Welcome to the latest news from around our Minnesota-Dakotas Kiwanis District. In addition to articles by some of district leaders you will also find many interesting articles and photos from Kiwanis Clubs in our district.

As always we encourage clubs to submit news articles about their activities, service projects or fundraisers. To submit an article go the District News on our website and find “News-News Story Submission” page http://mndak.portalbuzz.com/Page/1013

This document is a PDF summary of the latest news that can also be found on the district website. If you prefer you can also view all of our news articles directly on the district website. You can search by District, Division or Club and view or print each article individually or as a group. In addition the photos appear in a larger format on the website. Here is a link to the website http://www.mndak-kiwanis.org/Page/1012

An archive of current and past MINNEKOTANS can be found on our district website http://www.mndak-kiwanis.org/Page/1014

Steve Handegaard
District Secretary/Treasurer
Minnesota-Dakotas District Kiwanis International
Thanks for the Memories - 8/31/2019
Submitted by: Dave Harms

It is with some sadness that my year as Governor MN/DAK 2018-2019 is coming to a close. It has been a year of fun and memory building that both my wife and I enjoyed. It was a time of meeting and making new friends. An experience that I would invite and encourage all Kiwanis members to strive for.

The year also consisted of being asked questions, some of which without having a Great Group of Lieutenant Governors in each division and Outstanding District staff would be difficult to answer. It was a year of gains and losses. It was absolute euphoria to hear it announced at the International Convention that this is the first year in 40 years that we were on the plus side of the numbers and on the district side at the convention that we were at +34 in the district, to learn a few days later that a club with 39 members had voted to disband.

I have found myself deep in thought about that scenario, and what can we do to turn it around to an every year ending on the plus side. Some of this comes from my own club. We talk about membership, but we get comfortable with our club, and we don’t see the membership declining, we have our dues situation at a manageable level, and we don’t really think of ourselves as an aging group. One day we wake up and realize that we are that aging group, and we haven’t done anything to bring along the next generation, and because we have been doing good, we assume that everyone recognizes that and are just waiting for us to step aside so they can step in. We all have to recruit every day so that when we do step aside there will be somebody ready to step in. So I would challenge every member to invite someone to attend a meeting with you once a week. Don’t get discouraged when you hear a no thank you, ask someone else next week. It is the only way Kiwanis will survive.

I want to close my year on a high note by thanking every Kiwanis member in MN/DAK for what they have done to fulfill the District Commitment to Project Eliminate, Support our SLP’s, and what the Clubs have done to help get Kids in their communities involved in Community Service and opportunities for continuing their dreams through scholarships. Also the district leadership for being the beacons of inspiration to their areas of responsibility. There are a couple who have gone above and beyond and I will thank them personally.

We will be initiating a search committee shortly for a District Secretary/Treasurer. If this is an area of interest for any of you, please give it some thought.

I had a wonderful time and I hope you all did too. Please encourage all club members to consider an International Convention, it is in Indianapolis in 2020 which is fairly close and would be a good opportunity to see what will be coming to Minneapolis in 2023.

If not us, who will answer the call? Thank you for the honor to serve as your Governor in the 2018-2019 Kiwanis Year.

September Update - 8/30/2019
Submitted by: Steve Handegaard

Kiwanis International and District Dues for the 2019-2020 Kiwanis year are as follows: (same as 2018-2019)
Kiwanis International Dues - $52
Member liability insurance - $13
Directors and Officers Liability - $4
Magazine - $8
MNDAK District dues - $30

The 2019 District Kiwanis Convention held in Fargo, ND. was a great success. We hope to see all of you at the 2020 District Convention in St. Cloud, August 7-9. In addition to the educational portions of the convention we also had two district board meetings and of course the District House of Delegates business session. The minutes of those meetings are posted on our district website. [https://www.mndak-kiwanis.org/(X(1)S(t2tiitymt5to1jgdwua0f24a))/Page/1021](https://www.mndak-kiwanis.org/)(X(1)S(t2tiitymt5to1jgdwua0f24a))/Page/1021

