

News Bulletin



NSCS receives Minnesota Department of Education School Finance Award

North Shore Community School has recently been awarded a Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) School Finance Award for 2009, recognizing its fiscal health and sound fiscal management and accountability.

To earn this honor, North Shore Community School complied with all state requirements for meeting

financial reporting deadlines as well as meeting detailed requirements for financial policies, budgeting, fund balances, finance training and overall fiscal health.

North Shore Community School joins an select group earning the award. This year, awards went to 119 out of 559 school districts for fiscal year 2009. Of the winners, 33 percent of the 156 charter schools earned it while 19 percent of the 340 traditional school districts earned it.

(Continued on page 3)

Minnesota Department of Education School Finance Award recognizes school organizations that demonstrate sound fiscal management and accountability.

Director's corner:

Interactive whiteboards contribute to NSCS realizing its 21st century potential

A 21st century learning environment has been built on the Ryan Road this school year.

In August, the school removed the original, nearly 50 year old chalkboards and replaced them with interactive white boards called Promethean ActivBoards.

The interactive white boards resemble, by size and shape, small portable movie screens, except the boards are rigid and mounted onto classroom walls.

Promethean boards provide a display that combines the simplicity of a dry erase board and power of a computer. The

boards are designed to capture the imagination of all students — with color, movement, audio and interaction.

Students use the Promethean boards in their homerooms, as well as during art, music, physical and environmental education classes.

Interactive lessons allow students to manipulate or move pictures and words, write on top of documents, and quickly solve problems. More specifically, students correct errors in writing samples such as spelling and punctuation, cor-

(Continued on page 3)

Inside this issue:

Endowment Fund events planned	2
NSCS News & Notes	2
NSCS Board update	3
Students learn by giving	4
Lion King roars onto NSCS stage	4
PTA Pizza fundraiser underway	4

Facebook Fans:

To keep up to date on the happenings at NSCS, join the North Shore Community School – Parents Staff & Community members Facebook fan page.

NSCS Endowment fund annual giving campaign underway, candlelight bonfire on February 27

The North Shore Community School Endowment Fund Board launched its annual giving campaign in November.

Charitable contributions to the NSCS Endowment Fund are invested and only the interest generated by the fund is used to provide grants for supplemental education program at NSCS.

Programs funded by endowment dollars have long lasting impact and benefit NSCS students for years to come.



Bonfire fun at 2009 Candlelight Ski held at the Korkki Nordic Ski Center.

Last year the Endowment Fund awarded \$3,488 in grants. Examples of programs supported by the grants are environmental education and multicultural diversity.

And for all you skiers and bonfire lovers out there, the Endowment Fund board will be hosting its 4th Annual Candlelight Ski on Feb. 27 at Korkki Nordic Ski Center. Tickets will go on sale in January. More details to come.

NSCS News Bits

Students raise funds, health awareness as they Jump Rope for Heart

NSCS students learned a variety of jump rope skills and about the importance of taking care of their heart during the November Jump Rope for Heart event sponsored by the American Heart Association (AHA).

Forty-four students raised more than \$600 for AHA and all students enjoyed going through the heart obstacle course with the many different types of jumping stations.

Be amazed by all they learn. Just ask a kindergartener about oxygen and yes, even carbon dioxide! Thanks to all who helped support this service learning project!



sciers had once passed through our area and helped form Lake Superior. Not only did students discuss glacier activity, they discussed the many varieties of Lake Superior rocks— granite, anorthosite, rhyolite, basalt, and agates.

Fifth graders explore Split Rock landforms

This past fall North Shore fifth grade students studied landforms and applied what they learned at Split Rock State Park.

While there, the John Dover's and Angela Wood's classes hiked up Day Hill and examined glacial striations at the top.

The students, after considering what they already knew, determined that gla-



NSCS students serenade Duluth Township Homesteaders

On Dec. 2, the 6th grade music class entertained at the Homesteaders' holiday meeting at the Town Hall. Under the enthusiastic direction of Amy Giddings, the students presented an assortment of seasonal music.

One of the favorites, "The First Noel/Pachelbel's Canon," showcased their vocal skills, instrumental prowess and knowledge of musical background. After several other seasonal favorites were enjoyed, a carol-sing with students mixing into the audience ended the program.

The cheerful presentation and fine music was a much appreciated beginning of the season.

-MaryAnn Sironen

From the Board:

NSCS Board receives unqualified opinion on 2009 fiscal audit

At its December meeting, the North Shore Community School Board received the financial audit for the Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2009 from the independent public accounting firm, Eikell & Schilling LTD.

Jennifer Smith from Eikell & Schilling presented the audit findings noting that NSCS once again received an “unqualified opinion” (a positive evaluation). NSCS ended the 2009 Fiscal Year with net assets increasing by \$101,023 and the general fund unreserved fund balance increasing by \$30,665.

The audit noted that by the end of the Fiscal Year of June 30, NSCS had invested \$387,030 in equipment and \$456,613 in leasehold improvements. Appreciation was extended to Director Sue Rose and Business Manager Mabelle Lampela for their work over the past year.

In November, the NSCS conducted its annual election for

open board seats. Nikki Carpenter, NSCS assistant business manager and parent, and Janis Kivela Hooey, NSCS parent, were elected to three year terms. Special thanks to outgoing board members Dayna Stretar and Lauri Twining.

During the annual meeting, Director Sue Rose reported on the goals, successes and challenges of the 2008-09 school year. Members were able to pose questions.

Following the annual meeting, board officers were elected for 2009-2010 are: chair—Janis Kivela Hooey; vice chair—John Dover; secretary—Nikki Carpenter; and treasurer—Alisha Franckowiak.

