



INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT 2142

ST. LOUIS COUNTY SCHOOLS

"Preparing them for the future"

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JUNE 2021

"Small Schools With Big Opportunities -- Where Everybody is Somebody!"

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Supt's. Update



Supt. Reggie Engebretson, Ed.D

We made it!! As I write this, there are only a few days left and when you read this the school year will be officially over. I am thrilled that we have been able to keep our schools open and have in-person learning happening for almost the entire school year. Some of our schools were only out for distance learning for two weeks all year — one week before and one week after the winter holiday break. A couple of our schools had to do a "re-set" last fall when the COVID numbers got high and we had to close the school for 14 days. Other than that, we have been able to weather through this pandemic and I am grateful to all of the staff, students, parents, school board and community members. THANK YOU!

While we are not completely done with the pandemic, we appear to be moving back to some sense of what school was like before COVID — before March 2020. We will never be able to go back to the exact way it was before COVID. And I really wouldn't want to. We have had many good things happen this school year. Here are a few:

- We learned how to use Zoom. We now know that we can connect with each other and with all of you via Zoom. If

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**Congratulations
to our 2021
District 2142
Graduates!!**



**We are so proud of
your accomplishments!**

**Good luck in all of
your future endeavors**

Coming to the aid of our schools

Individual First Aid Kits in campuses thanks to fire departments, school resource officers, district

By Lee Bloomquist

St. Louis County Schools has taken another step in improving school safety under a partnership between the district, St. Louis County Sheriff's Department School Resource Officers, and area fire departments. Individual First Aid Kits are now available for use by trained staff at each St. Louis County Schools campus.

"It's one more tool in the toolbox," Cherry, Northeast Range, North Woods, and Tower-Soudan Elementary School Resource Officer Brock Kick said. "I feel being prepared is an essential part of making our schools safe."

In the event of a major injury, the kits are designed to control bleeding until emergency medical services (EMS) personnel arrive. Each kit contains tourniquets and a variety of pressure dressings.

The kits were acquired by the Grand Lake Fire Volunteer Department through a Federal Excess Property Management



Tower-Soudan School Principal John Jirik and School Resource Officer Deputy Brock Kick display the "Stop the Bleed" and "Grab and Go" kits available in each St. Louis County Schools campus.

Program. Virginia Fire and Ambulance Department staff, along with ISD 2142

School Resource Officers, assembled and distributed the kits.

North Woods junior recognized with Aspirations in Computing Award

The Minnesota Aspirations in Computing (MNAiC) is supported by Minnesota State IT Center of Excellence and a notable mixture of businesses and organizations. In 2021, 116 Minnesota students were selected by national and state review teams to receive recognition at one or more of the six honoree levels awarded.

Students honored with a Certificate of Distinction are those who have demonstrated an evolving interest, aptitude and commitment for computing, indicating that they merit recognition and entry into the AiC Community. This year, 43 Minnesota students were selected for this honor. One of those students is North Woods junior Katrina Jackson! Katrina was able to attend a virtual awards ceremony where she, and many others, were honored for their hard work.

Katrina has taken an online Computer Science Principles course with Mr. Lindsay at Northeast Range and is receiving college credit for it through Southwest Minnesota State University. As part of this course, Katrina has made several apps, including small games on saving



Katrina Jackson

electricity to a map that gives you information based on the destinations you find. This class has allowed Katrina to explore ideas that have become very important in the times today, such as how to protect devices from viruses and scams and to decipher binary code. Throughout this course, she has learned that the possibilities in this field are endless and she has found a field of study which she is passionate about. Congrats, Katrina!!

Lt. John Swenson, a Cherry High School graduate and Virginia Police Department Community Relations and School Resource Officer, is also helping organize and distribute the kits. Rock Ridge Public Schools and Mountain Iron-Buhl Public Schools, are also benefiting from the program.

At St. Louis County Schools, the "Stop the Bleed" Individual First Aid Kits are included in a "Grab and Go" backpack of essential emergency items previously assembled by School Resource Officers. Kits are located in classrooms and in each nurse's office, Kick said.

So far, the Virginia Fire and Ambulance Department, along with School Resource Officers, have assembled more than 400 Individual First Aid Kits.

