



# STRIDE ACADEMY

What a beautiful day, what a great year and another year older is STRIDE Academy. It has been a great year and we have added more and more activities and learning experiences have abundantly rounded out the educational experiences for our kids and for our staff. Now we are looking at starting a middle school, wow here we go.

I begin this newsletter with this comment and some heartfelt feelings about this class of graduating 6<sup>th</sup> graders. First of all I want to tell them thank you, thank you, thank you from the fullness of my heart and for hanging in there with all the changes that happened in their lives when you and your parents decided to take that risk and enter these hallowed hallways. I should say at that time, empty hallways...hahahaha!! This group of sixth graders has been here for four years they are our very first class of 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students and they completed, with honors, four years at STRIDE Academy. They have been our test kids in the sense that they made it through and made it through quite well. In educational science it usually takes two to three years to establish a program that has in place all that originally was designed for the program to have in place and at the level of expectation we had for this program.

Many of you may not know this but one of the reasons why Dory, my wife, and I decided to start a charter school was to provide a school program that could and would meet the needs academically, socially, emotionally and physically for any student who came into this program. One of those students was my daughter Naomi. This has been a life changer for her. She may not say it but I think I am going to miss her as much as she is going to miss seeing her Daddy every day. Tear, tear, tear....ILY, Naomi

### **To Live;**

Living one's life with purpose, meaning and with a resolve that when I lay this body down, I will know that I lived my life to the fullest and made every possibility a reality; every reality possible; and quite possibly life is better because of the way I lived my life.

### **To Love;**

I loved life; I was loved and I loved myself. I was able to treat others like I wanted to be treated. I treated others with love; and I loved every minute of every day; of every week of every month of every year and at the end of the day when I laid this body down I loved being there.

### **To Learn;**

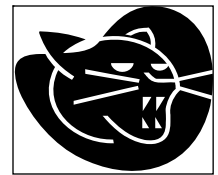
I learn something everyday about how to make this world a better place and I sought after that knowledge because it was right.

### **To Leave a Legacy;**

Did I Live, Love and Learn enough to make a difference?



## STRIDE Pride Newsletter



June 4, 2009



Don't forget to order your 2008-2009 yearbook.

Yearbooks will be handed out on the last day of school. The students will have plenty of time to have their friends sign them.



The Spring Concert will be held on June 16th with performances as follows:

K-2 will perform at 6:00

3-6 will perform at 7:00

The concert will be held at Westwood Community Church.



The Board meeting scheduled for June 16th will be held on June 23rd @ 6:30 p.m.

Anyway I want to thank all of these kids, their moms and their dads, their grandpas and grandmas, uncles and aunts, friends of family because with all of you we can change the face of education and we are changing the way education looksd, look at the scores when they come out. STRIDE Academy is the "Best" charter school in Central Minnesota and in the entire state of Minnesota. We aren't just starting things anymore, we are changing things. Do you remember all of the ideas, supposedly new ideas, that surrounding districts are all of a sudden implementing in their schools and in the district as a whole. Need some reminders: all-day kindergarten, NWEA, longer school year....hmmmmm, where have you seen those concepts before. Yes your right in your very own STRIDE Academy.

I am really going to miss you kids, really miss you! Come back and visit, volunteer, read with the kids, say hi to your teachers and once a STRIDE Family member always a STRIDE Academy family member!!!

Well with a heartfelt thanks and a big, big hug.... good luck to all of you as you go into Junior High or Middle School. I hope and pray that what we taught you about yourself including knowing that you are important and that you should expect that you will be successful will carry over no matter where you go and what you learned at STRIDE Academy is the type of educational experience that will help you to excel wherever you go. I know you can do it and remember.....

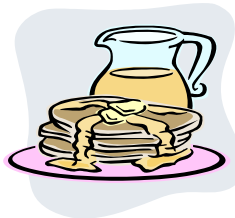
TO LIVE, TO LOVE, TO LEARN, and to LEAVE A LEGACY!!!! What will be your legacy? Set goals and achieve them.

I have to go so have a great summer and enjoy yourselves and those of you who are coming back, get refreshed and come back ready and raring to go.

Sincerely, Mr. Dale Beutel-Director

## June 7th Pancake Breakfast

# STRIDE Academy Pancake Breakfast



**Location: STRIDE Academy 1025 18th St North St. Cloud, MN 56303.**

**Date & Time: Sunday, June 7th. 8:00 am – 1:00 pm.**

Come join us for a wonderful breakfast including unlimited pancakes and sausage.

Adults \$6.00  
Children (under 10) \$4.00

**All proceeds benefit after school athletic and academic programs.**



What is happening in Ms. Pueringer's fifth grade class?

In social studies we have been learning about Native Americans. Mainly about their cultures and the conflicts that they have had. We have studied the Native Americans from the Great Basin, the Plateau, the Plains and the Pacific Northwest regions. Some of the conflicts they encountered were when the settlers came and forced the Native Americans off of their land. Our next unit will be on the geography of the United States.

In our writing class we have been working on endangered animal reports. Each student chose an endangered animal and then researched the animal. We have learned some interesting facts as well as ways to preserve animals and their habitats.

