

The Review

Spring 2014
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State Spelling Bee Champion from MCC

By Sue Gorecki, Student Activities Coordinator, sue.gorecki@swsc.org

It took twenty challenging rounds and nearly four hundred words, but a champion emerged at the Multi-Region State Spelling Bee held in Fergus Falls.

Alyssa Boynton from Murray County Central in Slayton correctly spelled paraphrastic which means “translating more clearly an author’s meaning” after Yash Kapoor from Crookston High School misspelled raclette, a French word meaning a “dish of Swiss origin consisting of melted cheese.” Alyssa then had to spell a second word correctly in order to be named champion. Teleology, meaning “the use of design as an explanation of any natural phenomenon,” posed no problem and Alyssa was declared the champion.

It was evident that Alyssa had studied as she breezed through such words as mizzle, alim, jnana, apparatchik, and voortrekker. “I studied lists from the dictionary mostly,” commented Alyssa. “When I came today, I didn’t think I would win. But I am really excited. I have never been to Washington, D.C.”

“Studying from the dictionary is definitely the best preparation for Alyssa as she gets ready to represent five Minnesota Service Cooperatives at the Scripps National Spelling Bee in Washington, D.C.,” said Susan Ward, State Spelling Bee Coordinator. “Alyssa had some tremendous competition today, and clearly demonstrated that she has the talent, skill, and determination to do well at the National level.”

Mark Schlesiman, Spelling Bee Coordinator at MCC, said “Alyssa has worked extremely hard to earn this chance. She will represent MCC and the Multi-Region with poise and integrity.”

The Scripps National Spelling Bee in Washington, D.C. will be May 25-31. Until that contest, Alyssa will be busy studying from the dictionary – trying to learn words, definitions, and rules of language. Best of Luck to Alyssa!

The Multi-Region State Spelling Bee was sponsored by Lakes Country Service Cooperative, Northeast Service Cooperative, Northwest Service Cooperative, Resource Training & Solutions and the SW/WC Service Cooperative.



From the Desk of the Executive Director

By Cliff Carmody, Executive Director, cliff.carmody@swsc.org



At the April Board meeting, the SW/WC Service Cooperative Board approved, on behalf of our members, a SW/WC SC membership in the Minnesota Partnership for Collaborative Curriculum (MPCC). The MPCC is a grassroots initiative among school districts to create comprehensive open education resources, with the overall goal being to create course work in a digital format in the four core subject areas for grades 3-12. To date, 59 school districts across the state have committed to fund the initiative. With the addition of the schools from our region, the number of schools participating in MPCC will nearly double.

MPCC benefits to our school districts include:

- Access to high quality curriculum aligned to standards and available at minimal cost;
- Local control over the curriculum to edit, remove, add or customize elements of the content;
- Facilitation of moving toward 1-1 device initiatives;
- Improving capacity for personalized learning;
- Training opportunities for teachers to develop digital content and become skilled in delivering personalized learning through digital content.

In addition, the membership fee for participation in this partnership is being paid by SW/WC SC. We believe this demonstrates the commitment we have to our school district members in supporting and encouraging the further integration of technology into the day-to-day activities of our schools. The board, administration, and staff of SW/WC SC understand the importance of supporting the work of our member schools.

Minnesota Partnership for Collaborative Curriculum

Josh Sumption will be coordinating the activities related to this collaboration. For more information on MPCC and SW/WC SC's involvement, contact Josh Sumption at josh.sumption@swsc.org or at 507-537-2265.

SW/WC SC is committed to continuously finding ways to partner with our schools and other entities like MPCC to bring opportunities to the students in our region. We are excited to bring this work to the region and look forward to hearing and seeing the impact this partnership will have on teaching and learning!

Executive Director's Cabinet

Cliff Carmody, Executive Director

Deecy Jesse, Executive Assistant

Bob Braun, Sr. Director of Teaching & Learning

Amy Christensen, Interim Director of Southwest
Prairie Regional Center of Excellence

Doug Deragisch, Sr. Director of Risk Management

Edna Gossen, Operations Manager

Darin Jensen, Sr. Director of Administrative Services

Shelly Maes, Manager of Member Services

Annette Miller, Director of Finance

Dr. Mary Palmer, Sr. Director of Special Education

As of June 1

Melany Wellnitz, Director of Southwest Prairie
Regional Center of Excellence

As of July 1

Lisa Gregoire, Sr. Director of Teaching &
Learning Services

To contact via email: first.last@swsc.org

From the Division of Risk Management

Health Cost Management Program

By Kari Bailey, Health Cost Management Coordinator, kari.bailey@swsc.org

The Division of Risk Management is wrapping up the Health Cost Management Program for the 2013-2014 school year. The Health Cost Management Program is available to all groups in the school health insurance pool and offers activity and biometric screenings dollars for districts to implement wellness programs for their employees. Groups participating offered a wide range of screenings, including cholesterol, glucose, blood

pressure, body composition, BMI, vision, hearing, thyroid, PSA, vitamin D, cardiovascular, stress & hemoglobin. Reimbursements for program activities and screenings are due Friday, May 9th, 2014. Please submit all reimbursement requests (including a copy of all invoices and proof of payment) to Kari Bailey.

The annual Fall Health Conference will be held on Thursday, September 11th at the Redwood Area Community Center. Mark your calendars, and make plans to attend!

