

SW/WC Service Cooperative



Celebrating Students

Glencoe-Silver Lake Black - KB State Champs!

Mountain Lake - 4th Runner-Up

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

The top forty-eight teams, out of 944 teams across the state, competed at the Minnesota Service Cooperatives' State Knowledge Bowl Meet held at Cragun's near Brainerd on April 9th and 10th.

The State Champion for the "A" Division -- Glencoe Silver Lake #I (pictured at right). GSL lived up to their school motto: Culture of Success.

Mountain Lake claimed the 4th Runner-Up position (pictured below).

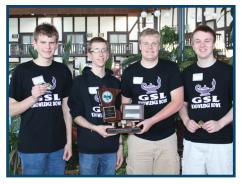


At the state meet, four person teams competed against one another in one 60-question written round and five oral rounds of interdisciplinary questions for a total of 285 questions. Success at the competition required the ability to work

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.

*Pictures of the regional winners can be found on page 6 of this issue.



#Culture of Success

Update from the Executive Director

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

Career and Technical Education, or CTE, was an early focus of the 2015 legislative session. Everything from fully funding technical school tuition, to flexibility with licensure, to expansion of high school programs, this session has seen a number of legislative solutions to the expansion of CTE programs.



Why is there a need to expand career and technical opportunities? Primarily, there is a need for skilled and technical workers in today's workforce - a need that cannot be met by the current workforce. SW/WC Service Cooperative has been involved in the development and implementation of CTE programs for many years. Historically, through our work with the Minnesota West Carl Perkins Consortium and, most recently, with assisting in the coordination of workforce development conversations, involvement in CTE programs are at the core of the work we do with our schools.

During the 2015 legislative session, we worked with a number of partners to develop a bill to expand CTE programs in our region. With the help of our regional legislators, the regional bill was passed and included in the Senate Omnibus bill. The bill would provide funds for regional coordination of CTE efforts and provide "start-up" funding for CTE programs created by 3 or more schools working together. Although this effort would not solve the immediate workforce needs, it was intended to help build the foundation for more CTE programs in the region, which would eventually help in meeting regional workforce needs.

In the end, this bill is all about providing opportunities for rural high school students. A high school student in the 10 county metro area, has access to a multitude of CTE programs – some high schools can provide access to more than 30 different programs. In our region, there is no such access to CTE programs, as many of our rural students have access to as few as 2 or 3 programs. Student programs and access to CTE opportunities is critical to the economic development of our region, a concern shared by the SW/WC Service Cooperative, our school district members, our business/industry partners, and many others. Our CTE bill may or may not receive funding this legislative session, but we, along with our partners, will continue to advance the need for CTE programs for rural students.



Executive Leadership Team

Cliff Carmody, Executive Director

Deecy Jesse, Executive Assistant

Doug Deragisch, Sr. Director of Risk Management

Edna Gossen, Operations Manager

Lisa Gregoire, Sr. Director of Teaching & Learning

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

Melany Wellnitz, Director of Southwest Prairie Regional Center of Excellence

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

Updates from Special Education

Cognitive Testing for Students with Visual Impairments

By Kathleen Fischer and Karin Marquardt, TBVIs and J. Jurgens, MA, LP, School Psychologist

Questions often arise regarding the appropriateness of using cognitive (IQ) tests for students who have visual impairments. Teachers for the Blind/Visually Impaired (TBVI) and School Psychologist gathered recently at the Minnesota Vision Community of Practice meeting to discuss the unique challenges of giving cognitive tests to students with visual impairments. Below are some answers to the most common questions when considering testing for this population of students:

Q. Is Cognitive testing appropriate for a student with a visual impairment?

A. Although a child's overall cognitive score may not be considered an accurate view of the student's intellectual ability, individual subtests may help staff gain insight into student strengths and weaknesses and can help in educational planning.

Q. How are cognitive tests chosen and administered to a student with a visual impairment?

A. The TBVI and the School Psychologist need to collaborate before and throughout the testing process. There are no cognitive tests that are normed for students with visual impairments. TBVI's and School Psychologist work together to determine the most appropriate tool based on individual student needs. TBVI's will understand how a particular student accesses and interprets visual information. School Psychologist are experts in test administration and interpretation. Through collaboration, the most appropriate test(s) and presentation methods are chosen. Due to the wide range of visual needs, there is no "one-size-fits-all" approach to administering a cognitive test.

