

School Reporter

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APRIL 14, 2023

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ABOUT:

Farmington School Reporter is a publication of Farmington Area Public Schools, ISD 192. Please direct comments or questions to Sally McConnaughey at (651)463-5079 or smcconnaughey@farmington.k12.mn.us

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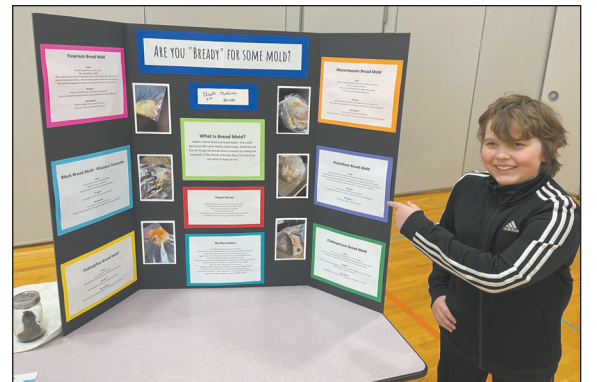
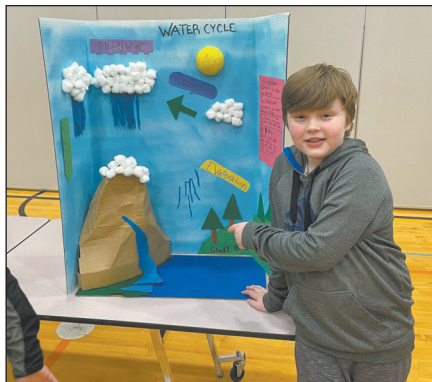
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2023 Elementary Science Fair Highlights!

Each spring, students from ISD 192's five elementary schools host their own unique science fairs. The students in grades 3-5 may go on to the Southern Minnesota Regional Science and Engineering Fair in late April. Farmington Area Public Schools, ISD 192 would like to extend a warm congratulations to all the elementary students who chose to participate in this year's science fair! Below are some highlights from each school's 2023 science fair.

Akin Road Elementary Schools (ARES)

Congratulations to all the Akin Road Elementary students who participated in the ARES 2023 Science Fair on March 8th! The winners from ARES are:

5th Grade: 1st Place: Alayna Ketcher (Which craft product is the most washable?); 2nd Place: Ethan Zielinski (Melt that ice); 3rd Place TIE: Roman Butterfield (Fruit vs. Time), Billi Fenlon (Which disinfectants work the best?) and Evan Anderson (Can water make a good battery?)

4th Grade: 1st Place TIE: Anna Aarness (Can measuring atmospheric pressure help predict the weather?) and Aubrey Glanzer (Should you rethink what you drink?); 2nd Place: Maxton Ditter (Butter vs. margarine in chocolate chip cookies); 3rd Place: Bradley Kitio (Scrumptious/Super-saturation)

3rd Grade: 1st Place: Benjamin Macmillan (Brushing my teeth); 2nd Place: Ben Svare (How temperature changes the bounce of LaCrosse balls); 3rd Place: Claire Nohava (Bubble Yum)

2nd Grade: 1st Place: Julia Ketcher (Which compound grows the biggest crystals?); 2nd Place: Elora Supergan (Egg dropping); 3rd Place: Gavin Fearnhead (Volcano)

1st Grade: 1st Place: Emma Nohava (Farmington trash); 2nd Place: Owen Carpenter (How to grow a real lemon tree from a lemon seed); 3rd Place: Rylan Ditter (Changing flower color)

Kindergarten: 1st Place: Clara Ketcher (Types of clouds)

Farmington Elementary School (FES)

Congratulations to all the FES students who participated in the 2023 FES Science Fair! Four students from Farmington Elementary School qualified to move on to the regional science fair: Katrina Deplazes, Christina Rice, Samara Foster and Ike Elvestad. These students were recognized during school announcements and all the participants received certificates recognizing their efforts.

Meadowview Elementary School (MVES)

Congratulations to all the Meadowview Elementary students who have chosen to participate in the 2023 Science Fair! The MVES Science Fair won't take place until April 20, but the participants are already hard at work on their projects. Any student in grades 3-5 may submit a project for the regional science fair. Be sure to watch our website and our social media channels for highlights from the upcoming MVES Science Fair.

