

# School Reporter

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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 McConaughy at (651)463-5079 or smcconnaughy@farmington.k12.mn.us

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## Harrison and Teachau honored with ISD 917 Inclusive Educator Award

This year two Farmington Area Public Schools, ISD 192 teachers were honored with the Intermediate School District 917 Inclusive Educator Award for their work to support the inclusion of the unique learners that are served in our school buildings.

Tory Techau, an art teacher at Robert Boeckman Middle School, was nominated by her Intermediate School District 917 colleague Heather Webb, who praised

her for always welcoming all learners into her art classroom and encouraging their creativity in all circumstances. Techau was presented with the award on December 9th in front of her sixth grade art class.

Jennifer Harrison, a fifth grade teacher at Akin Road Elementary School, was nominated by her Intermediate School District 917 colleague Anna Zappetillo for her work in ensuring all students are

involved and included in her classroom. Both Techau and Harrison, along with award recipients from the eight other Intermediate School District 917 member districts, will be recognized at Intermediate School District 917's January 10, 2023, School Board meeting.

Intermediate School District 917 created the Inclusive Educator Award to acknowledge the incredible work of educators from their nine member districts,

especially during Inclusive Schools Week. Inclusive Schools Week is celebrated annually the first full week in December by families, schools, and organizations in the U.S. and abroad. It highlights and celebrates the progress that schools have made in implementing inclusive practices to ensure a quality education for an increasingly diverse student population.

## Kindergarten enrollment opens January 9th!

When you enroll your children in Farmington Area Public Schools, ISD 192, they become more than students - they become Tigers. Becoming a Tiger means becoming a friend, a helper and a leader. It means learning to be a listener, a speaker, a reader, a writer, a mathematician and a scientist. Our Tigers are explorers, dreamers and creators.

We invite you to explore what kindergarten (and beyond) looks like in Farmington Area Public Schools by visiting our website where you'll find Frequently Asked Questions, a downloadable copy of our Kindergarten Readiness Handbook, brochures, videos, pictures and more.

Start your children on their lifelong learning journey today! Enrollment information can be found at <https://www.farmington.k12.mn.us/enroll> or by scanning the QR code.



# Dr. Steven Geis retires after 19 years as North Trail Principal

Dr. Steven Geis retired from his position as North Trail Elementary School Principal on December 14, 2022 after 19 years in the role and 30 years as an education professional. In addition to supporting many thousands of students and families over the years, he has been a huge support for school staff and colleagues. He served as the president of the National Association of Elementary School Principals during the 2016-17 school year and he was an active force in the Farmington

ington Patriotic Day committee for many years.

Dr. Geis requested a Farmington High School Band concert on his final day and FHS Band Directors Erin Holmes and Bradley Mariska were happy to oblige. They shared in a Facebook post, "The assembly was attended by every student at North Trail Elementary School and featured students from the FHS Wind Ensemble, who played a variety of patriotic and holiday classics. Dr. Geis even sat in on trombone, reminding students that you're never too old to play in band! CONGRATS to Dr. Geis and a sincere thank you for your years of service to our schools and support of music!"

On his last day at North Trail Elementary Dr. Geis also spent time reading to students and serving lunch. He shared via social media, "Thank you NTES. You are all loved and will be missed." He likewise will be missed by the Farmington Area Public Schools community.



Dr Steven Geis

## Kelly Galarneau named Interim Principal at North Trail

Ms. Kelly Galarneau will serve as the Interim Principal at North Trail Elementary for the remainder of the 2022-23 school year. Ms. Galarneau has taught in ISD 192 for 11 years, serving most recently as a 5th grade teacher and Facilitator of Instructional Support at North Trail Elementary, and has shown great care for meeting the needs of our North Trail community.



Kelly Galarneau



## 12 FHS Students Chosen for ACDA-MN Honor Choirs

Twelve students from the Farmington High School Choir were recently accepted to the American Choral Directors Association of Minnesota (ACDA-MN) Honor Choirs. This is a tremendous accomplishment for these student musicians!

