

# Panther Pulse

A Publication of Spring Lake Park High School

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## Sommers announces he's stepping down at year-end, Stevenson is new principal

Dr. Bill Sommers announced his intentions to step down as a high school administrator at the end of the current school year in meetings with Spring Lake Park High School and Learning Alternatives Community School staff on the Friday, January 27 staff workshop day. He received a standing ovation from the staff.

Following the meetings with staff, he said he's never liked the word retirement. Anyone who knows Bill will smile at his statement that he was going to "let the universe decide what's next for me," and that he was going to leave the door open for "new or different adventures in education."

Dr. Jeff Ronneberg, superintendent, said: "I understand Bill's desire to slow it down a bit, but I seriously doubt he'll be done with education. He enjoys working in schools and working with kids and adult learners too much. He told me that he doesn't have any immediate plans following the end of this school year, so I hope to talk him into continuing to work in the district. Given his background, I would be thrilled if he could be talked into providing coaching and professional learning for staff."



Rather than affect a transition after the end of the current school year, high school assistant principal Jane Stevenson will begin taking on the duties of Spring Lake Park High School immediately.

"Bill and Jane have shared duties all year, serving as administrators for the high school, as well as Learning Alternatives, and Lighthouse Programs," Ronneberg said. "This arrangement will essentially continue for the remainder of this year, except that Jane will officially assume the title of high school principal, thus making decisions that will affect the upcoming school year. Between now and June, Bill will be able to act in a supporting role for Jane at the high school while continuing the day-to-day management of Learning Alternatives."

"Prior to Spring Lake Park, Jane and Bill also worked together in the Eden Prairie and Minneapolis School Districts, so they have enjoyed a long association as colleagues. This will make for a seamless transition for Stevenson as she takes the reins at the high school," added Ronneberg.

**Dr. Bill Sommers**

Sommers arrived in July 2009 to run the district's Learning Alternatives Program, but added Spring Lake Park High School principal to his job title when Frank Herman left the position in the fall of 2010.

Prior to joining the Spring Lake Park School District, he was a nationally-recognized educational leader and author, and worked with the Southwest Educational Development Laboratory in Austin, Texas, serving as a Leadership Coach for principals and educational leaders from throughout the United States. He also served as president of the National Staff Development Council.

Sommers was principal at Minneapolis South High School, Eden Prairie High School, and Chaska High School, and served as

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executive director for teacher and instructional services for the Minneapolis School District.

As Senior Fellow at the University of Minnesota, Dr. Sommers co-directed the Urban Leadership Academy, taught doctoral level classes, and leadership workshops for practicing administrators. In addition, he has served on the faculty of Texas State University, Hamline University, the University of St. Thomas, and St. Mary's University.

### Jane Stevenson

Stevenson became the high school's assistant principal in July 2010, selected from a pool of over 150 candidates. She was previously principal of Inver Grove Heights Middle School and associate principal at the 3,200-student Eden Prairie High School.

At Eden Prairie, she was supervisor/manager responsible for staff hiring and evaluation, registration and master schedule development, and professional development for the school's 250 staff. She also had responsibilities for special education, English Language Learners, mathematics, science, work experience, and school psychology.

Prior to becoming a principal, Stevenson was an administrative intern at Edison High School and Green Central K-8 School in the Minneapolis School District. She was also a special education teacher and lead teacher in the Minneapolis and Buffalo School Districts.

At the time that Stevenson joined the district in 2010, Dr. Ronneberg said: "Jane is a highly respected leader throughout the state of Minnesota. We are fortunate to add a leader with the wide spectrum of experiences and talents Jane has demonstrated. She is a wonderful addition to a great school."

Stevenson holds a MA degree in Teacher Leadership from the University of Minnesota where she also obtained her K-12 School Principal Licensure and where she has done Doctoral course work. Her BS degree in Special Education is from St. Cloud State University.

As a Certified Learning Strategies/Content Enhancement Trainer, Stevenson has provided professional development training to Metro ECSC, Central MN ECSU, Minneapolis Public Schools, Eden Prairie Public Schools, and numerous out-state school districts.

Denise Waalen, District 16's director of educational services, said "Jane's experience and knowledge of systems thinking; of teaching, learning, and professional development, and her innate vision and insight has been a tremendous asset to our high school and district administrative teams. She'll be a great high school principal."

## A note from Principal Stevenson



Greetings Panther Parents;

It is a sincere honor to follow in the footsteps of my longtime mentor and colleague, Dr. Bill Sommers.

I first came to know Bill when he was leading professional development, and I was a teacher in Minneapolis. Little did I know at the time that I would be so privileged to work with and learn from Bill throughout my career as a teacher and school principal.

I know that Bill leaves big shoes to fill, and it will be a challenge to live in the shadow of a true master learner and leader.

One of the values that Bill has modeled throughout his career is that of being a life-long learner. I will aspire to carry on that value every day, continuing my own learning and inspiring continued learning for our students, staff, and parents. Preparing students to thrive in a diverse and changing world will mean that "learning to learn" will be an essential skill for every student.