Q. How are cognitive scores reported for a student with a visual impairment?

A. It is recommended that scores be reported in ranges rather than specific scores. In collaboration with the TBVI and based on the student's visual impairment, it may be appropriate to report specific scores. However, when doing so, a disclaimer such as this, may be added: This score may be a modest indicator of the student's ability due to his/her visual impairment.

Note: The information in this article applies to most standardized testing situations for students with visual impairments. Please contact Kathleen Fischer (kathleen.fischer@swsc.org) or Karin Marquardt (karin.marquardt@swsc.org) if you have any questions, prior to completing your student's evaluation plan.

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- Tracy Area Murray County Central
 - Marshall Area Christian School

Updates from Teaching & Learning

Encourage the Love of Writing

By Andrea Anderson, Student Activities Coordinator, andrea.anderson@swsc.org

The Creative Writing Contest is a partnership between the SW/WC Service Cooperative 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.

There were 393 entries from 288 students, in grades 3-12, who entered the contest this year. The preliminary judging process was done by SMSU Creative Writing students and final judging was done by SMSU English Department faculty. The winners, their families and teachers attended an Awards Ceremony on April 26th at SMSU in Marshall, where the winners were revealed.

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 for each grade level in each category. In addition, medals and a copy of the anthology was given to the top three place finishers.

The special guest speaker this year was Jim Zarzana, an English professor specializing in fiction at Southwest Minnesota State University. Jim's professional career has centered on a love of language. He is deeply devoted to writing fiction and teaching. Jim is in the midst of transition - after teaching nearly 41 years (26 of those at SMSU), he is moving on to a new chapter as a full-time writer.

| 3rd Place - Poetry | | 3nd Place - Fiction | | 3rd Place - Nonfict | tion |
|------------------------------------|-------|-------------------------------|-------|-----------------------------------|-------|
| Brynn Beffert Hutchinson | 3-4 | Brenna Kilian Hutchinson | 3-4 | Evan Weber Canby | 3-4 |
| ► Conner Krumrie Hutchinson | 5-6 | ► Ty Schulte Granite Falls | 5-6 | ► Carter Clark Marshall | 5-6 |
| ► Abby Hamman Slayton | 7-8 | ► Jasper Nordin New London | 7-8 | ► Brynn Cherveny Granite Falls | 7-8 |
| ► Isaiah Streblow Granite Falls | 9-10 | ► NONE | 9-10 | ► Rachel Wordes Renville | 9-10 |
| ► Megan Hoff Sacred Heart | 11-12 | ► Matthew Frazeur Canby | 11-12 | ► Linda Rueda Worthington | 11-12 |

| 2nd Place - Poetry | | 2nd Place - Fiction | | 2nd Place - Nonfiction | |
|------------------------------------|-------|--------------------------------|-------|---|-------|
| ► Brynn Beffert Hutchinson | 3-4 | ► Teagan Young Hutchinson | 3-4 | Nick Callens Minneota | 3-4 |
| Emma Petersen Marshall | 5-6 | ► Lauren Tatge Beaver Creek | 5-6 | ► Colin Christensen Slayton | 5-6 |
| ► Brooke Thomsen Tyler | 7-8 | Melissa Snyder Porter | 7-8 | Jaida Stewart Madison | 7-8 |
| ► Isaiah Streblow Granite Falls | 9-10 | ► Danica Dick Mountain Lake | 9-10 | ► Ashley Miller Litchfield | 9-10 |
| Megan Hoff Sacred Heart | 11-12 | ► Skilyn Morris Boyd | 11-12 | Ana Hernandez Worthington | 11-12 |

| st Place Winners - \$20 gift certificate to Amazon.com | | | | | | | | |
|--|-------|--------------------------------|-------|---------------------------------|------------|--|--|--|
| 1st Place - Poetry | | 1st Place - Fiction | | 1st Place - Nonfiction | Nonfiction | | | |
| ► Tyrae Goodface Hills | 3-4 | ► Brooke Johnson Hutchinson | 3-4 | ► Bianca Elsing Canby | 3-4 | | | |
| Carter Kresko Slayton | 5-6 | ► Ella Alsleben Hutchinson | 5-6 | ► Isaac Harrison Minneota | 5-6 | | | |
| ► Taryn Bedow Tyler | 7-8 | ► Taylor Barber Spicer | 7-8 | ► Taryn Bedow Tyler | 7-8 | | | |
| ► Isaiah Streblow Granite Falls | 9-10 | ► Rachel Sjban Windom | 9-10 | Maryan Osman Marshil | 9-10 | | | |
| ► Megan Hoff Sacred Heart | 11-12 | Abby Traxler Madison | 11-12 | ► Jasmin Godinez Worthington | 11-12 | | | |

Contest results can also be found at: www.swsc.org/studentactivities

CREATIVE

WRITING

CONTEST

Pictures of the 1st, 2nd & 3rd place winners can be found on the back page of this issue.