Eagle Achievement -- Senior Project in Windom

By Jake Tietje, MS/HS Principal, Windom Public Schools

The Eagle Achievement, Senior Project was started as a "crowning achievement" of the graduating seniors, an activity that would connect our students to our community and the community to our students. It would also give our students a learning experience that would be much more "real world" than anything else they have done in the classroom. The purpose of the Eagle Achievement at Windom Area High School is to provide seniors with an opportunity to demonstrate the knowledge they have gained and the maturity they have achieved during their high school career. Eagle Achievement gives each senior a chance to choose an area of study, to combine different disciplines, to satisfy specialized curiosity, and to utilize talents in a productive manner. The project gives them the chance to culminate their high school career with a meaningful and practical experience.

Eagle Achievement is a three-faceted production: The first involves researching and writing a documented cause/effect/problem/solution research paper on a student-selected topic.

The second facet of Eagle Achievement allows each student to apply the information he/she has gained in research to complete a project demonstrating mastery of the topic. The third facet requires students to give a 7-10 minute formal presentation followed by a 5 minute question & answer period to a panel of staff and community judges, all of which will be done in professional attire. The presentation is the student's chance to show people what their hard work has produced.

Students also have a community mentor to encourage, guide and counsel the student throughout the entire process.

This Eagle Achievement program was selected as 1st Place Exemplary Award Winner for Minnesota Rural Education Association's (MREA) 2013 Profiles of Excellence Award Program.

Pictured above are Bryan Joyce, Laura Alvstad, and Eric Hanson--the three staff members honored for their work with Eagle Achievement.



Visit our website at
www.swsc.org/social
or scan this QR code
to connect with
SW/WC SC staff members
who are social!



From the Division of Special Education

Connecting Deaf/Hard of Hearing Kids

By Kari Nilles, Teacher of the Deaf/Hard of Hearing, kari.nilles@swsc.org

How do we create a sense of belonging in students who are deaf/hard of hearing? More and more of these students are being mainstreamed. Often they become isolated and feel as if they are the only ones with a hearing loss, the only ones with hearing aids, FM's or cochlear implants. In Regions 6 & 8 of Minnesota, the teachers of the deaf/hard of hearing are getting creative in the ways that they are connecting kids.

Regions 6 & 8 are full of rural communities with a small number of deaf and hard of hearing children. Traditionally, these students have been brought together a few times per year for Building Identity Events. These events are field trips that have included educational experiences like visiting a dugout or the wind turbines, doing something physical like bowling or ice skating, or enjoying an end-of-the-year picnic complete with games, a scavenger hunt and hot dogs! Unfortunately, these outings have been reduced to one per year due to budget cuts and, for some, the districts are unable to send students to the remaining outing due to high transportation costs. The teachers of the deaf/hard of hearing are undaunted, using new ways to connect students.

Teachers of the deaf/hard of hearing have begun matching up students with writing goals in their Individualized Education Programs as old-fashioned pen pals. The students love getting mail and are much more motivated to write to another student with a hearing loss than to complete worksheets or other rote tasks. In addition to pairing students as pen pals, teachers have paired students via Vidyo. Vidyo is a secure way to communicate with another person/persons via the internet. Teachers must have a webcam, a headset (or signing students), and a Vidyo account. Students really enjoy this mode of high-tech communication and love being able to go to the remaining field trip to meet their online friend in person.

Finally, a blog has been created to help kids discuss issues that come up that are specific to their hearing loss. D/HH KidSpeak can be found on the SW/WC Service Cooperative website at www.swsc.org by going to Programs & Services, then Deaf/Hard of Hearing, and then to D/HH KidSpeak Blog. Topics are posted that range from "wearing hearing aids with football helmets" to "do you like using your FM?" Students are encouraged to post comments anonymously and read the comments of others.

Allowing students with a low incidence disability, like a hearing loss, to connect with other students like them is a great way to build their self-esteem. Students immediately make friends and have plenty to talk about. Through various means, students with hearing losses are experiencing what it is like to be a part of a group of kids that is just like them.

New Support for Schools!

Programming for Students with Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders

Fetal alcohol spectrum disorders (FASDs) are a group of conditions that can occur in a person whose mother drank alcohol during pregnancy. These effects can include physical problems and problems with behavior and learning. Often, a person with a FASD has a mix of these problems.

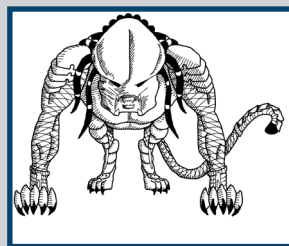
The SW/WC SC is pleased to offer the following services for school districts interested in purchasing FASD consultant time:

Professional development opportunities
Consultation
Identification and Assessment
IEP support

If you are interested in purchasing service time, please contact:
Tammy Stahl, Director of Special Education, SW/WC Service Cooperative
1314 North Hiawatha, Box 250, Pipestone, MN 56164
Phone: (507)825-5858; Email: tammy.stahl@swsc.org

Glencoe-Silver Lake Robotics -- Team 4665 -- The Predators

The Glencoe-Silver Lake FIRST Robotics team, 4665, finished their year on a high note. The team competed at Mariuchi Arena on the University of Minnesota campus March 27-29. This year's game, Aerial Assist, was on the face a simple game, but somewhat complex in operation and scoring. Our team designed the robot to assist scoring and catch the ball. During qualification rounds we proved our abilities in both our winning and losing matches, but finished 40th with a 4-6 record. However, we were selected by team 2883 of Warroad and 3293 of Fergus Falls to be an alliance in finals. During finals our alliance won the first two matches to advance to semi-finals. We lost in semi-finals to a very strong alliance by scores of 115-117 and 66-115.