Ms. Pueringer's math class has completed the level 5 Saxon Math book and has moved onto the Course One book (level 6). We continue to work on our critical thinking and problem solving skills. A few upcoming topics will be finding a percent of a number, finding unknown numbers in fraction and decimal problems and then we will work on collecting, organizing, displaying and interpreting data.

In reading we have finished our level 6 SRA book and have moved on to novels. Our class is trying something a little different for the month of June, we are doing book clubs. The students have been put into four different groups and each group will read a different book. The children are then to read the book each day, journal on what they have read and then discuss the book with their group members. So far this has been a unique process but everyone seems to enjoy the change of pace.

In other news, the fifth grade classes will be going on a field trip June 19<sup>th</sup> to the Pavek Museum of Broadcasting in St. Louis Park, MN. On this trip, we will learn about the history of broadcasting and even get to produce our own radio broadcasting show! It will be a neat experience. More information will be sent home soon.

We will be doing NWEA testing during the next couple of weeks. The fifth grade is testing June 10<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>. Make sure you get a good nights rest the night before. We also want to remind you that there are only four more weeks left of school, the last day is June 26<sup>th</sup>.

That is all for now.

Ms. Pueringer's fifth grade class



## Volunteer Information

Thank you to everyone that donated their time to STRIDE Academy this year! To celebrate our volunteers, all STRIDE families are invited to our Parent/Volunteer Appreciation picnic! The picnic will be held on Thursday, June 11<sup>th</sup> from 5 pm-7:30 pm at Riverside Park. There is a splash pad at the park, and FREE food for the entire family. All families are welcome regardless of the number of hours volunteered. We hope everyone will join us!

If you are looking to add to your volunteer hours, we are looking for people to help with Field Day on Friday, June 26<sup>th</sup> (Last day of school). Field Day is filled with many great physical activities such as three legged races and a water balloon toss that Mr. Lutterman plans each year. We are looking for 8-10 volunteers in the morning for the younger grades and 8-10 volunteers in the afternoon for the older grades.

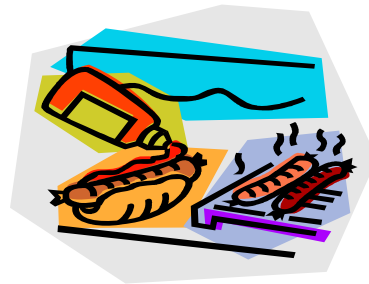
Again, remember to mark June 11<sup>th</sup> on your calendar for the picnic, and thanks for all that you do to make STRIDE Academy shine!

Ali Haws

Volunteer Coordinator

STRIDE Academy

ahaws@strideacademy.org



Finding out that your child is being bullied is a stressful and distressing experience. It's natural for a parent to feel anger, confusion and guilt. Some children are good at hiding their feelings and the first time you may know of the problem is when your child suddenly doesn't want to go to school, or says they are ill when PE lessons are on the agenda.

Other pointers can be:

- Coming home with cuts and bruises, torn clothes
- Asking for stolen possessions to be replaced
- Falling out with previously good friends, Aggression with brothers and sisters
- Being moody and bad tempered, being quiet and withdrawn
- Wanting to avoid leaving the house
- Doing less well at schoolwork
- Insomnia, Anxiety



Don't forget that if you didn't know your child was being bullied then the school may not have realized it either. If you think your young child is being bullied, but you're not sure, then ask a few simple questions:

- What did they do at school today?
- Did they do anything they liked? Did they do anything they didn't like?
- Who did they play with? What sort of games did they play? Did they enjoy them? Would they have liked to play different games with someone else?
- Are they looking forward to going to school tomorrow?

For an older child you can ask:

- What did they do at lunchtime today?
- Is there anyone they'd like to invite home?
- Is there any lesson at school they don't like?
- Is there anyone at school they don't like and why?
- Are they looking forward to going to school tomorrow?

### What STRIDE Academy Will Do

A major cause of stress at school for children is the fear of being taunted or bullied. Kids who are bullied are two to three times more likely to have headaches or other illnesses. (ABC News, Sept. 22, 1996). STRIDE Academy is trying to establish a social climate where physical aggression and bullying are not used to gain popularity, maintain group leadership or influence others to do what they are told to do. No one deserves to be bullied. Once the 60% of children who are neither victims nor bullies adopt the attitude that bullying is an unacceptable behavior, we will be well on our way to having a successful bullying program. We have adopted a Zero Tolerance policy for bullying, and a working character education curriculum in force. STRIDE Staff maintains a high profile in terms of the behavioral expectations of students in order to gain support from the community and send a clear message to the families of present and future students that bullying will not be tolerated.

We are trying to establish STRIDE Academy as a safe place for all students, school personnel continually work at maintaining that reputation. It is a difficult task that requires the school faculty to put student safety at the top of their priority list. Remember, students who do not feel safe at school are unlikely to perform as well academically as they are capable, thus possibly impeding their future opportunities. A commitment by the staff to no-bullying in the school must be a long term undertaking.

The next step at STRIDE Academy is to implement Anti-Bullying group discussions that are led by students. The goal is for students to assist the victims and bullies break the cycle. Jason Ulbrich (this plan comes from [www.bullybeware.com](http://www.bullybeware.com))

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