The Scholarship Winners are pictured below.



1st Place 11-12 grade - \$2,000 Scholarship ► Megan Hoff Sacred Heart ► Abby Traxler Madison ► Jasmin Godinez Worthington

School Award - Most Place Finishers
Hutchinson

Regional Spelling Bee

By Andrea Anderson, Student Activities Coordinator, andrea.anderson@swsc.org

The Regional Spelling Bee was held on February 11, 2015 at the Redwood Area Community Center in Redwood Falls. Thirty-one 5th-8th grade students participated from 27 school districts. The competition consisted of a written round and three oral rounds in which all students participated.

The spell down portion was held after the scores of the written and oral rounds were combined. The top 15 student came back to compete to determine who would advance to the Multi-Region State Spelling Bee, which was held in Fergus Falls on February 23, 2015.



<u>Ist Place</u> Kalea Appel, 7th Grade, Worthington

<u>2nd Place</u> Spencer Lilienthal, 8th grade, GSL

<u>3rd Place</u> Zoe Vorbach, 6th grade, Holy Redeemer

4th Place
Davis Moore, 8th grade, Worthington



Visiting Authors and Illustrator

By Andrea Anderson, Student Activities Coordinator, andrea.anderson@swsc.org

The Children's Author & Illustrator Program will be April 13 through April 17 and April 27 through May 1. Sharing their stories with elementary students, these two amazing authors and illustrator will talk about how they became an author or illustrator and what it takes



be bring a story book to life with creativity and imagination, where they get ideas for books, and the many times it take to get it right. We are very excited to have them visit our schools!

Carrie Hartman, an author and illustrator from Woodbury, MN, will be visiting Hutchinson, KMS, MACCRAY, and YME school districts. Blake Hoena, an author from St. Paul, MN, will be visiting Edgerton, Marshall, Minneota, Pipestone, Redwood Area, and Wabasso school districts.





21st Annual Science & Nature Student Conference

By Andrea Anderson, Student Activities Coordinator, andrea.anderson@swsc.org

This year's Science & Nature Conference features Grant Smith, a meteorologist from KELOLAND Television. He will share his experiences with storms and how to track them. Registrations are now closed. We have 992 K-8 students and 386 chaperones attending this unique conference on May 13, 2015.



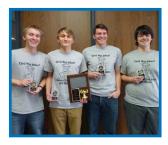
Inspiring the love of science, students will participate in three hands-on science related topics. There are 33 topics being taught by 29 presenters. Some of the new topics this year are maple syruping, makerspace, physiology, oscilloscopes, pipetting 101, silent invaders, bees, mother earth seeds, radiology, and more; including returning science magic, firefighting, un-mixing colors, grossology and so much more.



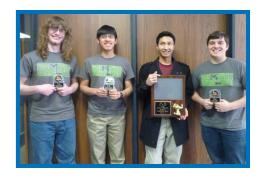
To see pictures after this event go to www.swsc.org/scienceandnature.

Senior High Knowledge Bowl Regional Winners

Region 6 Winners



2nd Place Worthington #1



1st Place Mountain Lake #1



3rd Place Springfield #2

Region 8 Winners



2nd Place Glencoe-Silver Lake #3



1st Place Glencoe-Silver Lake #1



3rd Place Glencoe-Silver Lake #2

The Schwan Food Company Culinary Skills Challenge

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

Over 240 high school students from 15 schools converged on SMSU's RA Facility on March 31 to participate in the 11th annual Culinary Skills Challenge sponsored by the Schwan Food Company. There were ten competitions for students to participate in: Baking Science, Cake Decorating, Cooking, Food Art, Knife Skills, Menu Design, Pasta, and Place Setting.



