

EDUCATION

STRAIGHT 'A'S
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Bringing science to life at Indus School

Science Museum of Minnesota and Flint Hills Resources partner to bring school assembly Wednesday

FLINT HILLS RESOURCES REPORT

Students at Indus School will investigate real-life science phenomena through large-scale, dramatic demonstrations Wednesday.

Sponsored by Flint Hills Resources, the Science Museum of Minnesota will bring its interactive Science Matters program to Indus to enrich students' science education and enhance their interest in the sciences. This year the Science Matters program will reach more than 4,000 students at 17 Minnesota schools.

Assemblies

Science Museum staff will visit Indus to present a Science Matters assembly to 32 students. Through a visual and interactive presentation on engineering, students will work together to

solve engineering problems, like designing a high-speed train that makes limited noise while entering tunnels, and determining which types of gloves are best for various situations.

Camp-In at the Science Museum

As part of the Science Matters program, 25 students at Indus will attend an overnight Camp-In among the Science Museum's world-class exhibitions and interactive workshops April 10-11. The Camp-In will provide students with a memorable opportunity to explore the magic of science through a unique overnight experience. Now in its 28th season, the Camp-Ins program is one of the longest-standing museum sleepover programs in the nation and has reached more than 75,000 Minnesota students.

About Science Matters

As part of its partnership with the Science Museum of Minnesota, Flint Hills sponsors educational outreach programs that bring teachers from the museum to elementary schools throughout Minnesota that might not otherwise be able to take advantage of the museum's world-class resources. Since 2004 Flint Hills has sponsored interactive Science Museum assemblies and Camp-Ins for thousands of students from across the state.

"Through hands-on activities, Science Matters encourages students to explore science in new ways," said Heather Rein, manager of community investment for Flint Hills Resources. "This program shows students how the wonders of science impact their everyday lives, sparking their interest in science."

High schoolers earn college credit, for free

RRCC STAFF REPORT

Post-secondary Enrollment Options is a program that allows 10th-, 11th- and 12th-grade students to earn college credit while still in high school, through enrollment in and successful completion of college-level courses.

According to Tammy Cook, director of instructional services at Rainy River Community College, the PSEO program at RRCC serves between 50 and 60 students from area school districts, as well as area home-school students.

"The PSEO program is a wonderful opportunity for area high school students to earn college credit, for free, while still in high school. Many of our PSEO students earn their AA degree and high school diploma at the same time and are able to transfer directly into a four-year program after they graduate. This is a huge cost savings for

students and their families, as well as an opportunity to get a taste of college-life while still in high school, making the transition to a larger college or university much easier."

Students may take PSEO courses on a full- or part-time basis, beginning their junior year of high school. For full-time PSEO students who begin their junior year, it is possible to graduate from high school with enough college credits for an associate's degree.

In 2012, new legislation (Minn. Stat. § 124D.09), was passed that allows eligible 10th-grade students to enroll in one Career and Technical Education course through PSEO and, if the student earns a "C" or higher grade in this first course, she/he is eligible to take additional CTE courses while in 10th grade. In order to be eligible, a 10th grade student must have taken the 8th grade MCA reading test in the

8th grade, and have met the composite proficiency level of "meets or exceeds."

In addition, RRCC courses have guaranteed transfer through the Minnesota Transfer Curriculum, lower division general education courses that seamlessly transfer to all Minnesota State Colleges and Universities. "Our students transfer to both in-state and out-of-state public and private colleges seamlessly. Our advisors work closely with our PSEO students to ensure they are getting all high school requirements met, as well as courses that will transfer to the four-year college or university of their choice," according to Cook.

Rainy River Community College is currently taking applications for the 2014-2015 academic year. Additional information, including eligibility requirements, is available on the website at www.rainyriver.edu or by calling 285-7722.

EDUCATION BRIEFS

Bright graduates from U of M Morris

Jessica Bright, of International Falls, graduated from the University of Minnesota, Morris in fall of 2013.

Bright earned a degree in sport management.

Klow named to Cornell College dean's list

Jeffrey Klow, of International Falls, a student at Cornell College, has been named to the dean's list, earning High Honors.

A grade point average of at least 3.6 on a 4.0 scale is required for this designa-

tion. "Highest honors" are granted to students with 4.0 averages; "high honors" are awarded to students with 3.8 to 3.99 averages; and "honors" include grade point averages of 3.6 to 3.79.

Area students named to BSU dean's list

The following area students have earned spots on the dean's list from Bemidji State University at the conclusion of the 2013 fall semester.

International Falls — Markki LeBlanc, Michael Misner, Claire Simon, Kelly Blair, Brittany Harris, Whitney Jackson, Joseph Pumper, Jonathan

Skoglund, Chanin Smith, Chad Sohlman.

Littlefork — Mason Imhof.

Ranier — Hanna Heibel.

Ray — Tyler House.

Phung named to Normandale dean's list

Normandale Community College, Bloomington, has announced Kalla Phung, of International Falls, has been named to its fall 2013 semester dean's list.

Students must be enrolled in at least nine credits and have achieved a grade point average of at least 3.5 for courses completed in the spring semester ending this past May.

Area teachers attend state convention

INDUS SCHOOL REPORT

Three Family and Consumer Sciences teachers from the area recently obtained professional development at the Minnesota Association of Family and Consumer Sciences state convention at The Minneapolis Boulevard Hotel. Teachers included Jeri Nordlund, teacher at Littlefork, Lois Lewis, teacher at Indus, and Marva Fairchild, teacher at International Falls.

The theme for the conference was "Defining Our Legacy," and included keynote addresses from Susan Crockett, Ph.D., Fellow of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics, and Dr. Verena Price from Minnesota, a speaker and author of "The Power of People: Four Kinds of People Who Can Change Your Life."

Workshops and roundtable sessions were available in the areas of personal development, food, design, family relationships, finance, and STEM/technology.

Lewis presented a session with Minnesota Extension Service educators Lori Hendrickson and Becky Hagen Jokela on "Developing Financially Capable Students." Jeanne Bymark, a FACS teacher at Hibbing and the 2014 Minnesota FACS Teacher of the Year, presented her "Thoughtful Parenting" program.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Family and Consumer Sciences teachers Jeri Nordlund, of Littlefork, Lois Lewis, Indus, and Marva Fairchild, International Falls, recently obtained professional development at the Minnesota Association of Family and Consumer Sciences state convention.

Pre-conference sessions included ServSafe and food science trainings, certification tests offered by the American Association of Family and Consumer Sciences, and an educational excursion to CenterPointe Energy, Caldrea, Cambria, and Koehler business sites.

Wendt candidate for Teacher of the Year

A local teacher is among candidates across Minnesota for this year's Minnesota Teacher of the Year.

Sara Wendt, Littlefork-Big Falls School sixth grade teacher, was included in the initial field of 128 candidates from across the state.

The field of possible candidates for this year's Minnesota Teacher of the Year honor has been narrowed to 33. A selection panel of 25 community leaders chose the semifinalists from the initial 128 candidates.

Education Minnesota,

the 70,000-member statewide educators union, organizes and underwrites the Teacher of the Year program. Candidates include pre-kindergarten through 12th-grade teachers from public or private schools.

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