



NOVEMBER 2018

Positive Happenings

National Community Education Day

FLASCE Recognizes National Community Education Day

National Community Education Day reminds us that public education is a community project and the lifelong mission of education involves everyone in the community. In 1987, President Ronald Reagan proclaimed National Community Education Day. In his proclamation, he “invited parents, educators, students, state and local officials and all Americans to take part in activities that recognize and show appreciation for the role of community resources in education”. This year, National Community Education Day falls on November 8. FLASCE programs will be handing out thank you cards to participants and instructors.

A recent article published in the Forest Lake Times on October 11 looks at the important role Community Education plays in the community:

People often think of public education as something that applies only to the young, or that only K-12 students benefit from a vibrant, robust school district. Fortunately, that's not true. Learning is a lifelong process, and our local school district supports that process for people of all ages.

Back in 1971, the Minnesota Legislature established Community Education as a way to maximize the use of public school resources and facilities for the benefit of the whole community. People who were too old or too young for traditional public school, now had a way to begin or continue their education through a large variety of classes and programming.

The K-12 student day is over by 3:30 each day, but the use of our buildings is just getting started. After school, there is a variety of programming offered, from youth sports and enrichment classes to adult education, programming for adults with disabilities, and classes for senior citizens.

In 2015, our community voted to invest in the buildings and facilities of Forest Lake Area Schools. The renovations that followed have benefitted not only the K-12 students, who are attending classes in safer, updated buildings, but also the residents of our cities and towns, who use these buildings in the after-school hours through Community Education programming.

School and community interaction is critical to the success of any school district. Our schools belong to our citizens and each supports the other.

In Community Education, we have a citizen advisory board that helps refine and carry out our overall mission. This board helps the Community Education department identify the lifelong learning needs of our residents and provide innovative, cost-effective and engaging educational, social and recreational opportunities.

In years past, school houses were built by the community to be used not only for students, but also as a vibrant center for social and civic activities. Today's modern schools look a little different, but the mission is the same. Residents from all walks of life still come to their local school buildings to enjoy sporting events, arts activities and community events. They also come to our school buildings for adult basic education, early childhood family education, specialized classes, enrichment and physical fitness activities. The reach of our schools goes well beyond grades K-12, and nowhere is that more apparent than in Community Education.

If you haven't had the chance to participate in Community Education recently, I would encourage you to check us out. Catalogs of our classes and programming are mailed quarterly to each resident, and those details are also available online at www.flaschools.org/ce or via phone at 651-982-8110.

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