

# Harding High School Parent Newsletter

Volume 1

September/October 2011

## THE PRINCIPAL'S PAGE



## Welcome to the 2011-2012 School Year

### AT HARDING WE CONTINUE TO FOCUS ON STUDENT LEARNING:

- Students are engaged in reading and writing activities in all content areas.
- Student writing is our school wide focus.
- Your student's progress reports will be mailed out after weeks 6, 12 and 18.
- Contact your student's counselor for more information

### HOW CAN PARENTS HELP WITH STUDENT SUCCESS?

- Communicating with teachers by email or phone is a good way to check on your student's progress.
- Teachers' phone numbers and emails can be found on Harding's website.
- Encourage your student to use after school and tutoring programs available at school.
- Attending parent teacher conferences with your student is a wonderful way to encourage and support your students
- Your student's progress is available on the computer using the Parent Portal on the SPPS website.

### A NEW WEBSITE IS ALMOST READY TO LAUNCH!

- We are excited to launch our "new" Harding High School website next month.
- This website will be cleaner, more up to date, useful and interactive, and easier to navigate.

I look forward to a successful year for all students at Harding!

Douglas Revsbeck  
Principal



## International Baccalaureate News...

### **Looking back at 2010-2011:**

- Congratulations to every student who worked so hard toward their IB Diplomas!
- Congratulations to every student who took 1 or more IB exam last May!
- Congratulations to every student who took 1 or more IB class last year!

Last year was filled with many, many successes. Harding's IB program boasted 263 students taking 548 IB exams! Japanese, Spanish, Music and Theatre all led the way with high exam results (and some of our scores were above the world average!). These numbers have qualified Harding for the nationally renowned "Challenge Index" -- which annually identifies America's best high schools. Once published by Newsweek, this list is now maintained by the Washington Post. To find a place on this list, schools must have given at least as many IB or AP exams as the school had graduating seniors. This recognition raises our profile statewide and nationally.

We are proud to declare that five of our IB Diploma Candidates earned the rigorous IB Diploma last May—the ultimate academic achievement at Harding.

Harding's IB graduates from 2011 are currently in college, attending schools like St. John's/St. Ben's University (MN), Carleton College (MN), Macalester College (MN), University of Minnesota (Mpls and Duluth, MN), St. Cloud (MN), St. Kate's (MN), St. Thomas (MN) and St. Olaf (MN).

### **Looking forward to 2011-2012:**

- Harding's IB program continues to grow, with more and more students challenging themselves with IB classes. It is our goal that EVERY student who attends Harding takes at least one IB class during their four years. We are also proud to be the only school in St. Paul (and among the few in the upper Midwest) offering Film IB.
- The class of 2012 has 15 students striving to earn the IB Diploma. These students will take at least 3 "Higher Level" and 3 "Standard Level" IB classes and exams, as well as complete an Extended Essay, "Creativity, Action & Service" (CAS) hours and expand their minds with the Theory of Knowledge class. Here is the list...

### **2012 IB Diploma Candidates**

**Fata Acquoi  
Abdi Dirie  
Jordine Johnson  
Paying Lee  
David McClain  
Abdirahman Mohamed  
Leslie Ramirez  
Mautai Tongrit-Green**

**Gaozong Vang  
Hlee Vang  
Mai K Vang  
Paxer Vang  
Josh Wickert  
Plia Xiong  
Eliora Yokanan**

### **Helpful Things to Know...**

- IB has a website that features statistics, information and much, much more—including old exam papers that students can download for practice for free! The website is: **[www.ibo.org](http://www.ibo.org)**
- Harding's IB website is: **[http://harding.spps.org/international\\_baccalaureate\\_program.html](http://harding.spps.org/international_baccalaureate_program.html)**
- Want to know a college's policies regarding IB exam scores? Visit this part of the IB website: **[www.ibo.org/diploma/recognition/directory](http://www.ibo.org/diploma/recognition/directory)**
  - select the appropriate country and then type in the college/university's name in the "search" box. Remember that schools accept credit from "diploma" and "certificate" students.

### **Other...**

#### **IB needs parent volunteers!**

We would greatly appreciate your help! Please contact coordinator, Erik Brandt (see below).

Please contact Erik Brandt if you have questions about the IB program.

Erik Brandt, IB Coordinator, email - [Erik.Brandt@spps.org](mailto:Erik.Brandt@spps.org) or phone 651-744-3095



## **GEAR UP is Glad to be Back at Harding**

GEAR UP is excited to be back at Harding High School this school year! St. Olaf GEAR UP is a federally funded college access program at Harding. Betty Yang is the academic advisor and will be working with 12<sup>th</sup> grade AVID students and a select group of approximately 20 students. Betty will be in the school building in the College and Career Center (CCC) on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 7 am – 3 pm.

