

The Review



SOUTHWEST WEST CENTRAL SERVICE COOPERATIVE

SWWC

Education & Administrative Resources



1420 E. College Drive
Marshall, MN 56258

www.swsc.org

Spring 2017

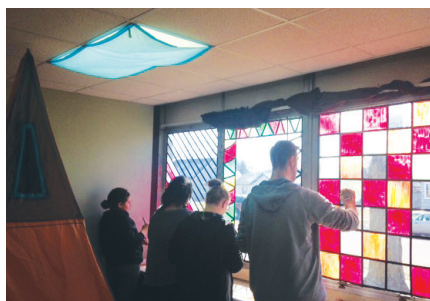
A NEW SENSORY ROOM AT RRR

By Melissa Kuntz, Special Education Teacher, Red Rock Ridge Learning Center
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Through a generous grant from the Remick Foundation, the Red Rock Ridge (RRR) Learning Center in Windom was able to enhance the school's sensory room. The room is available to meet the sensory needs of all students at RRR.

According to the Hidden Angel Foundation, "Multi Sensory Environments improve the development of thought, intelligence and social skills. Multi Sensory Environments offer people with cognitive impairments and other challenging conditions the opportunity to enjoy and control a variety of sensory experiences."

Items for the sensory room were chosen based upon the individual and broad sensory needs of students at RRR. Input from occupational therapist, Aimee Veenker, was very useful in choosing a number of items for the space. Students in the Junior High Setting IV Program researched sensory rooms, designed, and completed projects for the space, including a light table and a variety of sensory stations. Grant money was used to purchase special lighting, scooters, a large crash pad, a punching bag, a two-station sand and water table, and numerous smaller items. New items continue to be added to the space, which is being enjoyed by all.



Update from the Executive Director



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IT'S ALL ABOUT THE KIDS

By Cliff Carmody, Executive Director
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Sometimes, as I work through the daily and weekly grind of my job, I lose sight of the primary purpose for the work we do at SWWC. When I reflect about “why” SWWC exists, I quickly think about service. Serving others, helping our members to do their job better, making good things happen for other people. In my reflection, I am also reminded how important the work we do is for the kids in our region, and how so many of our programs and services make good things happen for kids.

On Sunday, April 23, I attended, and participated in, the SWWC/SMSU Creative Writing Contest Awards Ceremony. Immediately, I thought of the importance of the work we do for so many young people. The awards ceremony recognized students for their creating writing in the areas of fiction, non-fiction and poetry. This is not the first time I have attended, and it will not be the last. However, I was once again pleasantly surprised with the energy, enthusiasm and pride demonstrated by these students for their academic work.

From Moms and Dads to Grandmas and Grandpas, the SMSU Conference Center was beaming with smiles, handshakes and congratulations for the students being recognized! I felt great, and was once again reminded of why I chose a career that includes making a difference in the lives of young people. The partnership SWWC has with the SMSU English Department to organize the creative writing competition and to culminate with an awards ceremony is outstanding.

Thank you to SWWC staff (Andrea Anderson, Laurie Fales, Tom Hoff and Lisa Gregoire), SMSU staff, and SMSU President Gores for an outstanding display of collaboration for an event that is making a difference in the lives of young people!

First Place
Winners



/SWWCSC



@SWWC_SC



/swwcsc



/company/sw-wc-service-cooperative



/swwc_sc

Updates from SWWC Learning Centers

A NEW READING PROGRAM

By Tony Miller, Dean of Students, North Central Learning Center
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The learning centers within SWWC provide high quality programming for students with special needs across our region. The learning centers' emphasis is in teaching and practicing social and emotional learning. The learning centers help students effectively apply the knowledge, attitudes and skills necessary to understand and manage emotions, set and achieve positive goals, feel and show empathy for others, establish and maintain positive relationships, and make responsible decisions. Efforts to increase social, behavioral, and emotional skills with students in our programs are going to also see increased emphasis on targeted literacy strategies and curriculum. In the coming years the learning centers will be adding significant resources and curriculum with help from Benchmark Literacy.

Benchmark Literacy is a K-6 research-proven literacy curricula solution aligned to Minnesota State Standards. Benchmark resources provide assessment-driven instruction that differentiates instruction to meet the needs of the students. Students referred to our learning centers for behavioral programming will have leveled texts and interactive technology designed to increase confidence and student engagement.

