

Fall Means Busy Times For SW/WC Service Cooperative

By Shelly Maes, Manager of Member Services

Fall was a busy time at the SW/WC Service Cooperative. Several large conferences were held, along with numerous workshops and trainings. We are committed to meeting the training needs of our members, whether that be in the area of special education, math, reading, technology, or anything else. We strive to provide you with high quality professional development opportunities that will help you in your day to day work with our region's children. We hope this short summary of our first quarter professional development activities will show our commitment to working with you to meet the needs of the region.



We held two regional paraprofessional conferences in August. The Pipestone Paraprofessional Conference welcomed 210 people; while the Willmar Paraprofessional Conference had 204 people attend. Several Crisis Prevention Institute (CPI) Trainings conducted by our staff were held throughout the region for over 265 people. The Teaching and Learning in SW Minnesota Conference was held the last week of August for 1,390 teachers, administrators and staff. Planning for the 2009 conference has already started. A new venture this fall, the First Annual SMARTBoard User Conference had over 140 participants.

Overall, from July through September (including the conferences mentioned above), the SW/WC Service Cooperative held over 55 workshops and trainings, for over 3,000 people, representing 68 school districts. Some topics of our workshops included data retreats, FACS instructor training, SIM: Instruction Model Enhancement, lesson study training, AHERA training, a tax levy workshop, and much, much more. Wow!

There are still many conferences yet to come this school year:

School Business Conference—February 26-27, 2009

Technology Conference—February 25, 2009

Day of Excellence—March 16, 2009

Finally, all of these numbers don't include the many student conferences we hold during the year...Science & Nature, Young Writers, Technical Skills, Career Expo, and many more. The first student conference of the school year, the Conference for Young Artists, had 677 students and adults from 26 school districts.



We are proud to work with you to bring these professional development opportunities to southwest and west central Minnesota!

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Executive Director Report

By Cliff Carmody, Executive Director

We are fast approaching the hectic holiday season and this year seems to be the same as in years past. However, the ever-present economic concern seems to be looming over this holiday season more than any other in recent history!

The down turn in the economy could place a tremendous amount of pressure on our schools and other local governments. It is likely that many of you have heard what I have heard, that is, the state budget shortfall is likely to go beyond 5.2 billion dollars! This is a huge, almost unrealistic number to understand and comprehend! And a concern for all who provide public sector programs and services.

I am also hearing that this legislative session may be difficult and local schools and government should not plan for state increases in revenue. Obviously, this would create challenges for local schools and government as they try to find ways to manage increasing expenditures on little or no real revenue increases. As you know, the state government has concentrated on administering a more lean approach to government spending for schools and local government. All of this has created some very difficult budget discussions at all local levels of government. It would appear this year will see similar discussions in St. Paul, and around our region, that we have seen for a number of years now.

This is, however, not all doom and gloom! Now is also the time for a serious look at how we are doing business and we here at the service cooperative are up for the challenge of finding new and better ways to deliver programs and services. As we plan ahead, it is our goal to do all that we can to minimize fee increases and maximize quality of programs and services. We believe, through our shared services model, we can provide access to cost effective, high quality programs and services.

In the next couple of months, we will be reviewing all of what we do in an effort to capitalize on the use of our resources in providing programs and services for our members. This is also a time for us to open up new discussions around how we can expand our ability to cooperate, collaborate, and plan for the sharing of staff, programs, and services. I hope you will engage in these discussions with me, and our staff, as we continue to find ways to serve you better, while continuing to invest in programs and services that help you do your best in serving your communities.



Cliff Carmody

In this issue

Risk Management.....	3
Division of Teaching & Learning.....	4-5
School Updates.....	8-12
Student Activities.....	16-19
Professional Development Training Dates.....	20

Changes in Care Support Program

By Doug Deragisch, Director of Risk Management

As a part of the SW/WC Service Cooperative's contract with BCBSMN, there is a provision that Care Support (disease management) will be offered to our members based on certain disease categories. At this time, those services have been provided by American Healthways. As of January 1, 2009, BCBSMN will no longer be contracting with American Healthways for those services and will assume responsibility of the Care Support Program themselves.

Due to this change in responsibility, there will be some significant differences in the identification of those who 'qualify' for the Care Support Program. Currently, a member qualifies for having a predetermined disease diagnosis. With the new program, individuals will be identified based on a 'score' which includes diagnosis, treatment plan, and additional risk factors. This new identification process should qualify and provide support for more members. The SW/WC Service Cooperative has also been assured that those currently receiving support, will continue to do so.

One other difference is in the amount of time between a 'triggering event' and the initial call from a dedicated nurse. Because BCBSMN nurses have access to multiple member data points (all protected and confidential), they can start providing support much faster than claims-dependent disease management programs—often within 10 days of the triggering event, such as hospital or an ER visit. In our current model, the initial nurse call could be up to 2 months after the 'triggering event'. Having support sooner should result in a more successful support program for the member.

It will be exciting to see the development and implementation of this new disease management program.



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Midwest Playscapes offers SW/WC SC members a 17% discount on playground equipment, playground surfacing material, playground border products, and park/landscape amenities such as picnic tables, trash receptacles, BBQ grills, etc. They offer a 5% discount on picnic shelters and bleachers.

To view the many products available from Midwest Playscapes, visit www.midwestplayscapes.com.

If you should have any questions about Midwest Playscapes products, would like to discuss your playground needs, or receive a quote, please contact Tom Witek.

Tom Witek
800-747-1452
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Top Claims

Denial Reasons

This is a busy time of the year for SelectAccount for member reimbursement. Below you will find the "Top Claims Denial Reasons" from SelectAccount:

5. Not enrolled during service dates: The Services were not incurred during the time you were covered by this plan.
4. Documentation provided could not be read or was unclear.



3. Duplicate payment/previously reimbursed through Crossover feature.
2. Resubmit with breakdown of service type: The Service or item is not clearly identified on your supporting documentation.
1. Resubmit with an EOB from your health plan: The statement that you submitted indicates that you have insurance coverage. Therefore, SelectAccount needs to know how your health plan processed these charges. The explanation of benefits (EOB) from your insurance carrier is the best source for this information.

Lichy Named 'Outstanding New Career & Technical' Teacher of the Year

By Gail Polejewski, Career Development Coordinator, MN West Community & Technical College and SW/WC Service Cooperative

The Minnesota Association for Career and Technical Education (MnACTE) has named Duane Lichy from Canby High School as its 2008-2009 Teacher of the Year. Duane will be honored at the annual MnACTE Conference later this year.

One teacher from Minnesota is selected each year by a committee of educators to receive this prestigious award. Duane was nominated by the Association of Agriculture Educators and was selected above all others because of his outstanding contributions in the area of career and technical education. Duane was instrumental in developing new agriculture courses at Canby High School and has paired with the University of Minnesota's College in the Schools Program to offer college credit in his Animal Science class. Duane is also very involved in FFA and other organizations throughout the Canby community.



