#### **SPRING 2017**

# Vermillion Public Schools Foundation

We provide opportunities that ignite excitement in learning.

The mission of the Vermillion Public Schools Foundation is to support opportunities for learners to confidently succeed in a diverse world.

# Contacting the Foundation

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# Message from President Jim Moran:

This has been a year of transition for the VPSF and one in which we have found our legs as a service to our school community. We released a new version of our website to keep you apprised of activities and opportunities. We helped serve as a conduit for our first "Class of" scholarship thanks to the work of the Class of 1966. We provided \$18,450 in grant support during the 2016-17 academic year to foster a margin of excellence in our schools thanks to your donations of time and money. We participated, as community representatives, in the successful search for a new superintendent and look forward to working with Mr. Damon Alvey as he settles into Vermillion. At the same time, we give our best to Dr. Mark Froke on his retirement, and note that Dr. Froke has been an active supporter of the Foundation. We have listened to school administrators and teachers and aligned our priorities to what they see we can do to ignite excitement in learning. We sought approval to solicit funds from states beyond our South Dakota borders to assure compliance with various laws that apply to 501(c)(3) organizations like ours. We also want to thank and acknowledge Susan Tuve for her tireless work as previous president of the Foundation in helping us formalize our processes and procedures to give us a clear path to a productive future. Finally, we thank you for your continued interest in helping us play a role in helping set the students in Vermillion on a path to life success.

#### Class of 1966 Creates a New Scholarship

At their 50th high school reunion last September, the Class of 1966 agreed to create a scholarship to remember their classmates, Dennis Helseth and Connie Hatch, who tragically died in 1965 after the Vermillion Tanagers celebrated an undefeated football season. To date, class members have raised \$17,000 of their \$25,000 goal. They hope to provide one or two scholarships to VHS students for years to come. A \$500 scholarship was presented at Awards Day this May.

#### **VPS Foundation Current Projects**

Art at Austin & Jolley Elementary Schools. The VPS Foundation and the Vermillion School District have strengthened and expanded the fine art programs in the K-5 grades. At Austin, a Foundation grant created a five-year art program called "Arts Attack" for kindergartners and first graders. Arts Attack is a national program which provides high-quality, video-based lessons designed

by an art educator. The Vermillion PTO will be funding the art supplies.

At *Jolley*, a grant awarded by the State of South Dakota's Classroom Innovation Grant helped create a new STREAM Teaching Lab. STREAM (Science, Technology, Reading/Writing, Engineering, Art and Mathematics) education represents an experiential method of learning that encourages children to discover that curricular content is interconnected, meaningful, and relevant to their existence. Jolley school and USD School of Education have a partnership for USD students to study at the new lab to learn how to incorporate the learning model in their own future classrooms.

#### Groups Under the VPS Foundation Umbrella

Vermillion Area Robotics Club (VARC) \* Vermillion Athletic Boosters \* Vermillion High School Soccer Vermillion High School Tennis \* Vermillion Middle School STEM \* Vermillion Music Boosters \* Vermillion PTO



#### **Grants Awarded in 2017**

Edith Siegrist Funds: A grant for author William Durbin to visit the Vermillion Middle School.

VPS Foundation Grants: A grant to Austin School to purchase Arts Attack, an online art curriculum. A professional development grant to Jolley School for the Literacy Learning for Life program.

#### **Scholarships Awarded in 2017**

Walter & Margaret Kaeberle Scholarship - Kyleigh Moran.

Edith Siegrist High School Scholarships – Kaci Madsen and Kelly Kronaizl.

Dennis Helseth Memorial Scholarship - Morgan Amundson.

Ribs, Rods & Rock'n Roll Scholarship – Ryan Brunick and Jacob Husby.

Steve Brown & Anna

Edith Siegrist Middle School Scholarships - Nine scholarships were awarded for the 2017 USD summer camps - Governors Camp, Lawrence Bros. Science Camp and the USD Summer Music Camp.

## Thank You to Our 2016-17 Donors

November 2016 - May 2017

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#### Class of 1966

Karen Gibbs - In Memory of Tom Craig Lynne & David Day - In Memory of Cleo Erickson Glenn & Pat Olson - In Memory of Judy Rasmussen Catherine Cobb Morocco & David A Morocco - In Honor of Henry & Laurie Cobb Steve Busch - In Honor of Coach Jack Schuver

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#### **New Board Members**

<u>Matt Lavin</u> - Matt (VHS '90) is the owner and pharmacist at the long-time, family-run Davis Drug in Vermillion, SD. He and his wife, Carol, are parents of two children, Maddie and Hunter, who attend Vermillion schools.

**VPS Foundation Events** <u>The Third Annual "Green Eggs and Ham."</u> In celebration of Dr. Seuss' Birthday, Austin School First Graders enjoyed a breakfast and received a book donated by Vermillion Rotary. Foundation members and Vermillion Public Library participated in the celebration of reading.

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## **Accomplishments by Vermillion Booster Groups:**

<u>Athletic Boosters</u>: The Vermillion Athletic Boosters hosted the Tanager Athletics Hall of Fame, held on May 4, 2017. The inductees were Glynis (Bye) Erickson ('80), Tim Manning ('83), Jason McDonald ('88), Coach Jerry Pratt and Kevin Seibel ('79). Rehabilitation work continues on the football and soccer fields.

<u>Vermillion Area Robotics Club</u>: High School, middle school and elementary school teams for VARC joined youth from 40 different countries at the 10<sup>th</sup> annual VEX Robotics World Championship in Louisville, KY, April 19<sup>th</sup>-26th. The teams placed high in the competitions. Additionally, the high school team won the Community Award in the Research Division, and the middle school team was awarded the Think Award for innovative and effective programming.

<u>Music Boosters</u>: The Music Booster hosted the Vermillion Fine Arts Hall of Fame on May 2, 2017 inducting Dr. Rolf Olson ('79). Last year's inductee was Carla Connors ('75). The Music Boosters awarded \$50 scholarships to Vermillion students planning to attend the 2017 USD Summer Music Camp as well as support for numerous other activities to support music in our schools. The VHS Show Choir won the State Class A Show Choir Championship.

#### The Alumni Email List

The VPS Foundation is a network for Vermillion High School alumni to connect with their alma mater. The Foundation is working to update its email records in order to better serve our alumni. If you are the contact for your class (*i.e.*, plan reunions, keep track of classmates), we request that you contact us at info@vermillionpsf.org or (605) 677-7000.