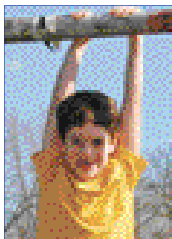




the REVIEW

VOLUME 6 • ISSUE 3 • MAY 2006

Serving Schools, Communities, and Other Agencies in Southwest and West Central Minnesota



ORGANIZE *With Confidence*

By Elizabeth Hagen

**Monday,
June 12, 2006**

8:30-9:00 – Registration

9:00-3:30 – Workshop

***Held at the SW/WC Service Cooperatives' Office
Market Street Mall
1420 E. College Drive, Marshall MN***

Elizabeth Hagen is a Professional Organizer and Speaker whose passion is helping overwhelmed people get their life and space organized and see them smile with satisfaction!

Her own mother can't believe she does this for a living after wanting to condemn Elizabeth's room in high school!

Elizabeth Hagen is passionate about putting proven strategies into action that will help you feel fantastic about yourself and have an amazing quality of life. Her humor, enthusiasm, honesty, and common sense have encouraged thousands at meetings and workshops nation wide.

You can increase your confidence in every area of your life with the tools that Elizabeth Hagen has perfected over the last 30 years. You will leave this workshop with a fresh perspective supported by a specific, personalized action plan to realize your value and see your self-worth, one step at a time.

Elizabeth's mission is to help every professional feel fantastic, begin achieving their goals, and have wonderful relationships in their life. You can experience the joy of working and living in an environment that enables you to succeed and be extraordinary. Start today!

For workshop information and to register visit our website:

www.swsc.org click on Workshops/Seminars

or contact Marilyn Labat via e-mail at marilyn.labat@swsc.org or by phone at 507-537-2249.





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SW/WC Service Cooperative
1420 East College Drive
Marshall, MN 56258
507-537-2240
dawn.christensen@swsc.org

Navigating the Social World

by Jeanette McAfee, M.D.

Tuesday, June 13, 2006

8:00 a.m. – 8:30/Registration

8:30 a.m. - 4:00 pm/Workshop

Redwood Area Community Center

901 Cook St. • Redwood Falls, MN

Sponsored by SW/WC Service Cooperatives, 1420 E. College Dr., Marshall, MN

Jeanette McAfee, M.D

Dr. McAfee is a physician who has a child of her own with high functioning autism and is internationally recognized for her work developing social/emotional skills training programs for individuals with high functioning autism, Asperger syndrome, and related disorders. Her practical, hands-on programs are used by parents, school districts, universities, and private practitioners in the fields of speech and language pathology, psychology, and special education. She presents at conferences and workshops internationally to rave reviews!



About the Workshop:

During this dynamic one-day workshop, you will be introduced to the in-depth social/emotional skills programs presented in the internationally acclaimed book, *Navigating the Social World*, by Jeanette McAfee, M.D. Participants will hear about the variety of social/emotional skills programs and see program techniques demonstrated during the workshop. Highlights of the workshop include using external cues to improve theory of mind skills, teaching conversational skills, treating non-compliance, tracking and managing stress, and dealing with anger and depression in individuals with AS/HFA.

Target Audience: Parents and Professionals who work with and care for individuals with Asperger syndrome, high functioning autism, PDD-NOS, or nonverbal learning disorder. Its content is appropriate for family members, general education and special education teachers, speech pathologists, psychologists, and paraprofessionals.

For more information visit our website at: www.swsc.org click on Workshops/Seminars.

Questions about the workshop contact

Penny Cammack at: penny.cammack@swsc.org

or Karin Marquardt at: karing.marquardt@swsc.org

Questions about registration contact Marilyn Labat at 507-537-2249 or marilyn.labat@swsc.org



by Tessa Dierks, RTR Art Teacher

Click, click, flash, flash! Cameras were busy at the hands of third graders in Minneota, Lynd, and RTR Elementary Schools in April. As part of our integration project, students worked in groups of two capturing interesting objects and people at their schools. After studying how to take effective pictures, the third graders had fun putting their newly acquired skills to the test. When developed, the pictures were returned to each group and the best picture mounted for display. Not only were classroom teachers and the RTR Elementary art department involved, but the Spanish departments also took part in this experience! Each group was in charge of naming their best picture with a Spanish title. These wonderful works of art were on display in Ruthton at the RTR Elementary School for the Cinco de Mayo celebration on May 5th. The exhibit traveled to Lynd for their Cinco de Mayo celebration the evening of May 15th and then to Minneota and was viewed during other end of the year school functions.

Part of the RTR third grade class posed with their cameras (above and to the right).



Josh & Janel, RTR 3rd graders.



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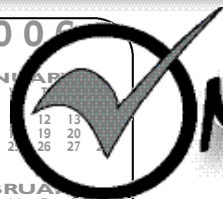
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Mark Your Calendars!

Looking Ahead in Regional Educational Services

— June:

- 06/06-09/2006 -- (8:00 AM - 4:00 PM)Lindamood Phoneme Sequencing Program
Presenter: Sue Meyer
- 06/06/2006 -- (9:30 AM - 3:00 PM)Administrator Seminar
Presenter: Jeff Jorgensen
- 06/12/2006 -- (9:00 AM - 3:30 PM)Organize With Confidence
Presenter: Elizabeth Hagen * please see front page for details
- 06/13/2006 -- (8:00 AM - 4:00 PM)Navigating the Social World
Presenter: Jeanette McAfee, M.D. * please see page 2 for details

— August:

- 08/17-18/2006 -- (8:00 AM - 4:00 PM) ...Lindamood Visualizing and Verbalizing Workshop
Presenter: Sue Meyer
- 08/17-18/2006 -- (8:15 AM - 2:15 PM)Paraprofessional Conference – Pipestone
Presenter: Various Presenters
- 08/17-18/2006 -- (8:15 AM - 2:15 PM)Paraprofessional Conference – Willmar
Presenter: Various Presenters
- 08/30/2006 -- (8:00 AM - 4:00 PM)Teaching & Learning Conference
Presenter: Various Presenters * please see page 22 for details

— September:

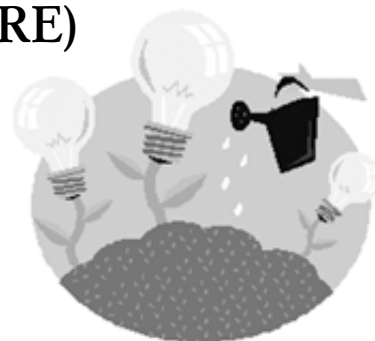
- 09/8/2006 -- (5:00 PM -10:00 PM)Directing the Work of Paraprofessionals
Presenter: Barbara Jo Stahl
- 09/9/2006 -- (8:00 AM – 6:00 PM)Directing the Work of Paraprofessionals
Presenter: Barbara Jo Stahl
- 09/29/2006 -- (5:00 PM -10:00 PM)Directing the Work of Paraprofessionals
Presenter: Barbara Jo Stahl
- 09/30/2006 -- (8:00 AM – 6:00 PM)Directing the Work of Paraprofessionals
Presenter: Barbara Jo Stahl

— October:

- 10/06/2006 -- (8:00 AM – 4:00 PM)Ed O'Leary IDEA 2004 Training
Presenter: Ed O'Leary
- 10/13/2006 -- (8:00 AM – 4:00 PM)Positive Behavior Interventions
Presenter: Martha Simpson

Additional workshop information, as well as, registration information
 is available online at www.swsc.org under Workshops/Seminars.