Lichy with his students at the 2008 State FFA Conception

Southwest Minnesota Career Expo Expands in 2008

By Gail Polejewski, Career Development Coordinator, MN West Community & Technical College and SW/WC Service Cooperative

On October 7th and 8th, 1,750 high school sophomores (up from 1,200 in 2007) from 30 public and private school districts attended the 2nd Annual Southwest Minnesota Career Expo at Southwest Minnesota State University in Marshall and at Minnesota West Community and Technical College in Worthington. Participating high schools included: Adrian, Canby, Cedar Mountain, Comfrey, E.C.H.O. Charter, Ellsworth, Fairmont, Fulda, Hills-Beaver Creek, Ivanhoe, Jackson County Central, Lac Qui Parle Valley, Lakeview, Marshall, Marshall East Campus Learning Alternatives, Minneota, Montevideo, Mountain Lake, Pipestone Area, Red Rock Central, Russell-Tyler-Ruthton, Southwest Christian, Southwest Youth Services, Springfield, Tracy, Wabasso, Westbrook-Walnut Grove, Worthington ALC, Worthington, and Yellow Medicine East.



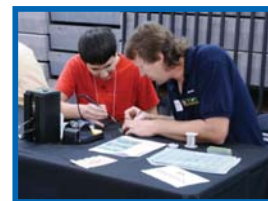
The goals for the event were for students to gain information about careers and educational options; investigate careers that align with their skills and interests; improve job seeking skills and their understanding of what qualities employers are looking for; and to become more aware of career opportunities in

southwest Minnesota. To accomplish these goals two event activities were designed, a career game show and an interactive exhibit area.

The 60 minute career game show, "The Career is Right", was a take-off on the popular "The Price is Right" game show.

Students formed teams, based on their high school affiliation, and representatives from each team were invited to "Come on Down" to be a contestant and answer questions about labor market data, college planning, and growing Minnesota industries. The show was fast paced (thanks to the dynamic game show hosts), entertaining, and provided important career and educational information to students and teachers. The www.swmncareers.org website provided the basis of many of the game show questions. Teams that had the most correct answers took home a "Career Expo" game show trophy.

An exhibit area, with over 50 interactive career booths at each site, was the other featured activity for students. Local and regional businesses, service organizations, and college faculty established hands-on activities that students



Career Expo continues on page 5

Career Expo *(Continued from page 4)*

could explore that would give them some experience with work in particular career fields. It also gave students a chance to visit with employers and college representatives to gain first-hand information about career and education opportunities in southwest Minnesota. In addition to the career exhibits, the area also featured a "Career Hub" that provided career and education planning information that was provided by the Internet System for Education and Employment Knowledge (ISEEK), Minnesota West Community and Technical College and Southwest Minnesota State University.

The feedback from the students, teachers, and exhibitors that participated in the event has been overwhelmingly positive. They enthusiastically recommend that the event continue as an annual event. The Career Expo Advisory Committee appreciates the countless hours that over 150 volunteers donated to make this year's event such a suc-



cess. Sponsors for the 2008 Southwest Minnesota Career Expo included: Southwest Minnesota Private Industry Council, Minnesota West Community and Technical College, Southwest Minnesota State University, Southwest Initiative Foundation, SW/WC Service Cooperative, Junior Achievement, Marshall Rotary, Worthington Area Chamber of Commerce, ISEEK, Pepsi-Cola Bottling Company of Pipestone, Minnesota River Valley Education District, and the Minnesota West Carl Perkins Consortium.

Sponsors and advisory committee members are committed to improving the event each and every year and look forward to the 2009 Southwest Minnesota Career Expo. Registration information will be available to schools in the Spring of 2009. To see pictures of the 2008 Career Expo go to www.lifetimeoflearning.com and click on the Career Expo logo. For more information about the Expo contact Gail Polejewski at 507-537-2273 or gail.polejewski@swsc.org.

Science Forum Addresses Current Needs for Educators

By Jennifer Mahan-Deitte, Coordinator of Curriculum, Assessment, and Instruction/School Improvement

I would like to direct all teachers, particularly ones of science, to some great resources that are available to them, absolutely free! The second annual 'Science Forum' was hosted by WGBH (Massachusetts's Local Public Radio and TV network, stationed in Boston) and the NSDL (The National Science Digital Library) in Boston. Various educators across the states were in attendance.

WGBH has made it a priority to 'get the word out' with regards to the educational website they have developed for all educators. The website is accessible and FREE to any teacher, but its wealth of resources focuses mainly on Science. "Teachers' Domain" (<http://www.teachersdomain.org>) was created with two goals in mind: 1) give teachers accurate, scientific multimedia resources for classroom use, and 2) create a portal for educators to initiate independent learning and professional development. Teachers visiting the site will find media-rich tools (high interest to students and up-to-date) to present science concepts to students in high-impact, engaging, and relatable ways. Lesson plans include video clips, audio clips, and interactive activities – and every resource has been aligned to each state's standards! Teachers can even customize folders for easy reference and use within the classroom.

Another aspect of using "Teachers' Domain" to its fullness is exploring the option to earn graduate credits via this site. Along with providing robust resources for teachers, the creators developing "Teachers' Domain" realized that a staff development component was not only beneficial – but crucial. Scientific discoveries, deep understanding of certain units found within science, and limited time for training, all combine to create challenging situations for teachers. Along with having the resources for in-depth lessons that initiate creative thinking, a teacher must have an extensive knowledge base to "back-up" what's being taught. "Teachers' Domain" has heard the cry for more training, and they've answered the call.

Participants in the Science Forum came from various positions and states. Representation at this forum included educators stretching from Connecticut to Oregon! Open discussions were held during the three-day workshop, and similar trends in education were found across the U.S.A. Math and Reading have recently taken front seat with the focus in education with regards to high-stakes testing. Science, an area advancing almost as quickly as technology, is not being given its due. Because of time restraints and lack

Science Forum continues on page 6

Science Forum *(Continued from page 4)*

of staff development for teachers due to budget cuts, Science is often one of the 'neglected' subjects. Supplies for Science courses are not being re-ordered, equipment in many schools is outdated, strides in scientific advancement are moving more quickly than teachers are being trained, and time restraints in daily schedules often mean that Science is being taught a fraction of the time it once was in our Minnesota schools. Math and Reading can both be incorporated into this realm. Science can teach and enrich those necessary skills for high-stakes testing in math and reading, while keeping students current and viable for future jobs in medicine, physics, engineering, anthropology, space exploration, and the list goes on.





