

# EDUCATION

**STRAIGHT 'A'S**  
The Journal welcomes ideas for stories about students from and in our community.  
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## I Falls Partners in Education keeping busy

BY JENN WINDELS

As the temps and wind chill values are now well above zero degrees, the I Falls Partners in Education members are excited that students can enjoy the outdoors again. We hope the kids will have a few more weeks to romp in the snow before the massive spring thaw arrives.

In an effort to promote active, outdoor activities for students, PIE purchased a set of 35 sleds for classrooms to hold an impromptu sledding party on Bronco Hill when the weather permits. Hopefully gone are the days when teachers need to schedule an afternoon of sledding days in advance in order for parents to drop off and pick up sleds only to have the event cancelled due to frigid temps. Rewarding students for hard work and effective team work can be as simple as reserving the sleds for an afternoon as the first grade teachers discovered this week. I say, let them slide!

Thanks to the generosity of the community, PIE collected and distributed over 1,500 new and used books to classrooms in plenty of time for last week's Read Across America Week and Dr. Seuss' birthday celebrations. It's rewarding to hear teachers share about how excited the kids have been to dive into new books. PIE members appreciate school staff and community members who planned and participated in last week's activities to make learning more playful. I say, let them play! That's how they learn anyways, right?

School staff have remarked how positive it has been to see more Bronco colors and "Bronco Pride" at school as it builds a sense of community and connectedness. The sea of purple and gold moving throughout the school and community may be even more evident after we receive our next order of Bronco Pride clothing.

Students, staff and community members are welcome to order our popular Bronco Pride clothing. To purchase your clothing, pick up an order form in

any of the school offices or find it on the front page of the school's website. There, you'll find items in toddler to adult sizes including tee shirts in unisex and feminine cuts, sweatshirts, sweatpants, and winter beanies.

New for this order, we're offering polo shirts with a smaller Bronco Pride logo on the chest in both unisex and feminine cuts. We've had a great response from staff, students, families and community members on the quality and look of the new clothing. Orders were due by the close of school Friday, but, due to the date of this article, will be accepted until the end of the day Monday. Clothing will arrive approximately two weeks later. It's not too late to outfit yourself or your own special Bronco! I say, show your pride!

PIE members continue to provide support for several school activities from volunteering in classrooms, helping with grade fundraisers, attending field trips and staffing special programs such as the this spring's "Fiesta" themed book fair April 10. We also have a few fun spring family event ideas in the works.

Getting the word out, managing the logistics and finding volunteers to staff events continues to take a lot of time. PIE is always looking for families and community members who can help us promote a positive, safe, fun and successful learning environment at the schools. We welcome anyone interested to attend PIE meetings the first and third Tuesdays of the month or volunteer to help at school or from home. I say, let's join together! It takes a village, right?

If you want to stay updated on PIE happenings and school news, join the I Falls Partners in Education Facebook group or join our email list by emailing PIE at ifallspie@gmail.com. The community can learn more about PIE programs, our meeting schedule, agendas, and minutes, or view volunteer and other forms at the PIE page of the school's website ([www.isd361.k12.mn.us](http://www.isd361.k12.mn.us)) as well.

## And the 2014 winner is ...

FHS REPORT

The Family and Consumer Science "On Your Own" class at Falls High School recently conducted a Chili Cook-Off competition. Class instructor is Marva Fairchild.

Each of five different food lab groups researched and selected chili recipes with care. Pots of chili were judged by 16 local judges, who reported having a difficult responsibly as each was unique and delectable.

Chili cook-offs, with



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

**Chili Cook-Off winners include, seated, from left, Adam Larson, Dustin Geerken, Kariann Arnold and Tyler Richards. Other contest participants include, standing, PollyAnne LeBlanc, Alliy Bergstrom, Aleisha Mason, Jacob Piekarski, Austin Schaaf, Jordan Tilander, Josh Evens, George Crow, Kaitlin Stallard, Brittany Lessard, Olivia Besch, Brandon Helderman and Maisey Kawulia. Not pictured is Hayley Lehman.**

judging and cooking rules, take place all over the world, with most benefiting charities or non-profit organizations. In-

ternational Falls recently hosted a chili cook-off as part of Icebox Days. Those participating in chili cook-offs report

having an enjoyable time cooking, tasting, and judging the chili. This has become a tasty tradition at Falls High School.