There will be many opportunities for GEAR UP students to receive help on college and financial aid applications so please stop by her office in the CCC!

If you have questions, please contact Betty Yang at [yangb@stolaf.edu](mailto:yangb@stolaf.edu) or 507-786-8444.

## **Free and Reduced Lunch**

If you have not completed and returned your family's Free or Reduced lunch form please do this today! Qualifying for Free or Reduced lunch is a lot more than just lunch! Your child can receive reduced athletic fees, free tutoring services, and more scholarship opportunities. The school receives more federal funding and qualifies for more grants. A new form is required every year unless you receive welfare then your qualification is automatic and an application is not needed. You only need one from for the entire family. Please be careful to answer all the questions. If you have internet access, you may apply on-line at <https://mealapp.spps.org>. The on-line application is in English or Spanish. Please help your family and your school by returning your completed Free or Reduced Lunch Form to the school cafeteria. Please return these forms to the main office. Thanks!

# Earth Club News

Earth Club meets every Friday, except for early release days. We meet at 2:10 in room 1316. We have several field trips planned for the fall. There is a schedule posted near the door in room 1316. Listen to the announcements for additional information.



Earth Club provides volunteer and service learning hours for every meeting attended. We focus on environmental issues, take care of Harding's Native Plant gardens, plant, grow vegetables and herbs, take field trips to local parks. While we learn, we have fun. Earth Club has community partners. This year we are working closely with Friends of the Mississippi and the Ramsey Washington Metro Watershed District. Everyone is welcome to join Earth Club.

## Free Tutoring

Harding offers Extended Day everyday after school. This service is open to every Harding student. Help is available for all subjects. There is additional help for writing, reading and math for students needing to pass the GRAD required tests. If you qualify for Free or Reduced Lunch and your child needs help with reading, writing or math there is free tutoring available from private vendors. Information and registration forms were mailed by the District. You have until October 29, 2011 to return the applications. At conferences, October 13 and 17, and at the Parent Meeting on October 10, 2011 you may register your child for tutoring.



## From The Library

### RIF

Once again this year Harding students will be receiving three free books through the Reading Is Fundamental (RIF) Program. Nearly 6,000 books will be given away. RIF is a federally funded program whose goal is to motivate students to read by providing them with three books, of their own choosing, which are theirs to keep. The RIF books will be identified with a sticker inside the front cover that says RIF and the student's name. Be on the lookout for these books coming home and encourage your student to take advantage of this fabulous opportunity!

### SPPS Apps

Through a district initiative called "SPPS Apps," now in its fourth year, students have a Google-powered school e-mail. They also have their own Google Docs accounts which can be accessed on their personal SPPS Apps webpage. This program makes it possible for students to save papers and presentations online in their SPPS Apps account and access it both at home and at school, or wherever they have internet access.

### SPPS Apps Access

Access to students' SPPS Apps counts can be found at [connect.spps.org](http://connect.spps.org)<Student Resources<SPPS Apps – student email, on-line word processing, etc. Instructions on how to access students' SPPS Apps accounts and how to use Google Docs can be found at [harding.spps.org](http://harding.spps.org)<Library<Google Docs.

### Testing Help

Need practice help for the MCA, SAT, ACT and other GRAD tests? Many practices websites are available at [Harding.spps.org](http://Harding.spps.org)<Library<Test Prep

### Research

Are you aware that your student can do reliable research from your home computer and it doesn't have to be Google? In addition to the Reliable Resources available at [connect.spps.org](http://connect.spps.org)<Student Resources < Online Learning Resources, Harding will be adding four eBooks made possible for purchase through an Ecolab Grant. Watch for those on the library web page.

## FALL Conference dates

Thursday, October 13<sup>th</sup> and Monday, October 17<sup>th</sup> 4:00 – 7:00 pm  
See you there!!



## NHS/Student Council Corner



### **NHS Service Project**

#### Upcoming projects:

- Oct. 31<sup>st</sup> Trick or Treat for canned goods!
- November: Annual school wide food drive! Please send food with your student to donate in advisory! All food is donated to the Merrick Community Food Shelf! Last year Harding students, parents, and staff collected over 1,000 lbs of food!

### **Student Council**

Ninth grade students who hope to become Student Council members are encouraged participating in School Service Days to earn service hours. The more hours ninth graders put in as Student Council Helpers the better their odds are for becoming an official Student Council member for their sophomore-senior year. Service days are held on early release days and non-student school days (teacher work days). Students can see Mrs. Raven in 1406 for more information.