Do you remember “3, 2, 1, Contact?” If you grew up in the 70’s and 80’s you do. Today, scientifically-based TV programs are expanding. “Meet the Greens” (<http://www.meetthegreens.org>) teaches students to live their lives in a more ‘earth friendly’ way. “Fetch with Ruff Ruffman” (<http://www.pbskids.org/fetch>) mixes real kids with real science with an unreal animated host. “Design Squad” (<http://www.pbskids.org/designsquad>) is a new reality competition show plugging eight high school students into the big world of engineering. Many of the materials found in “Teachers’ Domain” and used within these TV shows are directly fed from NOVA...these sites are also worth your time: www.pbs.org / www.pbs.org/nova / www.pbs.org/nova/sciencenow.

WEM Foundation Awards-2008


By Shelly Maes, Manager of Member Services

May was an exciting time in the region as there were two WEM Foundation Award winners announced—each winning an unrestricted \$10,000 award. These awards recognize educators for outstanding accomplishments and contributions to student learning.

 **Jeff Voss**, an agriculture teacher and FFA advisor at **Jackson County Central**, received a 2008 WEM Outstanding Educator award for *Academic Coach of the Year*. This award recognizes coaches of student teams who participate and compete in academic challenge or enrichment programs.


 **Kathleen Stalnaker**, an English teacher at **MAC-CRAY High School**, received a 2008 WEM Outstanding Educator Award for *Teacher Achievement*. This award recognizes educators who support, inspire and assist students to achieve despite barriers to learning. Stalnaker teaches composition, literature, and media literacy to students in grades 9-11, and coaches One Act Play, Three Act Play, and directs the junior high play.

Our southwest and west central region was also home to **three honorees**—each winning a \$1,000 unrestricted award!

 From **Murray County Central Schools**, **Mark Schleisman** was honored in the *Academic Coach of the Year* category. Schleisman teaches fifth and sixth grade math and coaches Math Masters, Spelling Bee and Geography Bee at Murray County Central Elementary School.

 From Canby Public Schools, Laurie Kallhoff was

honored in the *Ethics in Education* category, which recognizes educators who exemplify ethical behavior for the teaching profession and promote ethical practices and development for their students through classroom activities or curriculum. Kallhoff teaches chemistry, physics and physical science at Canby High School. She is recognized for having her students keep journals called “4-minute notebooks,” for having her students participate in the St. John’s Engineering Design Competition, and for having her chemistry students put on a “Reaction Show” for the elementary students. She also advises Canby High School’s National Honor Society.

 From **Hutchinson**, **Lori Galles** was honored in the *Academic Coach of the Year* category. Galles teaches fourth grade mathematics and spelling, and fifth grade math enrichment classes. She has served for six years as an academic challenge coach for the Junior High School Math League.

The WEM Outstanding Educator Awards program was created by the WEM Foundation, and is administered by the Center for Academic Excellence, in partnership with members of the Minnesota Service Cooperatives (MSC). The WEM Foundation supports teachers and their important role in helping all children achieve academically. The awards program has helped recognize education’s “unsung heroes”—educators who daily meet the challenges and opportunities of teaching in a variety of settings. Congratulations to all! The SW/WC Service Cooperative is proud to have such high quality educators in our region!

MNTAAB Cash Flow Borrowing 2008 Performance

By Jim Schmitt, VP and Client Representative, Springsted

The Service Cooperatives and the Minnesota School Boards Association co-sponsor the MNTAAB (Minnesota Tax and Aid Anticipation Borrowing) program with Springsted serving as the financial advisor. MNTAAB is a program where school districts can come together and pool their borrowing needs in order to make the aid anticipation certificates more attractive to buyers and to reduce their up-front costs and administrative responsibilities. In the past our advertising and promotion of the MNTAAB pool has concentrated on comparing participation in the pool versus doing a stand alone borrowing. Basic information about the pool has been included in the information we provided, however; it was not always readily discernable. This year we are providing some basic facts about how the pool performed in a clear, concise manner.

The sale of the MNTAAB certificates was held on Thursday, August 7. There were 42 school districts who participated in the pool and together, they borrowed \$51,600,000 in aid certificates. Piper Jaffray purchased the certificates and was able to resell the certificates at a very favorable rate. The yield on the certificates was set at 1.65%.

Gathering of Champions

By Shelly Maes, Manager of Member Services

The stars were out at the Mall of America on Friday, August 1st, during the 17th Annual Gathering of Champions sponsored by the Center for Academic Excellence (CAE). From the southwest and west central region, 128 students were nominated as 2008 Academic All-Stars from the following districts:

- Cedar Mountain Public Schools
- Ellsworth Public School
- Holy Redeemer School, Marshall
- KMS Public Schools
- Lac qui Parle Valley Public Schools
- Luverne Public Schools
- Murray County Central Public Schools
- Westbrook Walnut Grove Public Schools
- Willmar Public Schools
- Windom Area Public Schools
- Worthington Public Schools

Thank you to those districts for taking time to nominate their students!

In addition, school districts that participated in the pool had the option to invest the proceeds in our GIC (guaranteed investment contract) which was set at 2.5%. The spread between these two figures will allow school districts to earn some money on the investment of the certificate proceeds if they invest in the GIC.

The municipal market in 2008 has been quite volatile. Recently the municipal market as a whole was inching upwards in terms of a bond interest rate. Because of that, we were very pleased with the yield on the MNTAAB certificates. We are confident that part of the reason for the favorable rate was the size of the pool made it attractive to bidders. Based on information from Piper Jaffray, we expect the cost of borrowing in terms of interest rates to be 40 to 50 basis points better than most stand-alone transactions.

In addition, the investment market has been moving down, especially for short-term investments, so we are very satisfied with the spread between the investment rate and the rate being paid in the certificates. Many bonds that have been issued this year have resulted in the bond proceeds being invested at a lower rate than the rate being paid on the bonds, so seeing this result for the pool is very positive.

We are pleased with the results of the 2008 MNTAAB pool and hope that the school districts involved feel the same. We have a commitment to continue to work hard to make the MNTAAB pool a great option for school districts that need to borrow money to meet their cash flow needs.

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Red Rock Ridge ALC Graduates 31

By Ann Wendorff, Principal, Red Rock Ridge ALC

The Red Rock Ridge Alternative Learning Center in Windom graduated 31 students on May 30, 2008. This is the 5th graduating class from the school, where a total of 112 students have graduated in five years. The Red Rock Ridge Alternative Learning Center is part of the SW/WC Service Cooperative.

Ann Wendorff, Principal, is very proud of her students. "We truly have a group of seniors that have shown some good leadership skills. We had an active student

council that was very involved not only with the entire building, but also with outside fundraisers including raising money for the Lakeview School following their student bus accident."