The students are: Keaton Nelson, Ethan Lyons, Kris-ter Vigesaa, Hank Levack

(back row); David Olson, Ben Kjellberg, Evan Trenary, Nick Thompson (middle row); Kaia Loos, Emily Flanagan, Abbey Nelson (front row); and, Braden Woody (not pictured).

These students were chosen from among hundreds of auditions to perform in these prestigious ensembles. They will rehearse and perform a concert

on Saturday, February 11, 2023 at Ted Mann Concert Hall on the University of Minnesota campus.

Farmington High School is one of only six schools in the state to have the maximum number of students selected (12). Congratulations to our Farmington High School ACDA-MN Honor Choirs participants!



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# Farmington Choir students sing at Timberwolves game



Farmington High School Choir

It is a longstanding tradition for the Farmington High School Choir to perform the National Anthem at a Minnesota Twins baseball game each summer. This winter 125 Farmington choir students in grades 8-12 had the opportunity to sing the National Anthem at a Minnesota Timberwolves basketball game. FHS Choir Director, Megan Dimitch, shared via Facebook, "To say we had fun would be an understatement! What a blast to share our love of singing with Target Center."


The Farmington High School Choirs followed this up with their annual holiday concert on December 19th, which included a 5th grade honor choir representing all five ISD 192 elementary schools and featured the Rosewood String Quartet. The concert was entitled "Snowy Journey Home" and featured many holiday favorites as well as some less known winter-themed songs. If you missed it, you can catch the replay on the District 192 YouTube channel: [www.youtube.com/c/district192](http://www.youtube.com/c/district192)

## Farmington Community Education welcomes Inclusion Coordinator

Farmington Community Education recently welcomed Ashley Akehurst to the new role of Inclusion Coordinator. Akehurst will be working with students and families that may need additional support and modifications for inclusion within Community Education's programs, as well as overseeing Early Childhood Screening. She previously worked as a Behavior Practitioner in an early intervention program for children with autism.

"I am looking forward to a year of learning and fun!" Akehurst said when asked about her new position. She recognizes that each person has unique learning needs and looks forward to making a difference in the Farmington area community. For further information about Early Childhood Screening, please email Ashley Akehurst at [aakehurst@farmington.k12.mn.us](mailto:aakehurst@farmington.k12.mn.us).





### Early Childhood Screening

**FREE**

**Screen at 3**

The State of Minnesota requires all children, beginning at the age of 3, but before entering Kindergarten in a public school, to complete an Early Childhood Screening through the school district.

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<https://bit.ly/FarmingtonECScreening>

**Screening is:**

- Not an IQ Test
- Not a label
- Not a diagnosis
- Not a placement test
- Not a Kindergarten test

**What to Expect:**

- Hearing and vision check
- Height and weight check
- Speech and development screening
- Health and immunization screening



# FHS Band Returns to Trinity Care after nearly 3 years

In December, after nearly three years of COVID-19 mitigations, the Farmington High School Jazz Bands were able to return to Trinity Care Center where they have traditionally played a winter concert for residents. The Farmington High Schools Bands are directed by Erin Holmes and Bradley Mariska, who regularly go above and beyond to find

performance outlets for band students and to bring music to the Farmington community and surrounding areas.

In addition to regular school concerts, members of the Farmington High School Bands have opportunities to perform at the annual Farmington Patriotic Day celebration, Farmington's Memorial Day service,

in the pep band at athletic events, in special visits to our elementary schools, and many other occasions throughout the year; however, performing at Trinity Care Center is always a highlight.

The band directors shared via Facebook, "Our hearts are full after the jazz bands returned to Trinity Care Center for the first

time in nearly three years. The jazz bands were humbled to be able to provide a variety of big band swing tunes and seasonal favorites to the residents. And to our students, who gave up their free day to give the gift of music to such an appreciative and deserving audience: thank you for your kindness, generosity, and musicianship. You are amazing."



