



Parent Newsletter

November 2015

Due to the fact...

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Student Representatives Join MNFPSP Board

By Cheryl Whitesitt

Two years ago, the board brainstormed ways to improve services to our students. Yes, even the board brainstorms! The top solution was to hear directly from students – to hear their Voice. So allow me to publicly introduce these amazing young ladies.

Solveig Stensland, a Junior at Centennial High School, has been involved in FPS for four years. “I wanted to be a Student Board Representative to give back to the activity that has given me so much” and “allowed me to grow in many ways by teaching me problem solving skills, public speaking practice, and experience working with others.” Solveig hopes to assist board members “by giving the perspective of an experienced competitor,” “fostering more involvement” to “give more students the opportunity to join this great activity” and “diversify the ideas, perspectives, and abilities of Minnesota FPSers.” She supports “integrating the FPS process into the school’s curriculum” to “allow these important skills”...“reach every student and prepare them for their futures.”

Nina Vang, also a Junior at Centennial High School, has been involved in FPS for eight years. Nina wants to “introduce FPS to more schools” as the “skills of how to think and how to critically solve problems are lifelong skills that help individuals approach problems in life.” She said, “Whenever I need to plan for an activity, I use FPS process. I think of possible problems that may occur and many alternative solutions. I then use criteria to choose the best plan of action. I also use the writing formats for the steps to help organize my writing.” Nina brings her communication skills “with people of all ages” to assist the MNFPSP board, noting that “CmPS allowed me to showcase and grown my talent as not only a good communicator but a passionate communicator.”



Minnesota Future Problem Solving student representatives Solveig Stensland, Nina Vang and Mina Yuen (left to right).

Mina Yuan, a Junior at Wayzata High School is in her third year of FPS. Mina says, “Of all my activities, FPS is definitely my favorite. While other clubs...are amazing, FPS is simply more relevant...” Mina pointed out that while “learning creative problem-solving skills is fantastic,” she wanted to “do more than just learn” by spreading the lessons of FPS and giving back to the program “that taught me to think for myself.” For the past three years, Mina has worked for ThreeSixty Journalism, a youth journalism program based at St. Thomas University that produces an award-winning quarterly magazine. “Due to the fact that the complexity of the FPS process often deters students from competing,” she proposes “to brainstorm entertaining, engaging marketing methods of clearly explaining the FPS process and emphasizing its importance.” She hopes to use her journalism skills to bridge the gap between students and FPS administrators. “No matter how amazing each side’s problem-solving skills are, students and administrators inevitably have different opinions,” she pointed out. She advocates combining the opinions of both “in a plan that preserves the goals of each.”

Season of Giving and LEGACY

By Michelle Roman

Tis the season to give and receive in all forms! With Halloween behind us, the holiday season of giving begins. As you plan (however fleetingly or thoughtfully) for your giving this season, think about the legacy that you are creating in your giving. Is your giving supporting your value of investing in the future? Does your giving reflect support for your kids and the kids in your community? MNFPS builds confidence in our kids and develops skills that they will take with them into the near future (higher education) and beyond (participating in the workforce and leaders in our communities).

As you consider where and what you give this season, keep the MNFPS LEGACY program in mind. The LEGACY program was established in celebration of 35 years of FPS built and you can help in Minnesota as a means to support the program well into the future. We are just beginning! The fund is still being As you plan your giving this season, consider how MNFPS LEGACY can be a part of it. Could you find \$10? Could you find \$100? If you are **ready to give**, please go to the **MNFPS website**:

<http://www.mnfps.org/index.php/legacypr/125-lproj>

The grants are already having an impact with 10 grants being awarded in Spring 2015. Please help us continue to make that a reality!

November 12 is Give to the Max Day

by TC Meng



Give to the Max Day returns to Minnesota this year on November 12. GiveMN is a web-based platform that serves as a “front door” for charitable giving in Minnesota, streamlining the donation process for both the charitable organization and for you. On the site you find the charitable organizations that have always felt strongly about, whether it a non-profit charity or a school, or find new causes that match your passion. We hope, of course, that “helping students learn how to think, not what to think,” will be one of those causes. Donations during the Give to the Max drive may qualify your charitable cause(s) for a donation incentive of \$1000 to \$10,000, sponsored by the Bush Foundation which is putting up \$150,000 to support Give to the Max Day. All donations between November 1 and 11 will be scheduled officially for November 12. This year, you can also designate your gift if you would like to support the LEGACY program.

Go to <https://givemn.org/organization/Mnfpsp> !

Legacy...Making A Difference

By Jaedyn Knutson

Receiving the Legacy Grant to help me attend the International Competition in 2015 meant a lot to me. It helped me go and compete with all of my teammates at Iowa State University. It was an amazing opportunity getting to meet all of the other Future Problem Solvers from around the world. We shared our dorm with a young girl from Texas, and upstairs were Future Problem Solvers from Singapore. It was really cool getting to meet them and be able to interact with them whether it was during eating times or during the CmPS fair.

I met a really cool guy from Florida, his name was Michael and he was doing an individual project entitled Screen Escape, I believe. We actually became good friends and talked well into the summer. He introduced me to his friends and I introduced him to mine. We continue to have conversations throughout the past few months. Receiving the

Legacy Grant contributed to this friendship that I would not have made without the support.



Jaedyn (front row, left) with her teammates, the Eagle Community Problem Solving team from North Junior High.