There are many unique features at the Red Rock Ridge Alternative Learning Center. Every week there is a "family meeting" where celebrations and concerns for the week are brought up. Examples include what to do if garbage around the building is not picked up, what to do when there are problems between students that need to be addressed, and celebrating with a student who did really well on a project. A student of the week is also

picked and awarded at this meeting. When new students come to the school, they are introduced and the rules and procedures are talked about by the students—which are good reminders for everyone. If any major issues come up with the students, a meeting is called immediately to address concerns. This is also a forum for students to voice their concerns. The students buy into the program when they feel they have a voice in what goes on in their program.

Graduation ceremonies are also unique at the Red Rock Ridge Alternative Learning Center. For the very first graduation, the district court judge asked to be invited. This judge, along with the county probation officer and assistant county attorney, has attended every graduation recognition program. And for the second year, a local physician and RN were in attendance at graduation. They have all combined their efforts and work in partnership with the school to assist the students in graduating from high school.

The future is bright for these graduates! We have students that are heading to the Armed Services, community college, and tech schools.

The Red Rock Ridge Alternative Learning Center is located at 68 10th Street in Windom, and serves students from Brown, Cottonwood, Jackson, Martin, and Watonwan counties. This year's graduates are from Jackson, Mt. Lake, Springfield, Westbrook-Walnut Grove, and Windom. The RRR-ALC is just one of many programs and services offered through the SW/WC Service Cooperative. Visit our website at www.swsc.org for more details.



Welcome...

The SW/WC Service Cooperative would like to welcome the following:

New School Members:

Yankton Country School,
Balaton
Mountain Lake Christian
School, Mountain Lake

New Risk Management CCOGA Pool Member:

Renville County Soil &
Water Conservation Dis-
trict

Educational Resource Library

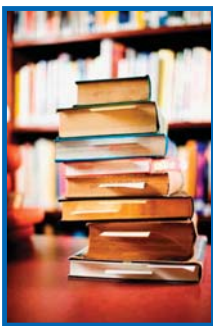
By Mary Weber, Educational Resource Library Coordinator

Welcome back to another school year! Each year seems to start faster than the last. Some details to cover first.

Van delivery has started for the new year. The van for the north part of our area comes on Mondays to participating districts. The driver is Devin Aslesen. If you have specific places for him to leave and pick up materials, you can talk directly to Devin or call/email me. For the southern schools we continue to use the Plum Creek Library delivery system. Materials are left at the public libraries. School staff picks up the materials at the public libraries.

Science PAC curriculum teaching are still available for use. If you wish to see a request list, please contact me.

I began ordering new materials in October. I will be adding some DVD titles as well as special education resources. If you have suggestions, please send them my way. I put teacher suggestions in a folder and order some from



there every year. If there are areas in your curriculum needing some updated materials, please think of sending the information my way. Our library is one way of extending your educational dollar for the benefit of student instruction. We all need to work together in these trying times of educational finance reductions. As school budgets get tighter, we can give you access to additional materials to aid in student achievement.

You can find lists of our educational materials on the Service Cooperative website (www.swsc.org); click Programs and Services and then Educational Resource Library. You can also contact me for assistance. We still use the diagnostic/prescriptive method of ordering where you indicate the student's grade level; reading or math grade level; problem area to work on being as specific as possible; and the student's best learning modality. We then pick several materials for you to work with for a month. If I miss the mark, be sure to contact me so we can redefine the student's needs and find some excellent remediation materials.

I look forward to working with you this year in helping your students become the best they can be! Stop in to visit if you are in the area. You will be pleasantly surprised at the quantity and variety of our resources. Have a great year!

Day of Excellence

SW/WC Service Cooperative's Division of
Teaching and Learning Presents...

25th Annual Special Education

Day of Excellence

Monday, March 16, 2009

8:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

Southwest Minnesota State University

Keynote Speaker: Deadra Stanton,
Creative Communications

For more information please contact:

Deecy Jesse

Phone: 507-537-2253

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Brochures will be mailed in early January 2009

Z99 Reading Rocks Tour

By Katie Schmiesing, Sleepy Eye Public Schools

The Z99 Reading Rocks Tour stopped by the Sleepy Eye Public Schools 4th grade class for a visit in October. The Reading Rocks Tour is sponsored by the radio station Z99 and visits various classrooms in the fall to talk to students about the importance of reading. The 4th grade students loved having the Z99 crew be apart of their classroom! Greg and Kris from the Z99 crew, along with a few 4th grade volunteers, enjoyed reading a story out loud to the class. The students were excited to have the opportunity to read with Greg and Kris. Each student was given a book along with coupons to local businesses. Thanks Z99 for stopping by our school and promoting that **READING ROCKS!!!**



Another Kind of S.M.A.R.T. in Luverne

By Shelly Maes, Manager of Member Services

When we think about SMART, many of us immediately think about SMARTboards - the interactive white-board making its way into classrooms throughout southwest Minnesota. However, in Luverne, elementary teachers and SW/WC Service Cooperative staff are doing some work with a different kind of SMART - this S.M.A.R.T stands for Stimulating Maturity through Accelerated Readiness Train-



ing. It isn't a reading, math or spelling program. It is designed to develop and enhance the physiological and neurological readiness skills.

Luverne uses the program regularly with students preschool to grade 2, with the 3rd, 4th and 5th grade teachers using it as necessary. In some schools, the "Boost Up" room is in the hallway, or activities are done in the classroom, or it might be incorporated into phy ed class. However, Luverne has made a huge commitment to the program, which shows the impact it makes on the students. Luverne has a classroom dedicated to being the "Boost Up" room. Each class participates in the room for 20 minutes every day. Teachers bring in grade level academics to put into the motor stations. This program is for all children -

special ed and regular ed - and gives them time for physical activities which helps create an optimal learning condition for the brain. The Boost Up Room works on reflexes, balance and vestibular, gross motor, fine motor, auditory, and visual efficiency and perception. Students participate in various core activities which consist of creep tracks, alligator crawl, overhead ladder, spinning and visual stimulation activities. These activities, along with many others, are great ways to stimulate the various senses and help children learn.

Congratulations to the Luverne teachers who have been S.M.A.R.T. trained: Karla Osterday, Sandy Klosterbuer, Corey Nelson, Dan Amborn, Jeanne Bowron, and Amy Dulaney. Also instrumental in getting the "Boost Up" room up and running was Carrie Kesteloot, a COTA with the SW/WC Service Cooperative.

Luverne Superintendent Gary Fisher sums up the "Boost Up" room the best when he says, "The Boost-Up room is another example of how the staff at Luverne continue to look for ways to improve student achievement. Teachers take students to the room to get both their mind and body ready for either a planned activity in the classroom or to get them ready before they take a test. The activities students participate in are a challenge both physically and mentally. I would compare the Boost-Up room to getting warmed-up before you run a race—it gets you stimulated and ready."