Students who didn't compete could participate in ten different educational sessions presented by professional chefs, bakers, and food scientists. They also received a tour of SMSU and the Culinology



Department where students made Vietnamese Summer Rolls with the help of SMSU students. BBQ Pitmaster, Bill Mulso, showed students how to make a BBQ rub from common household ingredients. Chef Lance White from Chef Lance Catering showed students how to make elegant appetizers including vegetable and fruit skewers and hummus. Students learned about new and old age cooking from Chef Tim from the Mayo Clinic. Wilton Hall of

Fame Gingerbread master, Steven Stellingwerf, showed students how to make gingerbread houses. Students also decorated cookies with fondant, learned to make fondant roses, made ice cream with liquid nitrogen, made homemade pasta, and learned about the physiology of taste and flavor.

To view photos of winners and additional pictures from the event, visit our website: www.swsc.org/culinary.



Updates from School Districts

WWG Elementary Students Are Eating Much Healthier!

By Paul Olson, Elementary Principal, Westbrook-Walnut Grove Public Schools

Mrs. Freeburg, our Westbrook-Walnut Grove Elementary Head Cook, has completely overhauled our daily lunch menus. She has also written grants for the fresh fruits and veggies program that we started four years ago. The first two years the program was fully funded through the fresh fruits and veggies program. The Westbrook-Walnut Grove School Board funded it the last two year, because Michele did such a good job presenting to them on how important the fresh fruits and veggies program is to our students and school. It has been a huge hit!

She then wrote a grant three years ago to get a brand new walk-in cooler/freezer for our school. It's been put in and it has expanded her storage by four times what she had before She has also worked with local farmers/gardeners to get the farm-to-school produce on our school lunch plates each day during the fall. The farm fresh produce taste so good!



Recently, Michele wrote another grant to obtain two brand new salad bars for the Westbrook-Walnut Grove High School and Elementary. This grant was through the "Let's Move Salad Bars to School" program. Again, she got the grant, and these salad bars have been wonderful as the smiles show in the picture. Westbrook-Walnut Grove students are eating much healthier because of the hard work of one very special lady, Michele Freeburg!

Future Leaders at Cedar Mountain

By David Berner, Social Studies Teacher, Cedar Mountain Schools

Within the walls of Cedar Mountain Secondary, future leaders are hard at work, using new and innovative technology to further their educational advancement. The 7th grade class presently is taking part in the Cedar Mountain iPad initiative, which allows them to use iPads in the classroom. Students can take advantage of search engines, up-to-date apps, and websites that allow for increased student and teacher engagement and peer to peer



interactions. Students enjoy being able to access curriculum, assignments, and discussion forums all in one place, not to mention the lightened load in their backpacks.

Along with the iPad initiative, students in grades 7th, , 9th, and 12th are all taking part in the new Leadership courses offered at Cedar Mountain Secondary. These Leadership courses are designed to instill a sense of community pride and responsibility in the students. Students engage in civic conversations, and work as unified groups in order to accomplish seemingly impossible tasks. From learning to work as a cohesive group, to community service or planning a small business, students are actively participating in their future and learning how to make a positive impact on their communities, and the world at large. The enhanced technology, and Leadership courses coupled with the on-going updates to the current building, prove that Cedar Mountain is on the cutting edge of education and ready to send our future leaders out into the world.

Rotary Essay Winner – 6th Grader Mue La Thaw

By Mary Kay Thomas, Middle School Principal, Marshall Public Schools

In the second annual Rotary Essay Contest, Marshall Middle School 6th grader Mue La Thaw took first place honors with her winning essay applying The Four-Way Test. Chicago Rotarian Herbert Taylor conceived the idea of The Four-Way Test in 1932, when creditors assigned him the task of rescuing a nearly-bankrupt cookware company. Taylor penned The Four-Way Test as a way to improve the company. The test could be applied to everything a person thinks, says, or does by asking the four following questions: I. Is it true 2. Is it fair to all concerned 3. Will it build good will and better friendships, and 4. Will it be beneficial to all concerned?



Congratulations to 1st place winner - Mue La Thaw! Her essay will move to the district level competition.

Ortonville BPA Wins Scholarship

By Julie Kinde, Business Teacher and BPA Advisory, Ortonville Public Schools

Minnesota Business Professionals of America (BPA) organization was proud to partner with Schwans to create a competitive event for the BPA organization that allowed students authentic learning and an opportunity to be awarded a generous scholarship.



