

St. Paul Preparatory School  
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## MARCH NEWS



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### March:

- **11** Parent/Teacher Conferences, 4-7 p.m.
- **12** No School
- **15-19** Spirit Week
- **19** Spring Dance, 7-10 p.m.
- **29-Apr 2** Spring Break, No School

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**ACADEMIC CALENDAR** – An updated calendar is enclosed here to inform you of changes.

### Attendance:

The SPP Attendance Policy asks that you call the school office when your student is going to be absent or late 651-288-4606. Calls must be received no later than 9:15 a.m. Thank you!

### Late Start/School Closings:

On days when the weather is bad, tune in to **WCCO TV channel 4, WCCO Radio 830, or wcco.com to check any schedule changes**. Information will be posted by 7 a.m. on mornings when late starts or closings occur. Please continue to check these stations for possible school closing, after a late start has been issued.

### SPP FALL 2009-10 HONOR ROLL

**Congratulations to the students listed below. They have each achieved a semester GPA of 3.7 or higher. Great work!**

Tuvshinzaya (Mongolia)	Sang Hyun (South Korea)
Franziska (Germany)	Kieran (USA)
Andris (USA)	Franzeska (Indonesia)
Narin (Germany)	Van (Vietnam)
Andrina (USA)	Nhi (Vietnam)
Katharina (Germany)	Anna (Germany)
Duy (Vietnam)	Erik (USA)
Juliana (Brazil)	Stellan (USA)
Makiko (Japan)	Juthathip (Thailand)
Lou (Germany)	Beiyun (China)
George (Georgia)	Yichao (China)

### Parent/teacher Conferences:

Parent/teacher conferences will be held on Thursday, March 11, 4-7 p.m. The format for spring conferences will be the same as fall conferences. Appointments are not necessary and you can meet with teachers as they are free. Please make every effort to attend.

**NOTE:** Carol North (Spanish) and Cheri Weber (Art/Technology) will be available from 4-5 p.m. only. John Li (Chinese) will be available from 4-6 p.m. only.

### **SPP's International Cookbook: *Flavors of the World***

St. Paul Preparatory School's International Cookbook is still for sale for \$12. If you buy 10 or more they are \$10 each. You can request them from the school office. Don't miss out! It is a great keepsake and representation of the diversity of cultures at our school. Original artwork and writing is from our students! If you have any questions, you may contact Tiffany Good [tgood@stpaulprep.org](mailto:tgood@stpaulprep.org).

### **TRAVEL REMINDER:**

For *St. Paul Prep international students* making any plans to travel this spring (Spring Break, Easter, etc.), please remember that any overnight student travel outside the host community requires a Travel Proposal Form to be submitted 2-4 weeks prior to the intended travel date. This will help ensure that all other necessary forms and policies have been properly considered. (This is especially important for any international travel.)

Travel Proposal Forms are available online at [http://stpaulprep.org/student\\_forms.html](http://stpaulprep.org/student_forms.html). Travel forms as well as questions may be directed to the front desk, or by phone to 651-288-4606.

## **A message from the counselor...**

Hi seniors! If you have not yet applied to colleges, **your time is running out!** If you need help please make an appointment with me and I will be happy to help you in any way I can.

**To All Seniors:** When you begin to hear back from colleges please let me know those that accept you. I need to know all acceptances not just the college you decide to attend.

**Juniors!** It is time to start researching colleges and making some initial choices. Please come see me with any questions. I am happy to assist you in whatever way I can. ~ Trudy Hill

## **Student Highlights**

### **Mock Trial:**

Home Field Advantage...

Super Bowl Sunday, a few hours from kickoff...I hope it is obvious to everyone that the Colts will win by 4. No home field for either team today, which leads me to think about Mock Trial and the advantages of carrying out the competition in the native language. We lost all three cases this year on points, although we did prevail on the merits of the case in the last round. Speaking objectively, our team *should* have won the second round. The presentation, the theme, the objections and responses, all were better than the opposing team. One judge gave it to us narrowly on the points, but the other judge was pretty obviously biased and gave the opposition many more points than us. And there were some bad evidentiary rulings from the presiding judge. Vicky Sandberg was there cheering us on, and she agrees. Coulda, woulda, shoulda... but didn't. So it goes.