Sleepy Eye First Graders Visit Holmberg Orchard

By Jodi Arneson, Sleepy Eye Public Schools

First Grade students from Sleepy Eye, MN went on a field trip to Holmberg Orchard near Vesta, MN. The morning started off with beautiful sunshine and a chill in the air. It was definitely a fall day. Our bus ride took about 50 minutes. Students did a great job following bus rules. You could hear the chatter of little voices anticipating the day ahead. The first thing we did was sample McIntosh apples and apple cider. They both were delicious. The next thing we did was tour and learn the process of what happens when an apple is picked from a tree. We watched a large machine wash the apples and then a worker would separate the "good" from the "bad" apples. There are 8,000 apples trees at the Orchard. Wow! The last thing we did was a hayride through parts of the apple orchard that led us to a field of pumpkins. Hundreds of pumpkins! As soon as the tractor pulling our trailer of riders came to a stop, students ran to find the perfect pumpkin to take home. I told the students that they needed to find a pumpkin they were able to carry on their own. It was amazing to see how strong the students suddenly became when it was time to carry their pumpkin of choice. After everyone found their pumpkin, we loaded back onto the trailer and headed back to the bus. We ate lunch at Ramsey Park in Redwood Falls. Students were able to play on the jungle gym and visit the animals. They saw geese, deer, buffalo, and elk. Some of the other animals like the goats, exotic chickens, and peacocks must have been moved for the winter.



AmeriCorps Members Improve Reading Intervention in Hutchinson Elementary Schools

By Lori VanderHeiden, Hutchinson Public Schools

Of all school learning, success in reading is certainly among the most important achievements for all students due to its key role in academic learning and future social and economic opportunities. This last spring, West Elementary (grades K-1) and Park Elementary (grades 2 - 5) in Hutchinson were notified that they were recipients of an AmeriCorps grant which would provide additional time and support for struggling readers in kindergarten through third grade. AmeriCorps is often called the “domestic Peace Corps.” It is a national service program that engages people in a year-long commitment to service meeting the needs in their local communities. The Minnesota Reading Corps (MRC) is an AmeriCorps program that is a statewide initiative to help every Minnesota child become a successful reader. This school year at West and Park, there will be two full-time members in each building fulfilling the role of Literacy Tutor through the MRC. The members, who have committed to a year or 1700 hours of service, will provide one-on-one tutoring to students who need an extra boost in reading. The MRC members will be working with an internal coach and a site supervisor from each building who will help coordinate the reading support and participate in on-going training sessions sponsored by the MRC. First, a benchmark reading assessment is given to identify the students, and then specific reading interventions are provided during the 20 - 30-minute tutoring sessions. Progress is monitored systematically using a computer software program called AIMSweb. All of these research-based strategies will not only assist those students working with the MRC Literacy Tutors, but they have also been a significant catalyst in the implementation of a new Response to Intervention model at both schools. More than ever before, staff members have begun to screen students for potential reading struggles, to diagnose specific skill deficits, and to provide research-based interventions to improve reading success. West and Park Elementary are grateful for the opportunity to learn and improve for the benefit of our students. For more information about AmeriCorps, please visit www.AmeriCorps.org.



ECHO Charter School Offers New Sports Program

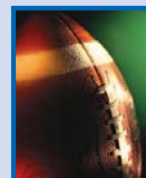
Submitted by the ECHO Charter School

The ECHO Charter School is excited about two new sports programs it is offering the students this fall. We have added football and volleyball to our extracurricular activities. The students are very excited about it and are enjoying learning about and playing the sports. The coaches are proud to report that about 40 students participated in these fall sports. The goal this year wasn't to play and win a bunch of games but teach the sport and instill teamwork. These new activities have proved to be a huge success not only in our students, but in the life of our school!

We are also excited about our afterschool program that we offer our students in grades 3-12 twice a week. The program is funded by the 21st Century Grant and runs throughout the school year and into the summer. The

program offers a multitude of activities for our students to choose from, plus little trips to enhance the program. This program has been extremely beneficial to the students, staff, and the entire school community.

We are all looking forward to a wonderful school year!



Pipestone Area Schools Establishes Strategic Resources Room

By Ray Staatz, Pipestone Public Schools

The Strategic Resource Room was implemented for general education students who are experiencing academic problems in grades 5-12. The SRR personnel assist students who struggle with comprehension and processing information, reading fluency, organization, study and test-taking skills.

Students are initially referred to the Student Assistance Team made up of teachers from each grade level (5-12). In-class interventions must first be implemented in the regular classrooms. If the student should continue to experience learning problems within the classroom upon identifying areas to be focused on within the SRR program, placement can be made. Students attend the SRR program during their study hall period and for the duration of the first semester. At the end of the semester, the student's progress will be evaluated to see if a referral is warranted for a special education evaluation or if additional interventions should be made in the classroom. Students may also obtain service during non-study hall periods if the need/opportunity arises.



The SSR program provides an environment with fewer general distractions and smaller class sizes. The SRR program is staffed with two paraprofessionals and provides service to all non-Individualized Education Program students throughout each school day. The staff

provides remedial and instructional support through goals of personal encouragement and student responsibility. Parents are involved in the entire process and central to the services provided to their son/daughter. Funding for this program is provided from the district's general fund.

Glencoe Alternative Programs

By Sarah Mittelstadt, Coordinator of Educational Programs

As the supervisor for an alternative program for special education students, I am asked regularly, "How do we get this kid into your program?" The answer is not easy.

Generally, the law requires the following to occur:

- The school district must try to address the behavior in a positive manner prior to placing the student in a more restrictive program.
- There are goals in the IEP addressing the concern behaviors.
- Positive reinforcements have been attempted.
- Strengths of the student have been considered.
- The school district must provide a full continuum of individualized interventions through the district's regular and special education.
- Documentation must be present regarding changes in services (increased time or services) to a degree that demonstrates need for an alternative placement.
- The proposed placement must be appropriate for the student's needs.
- Often placement of special education students in alternative programs can be a negative impact for the student's progress if the peers will not be the appropriate influence on the student.



Special Education

By Erv Marquardt, Director of Special Education, Windom

Over the years we have all heard about the need to make changes in public education. As an institution, public schools fall under many levels of scrutiny. There are those that would like to see public education become privatized, either through vouchers or even more directly. In the midst of all this rhetoric is the constant call for "change". Personally, I firmly believe public education is one of the last benchmarks for equalization in our society, but that is another soap box topic.

I have worked in public education, and more specifically, special education, for nearly 30 years and have experienced some of those highly publicized "changes". We have seen Outcome Based Education (OBE), Madeline Hunter, and Outcome Driven Developmental Model (ODDM), to name just a few. Each one was to be the "savior" of public education. In special education we have seen many "changes", as well.