"It's a great resource for our schools," Virginia Fire Chief/Emergency Manager Allen Lewis said. "It's one of those things we hope will never be needed, but help is a long ways away in some of these schools, like at Cherry. It's a 20-minute drive for us and with a major bleed you can bleed out quickly, so the fate of that person lies in the hands of the first person to respond."

Training for St. Louis County Schools
(Continued on Page 2)

• *Superintendent's Update*

(Continued from front page)

- we aren't able to be in person (think cold MN days in winter), we can still have a meeting with parents via Zoom.
- We learned how to pivot. We learned how to quickly change our plans and make adjustments. If we had to go into quarantine or we had students out on quarantine, we had to change our plans. If all of a sudden our school was shut down for two weeks, we had to change our plans. We learned how to teach from home and from a computer.
 - We started a regional gifted and talented math class. This was a class that I talked about in the fall of 2019 with a couple of superintendents. We didn't get it off the ground because we didn't think parents would let their 5th or 6th grader take a class over the computer. And then COVID came. We started the class this past February for 5th and 6th graders from several districts in the region. Our hope is to keep this going for next year and expand to a gifted and talented reading class.
 - We were reminded about the importance of relationships and how important it is to stay connected. We took having students in the classroom for granted and when the students weren't in the classroom, it felt strange and weird. Not being able to see the whole face of a kindergartner was heart-breaking. Learning the names of our students last fall and only seeing their eyes was a new challenge. Being able to now see smiles and full facial expressions is a gift we will cherish.

We still have a lot of work to do as we move towards the start of a new school year.

As we plan for next year, here is what I know now:

- Our plan is to have everyone back in school five days a week. We will not be having distance learning teachers or hybrid classes where some kids are at home on the computer and some are in school. We need our students back in the classroom.
- We will meet each student where they are at academically and work each day to help every student make progress. We are not holding students back, if they are currently behind. Research shows that this does not help a student.
- Our focus returns to making sure all students are reading by the end of third grade and are graduating on time. We didn't lose focus of this, but there were more barriers this year.
- We will continue to work on building relationships with students. The research is clear – building positive relationships with students helps them to learn. If we think of a favorite teacher we had in the past, I'm sure they are our favorite because we had

a good relationship with them and felt a positive connection.

- The skills, tips, and tricks we learned this year will continue to be fine-tuned and sharpened. We had to think outside the box and that will help us remain flexible and challenged to try more new things, as we work to engage our students and offer more opportunities.
- As for masks and contact tracing, we have not yet been given guidance by the MN Department of Education (MDE). As soon as I know more, I'll keep you informed.

Enjoy your summer and stay well! If you have any questions, you can reach me at rengebritson@isd2142.k12.mn.us. Otherwise, I'll talk to you in August.

• *Coming to the aid of our schools*

(Continued from front page)

staff has been provided via a video produced by the Virginia Fire and Ambulance Department.

"The Virginia Fire Department hopes these are never needed," Lewis said of the kits. "But our experience shows us that preparation is essential."

Lewis said the department hopes in the future to be able to conduct in-person staff training in collaboration with School Resource Officers.

The kits, said Kick, are designed for military use, but were acquired through the Federal Excess Property Program.

"The kits are for major bleeds, so if there's a bleed in a kitchen or shop, these items can control the bleed immediately prior to EMS arriving," Kick said. "The main thing as school resource officers is

that we want to do whatever we can to provide a safe learning experience. We want to have a fun, safe, successful school year and this is one more item we can have in our schools to help make schools safe."

Allen said developing the kits in partnership with the district, School Resource Officers, and other fire departments, is a perfect example of working together.

"The collaboration with others is great," Lewis said. "We hope to expand it (the Individual First Aid Kits) program from here."

Deputy Kick said he thanks all who made the "Stop the Bleed" campaign possible.

FREE SUMMER LUNCH FOR CHILDREN!

Meet Up & Chow Down will be available grab & go style for children ages 1-18 at the following sites this summer:

AURORA Location: Public Library Time: 12 pm - 1 pm Days: Monday - Thursday June 7 - September 3	NASHWAUK Location: Public Library Time: 12 pm - 1 pm Days: Monday - Thursday June 7 - September 3
CHISHOLM Location: Kiwanis Park Time: 12 pm - 1 pm Days: Monday - Thursday June 7 - September 3	VIRGINIA Location: AEOA Time: 12 pm - 1 pm Days: Monday - Thursday June 7 - September 3
MT. IRON Location: Public Library Time: 12 pm - 1 pm Days: Monday - Thursday June 7 - September 3	Location: HRA (Pine Mill Court) Time: 12 pm - 1 pm Days: Monday - Thursday June 7 - September 3
HIBBING Location: Bennett Park Time: 12 pm - 1 pm Days: Monday - Thursday June 7 - September 3	Location: Olcott Park Time: 12 pm - 1 pm Days: Monday - Thursday June 7 - September 3



MEET UP and CHOW DOWN

Lunches are served first-come-first-served and are available rain or shine!