Center of Rural Entrepreneurship (CORE) Funds Student Free-Enterprise Projects



The "Center of Rural Entrepreneurship" (CORE) project is committed to developing a system that will teach and nurture entrepreneurial minds and provide the necessary support and assistance to help K-12 and college-aged students launch successful school-based and individual small businesses.

The project was started when the SW/WC Service Cooperatives, and its partners, received a federal appropriations grant of \$337,280 and a matching grant of \$40,000 from the Southwest Minnesota Foundation. While CORE

will have a central office at Southwest Minnesota State University in Marshall, each school and community in the region will have equal access to funds. The oversight of the CORE project is conducted by a board of directors, made up of private business owners and public organizations located in the 18-county service region. Current board members include:

Randy Abbott	..... Cottonwood	..... Schwan's University
Lynn Arndt	..... Westbrook	..... Westbrook/Walnut Grove High School
Christofer Eide	..... Willmar	..... Jennie-O Turkey Store
Carlota Eischens	..... Olivia	..... Master's Coffee Shop
Nancy Fasching	..... Hutchinson	..... Southwest Minnesota Foundation
Carla Goedtko	..... Slayton	..... Investors Choice Financial Services
Deb Hess	..... Redwood Falls	..... Minnesota Inventors Congress
Duane Krueger	..... Pipestone	..... MN West Community & Tech College
Greg Raymo	..... Worthington	..... First State Bank Southwest
Ken Warner	..... Willmar	..... Willmar Area Chamber of Commerce
Joe Wektaniphong	..... Marshall	..... KFC/A&W and Hunan Lion (Owner)

One of the primary services offered by CORE will be the availability of funds to serve as seed money for k-12 and post-secondary students in the 18-county service region to initiate a school-run, individual, or group-run business. The maximum award for the business start-up funds is \$5,000. Several interesting student-run businesses are already being funded. Those businesses include:

- "International Trends" -Sells Nepalese garments and accessories
- "Southwest Auto Spa" - An auto detailing business
- "Forst Multi-Media and Design" -Provides print design, web design, video editing and motion graphics services
- "FRG Clothing, Inc." - Produces screen-printed t-shirts, sweatshirts, sweatpants and other apparel to students
- "Tiger Cub Foods" - Provides healthy snacks and fresh-baked goods to high school students
- "Big Boys Bakery" - Provides baked goods for the high school store and will also sell from a Business Incubator in the community

*For a CORE application go to
www.lifetimeoflearning.com.*

*You can also contact Douglas Simon,
the CORE Director at 507-537-6421
or simond@southwestmsu.edu.*





Additional information about the workshops can be found at the SWSC website: <http://www.swsc.org>

Cancellation and Refund Policy

The SW/WC Service Cooperatives reserve the right to cancel this seminar in the case of insufficient number of pre-registered participants.

Pre-registration is important. Pre-registration helps ensure that the event will not be cancelled and that sufficient materials, food and space can be provided. Pre-registered participants will be notified if it is necessary to cancel the event.

Cancellation requests must be received in writing (fax or mail) by the deadline for a refund. After that, cancellations are subject to the entire conference fee. If you are unable to attend, please feel free to send someone in your place. Please note that if you do not cancel and do not attend, you are still responsible for full payment.

Registrations must be postmarked before June 30, 2006.

• 501: Introduction to Reading Renaissance

Monday, August 7, 2006 – 8:00-3:00 p.m.

Discover the top 10 things you can do to improve reading skills using Accelerated Reader. Attendees will learn how to match students to the right books, reduce paperwork, and lead every student to reading success.

• 601: Advanced Reading Renaissance

Tuesday and Wednesday, August 8-9, 2006 – 8:00-3:00 p.m.

Go in-depth with advanced techniques for maximizing student reading growth! You'll learn how to diagnose and solve student reading problems, create effective Power Lessons that make more time for reading practice, and build fluency with a revolutionary peer-tutoring technique.

• 601b: Advanced Diagnosis and Intervention

Thursday, August 10, 2006 – Morning – 8:00-11:30 a.m.

This half-day workshop will teach you to put best practices into place and identify and solve student reading problems quickly and effectively. You'll practice your troubleshooting skills and share solutions through activities and case studies and learn strategies for effective Renaissance implementation.

• 520a: Accelerated Vocabulary

Thursday, August 10, 2006 – Afternoon – 12:30-4:00 p.m.

This half-day workshop will show you how to increase your students' vocabulary through specified readings accompanied by vocabulary word lists, which help students to learn new words as they read. Students are quizzed on their newly gained knowledge, which reinforces the learning process while expanding their vocabulary. Quiz reports then give teacher and students valuable information on whether vocabulary goals are being met, and direction in determining the next instructional step for each individual student.

• 910: Math Renaissance

Friday, August 11, 2006 – 8:00-3:00 p.m.

Learn the 10 most important things you can do to improve math skills using Accelerated Math. This one-day seminar teaches proven ways to motivate students, diagnose and solve student math difficulties, and manage your Accelerated Math classroom effectively.

School Renaissance Seminars Registration Form — Registration Deadline is June 30, 2006

Please check all the seminars that apply:

- 501: Introduction to Reading Renaissance® August 7, 2006
\$135.00 per person (Includes Refreshments and Lunch)
- 601: Advanced Reading Renaissance® August 8-9, 2006
\$300.00 per person (Includes Refreshments and Lunch)
- 601b: Advanced Diagnosis and Intervention®-am August 10, 2006
\$75.00 per person (Includes Refreshments)
- 520a: Accelerated Vocabulary®-pm August 10, 2006
\$75.00 per person (Includes Refreshments)
- 910: Math Renaissance® August 11, 2006
\$135.00 per person (Includes Refreshments and Lunch)

Method of Payment:

- ☐ Check made payable to SW/WC Service Coop.
☐ Bill My District

Please mail registration form to:

Denise Hoek
SW/WC Service Cooperatives
1420 East College Drive
Marshall MN 56258

or Fax to: (507)537-6985

The SW/WC Service Cooperatives, in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), are dedicated to making conference activities accessible to all persons. If you need any type of accommodations to participate in the conference, please contact Denise Hoek at (507) 537-2264 by June 30, 2006.

Name: _____ School District: _____

Subject and Grade Level you teach: _____

If you currently have Accelerated Reading or Math, do you have the Desktop or the Renaissance Place version? _____

For Accelerated Math, do you use a scanner? _____

Address: _____ City/State/Zip Code: _____

Phone: _____ Summer Phone: _____ Fax: _____

Email Address: (Work)(Home) _____

Renaissance progress monitoring tools qualify for federal funding and meet the requirements of



Senior High Knowledge Bowl™ students learn skills desired by Fortune 500 companies

By Sue Gorecki

Skills desired by Fortune 500 companies (in order of importance): (1) teamwork, (2) problem solving, (3) interpersonal skills, (4) oral communication, and (5) listening. What academic challenge targets these skills? Knowledge Bowl!