**Division Star Award Winners for 18-19:** Division Star Award winners were recognized at the District Convention. To view the names and information about the recipients go to our district website at the following link: [https://www.mndak-kiwanis.org/(X(1)S(dcds0q45ni32t1eczygvsqzg))/Page/24948](https://www.mndak-kiwanis.org/)(X(1)S(dcds0q45ni32t1eczygvsqzg))/Page/24948

Thanks again to Club Secretaries for submitting the Annual Club Election Reports for 2019-2020. The reports were due June 1, so if you have not submitted your information online, please do so ASAP! We are still waiting for some club election reports! Please include email addresses whenever possible. It is very important that Kiwanis International and the District Office both receive this information in a timely manner so that directories and mailing lists can be compiled. When filed online the report automatically goes to both Kiwanis International and the District Office.

**Club Secretaries:** Be sure that you have submitted all of your monthly online club reports for the 18-19 year. Remember that the September report (last report of the year) is due by October 10th, 2019. With the monthly online reporting system you will not be asked to submit a separate annual report.

**Club Secretaries be sure to update your online membership roster on your Club Secretary Dashboard:** Each Kiwanis club has until September 30 to add new members and until October 10 to delete non-returning members. These updates will be reflected in your 2018-19 certified membership count. Kiwanis will use this updated information to invoice clubs in October 2019.

Please feel free to contact the Kiwanis Member Services department at (800) KIWANIS (800.549.2647) ext. 411, or 317.875.8755 ext. 411, or memberservices@kiwanis.org for assistance with any questions.

**Special Thanks and Congratulations:** The 2018-2019 Kiwanis year is not over until the end of September, but I would like to take this opportunity to give special thanks to Governor David Harms for his hard work and dedication to Kiwanis this past year. Also, special thanks to all who served in a Lt. Governor, District Director or District Committee position. They all worked very hard to support Kiwanis on the Club and District level. Congratulations to Governor Designate Rachael Disrud who will lead our district beginning October 1. And last, but not least congratulations to David Odette who will serve as Governor Elect during 2019-2020.

**Annual IRS Tax Reporting:** Remember that all clubs must file the appropriate IRS 990 Tax form each year. Nearly all Kiwanis Clubs are on an Oct 1 to Sept 30 fiscal year, so that means your next tax return is due no later than February 15, 2020. Failure to do so will result in fines and loss of nonprofit status. Further information can be found on the Kiwanis International website [http://www.kiwanis.org/kiwanisone/lead/club-leaders/treasurer/irs-forms#.VeUDYpdRTRE](http://www.kiwanis.org/kiwanisone/lead/club-leaders/treasurer/irs-forms#.VeUDYpdRTRE)

**Minnesota-Dakotas District Kiwanis Office Contact Information:**

Minnesota-Dakotas District Kiwanis Office
P.O. Box 735
Dalton, MN 56324-0735
Summing Up September - 8/29/2019
Submitted by: Sherry Scudder

Where has this year gone? We are summing up September for MEMBERSHIP but have a few incentives for you noted below. I am so proud of all the clubs who submitted new members. My apologies to those clubs whose new members were noted later without sponsor names. I will work harder with Kiwanis International to follow up.

We are saddened to hear of some closing or contemplating closing clubs because the impact is so great on the children and their communities. For every member we help 206 children. KIDS NEED KIWANIS. If we can help with MEMBERSHIP in any way, please call your Lt. Governors or me directly and we will try to help. If a club has an inkling of their club being in trouble, don’t be afraid to reach OUT—I DON’T BITE. Call me at 605-347-7718.

NEW CLUB OPENING INCENTIVE PROGRAM
The Kiwanis International Board has approved a new club opening INCENTIVE program where DISTRICTS receive $300 FOR EACH NEW CLUB ORGANIZED for the first 350 clubs beginning September 1, 2019. The DISTRICTS are to put this money in a special fund to be used to assist clubs with MEMBERSHIP growth and retention.