North Trail Elementary School (NTES)

Congratulations to all the North Trail Elementary students who participated in the 2023 Science Fair! This year five team projects and five individual projects qualified to move on to the regional science fair.

The five team projects were done by: Vivian Oguamanam and Ian Ruiz; Olivia Boldt and Nora Richie; Karmen Gordon and Shelby Carroll; Kelly Carroll and Aubrey Harklerode; and London Kujwawa and Emi Fellows.

The five individual projects were done by: Remi Fitzwater; Kayla Rezac, Zachary Jensen, Aaron Jensen, Mitra Suriyanarayanan.

Riverview Elementary School (RVES)

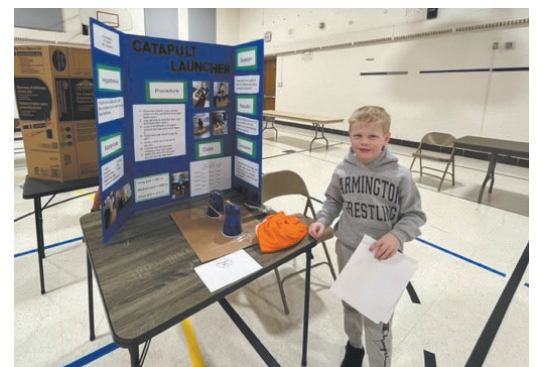
Congratulations to all the Riverview Elementary students who participated in the 2023 Science Fair! This year all 3rd-5th grade students who followed the scientific method were given the option to move on to regionals. The list of participants is as follows:

2nd Grade: Ella Macomber, August Urb-erg, Nathan Koester, Kaden Kosidowski, Zachary Kuoppala, Finn McKnight, Henrik Bonde, Noah Sather, Abigail Tilahun, and Joycelyn Davis.

3rd Grade: Hunter Vick, Tiago Martins, Layla Sheets, Emily Bower, Graham Boe and Mason Boyum.

4th Grade: Rylee Kipp, Brynn Loos, Carson Hall, Gabrielle Boelman, Charlie Boyum, Maria Walker, Lily Rubio, Elliott Moline, Amelia Demeuse, Maverick Gerwing and Stella Gessell.

5th Grade: Jackson Koester, Kinsley Kosidowski, Jenibelle Kunkel, Grady Boe and Emma Dahl.



Dodge Middle School hosts Celebration of Learning

On March 9th Levi P. Dodge Middle School (DMS) hosted a special event for families - a Celebration of Learning. The theme of the event was "Many cultures - One Dodge" and it was an opportunity for learners to showcase their work honoring the diverse cultures represented at Dodge Middle School.

The Celebration of Cultures was the product of a student-led initiative to learn about and honor what makes Dodge Middle School unique. "Our students wanted to share their traditions and celebrations with others, and the Diversity: Celebration of Cultures

flex sessions were created," the DMS administration shared with event attendees. "The projects [presented] represent the participants' pride in self and family, their excitement to share with others, and their dedication to supplement their learning."

Flex sessions are times during the school day when learners may choose from a variety of learning opportunities to best serve their individual needs. This may involve extra physical activity, tutoring in subjects they find challenging, or exploring passions and special interests.

Although this was the first Celebration of Learning event, all ISD 192 schools host events throughout the



school year to allow students to showcase their learning and families to see first-hand the work their children are engaging in during the school day. Families who attended the event called it fun and expressed their enjoyment at seeing the students' accomplishments.

New Principals in ISD 192

At the March 13, 2023 School Board meeting, the Board approved the appointment of two new elementary school principals in ISD 192. This follows the retirement of Dr. Steven Geis from North Trail Elementary earlier this year and the upcoming retirement of Dr. Kim Grengs from Riverview Elementary at the end of the school year.