Our team put in 6 long weeks of building the robot, from Jan 4th to Feb 18th. The next 6 weeks the students worked on preparations for the competition, such as building pit tool boxes, storage, creating a website and producing video presentations to promote our team at the event. Over the twelve weeks, students logged over 1456 hours of work. To view their work check out www.predators4665.org



Participants at this year's event: Team captains Gus Villalobos and Ismael Calderon. Driver Ethan Wolf. Head Programmer Chandler Swift, along with web designer Eric Villnow. Public Relations headed up by

Sam Johnson, Sloan Becker, Danielle Mathews. Videographer Ellie Forcier. Designers Maria Carlson and Michael Richards. Pit crew Nate Schmidt, Gabe Schwiekert, Brent Duenow and Shawn Seevers. Mentors for this year's team were Mike Sundblad, Randy Johnson, Jeff Jenson, and Cheryl Templin. Volunteer Mentors include Tim Johnson, Bradley Seevers and Jon Templin.

Seeing the Difference

By Karin Marquardt and Kathleen Fischer, Teachers of the Blind/Visually Impaired
karin.marquardt@swsc.org, kathleen.fischer@swsc.org

The SW/WC Service Cooperative hosted its first Low Vision Clinic this school year, serving 10 students who are visually impaired. Dr. Siemsen from the Mayo Clinic and Dr. Hinkemeyer from Pine Cone Low Vision Center in St. Cloud, set up a small clinic where the students were interviewed and given a series of eye examinations. Some students were then prescribed visual aids to assist them in the school and community.



Kristin Oien, Specialist for the Blind/Vision Impaired from the MN Department of Education, met with students and families to look at devices for low vision.



Each of the students received free devices specific to their level of vision needs. These included magnifiers, monoculars, and special sunglasses. Following the exam, the students had their vision tested with and without the devices. The results were amazing for some students, putting huge smiles on their faces! They were all excited after receiving their devices, and one student said, "Now I can see when my teacher is smiling!"

There was no charge for this event and the families commented on how much they enjoyed their day. Karin Marquardt and Kathleen Fischer, Teachers of the Blind/Visually Impaired interacted with the students, sat in on the appointments and assisted in providing the low vision exams. We all look forward to repeating this event in the coming years!

From the Division of Administrative Services

CP Plays Key Role in Tablets at Red Rock Central

By Shareen Neumann, Sales & Marketing/Cooperative Purchasing Specialist, shareen.neumann@swsc.org

****This is a series of excerpts taken from an article by Red Rock Central Student, Cassandra Erickson**

According to an article by Red Rock Central Student, Cassandra Erickson, Red Rock Central Schools recently added a new element to its educational process – Microsoft Surface Tablets for every student in their high school and Grades 3 and up at the elementary level. At the Grade 1 and 2 levels, iPad Minis were implemented.

The article by Ms. Erickson stated that according to Leonard Runck, Technology Coordinator at Red Rock Central Schools, “one of the many reasons why Red Rock decided to implement the Microsoft tablets in correlation with their traditional teaching practices was to ‘teach students and faculty to use Cloud based collaboration to produce Word documents, Excel spreadsheets, and Power Points.’” According to the article by Ms. Erickson, Mr. Runck felt this was a great way to introduce students to the process of backing up information to the cloud, especially those going on to college in the future.

Mr. Runck indicated that the Anthros Tablet charging carts they purchased through the Cooperative Purchasing Program at SW/WC Service Cooperative were key to making the implementation work. These carts worked for both the Microsoft Surface and the iPad Minis. They are fully lockable and portable. There is a cart in each classroom and the devices are stored and charged in the carts at the end of each day. Mr. Runck felt there was a huge advantage to having the devices in each classroom as there is a substantial amount of time saved with not having to move classes back and forth to the computer lab. Students also learn the value of backing up their files to sites such as Google Drive and Sky Drive.



Pictured above is Mr. Runck with one of the Anthros Tablet Charging Carts purchased through the CP Program.

Mountain Lake Students Win Programming Contest

by Jon Harder, Mountain Lake High School

The Association of Computing Machinery (ACM), University of South Dakota (Vermillion) Chapter, held its 34th Annual High School Programming Contest on April 10, 2014.

School teams from MN, IA, NE and SD competed in both large and small school divisions, with 1-3 students per team. Teams were given a set of 12 problems to solve using the computer programming language of their choice. Many teams use Java, while Mountain Lake uses Ruby because it is good at expressing complex ideas in a simple way.

Teams have four hours to solve as many of the 12 problems as they can—usually no team can finish all in that amount of time. The winner is the team that solves the most problems. This year, no team solved more than eight problems. The Mountain Lake team solved eight problems to finish first! Mountain Lake has a good track record at this contest, placing first or second since 2011.

Even though Mountain Lake competes in the small school division, our team has consistently done better than the best team in the large school division. For the first time this year, Mountain Lake was awarded a prize as the team scoring higher than any school in either division. Team members this year were Daniel Harder and Reece Englund. Additional information can be found at: <http://sites.usd.edu/acm/programming-contest>.



Playground Safety Seminar Held

By Shareen Neumann, Sales & Marketing, Cooperative Purchasing Specialist, shareen.neumann@swsc.org

Midwest Playscapes presented a Playground Safety Seminar for our members on Tuesday, April 29th from 11:30am to 1:30pm. According to U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, each year nearly 200,000 children are treated in U.S. hospital emergency rooms for playground equipment related injuries with an approximate 74% of these injuries involving public playground equipment.