The International KI Board also approved financial support to DISTRICTS through a matching grant up to $4000 to fund growth initiatives with a focus on club opening. More information on the matching grant program can be found on the application form at https://kiwanis.formstack.com/forms/2018_19_membership_district_matching_grant_app

CONGRATULATIONS to Division 6 for gaining the most members submitted this period:

DIVISION 6
Albert Lea Golden K. Jan Overgaard. Sponsor unknown
Albert Lea Golden K. Bob Johnson. Sponsor unknown
Mankato. Cory Merrill. Shannon Sinning
Mankato. Phillip Carter. Matt Norland

DIVISION 7
Northeast MN. Jeff Mundinger. Sponsor unknown

We still have this month to work on membership, strengthen our clubs, and retain our membership so we can serve the children in the community. REMEMBER, for EACH MEMBER, we serve 206 children. WHAT WOULD YOUR COMMUNITY AND THE CHILDREN
DO WITHOUT YOU. Let’s sum up September with an increase in MEMBERSHIP and New clubs so we can properly serve our kids.

Thank You - 8/29/2019
Submitted by: Rachael Disrud

August 30, 2019

Dear fellow Kiwanians

Thank you for being a Kiwanian – for the position you hold in your community that demonstrates the fact that you have made a difference in this world we live in – that your life has given opportunity to another person in a positive way.

I think of the poem by Emily Dickinson:

If I can stop one heart from breaking,
I shall not live in vain;
If I can ease one life the aching,
Or cool one pain,
Or help one fainting robin
Unto his nest again,
I shall not live in vain.

You, as Kiwanians, are the epitome of Dale Carnegie's philosophy:
“If we want to find happiness, give for the inner joy of giving”.

We in Minnesota Dakotas have emerged from our 2019 convention better informed, closer friends, committed to our clubs and communities, to our nation and our world. We have given our resources to children who have little, to eliminate tetanus, to libraries and children who can learn the value of reading, to shelters, to babies and toddlers through donating thousands of diapers, to a program that rescues victims of trafficking, to our Minnesota Dakotas Educational Foundation, to our International Children's Fund and we have given support to one another that enables us to enhance and encourage the work we have before us.

Your team of Lt Governors is committed to clubs in each of our 7 Divisions. Enjoy getting to know them. Kiwanis has more resources than can be used by any one person. Learn from one another. Find out what Club Leader Education is. Go to the Kiwanis International Web Site. Go to the Minnesota Dakotas Web Site. Call your Lt Governors and other leaders representing Partners in Kiwanis and Risk Management Experts who can guide you. Kiwanis has a program for adults with Disabilities (Aktion Club). Contact Key Club and Circle K leaders, K-Kids and Builders Club Leaders for assistance. Kiwanis has resources to assist in our mission to serve the children of our world. Please learn about them, share and use them.

I am deeply grateful for the opportunity to serve along side you. Please keep me informed of ways that I can assist you and of ways we can strengthen our members and clubs. I am grateful to those who have gone before us and left the legacy we have inherited. I am grateful to you who are in the trenches now and to those who are just beginning to serve through Kiwanis. We are truly a team. We want to be safe together and support one another as the work before us is great.

Thank you
Being Dedicated to a Cause - 8/29/2019
Submitted by: Nancy Cornell Builders Club Administrator

"Builders Club is teaching me about the good feeling that comes from being dedicated to a cause". Conner is one of many Builders Club kids who are being inspired by belonging to a Builders Club.

Who joins Builders Club? Builders Club members are the leaders of tomorrow. And they're the energetic, dedicated kids of today. They’re Middle School/Jr. High students, and something more- they're passionate about making a difference in the world.

Why they need you. You can help shape this generation of leaders- while helping students build strong communities through service. Your impact is both measurable and inspirational.

Through Builders Club you can:
* Inspire students to believe in their ability to change the world.
* Help students develop self-confidence at a critical time in their lives.
* Encourage leadership that transforms ideas into meaningful action
* Generate a more caring and inclusive school climate.

Why it works: There are more than 1500 Builders Clubs worldwide.
* It’s student-led.
* It’s age-appropriate
* Your needs matter. Needs of advisors, members and sponsors are taken into consideration for meetings and projects.
* You’re not alone. I am available to help as well as staff at Kiwanis International.

As a new school year starts and a new Kiwanis year for your club begins in October, put sponsoring a Builders Club on your agenda.

Go to www.buildersclub.org and follow the steps and help young leaders step forward. Please contact me with any questions or concerns. nancyc2@centurytel.net.

Children's Fund - 8/28/2019
Submitted by: Kathy Welle

Hello Kiwanians, family and friends.