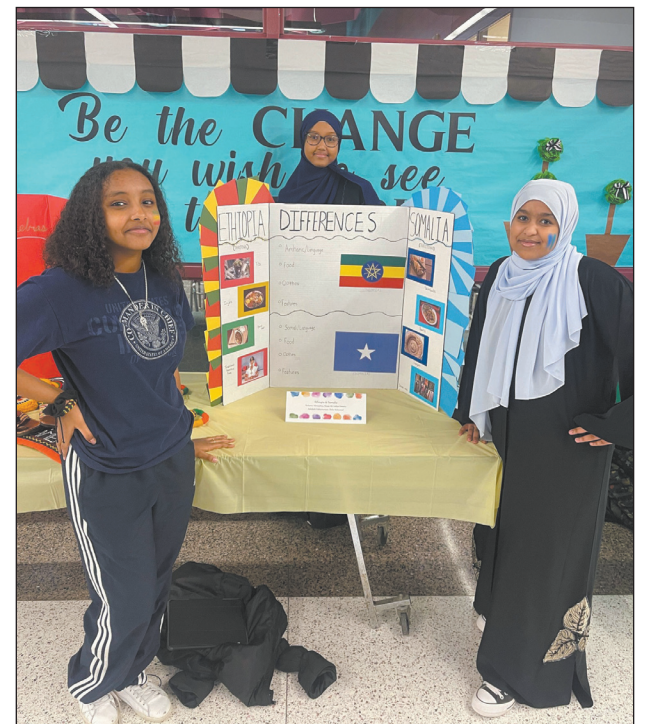
Shawn Peck will be the next principal of Riverview Elementary School (RVES). Mr. Peck's skills, abilities, and knowledge strongly align with the RVES community and our district's strategic direction. He currently serves as the Principal of Roosevelt Elementary School in Faribault and will officially begin his position with ISD 192 on July 5. "I know Shawn is well suited to support and

advance the awesome learning taking place at RVES and I hope you will join me in welcoming him to our tiger community," Superintendent Berg shared in a message to Riverview families.

Kelly Galarneau will be the next principal of North Trail Elementary School (NTES). Ms. Galarneau has been serving as the Interim Principal of North Trail Elementary and she will continue in that role through the remainder of the 2022-23 school year before officially dropping the Interim title beginning July 5. "I believe she is the best person to enhance what makes the NTES learning community unique and special," Superintendent Berg shared.

Kelly Galarneau

Shawn Peck





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Albano Makes It Official, Hired As Head Gymnastics Coach

Photo by Aaron Fraher

Farmington High School Athletics Director, Keith Badger, announced on March 14th that long-time assistant coach Brad Albano has been named the next head gymnastics coach at Farmington High School. Albano served as the team's interim head coach throughout the 2022-23 season.

Albano began his coaching career in 2010 and joined the Farmington High School staff in the fall of 2012.

"Brad did an outstanding job leading our program during the 2022-23 season and we're excited to have him formally step into the role of head coach," Badger said.

"I'm excited to have the opportunity to lead this team and hope to make a difference in the gymnast's lives, in and out of the gym," said Albano.

Coach Albano led the 2022-23 Tigers to a 5-1 South Suburban Conference record. Their only conference loss was to



Lakeville South on January 10. The team placed 3rd at the Section 1AA Gymnastics meet with a score of 142.550 and sent three gymnasts to the 2023 MSHSL Class AA State Gymnastics Meet.

The Tigers graduated just three athletes from the 2022-23 season, Senior Captain Ava Sullivan,

Senior Captain Megan Libbers and Senior Captain Kinsley Taylor. Taylor completed her senior year earning an 8th place on bars at the State Meet.

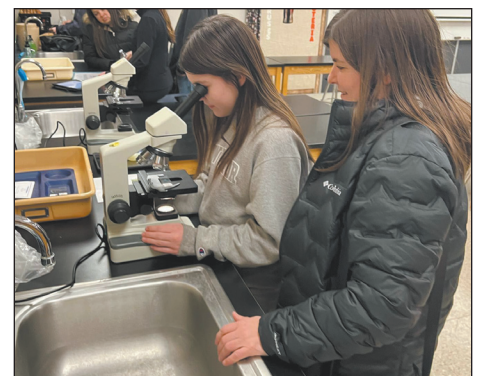
Coach Albano and gymnasts are already looking forward to the 23-24 season which begins on November 13.

Boeckman Middle School hosts Learner Showcase

On March 9th Robert Boeckman Middle School (BMS) hosted its first Learner Showcase. Like traditional parent teacher conferences this event served as an opportunity for families to connect with their children's teachers and school. Unlike more traditional conferences this event was student-led, allowing learners to take their families through a "day in the life" type experience. Families attended the event together, engaging in math, art, and other learning activities. They explored the science equipment our learners use every day, browsed the books they've been reading, and of

course talked with their teachers. Families who attended called it "really fun" and "an awesome event."

