



BRIDGE TO SUCCESS

Hastings Public Schools

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April 22, 2026 Student Representative Reports

Shyla Henson

Kennedy Elementary

- Cougar News Network Video
 - Fun video where students highlight events and celebrations around Kennedy
- In-class music performance Friday May 8th
 - Students showcase what they've learned in music class throughout the year



- First grade Sheldon Theatre trip!!
 - Students went to the Sheldon Theatre in Red Wing to watch a cool performance of "Pete The Cat"



- Super fun end of the year carnival - May 29th
 - Stay tuned for the volunteer sign up list, soon to be posted!

Tilden

- Students practiced reading skills by reading *It Looks Like Spoiled Milk* by Charles G. Shaw
 - Preschoolers created artwork based off the story



- In town field trip to Spiral Co-op
 - Celebrated their learning and helped make connections to the community
- Preschoolers participated in a very fun bear hunt around Tilden!
 - Practiced using location describing words, like high, low, and medium



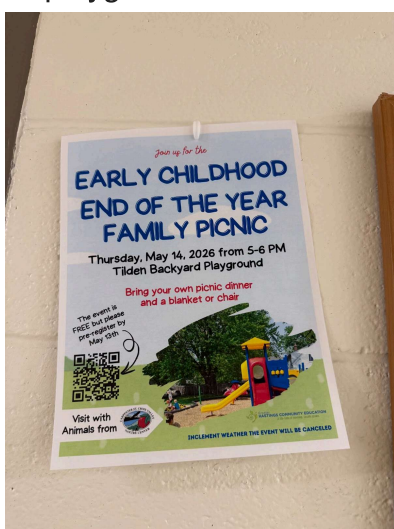
- Unexpected spring baby bunny find under the slide at recess
 - Connected with nature through an unexpected and authentic experience



- Due to a SPARK Grant, preschoolers have been able to have fun with a new racing track!



- Early Childhood End of the Year Family Picnic - May 14th, 5:00-6:00 PM at the Tilden backyard playground



Avery Durfee

McAuliffe Elementary

- April 9th: Young Authors Class starts weekly @ 8 am for students to pursue their love of writing and learning the necessary skills it takes to become an author!
- April 16th: McAuliffe had a Severe Weather Drill.
- April 16th: 3rd Graders at McAuliffe have been learning about immigration and had the chance to interview their family members to discover more about their own heritage! They also brought in meaningful artifacts to represent their chosen country to share their heritage as well as learn about their classmates' heritage!



- April 17th: CLIMB Theater came to give a very meaningful presentation on Self Awareness & Control
- April 20th - 23rd: Kindergarteners & 1st Graders demonstrate their love for music during their Music Informances!
- April 27th: 4th Graders will give a very educational presentation on what they've learned about the Revolutionary War.
- May 1st: 1st Graders will take a fun field trip to The Works Museum.

Pinecrest Elementary

- April 10th - Last day to get yearbooks!
- April 11th - All-Star Elementary Choir Concert at hosted at Tartan High School
- April 16th - 4th graders take a field trip to the MN History Center
- April 16th - 17th - Pinecrest K-1st grade students will share their musical talents through their informances
- April 17th - Mrs. Leontovich's class will perform Class Plays
- April 17th - the 3rd and 4th grade Running Club begins
- April 21st - MCA Math Testing begins
- April 23rd - 1st graders take an exciting field trip to the MN Zoo
- April 24th - No school!
- April 27th - Kindergarteners take a field trip to Dakota City Heritage
- April 28th - MCA Reading Testing begins
- April 28th - Author Mary Bleckwehl will come to visit the 2nd grade classes
- April 30 - 2nd graders will take a field trip to Gibbs Farm
- April 30th - Pinecrest elementary fun run from 5:30-7:30 to help support the students of Pinecrest and help to fund future family events! There will be food trucks, music, and fun games/activities. There is also a chance to win cool prizes like Pool Passes to the Hastings Family Aquatic Center, Tickets to the Minnesota Zoo, and tickets to go see the St. Paul Saints! Catch Mr. Baker as the Pinecrest Pirate!



Aidan Suarez Garcia

Hastings High School

This month at the high school, there wasn't too much going on. To get started, there was the annual Empty Bowls managed by the Spanish Honors Society, while the bowls were donated by Mr. Casperson and students. The goal of this event is to raise money for Hastings Family Services to help fight world hunger.

Speaking about the Honor Society, the National Honor Society has been working hard. They had their annual food drive, where students went all around town, going door to door, collecting donated food. Also, the morning of prom, NHS hosts their annual Gillette walk-a-thon. The goal is to raise money and awareness for Gillette Children's Hospital. With prom on the horizon, students look forward to a grand march and a dance at the Wexford at Emerald Greens golf course.

Sports

Spring sports are in full swing, with all nine teams competing in games, matches, and tournaments. The 4th annual "Raiders Sports Awards" will take place on May 4 at HHS, recognizing teams, coaches, alumni, and more than 100 individual student-athletes across 20 award categories; the event is free and open to the public, and Adam Gerlach ('99) will serve as the alumni guest speaker. We are also excited to announce two new head coaching hires: Ms. Cayla Chun for girls volleyball and Mr. Dustin Vogelgesang for boys hockey.

Also, on May 1st, the Hastings Boys Varsity tennis team plays Rosemount at Erickson Park (at 7 pm). That evening, we are honoring Mr. Willette, who was the HHS boys' tennis coach for roughly 20 years. He is currently battling stomach cancer, and his son happens to play JV for Rosemount. So, the hope is to fill the park with family and friends to help support Mr. Willette in his fight.

Music

The music department has stayed busy, as normal. Students prepare for concerts coming up soon. Solo ensemble for band plays tonight, good luck to all those participating. Choir students prepare for the pop concert in May. This concert is where all levels perform a miniature choir show, definitely one to watch.

ALP

Fourth quarter is in full swing at the ALP, with a variety of engaging courses and activities underway. Mr. K is once again teaching Music Production, a course added a few years ago and made possible through a Doffing Grant, where students create music using FL Studio; we continue to explore additional elective-style offerings, especially for full-time ALP students. Mr. Waage is teaching Plant Science, guiding students through planning plant varieties and spacing as they work to beautify the Alternative School entrance, with this year's projects currently in the planning stages, while students learn the full process from start to finish. Ms. Butler is focusing on local government, enhancing learning by bringing in guest speakers to discuss their roles. In addition, many events are taking place at the ALP, including preparations for "Bonus Week" (June 1–4), which will focus on teamwork, skill-building, and guest speakers. As of April 20, HHS students have completed 123 credit recovery courses, and HOA is currently serving 132 students, including 53 full-time and 79 part-time or dual-enrolled students.



Hastings Middle School

- MCA Testing
 - Students are taking many MCA tests throughout April
- Book Focus
- School Dances
 - 5th and 6th graders recently had their school dance, which was very well attended! WEB leaders helped facilitate and chaperone.
 - 7th & 8th grade had their dance and had some great fun too!
- Art Exhibit
 - Currently at the Arts Center is an art exhibit, featuring dozens of talented middle school artists! It goes through May so feel free to stop by!
- Jazz Night
 - The Jazz bands at the middle school have their Jazz Night performance tomorrow! Good luck musicians!