As we close out the month of August, here are the results of all the fun we had during the year with the K Dollar Challenge. Thank you to everyone who made the K Dollar Challenge fun!
First I wish to express a special **THANK YOU** to Veronica Johnson and Todd Levig for all their assistance during the convention. Todd Levig is Div. 7- Lt. Gov. Veronica is a member of the Columbia Heights-Fridley Kiwanis Club.

As of today, $3639.00 was collected by 10 clubs using various games and challenges with the K dollar. Some clubs brought a check and some clubs brought all the K dollar bills collected.

Remember the picture that Dave Odette showed? Largest amount: Rochester Day Makers: $1140.00. What a club!! Another high amount: $715.00 - Stillwater Area Kiwanis, started 7 yrs ago. And one club brought a **$100 dollar bill** that had a K on it. (Sturgis Golden K) Wow! One club found a $10.00 bill that had the K in the circle just like the one dollar bills. So fun!! I was overwhelmed by all the response and very appreciative of all the participation.

And the raffle table fundraiser and Room Snacks totaled another $653.00. Total amount sent to: Kiwanis Children's Fund = $3966.00. A list of participating clubs was included, so that each club gets credit with the amount submitted. Plus $326.00 sent to MN-Dak Education Foundation.

So the Challenge continues for 2019-2020 Kiwanis year until the next District Convention!!

Due to my club's annual fundraiser in August, my time was limited in getting all the numbers together. Our club sells Colorado Peaches for two days to raise funds for Key Club scholarships from our club. If you aren't aware, I am the Club Sec-Treas and collect all the funds for our club too. Easier days ahead!

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**Rewards for Sponsoring a K-Kids Club - 8/28/2019**

*Submitted by: Theresa Looby*

You may ask the question - How can sponsoring a K-Kids Club be rewarding?

The answer is - K-Kids are learning to be active leaders at school, in their communities and the world.

Kiwanis Clubs currently sponsoring K-Kids see children who are “energetic, dedicated Elementary students passionate about making a difference in their school, community and world”.

Involved students discover the desire to serve as leaders and encourage others and make new friends. They enjoy volunteering in school activities and community projects and celebrate their successes.

The next question is - Why do K-Kids need you?

The members of the sponsoring Club provide support to the children through encouraging the children to believe in their ability to make changes, and motivating them to succeed in school and community.

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**September Partnership Highlights - 8/28/2019**

*Submitted by: Denis Cornell, Partnership Coordinator*
March of Dimes
March of Dimes and Kiwanis clubs work together to make a positive impact in the lives of babies everywhere.

Since the 1940s, Kiwanis International has worked hard to make a difference for babies everywhere! Today, Kiwanis members continue that culture of service to support the March of Dimes all year long by hosting service projects, raising funds and educating communities about the crisis of preterm birth.

March for Babies: A great way to support March of Dimes is by participating in its largest annual fundraiser, March for Babies. Sign-up at marchforbabies.org/kiwanisinternational and if you don't see your team listed, you can start a new team at marchforbabies.org/kiwanisinternational—make sure you include Kiwanis in your team name. And contact your local office to volunteer yourself or your club.

November is Prematurity Awareness Month: November is when the March of Dimes focuses everyone's attention on the impact premature birth has on babies and families. Throughout the month of November and on World Prematurity Day, November 17, Kiwanis International supports the March of Dimes by raising public awareness of the seriousness of premature birth. Members are encouraged to wear purple to their November meetings, joining in local March of Dimes awareness events, and hosting a guest speaker to share their prematurity story.

About March of Dimes: The mission of the March of Dimes is to improve the health of babies by preventing birth defects, premature birth and infant mortality. Premature birth is the leading cause of newborn death in the United States. Worldwide, more than 1 million children die each year due to complications of premature birth. Babies who survive an early birth often face lifetime health challenges, such as vision and breathing problems, cerebral palsy and learning disabilities. The March of Dimes is the leading nonprofit organization for pregnancy and baby health. For more than 75 years, moms and babies have benefited from March of Dimes research, education, vaccines and breakthroughs.

Since our beginning, volunteers have led the March of Dimes. Generations of Kiwanians serving as volunteer leaders for the March of Dimes bring experience and passion to help moms and babies in their communities and across the nation. Join Kiwanis and the March of Dimes today in the fight for stronger, healthier babies.

