: I heard that parents can check their child’s grades online. How do I do this?

Answer: Parents are able to access their child’s grades and assessments online through our electronic “Student Progress Report” program. You must declare a password to protect the privacy of your child so that only you can view your child’s grades. A lime green sheet was sent home two weeks ago to sign up or to change your previous password. You may also phone or e-mail the office staff: Helen: hsiggelkow@stanthony.k12.mn.us or Cindy: cridge@stanthony.k12.mn.us to set up a password or we can remind you of your password if you have forgotten. The password should be at least 4 digits, lower-case letters and/or numbers. If you already have a password set up for your middle- or high school student, please notify the Wilshire Park office if you would like to use the same password. **Click on “Student Progress Report” on the left side of the screen. Your “User Name” is your own last name using all lower-case letters.**

Calendar: Looking Ahead!



- **MAP Testing: Grades 3-5 through October 19th**
- **Monday, October 3:**
 - 7:00 p.m. – WPPA Meeting – New Location: Staff Lounge
- **Tuesday, October 4:**
 - 7:00 p.m. – School Board Meeting – City Council Chambers
- **Friday, October 7:**
 - 9:15 a.m.-2:30 p.m. – Fourth Grade Field Trip to NW Fur Trading Post in Pine City
 - 11:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. - First Grade Field Trip to Kelley Farm
- **Saturday, October 8:**
 - 11:00-2:00 p.m. – WPPA Fall Festival – Soccer Field behind school
- **Tuesday, October 11:**
 - Photo Retake Day
- **Wednesday, October 12:**
 - 7:50 a.m. K-Kids Meeting - Cafeteria
- **Thursday, October 13:**
 - AM – Hearing Screening continues
- **Tuesday, October 18:**
 - AM - Hearing Rescreening
- **Wednesday, October 19**
 - Last Day of Online Conference Sign-up
- **Thursday & Friday, October 20-21: Fall Break – No School**
- **Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, October 25, 26, 27**
 - WP Grandparents Days– Reservation form due Monday, October 10th
 - Scholastic Book Fair

Words From Wilshire is published twice each month on the second and fourth Friday of the month. (Exceptions: 3rd and 5th Fridays in September; One issue in November on November 10; One issue in December on December 9 and one issue in March on March 9th). Deadline for articles to be printed in Words From Wilshire is noon on Tuesday before publication. Editor: Cindy Ridge: cridge@stanthony.k12.mn.us