Knowledge Bowl is an academic competition that involves answering questions on a wide variety of topics as quickly as possible. Teams race against each other to be the first to "buzz in" and answer the question correctly, resulting in a very intense competition.



Sub-Regional Competitions

Four sub-regional events were held to accommodate the 134 registered teams from 40 school districts in southwest and west central Minnesota. The dates of each sub-regional event and the top three winning teams are listed below:

March 10: 1st – Glencoe-Silver Lake #1, 2nd – BOLD, 3rd – Glencoe-Silver Lake #4

March 14: 1st – Lac qui Parle Valley #1, 2nd – Hutchinson #1, 3rd – Montevideo #1

March 15: 1st – Windom #1, 2nd – Marshall #2, 3rd – Jackson County Central #1

March 16: 1st – Redwood Valley #1, 2nd – RTR #1, 3rd – Redwood Valley #2

Regional Competitions

The regional event for Region 6 was held on March 17 with the top 24 teams from the two sub-regional events competing against each other. The top three teams that advanced to the state competition were: 1st – New London-Spicer #1, 2nd – BOLD, and 3rd – Canby #1.

The regional event for Region 8 was held on April 3 with 45 teams competing. The top five teams that advanced to the state competition were: 1st – Redwood Valley #1, 2nd – Windom #1, 3rd – Redwood Valley #, 4th – Murray County Central #1, and 5th – Redwood Valley #3.

Congratulations and good luck to the eight teams that will advance to the state competition.

State Competition

The top forty-eight teams, out of nearly 800 across the state, competed at the Minnesota Service Cooperatives' State Knowledge Bowl™ Competition at Brainerd on April 25-26. Participating teams were divided into two tiers, based on school size. Tuesday night, after a welcome banquet at Cragun's resort, the teams completed their written round of sixty questions. After the written round, the teams of five students were ranked in order of score, to begin their five oral rounds on Wednesday morning. Each oral round consisted of 45 questions, with only four students participating on a team for each round. All questions are random subject matter, including questions on geometry, current events, ancient history, literature, various fields of science, grammar, American history, the arts, and Minnesota history.

In the oral rounds, speed is of the essence, as computerized equipment will designate who hit their answer strip first. At the end of each oral round, the scores are tallied, and power ranked again, so the top teams compete against each other. The top six teams in each tier received awards. The meet ended with an awards



Regional Reg 6 – 1st - New London-Spicer



Regional Reg 6 – 2nd - BOLD



Regional Reg 6 – 3rd - Canby



Regional Reg 8 – 1st - Redwood Area

**More Photos & Story
Continued On Page 8.**

Knowledge Bowl continued

ceremony. Winners for each tier were: "A" – St. John's Prep and "AA" – St. Anthony.

All the schools from our area, with the exception of New London-Spicer, competed in the "A" Division. The results for our schools are listed below:

"AA" Division

New London-Spicer – 14th place

"A" Division

BOLD – 10th place

Canby – 11th place

Murray County Central – 19th place

Redwood Area (3 teams) – 2nd place, 12th place, 13th place

Windom – 8th place

Congratulations to Redwood Area for finishing in second place in the "A" Division! Also, congratulations to the Windom team for receiving the Heritage Spirit Award in the "A" Division! The criteria to receive this award included the qualities and conduct becoming to a champion competitor. This award was given to the team that received the most votes and comments from the readers and judges, as well as other teams. All of our teams that participated in the state competition should feel very good about themselves as they represented our area so well!



Redwood Area Team - 2nd place in the "A" division.



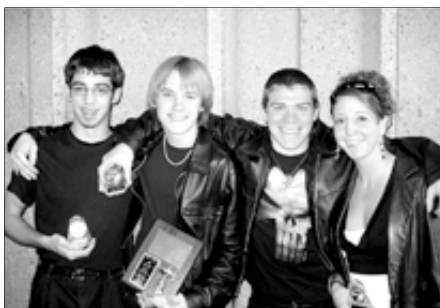
Windom Team - Heritage Spirit Award



Regional Reg 8 – 2nd - Windom



Regional Reg 8 – 3rd - Redwood Area



Regional Reg 8 – 4th - MCC



Regional Reg 8 – 5th - Redwood Area



Awards ceremony held for finalists By Sue Gorecki

Finalists and their families attended the awards ceremony for the 2nd Annual Creative Writing Contest on April 23 at the SMSU Conference Center in Marshall. The contest was open to students in grades 3-12 with the following categories: Fiction, Poetry, and Non-Fiction. Ninety-one students from 17 school districts submitted 145 entries centered on this year's theme – Creating Spaces: Rural Relationships.

Preliminary judging was handled by students from SMSU's Creative Writing Program. The final judges, all published authors, were: Poetry – Marianne Zarzana, Fiction – Anthony Neil Smith, and Non-Fiction – Judy Wilson.

Rebecca Fjelland Davis, author, presented the keynote entitled "Nothing on a Silver Platter". Her message was very inspiring to both students and adults. She encouraged students to notice things around them (people, weather, actions, etc.) and keep a notebook of ideas that come to them.

Award winners and their home addresses are listed below:

POETRY

Grades 3-4

- 1st – Emily Williamson – Boyd
- 2nd – Ashley Abraham – Dawson
- 3rd – Emily Williamson – Boyd

Grades 5-6

- 1st – Sam Beech – Slayton
- 2nd – Crystal Van Iperen – Lake Wilson
- 3rd – Abby Bangasser – Garvin

Grades 7-8

- 1st – Amelia Kraft – Marshall
- 2nd – Shannon Adkins – Willmar
- 3rd – Kolin Konjura – Marshall

Grades 9-10

- 1st – Alethea Roe – Plato
- 2nd – Whitney Henderson – Willmar
- 3rd – Brett Landwehr – Glenwood

Grades 11-12

- 1st – Bethany Kuntz – Atwater
- 2nd – Alyssa Hanson – Grove City
- 3rd – Rosa Erickson – Granite Falls

FICTION

Grades 3-4

- 1st – Saiya Singh – Marshall
- 2nd – Breanna Breberg – Hadley
- 3rd – Heidi Bau – Slayton

Grades 5-6

- 1st – Allison Mulder – Chandler
- 2nd – Mary Beth Brungardt – Marshall
- 3rd – Sarah Werbowksi – Hutchinson

Grades 7-8

- 1st – Jessica Kruse – Canby
- 2nd – Naomi Aydele – Marshall
- 3rd – Catherine Reynolds – Marshall

Grades 9-10

- 1st – Kaylyn Kruse – Canby
- 2nd – Tara Zeinstra – Marshall

NON-FICTION

Grades 7-8

- 1st – Kati Rabaey – Marshall
- 2nd – Lexy Gleis – Lake Wilson
- 3rd – Ryan Wreede – Litchfield

Grades 9-10

- 1st – Whitney Henderson – Willmar
- 2nd – Whitney Henderson – Willmar
- 3rd – Christina Weiberg – Willmar

Grades 11-12

- 1st – John Andert – Slayton
- 2nd – Bethany Kuntz – Atwater
- 3rd – Erica Guerts – Paynesville



*John Andert, Slayton and
Bethany Kuntz - Atwater*

During the awards ceremony, finalists were recognized for their writing as follows:

- \$2,000 scholarship to attend Southwest Minnesota State University for the top junior/senior place finisher in each writing category
- Gift certificates for the top place finisher in each category for the 3rd/4th, 5th/6th, 7th/8th, and 9th/10th grade levels
- Gold, silver and bronze medals for the top three place finishers from each grade level in each writing category
- Copy of the anthology for the top three place finishers in each category by grade level, which includes their work
- Certificates of participation for all students

After the presentation of awards, a reception was sponsored by the English Club at SMSU.