United Way of Northeastern MN

Meet Up and Chow Down is provided in our region through a partnership between United Way of Northeastern Minnesota, the MN Dept. of Edu., and the USDA. For more information: call 218-254-3329 or email michelle@unitedwaynemn.org

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Duluth Police Officers and K9s visit South Ridge

South Ridge Elementary students received a visit from some two-legged and four-legged police officers on Thursday, May 20. Officer Jeremy O'Connor and Kallie, Officer Dean Bauers and Riggs, and Officer Aaron Haller presented a K9 demonstration to thank the students for their fundraising efforts this past March. The coin drive at South Ridge raised \$1,600 and an anonymous donor, who saw their video on Facebook, matched that amount for a total of \$3,200. This money went to the Northland K9 Foundation, which supports K9 programs in Duluth, Hermantown, St. Louis County, Superior, and Douglas County.

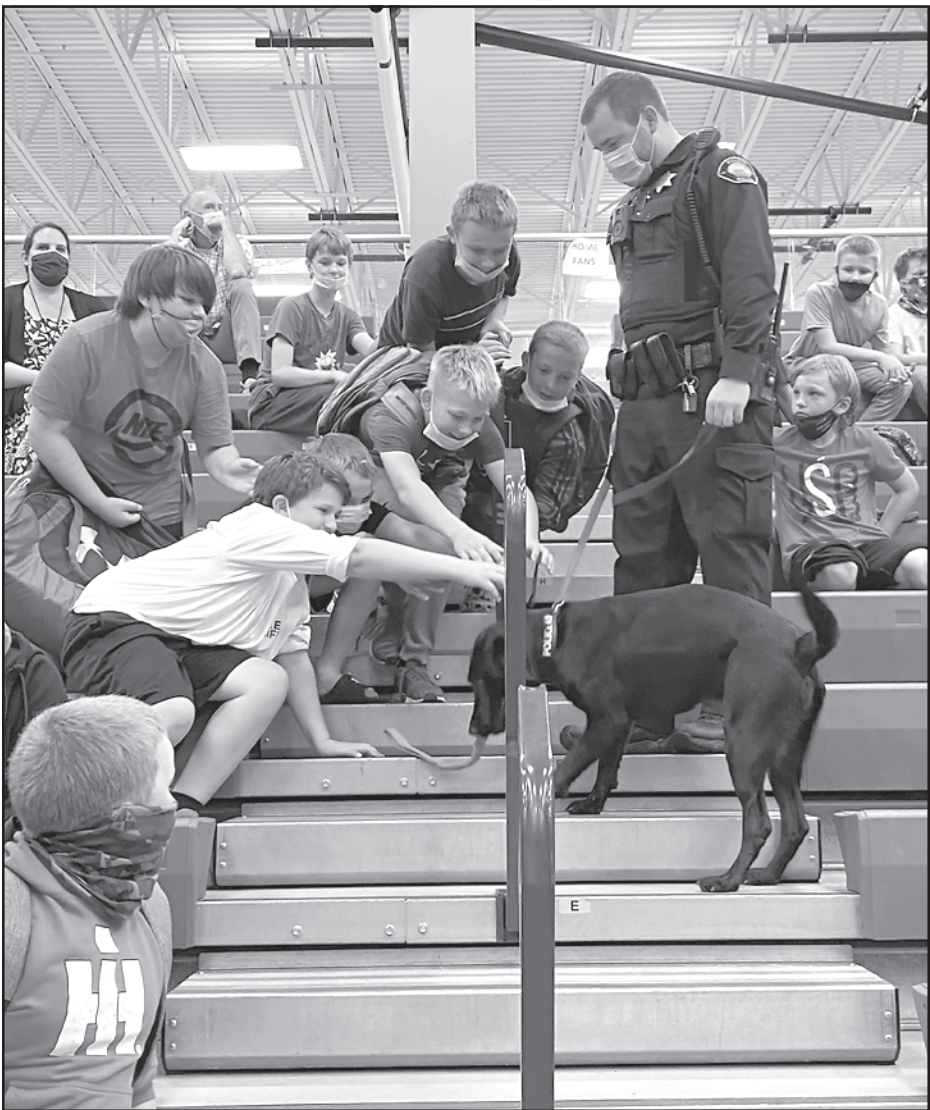
The students watched Kallie find an explosive device that was hidden in one of four black boxes. She did the demonstration three times and picked the correct box every time. Kallie is a black lab and is used for her super awesome nose. When she finds the right smell, she sits and stares at the box. Her tail is wagging so quickly that her behind can barely stay in the same place. Kallie was so friendly and she got to walk in the bleachers so every student could pet her.