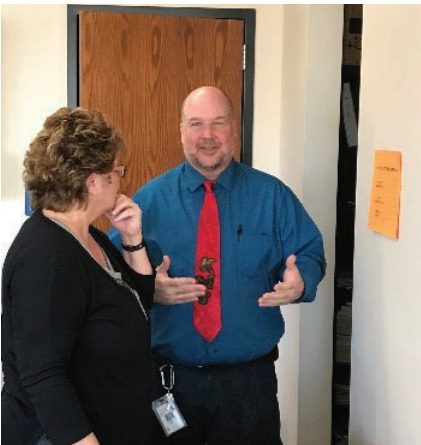
A team of administrators from the SWWC learning centers visited Custom Education Solutions in Champlin (MN) to visit the curriculum showroom. By partnering with experienced curriculum developers, SWWC learning center administrators reviewed the newest literacy resources. The needs of the student populations served and program elements were considered. Professional development to support the teachers and staff at the learning centers is planned for August 2017 and ongoing throughout the 2017-2018 school year. As the SWWC learning centers move toward full implementation, students and families will benefit.



LEARN MORE
ABOUT SWWC'S
ALTERNATIVE
LEARNING
PROGRAMS

www.swsc.org/alternativeprograms

Updates from Teaching & Learning



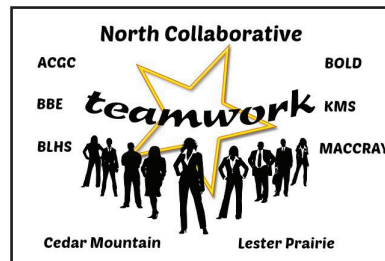
SWWC'S NORTH COLLABORATIVE

By Teresa Hunt, School Improvement Specialist & PBIS Regional Coordinator
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The principals of the North Collaborative became students during a monthly Principal PLC meeting at KMS high school when Sam Nelson, a population health management care center coordinator from Southern Prairie Community Care and current co-facilitator of Mindful Movement from the Moxy Consulting Group, came to visit.

Sam had the principals engaged in mindful movement activities to help their understanding of the topic "Surface, Deep and Transfer Learning" from the book study of "Visible Learning for Literacy" they are currently exploring. She modeled station activities that they could emulate back into the classroom with real students.

It was a real treat to be 'students for a day' and an overall great learning day for the SWWC North Collaborative Principal PLC!



Updates from Teaching & Learning

PBIS COHORT II GRADUATION

By Teresa Hunt, School Improvement Specialist & PBIS Regional Coordinator
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Six Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS) Cohort II schools from the SWWC region participated in their final PBIS certification training on March 22 in Mankato and received their PBIS "Certification of Training Completion" signed by Governor Mark Dayton.

Appleton Elementary/LQPV, BBE Elementary and Middle/High School, Hills Beaver Creek Elementary, and Minneota Elementary and Middle/Senior High public schools participated in PBIS training over a two-year period.

Now the real work can begin for these schools, and it will continue until PBIS becomes part of the school's culture. PBIS is really about doing what is best for kids - teaching expectations and finding ways to recognize the good works students and staff are doing. It's a great way to impact your school's climate.

The PBIS school-wide philosophy strives to find consistent ways to handle behavior while making sure that plenty of students are recognized for positive behavior. "We need to make the positive so loud that the negative becomes almost impossible to hear." (George Couros)

On behalf of the SWWC, I would like to congratulate these schools on a job well started! Good luck in the upcoming school year!



Updates from Student Activities



AUTHOR & ILLUSTRATOR PROGRAM

By Andrea Anderson, Student Activities Coordinator
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Thirteen schools participated in the Children's Author & Illustrator Program - which gave K-6 students an opportunity to engage with real authors. Both Julia Cook and Gordon Fredrickson captured the attention of the students as they told their story and read their books.

Gordon shared stories about life on a farm where he grew up and how he got interested in writing.

Julia talked about her books that related to problems students may face as they are going up.



*Children's Author
&
Illustrator Program*

Both had their own unique way to interact with each groups of students.

SWWC thanks the following schools for participating this year: Comfrey, Edgerton, Ellsworth, Fulda, KMS, Lakeview, MACCRAY East and West, Marshall Holy Redeemer, Marshall Park Side and West Side, Mountain Lake, Pipestone Brown and Hill, Redwood Area, Wabasso and Wabasso St. Anne's.

REGIONAL SPELLING BEE 2017

By Andrea Anderson, Student Activities Coordinator
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Congratulations to the Regional Spelling Bee winning students. Everyone did a great job!