Plan to participate in next year's Creative Writing Contest. The theme is Creating Spaces: Rural Environment. Check out our website: www.swsc.org for additional information on the theme. The submission deadline is February 20, 2007.

Canby High Students Create Public Service Announcements

Twenty students in grades 9-12 from the Canby High School participated in the first annual Public Service Announcement Challenge held on April 20, 2006 at the Southwest/West Central Service Cooperatives Office in Marshall.

A theatre atmosphere was created in the conference rooms at the SW/WC Service Cooperatives, and eight teams presented their 60-second public service announcement video on the topic "Attentive Driving". The videos were judged by five Southwest Minnesota State University Communications Students who are majoring in Television and/or Radio Broadcasting, Marketing and Communications. A "Judge's Choice Award" was given to the team who



Canby High School students and instructor Sara Hemish at SMSU's Television Studio.



Learning about the equipment at the KKCK Radio Station in Marshall.



Students got to experience being on BOTH sides of the television camera at the SMSU studio.

in the opinion of the judges, best accomplished the purpose and intent of the public service announcement. In addition to showing their videos, students also had to go before the group and do a brief introduction of their video and responded to questions afterwards.

Also as a part of the day, the Canby High School students and their instructor, Sara Hemish, toured the KKCK Radio Station in Marshall and the Southwest Minnesota State University Radio and Television Broadcasting and Communications program.

Students who attended the event were for the most part, novice video producers. The activity gave them the opportunity to learn more about video production and all the components that comprise creating a 60-second public service announcement. In some cases students indicated they may continue to create videos and may even explore this area as a possible career for themselves.



Winners of the Judge's Choice Award - Allie Kraus, Sydney Hintz & Nicole Nordquist, along with the SMSU student judges.

Special Kids Learn Valuable Lessons!

By: Jill Rohman, Tammy Stahl and Sharyce Baartman

Canby second grade teacher, Dona Kubat has incorporated disability awareness into her classroom curriculum. Mrs. Kubat says she has a special interest in disabilities because of her family's involvement in the Special Olympics. Her hope is that by involving her students in awareness activities, they will have increased understanding, empathy and acceptance of persons with disabilities.



Second grade student using a communication device to give directions to his classmates.

can be heard, "all kids are different and it's their differences that make them special!"

Congress designated October as National Disability Awareness Month; however, Mrs. Kubat has not stopped there. Teaching her students that all kids are special is a year round endeavor with lessons learned that will last a lifetime.

In her classroom, each student experiences first hand what various disabilities feel like by participating in simulation activities such as wearing vision goggles, using ear plugs, and spending an entire day in a wheelchair. The students also enjoy reading stories about a variety of disabilities, and listening to guest speakers. She also teaches her students the importance of putting the person before the disability and looking at what the person can do.

What makes kids special? Second grade students at Canby elementary school can answer that. Their responses may vary slightly but a common theme



Second grade students at Canby Elementary participate in activities while blindfolded.

Here's to the kids who are different,
The kids who don't always get A's,
The Kids who have ears, not at all like their peers,
Or have noises that go on for days.
Here's to the kids who are different,
The kids who are just out of step,
The kids they all tease, who have cuts on their knees,
And whose sneakers are constantly wet.
Here's to the kids who are different,
The kids with a mischievous streak,
For when they are grown, as history has shown,
It's their difference that makes them unique.

- by Digby Wolf

"We can create our own characters and write our own script, if properly taught. In a very real sense...human being create themselves and school can be stage on which children work through the plot, rehearse their roles, learn the cues, create social functions, try out their 'ideal selves' for size, play hero parts which demonstrate their capability for greatness."

Jerry Starratt Expert School Leadership

Ready, Set ... COOK!

Over 200 Students Competed and Attended Seminars at the 2nd Annual Culinary Skills Challenge

On March 30, 2006, students in grades 9-12 from seventeen high schools in southwestern Minnesota attended the 2nd annual Culinary Skills Challenge held at Southwest Minnesota State University (SMSU). Areas of competition included:

- Cooking
- Cake Decorating
- Garnishing
- Napkin Folding/Place Setting
- Menu Design

Michael Cheng, Associate Professor of Hospitality Management Program and the Director of the new Culinology Program at Southwest Minnesota State University, served as the host for this year's competition, which is funded in part by the SW Minnesota Carl Perkins/Tech Prep Projects at the SW/WC Service Cooperatives. Turkey Valley Farms of Marshall donated the product for this year's featured entrée, Italian meatloaf made with ground turkey for the cooking portion of the competitions. Dan Gallegos and David Macfarlane, along with other Chefs from the Schwan Food Company of Marshall designed several of the competitions and judged students' performance, as well as staff from SMSU, the restaurant industry, and other volunteers.

M. Lenny Pippin, CEO of the Schwan Food Company, was on hand in the morning to welcome the students, in addition to Dr. David Danahar, President of Southwest Minnesota State University.

Along with the competitions, approximately twenty seminars were attended by students and FACS teachers throughout the day on topics such as: food science, food safety, nutrition, dining etiquette, cake decorating, use of herbs in cooking, bread making, omelet cooking, job seeking skills, and other culinary-related topics. Restaurant owners, chemists, food scientists, educators, executive chefs, registered dietitians, and job counselors, were among the many presenters. The Broiler and Egg Association of Minnesota sponsored Howard Helmer, Guinness Book Record-Holder and World's Fastest Omelet Maker who has been featured at national events and television shows such as The Oprah Winfrey Show and the Today Show. Howard provided an entertaining and interactive session where students cooked their own omelets while also learning the nutritional value of eggs.

Students received individual awards for their performance in the competitions, certificates of participation, as well as an overall award/traveling plaque for the high school with most students placing in the various events.

Next year's Culinary Skills Challenge is planned for March 29, 2007 at SMSU in Marshall. Watch www.lifetimeoflearning.com for updates as the event is planned.



*Casey McCoy Minneota HS
earned 1st Place in Garnishing*



The Cooking Competition was Intense!



*Worthington HS
won the
Overall Award
for the second year!*



Cakes created by Students



tion was Intense!



