

## Technology Brings Learning Alive

In the coming years, technology will be a driving force that will help improve educational achievement and productivity at all grade levels in the Edina School District. As part of this belief, in May the School Board approved the District's technology plan which provides a strategic direction for the effort over the next three years.

"The District recognizes that the changing landscape of technology intersects with teaching and learning and that technology is both a tool and a catalyst for excellence in education," said Steve Buettner, Director of District Media & Technology Services. "The successful implementation of this plan – complimenting the District's outstanding staff, vast educational programming opportunities and strong family support – will ensure continued student success."

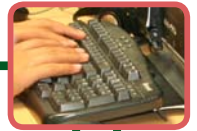
While the plan provides a technology focus, it is also a plan that enhances student learning and has the following benefits:

- Unleash students' passion to be life-long learners
- Empower and enhance excellent teaching
- Engage families in a partnership for education
- Demonstrate excellence in service, operation and productivity

Key initiatives for these goals include accelerating learning through access and engagement, providing professional development and flexibility for staff, simplifying connections and expectations between the school and the home, and increasing operational efficiencies.

The technology plan aligns with the District's "Strategic Roadmap" and will be implemented in the fall of 2011. The plan was developed during a year-long process and involved over 70 staff and community members as well as technology consultants.

"The Edina community has been very supportive of technology but what was new 18 months ago is now at 'end of life,'" said Buettner. "Technology needs to be refreshed at least every three years and we are at that point. In the past we would send students to labs to get on the internet and now we need to have the internet go to the students so they have constant access. In order for technology



to interface with teaching and learning, we want to continue to improve and add different technology."

Buettner said that the plan calls for providing wireless access in every school building so

that students can access information when they need to in order to be excited about learning. Also, although every classroom has a computer and projection system, increasingly teachers need to use

innovative technology that includes interactive white boards, audio and video capabilities, and tablet computers.

**Technology: to page 4**

**Technology needs to be refreshed at least every three years and we are at that point**

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**Learning: Edina Public Schools News** is published three times a year by the Edina Public Schools (ISD 273) communications department and is distributed at no charge to residents of the District. The cost to produce *Learning* is largely offset by community advertisers.

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Ric Dressen  
Superintendent

More stories and a complete calendar of events can be found at [www.edina.k12.mn.us](http://www.edina.k12.mn.us)

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# Superintendent's Column

## The Power of the Edina Diploma

by Ric Dressen, Superintendent  
[superintendent@edina.k12.mn.us](mailto:superintendent@edina.k12.mn.us)



This summer, the first graduating class of Edina-Morningside High School will convene for their 60th class reunion in Edina. These premier graduates started a great community tradition of celebrating the value

of our district's high school diploma. The diploma has been a "launching pad" for our graduates to pursue their dreams, often through advanced learning opportunities, since these very first graduates crossed the stage.

In 1951, Edina diplomas launched 114 graduates, who went on to earn six doctoral degrees, nine masters' degrees, and numerous bachelor degrees. These educational opportunities opened doors in their careers, for their communities and in their personal lives.

This year, over 90 percent of our 604 seniors will be attending colleges and universities throughout the country. Their earned Edina diploma will once again launch them into their future. And I am guessing their future class reunions will be filled with stories involving the value of an Edina High School diploma. The stories will likely be similar to those shared this summer by the graduating class of 1951.

I believe an important part of our seniors' graduation experiences are the numerous and varied recognition events. On these occasions, accomplishments in leadership, service, academics, athletics, and the arts are celebrated. I am always impressed with the dramatic and powerful impact these celebrations provide for those in attendance.

I especially appreciate the insights shared by the students and staff selected to address the graduates at these celebratory events. Each has a unique way of providing encouragement while still challenging the graduates to access the power of the EHS diploma. At this year's Student Scholars' banquet, science teacher Steve Sanger provided timely recommendations to the graduates. He identified three recommendations to guide them and the recommendations might also be helpful for us:

1. When you see an opportunity that piques your interest, go for it!
2. As you are pursuing your interests, do not ditch them too quickly when the going gets rough.
3. Beware of the life blueprint that may form in your head today as it may be way off and you need to stay flexible.