The students then watched Riggs

demonstrate his grand obedience. Sit, down, heel! It didn't matter how badly he wanted his toy, he did what Officer Bauers commanded perfectly — except when he turned his back — Riggs scooted closer and closer to the toy. Officer Bauers caught him and quickly brought him back to obeying. Both dogs worked hard just to get their toy and have some time to play. It was easy to see that these dogs have a GREAT LIFE. They do what they were taught to do and then they get to play or get a treat.

The most amazing part of the visit was that Officer Haller came. After losing two police dogs within a few years of each other, no one really knew if he would continue to be a K9 handler. He talked about Haas and Luna a little and was very proud of himself for not crying. He also told the students that their fundraising, caring, and the video they sent him was the reason he decided to continue to be a K9 handler.

WOW, Panthers! When you do something nice for someone you don't even know, you can change the world! You never know if Officer Haller's next K9 is going to be the one that helps out you or your family in a time of crisis.



Officer O'Connor brings Kallie through the crowd to get some love from the fifth-graders.

South Ridge students compete in State virtual speech tournament



Pictured, wearing face masks in accordance with COVID protocol, are Quinn, Owen, and Paris, along with their advisor, Mary Castellini. Pictured without masks are siblings Quinn and Paris.

Quinn FierkeLepp, Owen Erickson, and Paris FierkeLepp represented South Ridge School at the Minnesota State High School virtual speech tournament on Saturday, April 24. While the

school's speech team has qualified and participated in the state tournament numerous times in past years, this was the first time South Ridge had students become state finalists. Quinn FierkeLepp earned a fifth-



place medal in the category of Creative Expression, and Paris FierkeLepp earned a seventh-place medal in the category of Extemporaneous Reading.

Kindergarten 2021-2022

Kindergarten registration information has been mailed to all families on our Early Childhood census who are not attending the district preschool program. If you are new to the area and have not received any information, please contact your local school.



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Northeast Range High School Band returns from Orlando



The Northeast Range High School Concert Band recently returned from a nine-day trip to Orlando, Florida to participate in the OrlandoFest Music Festival. This trip was supposed to happen last year, but due to COVID, it was postponed until this year. Twenty-five students and four adults, including band director Kevin Ryks, left on April 27 and returned on May 5.

While in Orlando, the band participated in a music workshop with director Keith Galasso, in charge of

the music technology and sound engineering at Dr. Phillips High School in Orlando, performed at the lower amphitheater on City Walk at Universal Studios, and competitively performed at Oak Ridge High School where they were judged and received an “Excellent” rating. This is the second highest rating that director, Mr. Ryks, has ever received with a concert band during his eight trips of bringing students to this event.

In addition to the music festivi-

ties, the students and adults spent time at the Universal Studios Theme Parks, Medieval Times Dinner and Entertainment Show, Busch Gardens and Cocoa Beach.

Band members participated in fundraisers over the last five years to fund this trip. The band also received gracious monetary and food donations from area businesses and organizations which they are extremely thankful for.

Northeast Range School has been extremely lucky to have band in-

person this year despite COVID restrictions. They have had two successful band concerts and celebrated Music in Our Schools month by presenting a concert to the elementary students.

Band members are extremely grateful for the support they received from their communities, families, and the district for making this trip and school year a success!



The Northeast Range High School Concert Band performing in front of the Hard Rock Cafe in Orlando, Florida.