The seminar on April 29th addressed:

- The regulatory agencies involved with playground safety;
- Assessing the safety of existing playgrounds and hazard identification;
- Selecting a protective surface;
- Designing a new playground;
- Accessibility for playgrounds;
- Maintenance and safety inspections; and
- Accident investigation and student injury reports.

If you have questions about the information shared at the seminar, please contact Shareen.

Glencoe-Silver Lake FFA's Donkey Basketball Tournament

Donkey basketball was brought to the Glencoe-Silver Lake communities by Dairyland Donkey Basketball, LLC on Sunday afternoon, Feb. 9th in the GSL High School gym in Glencoe. Approximately 420 people attended the Sunday afternoon basketball game, which was sponsored by the GSL FFA. Four teams competed on the basketball court including teams of FFA members, teachers/alumni, GSL students/athletes, and a team of firefighters from Glencoe, Silver Lake, and New Auburn.

The donkeys were well trained and well behaved and the audience had a wonderful time watching alumni, teachers, local firefighters, students, FFA members, and even 7-12 Principal Paul Sparby and Superintendent Chris Sonju demonstrate their donkey riding technique and basketball skills.



During half-time, youngsters were able to enjoy a ride on a friendly donkey led by an FFA member. In the end, the FFA team was declared the winner of competition. Funds raised from this event will be used for FFA programs. And, in case you were wondering, FFA Advisor Becky Haddad tells us the donkey names were: Ex Lax, Hemorrhoid, Enforcer, Rigor Mortis, Super Stupid, Earthquake, Rocket Man, Elvis, Killer, and Buckmaster (World's Rankest Donkey).



The FFA team was declared the winner. Pictured left to right, back row: Matthew Dahlke, Austin Maynard, Zach Pierson, and Tommy Becker; front row: Samantha Dahlke, Sam Lange, and Laura Becker.

Above left: Keith from the Fire Department team had some trouble controlling his donkey!

RMIC Budgeting Workshops

By JoAnne Fraunfelder, Shared Accountant/UFARS Specialist, joanne.fraunfelder@swsc.org

On January 21st and February 11th the RMIC staff held the annual Budgeting Workshops with 23 districts attending. This workshop was designed for districts to work in small groups on the next budget cycle (2015) in the SW/WC SC Training Lab. We reviewed tools available thru SMART Systems and spreadsheets available on the RMIC and the MDE websites to assist districts in determining revenue based on enrollment projections. We also reviewed the options available to help districts with creating their expenditure budget.

This year we demonstrated the newly released Smart Systems Budget Workpapers. Budget Workpapers is an interactive budgeting tool created in Smart Finance where one can make changes in Smart, research three years of account history or export the file to Excel to utilize all the tools that Excel has to offer. This enhancement has been positively received by Smart users. It was highlighted at the Annual School Business Staff Conference on April 10th. Visit the website: www.swsc.org for conference information.

WWG Ocean Retreat Party

By Mr. Jenniges and Mr. Olson, WWG Schools

The Westbrook Walnut Grove K-3 students participated in a spring reading challenge. This year the challenge had an OCEAN theme. Teachers and students set individual and classroom goals for the challenge (which ran from March 11 - April 11). The classroom teachers worked together to decorate the hallways and classroom doors in an OCEAN theme so students had a constant reminder of the reading challenge.

The challenge reward was an evening reading camp in which each class set up camp in their designated area of the gym. The students and teachers treated their camp as a deserted island! Each grade level decorated their island however they wanted, but they also had to create a flag to fly on their island.



Students participated in additional reading activities, sat by the campfire outside, worked on ocean crafts, and used technology to explore ocean creatures.

Door prizes were given away throughout the evening and each student who attended received an ocean themed book to take home with them that night. All participating students also had supper at school. We had a total of 70 students return to school for the evening event. Mr. Jenniges (1st grade teacher) and his K-3 colleagues have done a wonderful job preparing and organizing for this event. Be sure to check out our website at wwgschools.org and click on the Walnut Grove web announcements/ elementary link. See what Mrs. Locke has done on our schools webpage under "Something fishy is going on at WWG Elementary".

YES! Team Enjoying First Harvest from Winter Greenhouse

By Leslie Ehrenberg, The Appleton Press (Reprinted with permission)

LqPV High School students are enjoying freshly grown greens at the salad bar thanks to the YES! Team. The tasty greens are being grown right in the new winter greenhouse at the school.

The 20-foot by 40 foot passive solar greenhouse was completed in October thanks to Wes Anderson, LqPV ag instructor, and his students. With polycarbonate plastic windows around the greenhouse to grab light, solar panels to run electricity, and two forms of passive heating, the greenhouse is completely self-sufficient.

A heat sink rock system is the main form of heating for the greenhouse. Set below the frost level is a four-foot bed of rocks. Heat is moved from inside the greenhouse by fans through tubes and into the rock bed. The rocks are heated during the day when the greenhouse is at its warmest temperature.

During the night the fans are turned off and the heat from the rocks rises through the ground to keep the greenhouse at a constant temperature. Large water containers also heat the greenhouse. Blue 55-gallon barrels line the north wall inside the greenhouse. Filled with water, the water absorbs the heat during the day providing another source of slowly released heat during the night.

