

**Chinese Immersion Information Fair**

Hopkins Public Schools has an amazing Chinese Immersion program — XinXing Academy. Learn more and meet our staff.  
**December 8, 6:00-8:00 p.m.**  
Eisenhower Community Ctr.  
1001 Highway 7, Hopkins  
HopkinsSchools.org/xx

**Hopkins High School Winter Choir Concert**

**December 16**  
**6:15 p.m.:** Sophomore Chorale, Chamber, Kantorei, Bel Canto  
**8:00 p.m.:** Geoff, Midori, Men's Chorus, Women's Chorus, Concert Choir.  
Hopkins High School Auditorium  
2400 Lindbergh Dr., Minnetonka

**Save the date!**

Mingle with friends and neighbors, enjoy great food, live music, dance and raise funds for projects that support Hopkins Public Schools! Tickets go on sale in January. Please join us for this fun-filled event.  
**February 27, 6:00 p.m.**  
The Metropolitan, Golden Valley  
Information and purchase tick hopkinseducationfoundation.org

**Sen. Al Franken visits the high school**



Hopkins High School was honored to have Sen. Al Franken visit on Friday, Nov. 20. Franken took a 25-minute, student-led tour of the high school. He then addressed about 80 students in the Little Theater, spending the majority of his time taking questions from students who asked about testing, the influence of campaign donors, gun legislation, and making college affordable. At the end of the presentation, he drew a map of the United States from memory and took a selfie with about 40 students.

**Hundreds serve others during Meadowbrook's annual Family Service Night**



Some 400 students, parents, and community members spent a Friday evening in service to others, packaging items for those in need both locally and globally. The fourth-annual Meadowbrook Family Service Night on Nov. 13 brought volunteers together to make and pack hundreds of items for people in need. Meadowbrook principal Greta Evans-Becker said the event provided even the youngest participants with a job, giving each person the good feeling of doing something positive for someone else.

## Junior High Students Get a 'Taste of Service' with Community Action Day

International Baccalaureate project encourages students to think beyond themselves

Everyone is capable of making a difference, and even the smallest contributions matter. That is the lesson that seventh-grade students learned during Community Action Day. Both North Junior High and West Junior High dedicated up to two days in November to service-learning projects that gave back to the community and incorporated plenty of learning.

The goal of Community Action Day was to expose students to an array of service-learning activities so they could discover their passions. This will prepare them for the upcoming IB (International Baccalaureate) ninth-grade culmination project.

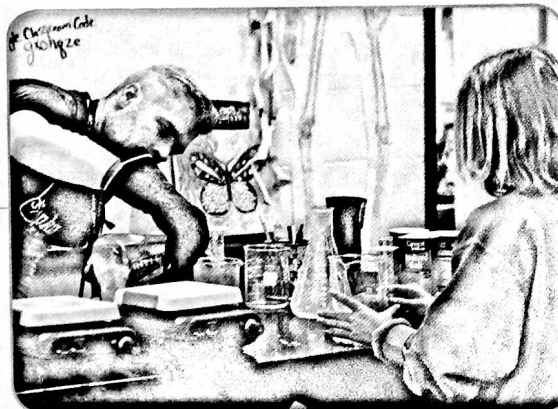
"We wanted to give students a taste of service, and also provide them with a broader sense of what service is," said Todd Roudabush, IB coordinator and science teacher at West Junior High. "Community Action Day creates a culture around service by first allowing students to be part of a project that someone else has designed."

**Incorporating applied learning**

Both junior highs became IB World schools last year. The IB Middle Years Program is an internationally minded school program that includes all students. This is the first year seventh-graders have participated in Community Action Day, and it's just one example of how students are encouraged to make connections to the larger world around them.

"We want students to be able to apply what they have learned," said Roudabush. "With IB, it's not what you know, it's what you can do with what you know."