### **Blood Drives**

Students must be 16 and older to donate blood! Parents are more than welcome to sign up to participate in our blood drives with Memorial Blood Centers. Our blood drive dates are: Halloween: Oct. 31, Valentine's Day: Feb. 14 and our spring blood drive is yet to be determined!

If you have questions about school service projects or would like to donate contact NHS/Student Council Advisor Angela Raven at [angela.raven@spps.org](mailto:angela.raven@spps.org)

## **Athletic Department News**

Our fall sport teams are in full swing!

The Harding football team is much improved and we have a great turn out – we have over 100 on our three football teams – varsity, JV, and 9<sup>th</sup> grade. Our varsity has started the season with two wins – defeating Humboldt and Aikin – while our 9<sup>th</sup> grade team knocked off Johnson 22 – 14 to start their season.

Girls tennis, swimming, and volleyball have fine teams and are show improved play every day. Our boys and girls cross country teams have been in several meets and are looking good.

Boys and girls soccer teams have played several games – and continue to improve and are very competitive.

All of our teams are in action many times per week and you can check the schedule on line – [sports.spps.org](http://sports.spps.org) and fine the dates, times, and place for the contests.

Any athletic questions – call Mr G. Keenan – Athletic Director 651 744 3236

# Harding Counselors: How Can We Help You?



This year the counseling team has two new members, Ellen Calebaugh (MESA) and Cynthia Chavez-Rios (Human Services).

**Please call your student's counselor if you have any questions or concerns:**

**Marianna Sullivan, SEIT** Phone: 744-3109 E-Mail: marianna.sullivan@spps.org

**Cynthia Chavez-Rios, Human Services** Phone: 744-3113 E-Mail: cynthia.chavez-rios@spps.org

**Didi Málaga, Fine Arts** Phone: 744-3092 E-Mail: deborah.malaga@spps.org

**Ellen Calebaugh, MESA** Phone: 744-3234 E-Mail: ellen.calebaugh@spps.org

**Erika Huss, 9th Grade** Phone: 744-3169 E-Mail: erika.huss@spps.org

**Ralph Alexander, College and Career Center (CCC)** Phone: 744-3150  
E-Mail: ralph.alexander@spps.org



## ATTENTION FAMILIES OF SENIORS AT HARDING:

SENIORS MUST PASS THE READING AND WRITING TESTS IN ORDER TO GRADUATE NEXT SPRING!

- Juniors and Seniors who need to pass the GRAD test in Reading and Math need to take after school math and reading classes.
- Seniors who need to pass the Reading or Writing GRAD test need to participate in the after school support we offer until 4:15 in the library.
- It is important to follow the enclosed retest dates closely and to be prepared for the retakes:

|                     |                                       |
|---------------------|---------------------------------------|
| GRAD Reading Retest | Grade 12 ONLY, October 4-12, 2011     |
| GRAD Writing Retest | Grades 10-12, November 2, 2011        |
| GRAD Math Retest    | Grade 12 ONLY, November 1-9, 2011     |
| GRAD Reading Retest | Grades 11 and 12, December 6-14, 2011 |

**Please plan to be at fall conferences at Harding on October 13 and 17 to find out what your student needs in order to graduate.**



# Harding Knight Navy

The “Knight Navy” - Harding’s Naval Junior ROTC unit is now in its eighteenth year of existence, and is starting the school year with a Battalion enrollment of 195 cadets.

This year’s dedicated Battalion Staff is Bi Xiong - Battalion Commander, Alex Pha – Executive Officer, Keng Vang – Operations, Leighton Syring – Administration, Ger Vang – Supply, Evenlina Vang – Public Affairs, Qudus Rahmon – Community Service, and Kee Yang – Battalion Master Chief. Congratulations to these cadet leaders.

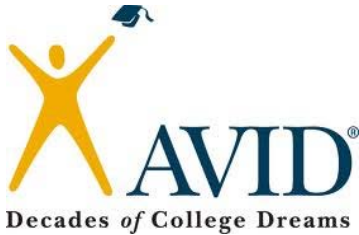
NJROTC is an elective credit class that focuses on citizenship, self-discipline and leadership traits. There are four NJROTC extra-curricular teams that compete in local and inter-state competitions with other JROTC units. These teams are Precision Drill with Tommy Xiong as drill team commander, Color Guard with the team commander as yet undetermined, Academic Team with Keng Vang as team captain, and the revered Knight Navy Physical Fitness Team with Nao Lor as team captain. Last March, at the Area 3 West seven-state regional drill competition, involving NJROTC units from 18 schools, Harding’s Drill Team brought home the fourth place trophy, and the Knight Navy Physical Fitness Team once again dominated in physical fitness as we had done in the four years prior. We are determined to retain this much respected status for the sixth straight year and remain true to the Battalion’s motto that “push-ups make you smarter.”