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Cherry Preschoolers Learn About Gardening



Even though winter was hanging on, things were heating up in the preschool classrooms! Cherry preschoolers were busy learning about and comparing seeds, caring for gardens and plants, good vs bad insects as well as various types of gardens (flower, vegetable, maze to name a few). They created mazes with blocks. They experimented to see if a seed could grow without dirt and/or sunlight. They planted various types of seeds such as peas, flowers, carrots, potatoes, strawberries, pumpkins, cucumbers, etc., and discussed why some seeds grew and why some did not. They transplanted seedlings to larger containers and continued to care for the plants.



MAY DAY BASKETS AT CHERRY



Cherry preschoolers had a fun day making and delivering May Day baskets and learning the importance of thinking of others. May Day baskets were delivered to the office, custodial, kitchen, and transportation staff.



Parents — We are Here for You!



Check out the Parenting Resources section on our website at <https://www.isd2142.net/page/3003>

On the website you will find four different newsletters that are changed monthly along with a parent involvement library full of short brochures on a variety of topics parents are interested in.

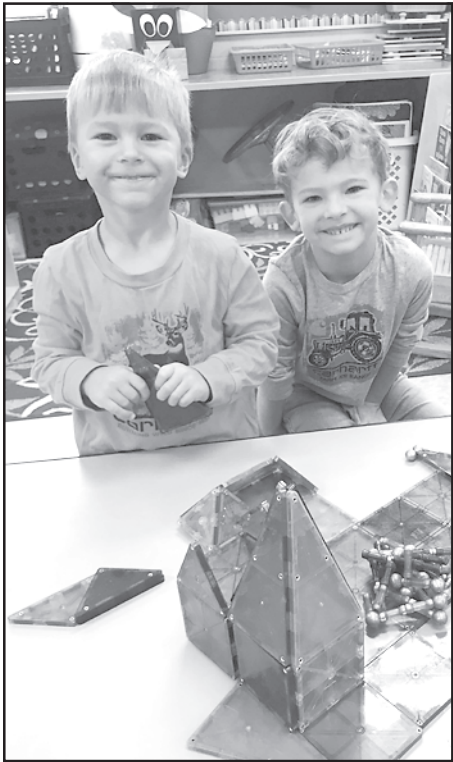
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Northeast Range Community Theatre



Northeast Range Community Theatre proudly presented "The Magical Lamp of Aladdin" in May. The actors worked very hard on doing the absolute best they could and they certainly succeeded. It was challenging for all, but they did it with a smile, a laugh, and a few "wows" along the way. "I am so proud of them," said Mr. Joe, the director, "and that is all that needs to be said. Thanks to everyone who came out and supported these amazing kids!" Until next time ...

ECFE – Early Childhood Family Education



If you have questions about ECFE, please contact the ECFE staff at your school! We are here to support you as a parent! Please reach out! Join us for a class!

School	Staff	email
Cherry	Lori Udovich, Parent Educator Jocelyn Jerkovich, Child Educator	ludovich@isd2142.k12.mn.us jaerkovich@isd2142.k12.mn.us
North Woods	Becky Chopp, Child Educator Lori Udovich, Parent Educator	bchopp@isd2142.k12.mn.us ludovich@isd2142.k12.mn.us
Northeast Range	Jane Bradford, Child Educator Sarah Hansen, Parent Educator	jbradford@isd2142.k12.mn.us shansen@isd2142.k12.mn.us
South Ridge	Christina Nelson, Child Educator Sara Lorbiecki-Brown, Parent Educator	chrisnelson@isd2142.k12.mn.us slorbieckibrown@isd2142.k12.mn.us
Tower-Soudan	Mary Larson, Child Educator Sarah Hansen, Parent Educator	mlarson@isd2142.k12.mn.us shansen@isd2142.k12.mn.us

"Small Schools With Big Opportunities -- Where Everybody is Somebody!"

The Kids Heart Challenge is held at schools across the country, delivering heart-healthy physical activity through service learning for the American Heart Association. Elementary students at Northeast Range School recently held this annual event, which encourages students to be active and helps them learn the value of community service. Prior to the event, students collect donations before spending some time on the playground jumping rope, shooting hoops, hula hooping and doing other physical activities. In addition to raising awareness, the money raised goes to help children with heart-health issues.

Kids Heart Challenge.
This year students doubled
what they collected last
year, raising over \$4,000!
This money will help
save 82 LIVES
this year!