Students participated in as many as six service-learning activities as they rotated through their class schedule. Each activity connected back to classroom learning. In Roudabush's science class, for example, students made play dough to donate to Hopkins' preschools and students with



Science teacher, Todd Roudabush, assists a student with making play dough

sensory needs. They were also required to convert the recipe from English standard measurement to metric.

Down the hall in math class, Laura Lee's students were using a grid overlay to create connect-the-dots cartoon coloring pages that were donated to children's hospitals through Blair's Tree of Hope.

"I think they learned that it's fun to give and that they can identify with people who are in need of their giving," said Lee, math teacher at West Junior High.

**Creating globally minded citizens**

Hopkins teachers collaborated with consultant Christina Czichray — whose time was paid for by a Hopkins Education Foundation grant — to create their service-learning activities. Czichray was the liaison between the partnering organizations, which included everything from children's hospitals to animal shelters, and the classroom. Being exposed to so many activities helped students understand that there are a lot of ways to be of service to others.

"It's so important for kids to be able to look outside themselves," said Andrea Yesnes, academic and behavior support specialist for North Junior High. "There are so many ways our students can make an impact. This is an opportunity for them to take a step back and realize what they can make happen. It's really powerful."

Language arts teacher, Kevin Kos, is convinced that his project made a difference for at least a few furry friends. His students wrote poetry encouraging others to adopt shelter animals and then attached the poem to dog toys that they made in class. Kos came up with the project because his students had just finished the book "Call of the Wild."

"Given how brutally Jack London expresses his concept of survival of the fittest, I thought it would be worthwhile to create a project benefiting animal shelters in our area,"

see Junior High Service Learning inside

## District Life Changer **Andrea Yesnes**



When you ask Andrea Yesnes about Hopkins Public Schools, chances are she'll beam with pride. A 28-year veteran of the District, Yesnes wears many hats as an academic and behavior support specialist, and coach for the Hopkins junior high cross-country and Hopkins girls' track and field teams. Her heavy involvement, has turned her into an enthusiastic advocate for Hopkins.

Yesnes graduated from the University of Minnesota and completed a master's degree from the University of St. Thomas. Her love of education and shaping young minds is evident in her passion for seventh-grade English, a subject she has taught for most of her career with Hopkins.

Longtime friend and colleague Linda Wareham sang the praises of Yesnes, saying she epitomizes the Hopkins motto of excellence in everything. Wareham also said Yesnes pushes not only herself but also her students to be the best.

"Her catchphrase is, 'Make good choices,'" Wareham said. "And she uses that mentality with everything. She really has embraced what Hopkins is all about."

This school year is her second as an academic and behavior specialist, where she works with seventh-grade students navigating the uncharted territory of junior high. From teaching problem-solving skills and introducing students to their new surroundings, to preparing for high school, Yesnes' job is critical to the future success of Hopkins students.

**Q: Background:** She graduated from the University of Minnesota, with a bachelor's degree in English language arts 7-12, and also has a master's degree from the University of St. Thomas in curriculum and instruction. Currently she is working on another master's in school counseling.

**Q: What do you love most about working at Hopkins Public Schools?** I can take a family into any classroom, unannounced, and they will see something truly amazing that a teacher is doing with the students. What's just as cool: when students see me touring, some bold ones literally rush to the family to tell them why they should choose Hopkins. Every day I get to go to work with the most awesome co-workers anyone could have.

**Q: Proudest moment?** A crowning achievement for me is the work I have done outside of the school day with our younger athletes. The Hopkins High School cross-country team has had a long and strong tradition of excellence. Eight years ago, we merged the junior high programs, so our seventh- and eighth-graders practice alongside the high school athletes. We now have over 70 runners, affectionately known as Cubs, in just two grades! As my first group grew up, they paid it forward to the new kids to continue the tradition.