Ortonville High School Marketing Team

The competing teams had the task to develop a marketing plan along with a social media campaign for the Fruchi brand. Fruchi (www.fruchi. com) is a frozen fruit smoothie that comes in a convenient grab-and-go pouch. The Fruchi brand is a subsidiary of the Marshall based company Schwans. Fruchi is new to the midwest marketplace and is looking for ways to gain brand awareness. It was up to the team to develop a detailed marketing plan for 2015.

The Ortonville High School BPA Marketing Team created a three part project that included a marketing plan, social media plan, and a grass-roots social media campaign promoting the Fruchi fruit smoothie product. The team pre-submitted the plans to a team of judges, who gave them a technical score. The top 8 teams in the state were then invited to present their project at the BPA's state leadership conference. For the presentation, the team expanded their plan as well as created a demo application game. They were announced as the recipients at the grand award ceremony, winning a \$4,000 scholarship!

Minneota Students Awarded \$20,000 Scholarships

By LeaAnne Bot, Family & Consumer Sciences Teacher, Minneota Public Schools

Michelle Jerzak and Alyssa Otto who attend Minneota High School have each been awarded \$20,000 scholarships through the H&R Block Budget Challenge — a teen financial literacy program that rewards high school students and classes for mastering real-world budgeting and personal finance decision-making. Michelle and Alyssa were two of 22 winners nationwide enrolled in the Minneota High School Family and Consumer Science class Living on Your Own.

The learn-by-doing educational approach of the H&R Block Budget Challenge allows students to experience activities like paying bills, managing expenses, saving money, investing in retirement, paying taxes and more in the safety of a classroom. The program was created to help address the need for more financial education in the classroom.

"We're proud of Michelle and Alyssa to be among the top-performing students in the country for the H&R Block Budget Challenge," said LeaAnne Bot, Family and Consumer Science Teacher. "Financial literacy is important to the future success of our students and we're thrilled there's such a hands-on platform through which they can learn." Bot's Living on Your Own class as a team finished 55th out of 645 teams nationwide.



Fun and Learning at Lester Prairie By Alex Edlund, 3rd Grade Teacher, Lester Prairie Public Schools

Lego Creations Come to Life!

Many of the Lester Prairie students have been learning with Legos! Both the Challenge Club (3rd/4th graders) and TAG program (5th/6th graders) were able to make their Lego creations come to life with the Lego WeDo software we were able to buy with help from the Lester Prairie Parents for Education. The students first decide what they would like to build, then use the computer software to





help them build their creation step by step. Afterwards, the students program their creations to move and make sounds. Motion sensors, tilt sensors, and motors are used to bring the creations to life. Students meet for one hour a week after school. Most projects take 1-3 hours to complete. Students harness their creativity, teamwork, engineering, spacial reasoning, mathematics, problemsolving, and computer skills throughout the process, as well as have a lot of fun!



Rubik's Cube Mural

The 5th and 6th grade students in the Lester Prairie Talented and Gifted program (TAG) made a mural entirely out of Rubik's Cubes! Last year, the kids made Spongebob, and this year they made a mural of Flappy Birds. The mural is made of 216 Rubik's Cubes. The students started learning how to solve the Cube in the fall, and progressed to having competitions to see who can solve it the fastest. While learning to solve the cube, students learn spacial reasoning, mathematics, teamwork, and problemsolving skills. They then researched online what mural design they wanted to make, and settled on Flappy Bird. The students did a great job working together and finished the mural in about 2-3 hours.



Pictured at right - front row seated left to right: Lexie Langenfeld, Logan Tonn - kneeling left to right: Michael Ruwersma, Carson Bayerl - standing left to right: Layne Teubert, Jason Zimprich, Jayden Alsleben, Miles DeBruin, Delaney Sebora - not pictured: Zach Jackson

STEM Challenge: Marble Run

By Dr. Chad Anderson, Superintendent, Tracy Area Schools

Ms. Kelly McConnell, TAES 5th and 6th grade science teacher implemented a "STEM" challenge in which students used a Marble run to incorporate science, technology, engineering, and math together to create a powerful learning tool!



To begin this challenge we had a discussion on how important team work is and what are some of the challenges they may have when working with another person. Then each team was given 3 paper plates, 2 paper towel rolls, 3 toilet rolls, and masking tape. Their challenge was to design a structure, with those materials, that had to be at least twelve inches tall and the marble had to stay on the run for 3 consecutive tries. On Friday, March 20, 2015 the students shared their project with other classes. The students viewing the project voted on the one they like the best.