For example, in the area of Learning Disabilities (LD), we have seen "changes" in the requirements for what constitutes an educational learning disability. In the early 1980's we operated on a very simple definition and model for identification - we used the "discrepancy model". That

Special Education continues on page 13

SW/WC Service Cooperative Employee Awards

The SW/WC Service Cooperative presented employee service awards to 28 staff at its annual fall in-service. Staff are eligible for employee service awards based on length of employment. Sue Gorecki, Student Activities Coordinator, received a 30 year award. Edna Gossen, Operations Manager, earned the 35 year award. Dave Lammers, Director of Special Education in the Pipestone Service Center, earned his 40 year service award.

5 Year Service Awards were presented to:

Todd Armstrong, Special Education Para
Jan Berndt, ALC Teacher
Jill Cihak, ALC Teacher
Terri Collins, Special Education Teacher
Brenda Dylla, School Success Coordinator
Katie Fernandez, FLES Spanish Teacher
Tami Hellewell, Occupational Therapist
Mark Kurseth, ALC Teacher
Robb Larson, Special Education Teacher
Erika Obregon, FLES Spanish Teacher
Linda Roggow, School Social Worker/Mental Health Professional
Lourdez Schwab, WAMM Coordinator
Krista Schwanke, Special Education Teacher
Josh Sumption, Mgr. of Information Technology
Susan Terhaar, Site Coordinator
Ann Wendorff, Red Rock Ridge ALC Principal
Jennifer Zollner, ECSE Teacher

10 Year Service Awards were presented to:

Sue Buysse, SMART Systems Payroll/HR Spec.
Linda Hamm, Physical Therapist
Teresa Ostlie, Director of Special Education
Fay Prairie, Career Accommodation Specialist
Jill Rohman, Consultant for Deaf/Hard of Hearing

20 Year Service Award was presented to:

Barb Baker, Office Assistant

Special Education *(Continued from page 12)*

is, if a student's intelligence quotient (IQ) was 15 points higher than the standard score on an individually administered test of achievement, and if the student was underachieving in the mainstream, then the student was educationally "LD". In the 1990's, we saw what some called a major change in the identification of what constituted a Learning Disability. Although we still used a "discrepancy model", the school also was required to measure and show delays in "information processing", along with underachievement and a discrepancy based on a long and mathematically complicated "regression formula". Dispersed between these were many "changes" in what level of discrepancy was required to meet the definition of Learning Disabled.

When contemplating those so called "changes", what really was going on was a "tweaking" of numbers designed to adjust the number of eligible students. It wasn't until the Reauthorization of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act of 2004, that we saw a true change in how we view and identify children with learning disabilities. With the reauthorization, we now have language that no longer ties us to the discrepancy model (also known as the failure model), but rather a model based on research and intervention before a child fails. This model is commonly referred to as Response to Intervention or "RTI". This is truly a "change" in how we view student learning and in how we will identify those students with learning disabilities. In fact, this change will have a broader effect for all students. Simply stated, schools will apply research based methods of instruction to address learning delays for all students, before they reach a level of failure and an educational "discrepancy" requiring "special education" intervention.

With all the talk over the years of change, we have finally passed by the "tweaking" stage and are really talking about changing how we view and educate the children that will become the decision makers of the future.

From the Desk of the Director of Administrative Services

By Luther Heller, Director of Administrative Services

Reducing Energy Costs to Schools

As districts constantly review options for stabilizing and/or reducing their expenses, energy costs are sometimes overlooked. As we are all aware, energy prices have become very volatile over the past few years. Even the local utilities have adopted a variable rate structure to deal with the volatility. In the not too distant past, the local utility companies would provide districts with a stable, predictable price for the near future. However, those days are gone; most of the utilities here in Minnesota have adopted a variable natural gas pricing structure that allows them to adjust their pricing monthly “based upon future events”. Therefore, buying from the local utility at the market price no longer provides the price stability or predictability that districts had enjoyed in the past.

However, energy deregulation provides schools with “choice” when it comes to purchasing their energy. It also provides the ability to lock-in a price for a pre-determined timeframe, thus allowing a district to “fix” their energy budget for the upcoming school year. Having a fixed, competitive energy cost is an invaluable tool in these days of ever-increasing energy prices. However, trying to make the decisions on when and where to purchase natural gas can be a daunting task and if a person is unfamiliar with the market, purchasing month to month can be risky.

To this end, the Southwest/West Central Service Cooperative has partnered with Summit Energy Services to create a cooperative designed to take advantage of potential opportunities for schools to purchase their natural gas from alternative suppliers at prices typically lower than the traditional utility companies.

This program will provide districts with the opportunity to take advantage of group purchasing of utilities, bill review, consolidated billing, consumption histories, along with many other services. In addition, the program provides districts with a means of managing energy charges and providing budget stability and predictability. To date, four SW/WC SC school districts are participating in this program.

For more information about this program, as well as to have an analysis done as to how this program would impact your district, please contact Luther Heller, Director of Administrative Services, SW/WC Service Cooperative at 507-537-2255 or at luther.heller@swsc.org

Strategic Planning

Whether it be the increased demands for standards and accountability, the growth of unfunded mandates or the lack of adequate funding, today, more so than at any time over the past half century, public school leaders are facing an ever increasing number of political and economic challenges. One of the tools that school administrators, boards of education and communities have been utilizing in an attempt to provide systemic, stable and proactive leadership in addressing these challenges has been a well defined strategic planning process.

In an effort to assist our members as they plan for the future, the SW/WC Service Cooperative will facilitate the strategic planning process within a district at no charge. The process of developing a vision and mission, doing an analysis of strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats (SWOT analysis) and identifying strategic goals can typically be completed in three to six sessions, at which time the district will be ready to develop action plans and move forward with the implementation process.

During the 2007-2008 school year we provided assistance to school districts as they worked through the planning process. So far this year, we are helping to facilitate the planning process in four districts. For more information, contact Luther Heller at (507)537-2255 or luther.heller@swsc.org or Shelly Maes at (507) 537-2282 or shelly.maes@swsc.org

Upcoming Workshops

The upcoming Regional Technology
Coordinator/Director Workshop dates are:

January 27, 2009

March 24, 2009

Division of Teaching & Learning Has a New Look

By Bob Braun, Director of Teaching and Learning Services

For two years, the SC Board of Directors and Cliff Carmody, Executive Director, have been putting together the vision for the future for our agency. This vision centered on an organizational structure comprised of four divisions that would provide high quality integrated services. The four divisions would include the Division of Special Education Services, the Division of Risk Management Services, the Division of Administrative Services, and the Division of Teaching and Learning Services.

Two of the divisions, Special Education Services and Administrative Services, have been organized for the last two years. The past year, the Division of Risk Management Services was put in place. In May 2008, Cliff announced the organizational structure of the fourth division, Teaching and Learning Services.

In the past, there were a number of services under the general heading Regional Educational Services and a number of services under the general heading Teaching and Learning Services. Regional Educational Services and Teaching and Learning Services have now been transitioned to the Division of Teaching and Learning Services.