**Q: Teaching philosophy?** Surround yourself with positive people and make yourself indispensable

**Stats:** Bachelor's degree, U of M, English language arts, grades 7-12. Master's degree, University of St. Thomas, curriculum and instruction. Yesnes has called Hopkins North Junior High her home away from home over the years. She has also co-coordinated the PBIS (Positive Behaviors Interventions and Supports) program at North Junior High. When she is not at school, Yesnes is busy with coaching and hanging out with her family and their pets, Scout, Joey, and Hector.



## Community Spirit **Julie Anderson**

Volunteering became a personal mission several years ago for Julie Anderson when her own children enrolled at Eisenhower Elementary in 2007. Once a week since, she has been a familiar face.

"I love assisting the staff with anything they need help with," she said.

From plant sales, fall festivals, spring flings, field trips, and more, Julie's dedication to volunteerism has also afforded her the opportunity to coordinate Eisenhower's annual Imagination Fair, a task she has spearheaded for the last three years.

Her dedication to Eisenhower, however, isn't unique to Hopkins. She said she is only one of the many "amazing volunteers" that deserve recognition.

**Q: Proudest moment volunteering?**

Every time I walk through the doors of Eisenhower. I feel proud of the children, the staff, and the dedication that so many put forth to make the school a wonderful place for kids to be.

**Q: What person has influenced you most?**

My mom, Sue Price, a retired second-grade teacher at Eisenhower. She has dedicated the last four decades of her life to Hopkins. She has taught me what community is and how I can be the best person I can. Thanks, and I love you mom.

**Q: People would be surprised to learn?** My dad and I both went to Hopkins. My three boys are third generation Hopkins students!

**Q: TV sitcom or movie?** TV sitcom. I love binge-watching shows online.

**Q: I volunteer because ...** It's about kids — my kids, your kids, all the kids in the community. If I could, I'd give a teacher any amount of time back to spend on the children. We all win!

## Where are they now?

Know someone we should feature on this page? Email [Carrie.Gerard@HopkinsSchools.org](mailto:Carrie.Gerard@HopkinsSchools.org)

### **Jeremy Ginsburg: 2009 graduate**



**Stats:** Freelance Writer and Performer  
• Bachelor's degree, University of Wisconsin-Madison, 2012

#### fun facts

Hopkins grad Jeremy Ginsburg might only be in his early 20s, but he's already a world traveler and reality television contestant. His blog provides followers a front-row seat on his journey overseas. His travels have taken him to 25 countries. He currently lives in Vietnam, where he landed a role on the Vietnamese reality show "Love Bus." Most recently, he won in a comedy competition, and in his words, "got pretty famous in Vietnam." Ginsburg is freelancing and writing a book. He also aspires to record an album and learn five more languages.

**Favorite Hopkins High School hangout?** The stairs — Freestyle Friday!

**Favorite Band of 2009?** The Brazillionaire\$. I was the drummer!

**What Hopkins teacher made a difference?**

Mr. Bell, my band teacher. I learned from his jolly disposition that there was hope in the 'real world' to be happy every day.

### **Ethan Tarshish: 2000 graduate**



**Stats:** Creative Director, Tarshish Creative in Minneapolis  
• Bachelor's degree in journalism and film studies, University of Minnesota-Twin Cities

#### fun facts

Ethan Tarshish has many talents. As the creative director for Tarshish Creative in Minneapolis, he has gone on to develop some of television's top hits. He has worked on shows for NBC Universal including "12 Monkeys," "Ghosthunters," "Haven," "Helix," "Wizard Wars," "WWE SmackDown," and some made-for-TV movies. When not in the TV studio, Ethan serves as the outreach coordinator for the Heilicher Minneapolis Jewish Day School in St. Louis Park.

**Favorite Hopkins High School hangout?** The halls, the lunchroom, and outside by the ominous silo.

**Favorite Band of 2000?** Green Day, Van Stee, The Ju Tang Clan, which I and Hopkins alum Dylan Reiff were a part of, Radiohead, Portishead, Blink-182.

**What Hopkins teacher made a difference?** Ms. Gersbach encouraged me to follow my ambitions. The amazing faculty in the AV department, as well.