Cooking Omelets with Howard Helmer

Culinary Skills Challenge

March 30, 2006

Competition Results

Cake Decorating

- 1st Place Shannon Cumisky
Worthington
- 2nd Place Katherine Newhouse
Pipestone
- 3rd Place Felicia Wisniewski
Minneota

Cooking

- 1st Place Josh Peterson
Lake Benton - Gerrit Slegers
- 2nd Place Melinda Osland
Mariah Osland
Westbrook/Walnut Grove
- 3rd Place Josh Boomgaarden
Fulda - Bruce Beeck

Garnishing

- 1st Place Casey McCoy
Minneota
- 2nd Place LeAnne Anker
Edgerton
- 3rd Place Kaitlyn Wahldick
Cedar Mountain

Menu Design

- 1st Place Pheng Khounin
Worthington
- 2nd Place Eric Marten
Worthington
- 3rd Place Natali Serna
Worthington

Napkin Folding/Place Setting

- 1st Place Andrea Kopischke
Cedar Mountain
- 2nd Place Sonja Miller
Pipestone
- 3rd Place Elizabeth Winsel
Pipestone

Overall Traveling Plaque 2006 Winner:

(school with most place-finisners)
Worthington High School

Self-Determination: Empowering Students with Disabilities to Control Their Own Destinies

Self-Determination is what life is all about. Without it, you might be alive, but you wouldn't be living — you would just be existing.”

- Michael Kennedy, 1996

In the early 1990's, the Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEA) began mandating increased student involvement in transition planning. Since then, the promotion of self-determination for students with disabilities has been recognized as best practice for educators. Research supports this showing that students who have self-determination skills also have increased odds of being successful in making the transition to adulthood, including employment and independence.

Field and colleagues (1996) defined self-determination as a combination of skills, knowledge, and beliefs that enable a person to engage in goal-directed, self-regulated, autonomous behavior. Furthermore, it's an understanding of one's strengths and limitations together with a belief in oneself as capable and effective. Several essential component skills believed to contribute to the development of self-determination include: choice making, decision making, problem solving, goal setting and attainment skills, independence, risk taking, safety skills, self-observation, evaluation, reinforcement skills, self-instruction, self-advocacy and leadership, internal locus of control, positive attributions of efficacy and outcome expectancy, self-awareness and self-knowledge. Ultimately, self-determination means that people with disabilities will be in control of their own lives.

Promoting Self-Determination in Youth with Disabilities: Tips for Families and Professionals

Promote Choice Making

- Identify strengths, interests, and learning styles;
- Provide choices about clothing, social activities, family events, and methods of learning new information;
- Hold high expectations for youth;
- Teach youth about their disability;
- Involve children and youth in self-determination/self advocacy; opportunities in school, home, and community;
- Prepare children and youth for school meetings;
- Speak directly to children and youth;
- Involve children and youth in educational, medical, and family decisions;
- Allow for mistakes and natural consequences;
- Listen often to children and youth.

Encourage Exploration of Possibilities

- Promote exploration of the world every day;
- Use personal, tactile, visual, and auditory methods for exploration;
- Identify young adult mentors with similar disabilities;
- Talk about future jobs, hobbies, and family lifestyles;
- Develop personal collages/scrap books based on interests and goals;
- Involve children and youth in service learning (4H, AmeriCorps, local volunteering).

Promote Reasonable Risk Taking

- Make choice maps listing risks, benefits, and consequences of choice;
- Build safety nets through family members, friends, schools, and others;
- Develop skills in problem solving;
- Develop skills in evaluating consequences.

Encourage Problem Solving

- Teach problem solving skills;
- Allow ownership of challenges and problems;
- Accept problems as part of healthy development;
- Hold family meetings to identify problems at home and in the community;
- Hold class meetings to identify problems in school;
- Allow children and youth to develop a list of self-identified consequences.

*Tips taken from article: Self-Determination: Supporting Successful Transition,
By Christine D. Bremer, Mera Kachgal, and Kris Schoeller*

Promote Self Advocacy

- Encourage communication and self-representation;
- Praise all efforts of assertiveness and problem solving;
- Develop opportunities at home and in school for self-advocacy;
- Provide opportunities for leadership roles at home and in school;
- Encourage self-advocates to speak in class;
- Teach about appropriate accommodation needs;
- Practice ways to disclose disability and accommodation needs;
- Create opportunities to speak about the disability in school, home, church, business and community.

Facilitate Development of Self-Esteem

- Create a sense of belonging within schools and communities;
- Provide experiences for children and youth to use their talents;
- Provide opportunities to youth for contributing to their families, schools, and communities;
- Provide opportunities for individuality and independence;
- Identify caring adult mentors at home, school, church, or in the community;
- Model a sense of self-esteem and self-confidence.

Develop Goal Setting and Planning

- Teach children and youth family values, priorities, and goals;
- Make posters that reflect values and are age-appropriate;
- Define what a goal is and demonstrate the steps to reach a goal;
- Make a road map to mark the short-term identifiers as they work toward a goal;
- Support children and youth in developing values and goals;
- Discuss family history and culture--make a family tree;
- Be flexible in supporting youth to reach their goals; some days they may need much motivation and help; other days they may want to try alone.

Help Youth Understand Their Disabilities

- Develop a process that is directed by youth for self-identity: Who are you? What do you want? What are your challenges and barriers? What supports do you need?
- Direct children and youth to write an autobiography;
- Talk about the youth's disability;
- Talk about the youth's abilities;
- Involve children and youth in their IEP;
- Use good learning style inventories and transition assessments;
- Identify and utilize support systems for all people.

Southwest Minnesota Technical Skills Challenge Held at Pipestone

Over 80 persons attended the fourth annual Southwest Minnesota Technical Skills Challenge that was held on April 5, 2006 at the Minnesota West Community & Technical College campus in Pipestone. Students in grades 9-12 from ten different schools throughout SW MN participated in the following technical competition areas:

- Accounting
- Carpentry
- Computer Troubleshooting
- Cosmetology
- Digital Photography
- Graphic Design
- Web Page Development

Students competed as individuals and teams, depending on the competition. Instructors from post secondary training programs at Minnesota West and industry professionals developed the challenges for each competition, and post secondary students, teachers and industry representatives were involved in the judging process.

Competition activities included such things as:

- Doing a 90-minute makeover to prepare an individual for a professional job interview
- constructing a utility stool from design specifications
- creating and displaying a suite of digital photos on a required topic
- troubleshooting a computer hardware and software problem and fixing it within a required time limit
- utilizing a variety of graphic design tools to create marketing materials for a business

Award medals were given to 1st, 2nd and 3rd place finishers within each competition area. This event was organized by the SW MN Carl Perkins/Tech Prep Consortium at the SW/WC Service Cooperatives in Marshall.



Digital Photography Award Winners and Todd Finlo (competition designer) of Prairielight Photography in Tyler.