I look forward to carrying on the work of Dr. Sommers and the staff of Spring Lake Park High School, and working in partnership with both parents and community members as we pursue becoming a world class learning community.

—Jane Stevenson,  
principal

# Parent Teacher Conferences

## Parent/Teacher Conferences

### **EVENING:**

**Wednesday, February 1** 4:30 pm – 7:00 pm Café/classroom  
**Thursday, February 2** 4:30 pm – 7:00 pm Café/classroom

### **DAYTIME:**

**Friday, February 3** 7:45 – 11:00 Drop-In classroom  
LUNCH BREAK from 11-12  
12:00 – 3:00 PM Drop-In classroom

### **Student Support Services:**

**Parents of Sophomores:** PLAN Test Interpretation, 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., Feb. 2 (Brooke Magid Hart)

**Parents of Juniors:** College Planning, 5 p.m. to 5:45 p.m., Feb. 1 and Feb. 2 (Cary Elhardt)

**Parents of Seniors:** Financial Aid, 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., Feb. 1 (Julia Corneil-Smith)

## Registration Information

Greetings Panther Parents and Families;

February is a busy month at the high school as we begin our preparation for the 2012-13 school year. This month, counselors will be visiting classes to discuss registration for the 2012-13 school year. They will discuss with students graduation requirements, college entrance prerequisites, and registration procedures.

Students (or parents) will be able to register for next year's courses on-line through the student and parent portal. The link to all registration materials and the student/parent portal is the same as last year,

<http://www.springlakeparkschools.org/schools/hs/departments/student.services/registration.asp>

The full 2012-2013 Course Registration Guide will be available on the registration web site as well as the registration packets for each graduating class. The deadline to register online is Friday, February 17<sup>th</sup>. It is very important that every student completes on-line registration by the 17<sup>th</sup> since those course requests will then be used to determine which courses will be offered during the 2012-2013 school year.

## February Dates & Events

Feb. 1 - Conferences  
Feb. 2— Confernces  
Feb. 3 - No school—Conferences  
Feb 6-10 - Winter Spirit Week  
Feb. 10 - Formal Valentine's Dance

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## Weekly Club Meetings

**The Mirage** THIS THURSDAY after school in Ms. Bobbe's room (B-250-A).

**Leo Club Meeting** Wednesdays in the cafeteria at 2:45.

**After school weight room** Hours will be 2:45-4:45 **M, W, F.**

**NHS meeting** will be WEDNESDAY in the Upstairs Multi-purpose room after school.

**FCCLA members** who signed up for the **Families First Committee THURSDAY**, at 2:40 pm in the Foods room.

**GSA:** First meeting of the year, Wednesdays at 2:45 p.m. in the Student Services Center Conference Room.

**Sophomore Senate** meets this **Friday at 2:40.**

**Senior senate** meeting at 2:40 on Friday in room B-242.

**Be a part of SLP's YEARBOOK Design Team**

in room **B145** (art room) Thursdays 2:45 p.m. -3:00 p.m.

**FCCLA meeting** next meeting is **Thursdays** 2:40 pm in the Foods room.

**SLP's World Cultures Club** Room C275, right after school



### **YEARBOOK ORDERING:**

The "**Last Chance**" at \$65 Sale through **January 20th** during Lunch ONLY Sale.

**\$68** Price will go up. You can also reserve your book for \$20 and pay two payments, \$20 by Feb 29 and another \$25 by March 30. This is the Last chance at \$65 sale! After Jan 20 any books will be on a first come first serve basis on Smart-pay.com. When they run out they are gone!

Order at **SMART-PAY: Online:** <http://www.smart-pay.com>

# 2012 Spirit Week

February 6<sup>th</sup> -10<sup>th</sup>

**Monday: Snuggie/Pajama Day**

**Tuesday: Decades Day**  
(dress up from your favorite decade)

50's 60's 70's 80's 90's

**Wednesday: Fake an Injury Day**

(casts, bandaids, etc)

**Thursday: REALITY TV Show Day**

**Friday:**

**SPiRiT DAY**

**NO HATS!!!**

Approved by Main Office

## Valentine's Dance

There will be a FORMAL Valentine's dance February 10th from 7-10p.m. Pre-sale tickets are \$4. At the door they will be \$5. This is a formal dance.

BE MY VALENTINE!

BE MINE

## The 15th Annual HS Show of Shows

**Talent Show** will be held on Friday, February 17th at 7:00p.m. Auditions will be held on Tuesday, Jan. 31 and Wed. Feb 1st at 2:40 in the FAC or Choir room. Acts will be assigned times. Audition forms can be picked up at the choir room.



## Ski and Snowboard club

**Registration** is now open for this year's Panther Ski and Snowboard club. For more information and to register go to the Spring Lake Park Schools Community Education website. (Community Ed, School Age Programs, Panther Ski Club)



## Handbook Highlight

After school procedures

Starting February 6<sup>th</sup> we will be providing an organized after Quiet Study program in the school library.

There will be a limited number of open spaces each day that can be filled by students.