**How did Hopkins prepare you?** The relationships made and the tools I learned at Hopkins have proven incredibly valuable over the years.

### **Geoffrey Boeder: 2001 graduate**



**Stats:** Science Teacher, Hopkins West Junior High  
• B.A., history, University of Wisconsin, Madison, 2005; Master of education, University of Minnesota, 2015

#### fun facts

Travel and teaching are two life philosophies Hopkins teacher Geoffrey Boeder lives by. His love of learning has brought him all over the country to plant trees in Oregon, instruct ski and wilderness therapy lessons in Utah, and guide backpackers in New Mexico. He also used his skills during a stint with AmeriCorps in Washington, and with the Boys and Girls Club in Bemidji. These experiences have shaped his view of lifelong learning, and Geoffrey plans to be an instructional leader and assist with continuing education development.

**Favorite Hopkins High School hangout?** Playing hacky sack in a circle by the west hallway lockers.

**Favorite Band of 2001?** Dave Matthews Band.

**What Hopkins teacher made a difference?**

David Williams and his lessons on the human experience. I continue to carry his philosophies with me to this day.

**How did Hopkins prepare you?** Hopkins set a high-quality foundation for my career in education.



# From Me to We: Hopkins Students Celebrate Change at WE Day



Tanglen Elementary students gear up for an exciting day. Hopkins was well represented during WE Day, an event aimed at celebrating youth service involvement in the community.

It just takes one person, one action, and one WE Day goal to make a positive impact. But put those ideas and people together, and those actions can change the world. This notion was reaffirmed Nov. 3 at Xcel Energy Center in St. Paul when nearly 18,000 students from across the state celebrated WE Day.

Among the youth in attendance were 277 Hopkins Public Schools students. Every school

was represented, and all students earned their way into the event by initiating a number of service-learning projects throughout the last year. Free the Children, the international charity which organizes WE Day, supports schools and communities through a model that empowers people to be transformative.

"You have to earn your way into WE Day," said Lisa Walker, the District liaison to Free the Children. "You don't buy tickets; you have to implement a service project on behalf of your local or global community."

The star-studded event featured guest speakers Chelsea Clinton and actor Henry Winkler, best known for his role as "The Fonz," and performances by pop stars Ciara, Nico & Vinz, and Darren Criss. Twenty other motivational speakers from around the country also encouraged attendees that they have the power to create change.

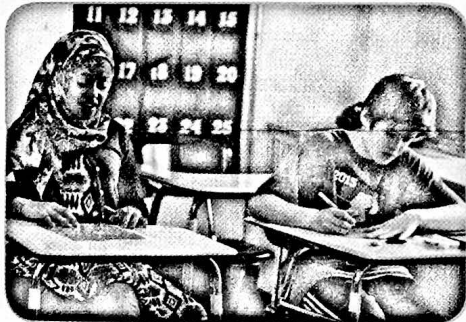
Hopkins students are no strangers to the "WE" concept. WE Schools curriculum is

integrated at all grade levels. Most notably, it is incorporated into the junior highs' International Baccalaureate program, and will soon be added to the high school's AP (Advanced Placement) program. The WE Schools initiative provides educators with a specific curriculum, educational resources, and a calendar of campaign ideas to keep kids involved.

One such campaign geared toward anti-bullying at North Junior High earned the school high praise and the VIP treatment during WE Day. They viewed the show from the fourth row and were shocked to be called out as outstanding WE Day participants.

"If we as a District keep this momentum going, this will become part of who our we are," Walker said, "and we want every student to think that this service mentality is automatic. Plus, it gives skills for real-world development of passion and compassion."

## Junior High Service Learning, continued from cover



Laura Lee's math students created connect-the-dots coloring pages to donate to children's hospitals.

he explained. "The poetry was amazing. If a few dogs finding homes is the outcome of this project, I think it's worthwhile."

