

The Review

Fall 2013
WWW.SWSC.ORG

WEM Outstanding Educator Award Winners

By Shelly Maes, Manager of Member Services, shelly.maes@swsc.org

The SW/WC region of Minnesota was very well represented among the WEM Outstanding Educator Awards this year! Two area teachers won a statewide award--an honor accompanied by a \$15,000 award. A total of 6 statewide awards were given at an awards brunch ceremony on October 19, 2013.



Marty Brandl, a teacher at Marshall Public Schools, was a recipient of a 2013 WEM Outstanding Educator Award for Teacher Achievement. Brandl was honored for outstanding accomplishments and contributions to student learning. He was one of two recipients of the WEM Foundation's statewide Teacher Achievement Award, which recognizes exemplary teachers who support, inspire and assist students to attain greater learning as evidenced by student achievement. Brandl, who has been teaching for 10 years, currently teaches mathematics at Marshall High School. His use of technology is well known by his students, colleagues, school and region. Outside the classroom, Brandl demonstrates technology to a wide audience from summer sessions for elementary students on game design and photo editing to YouTube videos that have inspired community members to study for a GED. He also created and maintains websites for two amateur baseball leagues and his local church.

Amanda Meyer, a teacher at Springfield Public Schools, was a recipient of a 2013 WEM Outstanding Educator Award as an Academic Challenge Coach. Meyer was

honored for outstanding accomplishments and contributions to student learning. She was one of two recipients of the WEM Foundation's statewide Academic Challenge Coach Award, which recognizes teachers who are exemplary coaches of student teams that participate and compete in academic challenges endorsed by the Minnesota Academic League. Meyer has been teaching and coaching for 10 years. She currently teaches biology, ecology and anatomy and coaches Envirothon, Junior FIRST LEGO League (FLL), Knowledge Bowl, Science Bowl and Youth Energy Summit (YES).



From the Desk of the Executive Director

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



What if

What if we didn't worry about the standardized tests?

What if we only worried about teaching and learning? What if we only focused on student learning and not on standardized tests; is it possible that if we spent more time focused on student learning that our assessment results would take care of themselves?

What if we designed a school where the primary focus was on the kids? A school that was mostly concerned about the student experience; as opposed to, a school whose primary focus was on the adults, the content, and the tests? A school where the primary emphasis is not on what we teach, but on what kids learn!

What if we treated teachers as partners in the process of teaching and learning? Is it possible "education reform" would become a more collaborative dialogue between teachers, administrators, school boards, and communities?

What if we looked at the challenges facing us today with an "abundance mentality" versus a "scarcity mentality"? By abundance we



mean a frame of mind that together we are bigger, better, stronger...we should share ideas, share learning, share resources. What if we embraced "thinking in terms of abundance"?



A colleague and friend told me recently, "the longer I am around and the more experience I have; I have come to realize the more questions I have than answers!" What if we....

G.R.O.W. at SW/WC Service Cooperative

G.R.O.W. -- Giving Recognition for Outstanding Work

The SW/WC SC recently started a new program to recognize our employees for their outstanding work throughout the year. Our employees can be nominated by co-workers, supervisors, and our members.

The G.R.O.W. submission form can be found on the SW/WC Service Cooperative website at: www.swsc.org/grow

Visit our website to read more and to nominate a SW/WC SC staff member for the great work they are doing!



From the Division of Risk Management

Wellness Institute Incentives Program

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

In 2011-2012, ten school districts piloted a new wellness incentives program. The program was designed to incentivize employees for participation in wellness programs by offering either discounted health insurance premiums or a contribution into a VEBA or HSA account. During the 2012-2013

school year, this program was expanded to any group in the School Pool that was interested in participating. We finished the year with 47% participation. Groups will again be participating in biometric screenings and the health assessment in March of 2014, with an option to pilot an outcome based hybrid program. Please contact Kari if you have any questions.

Health Cost Management Program

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

The Annual Fall Health Conference was held on Thursday, September 19th with nearly 100 attendees. The Health Conference was open to all groups



in the health insurance pool. Worksite Wellness Consultant Kris Vogel presented attendees on health being a T.E.A.M. effort, sharing sample policies for healthy changes

in the workplace. Reesa Haris, Consultant for Summit Health, presented on healthy weight management. Attendees had an opportunity to network with other Wellness Coordinators to share wellness programming ideas, and also learned more about the Health Cost Management Program and Online Care Anywhere. Thank you to all who participated in this event!