There were many smiles from learners throughout the event as they shared their learning accomplishments with pride and showed their families their favorite parts of school. Following the event, BMS Principal Joe Sage said, "It really filled my cup seeing kids smile again in schools with their families and being able to show off the things that they've learned. I thought it was really special."



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2023 Band Jubilee Highlights

The annual Band Jubilee is an absolute highlight for ISD 192 students across the district. Band students from 5th grade through high school come together to perform in the Farmington High School gymnasium. Families, staff and alumni come to support the students and enjoy an exciting evening of music and fun. It is an opportunity for the younger students to see the potential for their skills to progress and for the older students to set an example.

This year the fifth grade band, made up of students from all elementary schools, was directed by Darren Asleson and Tana Christenson. They performed "Heroes and Glory" by James Swearingen and "Popcorn Prelude" by Mike Hannickel.

The Dodge Middle School 8th Grade Band, directed by Tara Michlitsch performed "Factory Riffs" by Matt Conaway and "Seussical: The Musical" by Stephen Flaherty (arranged by Michael Story).

The Boeckman Middle School 8th Grade Band, directed by Rachel Gordon Mercer, performed "Kronos" by Robert W. Smith and "Happy" by Pharrell Williams (arranged by Michael Brown).



The Farmington High School Wind Ensemble, directed by Erin Holmes, performed "Danza Final" (from "Estancia") by Alberto Ginastera (arranged by David John) and "Mother Earth: A Fanfare" by David Maslanka.

To end the evening, the combined ensembles performed "We're Loyal to You, Farmington" by T.H. Guild, which is the FHS school song, conducted by guest conductor Joshua Hoyt. Hoyt is a Farmington High School alumni and currently serves as the Mayor of Farmington.



ISD 192 Choir Students Perform Cabaret

Over 150 students representing every school in the district showcased their vocal talents at the 10th annual cabaret performance on February 25. This year the show took place at the Boeckman Middle School Theater, a change in venue from previous years which complemented the musical theater style of the perfor-

mances. Cabaret is more than a concert - in addition to singing, it involves dancing, costumes, and even some acting and comedy. If you missed it this year be sure to check the calendar for next year's event!

Photos by Matt Dimich & Sean Trenary



FHS Robotics Team Excels

The Farmington High School Robotics team, known as Rogue Robotics, is having a great year! In March the team took second place out of 60 teams at the Northern Lights Regional Robotics Championship in Duluth, qualifying them for the state tournament on May 2nd - but that's not the best part of their year. The team originally formed as a competition group, going up against teams from other schools regionally and nationally in the FIRST Robotics League, but they have grown to become an important part of our community.

When not preparing for a competition, the FHS robotics students can be found volunteering, mentoring youth, and spreading excitement for STEM throughout the community. Although the team is made up of primarily high school students, they often visit other schools in the district including most recently Boeckman Middle School, Dodge Middle School, Meadowview Elementary and Akin Road Elementary to give demonstrations and encourage younger learners.

To date, Rogue Robotics has given away seven customized wheelchairs to children with movement disabilities. Each chair is modified to meet the unique needs of an individual child and all the chairs are given away free of charge. This year's chair was designed especially for Taino, a kindergarten student in the district.

The stated mission of Rogue Robotics is, "to explore the power of creativity and teamwork, to learn life and business skills, and educate the members of our community. Our goal is to spark a passion for learning, and creativity among future generations." This year the team is excelling on all counts!



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Farmington Competition Cheer Teams Thriving!

The Farmington Competition Cheer Teams (FCCT) had an incredible 2022-23 season, receiving multiple accolades and achievements. Several athletes and teams, along with one of the Varsity Coaches, received awards at this year's Minnesota Cheerleading Coaches Association State Competition. Seniors Kaizi Jacobs, Josephine Lee, and Carly Schachtele, along with Sophomores Sydney Seegmiller, Mackenzie Spice, and Angela Trans, were recognized for being members of the All State Competitive Team. Athletes were nominated by their coaches and had to submit a video of themselves performing their competition routine during a meet. Kaizi Jacobs, Carly Schachtele, and Josephine Lee were also recognized as part of the Honors Team, with Jacobs receiving a \$1,000 scholarship. The Varsity team was awarded the Regional Academic Honor for the highest average GPA in the metro area. Varsity Coach Alexis Earp was a Coach of the Year nominee. Three of the teams also became State Champions, the Elementary Orange team, Junior Varsity Game Day, and the Adaptive Cheer team, and four other teams finished in the top 3 of their division.

