

# INSIDE YOUR SCHOOLS

A newsletter for our District Residents.



WINTER 2018

## WAPS DRAMA STUDENTS SHINE BRIGHT

The Winona Area Public Schools Drama opportunities in Middle and High School have produced outstanding musicals and plays in the past and this year is no exception. With new directors at the middle and high school, there is much activity and excitement around upcoming productions.

The Middle School After School Activities program is pleased to welcome Jerry Goodwin as the drama club director. Mr. Goodwin is from South Carolina and he discovered the thrill of theatre shortly after retiring from the US Army. In his first experience in theater he was a scenic carpenter in Seattle, Washington. Theatre has brought his family to the Winona Community and he is looking forward to guiding the forty-five young adults as they discover the adventures of theatre.

This year's musical is "Dorothy in Wonderland". It is a fantastical mash-up of L. Frank Baum's *Wizard of Oz* and Lewis Carroll's world of *Alice in Wonderland*. At the end of *Wizard of Oz*, Dorothy does not get to go home just yet. She, and her three heroic companions, are thrown into Wonderland where, to get back to both Oz and Kansas, they must help Alice and her mad friends defeat the evil Queen of Hearts. A motley crew of faces we all recognize will be re-imagined by the students of our community as they show the strength we have when we work together instead of separately. Come join the students and Mr. Goodwin as they entertain and delight you with this marvelous story.

The Senior High Activities department is pleased to welcome Erin Zomorski as the drama director. Ms. Zomorski graduated from Winona State University with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Communication Studies and a minor in Theatre. She went on to earn a Master of Arts in Theology and the Arts. She brings a strong knowledge of theater and experience in stage management.

An important goal for Ms. Zomorski is to teach students about the different elements of theater and leave them with a positive experience. She feels it is important to encourage as many students as possible to participate in theater as it provides such an opportunity for personal growth.



This fall, the drama club performed *Peter Pan* and the audience numbers were significantly up from last year. The next production is scheduled for May 17th & May 18th, 2018. The production has not yet been finalized but watch for the title release on WAPS website and Facebook.

Mark your calendar for the upcoming WAPS Drama opportunities :

### After School Activities Drama Presents

*Dorothy in Wonderland*

March 23rd at WMS Auditorium at 7:00 pm

March 24th at WMS Auditorium at 3:00 pm

### Winona Senior High School Drama Presents

May 18th & May 19th

WSHS Auditorium at 7:00 pm

# WORLD MARKET

## A Global Event

Please join us for a casual evening to celebrate public education in Winona.

- Saturday, February 24, 2018, 6-10 pm at the Visions Event Center, 22852 County Road 17
- \$50 ticket covers welcome drink, appetizers, dinner and dessert
- Semi-casual attire; jeans are welcome
- Social Hour 6-7 pm, meal at 7 pm with awards and events to follow

All proceeds will benefit academics, arts, athletics and activities for Winona Area Public Schools.

Last year's Blues & Brews brought together over 270 community members to celebrate and support public education. During this event we raised \$50,000 for academics, arts, athletics and activities, please visit [foundationwaps.org](http://foundationwaps.org) to see our grant winners so far in 2017-2018 school year. We look forward to another successful event!

To purchase tickets visit [www.foundationwaps.org](http://www.foundationwaps.org)

## COMMUNITY EDUCATION TRIPS

### Spring Festival: An Arts & Crafts Affair & Home Essentials

Saturday, April 14, 2018

Fee: \$44 ~ Includes bus and ticket

Enjoy a Festive Marketplace as you visit this award winning Arts & Crafts Festival at Canterbury Park! Featuring some of the nation's most skilled artisans and craftspeople from all over the country. From traditional to contemporary, the event showcases the finest selection of talents and innovative handcrafted works. Don't miss the ultimate "pop up shops" of the arts & crafts industry. The last stop of the day will be Home Essential Boutique. Enjoy your free treat bag from this special boutique.

*Registration deadline is March 23, 2018.*

### Spring in the Cities

Thursday, May 31, 2018

Fee: \$69 ~ Includes bus, lunch, ticket and tram

Enjoy the first blooms of spring, as you join us on our trip to the Cities to see acres of floral, gift, garden and home ideas. Enjoy Bachman's, one of the largest traditional floral and nursery operations in the world. Besides a beautiful place to shop, you will be treated to a delicious lunch, furnished by Patrick's Bakery and Cafe' Restaurant. The last stop of the day will be a tour of the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum, a 1,137-acre horticultural garden featuring annual and perennial display gardens.

*Reservations are due by March 15, 2018.*



### Festival of Nations at St. Paul RiverCentre

Sunday, May 6, 2018

Fee: \$44 ~ Includes bus and ticket

For almost 86 years, the Festival of Nations has inspired people to discover more about our world and embrace the rich cultural diversity brought to us by immigrants from around the globe. This year, we celebrate well over 8 decades of remarkable legacy of Festival of Nations as the longest running multicultural festival in the Midwest where we collaborate with nearly 100 diverse ethnic groups to create a truly unique experience.