SW MN Technical Skills Challenge April 5, 2006 – Competition Results

Accounting

1st Place . . . Jessica Sik Canby HS
2nd Place . . . Corey Lanoue Tracy Area HS
3rd Place . . . Rachel Gervais Tracy Area HS

Carpentry

1st Place . . . Adam Schultze Jackson County Central HS
2nd Place . . . Andrew Brick Jackson County Central HS
3rd Place . . . Aaron Oldenburg Jackson County Central HS

Computer Troubleshooting

(team event, some chose to compete by themselves)

1st Place . . . Todd Stogdill Murray County Central HS
2nd Place . . . Vincent Henningsgaard Canby HS
Colby Citrowske
3rd Place . . . Michael Liesenfeld Pipestone Area HS

Cosmetology (2-person team event)

1st Place . . . Amber Schreier Murray County Central HS
Ashley Schreier
2nd Place . . . Jackie Bruss Tracy Area HS
Elizabeth Raymond
3rd Place . . . Erin Spartz Murray County Central HS
Annette Magnus

Digital Photography

1st Place . . . Kyle Liesenfeld Comfrey HS
2nd Place . . . Cynthia Acevedo Edgerton HS
3rd Place . . . Marcus Uithoven Edgerton HS

Graphic Design (2-3 person team event)

1st Place . . . Kim Xaisongkham Luverne HS
Rajanee Phommaracksa
Soukky Phommaracksa
2nd Place . . . Ian Anderson Murray County Central HS
Mike Garcia
Nick Wettschreck
3rd Place . . . Sara Christensen Murray County Central HS
Michelle Ellefson

Web Page Development – Demonstration Project

Recognition for Participation John Davis - Comfrey HS



Luverne HS Graphic Design Team earned 1st Place Honors



MN West Carpentry Students judged the Carpentry Competition Projects

*"What sculpture is to a block of marble,
education is to an human soul."*
Joseph Addison

There's a whole new world out there

Day camp for the deaf and hard of hearing lets kids forget about their disability and focus on fun.

By Cindy Votruba, Marshall Independent, Redwood Falls
Newspaper article from 2-24-06/Marshall Independent

Murray County Central Elementary sixth-grader Clinton Wynia had a big smile on his face as he watched a demonstration of Microsoft Student 2006. With the program, students can watch sumo wrestlers in action, match up states and capital cities on a virtual map or see the late President John F. Kennedy give a speech.

Deaf and hard of hearing students from several school districts, including Marshall, Tracy, Echo and Murray County Central, attended, "A World of Access, a Walk on Technology Drive" on Thursday, a day camp at Redwood Falls Community Center put on by the Southwest West Central Service Cooperatives.

Jill Rohman, a consultant for Deaf/Hard of Hearing Regions 6 & 8 of Southwest West Central Service Cooperatives, said the event is a real eye opener for the kids.

"A lot of these kids aren't aware there are other students out there with hearing loss," Rohman said, and "events like Thursday's give the children a chance to socialize and be with kids like themselves." The kids spent 30 minutes in eight different stations, learning about the wide array of technology available just for them.

Dan Stores, Transition Coordinator for SW/WC showed the kids several pieces of computer software, including Microsoft Student 2006. Kids got to try out some low-technology gadgets such as pencil grippers, Talking Symbols, the All Turn-It Spinner and the Joke Master.

Wynia, his mother, Sara Lee Wynia, and his friend, Tracy Elementary School sixth-grader Elizabeth Shelton were trying out some of the tools. One was a color overlay, which asked students which color they liked better when reading or looking at print. Sara Lee Wynia asked Shelton which color she preferred, blue or green. "I liked the blue better," Shelton said.

Kids played with cell phones and text messaging, tried out DynaVox communications cards and learned how to prepare themselves in case of an emergency.

Rich Diedrichsen of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing staff, told the students about assistive listening devices. "Don't suffer through anything," Diedrichsen said. "There is so much technology out there."

In another room, students wrote advocacy letters to their local movie theaters, asking for captioning to be used in movies. Rohman led the advocacy letters activity, asking the children how they feel when they try and watch a movie in the theater.

Tracy Elementary School fourth-grader Megan Richardson said it's quiet if she takes her hearing aids out. "I can hear a little bit, but sometimes I can't understand (the words)," Richardson said.

There are several ways movie theaters can accommodate children and adults with hearing problems, Rohman said. One was having captioning right on the screen, another was getting a headset to listen to the movie and a third way was for the kid or adult to have their own caption machine. "What is this letter for? We want..." Rohman began. "Captioning," answered Richardson. Rohman said SW/WC does about two to three socialization events during the year for the students, such as a tour of the Lake Benton Heritage Center and a day of bowling. "We usually do a spring picnic," Rohman said.

Bruce Drackley, a deaf and hard of hearing teacher with the Service Cooperatives in Pipestone, said it's the socialization that makes the day fun for the kids. "They get with others with similar disabilities," Drackley said, "and experiencing the new technology that's starting to blossom." "I liked the cell phone thing because you got to sent text messages," Richardson said. Shelton said she enjoyed working with the computer software. "The schools were very supportive of this," Drackley said.

Submitted by: Dan Stores Assistive Technology/Transition Coordinator SW/WC Service Cooperatives



Students learn to write and illustrate at conference

By Sue Gorecki

Approximately 700 participants from 27 area school districts arrived at SMSU in Marshall on May 16 for the 14th Annual Conference for Young Writers. The day started with the keynote speaker, Bob Kann, storyteller and magician from Madison, Wisconsin. Kann led a fun and fast-paced session as he showed kids how to tap their "subconscious" creativity. Through improvisational storytelling, young writers discovered their abilities to come up with ideas for new stories and they learned strategies for confronting writer's block.

In addition to the keynote presentation, students attended three hands-on classes on a variety of topics related to writing. Participants were able to:

- write a humor column
- create characters out of nothing
- use their senses to brainstorm descriptive words
- start with nothing (except an idea) and end with something great
- create cool characters for a story
- learn the art of storytelling
- put stories to music
- illustrate a story
- learn ways to recognize, use, and increase creative moments
- write about uncommon sports
- write science fiction and fantasy
- write news stories

Presenters are Carole Achterhof, Rebecca Fjelland Davis, Terri DeGezelle, Jim Fletcher, Bob Gasch, Heidi Grosch, Warren Hanson, Gary Harbo, Bob Kann, Linda Back McKay, Sue Morton, Jerry Ostensoe, Jim Postier, Patrick Ryan, Guy Stewart, Kathryn Sullivan, Lori Tews, and Dana Yost.

Schools sending 20 or more participants included: Montevideo – 76, New London-Spicer – 50, Lester Prairie – 47, KMS – 46, Tracy – 43, Luverne – 37, Renville County West – 34, BBE – 31, Adrian – 30, St. Mary's-Sleepy Eye – 28, and Worthington – 23. The schools traveling the longest distances were Lester Prairie with 115 miles and Belgrade-Brooklyn-Erosa with 100 miles. Those students got on the bus and left really early in order to be in Marshall for registration at 8:30!

Each school district handles registrations for student conferences differently. Some districts pay registration fees, provide chaperones and transportation while others provide chaperones and transportation and parents pay the registration fee. Some schools access funds from PTA/PTO organizations or local civic groups to cover costs. Some schools select students to attend, some run contests with winners attending, and some let anyone that is interested attend.

Dates for Conferences

Mark your calendar!



Conference for Young Artists
October 17, 2006



Science & Nature Conference
January 9, 2007



Conference For Young Writers
May 15, 2007

Watch for more information later!