Students interested in the Quiet Study program will be able to sign up with Mr. Chuck in the Main Office.

Spaces in the within the Quiet Study program will be available on a first come first served basis.

Students who sign up will be given a golden "ticket" to enter the library for Quiet Study.

Students who sign up to participate in Quiet Study are to report to the library at 2:45.

Quiet Study will conclude daily at 3:30; all students will be required to leave the building promptly.

ALL students are to be OUT OF THE BUILDING at 2:45 PM if they are not with a staff member or in Quiet Study.

This includes students who participate in after school activities/athletics.

Students who participate in after school activities/athletics should speak with their activity advisors/coaches regarding options and plans.

The Activity Bus will begin picking students up after school from Door # 28


## Other District Stories

Check out Spring Lake Park Schools at:

<http://www.springlakeparkschools.org/>

## Senior All-Night Party This year's party is Friday, June 1, 2012

**Go to the district SANP website and click on the "learn more" link and then click on the [www.signupgenius.com](http://www.signupgenius.com) link and enter [shazaam333@yahoo.com](mailto:shazaam333@yahoo.com) to search the upcoming volunteer positions that need to be filled! We need senior students to bag groceries at Northtown Cub on Feb. 4th and people to work concessions and gate at WWMS on Feb. 12th. Please spread the word and get your senior and/or family and friends to sign up to help raise money for the 2012 senior all night party!**



## World Tour in June 2013: *Europe and Scandinavia!*

The course is set, and the planning is about to begin in earnest for a tour of six spectacular cities in five of the world's most beautiful countries! Mr. Reif's 20<sup>th</sup> annual World Tour will kick off in June 2013 with three days and two nights in Paris, France! We'll visit the *Louvre Museum*, where you can see DaVinci's *Mona Lisa* and thousands of other masterworks that are housed in what was once the royal palace of the French kings. We'll tour *Notre Dame* cathedral, stroll among the rich and famous along the Champs Elysees on our way to the *Arc de Triomphe*, and we'll take an evening boat cruise along the Seine River before visiting the Eiffel Tower for a spectacular view of the City of Lights!

We'll spend an afternoon in **Brussels, Belgium**, where we'll have time to explore the "old town," see the famous *Mannekin Pis* statue, have a delicious lunch, and discover for ourselves why Belgian chocolate is considered by connoisseurs to be the finest in the world.

From there we'll be off to **Amsterdam**. This gorgeous city in the Netherlands is referred to as "The Venice of the North," where locals and visitors negotiate the walkways and 1,200 bridges that parallel and span the 160 canals that give the city its charm. We'll tour the *Koninklijk Palace* and the Jewish Quarter, and we'll spend some time at the *Ann Frank House and Museum*, where we'll actually be able to see where the Frank family hid for two years before being discovered by the Nazis.

Next stop: **Lübeck, Germany**, where we'll spend the night, take a tour of the *Alt Stadt* – the "Old Town" – where we'll visit the *Lübeck Cathedral* and the legendary *Astronomical Clock*. We then leave Germany and head to **Copenhagen, Denmark**, Hans Christian Andersen's fairy-tale city in the country that provided the setting for Shakespeare's *Hamlet!* During our three days and two nights in Copenhagen, we'll see the royal palace and the royal residence, we'll climb the 17<sup>th</sup>-century *Round Tower* – Europe's oldest functioning observatory – and we'll have some time to explore Old Copenhagen.

Finally, we'll board a ship for our overnight cruise to **Oslo, Norway**, where we'll be taken on a guided tour of the city, visit the *Vigeland Sculpture Park*, the Olympic *Holmenkollen Ski Jump*, and the *Viking Museum*. We'll spend the night in Oslo, and may have some time the following day to explore a bit more of this gorgeous city before heading to the airport for our return flight to Minnesota.

**The enrollment period for this tour runs now through Friday, February 3<sup>rd</sup>.**

If you are interested in this tour, you and your parents should consider attending an informational meeting on the evening of Tuesday, January 17<sup>th</sup>, at 6:30 P.M. We'll meet in my classroom, Room C275, from 6:30 until 7:15 P.M. You will have the opportunity to register for the tour at the end of the meeting. Registration may be done *on-line* or over the *phone*, and you will need a valid credit card in order to process the \$95 enrollment fee. (I will have computers and phones available here on meeting night.) Of course, you may opt to do this at home, if you'd prefer. Here's how to check out the tour and sign on if you choose to do that before or after my meeting, or if you are unable to attend the meeting:

You may enroll by calling EF Educational Tours Customer Service number: 1-877-205-9909. Tell the agent you want to enroll on **Tour # 1166830**, and he or she will talk you through the sign-up process.

Or... You can enroll on line: Go to [www.eftours.com](http://www.eftours.com), and type our tour number – 1166830 --in the blue box, then click on either *View* or *Enroll*, and follow the prompts.

If you have any question at any time, please call me at 763.783.5627, or e-mail me at [rreif@district16.org](mailto:rreif@district16.org)! This tour will change your life! This is open to students *and* adults, friends and family!