The Regional Spelling Bee was held on February 7 at the Redwood Area Community Center in Redwood Falls. Thirty-two students (fifth-grade through eighth-grade) from 26 different school districts participated. The competition consisted of a written round and three oral rounds. After these scores were tallied, the top 15 students competed in the spell-down to determine who would advance to the Multi-Region State Spelling Bee on February 21 in Fergus Falls.



1st Place: Brenna Springborg – 7th grade – Marshall Holy Redeemer

2nd Place: Jenna Hoffman – 7th grade – Worthington Middle

3rd Place: Dante Damm – 8th grade – Murray County Central

4th Place: Violet Ulferts – 7th grade – ECHO Charter



Updates from Student Activities

THE SCHWAN FOOD COMPANY CULINARY SKILLS CHALLENGE

By Gail Polejewski, Career Development Coordinator

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Pans were sizzling, knives were chopping, and the smell of barbeque filled the air during the annual Schwan Culinary Skills Challenge held at SMSU on March 31. Over 215 high school students from 14 schools participated in the competition. The event, which began in 2005, has evolved into nine student competitions and ten educational breakout sessions.

The nine competitions include: Baking Science, three Cake Decorating categories, Cooking, Food Art, Knife Skills, Menu Design, and Place Setting. Students participating in the Cooking competition compete for scholarships to attend SMSU's Culinology program.

Students who didn't compete participated in ten different educational sessions presented by professional chefs, bakers and food scientists. They toured SMSU's Culinology Department and made ice cream using liquid nitrogen; made truffles with Wilton Hall of Fame Gingerbread master, Steven Stellingwerf; learned how to make BBQ rub with common household ingredients from BBQ Pitmaster, Bill Mulso; decorated rice krispy treats with fondant; learned about food allergens; sampled fried cream cheese balls and bruschetta; and learned how to create recipes of their own from a professional food blogger.

In addition to having one of the world's largest food companies as a sponsor, the event relies on professionals from the food and hospitality industry to keep the competitions and sessions relevant. The advisory committee, judges, and presenters all come from industry and can add to what students learn in their classes to make their lessons more real.



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

GETTING EXCITED ABOUT SCIENCE

By Andrea Anderson, Student Activities Coordinator

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The Science & Nature Conference will be held on May 10 with close to 1,500 student participants and their chaperones attending. The keynote, Getting Excited about Science, will be presented by Steve Belliveau from Illinois (pictured at right). He has appeared on TV, radio, newspapers, PTA, PTO, school and library conventions, zoos, nature centers, STEM events and children's museums. Steve's show includes audience participation, humor, music and more.

The conference boasts 37 different sessions - with topics such as kitchen chemistry, angioplasty, electricity, robots, reptiles, gravity, stars/space, soil and water and so much more. See pictures after the event by going to www.swsc.org/scienceandnature and clicking on Photo Gallery.



Updates from Student Activities



\$2,000 Scholarship Winners

Poetry

Clara Abrahamson, grade 12
Clara City

Nonfiction

Anahi Rodriquez, grade 12
Worthington

School Award

Most Place Finishers
Mountain Lake Christian

Results and pictures can be found at www.swsc.org/cw
(click on Photo Gallery)

CREATIVE WRITING CONTEST

By Andrea Anderson, Student Activities Coordinator
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The Creative Writing Contest gives students in grades 3-12 a chance to express themselves by writing fiction, non-fiction and/or poetry. There is amazing young talent here in Southwest Minnesota!

This year we had 284 entries from 194 students representing 16 school districts. The winners, their families and teachers attended an Award Ceremony on April 23 where students learned what place they won. Awards were given and students also had the opportunity to speak to some of the judges.

James D. Autio, visual artist, educator and poet from the Twin Cities, was the guest speaker. James has been a painter for most of his life and also works in charcoal, wood block prints, traditional Ojibwe arts, mixed media sculpture and digital video. He has also been writing poetry since the early 90s. For the past ten years, James has been teaching in kindergarten, first grade and second grade classrooms.

Congratulations to all who participated in this year's contest!