As a backup, a small industrial electric heater hangs from the ceiling. "The ideal temperature is about 70 degrees," said LqPV Science Teacher and YES! Team Adviser Rachel Rigenhagen. "We have had to use the electric heater some because it has been such a cold winter. In addition, our greenhouse is three times larger than the model we patterned it after, and the rocks are not heating it up enough."

To remedy this, the YES! team will work towards replacing the fans that push the heat into the rock with larger fans.

On the other end of the spectrum, the team also has to make sure the greenhouse doesn't get too hot. "If the temperature gets above 80, the fans are turned on to get out some of the heat," said Rigenhagen. "These plants don't tolerate the heat well."

Planted in the greenhouse are mostly leafy greens for salads along with some root plants that do well in cooler temperatures. (*continued on page 9*)



“Get To” Day Celebrated at Glencoe-Silver Lake

Superintendent Chris Sonju always tells Glencoe-Silver Lake students they don’t “have to” come to school, they “get to” come to school. They don’t “have to” pick up a piece of trash in the hallway, they “get to” pick up the trash. Over the years, Superintendent Sonju kept turning the idea around in his mind, and came up with the idea of holding a “Get to” Day at GSL. He envisioned students and staff all wearing a bright purple “Get to” Day t-shirt to remind us to continue building a positive learning environment in the school district and to have some fun with the idea as well.

Superintendent Sonju recruited nationally-known motivational speaker Murray Banks to talk to students in grades 3-12 and staff members about goals, wellness, and a positive attitude. Mr. Banks presented to three audiences of students that day and gave his fourth presentation to GSL staff members. His powerful message has added to our efforts in promoting and continuing to have a wonderful culture in our school district.

Throughout the year we will continue to have “Get to” Days. Seeing the halls and classrooms full of purple “Get to” Day t-shirts helps remind us all of how fortunate we are to “get to” go to school at and work in the Glencoe-Silver Lake School District.



Special thanks to the generous “Get to” Day sponsors: Stevens Seminary Foundation, Southwest Initiative Foundation, Shopko Foundation, and Larry Anderson Insurance. Their support made Mr. Banks’ visit to GSL possible and funded “Get to” Day t-shirts for all students and staff.

Pictured Above: Murray Banks posed with Superintendent Chris Sonju before his final presentation at “Get to” Day, Wednesday, February 12th.

Winter Greenhouse, continued

“We have 28 varieties here; mostly lettuce greens, mustard greens and Asian greens. We are also trying pea shoots, radishes, carrots, beets, and broccoli raab,” said Rigenhagen.

A taste of the lettuce varieties is amazing. The flavorful array includes varying degrees of “spiciness” and body textures to enjoy.

To begin the growing process, students mix their own compost and start seeds in flats on propagation mats. These mats provide constant heat directly into the root zone to increase growth and reduce production time. When large enough, the plants are moved into rain gutters hung in rows of four from the ceiling, or to beds on the ground.

Harvesting of the greens is going well right now. Using a scissors, students are careful to cut what they need and leave the first set of leaves uncut to regrow. Plants can be harvested up to four times with this method.

Everything in the greenhouse is monitored and recorded. Daily temperatures are taken in the greenhouse itself and in the rock sink bed. Planting, germination and harvest data will help the students with future growing cycles. “The data will help us know when the different plantings will be ready so that we can stagger harvestings,” said Rigenhagen.

“Our main goal is to keep the high school salad bar supplied,” she continued. “But we have had some extra greens we have been able to sell and in the future would like to sell more of our produce.”

The goal is to make enough money to buy their own seeds and soil, and to pay back the school district for the construction of the greenhouse. Cost of the greenhouse was \$25,000. Grants were written for \$10,000 of this, but Rigenhagen continues to search for more grants to “whittle that down.”

The biggest benefit of the greenhouse is the students working together and learning, and providing healthy foods to the school district. “They are enjoying it,” concluded Rigenhagen. “Our first growing season is going well.”



YES! is a program partnership of Prairie Woods Environmental Learning Center and Southwest Initiative Foundation. Funding for YES! is provided, in part, by Southwest Initiative Foundation, Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation, and the Minnesota Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund.

From the Division of Teaching and Learning



Awards Ceremony Held

By Sue Gorecki, Student Activities Coordinator,
sue.gorecki@swsc.org

The Creative Writing Contest finalists, their families and teachers were invited to an Awards Ceremony on Sunday afternoon, April 27 at SMSU in Marshall. 166 students in grades 3-12 submitted 250 entries in the categories of fiction, non-fiction and poetry. The entries were first screened by multiple student judges and then submitted to the final judges, faculty in the SMSU Creative Writing Program.

The special guest speaker at this year's Awards Ceremony was Saara Myrene Raappana, a widely published poet. Awards included a \$2,000 scholarship

to SMSU to the top junior/senior place finisher in each writing category and gift certificates to the top place finisher from each grade level in each category. In addition, medals and a copy of the anthology were given to the top three place finishers.

The Creative Writing Contest is a partnership between the SW/WC SC and the SMSU Creative Writing Department to encourage a love of language and writing for all students and as a way to recognize the talented young writers in this region.

To see the fill list of winners, click on the Creative Writing Contest page at www.swsc.org/studentactivities.



By Bob Braun, Senior Director of Teaching and Learning Services, bob.braun@swsc.org

GRADUATION TIME!! On March 19th, 16 schools from the Southern Regional Implementation Project --Cohort 8 -- graduated after completing two years of training in the area of School-Wide Positive Behavior Intervention Support (SW-PBIS).