If a student begins kindergarten in Edina and attends all 13 years of school, the District and state will have contributed over \$125,000 toward that student's education. This educational feat culminates with the issuing of the high school diploma on graduation day. I am confident that the graduating class of 2011 will benefit from this educational investment and the power of the Edina diploma for decades to come. On behalf of the entire school district, I wish the graduating class of 2011 our very best.

**Ric Dressen  
Superintendent, Edina Public Schools**

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ric Dressen". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

# Edina Public Schools Go Social

## Edina Public Schools is now on Facebook

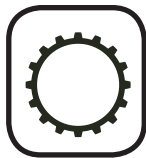


Edina Public Schools has an official Facebook page, providing up-to-date news and information streaming right to participants'

Facebook accounts. Posts are made regularly, highlighting the latest district news and events, to keep members informed about what's happening throughout the school district. Audience participation and comments are welcomed to keep the site engaging and reflective of the community.

To "like us" on Facebook, visit [www.edina.k12.mn.us](http://www.edina.k12.mn.us) and click on the Facebook icon, then click "like".

## Run of the Mill? Not this blog about Edina Public Schools



Edina Public Schools launched an innovative, community-written blog in April. The Mill is a community gathering space for sharing small,

unexpected and personal moments of life within Edina Public Schools. Recent posts include the story of how some homemade root beer incubated a mononucleosis outbreak in a 5th grade classroom, a meditation on why fewer dads volunteer in the schools, and an Edina newcomer's reaction to the flurry of school-home communications leading up to elementary school report card time.

Comments on all posts are welcome and encouraged. "Our goal is to create a space for meaningful, interactive dialogue about our schools—not only the successes, but also the challenges, areas where there is room to improve" said blog editor Cheryl Gunness.

You can read and comment on stories at [www.edinamill.blogspot.com](http://www.edinamill.blogspot.com).

Interested in contributing a post? Email [TheMill@edina.k12.mn.us](mailto:TheMill@edina.k12.mn.us)



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## UPCOMING EVENTS

### June

30 Wise Guys Carnival & VEAP Food Drive, 11 a.m. - 2 p.m., Kuhlman Field

### July

4 Fourth of July Parade, 10 a.m.\*  
18 School Board Meeting, 7 p.m., ECC 349

### August

15 School Board Meeting, 7 p.m., ECC 349

### September

5 Labor Day  
6 First day of school grades 1-12  
6 School Board Workshop, 5 p.m., ECC 349  
7 First day of school K Plus  
8 First day of school 1/2 day kindergarten and ECSE  
26 School Board Meeting, 7 p.m., ECC 349



The Edina-Morningside High School Class of 1951 will serve as Grand Marshals of the 2011 Fourth of July Parade. The Class of 1951 was the very first class to graduate from an Edina High School, and is being recognized in celebration of the 60th anniversary of their graduation.



## School Board approves budget plan

The Edina School Board approved over \$2.3 million of general fund budget adjustments at its May 16 meeting in an effort to address the funding gap challenges facing the District over the next three years. If the adjustments had not been made, a funding gap of available revenues to projected expenditures of \$9 million was projected.

The approved adjustments include increased student fees, reduction in budget line items within the District, reduction of approximately 50 staff members, the elimination of elementary Spanish, and an increase in class size at the middle and high school levels.

"Budget cuts are never easy but I do believe the proposed adjustments maximize the available funding resources while minimizing the impact to learning in the classroom," said Superintendent Ric Dressen.

At the Board meeting, Dressen presented possible Budget Reduction, Reallocation and Revenue Generation (BRRRG) items which were developed based on extensive input and insights from the community and staff over the past four months. The District also conducted two public dialogues early in May.