## Students learn about preventing identity theft during National Consumer Protection Week

INDUS SCHOOL REPORT

The White House recently proclaimed March 2-8 as "National Consumer Protection Week" in order to encourage more information and education about consumer rights and protections.

In recognition of this week, Indus high school students in the Consumer Education/Personal Finance course researched topics online such as identity theft, consumer fraud, and phishing scams to learn more about how to protect themselves as consumers from becoming victims of these schemes.

Websites with information about these topics include: [www.fightidentitytheft.com](http://www.fightidentitytheft.com), [www.privacyrights.org](http://www.privacyrights.org), [www.ftc.gov](http://www.ftc.gov),

and [www.consumer.gov/idtheft](http://www.consumer.gov/idtheft).

Of particular interest is a website, [www.sonicwall.com/furl/phishing](http://www.sonicwall.com/furl/phishing) which helps consumers to determine the legitimacy of emails that appear to be sent from a source such as a bank or credit card company. A reply to a "fake" e-mail from one of these sources may result in information about one's finances, credit record, or identity being stolen. Consumers should become familiar with the deceptiveness of this scam to avoid becoming a victim.

Indus high school students are also learning about personal finance topics such as the costs of credit from iPad apps. This technology helps students to figure out how long it will



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

**Jordan Troy, in front, and Haille Hansen and Ted Nelson work on iPads to figure out how credit costs might affect their finances.**

take them to pay off debts based on time, interest rate, and principal. When students see how these factors are interrelated, they can understand how to be a better consumer.

Instructor Lois Lewis obtained a grant from Pathways to Financial Success for \$12,140 last fall to purchase iPads and a charging storage unit for her class.

## Rautio recipient of Distinguished Minnesotan Award

BSU STAFF REPORT

Former International Falls resident Trudy Rautio, Bemidji State University alumna and chief executive officer of the Minneapolis-based Carlson Companies, will be the 32nd recipient of Bemidji State University's Distinguished Minnesotan Award.

The Distinguished Minnesotan honoree traditionally gives BSU's commencement address. The university's 95th commencement ceremony will be May 9 at the Sanford Center, Bemidji.

Rautio grew up in the Falls and is a 1971 graduate of Falls High School. She has been a senior executive with Carlson since 1997 and was named president and CEO in 2012. Prior to being named CEO, she served as executive vice president and chief financial and administrative officer for the company. Her other senior leadership positions with the company have included president of Carlson Hotels, Americas, and a dual role of executive vice president and chief financial officer for Carlson Consumer Group and chief adminis-

trative officer of Carlson Hospitality Worldwide.

She has earned a number of accolades for her leadership, receiving honors including the 2009 Minneapolis/St. Paul Business Journal chief financial officer of the year for large private companies and Woman Changemaker recognition in 2005. She was the inaugural recipient of the Girl Scouts of America's Women of Distinction award in 2009 and was named an Outstanding Alumni at Bemidji State in 2007.

She also received the Corporate Woman of Achievement award from the National Association of Women Business Owners' Minneapolis Chapter in 2004.

In 2003, Rautio received

the Carlson Fellows award, the company's highest career achievement honor.

Prior to joining Carlson, Rautio was senior vice president and chief financial officer of Jostens, Inc., and vice president of finance for Pillsbury Co.

She chairs The Rezidor Hotel Group and Carlson Wagonlit Travel board and serves on the board of directors for Carlson, Securion Holding Company, Imation and the Bemidji State University Foundation.

Rautio earned her undergraduate degree in accounting from BSU and holds a master of business administration from the University of St. Thomas. She is a certified public accountant and a certified management accountant.

### Manka accepted for graduate school

Sarah Manka has been accepted into the University of Eastern Illinois-Charleston for graduate school for biology studies.

Manka is a senior at the University of Wisconsin Stevens Point studying wildlife research and biology.

She will graduate in May.



Sarah Manka

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