On Jan. 30, NSCS Board members will conduct their annual strategic planning retreat and board education day. Board members will work on updating and finalizing the NSCS strategic plan.

Generally, the North Shore Community School Board of Directors meets the third Monday of each month at 6:30 p.m. in the NSCS Library. Due to national holidays landing on the third Monday of the month, the Board will meet the fourth Monday in January and February. The public is invited to attend.

-Janis Kivela Hooey, Board chair

NSCS ended the 2009 Fiscal Year with a positive increase in net assets and the general fund unreserved fund balance, receiving an unqualified opinion from its auditors.

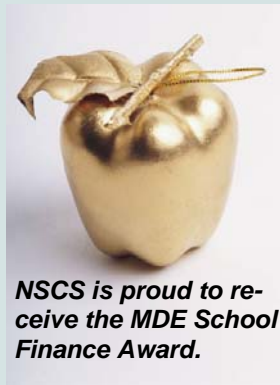
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MDE staff reviewed local publications, audit reports, and thousands of pieces of fiscal data on reporting units to determine the award winners.

MDE's evaluation of reporting units include ensuring that all accounts are zero or positive fund balance, have written policies on positive fund

balances and deficit spending, and that personnel participate in finance and accounting workshops.

The MDE School Finance Award has been presented to school organizations since 2003. Since that time, the award has been



NSCS is proud to receive the MDE School Finance Award.

clarified and strengthened with more rigorous criteria. Even so, according to the Minnesota Department of Education, the number of school districts receiving the award has continued to grow.

NSCS is pleased to receive this recognition.

(Continued from page 1)

rectly sequence lines from songs, graph weather conditions, enter museum websites during social studies, compare and contrast anything from paintings to adverbs and adjectives, and much more!

The Promethean project includes not only interactive whiteboards, but also new laptops for teachers, a second mobile laptop computer lab, and extensive teacher training focused on technology integration.

The Project has been made possible thanks to the school receiving an Enhancing Education through Technology (E2T2) grant from the Minnesota Department of Education. The E2T2 grant will provide the school with close to \$100,000 over the next two years.

As we enter the second decade of the 21st century, North Shore Community School is proudly exploring our technological potential while maintaining a focus on student achievement.

-Susan Rose, director



**North Shore
Community School**

*A School of Choice
A Tradition of Excellence*

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218-525-0663

Susan Rose, Director
Machelle Lampela, Business Mgr.
Heidi Horoshak, Admin. Assistant

NSCS Board Members:

Janis Hooley, chair
John Dover
Alisha Franckowiak
Ray Sundberg
Nikki Carpenter
Mary Nienaber
Carla Tamburro

The public is invited to attend Board Meetings regularly scheduled for the third Monday of the month August—June at 6:30 p.m. in the NSCS Library.

NSCS is sponsored by Wolf Ridge Environmental Learning Center, Finland, Minnesota.

Places...lights...ROAR!!

NSCS Theatre presents THE LION KING

Preparations are already underway for the NSCS Theatre's spring production of The Lion King. This year's musical is open to all kids in Kindergarten through sixth grade and is shaping up to include a cast of nearly 80 kids!

The production dates for the Lion King will be May 1 at 7 p.m. and May 2 at 3 p.m. Mark your calendars for this exciting community event!

We are always in need of talents from the community. We are looking for individuals who sew, build, paint, etc.

Please contact Amy-Jo Fisher if you are able to lend any of these talents to the production. Contact her at 218-343-8927 or safishers@mchsi.com.

NSCS students learn benefits of giving

This year, like many others, North Shore Community School taught students the importance of giving through a school-wide food drive.

Each classroom made a box containing enough food for a Thanksgiving meal from the turkey to the stuffing to the crackers & cheese! Our librarian, Mrs. Jackson, also put a children's book into all the boxes. All the boxes were then donated to the Lake County Food Shelf.

We raised almost **seven-hundred pounds** of food!

I am a sixth grader at NSCS and have been doing this for quite a few years now. When I was younger I never really understood what this was all about. I now understand and am amazed by how much food we can donate if everyone just brings in one or two items each.

This year I helped drop off the boxes at the food shelf. I felt so happy when I saw the whole place fill up with food. I smiled seeing what my school-mates, friends and teachers had done to help those less fortunate this Thanksgiving.

- Autumn Kittilson, NSCS sixth grade student

In December, North Shore staff and students collected new books to donate to the Salvation Army's Toyland Express.

Our theme was **Books for Tots- Giving the gift of literacy**. NSCS has conducted this community service project for the past six years.

This year, a "staff challenge" was added and the staff was encouraged to donate a favorite children's book.



A display was made in the lobby case to show the 25 books matched with the staff members who donated them!

Students donated 110 books and \$216, which was used to purchase 150 additional books. Thanks to all our North Shore

families for supporting this community service project.



Support NSCS PTA Do North pizza fundraiser, join in Winter Frolic fun

Warm up your January by purchasing a Do North pizza from the NSCS PTA.

This successful fundraiser returns to help support the NSCS PTA and NSCS field trips. This was successful for us last year and we hope this continues to be a money maker for the PTA.

Order forms were distributed last Thursday and sent home with the

youngest student in the family. Please contact the school if you have misplaced your order form. Pizzas will be delivered the end of January.

The NSCS PTA Winter Frolic, scheduled



for Feb. 20, is a great way for NSCS families and the community to get together for winter fun. Activities include games, skating, skiing and more.

The fifth grade will offer lunch and treats in the cafeteria to raise funds for their trip to Wolf Ridge in the fall.

Join in the fun at the PTA Winter Frolic on Feb. 20.

-Toni Maki, PTA president