The \$2.3 million reductions for the 2011-12 school year allow the administration to move forward with developing the 2011-12 budget which the School Board needs to approve

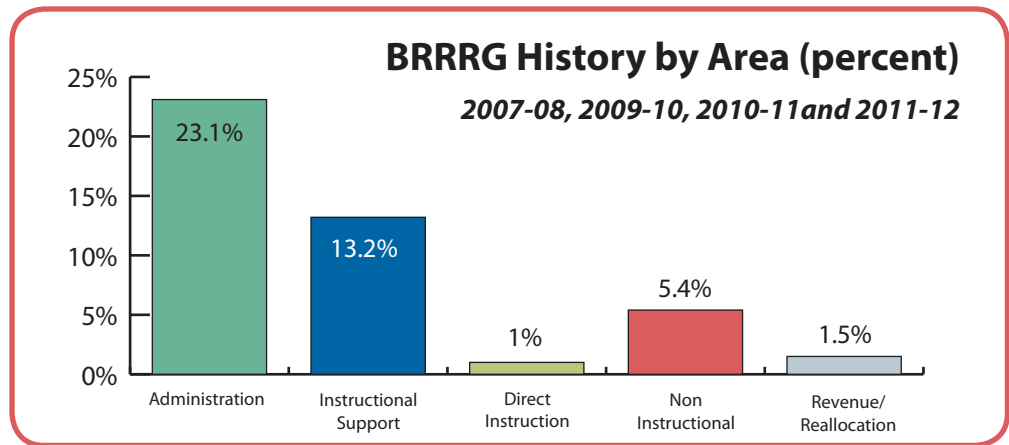
in June. The Board is required to approve a budget prior to June 30 which means it will do so without knowing the exact results of the 2011 legislative session.

This is the fourth year in the last five that the School Board has made budget adjustments in order to ensure a balanced budget. Throughout the process, the administration BRRRG plans have been developed using assessment criteria that:

- Align with District policy
- Ensure equity and sustainability
- Minimize impact to student learning
- Maintain a quality infrastructure for providing services

The budget challenges facing Minnesota school districts, including Edina, are directly impacted by the funding challenges facing the State of Minnesota. Edina Public Schools receives 70 percent of its revenue from the State funding formula. The District has not seen a permanent increase in the funding formula in the past five years.

"I recognize our elected officials are working hard to solve the state funding crisis," said School Board Chair Randy Meyer. "Our state needs to find a long-term solution to ensure that Minnesota remains a leader in education. Our district leadership has been very involved in working to find a funding model and education system that will ensure success in the 21st century."



## District considers November referendum

The Edina School Board will decide in July on whether it will hold a referendum in November. The referendum would be a renewal of a current operating levy that provides \$400 per student for the general fund.

Also, the Board is considering requesting additional funding from voters that would support learning through technology. Currently, Edina receives the lowest technology funding among six neighboring schools. If the Board approves going forward with the referendum, specific details will be available in September.

### Technology: continued from page 1

"I am incredibly honored to be working for the Edina Public Schools," said Buettner, who has been on the job for a year-and-a-half. "Edina is known nationally for its excellence and we have an opportunity to continue that excellence through technology. Our technology plan is a living, breathing document that reflects the goals and aspirations of the entire organization as well as multiple stakeholders."

For more information about the District's technology effort, check out Buettner's blog at [www.edinatechdyk.blogspot.com](http://www.edinatechdyk.blogspot.com).



# Edina Public Schools wins Google Award



"When I saw the blog post calling for entries to share our story about how Google Apps has changed the way we approach learning, I thought we really had a great story to share," said Schroeder. "Google Apps for Education has transformed the way we are able to help students and staff engage in learning."

Some other examples of how Edina Public Schools are using Google Apps for Education include:

You may have seen the billboard this spring which announced that "Edina Public Schools have gone Google." This was the search engine's way of announcing that the school district was selected as one of 10 global winners in its "Gone Google Story" contest. And for the record, Google paid for the billboard, not the school district.

The contest was open to users of Google Apps, a suite of web-based applications that allow individuals the ability to access, collaborate and share information anytime, anywhere. Contest entrants were asked to explain how their organization uses Google Apps and why they should be featured in the "Gone Google" ad campaign.

Molly Schroeder, Edina Public Schools Technology Integration Specialist, is a Google certified teacher and worked on the launch of Google Apps in the school district beginning last fall. This year, Edina Public Schools staff and students have been using Google Docs, Google Sites, Picasa, Blogger, Google Maps and Even More to work efficiently and collaboratively.