A variety of other activities were held throughout the day at both schools, as well. Students wrote letters to veterans, created decorations and games for Camp-Mak-A-Dream, and assembled snack packs of appreciation for custodians.

### Preparing students for the ninth-grade community project

In addition to exposing students to an array of service-learning projects, Community Action Day had another purpose — to prepare students for the IB ninth-grade culminating project. This project is the capstone of the IB Middle Years Program. It is an opportunity for students to connect a passion to a community in need. In developing this project, students demonstrate global mindfulness, practice collaboration, and have the opportunity to think about how their skills and talents can benefit the world.

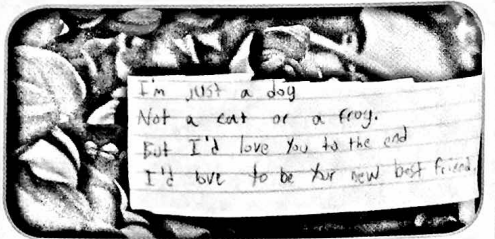
"We want to create citizens who will make an impact in the world," said Angela Wilcox, IB coordinator at North Junior High. "The culminating project is asking students to take action on a subject they truly care about. If we do this right, our ninth-graders will be able to demonstrate everything that they have learned in their junior high experience through this project."



A language art student makes a soft pet toy to donate to a local animal shelter.



Consultant Christina Czichray works with a student on a project. Her time was paid for by a Hopkins Education Foundation grant.



Kevin Kos' language art students wrote poetry and attached it to dog toys to encourage others to adopt a shelter dog.

### Learn more about IB

Visit [www.HopkinsSchools.org/hopkinsIB](http://www.HopkinsSchools.org/hopkinsIB)

Hopkins Community Education ■■■ Building a great place to live

■■■ HopkinsCommunityEd.org

## Hopkins Preschools

Your preschool choice does make a difference.

**Stepping Stones • Kaleidoscope • Ready4K**

**Stepping Stones Preschool** — for your 4-5 year old:

- Monday-Friday, open 6:45 a.m.-6:00 p.m., year-round or school-year.
- Located at Gatewood, Meadowbrook, and Tanglen elementary schools.

**Kaleidoscope Preschool** — for your 3-5 Year Old:

- Half-day, full- and part-week options, school year, and summer program.
- Current openings at our Kaleidoscope Ready4K sites, call 952-988-5000.

**Ready4K** — Year-Before-Kindergarten for qualifying families:

- Half-day, full-week preschool experience for ages 4-5.



**Frosty Fun!**

**Early Childhood**

**Mark your calendar for indoor winter family fun: January 9, 10-11:30 a.m.**

Come in from the cold for winter fun! Enjoy playing with snow and ice, making snowflake art, singing snowy songs, and listening to winter tales — all indoors! For families with children ages 2-5. \$5 per family

Register: [www.HopkinsCommunityEd.org](http://www.HopkinsCommunityEd.org)





## December/January Events

**Potpourri** - Art exhibit by Hopkins Community Education students.

**December 3-January 3**

Hopkins Center for the Arts, 1111 Mainstreet, Hopkins

**Metropolitan Ballet presents "The Nutcracker"** - A holiday tradition!

**December 5, 1:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m., December 6, 3:00 p.m.**

Hopkins High School Auditorium, 2400 Lindbergh Dr., Mtka, [metroballer.org](http://metroballer.org)

**Hopkins High School Band presents "An Evening of Jazz"**

**December 14, 7:30 p.m.**

Hopkins High School Little Theater, 2400 Lindbergh Dr., Minnetonka

**Hopkins High School Winter Orchestra concert**

**December 15, 7:30 p.m.**

Hopkins High School Auditorium, 2400 Lindbergh Dr., Minnetonka

**Ashley Ballet Arts Academy presents "The Nutcracker"** - Don't miss it!

**December 19, 2:00 and 6:00 p.m.**

Hopkins High School Auditorium, [www.recitalticketing.com/21777](http://www.recitalticketing.com/21777)