The students (including the Americans) get to sharpen their use of language, develop and then learn to undermine nuanced arguments, and generally get a feel for the turkey shoot that litigation really is. Sadly, we never have home field advantage, and in a close issue, it always costs us a point here, a point there. This year's team

consisted of Stellan (USA), Tymon (Poland), Kieran (USA), Ngoc (Vietnam), Dung (Vietnam), Arturo (Colombia), Yijun (China), and Alina (Moldova); everybody worked hard and continued to strengthen their performance even though they were on a losing streak. Thanks to everyone for trying so hard, and to Vicky for the pizzas which showed up with regularity on trial days! Let's hope for and work towards better luck next year.

~ John Mawk

### **Math Club News:**

Another third place in the City for St. Paul Preparatory School!

A very snowy day, but we arrived at the contest site without incident. The organizers were afraid they would have to start late, but the teams were on time and ready at 3:00, so the competition started on time. St. Paul Prep was impressive in the first two rounds, scoring well into the double digits on both. Unfortunately, rounds three and four were not as good, and though we bounced back in the team event, it was not enough to put us firmly into the state championships. Our final score for the season was well over 300 points, though, so St. Paul Prep finished 33<sup>rd</sup> in the state this year.

Congratulations to Beiyun (China), who individually scored well enough to place in the top ten of the St. Paul City division.

Be sure to congratulate the team for their strong showing! Thanks again to everyone for making the competitions this year possible – Lonna for transportation, everyone for putting up with missing students, and Cray Research for their sponsorship.

Other upcoming math events – we have two more competitions left for the internet math league (we are currently fifth in our division) and we have the St Cloud State Math competition in late March.

~ Jim Walker

### **Academic World Quest:**

Once again this year, the St. Paul Preparatory team won the Academic World Quest award for Best School Spirit! This is the third year in a row that our team has won this award. The team wore school shirts, used brilliant blue hand clappers, waved pom-poms, and cheered for everyone!

### **Student Members:**

Linas (Lithuania)

Katharina (Germany)

Zilong (China)

Cornelis (Germany)

Felix (Germany)

Stellan (USA)

Arturo (Colombia)

Lou (Germany)

The competition was held at the University of Minnesota and was sponsored by the Minnesota International Center. Way to go SPP!

~ Peggy Spurgeon

Yesul (Lisa) from South Korea was selected as a 4th place winner in the 2010 Minnesota Aviation Art Contest. This year's theme was "My Dream to Fly".



Winning entries will receive a gift certificate for a 30-minute flight at their local airport and art supplies. The winning artworks will be on public display at the Minneapolis International Airport. In addition, the artwork in each age group will be featured in the Minnesota Aviation Art Contest Calendar for 2011.

An awards ceremony will be held at the State Capitol Rotunda, St .Paul, Minnesota, Friday, March 5th, 2010, from 9:30am-11:00am. Congratulations Yesul!

*Mrs. Weber*  
*SPP Art Department*

## **Staff News**

### **Congratulations to Jim Walker!**

The weekend of February 19 was an exciting one for me. I travelled to Boston to assistant coach the MN state math team in their first appearance at the Harvard MIT Mathematics Contest. It was a whirlwind trip – we flew out early Friday, competed Saturday, and returned early Sunday morning. Unfortunately, as of this writing, we have no idea where our students placed overall. There were 96 teams competing (some from as far away as Beijing, Shanghai, and Seoul). None of our competitors finished in the top ten, but we are hoping for a finish in the top forty which provides an automatic invitation to next year's contest.

I also recently won *CHANCE* statistics magazine's "goodness of Wit" challenge (for a free subscription) – look for my photo in an upcoming issue.

~ Jim Walker