

Calendar

Monday, Jan. 2	No School		
Tuesday, Jan. 3	PTO Executive Meeting	2:15	Conference Room
	Real World Spanish - Community Ed	3:55-4:55	Room 28
Wednesday, Jan. 4	Math Olympiad- Practice	8:30-9:10	Media Center
Thursday, Jan. 5	Chess Club	4:00-5:00	Room 4
Friday, Jan. 6	No after school activities		

Field Trips -

Fri. Jan. 6 Frier/Haerter/Johnson Bakken/Pavek
Museum 9:30-1:45

LINKS

Edina Public Schools
presents

Legislative Dialogue

A legislative forum for understanding the upcoming 2012 session

This is your opportunity to learn about the District's current priorities, and voice your questions and concerns to area legislators and District administrators.

Thursday, January 5th, from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m.
Edina Community Center, Room 350
(Light snacks provided)

Agenda

- Welcome
- Edina Public Schools Update and Legislative Priorities – Ric Dressen, Superintendent
- Working with your Legislator - Representative Keith Downey, Representative Pat Mazorol, and State Senator Geoff Michel
 - Legislative priorities

- Education issues from a legislative perspective
 - Communicating effectively with your legislators
 - Community Dialogue
 - Closing Remarks – Ric Dressen
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Edina Public Schools 2012 Minnesota Legislative Priorities

Edina Public Schools works closely with the Minnesota School Boards Association, the Association of Metropolitan School Districts, and the Minnesota Association of School Administrators in advocating for early childhood through adult learning education. The District recognizes that the priorities of these organizations also support the interests of Edina Public Schools. The District's major priorities for the 2012 Minnesota legislative session include the following:

1. Provide a plan for stabilizing funding for Minnesota school districts.

- Maintain current public education funding levels in the upcoming legislative session.
- Provide mechanisms for school districts to contain increasing costs.
- Pursue an alternative school funding model that will provide adequate and equitable funding for Minnesota school districts.

2. Increase the independence of school districts with accountability.

- Modify and reduce mandates that cause school districts to be overregulated.
- Allow school districts to have greater flexibility in determining their school learning year, including the mandated after-Labor Day start date.
- Focus on emphasizing statutory changes that will enhance the academic success of student learning.
- Reduce mandates that limit school districts in being innovative and creative in responding to today's world in a timely manner.

3. Create and maintain the highest quality educational work force.

- Modify the educator evaluation program to ensure the program aligns to researched best practices.
- Maintain and enhance the alternative teacher professional pay system.

4. Create a 2020 Educational Vision for the State of Minnesota.

- Understand and plan for the demographic and societal changes occurring in Minnesota.
- Understand and plan for the educational enhancements that must occur in public education.
- Align funding and policy to the educational vision of the State.

The Edina PCN January speaker will address the topic:
The Parent - Teacher Partnership

Ada Alden, Ed.D.
Monday, January 9th, 2012
Countryside Elementary Gym
7:00 - 9:00 pm

Teachers provide important snapshots of education into the picture album of a child's education. The collaborative effort of educating child needs to be based on trust and patience.

Join PCN on Monday, January 9th, to hear a well-known local parenting expert discuss the important relationship between parents and teachers.

How teachers include parents substantively directly relates to a student's academic success.

Ada Alden Ed.D., is a Certified Family Life Educator based out of End Prairie, MN. Ada is also an adjunct professor in Family Studies at the University of MN and St. Cloud University.

Be sure to check Community Opportunities for Youth on the [EPS Facebook page](#)

Table captains needed for the Edina Education Fund Show and Tell

On Monday February 6, 2012 the Edina Education Fund will be hosting the 5th Annual Show & Tell Event at St. Patrick's Church. We are looking for individuals to serve as Table Captains for this year's event. As a Table Captain you will be asked to fill a table of 8 people by personally inviting friends, family, neighbors, colleagues and anyone with whom you would like to show the Ed Fund's work and the great things the Ed Fund does for our schools and kids. The Ed Fund's goal is to reach as many new people as possible.

- ~ Your job is to invite new faces, the Ed Fund will inspire them
- ~ You will be given a kit to walk you thru your job as a table captain
- ~ We will be here to offer help and answer questions
- ~ Best of all the bag lunch is provided by the Ed Fund

If you are willing to help please contact Kristin Karpinsky - Table Captain Chair at kakarpinsky@hotmail.com or Barb Bloom - committee member at barbbloom@mac.com.

Thanks for your continued help.

Trivia Corner

The celebration of the new year is the oldest of all holidays. It was first observed in ancient Babylon about 4000 years ago. In the years around 2000 BC, Babylonians celebrated the beginning of a new year on what is now March 23, although they themselves had no written calendar.

Orca whales are voluntary breathers. For this reason, they sleep with only half of their brain at one time. The other half remains alert to regulate breathing. Resident whales typically remain near the surface, breathing and swimming in a pattern. When traveling together, resident pods have been observed to breathe in unison. Although it is not known why this occurs, it could be a way of helping the pod keep tabs on one another.

The largest snowflake on record measured 8 inches in width.

On this Day 1832 - John C. Calhoun became the first vice president of the United States to resign, stepping down over differences with President Jackson.

***"Live as if you were to die tomorrow. Learn as if you were to live forever."
- Mahatma Gandhi***