A black and white photograph of a young child sitting in a grassy field. The child is wearing a striped hoodie with the hood up and dark pants. They are positioned between two large, textured balls, one on each side. The child's right hand is touching the ball on the right. The background features a line of trees and a building in the distance.

DaNeil 218-749-8130 ex 1116 or dsirjord@isd2142.k12.mn.us



Cherry School Reading Wall of Fame

The following Cherry School students became members of the "Reading Wall of Fame" during the months of March, April, and May: Addie Reimer (K), Berkley Olson (K), Norah Carver (K), Harper Kemp (K), Henry Melhorn (K), Isabelle Argir (K), Reid McLellan (K), Mia Heitzman (1), Sylas Miller (1), Rayvynne Mattson (1), Sophia Warwas (2), Jourdyn Crossley (2), Aubrey Incontro (2), Asher Acosta (3), Annabelle Courteau (3), Bauer Matanich (3), Mackenzie Herring (3), Bethany Hoche (3), Hoyt Kemp (3), Vladimir Stokes (3), Christian Skillings (3), Cole Nelson (3), Anniston Stenlund (4), Ryan Grangruth (4), Connor Hansen (4), Alivia Ricketson (4), Emma Morterud (4), Zatina Wehrenberg (4), Kylie Sikkila (4), Maya Nelson (4), John Olson (4), Trinity O'Gowen (4).

Students had to read books and take AR quizzes to earn 40 points. Kindergarten and first-grade students had to read 900 minutes. The students' pictures are posted in the main hallway at the school. Cherry School is very proud of these Reading Tigers!!!



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**Help us build our
Early Childhood
Mailing List!**

Do you have a child under the age of 5? If so, we would like to add you to our Early Childhood mailing list. Please call and leave a message for DaNeil at 218-749-8130 ex 1116 or email her at dsirjord@isd2142.k12.mn.us.

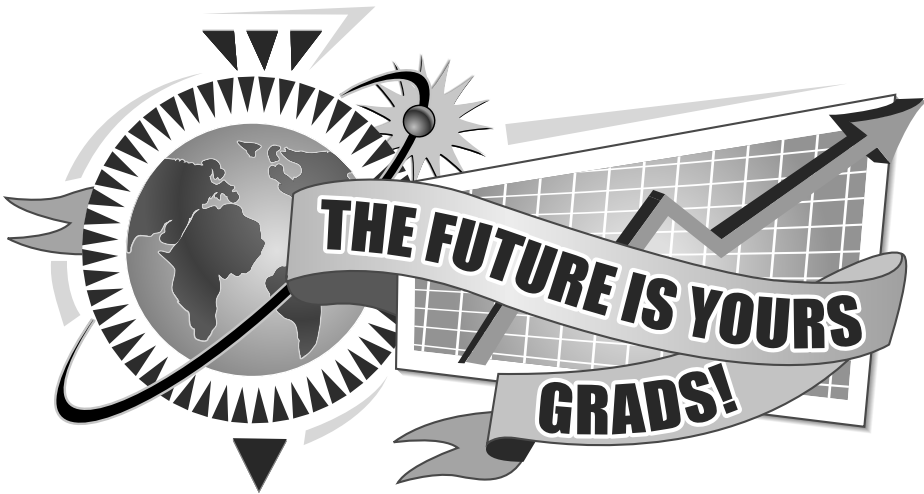
Or you can contact your school Early Childhood team and ask them to add you to the Early Childhood census list. We need: Parent and child's name (legal names), child's birthday, address, phone number and if you have an email we would like that too!

T-S Students Learn About Plants



Third-graders at the Tower-Soudan Elementary School grew hairy caterpillars while studying plants.

HATS OFF
To Our Graduates!



BUILD A CHILD A LIBRARY BY AGE 5!
Donations to United Way of Northeastern Minnesota support our local Dolly Parton's Imagination Library program!

To sign up a child you know for this FREE program, contact 218-254-3329 or info@uwnemn.org



**GET CONNECTED.
GET HELP.**

COMPLETELY CONFIDENTIAL | FREE | ACCESSIBLE 24/7

Contact 211 today for expert, caring help with food, health care, housing and utilities payment assistance, employment services, veterans' services, childcare, crisis and emergency counseling, disaster assistance, and more.

Call 211 for immediate assistance or visit 211.org for more info.



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