



Fundraiser combines gratitude, giving

Campaign provides up to a fifth of annual Foundation revenue

By Jonah Kupritz

The spring Gratitude Greeting campaign is underway, offering students and their families an opportunity to thank their teachers and support the Foundation at the same time.

Coordinator Barb Patterson said parents and students are invited to send Gratitude Greetings, which are messages of thanks to teachers, coaches or administrators at any St. Louis Park school.

“It’s kind of like a double present,” she said. “They thank the teachers for a great year, a great experience, and then they also are giving out a gift through the monetary donation to the Foundation.”

Patterson said Gratitude Greetings now provide between 12 and 20 percent of Foundation revenue.

“The money that we raise goes to fund grants to teachers for projects that might otherwise not be funded,” she said.

According to Patterson, around 400 greetings were sent out each of the past two years, mostly at the end of the school year. However, people send Gratitude Greetings year round.

Patterson said she believes teachers appreciate the recognition from students and families.

“I think teachers are really touched that families take time to thank them,” she said.

Patterson said she hopes to see an increase in donations across the district this Spring.

“My hopes for this year are that we will have an increased number of people in each school that participate,” Patterson said.



Giving thanks: Gratitude Greetings are available for purchase throughout the year. See the Foundation website, slppsf.org, for the details and procedures.



Connectivity: Sisters Leslie Adler and Meryll Page sign their book at an event benefiting the Foundation.

Book event celebrates homecoming

Former teacher reunites with students, parents at book signing fundraiser

By Jamie Halper

Students, parents, friends and book-lovers gathered at St. Louis Park High School Sept. 11, 2014, for an evening celebrating the publication of “Jewish Luck.”

The presentation about the book, written by retired history teacher Meryll Page and her sister, Leslie Adler, focused on the theme of connectivity.

The event raised \$1,600 benefiting the St. Louis Park Public Schools Foundation (SLPPSF).

The book, as summarized on morejewish-luck.com,

“...recounts the intertwined stories of two women who—in their struggles against the anti-Semitism and patriarchy of the Soviet regime and the rebranded ‘new’ Russia—succeed by creating their own luck.”

Audience members had the opportunity to visit with the authors, receive signed books and reconnect with each other throughout the evening.

“We had such a good time. It was so emotional for me to see former students and parents. I loved it,” Page said following the presentation.

Thanks to the generosity of the authors, all proceeds from the event went to the SLPPSF grant program, supporting classroom innovations across the district. For more information on the book, visit morejewishluck.com.



St. Louis Park Public Schools Foundation would like to thank Honey and Rye Bakehouse for its generous support, including free coffee for donors, of the SLPPSF on Give to the Max Day.

Grant money transforms learning



New tech: Students in Milissa Hoffman's third grade Spanish class at Park Spanish Immersion use podcasts while learning. Hoffman said the technology, available through a grant, enables students and parents to practice vocabulary together at home.



Reading buddies: Two first graders at Susan Lindgren Elementary share a book they chose from the new leveled library provided by the SLPPSF grant. First grade teacher Elizabeth Windhorst said the books have given struggling readers more confidence when they sit down to read.

Grant Application Instructions:

1. Go online to the website at <http://www.slppsf.org> and click on "For Teachers."
2. Follow the link to "Apply for a grant" and download the grant application.
3. Once completed, send the grant application to grants@slppsf.org.
4. Applications are due by April 30, 2015.
5. For more information, contact Dr. Lorraine Boyle at 952-926-9658.



Focused: Students in Katie Small's middle school science class sit on Hokki stools, listening attentively as she demonstrates an experiment. Small said the new stools, provided by a Foundation grant, help eliminate distractions and promote concentration.

The 2014 Give to the Max Day, hosted by GiveMN on Nov. 13, raised \$13,666 to be used for grants provided to St. Louis Park public schools. Dollar-for-dollar matches helped boost the total.



New calculators increase engagement

Improved technology sparks greater math participation

By Jackson Eilers

A classroom set of upgraded calculators, provided by a Foundation grant, have led to an increased amount of engagement from students, according to high school math teacher Elizabeth Huesing.