CHILDREN’S MIRACLE NETWORK HOSPITALS
Throughout the years, Kiwanis International has made children happier and healthier by helping millions of kids be able to enjoy better lives. One of the ways Kiwanis helps is through contributions to Children’s Miracle Network Hospitals. Since Children’s Miracle Network Hospitals first broadcast in 1983, Kiwanis has donated more than US$36 million to help make miracles happen for local sick and injured kids. Kiwanis leaders encourage clubs to continue supporting communities and children by contributing to Children’s Miracle Network Hospitals.

About Children’s Miracle Network Hospitals: Children’s Miracle Network Hospitals® raises funds and awareness for 170 member hospitals that provide 32 million treatments each year to kids across the U.S. and Canada. Donations stay local to fund critical treatments and healthcare services, pediatric medical equipment and charitable care. Since 1983, Children’s Miracle Network Hospitals has raised more than $5 billion, most of it $1 at a time through the charity’s Miracle Balloon icon. Its various fundraising partners and programs support the nonprofit’s mission to save and improve the lives of as many children as possible.

To ensure children's hospitals have the resources they need, Children's Miracle Network Hospitals' partners like Kiwanis conduct thousands of special events and grassroots fundraisers year-round. Circle K and Key Clubs hold Dance Marathons to help generate millions of dollars each year to provide the best care available to the tiniest of patients. The partnership continues to provide service and fundraising opportunities to both organizations.
Youth Protection Terms - 8/27/2019
Submitted by: Peter Larson

After Oct. 1st when we start a new Kiwanis year, I will be asking every Kiwanis member to take the Youth Protection Guidelines training. Here are some terms you may want to review before the training:

Youth Protection Guidelines: first approved by the Kiwanis International Board of Directors in January 2007. Since then, updates have been made to ensure Kiwanians adhere to the best practices when working with youth. The guidelines protect both our youth and adult members and outline expectations for adults working with people under age 18.

Child abuse: harm to a child, which occurs immediately or through accumulated effects over a period of time. Did you know: approximately three million cases of child abuse and neglect—involving almost 5.5 million children—are reported each year? We’ll discuss three types of abuse.

Emotional abuse is one of the most pervasive and damaging types. It consists of neglecting your child’s needs for emotional support, love and caring). “Emotional abuse that exists independently of other forms of abuse is the most difficult form of child abuse to identify and stop” (American Humane Association). Signs include: reports from the child of emotionally abusive behavior.

Physical abuse is in some ways the easiest type to understand. Signs include: Any injury (bruise, burn, fracture, abdominal or head injury) that cannot be explained.

Sexual abuse includes any kind of sexual act or behavior with a child. Signs include:

Dramatic behavior changes
Physical complaints, such as headaches, stomachaches or genital pain or discomfort that can't be explained.
Fear of a particular person or place, and of being alone with that person or in that place.
Overreaction to a question about someone touching him or her. Sudden increase in awareness of and preoccupation with sexual conduct, words and body parts. (May seem hypersexualized and try to get other youth to perform sexual acts.)

Please note: There could be alternative explanations for each of these signs. It can be difficult, but use your best judgment when interpreting what you see and enlist help if necessary (confidentially and with discretion).

“Troubling behavior”: This term is used in the guidelines and defines:
All forms of child abuse, as described previously
Behavior not in accordance with the Kiwanis Guidelines
Illegal behavior of a youth or adult.
Something that causes your internal voice to say: “Something's not right about this.”

I hope a review of these terms will help you understand why Kiwanians need to take the guidelines training.

Educational Foundation Board and Scholarship Update - 8/27/2019
Submitted by: Jack Zierdt
Educational Foundation
Board and Scholarship Update

Your Educational Foundation of the Minnesota Dakotas Kiwanis District gave their annual report at the District Convention in Fargo, North Dakota. During the time of the report they nominated Dan Leikvold from South Dakota and Lowell Disrud from North Dakota for election to a three-year term on the Foundation Board. Your Educational Foundation membership is Denis Cornell, President; Jean Collins (both representing Minnesota) Lowell Disrud, Vice President; Bill Lardy (both representing North Dakota) Sherry Scudder and Dan Leikvold (both representing South Dakota). Governor Rachel Disrud and Governor-Elect David Odette are also board members during their term of office. Jack Zierdt is the Secretary/Treasurer of the Foundation.

