



SPECIAL EDITION



Issue 5, 2015

SSD Teacher Named Finalist for Missouri Teacher of the Year

SSD teacher Kimberly Ann Dailey has been honored as a finalist for Missouri Teacher of the Year by the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

Dailey began her career at SSD in 1991. She has worked for SSD as a special education teacher at Lindbergh High School since 2000. Prior to that, she taught for nine years at Mehlville High School.

At Lindbergh High, Dailey has taught and co-taught English and social studies classes. Most recently, she took over programming for students with social, emotional and behavioral concerns, including developing curriculum, delivering instruction, and providing her classroom as a “safe place” for students who need extra support to successfully participate in school.



Go to <http://bit.ly/kdailey> to read an excerpt from the state application that helped Dailey earn state recognition and watch a video of SSD Superintendent Don Bohannon surprising Dailey with the announcement.

One of Dailey’s priorities is working to bridge the gap between general education students and students who receive special education services. After learning that students with special needs typically always sat together at a table to the side of the cafeteria, Dailey was instrumental in developing the LHS Lunch Club, which pairs students in a “buddy system” to meet and eat lunch, fostering a positive social experience. Since the program’s inception, students have expanded gatherings to include attending plays, tailgating at football games, and attending dances together. The LHS Lunch Club was recognized as a National Promising Practice for Character Education in 2013.

Recently, Dailey also developed a disability awareness program with the cooperation of Lindbergh High’s health teachers. Operation HEART (Helping Encourage Acceptance, Respect and Teamwork) enables students to voluntarily take on a disability for one day. The program runs for a week with a culminating summit in which students discuss their experiences, and the impact on other students and the teachers who were called upon to accommodate their needs.

Dailey also serves as a team coach for Special Olympics, and as the sponsor for the school’s community service-based KEY Club.

Dailey was named SSD’s Teacher of the Year in 2014. This summer, the District chose Dailey to represent SSD as its candidate for Missouri State Teacher of the Year. Among the dozens of applications from throughout the state, Dailey’s was selected as one of six finalists. She and the other finalists will be honored at a banquet on Oct. 26. ■

Honor SSD Staff or Community Members *for* Making a Difference in Your Child's Education

• *Nomination Deadline is Dec. 4* •

SSD has developed a wide range of award programs to recognize staff and community members for their work to benefit students. Recipients are honored annually at the SSD Salutes Banquet.

Visit <http://bit.ly/ssdawards> to download nomination forms. For more information, contact Wes Buchek at wbuchek@ssdmo.org or 314.989.8102.



Building Block Award

The SSD Building Block Award honors outstanding SSD paraprofessionals from around the District. Nominees for the Building Block Award are judged on their skills and on their dedication to students.

Key to the Classroom Award

With more than 2,500 teachers, SSD boasts a remarkable wealth of excellent educators. The Key to the Classroom/Teacher of the Year Award recognizes the achievements of these dedicated individuals. One Key to the Classroom recipient will be selected as the District's Teacher of the Year. Nominees for the award must be classroom teachers who are employed during the current school year.

Lasting Impression Award

The Lasting Impression Award recognizes the achievements of dedicated individuals, working both in and outside of the classroom, who stand out in their role at SSD. The Lasting Impression Award is open to all SSD staff except teachers or paraprofessionals.

Special Ambassador Award

The Special Ambassador Award is the highest recognition given by SSD. The award is presented to individuals or groups who demonstrate an extraordinary commitment to the students and/or staff of SSD. ■

Disability History & Awareness Month

October is Disability History and Awareness Month in Missouri. Here are two resources to learn more about how to raise awareness in your community.

■ **Materials available through SSD's Family & Community Resource Center:**
<http://bit.ly/ssdfcrc>

■ **Toolkit from State of Missouri:**
<http://bit.ly/toolkitmo>

Success Through Service:

Boy Scouts With Special Needs Excel in Local Troop

When the Boy Scouts of America Troop 724 is marching in a parade, you are likely to take notice. For one, they are usually near the front, carrying the colors, and standing tall with their red berets on their heads and gold braids on their left shoulders. They are also often leading the parade's grand marshal or being escorted by the unmistakable loud rumblings of motorcycles.

