



# BUZZ SHEET

from the  
Matoska International Parent Teacher Organization (MIPTO)  
Today's Edition: November 18, 2010

## White Bear Lake Area Schools Strategic Planning Update

- Kathy Berlin, Co-Chair of MIPTO

On November 9, the school district kicked off their strategic planning process. Presentations were given by Dr. Lovett and others regarding the status of White Bear Lake Area schools today and the future of the state of Minnesota with regards to education. Two representatives from the Matoska PTO went to hear the news, Kathy Berlin and Cari Green. The presentation was informative and interesting.

At the end of the presentations, Dr. Lovett appealed to interested parents and other members of the community to become involved in the process. He outlined the following six action areas that welcome parents to participate:

### Action Teams:

1. We will develop a comprehensive understanding of our students' needs and interests to ensure students are challenged and excelling academically.  
 *Co-Chairs: Noel Schmidt and Mike Fleming*
2. We will create and implement a plan for global experiences and relationships to further understand world connections.  
 *Co-Chairs: Tim Wald and Greg Bartz*
3. We will ensure our facilities support our district's mission and objectives.  
 *Co-Chairs: Pete Willcoxon, Sr. and Rolf Parsons*
4. We will create a district-wide culture that inspires innovation, a passion for learning, and confidence to pursue dreams.  
 *Chairs: Dan Schmidt and Community member to be named*
5. We will build a network of partnerships to provide personal and educational growth and service opportunities for students.  
 *Chairs: Heidi Brophy and District member to be named*
6. We will foster connections with and among students and staff members to ensure all feel valued, supported and understood; and we will establish an environment that cultivates understanding and respect for differences among people.  
 *Co-Chairs: Kathleen Daniels and Jenny Nadeau*

Parents are still needed for these action teams. If you are interested, please contact the district at  
[StrategicPlan@wbl.whitebear.k12.mn.us](mailto:StrategicPlan@wbl.whitebear.k12.mn.us).

### IMPORTANT DATES

**Year-End Celebration  
Brainstorming** - November 18 -  
5:00pm in Staff Lounge

**Innisbrook Order Pick Up** -  
November 22, 3:30pm—6:00pm

**NO SCHOOL** on November 25 - 26,  
*Happy Thanksgiving!*

**PAPA Murphy Nights** - Upcoming  
2010 date is December 9

**Saints North Rollerskating** - Last  
date of 2010 - December 10

**Remaining 2010 MIPTO Meeting  
Date** - December 14

## Skate Night at Saints North!

Join your classmates at Saints  
North for a night of skating!

**When:** Friday, December 10th  
from 5:15pm – 7:15pm.

This is a "FUN"draiser for the  
MIPTO. For each paid skater, the  
MIPTO will receive \$1.00 to support  
school programs. The classroom  
that has the most skaters attend will  
earn the 'Golden Skate' trophy!

We look forward to skating with you  
at Saints North on December 10.

# Happy Thanksgiving



# Volunteers Needed!

In preparation for *Literacy Groups* in classes, help is needed in the Media Center to shelve books, and in the Multiple Copy room to cover and label new books.

If you can contribute some time to this effort, please contact Mary Dahl at [dahlsx4@q.com](mailto:dahlsx4@q.com) and/or 651-653-1429.



Innisbrook Delivery Date, Monday, November 22, 3:30-6 p.m. in the Gym.

All items **MUST** be picked up at this time! If you are unable to pick up your items, please make arrangements to have someone come pick them up for you. We do not have fridge/freezer space or a place to store items that are not picked up.

Also, If you are able to volunteer your time to help on delivery day with sorting and distributing items, please contact Cari Green at 651-231-6907.

The MIPTO thanks you for your support!

## Volunteer Viewpoint



Sheila Thalhuber began volunteering at school in 2003, once or twice a week as a classroom assistant. In 2005, she began helping with student book publishing and has helped lead that program ever since. Sheila enjoys seeing how excited the students are when they receive their published books and appreciates the many volunteers that are needed to make publishing happen (especially her co-coordinator Laura Nitti!) She has been a Book Club leader,

Options Day leader, and helped with information nights and new family nights. She also still enjoys assisting with classroom celebrations and field trips.

One very memorable day for the Thalhuber family was the day Laura was born, on Nathan's last day of Kindergarten in Judy Ross's class. Sheila and Kevin had to miss the Kindergarten graduation celebration, but thanks to Judy and other parents, they helped remember that day by sending home pictures and videos. Since she was just 3 months old, Laura has gone with Sheila to volunteer in Nathan's classes, making it easy for Sheila to volunteer and for Laura to feel comfortable when it was her turn to start school.

One of the reasons Sheila's family chose Matoska was the volunteer opportunities and community-centered programming the school offered. She has enjoyed getting to know the teachers, staff, students and other parent volunteers over the years her kids have been going to Centerpoint and Matoska. Sheila says, "I love being a part of my kids' education through volunteering!"

### INFORMATION AT A GLANCE

#### Important Numbers:

Attendance Line: **651-653-2848.**

Transportation Changes? Contact Carolyn Kay in the main office at **651-653-2847.**

Inclement weather season is almost upon us! Should a school closing be necessary families are notified in the following four ways:

- An instant alert phone message and e-mail will be sent to all parents
- There will be a message on the WBL school closing hotline- **651-407-7540**
- A message will be posted on [www.whitebear.k12.mn.us](http://www.whitebear.k12.mn.us)
- Closings will be posted on local news channels

### VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

There are many ways to volunteer at Matoska. Contact our volunteer coordinator, Gayle Chapman, at **651-653-2852** for more information.

### CALL FOR PHOTOS

This year's school yearbook needs your help!! We are in need of photos from all classes and activities.

- Photos need to be submitted via disc to Katy Vanderwood and can be returned to you.
- Please label by Teacher/ Class name.
- Any photos are welcome.

With your help we'll have a great yearbook - thank you!