

Greetings all!

As the Director of CRSS, I have the gift of 172 amazing days: each day that school is in session I have my breath taken away by the magic that happens on our campus. It is the warmth of smiles, the sound of laughter, the puzzlement of questioners, and the caring for kids that are exhibited in all who work, volunteer, or entrust their children here. So I'm no stranger to magic that takes my breath away...

As you know, yesterday was Give to the Max Day in Minnesota. People were encouraged to donate online to a charity or school of their choice in the 24 hours of November 15th. Each hour donors were drawn to award a Golden Ticket of \$1,000 to their charity. Our friends at Prairie Creek Community School received such a Golden Ticket. By this morning, all the tickets had been awarded, and I started my day thankful for the bountiful gifts we received that generated \$2,400 yesterday and not only earned our full matching grant from the Carlander family and The State Bank of Faribault, but helped us cover some of the other playground expenses. It had been a successful fundraiser.

About 11 a.m. however, I received a call from GiveMN. The hourly Golden Tickets weren't the end of the surprises. Two additional \$10,000 Super-sized Golden Tickets were to be awarded at the end of the event – one for a nonprofit donor and one for a K-12 public school donor! It turns out that of all the thousands of donors that gave to K-12 public schools yesterday, a donation made to Cannon River STEM School was drawn to generate a Super-size Golden Ticket for CRSS. **Of our 47 amazing donors from yesterday, Michele Maland's name was drawn today to award the \$10,000 Golden Ticket to Cannon River STEM School!** I have no idea what the odds were, but the magic of this place (and the magic of son Dylan's birthday last weekend) carried Michele's name to the top of the pile.

I started the day with a grateful heart and a smile on my face. I am just now catching my breath from the magic of this wonderful news and the gift it means to our school. Please accept my humble and excited thanks for all you do every day to make this magic, to motivate this generosity, and to make Cannon River STEM School a truly awesome place to work and learn!

Gratefully,

Nalani