*Registration deadline is April 16, 2018.*

### Take a trip to the Horse Races: Canterbury Park

Saturday, June 9, 2018

Fee: \$49 ~ Includes bus and ticket

Come enjoy the thrill of live horse racing and all that Canterbury Park has to offer. But hold your horses!...our first stop will be at the Mall of America so that you may dine at a restaurant of your choosing. Once at the Race Track, we will enjoy reserved seats and all of the amenities.

*Registration deadline is May 24, 2018.*





# KINDERGARTEN ENROLLMENT

The transition to kindergarten is an exciting step into lifelong learning. Winona Area Public Schools offers outstanding and comprehensive programs for all students in Prek-12.

Students can begin their language learning experience in the Spanish Language Immersion Program (SLIP). This program supports learners to become global citizens through bilingualism, bi-literacy, high academic achievement, and cross cultural competence.

WAPS embraces the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) learning style through the STEM program. Our STEM teachers develop students who can problem solve, work collaboratively and take risks. WAPS is developing an elementary curriculum for all WAPS schools where teachers create authentic, relevant, real world learning experiences.



## KINDERGARTEN EVENTS

**FEBRUARY 5 - MARCH 2**

Spanish Language Immersion Program (SLIP) and STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) will be accepting applications from February 5th through March 2nd. To apply visit [www.WinonaSchools.org/kindergarten](http://www.WinonaSchools.org/kindergarten).

**FEBRUARY 22 - 5:00-7:00PM**

### Future Winhawk Registration Night

All registration is online; you are welcome to complete it at home or have WAPS Tech Support help you complete your child's registration. You will also have the opportunity to meet the school principal, secretary and representatives from many departments that look forward to meeting you and answering any questions that you may have.

**APRIL 23 - 5:30-7:00PM**

### Elementary Open House

You are invited to visit your new school, meet teachers, tour classrooms and become part of the Winhawk family. Visit your school based on school boundaries.

## HOW TO REGISTER

To register visit  
[WinonaSchools.org/kindergarten](http://WinonaSchools.org/kindergarten).

If your family is new to Winona Area Public Schools select "New Family"; if you have other children within the district select "Current Family". Infinite Campus is the WAPS registration site and it will walk you through the registration process.

### What do I need to register online?

- Electronic copy of your child's immunization record
- Electronic verification of your child's birth
- Family phone numbers
- Addresses
- Email
- Child Care Providers

### What if I do not have electronic copies?

No worries! Join us on February 22 for Future Winhawk Registration Night. You can bring your hard copies and we will make copies for you and attach to your account. WAPS Tech Support will also be available to support you.



*\*\*If you do not plan to register your child for kindergarten in Winona Area Public Schools please call us at 507.494.0820 or email [portal.help@winona.k12.mn.us](mailto:portal.help@winona.k12.mn.us). This will help us update our list for future mailings.*



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## CENSUS DATA

Winona Area Public Schools is required to collect census data for children 5 years of age and under (as of September 1, 2017). This information will allow the district to plan for incoming students and provide a demographic count for the district's Early Childhood Family Education and Early Childhood Screening programs. Information collection also aids families in being sure they will be invited to Early Childhood Screening and Kindergarten Registration.

***\*\*Please fill out even if your children will not be attending Winona Area Public Schools.***

**Fill out School Census**  
[www.winonaschools.org/census](http://www.winonaschools.org/census)

## WAPS RETIREES

**LORI AHRENS**

Educational Assistant

**JANET BAKER**

Teacher

**TERI HATLELI**

Payroll Assistant

Thank you all for your dedication to Winona Area Public Schools and enjoy your next chapter in life!

## Winona Area Public Schools Strategic Planning and Community Survey- We want to hear from you!

The upcoming months will be important times for Winona Area Public Schools, as we undertake some key initiatives for our school district. Our overarching goals are to provide a high-quality education for all students, as well as strengthen relationships and build trust within our community. These efforts will include a community survey, strategic planning, and continued budget reduction and facilities discussions and decisions. During this time, we are counting on our parents, staff, and community partners to provide feedback as we prepare our district for the future.

The comprehensive strategic planning process, which WAPS last undertook in 2008, will begin in February and take place throughout the spring. During this time, we will not only identify where we want to be as a school district, but also develop detailed plans around how we will achieve these goals. The outcome of our planning will also include specific measures of success and steps to ensure accountability. Community input will be an important piece to these efforts.

Also in February, our community survey will go out to all households and staff in our district. Information gleaned from this survey will be vital as we work through our strategic planning process and continue our facilities discussions. We are utilizing a survey process that allows input from all community members and hope that everyone takes the time to complete the survey, which can be completed either online or by filling out a hard copy.

Our budget reduction process and facilities discussions are also continuing. The results of the recent referendum made it clear that community members did not support the plan that came to the voters. As we move forward, our financial and facility situation will need a solution, as we deal with large budget reductions and an aging infrastructure with significant repair needs.

Community involvement in all of our upcoming initiatives will be extremely valuable for us, as we plan the best steps forward for WAPS. I look forward to this work --- together we can achieve our goals.

Rich Dahman  
WAPS Superintendent

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