By the time this article is published, the Knight Navy will have hosted on Saturday, October 1, our third inter-school competition, the third annual “Great Northern All Team Sport (GNATS)” Blowout. As the name suggests, only team sports were conducted. JROTC cadets from eight schools competed in single-elimination tournaments in Basketball, Volleyball, Dodge Ball, Flag Football, Soccer, Kickball, and a mile-and-a-quarter Relay Race. Team members of the first place team in each of the sports were awarded medals to wear on their uniforms, and the overall winning JROTC unit was awarded possession of the GNATS Busted Ball Traveling Trophy until the next GNATS competition the first Saturday in October next year. Results from this year’s Blowout will be published in a future newsletter. Hopefully, it will state that we retained possession of the trophy for another year. We won last year, but Fargo’s Air Force JROTC unit took first place the year before and drove far away with the Busted Ball traveling trophy.

Upcoming competitions include Como Park’s “Devil Dog” drill meet on October 29th, and hopefully Washington Technology Magnet’s “Destroyer” Drill Meet some time in December. The final competition of the year will be held in early March – the Area Three West Drill Competition in Great Lakes, Illinois. A coach bus will carry 45 dedicated and trained cadets to compete against 17 to 20 other NJROTC units from a seven state region. Events include precision drill, color guard, academic test, personnel inspection and physical fitness. Training has already commenced.

The NJROTC Battalion would like to thank Harding administration, counseling staff, teaching staff, and custodians for their invaluable support of our program and salute the parents for supporting their cadets before and during these competitions – BRAVO ZULU (“Well done in Navy parlance”).





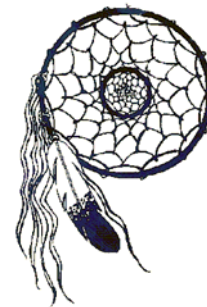
## Harding's AVID Program

Advancement Via Individual Determination, or AVID, is a college-prep program designed 27 years ago by a San Diego teacher that has quietly swept across much of the country. Nationally, the program says, 94 percent of participants graduate from high school and enroll in college. That figure includes students who go to community colleges and other schools with noncompetitive admissions, but AVID is designed for students in the middle.

Harding's AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) Program continues to be the largest in Minnesota. This college access program is fortunate to have college educated tutors focus on math skills every Thursday and critical thinking skills in other core subjects on Tuesdays. College visits and team building activities are also a part of this program. Recently, 46 ninth graders and 4 days later 38 tenth graders went to Fort Snelling State Park. The students canoed, worked on team building activities and hiked. AVID and Wilderness Inquiry give intercity students opportunities to experience new things and put their team building skills to use.

Harding AVID is extremely grateful to Travelers' for providing students with planners, binders and dividers. These tools will help the AVID students to be even more successful.

Stay tuned for more AVID news next month.



## American Indian Studies

American Indian Studies (AIS) is off to a great start this year! We are excited to be part of the monthly **Parent Involvement Nights** at Harding, with a break-out group for parents and students interested in developing and supporting the AIS Program. Topics up for discussion include student leadership opportunities, Graduation with AIS Distinction, possible Ambassador Contest, Ojibwe and Lakota Quiz Bowls, fundraising, ways to support student culture and learning, among others. The next meeting will be October 17<sup>th</sup>, with dinner provided by Title I.

At this time we are accepting student applications for the **Graduation with an AIS Distinction Program**. Students in the program choose to specialize in American Indian Studies, taking classes in Native culture and language, history and art, and they are involved in the Native community. With the successful completion of program criteria, students will earn the "Distinction in American Indian Studies" mark on their final transcripts, and their honor will be noted at the Indian Education and Harding High School graduation ceremonies. This program is open to students of all cultural backgrounds, and is a highlight that can be useful in applying for college scholarships and grants.

Please see Ms. Harper in room 1425 to pick up an application, or email her at [angie.harper@spps.org](mailto:angie.harper@spps.org) with any questions.

The AIS and Indian Education **After School Study Group** will begin meeting every Wednesday in room 1425, from 2:15-3:30 pm, starting October 5<sup>th</sup>. Indian Ed. Students are welcome to bring their homework. Tutors are available and bus passes will be provided.