"Those are the AMVETS Riders," Scout Matthew Waelterman said. "They escort us at the parades."

The American Veterans Post 1 sponsors Troop 724, and the AMVETS Riders are major supporters.

"All the motorcycle riders know my boys by name," said Joe Vaughn, scoutmaster for Troop 724. "They holler and applaud for them — It's great!"

Troop 724 is the only Boy Scouts of America special needs color guard in the nation, and according to Vaughn, the group takes part in 50 to 100 color guards across the region each year.

"It makes me feel proud," Matthew said of being a part of the group.

The 17 Boy Scouts that make up Troop 724 are part of one of just three special needs troops in the area, and their history dates back 50 years. The troop has members that range in age from 14 to 46, and includes Scouts with a wide variety of abilities. ■



Visit <http://bit.ly/scouts724> to read more about Troop 724.

Student Scholarships Available

SSD and other organizations, including the Special Education Foundation (SEF) and the Bonhomme Lions, provide multiple opportunities for graduating seniors to earn scholarships for their post-secondary education. Any senior receiving SSD services or attending an SSD technical high school is eligible to apply for these scholarships.

Each reward is unique, and has its own history and specific requirements. Application deadlines start in December. Scholarships will be awarded at the Commitment to Kids Awards Banquet in April. ■

Visit <http://bit.ly/scholarshipforms> for details and applications.



PIZZA WITH A PURPOSE

Visit the California Pizza Kitchen on Thursdays during October to have 20 percent of your check donated to the Special Education Foundation. Visit www.sef-stl.org/cpk for additional details and to download the coupon you will need to present to participate in this fundraiser.

Visit www.sef-stl.org for more information about the Special Education Foundation.


Special Education Foundation
Success Beyond the Classroom



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MISSION: In collaboration with partner districts, we provide technical education and a wide variety of individualized educational and support services designed for each student's successful contribution to our community.

VISION: Partners for every student's success

VALUES: student success • collaboration
• integrity • stewardship • continuous improvement • equity

Special School District Notice of Non-Discrimination and Accommodation:

Special School District does not discriminate or tolerate discrimination, harassment, and/or retaliation against an individual based on race, color, religion, sex, national origin, sexual orientation or perceived sexual orientation, ancestry, disability, veteran status, age, or activity protected by federal or state law in its programs, activities and employment and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. Direct inquiries and complaints under this policy to Special School District's Director – Compliance Liaison, 12110 Clayton Road, St. Louis, Missouri 63131, telephone (314) 989-8100 or to the U.S. Department of Education Office for Civil Rights, One Pettoat Lane, 1010 Walnut Street, 3rd Floor, Suite 320, Kansas City, Missouri 64106, telephone (816) 268-0550, fax (816) 268-0599, TDD (800) 877-8339, email OCR.KansasCity@ed.gov. Information about the existence and location of services, activities, and facilities accessible to impaired persons can be obtained from the Special School District's Director – Compliance Liaison at the phone number and address listed above.

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314.989.8288 / communications@ssdmo.org



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NEWS FROM SSD



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COMING UP @ SSD

Free Event Offers Families One-Stop Access to Autism Resources

SSD's Parent Education and Diversity Awareness Program will sponsor an Autism-Asperger-PDD Resource Fair on Oct. 22 that will feature information about programs and resources available through SSD and other community agencies.



The resource fair is scheduled for 4–7 p.m. Oct. 22 at SSD Central Office, 12110 Clayton Road in Town & Country. Please park and enter on the lower level of the building. ■

The event is free and open to the public. Registration is encouraged but is not required to attend. For more information, call 314.989.7807 (711 Deaf/HOH).