**Hopkins Public Schools' Chinese Immersion Information Fair**

**December 8, 6:00-8:00 p.m.**

Eisenhower Community Center, 1001 Highway 7, Hopkins, 952-988-4300

**Hopkins Junior High/High School Winter Band Festival**

**January 7, 7:30 p.m.**

Hopkins High School Auditorium, 2400 Lindbergh Dr., Minnetonka

**Hopkins Public Schools open enrollment application deadline:**

**January 15** Questions? Please call Pat Wright, 952-988-4003.



# HOPKINS

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## Stay Royal at the Hopkins Spirit Shop!

**Perfect for gift giving**

Need great gift ideas for the holidays? Stop by the Spirit Shop for deals on Hopkins spirit wear.

**Holiday Sales, Spirit Shop open:**

Saturday, Dec. 12, 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 19, 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

**Come see us**

The Spirit Shop is located on the main floor of Hopkins High School next to Lindbergh Center. Questions? Call 952-988-4551.



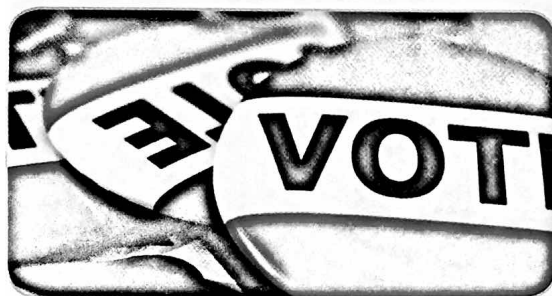
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## New Year, New and Returning School Board Members!



The Hopkins School Board will retain three of its incumbents and gain a new face. Voters re-elected Wendy Donovan of Hopkins, Steve Adams of Minnetonka, and Kris Newcomer of Minnetonka, and chose first-time candidate Dave Larson of Minnetonka to fill the fourth seat. Donovan, who was re-elected for a third term, captured the most votes with 2,769 (22.77%). Adams received 2,419 votes (19.89%), and close behind were Newcomer with 2,401 votes (19.75%), and Larson with 1,927 (15.85%). Long-term board member Irma McIntosh-Coleman did not seek another term. All terms start in January, and last four years.

**Learn more**

To learn more about the Hopkins School Board and to find out when meetings are held, visit the website, [www.HopkinsSchools.org](http://www.HopkinsSchools.org), choose the "About" menu item, and click "School Board."

## Guess Who's Coming to Lunch?!



### Lt. Gov. Smith celebrates Farm-to-School program at Glen Lake Elementary

Glen Lake Elementary students broke bread with some high-profile lunch guests on Oct. 27. Lt. Gov. Tina Smith, Agriculture Commissioner Dave Frederickson, and local legislator and former school board member Rep. Yvonne Selcer were among those at the table.

The guests were celebrating Hopkins Public Schools' participation in the statewide Farm-to-School program, which helps ensure that all students have access to locally grown, nutritious fruits, vegetables, and meats. They also took time to tour Glen Lake's kitchen, which was recently updated to promote even more scratch-cooking practices.

During the kitchen tour, Hopkins nutrition staff demonstrated how quickly an immersion blender could chop fresh produce to be served at the salad bar or even to make homemade

pickles and tomato sauce. Prior to the blender, the staff chopped the vegetables by hand.

Glen Lake's kitchen was updated with \$118,121 of new equipment, including standing mixers, immersion blenders, a combi-oven, and a braising pan. The state's investment of \$50,000 was matched by \$51,000 from Hopkins Public Schools, which was made possible through Capital Project Levy dollars associated with the passage of the 2013 referendum. The remaining \$17,000 was provided by the Center for Prevention at Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota.

Partnering with Riverbend Farms out of Delano, Minn., Hopkins began participating in Farm-to-School in 2006. Since then, the movement has taken off and more than 1,350 Minnesota schools participate