3rd Place - Poetry		3rd Place - Fiction		3rd Place - Nonfiction	
▶ Ana Wambeke	3-4	▶ Sam Petersen	3-4	▶ not offered	3-4
▶ Marshall		▶ Mountain Lake			
▶ Kiera Lafferty	5-6	▶ Georgia Rabaey	5-6	▶ Nina Hendrickson	5-6
▶ Comfrey		▶ Marshall		▶ Kimball	
▶ Tessa Gannott	7-8	▶ Shelby Hauser	7-8	▶ none	7-8
▶ Marshall		▶ Marshall			
▶ Savannah Dobrenski	9-10	▶ Kylie Klassen	9-10	▶ none	9-10
▶ Marshall		▶ Windom			
▶ Rachel Sajban	11-12	▶ none	11-12	▶ Danica Dick	11-12
▶ Windom				▶ Mountain Lake	
2nd Place - Poetry		2nd Place - Fiction		2nd Place - Nonfiction	
▶ Keegan Dennis	3-4	▶ Mazzi Moore	3-4	▶ not offered	3-4
▶ Hutchinson		▶ Hills			
▶ Tanner Graphenteen	5-6	▶ Lydia Depuydt	5-6	▶ Derek Kluis	5-6
▶ Hadley		▶ Spicer		▶ Chandler	
▶ Whitney Wordes	7-8	▶ Kate Janzen	7-8	▶ Molly Fischer	7-8
▶ Renville		▶ Mountain Lake		▶ Litchfield	
▶ Brynn Cherveney	9-10	▶ Regan James	9-10	▶ none	9-10
▶ Granite Falls		▶ Mountain Lake			
▶ Isaiah Streblow	11-12	▶ none	11-12	▶ Thalia Gonzalez	11-12
▶ Granite Falls				▶ Worthington	
1st Place Winners - \$20 gift certificate to Barnes & Noble					
1st Place - Poetry		1st Place - Fiction		1st Place - Nonfiction	
▶ Brenna Wordes	3-4	▶ Ethan Schroeder	3-4	▶ not offered	3-4
▶ Renville		▶ Mountain Lake			
▶ Madeleine Lamb	5-6	▶ Anna DeHaan	5-6	▶ Tanner Graphenteen	5-6
▶ Ortonville		▶ New London		▶ Hadley	
▶ Whitney Wordes	7-8	▶ Clara Holm	7-8	▶ Casey Swanson	7-8
▶ Renville		▶ Willmar		▶ Lynd	
▶ Savannah Dobrenski	9-10	▶ Summer Janzen	9-10	▶ none	9-10
▶ Marshall		▶ Mountain Lake			
▶ Clara Abrahamson	11-12	▶ none	11-12	▶ Anahi Rodriquez	11-12
▶ Clara City				▶ Worthington	

Updates from School Districts

ADRIAN ELEMENTARY JOINS FIRST LEGO LEAGUE JUNIOR

By Russ Lofthus, Elementary Principal

"It's fun. I like the programming," eagerly shares Adrian third-grader Garrett Penning. He is talking about the enthusiasm he and his classmates share about participating in First Lego League (FLL) Junior. In late 2016, Adrian Elementary was awarded a three-year grant from FLL to purchase 12 Lego WeDo Robotics Kits, Chromebooks and individual engineering notebooks. Monica Horn, third grade teacher and 4-H FLL coach, found the grant opportunity. She states, "I am amazed at what students learn. It goes far beyond just programming."

Twice a week, third and fourth grade students gather in their teams of 5-6 students during their technology/media center time. Sherrilyn Klaassen, media specialist, guides them through the process. They started by learning FLL's Core Values including Gracious Professionalism, which means being respectful, helpful and kind to others. Next they researched the challenge for the year - Honey Bees and Their Habitats. Through research, students learned why honeybees are dying and what changes can be made to help protect them. The next step was creating a habitat out of Legos and choosing one part of their habitat to move by programming motors. The last step was using what they learned to make a poster and share it with others.

The students' energy is contagious. Sherrilyn says, "The students are soaking it up. They love it and are enjoying learning as they go." Adrian Elementary School looks forward to next year's challenge and the learning it will bring!



SETTING SCHOOL HISTORY AT RED ROCK CENTRAL

By Phil Goetstouwers, 5-12 Principal

The Red Rock Central Boys' Basketball Team won the Red Rock Conference with a perfect (16-0) record and finished the season with a (24-3) mark; most wins in school history.

The team had three All-Conference players selected: Trevor Pederson, Luke Engen and Brady Rasmussen. Selected for Honorable Mention was Taylor Bunting and Sam Hansen. The team finished the year ranked #9 in the final State Class A polls. The team gave the fans a lot to cheer about this season and look forward to defending the Conference Crown next year.



