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Northsider

Volume 27

September 2018

Issue 9

One Team, One Dream for SPS School Year

"It's August and you know what that means?" This was the opening statement from Carol Embree, Deputy Superintendent of Springfield Public Schools, to our monthly lunch crowd. Of course she was eluding to the start of another school year, and Embree, along with a panel of SPS stakeholders were on hand to share the vision for the new year.

In addition to the panel, which included Bridget Dierks, Jill Patterson, L.A. Anderson and Tammy Flowers, the crowd saw videos that highlighted behind the scenes of Mr. Kennedy's 5th-grade class from Wilson's Creek, Special Education teacher Jean Lawson, who received the teacher of the year award, and a feature about Fueled by Launch; which provides online access to distance learning for Springfield students.

complemented the theme of this year's district campaign titled "One Team, One Dream" and Embree invited those in attendance to feel like they were part of that vision by listing dreams those in attendance had for the staff and students of SPS.

Dierks, who is co-chair of the Community Task Force on Facilities, shared their ultimate dream of "fair and adequate space for all students" and issued a call for the community to "make recommendations to the school board" about how the district can achieve that dream.

Patterson, the current SPS Board President, said she had learned so much about facilities planning since joining the board and encouraged those in attendance to "please be a part of this, so we can do what's best for all."



Pictured left to right are Jill Patterson, Tammy Flowers, Bridget Dirks, L.A. Anderson and Carol Embree; the SPS Team

Continued on page 2

The variety offered by the presentation

On The Agenda

MONTHLY LUNCHEON

SEPTEMBER 13TH
11:30 TO 1:00

PRESENTER: MANDY VELA
BURRELL BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

LOCATION: STOCKYARD
SMOKEHOUSE (OZARK EMPIRE
FAIRGROUNDS)

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In The Future

MONTHLY LUNCHEON

OCTOBER 11TH
CANDIDATE FORUM
11:30 TO 1:00 PM

STOCKYARD SMOKEHOUSE
(OZARK EMPIRE FAIRGROUNDS)

Talking with Kids About School

Why is it so hard to talk about school? Parents often get exasperated with kids' monosyllabic answers to their simple questions. That one well-intentioned line, "How was school today?" has probably provoked more bad feelings between parents and kids than either party ever intended.

"How was school today?" is a frustrating question for both parents and kids," notes Michael Thompson, Ph.D., author of "The Pressured Child." "Parents never get the answer they want and often don't understand how difficult this question really is."

(continued on page 2)

NOTICE

Construction is underway at the Cox College of Nursing and NSBA is temporarily relocating to the Ozark Empire Fairgrounds. Beginning in September, our monthly luncheon meeting will be at Stockyard Smokehouse - across from the E-Plex. Bring your appetite and we'll see you on the 13th at 11:30 a.m.

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Dream Team (cont. from pg. 1)

Another reason that she thought the audience before her should take particular interest in the district's future is decisions currently being discussed "have a lot to do with the northside" and the schools in question are "desperate for updates and restarts."



Attendees were asked to share their "dreams" for Springfield Public Schools

Anderson, talked about the importance of work focus and partnerships in the community. As the district looks to provide ways our African American and Hispanic students can engage with the professional community, Anderson stated, "equity and access happen with intentionality."

Flowers, who at that time had only been in Springfield for 2 weeks, talked to the audience about her view of our community from the outside and shared that she decided to relocate, "because of the proactive focus of SPS and Springfield as a whole."

Embree concluded the presentation by sharing, "the state of the school system is strong" and issued this challenge to the audience - "Let your dreams be bigger than your fears, and your actions louder than your words."

Talking to Kids (cont. from pg. 1)

Without meaning to, parents are asking for a summary but kids don't summarize the way adults do. So most kids just say 'fine' or try to avoid the question entirely." And then the problem escalates. "Many parents will repeat this question if they don't get a good enough response because they don't know how else to ask it," adds Lawrence Cohen, Ph.D., author of "Playful Parenting."

Fortunately, some simple strategies can get kids and parents talking and listening. "What was fun? What was the worst part of the day? Did your teacher explain that math homework? How did soccer go?"

However, communicating effectively about school goes deeper than just asking the right questions. "What are the goals of talking with kids about school and what is the role of the adult in these conversations?" asks Diane Levin, Ph.D., professor of education at Wheelock College.

"More than just finding out how their day was, we want to help kids become problems solvers and independent learners. Good conversations help kids see we care about their lives, that we are there to support them, and to help them develop strategies for solving problems themselves."

This article is reprinted from the PBSParents website.

Who We Are



Beautification • Education • Recognition

Our Purpose:

To encourage and promote worthwhile and honorable endeavors which will make North Springfield a better place in which to work and live. Our intent is to be alert to our community's needs and well-versed and knowledgeable in order to take constructive action for community betterment.

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Printed by Lakeland Office Systems
Mailed by NDC Mailing Services

Northsider; September 2018; Volume 27, No. 9
Northsider is published monthly and intended to encourage North Springfield business owners and residents to engage in activities, which better their community. All articles should be submitted to the editor three weeks prior to the scheduled luncheon.

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Letter from the NSBA President



We're off to a great start to the new school year. We heard a fantastic presentation from a SPS team at our August luncheon. Speaking of luncheon, we are temporarily relocating to the Ozark Empire Fairgrounds while Cox Nursing School remodels. We'll meet at the Stockyard Smokehouse, which is located right across from the E-Plex.

We're taking contributions for our annual Christmas parties silent auction. This is our biggest fundraiser of the year, with proceeds helping to support the Attendance Party. If you've got an item to donate, please let me know!

I want to say thank you to the volunteers who recently took time from their Saturday to help beautify the traffic islands at the Kearney-Glenstone intersection. It looks great! We have some great volunteer opportunities available, including joining one of the seven committees supporting NSBA. We're only as strong as our membership's involvement, so please consider where your strength might be put to good use.

As always, thank you for what you do to make north Springfield a great place to live, work and raise a family!

Jacquie Breedlove-Harness, NSBA President

Nate's Notes



The 40 Developmental Assets® framework was created by Search Institute consisting of preventative measures, positive experiences, and qualities that young people need to grow up healthy, caring and responsible. These assets are protective factors that have been consistently shown, by research, to buffer youth from risk. Parents can learn more at www.search-institute.org

NSBA Notes

Become an NSBA Member Today!
Membership Dues

Retired Individuals: \$20.00
Neighborhood Associations: \$20.00
Single Membership: \$65.00*
Corporate for 2 individuals: \$100.00
Corporate for 3 individuals: \$150.00

Plus 3-person Corporate Memberships will get to present a 10-minute company profile at an NSBA General Meeting

Contact any board member for more information.

***A Single Membership is one person, with or without a company affiliation, who wants to join NSBA.**

The Mission of NSBA

Our purpose is to promote and encourage worthwhile and honorable endeavors, which make north Springfield a better place to work and live. Our intent is to be alert, well versed, and knowledgeable to our community's needs in order to take constructive action for community involvement.



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bet·ter·ment

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noun

1. the act or process of improving something.

"they believed that what they were doing was vital for the betterment of society"

synonyms: improvement, amelioration, advancement, change for the better, furtherance, upgrading, enhancement...

- the enhanced value of real property arising from local improvements. "a betterment charge"