We have started to pay the scholarship payments to the institutions of higher learning for the recipients of the Foundation Scholarships for the 2019 – 2020 academic year. We will be paying out the $715 payments that were awarded to 59 recipients in April of this year. Some of your Kiwanis Clubs have sent in an extra $285 to help make the award $1,000. We would like to take this opportunity, on behalf of the Educational Foundation Board and the scholarship recipients, to thank those clubs that continue to support the scholarship program through their extra donations to their winning recipients. We also thank each club that continues to support the Educational Foundation Scholarship with their annual Century Club Donation. If your club has not sent in their Century Club amount for this year 2018 – 2019 Kiwanis Year, you can still do it during September. Starting October (the new Kiwanis Year) we will again be asking for the Century Club donations once again.

We have also awarded a number of Vantine Life Fellowships to individual members since the District Convention. During the transition of officers at the end of this month and the beginning of October, you can honor your outgoing president or other officers by purchasing a Vantine Life Fellow in their honor.

Thank you for your continued support of your Minnesota-Dakotas Kiwanis Educational Foundation.

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Service - 8/27/2019
Submitted by: Al Vanderlaan

Starting October 1 I will be stepping aside as your District Service Director. I have been doing this job for 4 years. I have worked at bringing you new ideas on how to help the children in your communities.

You have done a great job bringing books to children in many grade schools across our District. We now have more Scholastic Books than any other District. We have put the first Scholastic Books on a Reservation. You should all be commended for doing a great job.

We have supported Books 4 Kids which brings authors of children's books to the class room by the internet. Each of the children in a school or grade within the school gets a book to take home.

We have brought educators to the District that have educated us about TRAFFICKING of children.

As I turn this Directorship over to another Kiwanian of our new Governor's choosing I will continue to help my Division 5 with leadership as one of their Lt. Governors which they have needed.
I hope you will support your new District Service Director in the same way you have supported me. Always be willing to serve your fellow man and children. You will probably never know how the service you provide will affect the children. You are doing what our God has asked you to do.

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**Kiwanis Kraft Fair - 8/26/2019**  
*Club: Sturgis 321 - Submitted by: Michele Freed*

The Sturgis 321 Kiwanis Club will have a Kiwanis Kraft Fair on Saturday, October 19 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Sturgis Community Center. Get your holidays shopping started early!

Food available from Noon to 2:00 p.m. Free admission and lots of parking. Vendor space available. Contact Michele Freed at kiwanis321@hotmail.com for more information.

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**Lake Agassiz Kiwanis Pollinator Garden - 8/26/2019**  
*Club: Lake Agassiz, Fargo - Submitted by: Kristi Engelstad*

Have you ever heard of a pollinator garden? A pollinator garden is planted and designed with specific nectar and pollen producing plants to attract pollinator insects.

Last year, the Lake Agassiz Kiwanis decided to grow and support a pollinator garden at the Lake Agassiz Shelter in Mickelson Park in North Fargo. The shelter currently has a large blue canopy, dedicated to LAK member Marty Holsen, a long-time LAK member who was instrumental in securing our club’s partnership for the Boat Show and the Sportsmen’s Show. The pollinator garden was planted at the end of last year and had it’s first full summer this year!

In the upcoming years, LAK has partnered with the Fargo Park District to install educational signage around the garden and an inscribed decorative rock with names of members who have passed away. If you’re ever in North Fargo, stop by the LAK Shelter in Mickelson Park to learn a little bit about pollinator insects and see the beautiful garden.

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**School supplies for Madison school - 8/25/2019**  
*Club: Fargo South Point - Submitted by: Larry Rittgarn*

Fargo South Point once again makes a delivery of school supplies to Madison Elementary School. Each year the South Point club has elected to provide a supply of the needed items so students who arrive at school without the necessary items can pick them up at the office.

Many of the students at this school are from low income families so this is a way for them to still have everything they need for the first day of school. This also helps the students that arrive during the year as they can pick up what they need as well.