**BREAKING NEWS: CRUZ-GUZMAN UPDATE**

Yesterday, December 13th, the [MN Supreme Court](https://www.mncourts.state.mn.us/) agreed to hear the Appeal of the Plaintiffs (Petitioners) in the Cruz-Guzman case. The Supreme Court also agreed that the ACLU and ACLU of Minnesota, as well as the group of law professors, may submit amici curiae in support of the petitioners. The Petitioners now have 30 days to submit their brief to the Court. At some point after the various parties in the case submit their response to the Petitioners brief, the Supreme Court will have a live hearing before the court.

**INNOVATION AWARDS APPLICATION WINDOW: JAN. 3 - FEB. 6**

The Annual MN Charter School Innovation Awards application window opens on **Tuesday, January 3rd**. All Minnesota Chartered Public Schools are encouraged to apply, regardless of membership with the Association. All Innovations submitted must have been implemented for at least two (2) years and applicants can submit their Innovation in one of five (5) areas as dictated by the MN Charter School Law:

- Increasing learning opportunities for all pupils
- Encouraging the use of different and innovative teaching methods
- Creating different and innovative forms of measuring learning outcomes
- Establishing new forms of accountability
- Creating new professional opportunities for teachers

The deadline to submit applications is Monday, February 6th. Please contact Michael Padgett at 651-789-3090 ext 3 or michael@mncharterschools.org with any questions you may have. Click here for the application.

TUESDAY MORNING ADMIN CALL UPDATES

Just a reminder that there will not be any more Tuesday morning calls in December. In January, the Tuesday call will take place on January 10th, 17th*, 24th, and 31st. The link for the call will be sent after the holidays.

*On the 17th, the call will only be a half hour and will end at 10 am. Please also note that there will not be another newsletter until Wednesday, January 11th.

PROFESSIONAL LEADERSHIP MENTORING NETWORK

Partnering with Southwest Minnesota State University, Eagle Ridge Academy is hosting a professional development opportunity for charter school leaders. The program is geared toward emerging and novice charter leaders who would like to participate in monthly leadership networking meetings and partner with a charter school mentor. All mentees will receive a $100 stipend each month for their participation. Please contact Jason for questions or to sign up yourself or someone in your school. Sign up by Friday, December 16th on a first sign up, first served basis.

When: February 10, March 10, April 7, and May 5, 2022, 11:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.
Where: For 2023, all programming will be presented via Zoom.

2023 SCHOOL BUS STOP ARM SIGNAL CAMERA - PHASE 6

The Minnesota Office of Traffic Safety seeks to provide funding to school districts, nonpublic schools, charter schools, and/or companies that provide school bus services to install and operate school bus stop-signal arm camera systems. To access the RFP, go to eGrants, click "Available Opportunities" and choose "2023 OTS School Bus Stop Arm Camera Phase VI." If you have never applied for a grant with the Office of Traffic Safety, complete the New User information.

The grant cycle will run April 3, 2023 – Oct. 15, 2023. Completed proposals must be received via the DPS Web-Based e-grants system by the close of the business day 4:30 p.m., January 31, 2023. Late proposals will not be considered. Questions? Contact Rahya Geisler.

MAILINGS TO MEMBER SCHOOLS

Last Friday, we sent a mailing to all member schools that included a directory, a letter from
Senator Durenberger, and a MACS beanie. Helen Fisk, Executive Director of Global Academy, sent us a picture of her rocking her new hat. Looking good, Helen!

HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM MACS

The MACS office will be closed beginning Friday, December 23rd and will re-open on Tuesday, January 3rd. We wish everyone a happy holidays!

SOCIAL MEDIA REMINDER

The holiday season is a time to connect with family and loved ones, however, it can be difficult to stay in touch once the season has passed. With a new and busy year around the corner, consider the ways in which you can engage or reengage your school with its community:

- What is your school doing to connect with them?
- How is your school promoting the events, activities, and memories that your school creates?
- How is your school sharing its successes, breakthroughs, innovations, and developments?

Consider how your school utilizes social media and make changes as needed. Don't let the social spirit of the holidays escape you – make a commitment to communicate your charter to the communities that care the most.

SCHOOL NEWS

- PiM Arts High School, Eden Prairie: Throughout the month of December, PiM has set up a "Pop-up" at the Eden Prairie Mall to showcase their school and present student performances. Stop by this week on Fridays from 3-6 or 12-6 on Saturdays and Sundays. View a picture of the space here.
- **Prairie Creek Community School, Northfield**: Michelle Martin, a 4th and 5th grade teacher, was awarded a statewide environmental education award for her "outstanding, ongoing efforts in infusing environmental education into school curriculum". Read the story [here](#).

- **Minnesota Wildflower Montessori, Minneapolis & St. Paul**: The Startribune recently published an article exploring how the Wildflower network is seeking to provide equitable Montessori options for students of color as part of their Wildflower Equity Initiative. Read the story [here](#).

We want to hear from you! If you have any school news to share, email Addie.

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