Entrepreneurship Conference planned for October 2006

On Monday, October 16, 2006 the Southwest Minnesota Workforce Council, Central Minnesota Workforce Investment Board, Center of Rural Entrepreneurship (CORE), SW/WC Service Cooperatives, and Southwest Minnesota State University are partnering to host "Nurturing Entrepreneurship: The key to economic and workforce development." The conference will be held at the Southwest Minnesota State University Conference Center from 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

The morning keynote will feature Jason Ryan Dorsey, an electrifying, nationally acclaimed speaker who has appeared on NBC's Today Show and ABC's The View, and has been featured three times in the Chicken Soup for the Soul series. A best selling author and award winning entrepreneur at 25 years old, Jason has delivered over 1,500 messages to audiences worldwide.

Barbara Winter, the Luncheon Keynote Speaker, has a passion for entrepreneurship that is inspiring and contagious. Through national and international seminars, her two books, Making a Living Without a Job and Jumpstart Your Entrepreneurial Spirit, her Winning Ways newsletter, and numerous magazine and online articles, Barbara shares inspiration and information with small business owners.

If two internationally acclaimed keynote speakers aren't enough, there will also be a variety of informational breakout sessions throughout the day; the Southwest Minnesota Business of the Year, Entrepreneur of the Year and Youth Entrepreneur of the Year Awards will be presented; and numerous exhibitor booths will be available. This conference is designed for students and adults interested in learning about starting and running a business, educators that teach business and free enterprise, and agency staff involved in economic and workforce development. Mark the date on your calendar now for this exciting conference. If you want to receive registration materials, and Business and Entrepreneur of the Year nomination forms email Andrea Mills at amills@ngwmail.des.state.mn.us.

SMART Kids Play to Learn

By Robin Carlson, Adaptive Physical Education,
Jackson County Central Riverside Elementary

Children at Jackson County Central School district are crawling, spinning, tumbling, swinging across monkey bars, creeping, walking on balance beams, creeping across word mats – generally having fun – in a way that aims to improve brain connections and eye-hand coordination. As a result, children will be better prepared to learn reading, writing and arithmetic. Jackson County Central uses the SMART curriculum in K, 1st and 2nd grades, ECSE, DAPE, and Special Education every day for 20-30 minutes.

It is called SMART – Stimulating Maturity through Accelerated Readiness Training. SMART was developed by Dr. Lyelle Palmer, a professor in the Department of Special Education at Winona State University. It is a multi-sensory approach to learning, designed to develop and enhance the physiological and neurological readiness skills children need to succeed in school. The curriculum generally consist of activities for developing and/or enhancing children's large and fine muscle skills, visual perception and eye-hand coordination. Once these readiness skills are in place, children have the necessary tools to be able to learn to read. If children do not develop these skills, chances are good that they will struggle in the classroom, become increasingly frustrated and fail in school. The SMART curriculum is designed to help each child progress at her or his own rate and to enrich and enhance the child's abilities in a positive and "play-like" atmosphere. This curriculum is based on years of research and experience that can help all children reach their highest potential. The core of the SMART curriculum is frequency, intensity and duration to incorporate maximum learning. Movement anchors thought. The curriculum is provided by taking workshops through the Minnesota Learning Resource Center in Minneapolis, MN and its fame is growing worldwide and used by school nationwide.



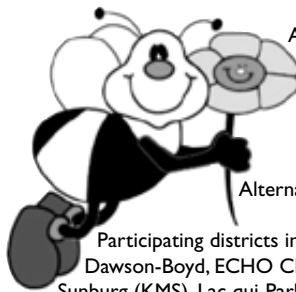
Top spellers from area schools compete at Regional Spelling Bee

By Sue Gorecki

Forty spellers from area schools (grades 5-8) competed in the Regional Spelling Bee on February 21 in Marshall. The SW/WC Service Cooperatives coordinated the Regional Spelling Bee that consisted of three components: written test, preliminary oral rounds, and spell down. The written test and preliminary oral rounds were held during the morning. The written tests were corrected with the score added to the number of correct words from the preliminary oral rounds. The top seventeen students participated in the afternoon spelldown.



Regional Spelling Bee Winners



After fourteen rounds, the following students were declared winners at the Regional Spelling Bee.

- 1st – Brian Bonnema, Central Minnesota Christian School (grade 5)
- 2nd – Honna Brown, ACGC Public School (grade 8)
- 3rd – Michael Schnaser, Lester Prairie Public School (grade 7)
- 4th – Alex Mischke, Westbrook-Walnut Grove Public School (grade 7)
- 5th – Mitch LaRock, RTR Public School (grade 8)
- Alternate – Cassie Gilland, Renville County West Public School (grade 6)

Participating districts included: Adrian, Atwater/Cosmos/Grove City (ACGC), Benson, Canby, Central Minnesota Christian, Dawson-Boyd, ECHO Charter, Ellsworth, Glencoe-Silver Lake, Holy Redeemer, Holy Trinity, Hutchinson, Kerkhoven-Murdock-Sunburg (KMS), Lac qui Parle Valley, Lester Prairie, Lynd, Marshall, Maynard/Clara City/Raymond (MACCRAY), McLeod West, Minnesota, Montevideo, Murray County Central, New London-Spicer, Ortonville, Redwood Area, Renville County West, Russell-Tyler-Ruthton (RTR), Wabasso, Westbrook-Walnut Grove, Willmar, and Yellow Medicine East (YME).

Speller survives 19 rounds to advance to nationals

By Sue Gorecki

Forum Communications sponsored the Multi-Regional State Spelling Bee on March 28 in St. Cloud and will send the top speller of this Bee to the 79th Annual Scripps National Spelling Bee on May 31 - June 1, 2006. This is the nation's largest and longest-running educational promotion with 275 national finalists competing in the upcoming event.

Additional sponsors of the Multi-Regional State Spelling Bee include the Minnesota Timberwolves and the following Service Cooperatives that also hosted Regional Spelling Bees: Northeast Service Cooperative – Mt. Iron, Northwest Service Cooperative – Thief River Falls, Lakes Country Service Cooperative – Fergus Falls, Resource Training & Solutions – St. Cloud, Southwest/West Central Service Cooperatives – Marshall, and Southeast Service Cooperative – Rochester.

Twenty-five students in grades five through eight who were winners at their Regional Bees competed in the Multi-Regional State Spelling Bee that lasted for 19 rounds and used 128 words.

Fiona Malone (grade 6) of **St. Cloud** was the 1st place winner after correctly spelling *grazioso*. She won a trip to Washington, D.C. to compete in the 79th Annual Scripps National Spelling Bee and received a 1st place trophy, Webster's' Third New International Dictionary, and \$100 Series EE Savings Bond as the champion. Additional winners: 2nd place: **Naren Hazareesingh** (grade 8) from **Duluth Marshall School**, and 3rd place: **Katie Monroe** (grade 8) from **Morris Public School**.

