



**Newsletter September 2004**

*"Don't ask yourself what the world needs.  
Ask yourself what makes you come alive,  
and then go and do that.  
Because what the world needs is  
people that have come alive."  
~Harold Thurman Whitman*

**Partnership Between EHS and VOAHS**

The 2003-04 school year saw a strengthening of the partnership between Edina High School (EHS) and Volunteers of America High School (VOAHS). Led by VOAHS teacher Aaron Carper, and EHS social worker Doug Eischens, members of the SALTeams from both schools crossed significant cultural barriers to forge relationships and learn together. In addition, students, parents and staff wrote grants and sought creative ways to generate funds for SALT events in 2004-05. VOAHS also officially adopted the SALT name and created a joint web page. Further, discussions began with the Inter-District Downtown School (IDDS) to create their own SALTeam.



**Weekend Retreat at Camp Icaghowan  
March 5-7, 2004**

A total of 23 students from both schools spent a weekend at secluded Camp Icaghowan in Wisconsin, which included team-building initiatives, a climbing tower, great food, fun and late night winter walks. We planned for the Spring Expedition

as well as this year's activities, and watched *Shackleton and White Squall*, movies that led to focused discussion on adventure, leadership and service.

**Split-Silver Expedition  
April 29-May 3, 2004**

The 2003-04 school year culminated in a joint backpacking expedition to the Superior Hiking Trail (SHT) along the North Shore of Minnesota. SALTeam members skillfully traversed 28 miles of the wilderness trail from Split Rock River to Silver Bay. The weather was outstanding and the hike included miles of bare-branched ridgeline overlooking the scenic majesty of Lake Superior and surrounding forests. Students practiced Leave No Trace principles, learned orientation skills with map and compass, and worked effectively as a team on food, logistics, and gear. Transportation was generously subsidized by EHS.



**Creation of Shared Website**

Aaron Carper and students created and will maintain a shared website with photos, videos, info and links regarding all of the SALT activities. Check out a video of the Split-Silver Expedition and the rest of the page at [www.voahs.org/salt/](http://www.voahs.org/salt/)



**What The Future Looks Like**

We will be continuing our partnership with VOAHS for the 2004-2005 school year. There will be two backpacking expeditions this year, the first of which

will be October 14-17. The second will be April 28 to May 1, and will focus on service-learning. We'll continue to have monthly luncheons between our schools, which will include talks with wilderness gurus and rock climbing the Pinnacle at REI.

Plans are also underway for EHS to partner with IDDS, beginning with a fall weekend camping retreat. The two schools will meet monthly, and will plan a BWCA canoe expedition in the spring. IDDS has already submitted a grant application to the Edina Diversity Council to cover this fall's activities. Our new partnership means SALTeam membership at EHS will expand to include more young men, which may mean developing two SALT teams, one that interfaces with IDDS and one with VOAHS. Look for a girls SALTeam in 2005-06.

### Funding and Fundraisers

We met twice with parents in Spring 2004 to brainstorm ideas to raise funds and formulate an action plan. Items of interest include:

Five SALTeam members had a blast at Taste of Minnesota on July 1-5 to raise money for SALT activities in 2004-05.

Equipment for expeditions has been provided through the Kids' Program at REI.

SALT is currently seeking sponsors. International Dairy Queen (IDQ) is lending support this year with a generous donation.

Mihir Gupta and his mother, Kalpna, helped write a recently awarded service-learning grant. An application for a family services collaborative grant is also underway. In addition, VOAHS is working to secure funding for its students. Though approved to write a community grant proposal through REI, VOAHS was turned down in August due to heavy competition from other community groups.

### What's in a Name?

Why do we call it SALT? Actually, the idea came from a meeting with consultants Jerry and Linde Manlove, in which Jerry spoke of training young people and then sending them out to "salt" the system. Wordsmiths offer some definitions of the word which provide food for thought. The word comes from the Old English word *sealt*, and the word *sal* has Indo-European roots.

- ✓ An element that gives flavor or zest

- ✓ Sharp, lively wit
- ✓ A sailor, especially when old or experienced
- ✓ To add, treat, season, or sprinkle with
- ✓ To cure or preserve by treating with
- ✓ To add zest or liveliness to
- ✓ *salt away*--to put aside or save
- ✓ *salt out*--to separate (a dissolved substance) by adding salt to the solution.
- ✓ *salt of the earth*--person or group considered the best/noblest part of society
- ✓ *worth (one's) salt*--efficient and capable



### SALTeam 2004-05

Jake Horns	Tyler Koyama	Mike Bloom
TJ Ridley	Mihir Gupta	Teddy Kermath
Ricky Cohn	Brian Curran	Charlie Christensen
Luther Overholt	Zach Friedman	Bobby Goldaris

*Alumni:* Tony Gordon      Trung Nguyen      Ryan Rogers

*Staff:* Doug Eischens      Kent Downing

### Collaboration Team

Maria Giampietro (Director of Administrative Services for EPS)  
 Laura Teuting-Nelson (Director of Comm. & Public Affairs)  
 Doug Eischens (School Social Worker at EHS)  
 Aaron Carper (Teacher at VOAHS)  
 Kent Downing (Guidance Counselor at VVMS)  
 Brian Merhar (White Bear ALC Adventure Club)  
 Peter Wiczorek (YMCA Camp Icacogwan Director)  
 Ryan Clausman (REI)

*SALT is a collaborative effort involving WMEP, Edina Public Schools, Volunteers of America High School, the YMCA, REI and other community organizations and individuals. By building relationships with young people from different backgrounds, as well as young adult mentors and leaders from the school, community and business world, SALTeam members will positively impact their schools and communities, now and in the years to come. SALT operates under the premise that great efforts invested in focused, meaningful, activities changes the lives of youth. We do this through a focus on leadership, diversity, acceptance, honesty, environmental ethics, responsibility, serving community, and health.*