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## Bridges Area Learning Center hosts Grand Opening



Prior Lake-Savage Area Schools welcomed more than 100 attendees to the new Bridges Area Learning Center for a ribbon cutting ceremony on October 21.

Bridges ALC Coordinator David Brown cut the ceremonial ribbon surrounded by Bridges students and staff, board members and Superintendent, Dr. Teri Staloch before opening the doors to allow guests to tour the rest of the building. Students were available to answer questions and speak about their experiences at the school.



The new, state-of-the-art building adjacent to Twin Oaks Middle School officially opened in time for the 2019/20 school year. The new building replaces the former Bridges space which was located in the Northgate Center mall in Prior Lake; and it was built thanks to community support of the 2017 referendum.

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## Countdown to Kindergarten - save the dates

**November 25, 6 p.m.**

Districtwide Kindergarten Info. Meeting, Grainwood Elementary (all parents of incoming 2020/21 kindergarten students are welcome to attend)

## Mid January

Online enrollment begins for 2020/21 school year

### February 3, 5:30- 6:30

Connect to Kindergarten

All elementary schools (Hamilton Ridge to attend at WestWood, La ola del lago to attend at Grainwood)

### May 19, 4:30-5:30

Kindergarten Open House

All elementary schools (Hamilton Ridge to attend at WestWood, La ola del lago to attend at Grainwood)

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## Circle of Friends Preschool

Are you interested in preschool for your 3, 4 or 5 year old for the 2020-2021 school year? Mark your calendar for these upcoming opportunities to learn more!

### Peek Into Preschool

January 13, 2020 from 4:30-6 p.m.

You and your preschooler are invited to visit Circle of Friends Preschool classrooms at Edgewood School to learn about our program options and spend time with our licensed preschool teachers.

### Tour and Talk

For an adult-only visit to our program, join one of these Tour and Talk presentations at Edgewood School. No need to register. Tour dates and times:

Dec. 5, 10 a.m.

Dec. 17, 12 p.m.

Jan. 10, 3 p.m.

Jan. 29, 5 p.m.

Feb. 13, 10 a.m.

March 13, 10 a.m.

April 10, 10 a.m.

May 8, 10 a.m.

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## Superintendent Dr. Teri Staloch



Once a month, Superintendent, Dr. Teri Staloch submits a column that runs in the Prior Lake American and Savage Pacer. You can read the most recent newspaper column, [here](#).

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## PLSAS receives clean audit report

Prior Lake-Savage Area Schools has again been issued a clean audit report from independent audit firm of CliftonLarsonAllen, which is the highest opinion an auditor can issue for school districts.

Audits are done to ensure districts' compliance with state and federal requirements, internal and administrative controls and accuracy of financial and student data,

documents, statements and reports used in the calculating of state and federal aid and grant payments.

At the October 14 School Board meeting, CliftonLarsonAllen Principal, Dennis Hoogeveen, stated the audit went very smoothly and commended the district on its growth planning. "Over the five years, we've been the auditor for all of those years so we can say with confidence that it's been a well-managed growth" Hoogeveen said.

Here are some additional financial facts:

- The district has sustained a positive fund balance for the last twelve consecutive years.
- Recent building bond refinancing will save taxpayers \$608,000.
- Recent lease refinancing will save taxpayers \$920,000.
- PLSAS has a AA2 bond (credit) rating, which means the district meets its financial commitments and taxpayers should expect to receive better interest rates on district bond refinancing and any new bond issues.
- Joint purchasing agreements help the district save money on items such as instructional supplies.
- The PLSAS Business Office consistently earns the MN Department of Education School Finance Award and the Association of School Business Officials International Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting Award.

The audit was presented and unanimously approved at the School Board's October 14 meeting. A detailed report is available on the district's [website](#).

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### Middle Schools participate in Unity Day



On October 24 students and staff at Hidden Oaks and Twin Oaks Middle Schools took part in National Unity Day to combat bullying by promoting kindness and acceptance in

schools.

Students wore orange and participated in activities to encourage inclusivity, including creating paper chains containing traits that make students proud of who they are, kindness-themed photo booths run by parent volunteers and tying yarn on fellow students' wrists to show they care about one another.

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## E-STEM learning at PLSAS



Five Hawks recently held its annual E-STEM Festival where students conducted studies of the soil, learned Native American games, studied the weather and identified trees, among other activities. Glendale Elementary held their E-STEM Festival September 25 at McColl Pond Environmental Learning Center, across the street from the school.



Edgewood School held a Family E-STEM Night on October 14 and remaining elementary schools as well as both middle schools plan to hold E-STEM Festivals in the spring. In addition to the full-day festivals, elementary schools will host mini E-STEM Festivals on each of the scheduled early release days this school year.

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## Prior Lake Rotary donates more than \$36,000 to support students



The Prior Lake Rotary Club presented a check for more than \$36,000 to the Laker Activities Booster Club (LABC), Patrons of the Arts and Activities (PAA), and elementary Parents and Teachers for Children (PTC) organizations during the October 14 school board meeting.

The funds represent a portion of the money raised from the 2019 Lakefront Music Fest held last summer in Prior Lake. LABC, PAA and PTCs supported the Fest by selling admission tickets and providing hundreds of volunteer hours. Since 2012, Rotary has donated approximately \$300,000 to benefit PLSAS students.

#### **Lakefront Music Fest is July 10-11, 2020**

Lakefront Music Fest has announced two acts for next summer: Lady Antebellum and Jake Owen will perform on July 11th. LABC, PAA and PTC organizations will again be selling tickets for the upcoming shows. For more information, visit [www.lakefrontmusicfest.com](http://www.lakefrontmusicfest.com)

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#### **Child Nutrition Services in the spotlight**



Director of Child Nutrition Services, Emily Malone, was recently featured on KARE 11 and WCCO TV promoting National School Lunch Week and the delicious, healthy foods schools provide to our students, especially right here in PLSAS! Emily is the Education Chair for the MN School Nutrition Association and also spoke about all the healthy choices students have in schools, along with National Farm-to-School month that supports local agriculture. Check out the segments:

WCCO: <https://bit.ly/2P9y129>, KARE 11: <https://bit.ly/2BNvNhb>