The participating students from the SW/WC Service Cooperatives placed as follows:

- Mitch LaRock (grade 8), RTR and Michael Schnaser (grade 7) from Lester Prairie tied for 4th place
- Brian Bonnema (grade 5), Central Minnesota Christian tied for 8th place
- Cassie Gilland (alternate - grade 6), Renville County West (*competed in place of Honna Brown from ACGC who was ill*) tied for 9th place
- Alex Mischke (grade 7), Westbrook-Walnut Grove also tied for 9th place

Minnesota will be sending three additional students to the 2006 Scripps National Spelling Bee. The South Central Region, Staples Region, and the Metro area will also each send a winner to the national competition.





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 - Tell us what you need for your procurement process and we'll do our best to make it happen!



NEW! Nasco Science - Most items in the Nasco Science catalog are

discounted 20%. Item numbers beginning with "Z" are discounted 5%. Xenopus frogs and live material coupon cards are excluded from this agreement. All orders will be shipped directly to you. Freight is free on most orders greater than \$50. Live material shipments totaling less than \$50 are subject to a \$5 handling charge. A \$20 hazardous service charge will be added to all chemicals listed in the catalog with a diamond insignia. Any KM chemical shipment totaling less than \$15 is subject to a \$3.50 handling charge.



NEW! Nasco Phy Ed - More information to come!

Paper Catalog - Discounted paper pricing available. Orders must be placed by May 26th. Contact Deb for more information or if you need a catalog!



Minneota delegates who went to the state Student Council convention: left to right: Evan Dyce, Cody Jerzak, Megan Kack, Erin Josephson, Jordan Differding, and advisor Steve Bergeson.

Minnesota Association of Student Council Convention

The 2006 Minnesota Association Of Student Council state convention was held at Sauk Rapids-Rice High School, March 25 - 27. Megan Kack, Minneota Senior won the Ardis Kyker Award. This is the top award given to a student council member in the State of Minnesota. Megan won because of her outstanding leadership, scholarship, achievements in school, and community service.

Minneota delegates who went to the state convention: were Evan Dyce, Cody Jerzak, Megan Kack, Erin Josephson, Jordan Differding, and advisor Steve Bergeson.

Minneota Student Council was recognized as one of four top student councils in the state for 2006. They were given this award because of all of the activities that they provide for their school and community service projects.

Jordan Differding, senior, won the Student Council Officer of The Year Award. Only four of these awards are given to the top local student council officers in the state.

Steve Bergeson, Minneota HS Principal & Student Council Advisor, won one of ten Student Council Advisor of the Year awards.

All in all this was a very good year for Minneota High School & Student Council to go up against the best in the state and receive all of these honors.



Restricted Driver's License for Visually Impaired Students

A driver's license is a rite of passage for teenagers. For a visually impaired student, who is unable to pass the standard vision test, the loss of future mobility and independence is a major lifetime disappointment. This is especially true for students in rural areas. However, for those with mild to moderate visual impairment a restricted driver's license is available.

The standard eye examination for all drivers requires a corrected visual acuity of no worse than 20/40 in the better eye and a full visual field of 180 degrees. The restricted license requires a corrected visual acuity in the better eye between 20/50 and 20/100 and at least 105 degrees of visual field. You must be eighteen years of age and take the road test with a specially qualified examiner.

The restrictions on driving include: daylight operation only, no travel beyond fifty miles from home, and no travel on higher speed limit roads such as interstate highways. More specific information on restricted driver's licenses can be obtained from the medical section of the driver's evaluation unit of DVS at 651-296-2025.

Teaching & Learning in SW Minnesota Conference



sponsored by

SW/WC Service Cooperatives

Southwest Minnesota State University

and the schools/school districts that participated in the Steering Committee:

Adrian • Brewster • Canby • Edgerton • Heron Lake-Okabena • Holy Redeemer School

Lakeview • Luverne • Lynd • Minneota • MN West Community and Technical College

Murray County Central • Pipestone • Redwood Area • Round Lake • Russell-Tyler-Ruthton

Springfield • Tracy • Westbrook/Walnut Grove

Wednesday, August 30, 2006

8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Southwest Minnesota State University

Junction of Highways 19 & 23 — Marshall

— Fee: \$50.00/person

— Registration Deadline: June 9th

**Online REGISTRATION at www.swsc.org
May 17th thru June 9th**

Call or email Deecy if you would like more information:

Deecy Jesse - Phone: 507-537-2253

Email: deecy.jesse@swsc.org

Students Learn From Professionals



Children's Author & Illustrator Program

The Children's Author/Illustrator Program was in full swing in area schools from April 24 though May 5. The authors/illustrators of children's books provided students in local elementary schools with information about the process of writing or illustrating books. They discussed how they get ideas, the number of drafts of their story, planning illustrations for a book, etc. Below are reports from some of the first residencies.

Lisa Bullard – Author

By Bev Anderson, RTR Elementary Librarian

We had a wonderful time with Lisa! She had the students choose a character, place, and activity. She then had them talk about what problems the character might encounter at that place doing that activity. After a brainstorming session, she had them write a short story involving these three items with problem solving solutions in their story. The really neat part of her presentation came the next day when several students came back with expansions to their stories requesting to read them to their classmates! The next impressive part came on Tuesday when all of our students went to Brookings to see a play at SDSU. My "group" of boys in my care on the trip kept peppering me with "characters, places and activities," with the request that I make up a story for them. It didn't take long before they were helping me make up the stories as we went along. It was exciting to see how well Lisa had reached their sense of story-telling! She is very personable! Thanks for including her on your list of authors.



Some student comments from Pipestone Area Schools (submitted by Bev Kvamme):

- she was very nice
- liked brainstorming, that she wanted their ideas, students were able to share
- showed process of making a book
- she showed how publishers only use 4 colors by flipping transparencies with different colors on it.
- she shared a secret about a book that was published upside down and she covered it by putting on the book jacket
- student said she thinks she would like to be an author
- she showed lots of things
- got them to use their imagination
- she was really fun, helped them think up ideas
- told them they had to make sure information on the internet was accurate, not just something from some guy



Rick Chrustowski – Author & Illustrator

By Karen Geske, Media Specialist K-4, Marshall

We enjoyed the enthusiasm of Rick Chrustowski during his presentation to the 2nd graders at East Side School and the 4th graders at West Side School in Marshall. He inspired the students to do their best and to keep trying until they're the best they can be. Since Rick's presentation, I've had several students tell me about the writing and illustrating they're working on. It was nice to know he had such a positive impact on our students.

Mike Wohnoutka - Illustrator

By Rick Gossen, Principal, Lincoln HI Elementary

The young Rebels of Lincoln HI Elementary had quite a treat on Wednesday, April 26. Mike Wohnoutka spent the whole day showing them how he illustrates

children's books. Mike explained how his love of creating drawings or pictures developed at a young age. The students enjoyed his childhood stories and his willingness to answer lots of questions! I think he even answered some questions more than once for the kindergarten students! It was a wonderful experience for our students to see a professional illustrator in action. Our students were able to get copies of his work autographed and our media center will soon display one of the many posters he drew during his presentation. Lincoln HI won't soon forget Cowboy Sam, Davey's Blue-Eyed Frog or Mike Wohnoutka.





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