



Harambee Life

Working together for a common purpose

A ROSEVILLE AREA SCHOOL

June 14, 2017

Dear Harambee Families,

Ah, summer, what power you have to make us suffer and like it. -Russell Baker

Ah, summer! Summer can be the best and worst of year-round education. Students are suddenly surrounded by neighborhood friends who are starting their summer vacations. Family reunions, vacations, and camps pop up like weeds. Teachers daydream about beaches and picnics. Every minute spent indoors feels like a missed opportunity. So, why fight it? The great outdoors, in all its living wonder, is the finest classroom available.

According to the National Environmental Education Foundation, environmental education (EE) is “an ideal way to integrate classroom curricula, stimulate the academic and social growth of young people, and promote the conservation of the natural environment.” Here are ten benefits to environmental education and outdoor learning:

1. Studying EE Creates Enthusiastic Students, Innovative Teacher-Leader - In a world where it is increasingly challenging to get students interested in classroom lessons, EE offers an enriching way for both students and teachers to connect their appreciation of the natural world to academics.

2. EE Helps Build Critical Thinking, and Relationship Skills - Environment-based education emphasizes specific critical thinking skills central to “good science”—questioning, investigating, forming hypotheses, interpreting data, analyzing, developing conclusions, and solving problems.

3. EE Instructional Strategies Help Foster Leadership Qualities - Environmental education emphasizes cooperative learning (i.e., working in teams or with partners), critical thinking and discussion, hands-on activities, and a focus on action strategies with real-world applications.

4. EE Makes Other School Subjects Rich and Relevant - Using outdoor settings like wetlands, schoolyard habitats, or even national parks can infuse a sense of richness and relevance into a traditional school curriculum.

5. EE Teaches Students to be Real-World Problem-Solvers - Environment-based education employs key strategies for teaching creative and successful problem solving.

6. EE Helps Students Become Self-Directed Learners - When students learn through a problem-

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or project-based approach—a key strategy in environment-based education—they gain a better understanding of what they learn, they retain it longer, and they take charge of their own learning—key skills for success in our data-driven, rapidly changing world.

7.EE Gets Apathetic Students Excited About Learning - With an emphasis on the living world and hands-on activities, students find learning relevant to their everyday lives.

8.EE Schools Demonstrate Better Academic Performance across the Curriculum - Schools that adopt environmental education as the central focus of their academic programs frequently demonstrate increased test scores, decreased discipline problems, and students develop the ability to transfer knowledge from familiar to unfamiliar contexts.

9.EE Is a Perfect Match for Community Service Learning Requirements - Environmental projects are a leading choice for service learning nationwide.

10.EE Offers All Students Equal Chances for Academic Success - Environmental educators often find that students who fail in traditional school settings can succeed when the natural outdoor environment becomes the students' classroom.

Let's make summer the best part of our year-round calendar.

In summer, the song sings itself. -William Carlos Williams

In partnership,

Kathy Griebel, Harambee Principal



Looking Ahead

June

16: Harambee Dance Jam (School Fundraiser for Brain Pop and Brain Pop, Jr.), 6:30-8:30 PM

19-23: Staff Appreciation Week

20: Roller Skating at Saints North, 6:00-8:00 PM

21: Taco Lunch for Staff

21: Listening Session with Principal Griebel, 5:30 PM

21: PTO Meeting, 6:30 PM



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27: Trek the Trails, 9:45-11:30 AM for Grades 4-6

29: Variety Show, 6:30-8:00 PM

30: Variety Show Showcases, 10:15 AM and 11:15 AM

This Week's News

Click the links below to access this week's flyers:

[Saints North Roller Skating Party- June 20th](#)

[Roseville Parks and Recreation and Cheer America](#)

[Maplewood Parks and Recreation Summer Sports Clinics](#)

[Maplewood Parks and Recreation Fall Soccer League](#)

Crosswinds Closes July 1

We are sad to report that Crosswinds Arts and Science School is closing on July 1. The last day for students is June 22. We are thinking of all our Crosswinds friends – past and present. They were our sister school and this is a loss for our community. What we created together will be remembered and loved.

Fresh Fruit and Veggie Program Ends on June 29

The last day for this year's Fresh Fruit and Veggie Program is Thursday, June 29. Classrooms will still have a snack time in their schedule, but there will not be a fruit or vegetable snack provided.

Early Dismissal - June 30

Students will be dismissed from school at 12:15 PM on Friday, June 30. **Lunch will not be served.** Staff will have professional development in the afternoon.

No School - July 3-7

There is no school from July 3-7. School resumes on July 10.

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Track and Field Day - July 13

This year's Track and Field Day for all students will be held on Thursday, July 13. Physical Education teacher, Mr. Stepan, sets up races and other fun activities for the students to do outside in the backyard. If it rains, we will have Track and Field Day on Friday, July 14. Mr. Stepan will be looking for volunteers to help at the different stations. Please contact him at timothy.stepan@isd623.org or 651-379-2567.