- Teachers and students are able to create, collaborate and publish using cloud-based tools.
- Teachers use Google Sites as their classroom web pages and students create Google Sites for research projects, group presentations or as an ePortfolio.
- Teachers use Google Docs to have parents sign up for conferences and volunteer opportunities, while students use Docs to collaborate on group projects, turn in work digitally and publish their work to the web.

"Google Apps for Education gives staff and students free tools and resources and provides opportunities for students to engage in a global society," said Schroeder. "Any other software or technology solution that would provide each student with 7GB of digital storage space and collaboration tools like these would cost thousands of dollars."



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## Awards and Recognition

### District Achievement

**Google Award (left)**  
Edina Public Schools

**School Finance Award**  
Minnesota Department of Education  
Business Services Department

**SMART Exemplary Educator Award**  
SMART Technologies (Interactive White Boards)  
Rosemary Rink, Grade Three - Countryside Elem.

**Public Policy Trendsetter Award**  
International Society for Technology in Education  
Michael Walker, Technology Integration Specialist

**Teacher of the Year**  
Innovative Office Solutions  
Julie Robinson, Autism Specialist - Valley View M.S.

**Teacher of the Year**  
Edina Chamber of Commerce  
Katie Sweeney, Grade Five - Countryside Elem.

**Hays-Fulbright Seminar in Greece and Turkey**  
Beth Jorgenson, Grade One - Creek Valley Elem.

### Student Achievement

**Edina Robotics Team 1816 - "The Green Machine"**  
FIRST Robotics World Championship Qualifier

**Monica Gates**  
Student of the Year, Edina Chamber of Commerce

**Anja Beth Swoap**  
Scripps National Spelling Bee - 19th Place

**Edina High School Thespians**  
Governor's Commendation  
June 17, 2011 named as "Edina High School Theater Day"  
2011 International Thespian Festival Performers

**Project Earth, Youth Serving Youth Group**  
Climate Generation Award, Will Steger Foundation  
\$1,000 Grant, Conservation Minnesota

# Edina Honors 33 Retirees

Edina Public Schools is proud to recognize this year's 33 retirees for their dedication and years of service:

Barbara Anderson, Van Anderson, Lynne Asbury, Marge Clare, Barbara Cole, Dan Daly, Kandace Ellis, Dennis Fleming, Sharon Forkins, Julie Hatzung, Jane Horner, Carol Hurtig, Doug Johnson, Elton Johnson, Hannah King, Claudia McClannahan, Katie McCullough, Debby Nelson, Jan Nelson, Susan Nelson, Van Nelson, Gerry Olson, Bob Ouren, Berit Peterson, Elaine Regan, Carol Rothe, Gerri Schinckle, Gail Schmidt, Dede Skold, Jeanne Sumnicht, Marv Swift, John Thompson, Karl Wolfe

For a full bios, visit [www.edina.k12.mn.us/news/retirement11.html](http://www.edina.k12.mn.us/news/retirement11.html).



## District Hires Bergman and Burke for Lead Positions



**Karen Bergman,**  
Countryside Principal

**Karen Bergman** has been named to succeed the retiring Julie Hatzung as principal of Countryside Elementary School on July 1, 2011. Bergman is currently the principal of Meadowview Elementary and Akin Road Elementary Schools for the Farmington Area Public Schools.

At Farmington she has previously been director of curriculum, instruction/program coordinator and an elementary classroom teacher. She was also an elementary classroom teacher for Brookings Public Schools in South Dakota.

"Karen has a wealth of leadership skills and talents that will be a great asset to Countryside and our District as we pursue our commitment of success for all students," said Superintendent Ric Dressen. "I am very excited to have her join our Edina team."

Bergman received her Sixth Year Certification in Educational Administration and her M.S. in Experiential Education from Minnesota State University Mankato. She received her B.S. in Elementary Education from St. Cloud State University.



**Valerie Burke,**  
Director of Community  
Education Services

**Valerie Burke** is the new Director of Community Education Services and Community Relations, replacing Doug Johnson who retired in May after 30 years with the District. Burke has been the Edina Resource Center and Community Volunteer Programs coordinator for Edina Public Schools.