Over the two-year training sequence, schools receive training on how to implement PBIS in their district or buildings. This focused on the development of leadership teams, establishing a behavior purpose, establishing expectations, procedures on how to teach those expectations, the development of acknowledgment system for positive behaviors and how to use data to make decisions. Graduating schools from our region were Cedar Mountain elementary and middle/high school, New London-Spicer Prairie

Woods Elementary and middle/high school, RTR Elementary, and YME middle/high school.

After completing the training the schools will be focusing on sustainability of PBIS in their districts.

In August, Cohort 9 schools will be starting their second year of training, while Cohort 10 schools will start their first year. New schools who are part of Cohort 10 include GFW Elementary and Middle/High

School, Luverne Elementary, and Lynd.

Applications for Cohort 11, which will begin in August 2015, will be available in December. Any schools that are interested in applying for Cohort 11 should contact Bob Braun.



Student Activity Contact Information



Sue Gorecki, Student Activities Coordinator
sue.gorecki@swsc.org; 507-537-2258
Sue is retiring on May 30th. Congrats Sue!

Andrea Anderson, Student Activities
andrea.anderson@swsc.org; 507-537-2257

Scan this code to go directly
to our student activities webpage.

Lego Kits from ERL

Interview with Rebecca Panka, Ivanhoe by Lucy Tokheim, ERL Coordinator, luciy.tokheim@swsc.org

What did your students liked about the LEGO kits? “I love that they are easy to use and store. If a student doesn’t finish a project there is plenty of room for them to store the project and book right in the bin. The wipe off markers were also a great help to keep track of the kits and which kids were using which kit. I was impressed with all the science topics that could be discussed using the kits such as simple machines, force, motion, energy and engineering.”

How old are the students that you worked with? Did they work in teams?

“The fact that there were different difficulties of projects was also a bonus since I was working with kindergarteners up to 4th graders. I did have them in groups and made sure to have an older kid with each younger kid.”

How long are the After School sessions? How many times did the kids work

with the kits? Our Adventure Club runs from 3:10 to 4:30 on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Each time they have about 20 minutes with the LEGO kits and they are always begging for more! They will have had the chance to work with the kits 6 times before we have to return them.

How long did it take you to figure out how to use the kits? “I did have to look at the books for a good 30 minutes before I understood how the books correlate to each other.”

What education areas do you think building these kits addressed: Science? Engineering? Collaborative skills? Learning to follow directions from 2-D plans to build a 3-object? “Yes, all of the things you listed! There are endless possibilities with the kits. The kids learned about teamwork, following

directions, electricity, force, motion, simple machines, engineering and more. It was fun to watch the kids build something one way and then alter the plans to make it work in a different way or a better way. One example was when they started making a wind powered car and used the smallest sail and then after trying it out they decided they would try it with a bigger sail and see what happened! I loved watching them learn through a hands-on approach. I will borrow the kits every year as long as they are available. The kids told their classmates about it and we had all sorts of kids wanting to join our afterschool program.”

Any recommendations on how to make this easy for teachers to use with their students? “Play with it first. Decide what concepts you really want the kids to learn before you give them a project. I started with the simplest projects first and then gradually they did harder ones. I also gave them a day to build whatever they could imagine. I am grateful for the Resource Library, so I can bring exciting things to the students and watch them learn without spending numerous dollars on the materials if they were to be purchased by the school. I would recommend the LEGO kits to any educator who wants to give their students a hands-on look at science.”

Other Lego Kit Use: **BOLD, Mountain Lake, KMS and LqPV** are using these with 5th grade science classes to teach Minnesota STANDARD 5.2.2.1. **Montevideo** will be offering Saturday morning LEGO classes in April for students grades 4-6 in addition to using them in their 1-3 multiage classroom. These LEGO Simple Machines and Motorized Mechanism Kits are supported for use in the STEMRobotics curriculum: <http://stemrobotics.cs.pdx.edu/node/1111>. More info at www.swsc.org/erl



Registrations Closed for 20th Annual Science & Nature Conference

By Sue Gorecki, Student Activities Coordinator, sue.gorecki@swsc.org

There are 1400+ participants registered for the 20th Annual Science & Nature Conference on May 14, 2014 at SMSU in Marshall. This is one of the largest and most popular science conferences for students in the country! The conference is targeted for students in grades K-8 with strands for K-2, 3-5 and 6-8. Physics Force from the University of Minnesota will present the keynote.

Twenty-six different classes are being offered which gives students a wide variety of topics to choose from. Students explore the world around them through hands-on sessions that include archeology, minerals, motion control, engineering, cryogenics, rockets, GPS, and much more. The classes are correlated with the Science Standards and the Seven Critical Skills for Success. We're looking forward to another fun and educational event!



The Schwan Food Company Culinary Skills Challenge

By Gail Polejewski, Career Development Coordinator, gail.polejewski@swsc.org

Over 250 high school Family and Consumer Science students from 14 schools registered for the annual Culinary Skills Challenge held at Southwest Minnesota State University on April 1. The internet and the popularity of cooking shows have sparked students' creativity and pushed them to experiment in areas they are unfamiliar with. The complexity of the students' projects has increased over the last couple years as well.



Students competed in several categories including Culinary, Baking Science, Cake Decorating, Menu Design, Place Setting, Food Art, and Knife Skills. The competitions are judged and designed by chefs or other food industry professionals.

When students weren't competing, they had the opportunity to participate in a variety of sessions presented by area professionals. The sessions also pushed students to expand their comfort zones as they made and sampled sushi, gnocchi, and pork tacos. Students also toured SMSU's Culinary program, learned how to set up a food photo shoot, decorated cakes using fondant, and learned about food science.