The **Lakota Drum Group** will also start meeting in October, although the date has not been set yet. Drum Group is taught by Jerry Dearly, a Lakota language and culture teacher with Indian Education. Any students who are interested in learning to sing at the powwow drum should check in with Ms. Harper.

*Mi'iw! Miigwetch!* (That's all for now! Thank you!)

Attention Parents and Students!

The time is here to order you Harding Knights Yearbook! A yearbook is a great way to celebrate and be able to, one day, look back on your high school experience and they make a great graduation gift

### **ORDER YOUR YEARBOOK NOW!**

Cost of the full color yearbook is \$60.00

Yearbooks are not just for seniors, they are for all classes. Why not order one for your child today! ALL yearbook orders must be in by February 18th! We accept cash or checks made out to Harding High School. You can order your yearbook online and pay with a credit card by going to [www.jostens.com](http://www.jostens.com). Order forms may be picked up in rooms 1307 or 1245 or order at Conferences, Oct. 13 and 17th! Look for the yearbook display.

## **Product Development Class Kicks Off The Year With A Bang!**

What a great way to start the school year! Product Development recently went on an amazing field trip to Olson Advertising in Minneapolis. We toured the Twin Cities largest advertising agency, met successful professionals, saw the different roles within an advertising agency, and experienced their fun workplace. We loved the trip and are looking forward to traveling to Imation and having Imation professionals in our class in the coming weeks.

Product Development is a class that is designed for students to create a product and take it through the life cycle of the product, including marketing and advertising. We are partnered with the non-profit, The BrandLab ([www.thebrandlab.org](http://www.thebrandlab.org)). The BrandLab provides lots of opportunities such as providing a BrandLab instructor, Kareem Ahmed, paid internships over the summer at 3M, Olson Advertising, or General Mills. They also award \$1000 scholarships for those who are planning on going to college, and an alumni association for all of us who have been through the class to help with networking, internships and job opportunities.

Product Development is enrolling now for Spring Semester, if you are interested talk to your counselor or Ms. Zaccardi in room 1358, at conferences or via email. [allison.zaccardi@spps.org](mailto:allison.zaccardi@spps.org)

## Music and Theatre Department:

Harding High School will be doing it's first musical in five years; we invite everyone to come and see "Into The Woods" by Steven Sondheim. This is a delightful musical that brings various fairytales to life on stage in a way that you will never see coming! We are excited once again to have the Music and Theatre departments collaborating on this great adventure! The performance dates will be November 10 and 12 and 18 and 19 at 7 P.M. We will also be making an appearance at the Harding Hmong New Year on November 11. Tickets will be \$6 for Student and Seniors and \$8 for Adults. There will be a \$2 discount for buying tickets early. We also have group rates if you are buying more than 10 tickets at a time. For more information about tickets please call 651-744-3199.

We will also be selling ad space in the program. If you have a business that might want to advertise please call 651-744-3199 for more information.

### **Notice to Parents and Guardians Pesticide Application August, 2011**

Dear Parent or Guardian:

In accordance, with Minnesota Statute §121A.30, **Pesticide Application at Schools**, all persons at this school are advised that an estimated schedule of applications of pesticides is available in the school office for review and copying. Attached is a copy of that schedule for your records.

In addition, any person who wishes to be notified of any variation from the scheduled applications may be so notified if specifically requested.

If you would like to be notified prior to pesticide applications made on days other than those specified in the estimated schedule (excluding emergency applications), please complete and return the attached form. If requesting notification via the U.S. Mail, please include **five** self-addressed, stamped envelopes.

This statute also requires that you be told that the long-term health effects on children from the application of such pesticides or the class of chemicals to which they belong may not be fully understood.

If you would like more information on specific pesticide products, you are encouraged to contact the Minnesota Department of Education at their web site:

<http://education.state.mn.us/HealthAndSafety/pesticide.do>

If you have questions regarding this notice, contact the school office. Please note that nothing in this law affects the duty of a parent/guardian or a student to comply with the compulsory attendance law. In other words, any student must have an excused absence if they are not present.

## Request for Parent/Guardian Pesticide Notification

I understand that the school has made available an estimated schedule of pesticide applications for my review and that this schedule is available in the school office.

Should a pesticide application be scheduled on a day different from the days specified in the original schedule, I would like to be notified.

I would prefer to be notified by (circle)    US Mail       E-Mail

**If using US mail, please attach five self-addressed, stamped envelopes.**

Please print clearly:

---

Name of Parent or Guardian

---

Date

---

E-mail

---

Mailing Address

---

City, State, Zip

---

Day Phone:

Evening Phone

Please return to your child's school