# North Trail Elementary students enjoy acclaimed author visit

In November, fifth grade students at North Trail Elementary enjoyed a visit from Omar Mohamed, co-author (along with Victoria Jamieson) of the graphic novel *When the Stars are Scattered*. The novel, a National Book Award Finalist, tells the

true story of Omar and his brother Hassan, former Somali refugees, growing up in Dadaab, a refugee camp in Kenya. Mr. Mohamed gave a short presentation and then engaged the students in an extended question and answer session. The fifth-graders read

the novel in advance of Mr. Mohamed's visit and prepared thoughtful questions about both the content of the story and the writing process. At the end of the visit, teachers and students expressed their gratitude for the special learning experience.



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**READERS' CHOICE Awards**

# NASA visits Farmington High School

This year, Farmington High School students have had the privilege of two unique learning experiences around space travel and exploration. The first was a visit from NASA Astronaut Mark T. Vande Hei, who also visited Boeckman Middle School during his trip. Vande Hei shared about his career, how he became an astronaut and his experience on the International Space Station. He currently holds the record for the longest American space flight, having spent 355 days in space. Students were engaged by his presentation and asked insightful questions ranging from how space travel affects physical and mental health to the types of experiments performed on the International Space Station.

Later, students had the opportunity to view rocks from earth's moon collected during Apollo missions 15, 16, and 17. These rocks were on loan through an educational program provided by the Johnson Space Center. They were featured as part of the Farmington High School astronomy class, however all students were offered the opportunity to view the moon rocks. ISD 192 science teachers at both the middle school and high school level work hard to find unique learning experiences each year that benefit not only their classes but our greater Tiger community.





# Parent Teacher Partnerships sponsor enrichment opportunities

Thank you to all our Parent Teacher Partnerships (PTPs) throughout ISD 192 for the work they do throughout the school year to make our schools better for everyone! As part of their work on behalf of our Tigers, PTPs help sponsor important enrichment opportunities for ISD 192 students. Some recent highlights include Dancing Sue at Farmington Elementary School and African Drumming at Akin Road Elementary School.

Sue Hulsether, known as Dancing Sue to our elementary students, introduces American folk dance and music to students. While learning square dances

and reels, students also learn social skills, build community, practice listening skills, rhythm, musicality and more. She has visited several of our elementary schools over the years thanks to the support of our PTPs.

Fatawu Sayibu teaches West African drumming and dance workshops. He is originally from the northern region of Ghana and now heads the Tiyumba Dance Company in the Minneapolis/St. Paul metro area. Through special interactive workshops, elementary students learn about music and dance alongside African culture and history. Like Dancing Sue,

the African Drumming program has visited several of our elementary schools over the years. This is a meaningful experience for our learners, made possible by the work of our PTPs.

Parent Teacher Partnerships have helped fund playground equipment, movie nights, field trips, and many other special enrichment activities over the years, in addition to supporting our teachers and administrators. We appreciate the important work of these community partners. To find out more about your school's PTP, visit your school website and look for the PTP link.



## Students & Staff Celebrate Patriotic Day

Each November, in honor of Veterans Day, Farmington holds a Patriotic Day celebration. Staff and students from ISD 192 regularly volunteer their time to take part in this special event and this year was no exception.

A formal program honoring veterans and their service and sacrifice was held in the Recital Hall at Farmington High School following a community dinner. The theme of the event was "Serving Those That Serve," and in line with that a steak dinner (or chicken nuggets for pickier eaters) was provided at no cost to veterans and their families, thanks to generous donations and volunteers.

The FHS Wind Ensemble, the FHS Con Brio Choir, and the Voice of Democracy Essay Winner were all featured in the program, providing patriotic music and inspiring words. This year's featured keynote speaker was Brigadier General Timothy A. Sejba of the US Space Force, who also happens to be a Tiger alumnus.

Farmington is the first Yellow Ribbon community in the state of Minnesota and we take pride in celebrating our patriotism and honoring those that have sacrificed so much to give us our rights and freedoms we enjoy on a daily basis. The Mission of Farmington's Patriotic Day is to promote patriotism with information and recognition of our veterans and to promote involvement through student service and constructing connections with the greater Farmington community.

ISD 192 students and staff were proud to once again take part in this collaborative community event, giving back to veterans and honoring their sacrifice.