Culinary 2014 Winners

Cooking

- 1st- Worthington- Johana Flores, Marina Guzman, Eric Juarez, and Julio Ornelas
- 2nd- Montevideo- Bailey Eickhoff, Jeff Rohloff and Jack Spaeth
- 3rd- Minneota- Grant Abraham, Drew Fadness, Sofia Rabaey, and Landyn VanOverbeke

Baking Science

- 1st- Worthington- Araceli Jimenez
- 2nd- Tracy- Gosheen Khang
- 3rd- LqPV- Michael Stottler, Jacinta Roggenbuck

Food Art

- 1st- RTR- Jackie Minett
- 2nd- Yellow Medicine East- Shalesa Nissen
- 3rd- Pipestone- Danielle Dubbeldee

Menu Design

- 1st- Mountain Lake- Eric Ness and Madelyn Regier
- 2nd- Worthington- Abigail Aguilar and Patricia Martinez
- 3rd- Tracy- McKenzie Swanson and Esteffany Riviera

Knife Skills

- 1st- Pipestone- Dakota Sargent
- 2nd- Pipestone- Josh Jones
- 3rd- Tracy- Cale Day

Cake Decorating- Icing

- 1st- RTR- Nicole Enemark
- 2nd- YME- Jessica Donner
- 3rd- Fairmont- Erin Morris



Cake Decorating- Cupcakes

- 1st- YME- Grace Irvine
- 2nd- Worthington- Amanda Bristow
- 3rd- YME- Tiffany Tennis

Cake Decorating- Fondant

- 1st- RTR- Jasi Borman
- 2nd- Worthington- Thip Keovilay
- 3rd- Fulda- Jessica Schindler

Place Setting and Napkin Folding

- 1st- RTR- Shelby Huswedell
- 2nd- Worthington- Celina Hernandez
- 3rd- Pipestone- Jacey Schiager

Residencies in Local Elementary Schools

By Sue Gorecki, Student Activities Coordinator
sue.gorecki@swsc.org

The residencies by children's authors and illustrators were held in local elementary schools from April 7-11 and April 22-25. Because of great evaluations, presenters from last year were asked back again for this year's residencies: Nancy Carlson, Rick Chrustowski and Nancy Loewen.

This year, over 3,500 students from 17 school districts participated in this program. Included are a few comments about the positive aspects of the program.

"The presentation was excellent for all

ages. He incorporated science, art, writing, vocabulary; it was interesting and fun! He related very well to the children and kept their attention for the entire time."

"It gave the children an opportunity to see how the books in their hands came to exist; it also sparked interest in both writing and illustrating for many of our students."

You might want to consider participating in this program next year. Watch for the brochure on our website (www.swsc.org/studentactivities) in early fall with registration deadlines in November.



Students Strive to be the First to "Buzz In"

By Sue Gorecki, Student Activities Coordinator, sue.gorecki@swsc.org

Subregional Events

The first sub-regional event was held on February 24. With the rest of the SHKB events scheduled during spring break (March 10-14) at SMSU and Minnesota West, it was an extremely busy week with three sub-regional and two regional events. The top three teams at each of the sub-regional events are listed below.

February 24 at MACCRAY Public School (Region 6)

- 1st – Hutchinson #1
- 2nd – Willmar #1
- 3rd – New London-Spicer #1

March 10 at Hutchinson Public School (Region 6)

- 1st – Glencoe-Silver Lake #1
- 2nd – Glencoe-Silver Lake #2
- 3rd – Glencoe-Silver Lake #4

March 11 at SMSU – Marshall (Region 8)

- 1st – Mountain Lake #1
- 2nd – Springfield #2
- 3rd – Marshall #1

March 12 at Minnesota West – Jackson (Region 8)

- 1st – Jackson County Central #1
- 2nd – Murray County Central #2
- 3rd – Jackson County Central #2

Regional Events

Approximately the top half from each sub-regional event advanced to the regional competition. Results from the two regional events are listed below.

March 13 at SMSU – Marshall (Region 8)

- 1st – Mountain Lake #1
- 2nd – Jackson County Central #1
- 3rd – Murray County Central #2

March 14 at Minnesota West-Granite Falls (Region 6)

- 1st - Glencoe-Silver Lake #1
- 2nd - Hutchinson #1
- 3rd - Glencoe-Silver Lake #4



State Senior High Knowledge Bowl Results

By Sue Gorecki, Student Activities Coordinator
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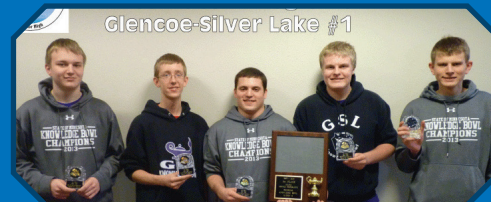
The top forty-eight teams, out of 914 teams across the state, competed at the Minnesota Service Cooperatives' State Knowledge Bowl Meet held at Cragun's near Brainerd on April 10-11.

The State Champions are "A" Division – St. John's Prep and "AA" Division – Buffalo.

Other teams:
1st runner-up
2nd runner-up
3rd runner-up
4th runner-up
4th runner-up

"A" Division
Glencoe-Silver Lake Black
Plainview-Elgin-Millville
Tri-City United
Albany
Mountain Lake

"AA" Division
St. Thomas
Chanhasen
Hutchinson
Eastview
Prior Lake



Winners of the Heritage Spirit Awards for qualities and conduct becoming to a champion competitor were **Glencoe-Silver Lake Purple** and Alexandria.



