



Community Education

ROBBINSDALE AREA SCHOOLS

May 2009 • Number 1

FROM THE DIRECTOR—

I joined the Robbinsdale Area Schools last fall. Amazingly, it is already spring! They just don't make years as long as they used to.

I have learned much over the past year. Within our department, district, and community are incredible people working hard to serve the community to the fullest extent they can.

As I go about my work each day, I meet folks who are familiar with a program or two within the Community Education family. Few realize the full range of programs offered. Connections are made across program areas and across the

school district that otherwise would not occur. The connections and relationships result in higher quality programs and greater involvement. We are more than the sum of our parts when we:

- Deliver high quality, research based programs
- Add value to learning across the district
- Leverage resources by partnering with others

As we do this, we increase learning, increase connections and relationships that make a real difference in the lives of our learners and the vitality of our community.

—Al Ickler, Executive Director

HER SON USED TO CALL HER MOM. THANKS TO COMMUNITY EDUCATION, HE NOW CALLS HER TEACHER.



REAL LIVES. REAL IMPACT.

Karla came to the United States from Peru. At Robbinsdale Area Schools Community Education, she learned how to speak English. Now she tutors children in math and reading at her son's school. Who knows, maybe some day he'll also call her Mother of the President.

We're on the web



www.ced.Rdale.org

WHAT'S NEWS—

GED AND HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA GRADUATION—CELEBRATION OF LEARNING—

The Adult Academic Program invites you to graduation ceremonies Thursday, May 28th, at 7 p.m., Robbinsdale Cooper High School Auditorium.

COMMUNITY EDUCATION SUMMER PROGRAMS—

ADVENTURE CLUB SCHOOL AGE CARE for K-6—Registration is open for Summer and Fall Adventure Club. Call 763-504-5320 for information.

SUMMER ACTIVITIES FOR K-4 AND 5-8—June 15th-July 17th. Four weeks of fun—see the complete brochures at www.ced.Rdale.org or call 763-504-6999 for information.

ADULT ACADEMIC PROGRAM—Summer classes in GED/ Basic Skills and ESL will be held at Winnetka Learning Center, June 9th-July 16th. GED Testing Center will be open Tuesdays through July 14th for pre-registered testing. Call 763-504-8300 for information.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT—

Volunteers Change the World

In the face of impossible odds, people who love their country can change it. It can't happen without you, without a spirit of service.—President Barack Obama

Community Volunteers in Schools, a program of the Community Education Department, works across the district to identify schools and programs where volunteers can make a difference. Continuous outreach to the community to identify the volunteers, effective screening, orientation and placement, is driving the number of volunteers higher than in past years. And their impact on learning is also greater than ever before.

Recently, volunteer Dick Snell was one of six volunteers statewide to receive the Outstanding Volunteer Award from the Minnesota Literacy Council.

Robbinsdale Area Schools annual Volunteer Recognition event was held on May 18th. Volunteers were warmly thanked, and their impact recognized. Students benefit. Teachers benefit. Volunteers benefit. Community grows.

EARLY CHILDHOOD FAMILY EDUCATION (ECFE)

Throughout the year, families with young children have streamed through the doors of ECFE classrooms. They leave smiling, having learned, having reflected on their parenting skills, and having connected with other new families in their community. And behind those smiles lay the hard work of staff who worked throughout the year updating the curriculum. The curriculum follows the Minnesota Dept. of Education's (MDE) guidelines of the Minnesota Parent Education Core Curriculum Framework and MDE's Early Childhood Indicators of Progress. The curriculum defines the core content in parent and early education. Other ECFE programs from around the state have purchased this curriculum from Robbinsdale as they recognized the quality of the work and saw its application in their classrooms.

FAMILY LITERACY PROGRAM

The Family Literacy program is delivered by Adult Academic Program and ECFE staff, and partially funded by a federal Even Start grant. The program is completing its fourth year at the Winnetka Learning Center and serves ELL families (English Language Learners) through integrated services of adult education and language acquisition, parent education, and early literacy skills for the children.

The program implemented the OWL (Opening the World of Learning) curriculum this year. OWL is a research based early literacy curriculum that also follows Minnesota Department of Education's Early Childhood Indicators of Progress.

DISCOVER U (YOUTH PROGRAMS)

Beginning in January, after school classes ranging from anime drawing to rock guitar were offered through Community Education at Plymouth and Robbinsdale Middle Schools. These additional learning opportunities were coordinated with athletic and interscholastic activities and designed to provide students with enrichment options and in building rela-

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT THROUGH COMMUNITY EDUCATION

Community Educators know that stakeholders need to be involved in designing and delivering programs. If you are interested in being involved, contact us by phone at 763-504-8028 or e-mail RobbinsdaleAreaCommunityEducation@Rdale.org

Community Education Advisory Council

Program Advisory Councils

- Adventure Club
- ECFE
- Senior Services
- Windows of Opportunity for Adults with Disabilities
- Student Advisory to the Board of Education (SABE)

Volunteers in Partnership

Placing volunteers throughout the district

OTHER OPPORTUNITIES FOR INVOLVEMENT

Seven Dreams Foundation—a community foundation raising funds to support innovative programs in district classrooms and beyond (www.sevendreamsfoundation.org)

Legislative Action Coalition—a citizen-led advocacy group supporting the district and the learners, families, and communities it serves (www.Rdale.org)

tionships with peers and adult leaders.

The 14th annual middle school youth summit was held on February 10th. Over 100 students heard Ms. Sha Cage speak about youth empowerment. They also participated in curriculum where they learned about leadership and the importance of service to their school and community.

ADULT ENRICHMENT

Great classes for adults and seniors through Community Education. Yes! But some folks say they're too busy so Community Education started offering instructor led, on-line classes. Classes ranging from Creating Your Own Web Page, to Conversational French begin monthly and include lessons, assignments, discussions, and more.

Additionally, the 2nd annual Lifetime Learner event was held May 6th at Winnetka Learning Center. This reception rewards students who have gained defined levels of participation through on going enrollment in Community Education enrichment programs. Lifetime Learner Members receive discounts, and invitations to special events. On May 6th, they

were able to listen to "Sinatra crooner" Tim Patrick at the Winnetka Learning Center. Interested? Get involved!

ADVENTURE CLUB


SCHOOL AGE CARE

Adventure Club supports parents' peace of mind by providing a safe, supervised, learning environment for children before/after school, and through Adventure Club's half-day Kindergarten program. Students benefit because they are applying learning through hands on experiences (like the movie making unit taught in partnership with the district's technology dept. staff), developing new relationships with peers and adults, and having fun (fun still matters).

Adventure Club staff take pride in their ability to develop unique and meaningful relationships with each individual child (research shows how important it is for healthy child development). Ongoing staff development is the key in this quest. Building upon past professional development, staff had multiple training sessions on diversity issues, including a PACER led session on inclusion. Understanding each child matters.

ADULT ACADEMIC PROGRAM

"City Day" on April 28th was a very successful event. Representatives from New Hope, Brooklyn Park, Crystal, Brooklyn Center, and Plymouth presented information about their various community services to the students in the English Language Learners program. As recent immigrants, they welcomed information about city services, park programs, law enforcement, and more. Partnerships make a difference.



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