A recording of this event is available on the District 192 YouTube channel: [www.youtube.com/c/district192](http://www.youtube.com/c/district192)



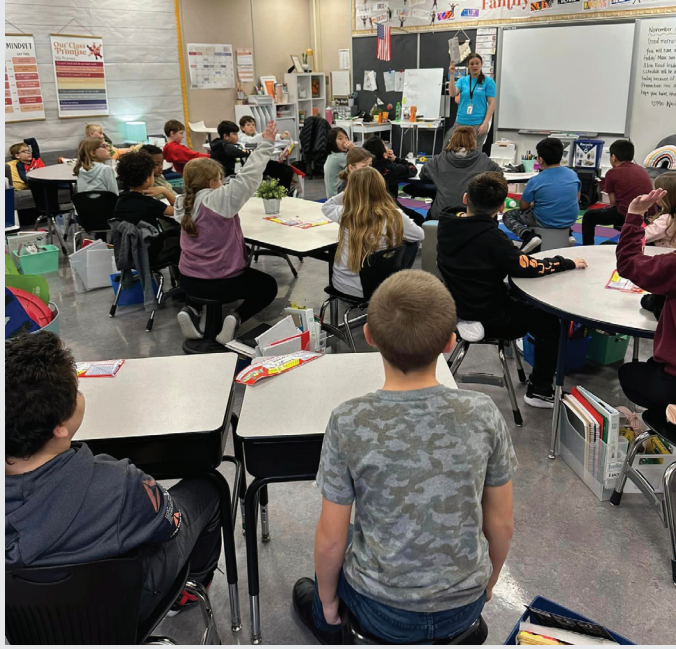
**FARMINGTON**  
**PATRIOTIC**  
**DAY**

# Pollution Prevention at Akin Road Elementary & Farmington Elementary

This fall representatives from Dakota County visited Akin Road Elementary to teach students about our environment and how to

keep it as healthy as possible by preventing pollution. Students sang songs with Rachel Rocks, participated in classroom discussion

and activities, and even got to pet a chinchilla! Students at Farmington Elementary enjoyed a similar program provided by the county.



# Riverview Elementary students write letters to veterans

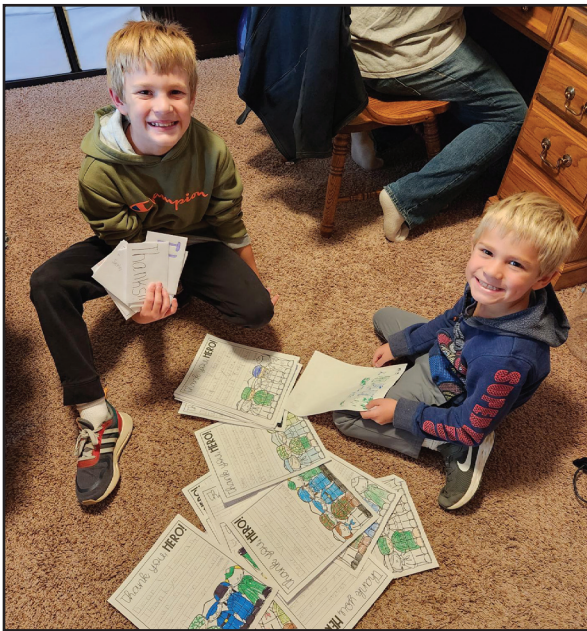
This year, in advance of Veterans Day some students at Riverview Elementary wrote letters to Veterans thanking them for their service. When Jackson and Nathan Koester's dad (Karl) went on The Honor Flight in October with his 90-year-old Grandpa Anthony Deno (a Veteran in the Korean war), along with several other Veterans (3 from World War II), the letters were handed out on the flight.

meaningful moment for them. Just reading letters alone brought up many memories for these men and women who have given so much," Christie Koester shared in an email.

The mission of Honor Flight is to celebrate America's veterans by inviting them to share in a day of honor at our nation's memorials. Veterans who served in World War II, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War, as well as all terminally ill veterans, are eligible to take part in the program. It is a powerful and meaningful experience for all involved.