Before joining Edina, she held Community Education positions at St. Louis Park Public Schools and Richfield Public Schools and was an intern for Adult Programs and Business Education Partnerships for Edina Public Schools. In addition, she has experience as a Human Resources Manager with Analysts International and was

a volunteer recruiter for the Olympic Committee in Los Angeles.

"Valerie brings a wide array of skills such as community partnerships, volunteerism in the schools, vast knowledge of community resources and community education programming and services," said Superintendent Ric Dressen.

Burke has an M.A. degree in Community Education Administration from the University of St. Thomas and a B.S. in Business Administration from the Carlson School of Management at the University of Minnesota.



## School Board election process

The 2011 school board election process in Minnesota has moved up a week thanks to a new law approved in May. The filing period for this year will now be Aug. 2-16. The Edina School Board will have three board seats open for the 2011 general election with board terms expiring Jan. 1 for Bert Ledder, Peyton Robb and Cathy Cella. In addition to the filing period, the following are key dates for the school board election process for both incumbents and new candidates:

- Aug. 18** Candidates who have filed can withdraw their name from the ballot
- Oct. 28** Campaign finance reports are due if a candidate has spent or received more than \$750
- Nov. 8** General election day
- Nov. 15** Candidates file the "Campaign Financial Report Certification of Filing" form
- Dec. 8** Campaign finance reports due



## Volunteer Spotlight Edina Retirees continue to give back

Since retiring after 17 years as a science paraprofessional at Cornelia, Sammy Lyon got involved with volunteering to stay connected with the school district. "I think I get more out of it than the teachers and the kids do," says Lyon who volunteers as an afterschool homework helper at Cornelia.

Marlys Ousky, volunteer coordinator at Cornelia says, "Classroom teachers love when former teachers volunteer. Former employees know the curriculum, understand teaching strategies and know the best way to connect with and 'hook' the students."

Lyon explains, "You are more of a help than you realize." Volunteering allows teachers to break the kids into smaller groups, providing more one-on-one attention. "It enhances the classroom and it enhances the kids' learning experience. I see a lot of value in volunteering."

Lyon's husband Tom, a retired businessman and former teacher, also volunteers. Tom, who gets kids excited about topics like Africa and the Revolutionary War by using costumes and props says, "I volunteer because I love seeing the kids' reactions."

Dar Bell, retired Director of Special Services, says that even after retirement she wanted to continue to be around kids and know that she was making a difference. "I was surprised by how easy it was to contact the volunteer program and get involved," says Bell. "Even if you only have an hour a week, there's always a place for you."

Whether you're a former teacher, administrator, or support staff, there is a volunteer opportunity available to suit your needs and interests. "Retirees who volunteer take the Edina Public School's ICCCAR values to the next level with their continued commitment," says Marcia Friedman, Community Volunteer Program Supervisor. The ICCCAR values are integrity, compassion, courage, commitment, appreciation for diversity, and responsibility.

Get Involved — contact us at 952-848-4926 or marfriedman@edina.k12.mn.us



## Community Education Services Logo Design Competition

Calling all designers - Edina Community Education Services is accepting entries for a summer logo design competition. The Winning submission will be used as the new logo for Edina Community Education Services and will help shape a new brand identity system to premiere in Winter/Spring 2012. The competition is open to all. Entries must be submitted by August 31, 2011.

For full details, visit [www.edina.k12.mn.us/community/design.html](http://www.edina.k12.mn.us/community/design.html).



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## *Congratulations Class of 2011!*



*"I'm going to miss the hopes and possibilities that high school allowed me to believe in. I'll miss running into the people I like in the hallways, I'll miss my 6th hour, I'll miss pepfests and those cold fall nights at hornet football games. I will miss all the different experiences that high school gave me."*

*– Taylor Dehnel*



*"...When its over, and you look back to see how much you and everyone else have grown, you cant help but smile and wonder what else awaits you next in life. I am happy I went to Edina high school."*

*- Teddy Kolodziejzak*