“It allows for a more interactive class and it increases student engagement throughout the class,” Huesing said, while playing with the classroom’s new technology.

The grant Huesing received this year allowed her to buy 30 TI-nspire calculators and 30 Navigator systems.

According to Huesing, these systems allow teachers to track each student’s work on the calculator by connecting each device to a program run on the teacher’s computer.

The Navigator system also allows each

students to log into their own accounts using their student identification numbers. This lets the teacher track each student’s work individually.

“It really lets us see how students are doing on certain topics and if they need to improve on a certain skill,” Huesing said. “The student is really asked to explain their reasoning more. We can now ask them how they got the answer.”

These systems allow the teacher to look at each student’s progress and train of thought, unlike clickers, which were used before the Navigator systems.

According to Huesing, the calculators have many additional functions that help the students in class.

“The calculators have certain functions that make it easier to use math symbols and graphs,” Huesing said.

She said the calculators also include a feature called screen capture which allows stu-



New resources: Juniors Jayda Jeske and Martha Sutter explore the new features of their calculators while working on class assignments.

dents to learn the material at their own pace, in case the teacher is going too fast.

Huesing said the availability of the calculators has been a major factor to the improved class engagement.

“We have enough calculators so that every kid has access to one every day,” Huesing said.

Science class benefits from new scales

Grant provides new lab equipment for students

By Hannah Bernstein

A grant from the St. Louis Park Public Schools Foundation opened new doors for high school science teacher Jenny Magdal and her crew of young chemists.

The grant provided four new scales for the classroom. These scales are more precise, replacing two scales that were imprecise and old. The science department now has six upgraded scales for student use, according to Magdal.

Magdal said the high precision of the scales means they go out to the thousandth digit. This is a huge advantage in the classroom when it comes to the use of chemicals, she said.

“We can use fewer materials, which is beneficial because it doesn’t put students at risk as much because we’re using less poten-

tial irritants,” Magdal said. “It also puts less chemicals out into the environment when we’re done with them.”

According to Magdal, these scales have been the most useful during design labs, in which students individually create their own lab procedure, execute it and discuss the results.

Magdal said more students are able to use the scales during their experiments without needing to constantly share and switch equipment with the people around them.

“One student has used one of the scales for the entire experiment,” Magdal said. “We have a one-to-one ratio for a couple of the lab groups, which is really phenomenal.”

Sophomore Ronen Pink is a student in Magdal’s class. He said the addition of the scales makes everything easier.

“Currently, we are doing an experiment that is solely dependent on scales,” Pink said. “It’s incredibly important that we get the numbers correct.”



Weighing his options: Sophomore Eric Anderson uses the lab equipment provided by the Foundation grant while measuring chemicals for an experiment. The three new scales assist students with their scientific investigations, according to science teacher Jenny Magdal.



The mission of St. Louis Park Public Schools Foundation: To enhance learning for the students of St. Louis Park schools.

How to donate:

1. Go online to the website at <http://www.slppsf.org> and click on "Donate Now."
2. Send your check to St. Louis Park Public Schools Foundation, PO Box 16367, St. Louis Park, MN 55416.
3. Donations of time and talent are welcome, too. If you are interested volunteering, visit the SLPPSF website and contact president Peter Levy.

St. Louis Park Public Schools Foundation Fiscal Fact Sheet

Endowment Fund total as of March 2015: \$237,000

Every year the donations raised are deposited into two funds: the Operating Fund and the SLPPSF lasting Endowment Fund. Donors may request that their gifts go directly into the Endowment, which is a great "planned giving" option for leaving a legacy from family estates, trusts, and foundations.

The chart below shows the SLPPSF grant amount history through the 2013/14 school year.

School year	Grant total
2004/2005	\$10,000
2005/2006	\$37,000
2006/2007	\$38,500
2007/2008	\$25,250
2008/2009	\$35,275

School year	Grant total
2009/2010	\$33,800
2010/2011	\$40,140
2011/2012	\$41,824
2012/2013	\$42,950
2013/2014	\$39,225

Grant total allocated for the 2014/2015 school year: \$43,000

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