The goal of the new Division of Teaching and Learning Services is to bring together all of the above educational services under one division in an effort to bring high quality integrated services.

For more information regarding the Division of Teaching and Learning Services, please contact: Bob Braun, Director of Teaching and Learning Ser-

vices, Phone: 507-537-2252, bob.braun@swsc.org. Pictures on this page are from the 2008 Teaching and Learning Conference.



The Division of Teaching and Learning Services consists of the following services:

- Low Incidence
- Assistive Technology
- Transition Improvement
- Regional Professional Development
- Career and Technical Education
- Student Activities
- School Improvement/AYP
- NWEA
- Curriculum/Assessment/Instruction
- Math and Science Teacher Academy



Keynote Presenter, Mervlyn K. Kitashima, Kamehameha Schools

Student Activities Celebrated at Spring Luncheon

By Sue Gorecki, Student Activities Coordinator

The 6th Annual Student Activities Celebration Luncheon was held May 14, 2008, at the SW/WC Service Cooperative in Marshall. The luncheon celebrated another successful year with over 24,800 students impacted by student activities during the 2007-2008 year – at the local, sub-regional, regional, and state level! Participants had time to view displays, talk with staff, and enjoy a slide presentation during lunch.

The featured guests were students and staff from area schools that reported on their participation in some of the student activities. The activities that were focused on this year are listed below.

Sr. High Knowledge Bowl

Knowledge Bowl students from Lac qui Parle Valley competed against two teams of superintendents in a short competition! The students came out winners! Liz Baker, coach, accompanied the students and talked about the experience of being 1st runner-up for the A Division at the Minnesota Service Cooperatives' State Knowledge Bowl in April.

CORE

Terri Collins, teacher, and six students from the Heartland Girls Ranch in Benson talked about their experience running a custom embroidery business. They were recipients of a CORE (Center for Rural Entrepreneurship) grant – a project committed to developing an infrastructure that will teach and nurture entrepreneurial minds and provide the necessary support and assistance to help K-12 and college-age students launch a successful school-based or individual small business.

Regional Chess Tournament

Steve Harder from Mountain Lake met with staff from the student activities program about sponsoring a chess tournament. A Regional Chess Tournament was planned and held on February 2 with Steve as the Tournament director. Steve and a student from Mountain Lake talked about their experience at the chess tournament.

Science & Nature Conference

We again sponsored scholarships for students with special needs to attend the student conferences. A total of 58 students with special needs have used the scholarships to attend conferences since the program started in January 2006. In addition, other students are registered indepen-

dently by parents or schools and are not included in the count. A teacher and student from Willmar were planning to attend and talk about their experience at the conference but a last minute conflict prevented them from attending. Instead, Kathy Leedom, Supt., read the following statement from Rick Pederson, psychologist, that attended the conference with the students.

"Any parent comes to realize that a 'road trip' with an adolescent is a great time to talk and even more so, to LISTEN. It works for teachers too! The early morning trip to Marshall, attending the Science workshops with our students, and the trip home, was just a great day. Dale and I came down with six supposedly EBD teenagers who fit in perfectly with their workshops – I think because they were sincerely interested, and the fact that they were invited to be there! The disability disappeared that day. I think the relationship came back with us to the school building, because I think these kids clearly understood that they were worth our time and attention to show them something brand new. Thanks for providing this opportunity for us. It was a BIG DAY for all of us – one of the best of the school year for me. Kudos to you guys for a well organized and high quality experience for our region." In addition, Supt. Leedom expressed her strong support for the various activities provided through the SW/WC Service Cooperative.

Technical Skills Challenge – Public Service Announcement

Students from Luverne and their advisor showed the video that they produced for the Technical Skills Challenge and talked about their experience.

The Student Activities Celebration Luncheon is an annual event that features a program by participants on several events. Other guests included the Superintendents' Advisory Council, the Student Activities Advisory Committee, SW/WC SC board members, and business sponsors.

Support for Student Activities comes through the Southwest Student Enrichment Fund.



Student Activities

By Sue Gorecki, Student Activities Coordinator

Science & Nature Conference

Last year's conference attracted approximately 1,000 participants. We're planning for more this year!

Abby Fenton, the Education Program Manager for the Will Steger Foundation, is the keynote speaker. She experiences as a member of Will Canada's Baffin Island in 2007. will investigate crime scenes, play solar oven, have fun with kitchen grossology, handle live snakes and learn about wind turbines, take a time warp trip to ancient Egypt, be amazed by science magic, attend planetarium shows, etc.



will share footage and her Steger's arctic expedition to Students in hands-on classes wheel of jeopardy, build a chemistry, learn about lizards, explore minerals,



If you have questions about the Science & Nature Conference, please contact Sue Gorecki at sue.gorecki@swsc.org or 507-537-2258 or Andrea Anderson at andrea.anderson@swsc.org or 507-537-2257.

Junior High Knowledge Bowl

Junior high students in many schools have begun practicing for upcoming Knowledge Bowl events. In addition to the local practices, invitationals are hosted by the schools with other districts invited to participate. Invitationals for Region 6 schools are usually held on Saturdays and began November 10. Region 8 schools hold their invitationals on Monday evenings and started their meets on October 20. Students enjoy competing with students from other schools in preparation for the Sub-Regional events hosted by the SW/WC Service Cooperative.



The Sub-Regional events for both Region 6 and Region 8 are scheduled for December 19 at SMSU in Marshall. With an estimated 100 teams, and six students per team, there will be around 600 students participating simultaneously in two separate events! The teams that place in the top half will advance to the Regional Event on January 8, also at SMSU in Marshall. Awards are given to the top three teams at each event.

If you have questions about Junior High Knowledge Bowl, please contact Sue Gorecki at sue.gorecki@swsc.org or 507-537-2258.



Student Activities continues on page 18

Student Activities *(Continued from page 17)*

Chess Tournament

The 2nd annual Regional Chess Tournament is scheduled for Saturday, February 7, 2009 at the SW/WC Service Cooperative Office in Marshall. The tournament is open to students in grades K-12 who have had prior chess playing experience. This event is an opportunity to improve analytical thinking skills while having fun competing with students from other districts. There will be rated and non-rated sections divided by grade level. Students will be guaranteed at least four match games. Medals and certificates will be awarded. A brochure and registration form is available on our website: www.swsc.org. There's also information on the website on how to start a scholastic chess club. The early bird registration deadline is January 9 with the final deadline on January 16. No registrations are accepted after the final deadline.



Young Artists

Approximately 700 participants gathered at SW/WC Service Cooperative's 15th Annual Conference for Young Artists on October 10 at SMSU in Marshall. In honor of the anniversary, registrants #15, 115, 215, 315, 415, 515, and 615 were selected to receive a door prize. Danielle Daniel and Alphonse Bolden presented the general session on storytelling with a music background.