Math Masters at MCC

By Mark Schleisman, 6th Grade Math Teacher, Murray County Central Schools

Our Math Masters teams did well at the March 7th competition in Worthington. FIRST PlaceTeam, pictured at right (I to r)--Gabriel Minton, Brynn Graphenteen, Josie Harms and Dante Damm





SECOND Place Team, pictured at left (I to r)--Charlie Peterson, Cole Larson, Haley Braun and Ashley Hellewell

Josie Harms finished in FIRST place during the five-minute facts' drill. Charlie finished fourth and Brynn G. finished eighth.

For the individual-problem solving, Gabriel finished second, Josie was third, Brynn was fifth and Dante was sixth.

Winning Culinary Skills Challenge Recipe Featured on Schwans.com

Congrats Maaire & Elena!



Reading is Important!

By Dr. Chad Anderson, Superintendent, Tracy Area Schools

Mrs. Krause's English 12 students work with partners to write and illustrate a children's book. Some groups use the computer for their illustrations, and some draw. She encourages her senior students to choose their favorite class or activity and come up with a way to present it at a level that elementary students will enjoy. Some do the ABC's, some do counting, some do colors, and some tell



stories. Some of her students use characters that already exist such as Pokémon and send them on a new adventure while others create brand new characters. Mrs.

elementary school so that the seniors can share their work with students.



It is always a blast to watch the seniors interact with the young children. It shows a side to their personalities that we rarely see. Mrs. Krause is very proud of the work they did on this project and of how the presented them to the students!

Krause then organizes with Kids World, Little Panthers, and the

Singing Out in Slayton

By Christie Gergen, Elementary Music Teacher, Murray County Central Schools

"Singing Out in Slayton" was our theme for this 2014-2015 school year, and we have done just that! MCCWest Elementary is comprised of grades 2-6. The 5th and 6th general music classes started off the year with a performance at our Veteran's Day program. Then, grades 2, 3, and 4 performed the December concert while the





5th and 6th entertained at local assisted living places and banks. The newly formed 50 member 5th and 6th grade West Elementary Rebel Choir made their appearance as well!

On March 9th, this Rebel Choir was invited to the MCC High School and sang three selections. One of them was performed with the high school choir. The song entitled "Hope for Resolution" arranged by Paul Caldwell & Sean Ivory was the grand finale for the concert. The 5th and 6th grade West Rebel Choir will make one more appearance at the April 16th concert.

The second grade did a Seussical Musical in March and the third grade

will be performing "Pirates! The Musical" in May. Even though this musical is written for upper elementary, these children are taking on the challenge.

With the help and support from administration, teachers, community members, and parents, MCC's music program is blooming into something magical. Having FUN while meeting the Minnesota Music Standards is possible!



Project Based Learning -- Dinner Theater at MACS

By Russ Ogelsby, Principal, Marshall Area Christian School

The Marshall Area Christian School dinner theater began thirteen years ago to teach junior high students how to create their own plays to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ. The dinner portion was added to raise support for their Compassion child, Faith Kagendo of Kenya, Africa, but has become so much more. With help from several volunteers, students are trained in food preparation, in banquet decoration and place setting, and in serving a three course meal. Tickets are sold by the 7-8th graders, and any surplus money goes into a fund to support short-term mission trips for MACS students.

The process begins after selecting a short story, usually written by one of the students, and everyone is assigned to a writing group where they script one of three acts. The best of each act is chosen, and ideas from the others are edited into what becomes the final draft. Students audition for parts, design sets and costumes, gather props, and begin practicing. Drama skills such as projecting, articulating, pacing, and



positioning are taught as well as suggestions given to make each character more effective. Once the set is assembled and several students are trained in lighting by a MASC volunteer, the practices move to a new level with sound effects, scene and costume changes, and entrance cues and timing. Then, at last comes makeup, audiences, and three exciting performances.

Even though the MACS dinner theater has been a tremendous vehicle through which training in many disciplines have been accomplished, I would humbly acknowledge that it would not be so without the selfless giving of a multitude of community members who freely share their time and talents with our youth.

2015-16 Student Event Dates









October 28, 2015



January 6, 2016



May 11, 2016 www.swsc.org/scienceandnature

Creative Writing Contest Winners







Partnership • Innovation Leadership • Service



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



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.