Updates from School Districts



FOOD FOR KIDZ AT MARSHALL MIDDLE SCHOOL

By Mary Kay Thomas, Middle School Principal

On Friday, February 17, Marshall Middle School participated in this year's meal packing event as a result of their fund-raising for the year for the organization. For the past eight years, Marshall Middle School has partnered with the Marshall Sunrise Rotary Club to carry out this service learning project. The students and staff at Marshall Middle School work the entire year to raise money to help offset the cost of the ingredients needed to make the dry meal mixes. This year, nearly \$3,000 was raised through book sales, hot cocoa sales, a staff coffee bar, a chance to throw whipped cream pies at teachers, and through traditional donations.

During the four hour packing event, Marshall Middle School students were able to package approximately 93,500 individual meals. Meals included a rice and bean meal and a cinnamon oatmeal breakfast meal packet. Over 400 cases of the rice and bean meals were delivered to Liberia, and 27 cases of the oatmeal meals were delivered locally to The Kitchen Table Food Shelf.

Every year for the past eight years, Marshall Middle School has partnered in the Food For Kidz program with the Marshall Sunrise Rotary Club.

Demonstrating a commitment to this program and service learning projects that help to support the Food For Kidz organization, students and staff have orchestrated hundreds of fund-raising events and activities over the years. These fund-raising efforts have included many different projects including ice-cream socials, litter pick-ups, yardwork, craft creations and sales, coffee sales, garage sales within the building, delivery services, etc. Over the eight year period, Marshall Middle School has contributed over \$30,000 to this organization and packaged approximately 800,000 meals for the hungry. Contributions have been made locally, nationally, and world-wide.



SHARE YOUR GOOD NEWS!

The Review is published three times a year. We welcome submissions from schools, so if you have good news to share, send it to us!

If you have suggestions, comments or items for submission, contact Shelly Maes at shelly.maes@swsc.org.

Updates from School Districts

ACADEMIC TIGERS SUPPORTING STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

By Brian-Paco Bertrand-Cyr, Beth Roelfsema, Emily Kern & Paula Curry

Academic Support at Marshall Middle School is a distinctive program. It identifies and works with students who are slightly above or below the proficiency level of standardized testing. Through a process involving teachers, counselors and administration, students are selected as part of a cohort in the Academic Support program. Each grade (5-8) has a cohort of students with an Academic Support staff member that is appointed to work with this group of approximately 20 students throughout their middle school years. By following a cohort grade-to-grade, academic support staff and students build strong social-emotional connections that help to maintain and increase student performance.

Academic Support cohorts meet for a 30-minute enrichment block each day. Students are exposed to reteach opportunities, study skills, goal setting, and learning activities in a small group setting. In addition, staff follow students through the day to their core classes. Academic support staff gain firsthand experience of what is required and expected in the classroom. They assist classroom teachers in an effort to provide consistency of instruction to their students. By observing and interacting with students in the classroom, the learning needs and conceptual struggles of cohort students can be identified and addressed. Academic support also offers after-school programming to students with additional time to complete daily work, engage in group activities, and collaborate with peers.

Basically, the focus of the program is to improve academic growth and student independence. Academic Support also builds student connections, which promote a positive educational experience. The program is about building relationships and guiding students to academic achievement.



Academic Support Staff at Marshall Middle School (left to right): Paula Curry, Beth Roelfsema, Emily Kern & Brian-Paco Bertrand-Cyr



Congratulations State Senior High Knowledge Bowl Winners!

SWWC
Education & Administrative Services



**Glencoe-Silver Lake
STATE CHAMPS!**



**Adrian
Heritage Spirit Award**

View all Knowledge Bowl Winners
(junior high and senior high)
at www.swsc.org/KB

Student-Run Businesses at SWWC Learning Centers

Two of our alternative learning programs have student-run businesses. The students take great pride in their work! If you are looking for a unique gift ... or are in need of items for a group event, contact them!

Glassy Treasures at the Red Rock Ridge Learning Center

Glassy Treasures creates exquisite bottles and glassware. They have many on display at the Red Rock Ridge Learning Center in Windom that can be purchased ... and they also take custom orders. The students can do etching or vinyl designs on the glassware. Contact them at 507-831-6935.



Madelia Saddle Club - 1st Place Awards



NEW Product - Bath Salts!

Lavender, Peppermint & Vanilla Bean

1/2 pint - \$10 1 pint - \$12

Refill Bag (quart-size) - \$10 (upon request)

Bel-Youth Press at the Belview Learning Center

Students at Bel-Youth Press create items with their screen press. They can create t-shirts for your next event or gathering ... as well as special items such as mugs or totebags. Contact them at 507-938-4111.