Students from 25 school districts, along with many individual students registered directly by parents, attended the conference. Creative energy was flowing through the halls of SMSU as students made sculptures from colored wire, created cartoon characters, learned about clowning, wrote songs, made wheel thrown pottery, tried various kinds of watercolor painting, created fun hats, worked on collages, made scrapbooking pages, created art forms inspired by ancient civilization, made glass beads, etc.

Students completed the evaluation with the "most memorable thing you learned". Here are some of responses:

"Having fun and don't put yourself down for what you do."

"Paint with your soul."

"Let your imagination run and believe in yourself."

"Art is a good way to express yourself and no matter what your shape, size, or color - anybody can do art."



Young Writers

Mary Casanova, award-winning children's author of novels and picture books, is the keynote speaker for the 17th Annual Conference for Young Writers. In addition to her numerous awards, her books frequently land on state children's choice book master lists across the country.

The Conference for Young Writers will be held on May 12, 2009, at Southwest Minnesota State University in Marshall. Students in grades 3-8 are invited to participate in this one-day conference, which introduces them to authors, illustrators, and other types of communicators. Through interaction with presenters, students discover their creative abilities and how to express their thoughts. Writing is an essential part of learning and students find that it can also be an enjoyable experience. Hands-on classes relate to writing, editing, publishing, illustrating, cartooning, storytelling, etc. will be offered.

The brochure and registration form will be available on our website: www.swsc.org in early March. The early bird registration deadline is April 7 with the final deadline on April 14. No registrations are accepted after the final deadline.

If you have questions about the conference, contact Andrea Anderson at andrea.anderson@swsc.org, 507-537-2257 or Sue Gorecki at sue.gorecki@swsc.org, 507-537-2258.



New Art Contest for High School Students

By Sue Gorecki, Student Activities Coordinator

We are excited to announce that the Freshwater Society and SW/WC Service Cooperative are collaborating to bring the Water is Life Scholarship Art contest to high school students in our region. The Freshwater Society has sponsored this contest for four years, resulting in exciting, educational and rewarding experiences for many Minnesota high school students. We are thrilled to bring this contest to our area and look forward to participation from the students. Brochures on the contest were sent to art teachers at member schools, asking them to forward the information to their colleagues in science and industrial arts.

The art contest is open to all public, private and home schooled 9th-12th grade students in the participating Service Cooperatives. Acceptable media: photography, sculpture, fountains, painting, drawing, and short video. For detailed contest guidelines, refer to the brochure or Freshwater Soci-

ety's website: www.freshwater.org.

Entry forms and artwork must be received at the SW/WC Service Cooperative by March 20, 2009. The regional competition will be held in Marshall with four semi-finalists advancing to the final competition. The 28 semi-finalists, their families and instructors will be invited to an art exhibit, reception and scholarship award ceremony on May 6 in the Lake Minnetonka area. The Freshwater Society is providing six \$500 scholarships to students who find an artistic and creative way to express the theme water is life. All remaining finalists will be awarded a certificate of participation and a monetary gift. An award will also be presented to the instructor/school representing the six scholarship winners.

If you have questions, contact Jeanne Prok, Freshwater Society, at Jeanne@freshwater.org or 952-314-8133 or Sue Gorecki, SW/WC Service Cooperative, at sue.gorecki@swsc.org or 507-537-2258.

Website a 'Gold Mine' for Student Activity Information

By Sue Gorecki, Student Activities Coordinator

Our updated website has lots of information about all of the programs and competitions offered by the Student Activities Program of the SW/WC Service Cooperative. We offer a wide range of activities for all students, grades K-12. Directions to get to the Student Activities portion of the website: go to www.swsc.org, click on Programs & Services listed across the top, then click on Student Activities in the alphabetical directory. You will see a listing of items down the left side. Explore the information that is available on the various pages. The General Information page includes our general marketing items: post card, flyer and booklet. It also includes Conference Registration Options which lists various ways that schools handle registrations for the student conferences. Each activity page lists specific information for that program or competition including brochure, registration form, registration deadlines, etc. The Other Activities page includes a listing of collaborations and other activities with links to their websites.

Score sheets are added to the appropriate page after events are held for Jr. and Sr. High Knowledge Bowl. Photographs from the conferences and other activities are available on the appropriate page, through Photo Gallery. Prints can be ordered also. Consider adding a link on your school's website to our website!

If there are items you would like to see added to the website, please contact Sue Gorecki at sue.gorecki@swsc.org or 507-537-2258 or Andrea Anderson at andrea.anderson@swsc.org or 507-537-2257.

Mark Your Calendar: Important Dates for Student Activities

December

- 19 Jr. High Knowledge Bowl Region 6 Sub-Regional Event
- 19 Jr. High Knowledge Bowl Region 8 Sub-Regional Event

January

- 6 Science & Nature Conference
- 8 Jr. High Knowledge Bowl Regional Event
- 9 Chess Tournament Early Bird Registration Deadline
- 16 Chess Tournament Final Registration Deadline
- 30 Sr. High Knowledge Bowl Early Bird Registration Deadline

Upcoming Professional Development

To register for any of these workshops, please visit our website at www.swsc.org, click on Workshops, find the workshop you are interested in, and complete the registration information. If you have any questions about the registration process, please contact Dawn Christensen at dawn.christensen@swsc.org or 507-537-2278.

January 2009

1/5	Advanced Moodle Training, Marshall
1/9	Grades 5-8 Algebra Connected to Number MSTA #2, Montevideo
1/14	SMART Board Level 1 Training, Marshall
1/16	Grades 5-8 Algebra Connected to Number MSTA #2, Marshall
1/19	Regional EBD Workshop, No Nag Behavior Intervention, Marshall
1/20	Moodle 101, Marshall
1/20	Regional EBD Workshop, No Nag Behavior Intervention, Olivia
1/22	Superintendent Leadership Series #3-Advocacy, Marshall
1/23	SMART Board Level 2 Training, Marshall
1/26	Advanced PowerPoint 2007 for Education, Marshall
1/26	Current, Best Strategies: Math Computation, Marshall
1/27	Regional Technology Coordinators Workshop, Marshall

February 2009

2/4	3 rd Annual DHH Skating, Redwood Falls
2/4	School Law Seminar, Marshall
2/9	Principal's Summit, Marshall
2/10	Classroom Formative Assessment, Marshall
2/10	SMART Board Level 1 Training, Marshall
2/11	Podcasting, Marshall
2/17	SMART Board Level 2 Training, Marshall
2/19	PLC: Using Data and Protocols, Marshall
2/19	Senteo 2 Training, Marshall
2/20	Beginners Guide to PowerPoint 2007 for Education, Marshall
2/23	SMART Board Level 1 Training, Marshall
2/25	3 rd Annual Technology Conference, Marshall
2/26-27	26 th Annual School Business Conference, Marshall



Seasons'
Greetings