

# BLAINE AIRPORT PROMOTION GROUP

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8891 Airport Road C-2, Blaine MN. 55449

*Sixth Year of Publication*

## THE EDUCATION COORDINATOR JUNE 9, 2016



The public aircraft viewing pavilion located at the base of the control tower at the Blaine airport received special attention on September 12, 2011 during the annual Anoka County Aviation Association

and airport staff sponsored picnic.

The picnic provides an opportunity for airport users, Metropolitan Airport Commission staff as well as friends and family members to enjoy a day at the airport to share flying experiences and recognition of the year's events.

MAC Chairman Dan Boivin presented plaques to six airport tenants during a special recognition ceremony specifically to thank them for their efforts and volunteer spirit in the construction of a public aircraft viewing pavilion and its tower communication system that allows for hearing pilot and controller voice communication.

The six honorees have provided more than a structure. Over the past five years the facility has gained recognition as a gathering place and family picnic grounds with a great view of the intersecting runways. In May 2016 the viewing area was the center of activities during lunch breaks for 300 students and teachers from three schools during visits to the airport on May 6, 12, 23, and 24<sup>th</sup>.



THANK YOU TEAM!! *Don Rosacher, Bob Johnson, Bob Streeter, Tony Loth, Tim loth and Doug Solseth.* Your efforts have given us a centerpiece for visitors

to enjoy and connect to the Blaine airport in a very positive way. Volunteers make up the teams that come together to make successful programs happen and collectively provide an exciting and healthy airport environment that is felt throughout the community.

*By Cheryl Daml* I want to thank all of you for all you did to make the Isanti first grade two day field trip in May very successful! I heard so many wonderful comments about the presentations, the awesome things the kids got to see, and just an amazing time each day. Best field trip ever!!!

Michael Lawrence, thank you for allowing us to use the Key Air facility for the presentations and for allowing us to tour. The kids enjoyed seeing the jets, the hangar, trucks, etc. Each time we took them outside, it was different, depending on what airplanes were there, or the activity of the fuel trucks, tugs, etc. It was an amazing experience.

Glenn Burke, thanks for having the plows out by the tower each day. They loved looking at them and seeing how BIG they are! Very awesome of you to do that. Very much appreciated! Please tell your crew thank you!

Jason Dickinson, please give your Life Link III Ambulance Service crew a big thank you for their time and patience with the kids. They explained what they do and let the kids sit inside the helicopter. They were thrilled!

Craig Schiller, please tell your crew what a great job they did with the stations at the Golden Wings Museum. Thanks to you and Greg Herrick for allowing us to visit the museum and see the airplanes and learn so much about them and about engines and building techniques. I heard many positive comments about what a great job your crew did. The kids really enjoyed it there.

Roger Hansen and Harvey Karth, you two did an awesome job on the stations you prepared for them at Key Air. It was so fun for them to learn about and play with the toys you had. They learned a lot and had a blast. Also heard lots of positive comments about your presentations!

It was a lot of work for all of you involved and I can't thank you enough. Very much appreciated!

**Great job! You are all THE BEST!**

*Cheryl Daml is a pilot, Instructor and retired teacher at Isanti, Minnesota Coordinator for the May Isanti first grade field trip*

***By Kate Watson***

University Avenue Aerospace, Children's Engineering and Science Elementary magnet school has had a very exciting year! Our school board and district made the decision to do a two-story addition to our building to allow for the growing Blaine population, as well as interest in our school through the eight-district collaboration of Northwest Suburban Integration District, allowing families to have more educational choice through a lottery process, which also provides free busing. We are happy to say we were able to accept our entire pool of first through fifth grade applicants from NWSISD, but also have a waiting list of over twenty kindergarten students.

We have many celebrations this year; our art teacher was awarded the elementary teacher of the year award by the Air Force Association Rawlins Chapter for her STEM integration work. This branch of the AFA was also kind enough to donate the funds needed to purchase our Civil Air Patrol Shirts for all students and staff. The Civil Air Patrol awarded our school a \$250 grant for a video we submitted reflecting our experience on one of our ACES days at our school. We have been written about in district, local, and statewide publications. However, one of the biggest celebrations has been our family participation and student academic growth. We were thrilled to share that our fifth grade MCA Science test scores increased by 19.8% over last year.

This year we were once again recognized by Magnet School's of America, a national organization, as a magnet school of distinction. This was awarded based on evidence we showed in diversity, innovative curriculum and professional development, academic excellence, high quality instructional systems, and family & community partnerships. Some evidence of this is our innovative learning experiences that take place at the Anoka County Blaine Airport. We had two stand-out examples of these experiences this past May when our first graders (our aerospace community experts) were invited out to Key Air, where they learned about pilot communication with retired teacher, flight instructor and pilot Cheryl Daml, got to get up close to a Life Link III Ambulance Service helicopter and talk to the pilot, and finally end their day near the control tower where they were able to hear about the airport from the airport manager Glenn Burke while standing in the viewing deck, explore the big trucks and machines with the MAC maintenance workers, and finally enjoy a picnic lunch. Our kindergarteners were able to take a trip to the airport to have a picnic with pilots and they labeled plane parts of a T-6 provided by Chuck Datko, took a walk around Cheryl Daml's plane to see it up close, and even get a

turn to sit in a Learjet provided by Tom Lindee and chaperoned by the Blaine Airport Promotion Group Founder Harvey Karth and Blaine's Mayor Tom Ryan. A picnic followed and a VERY SPECIAL airshow by the T-6 Thunder North American Flight Team pilots Chuck Datko and Dr. Robin Crandall. Needless to say these experiences on the field make such an amazing difference for teachers, parents, and highly diverse learners off the field.

This being the fifth year of implementation of our STEM magnet school program we are overjoyed and blessed that we have been able to fill opportunity gaps that exist in many of our student population. We are amazed by the changes that have been made in the building structures, mindsets, and engagement over the last five years. This is certainly in attribution to the hard work of those that put what's best for kids first both in our district, in our building, and in the very special partnerships that we have grown over the years. In looking to the future we hope to continue bringing our kids on the field while connecting it directly to the learning off the field and into the classrooms.



*Kate Watson is UAE Curriculum Integration Coordinator*