

# Principal's News

JUNE 4, 2023

## A MESSAGE FROM DR. THERESA THAO-YANG

As we enter the last few weeks of school, I want to express my gratitude to each one of you. As I transitioned into this school year, all of you welcomed me even though you knew little about me. Thank you for trusting me to guide and lead Nokomis, but most importantly, thank you for your support. I have loved getting to know you, your child(ren), and being a part of this community and I am looking forward to what next school year will bring.



We've learned a lot from each other this year and I know we'll continue to grow and improve - as I've mentioned before, it takes a village - we're all in this together.

Have a wonderful and safe summer break and I will see everyone back in September.



## WARM WEATHER REMINDER

As the weather continues to warm up, Saint Paul Public Schools (SPPS) is taking several steps to help students stay as comfortable and hydrated as possible these last few weeks of school.

Although some schools do not have air conditioning, SPPS takes extra precautions to help students stay cool and hydrated during hot weather:

- When the temperature is projected to be high, SPPS frequently increases the amount of cooler nighttime air that's pulled in to pre-cool it for the next day
- If needed, buildings may identify "cooling areas" for students and staff
- Schools will have fans in the hottest areas of the building, including for staff working in kitchens equipped with ovens/dishwashers. All staff may use available fans to provide direct air movement and fresh air as needed

- Principals will use their best judgment on whether to hold recess outside depending on the play area, available shade, etc.
- Students will be allowed more frequent breaks to use drinking fountains and hydration stations (special drinking fountains that allow students and staff to fill reusable water bottles easily with chilled, filtered water)
- Staff will keep their window blinds closed during the day to avoid heat from the sun Staff will also open windows for additional air circulation where possible
- Staff will direct any child who feels ill to the nurse's office. If your child has a disability or health condition that gets worse in heat, please notify the school nurse

Here is a list of things families can do to keep students cool:

- Dress children in lightweight and light-colored clothing
- School buses are not air conditioned. You may provide a washcloth or neckband that has been cooled with water and stored in a sealable plastic bag. Students can wet the washcloth before getting on their afternoon bus
- Send your child to school with a reusable water bottle with your child's name
- Parents and guardians have the right to do what's best for their child, including reporting them absent (absences for weather are not automatically excused)

**At this time, temperatures are not expected to rise to a point where school would be canceled or modified.** Families should make sure their contact information is up-to-date in Campus. SPPS will send a robocall, text message, email and post updates on SPPS.org and social media if there are any changes to the school schedule.

## FREE SUMMER MEALS

[Summer meals](#) are available at NO COST to kids 18 and under, or those over 18 with a disability enrolled in a school program.



## JUNETEENTH: CELEBRATION OF FREEDOM

The Minnesota Orchestra presents, on Friday, June 23, a program in honor of Juneteenth, the holiday commemorating the emancipation of the last African Americans still enslaved in Texas in 1865. With conductor André Rahn at the podium, the concert includes Adolphus

Hailstork's jubilant Three Spirituals and William Grant Still's *Afro-American* Symphony, one of the most celebrated American symphonies ever written. Singer Jevetta Steele, performance poet Malcolm-Jamal Warner and Justice Alan C. Page all lend their voices to this evening of celebration and remembrance. **Kids tickets are free. For more information, go [Minnesota Orchestra.org](http://MinnesotaOrchestra.org).**



## ST. PAUL PUBLIC LIBRARIES AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT ARE PARTNERING TO KEEP KIDS READING WITH SUMMER SPARK

Saint Paul Public Library is launching their annual Summer Spark reading program on June 1. The program is for everyone ages 0-18, and reading logs have been distributed to all SPPS K-5 kids. Thank you to all SPPS staff who have helped promote this program to students.

Kids and teens can stop in at any [Saint Paul Public Library location](#) to sign up and get and a free book to keep.

Readers set their own reading and learning goals, and library staff are there to help. As kids and teens complete their goals, they get another free book to add to their personal library!

Learn more at [sppl.org/summer](https://sppl.org/summer)

## SCHOOL SUPPLY LIST 2023-2024

Here's the School [Supply List](#) for the 2023-2024 school year.



## SAVE THE DATES!

- Tues., June 6 - Field Day
- Wed., June 7 - Field Day (Make-up day)
- Mon., June 12 - PTO Meeting, 5:30 pm
- Tues., June 13 - E2 5th Grade Celebration
- Wed., June 14 - CH Kindergarten Fly Up Celebration
- Wed., June 14 - Last Day of School



## ABOUT US

- Our school is based on the Montessori method: students learn at their own pace in multi-grade classrooms, independently cultivating their interests and natural abilities. Teachers help students choose their work in carefully prepared, peaceful environments; students use beautifully designed hands-on materials to practice and understand skills and concepts. Teachers are Montessori certified and use the Montessori philosophy to guide instruction.

 985 Ruth Street, Saint Paul, M...

 (651) 744-7440

 [spps.org/nokomisnorth](https://spps.org/nokomisnorth)