News in Review

Trek the Trails - June 27

Get out your walking shoes! Get ready for a fantastic summer event. Tuesday June 27th we will be hosting Trek the Trails from 9:30-11:30. Mark your calendar to join us for a 5K walk on the beautiful school grounds.

Students will be walking to raise money for outdoor environmental education experiences and to practice healthy life habits. There will be educational stations promoting environmental science and health.

Please watch for further information to be coming in newsletters and Wednesday folders. If you are available to help between 9:30 and 11:30 please contact sierra.robinson@isd623.org

[Sign Up Genius](#)

Taco Lunch for Staff - June 21

Harambee PTO will be hosting a Taco Lunch for staff on Wednesday, June 21st during Teacher Appreciation Week. We will be providing beef, chicken, and beverages. We need your help with the rest! Please click on the button below to sign up and bring something for our hard-working teacher and staff. Thank you!



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Harambee Dance Jam - June 16, 6:30-8:30 PM

It's time to ditch the workout and join the party! Harambee parent, Terry Jones, and his dance crew invite you to work out for a cause on Friday, June 16 from 6:30-8:30 PM at Harambee. This is a great way to support our school and kick off your summer with a high-energy dance party!

With a donation of \$15 per adult (kids are free!), you will enjoy an evening of dance, fitness, friendship and FUN. You can also purchase healthy snacks and drinks to keep your energy high.

Note: This is not a drop-off event. Students must be accompanied by an adult.

We are raising funds to support a school-wide license for Brain Pop and Brain Pop, Jr. These online resources provide students with tools to help them connect with content. The resources are interactive, challenging and fun....just like our Harambee Dance Jam!



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Snapshots from Harambee

Continental Math League Award Winners

Congratulations to our fifth and sixth grade mathematicians. These students participated in the Continental Math League, a competitive program assessing problem-solving skills. The following students earned certificates of distinction: Jazlynn Nelson, Caroline Xiong, Alex Wan, Paul Aye, Gabriel Peters, Alexander Vang, and Eli Wolf. The top scores in each grade level also earned a medal. Kudos to Jazlynn Nelson (grade 5) and Gabriel Peters (grade 6).



Harambee Elementary School
30 East County Road B, Maplewood, MN 55113
Main Office: 651.379.2500
Attendance: 651-379-2595
School Hours: 9:35 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

If you need help with school paperwork or communicating with school staff please contact:

Spanish: Si necesita ayuda con los formularios escolares, o tiene alguna pregunta sobre la educación de su hijo(a) por favor llame a:

Marlene Stillman – 651-604-3546 marlene.stillman@isd623.org
Brenda Vasquez – 651-233-9787 brenda.vasquez@isd623.org
Liz Gallegos – CP – 651-703-4753 elizabeth.gallegos@isd623.org

Cecilia Martino – 651-235-3426 cecilia.martino@isd623.org
Carolyn Ellis – 651-999-9385 carolyn.ellis@isd623.org

Hmong: Yog nej xav tau kev pab txog cov ntaub ntawv tuaj ntawm tsev kawm los xav txuas lus nrog cov neeg ua haujlwm thov hu:
Maider Lee – 651-210-7821 maider.lee@isd623.org

Karen: နမ့်ဉ်လိဉ်တၢ်မၤစၢၤဘၣ်ယးဒီးလိဉ်စီၤလိဉ်စီၤ.မ့တမ့ၢ်တၢ်ခဲးကတိၤသကိးတၢ်ဒီးကိၣ်ပုၤဘၣ်မ့ဘၣ်ဒါဝံသးစူၤဆဲးကျၢဘၣ်
Mya Phyu – 651-307-4475 mya.phyu@isd623.org
Hsar Htoo – 651-332-6929 hsar.htoo@isd623.org
Zin Zin Htoo – 651-278-1897 zin.zin.htoo@isd623.org

Somali: Hadii aad u bahantahay in laga caawiyo buxinta waraqaha iskuul iyo xiriirka mamulka fadlan lasoo xiriix
Fathiya Yusuf – 651-322-0468 fathiya.yusuf@isd623.org

Nepali: यदि तपाईं विद्यालयका कागजी काम गर्न अथवा विद्यालयका कर्मचारीहरूसँग कुरा गर्न सहायता चाहनुहुन्छ भने कृपया संपर्क गर्नुहोस् :
Khim Khatiwada – 651-307-7471 khim.khatiwada@isd623.org

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Khim Khatiwada – 651-307-7471 khim.khatiwada@isd623.org

African American:

Robert Crump – 651-332-3721 robert.crump@isd623.org

Anthony Anderson – 651-239-3506 anthony.anderson@isd623.org

American Indian:

Allison Waukau – 651-332-6513 allison.waukau@isd623.org

If you have questions or concerns about the *Harambee Life*, please contact Principal Kathy Griebel at 651-379-2500.

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