Competition in Orlando, Florida in February. Varsity Game Day finished 9th and Junior Varsity Game Day finished 6th in the nation. The Junior Varsity team also competed in the JV Worlds Competition, competing against teams from Mexico, Costa Rica, Canada, and Japan and finished 3rd. The JV team received this opportunity by finishing in the top 5 teams last year at Nationals, which is the first time for the program. Congratulations to all athletes and coaches on an incredible season!

The FCCT is a Community Education program, and is composed of nine teams, with athletes ranging from 3 years old to 12th grade. To learn more about the program, please visit <http://bit.ly/CE192Cheer>.

The Varsity and Junior Varsity teams also went on to compete at the Universal Cheerleaders Association's National



ISD 192 Budget Update

Along with the many great things that happen in our classrooms every day, we are already planning for the next school year. We want to share an update with you about our budget planning for the 2023-2024 school year and beyond. This follows our budget update sent on March 14, 2023 and the School Board meeting on March 27th, both of which can be viewed at www.farmington.k12.mn.us.

All Minnesota school districts are required to establish an annual budget that balances revenue and expenditures. We have been diligently working with the School Board for several months on budget planning. However, we are facing a challenge that many school districts in the metropolitan area are also facing - a budget deficit for the 2023-2024 school year.

There are three primary factors contributing to the budget deficit for the 2023-2024 school year:

- A decline in birth rates in our community of 28% over the last 10 years, resulting in declining student enrollment in ISD 192
- Lack of adequate funding from the state to keep up with inflationary costs
- Lack of adequate funding from state and federal sources to cover the cost of special education services provided by the district (often referred to as the "special education cross subsidy")

At the March 27th business meeting, the ISD 192 School Board approved the Budget Realignment Recommendations for the 2023-2024 school year. Our

administrative team, finance committee, and School Board have spent a significant amount of time over the last six months considering different ways to approach balancing the budget. The recommendations were made by looking at our system as a whole. You can review the 2023-24 Budget Recommendations as approved at the March 27th meeting as well as frequently asked budget questions here: <https://bit.ly/budgetfaq>

Currently, more than 70% of our funding comes from the state of Minnesota. While the State is projecting a budget surplus and is currently considering varying proposals in the House, Senate, and governor's office, a final determination of state educational funding is not anticipated until the end of the legislative session on May 23, 2023. Even if the legislature increases funding for schools, underfunded but required

State and Federal expenditures may still result in a budget deficit for our district. You can learn more about underfunded mandates and how they affect school district budgets at <https://bit.ly/budgetfaq>.

We are doing our best to balance the budget while maintaining the quality of education and services we provide our students. To learn more about school finance and the budgeting process please visit <https://bit.ly/budgetfaq>.



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UPCOMING EVENTS & OPPORTUNITIES

APRIL 2023

- APR 20 BMS & DMS Jazz Band Night
- APR 21-23 FHS Spring Musical
- APR 24 School Board Meeting, 5:30 p.m.
- APR 28-29 FHS Spring Musical

MAY 2023

- MAY 1 Open Registration for Kid Connection School Year 2023-24
- MAY 4 District Art Show
- MAY 8 School Board Meeting, 5:30 p.m.
- MAY 15-16 BMS Choir Concerts
- MAY 17 Early Childhood Screening
- MAY 18 DMS Band Concerts
- MAY 22 FHS Spring Band Concerts
- MAY 23 BMS Band Concerts
- MAY 29 No School (Memorial Day)

JUNE 2023

- JUNE 5 FHS Spring Jazz Concerts
- JUNE 5 Community Ed Summer Swim Lessons Begin
- JUNE 6 Last Day of School for Elementary - Early Release
- JUNE 8 Last Day of School for Secondary - Early Release
- JUNE 9 Farmington High School Graduation Ceremony, 7 p.m.
- JUNE 12 School Board Meeting, 5:30 p.m.
- JUNE 14 Summer Kid Connection and Stepping Stones Begin
- JUNE 26 School Board Meeting, 5:30 p.m.



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