"Some of your students took the time to color and write beautiful, heartfelt letters that these Veterans were able to enjoy, read, and take home with them. Such a special

*Pictures and story submitted by Christie Koester*





# FARMINGTON

## AREA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

### Tiger Den Store Now Online!

The Tiger Den is the official store of the FarmingtonTigers and ISD 192. It is a student-run retail store located at Farmington High School with online ordering now available on select branded apparel (scan the QR code)! The Tiger Den specializes in Tiger spirit wear and novelty items including Tiger branded apparel such as t-shirts, sweatshirts, hats and more.

function as assistant managers. They are responsible for inventory control and training and supervising Tiger Den Operations I and II students.

By shopping at The Tiger Den, you are supporting this program and our students. You can order online for pickup at Farmington High School by visiting [https://fhs.farmington.k12.mn.us/activities/the\\_tiger\\_den\\_store](https://fhs.farmington.k12.mn.us/activities/the_tiger_den_store) (or by scanning the QR code below). Or, for a wider selection, make an appointment to browse the store in person by emailing TigerDen@farmington.k12.mn.us.

The Tiger Den is managed and operated entirely by Farmington High School students under the supervision of a certified business teacher. In Tiger Den Operations classes, learners develop valuable skills and real world experience they can put on a resume or job application.

Tiger Den Operations I and II are open to FHS students in grades 9-12 and give learners the opportunity to practice customer service skills and gain experience with marketing and promotion. Tiger Den Operations Management is open to students in grades 11 and 12. Learners enrolled in this class



## UPCOMING EVENTS & OPPORTUNITIES

### JANUARY 2023

- JAN 3 - School Resumes
- JAN 6 - 5th Grade Career Fair
- JAN 9 - School Board Meeting, 5:30 p.m.
- JAN 9 - Kindergarten Enrollment Opens
- JAN 12 - BMS Choir Concert
- JAN 16 - Martin Luther King, Jr. Day — No School
- JAN 16 - Non-School Day Open Swim at DMS Pool, 12-2 p.m.
- JAN 17 - BMS Choir Concert
- JAN 18 - Early Childhood Screening
- JAN 23 - School Board Meeting, 5:30 p.m.
- JAN 24 - BMS Band Concert
- JAN 26 - DMS Choir Concert
- JAN 27-28 - FHS One Act Play @ BMS
- JAN 28 - Farmington Community Expo

### FEBRUARY 2023

- FEB 1 - Wee Tigers Preschool 2023-23 Registration Opens; Stepping Stones Summer 2023 and School Year 2023-34 Registration Opens.
- FEB 6 - FHS Winter Jazz Concert
- FEB 8 - Early Childhood Screening
- FEB 13 - School Board Meeting, 5:30 p.m.
- FEB 17 - Flexible Learning Day (district-wide)
- FEB 20 - President's Day — No School
- FEB 27 - School Board Meeting, 5:30 a.m.
- FEB 27 - FHS Winter Band Concerts

### MARCH 2023

- MAR 1 - Kid Connection Summer 2023 Registration Opens
- MAR 9 - 2 Hour Early Release; Elementary & Middle School Conferences
- MAR 10 - Staff Development Day — No School
- MAR 10 - Non-School Day Open Swim at DMS Pool, 12-2 p.m.
- MAR 13 - School Board Meeting, 5:30 p.m.
- MAR 13 - Band Jubilee, 7 p.m.
- MAR 14 - Elementary & Middle School Conferences
- MAR 15 - Early Childhood Screening
- MAR 21 - BMS Ensemble Band Concerts

Check out our website for more events and activities - [www.farmington.k12.mn.us](http://www.farmington.k12.mn.us)



# WE ARE HIRING

## OPEN POSITIONS

- Adult Coach for TNT Gymnastics
- Early Childhood Assistant Substitutes
- ECFE Assistants
- High School Assistant for TNT Gymnastics
- Kid Connection 1:1
- Kid Connection Instructor
- Licensed Early Childhood Teacher Substitutes
- TNT Gymnastics & Parkour Recreation Program Assistant
- Wee Tigers Preschool Assistant

### JOIN OUR TEAM

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