At the state meet, four person teams competed against one another in one written and five oral rounds of interdisciplinary questions for a total of 285 questions. Success at the competition requires the ability to work as a team, as well as to recall information quickly in a variety of areas of study. Knowledge Bowl is sponsored by eleven Service Cooperatives around the State.



Other teams from our area involved in the state event were Jackson County Central and Murray County Central. Congratulations to all six teams for representing the SW/WC Service Cooperative as the state competition.

Regional S-p-e-l-l-i-n-g Bee was held February 11

By Sue Gorecki, Student Activities Coordinator, sue.gorecki@swsc.org

Prior to the Multi-Region State Spelling Bee, the Regional Spelling Bee was held on February 11 in Redwood Falls, sponsored by the SW/WC Service Cooperative. Twenty-eight students, grades 5-8, from local schools competed in a written test and three preliminary rounds. Those scores were added together and the students with the highest scores participated in the spell-down.

Alyssa Boynton was the winner and the following students also earned the chance to participate in the Multi-Region State Spelling Bee: 2nd – Asa Ulferts – Yellow Medicine East, 3rd – Cadence Dove – Dawson-Boyd; and 4th – Michaela Bosveld – Marshall.



Upcoming Workshops



Scan below to keep current on workshops and meetings.

Check back often!

We are always adding new things!



- 5/1 Dropout Prevention – MEIRS Training
- 5/12 Transition to Postsecondary and Employment Toolkit
- 5/14 Regional 3rd Party Billing Informational Meeting
- 5/21 CPI Refresher -- Walnut Grove
- 6/2 CPI Full Training – KMS
- 6/4 CPI Refresher - Worthington
- 6/4 Administrator Forum
- 6/5 CPI Refresher - Ortonville
- 6/6 ASD Licensure Workday - Windom
- 6/8-12 E3 Conference: Energy Education for Educators - St. Cloud
- 6/9 CPI Refresher -- Belview Learning Center
- 6/10 CPI Refresher Training - Cedar Mountain
- 6/11 Essentials of Cross Battery Assessment Workshop
- 6/11 Files, Files, Files Workshop, Redwood Falls
- 6/11 Huff & Puff Your Way to Better Academics and Behavior, BBE
- 6/11 CPI Refresher - Willmar
- 6/13 ASD Licensure Work Day - Willmar
- 6/16 CPI Refresher Training - NCLC, Willmar
- 6/16 ASD Licensure Work Day - Pipestone
- 6/16 2014 Summer Institute for Interpreters and TDHH, Roseville
- 6/17 Technology Coordinator Workshop
- 6/18 UFARS/Year End and Health & Safety Update Workshops
- 6/25-27 Summer Leadership Conference, Alexandria
- 7/10 iPad Introduction
- 7/11 iPad Intermediate - Formative Assessments
- 7/17 iPad for the K-6 Classroom
- 7/18 iPad Intermediate - Presentation Apps
- 7/22 SMART Board Level I
- 7/24 iPad Introduction - Windom Office
- 7/25 iPad Intermediate - iMovie
- 7/29-30 Principal Summit
- 7/29 iPad Intermediate
- 7/31 iPad Intermediate - Windom Office
- 8/5 Windows 8 Tablet in the Classroom
- 8/7 Schoology Level 1 (Marshall + ITV)
- 8/8 Google Drive - Introduction
- 8/11 Google Chromebooks - Introduction
- 8/15 Pipestone Spectacular: Frame It Up: Exploring Your Mindset!
- 8/15 SMART Board Level 2
- 8/28 Willmar Spectacular: Frame It Up: Exploring Your Mindset!

We have a new online registration system! You will need to establish a username and password to access the system. Please follow the New User Sign Up process to create your account. Once you are set up and logged in, you will be able to see the full list of workshops. When you click on “More Info”, you will be able to register for the workshop. Once you register, you will receive a confirmation email which will include a link to add the workshop to your calendar.

www.swsc.org/workshops

Retirements at the SW/WC Service Cooperative

Three long time employees of the SW/WC Service Cooperative are retiring at the end of this school year.

- Bob Braun, Senior Director of Teaching and Learning Services, will retire on June 30th. Bob has been with the agency since October 1986. Congrats on 28 years!
- Sue Gorecki, Student Activities Coordinator, will retire on May 30th. Sue has been with the SW/WC SC for 36 years!
- Mary Anderson, Administrative Assistant in the Willmar office, will retire on July 31st after 23 years with the agency. Congrats!



Mark your calendar!

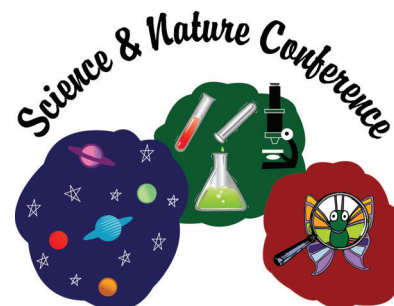
The dates have been set for the student conferences for next year!



Conference for Young Artists
October 29, 2014

Partnership Innovation Leadership Service

Conference for Young Writers
January 7, 2015
(snow date – January 8)



Science & Nature Conference
May 13, 2015

The Review is published three times per year. If you have suggestions, comments, or items for submission, please contact Shelly Maes at shelly.maes@swsc.org.