Online Care Anywhere

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

Online Care Anywhere is a convenient, online health care service brought to you by Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota. With Online Care Anywhere, you get access to U.S. board-certified doctors who are licensed to practice in states where Online Care Anywhere is available. Use Online Care Anywhere to talk to a doctor using video or secure text chat. No emails, no surveys, no waiting — you'll have a live conversation with a real doctor. Online Care Anywhere's U.S. board-certified doctors can answer your questions, diagnose your condition, and prescribe medications. It's easy to

use, confidential, and costs just \$45 per visit. You do not have to be a Blue Cross member to use the service, but Online Care Anywhere visits are now covered for BCBS of Minnesota members. You can enter your health plan information when you register. Groups are now able to receive a grant for ancillary products to set up an Online Care Anywhere Virtual Worksite Clinic in their district. For more information, please contact Kari.



From the Division of Special Education

Alternative Programs Update

By Tish Rops, Administrator of Alternative Programs, tish.rops@swsc.org

The alternative programs through the SW/WC SC have grown and expanded their scope in the past two years. We have added a new site in Willmar, and we have a new site and program at the Avera Marshall Regional Medical Center. Sites in Belview, Cosmos, Pipestone, and Windom are still in operation as well. Each site has their own unique building and number of programs, but the program types are consistent within the Service Cooperative. The alternative programs include the following:

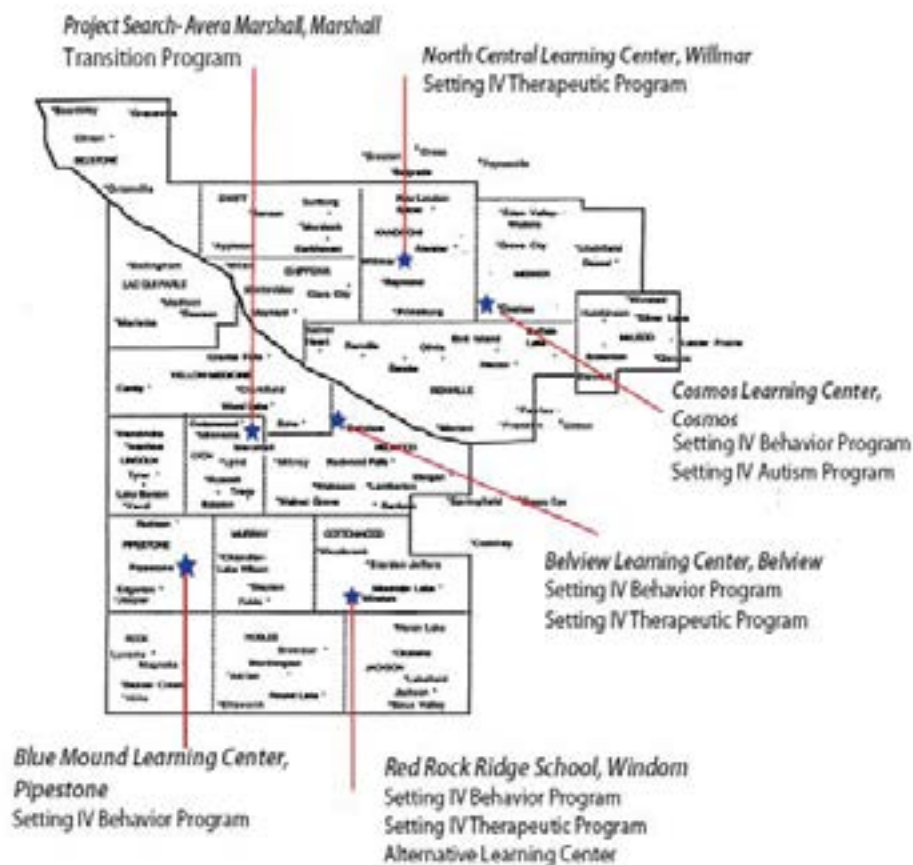
Transition Program: Project SEARCH is for students transitioning from high school to community employment during the school year. Students must be on an IEP and be 18 years of age. Students participate in three internship opportunities as well as classroom instruction. Staffing for this program includes a job coach, program instructor, and department heads from the Avera Marshall staff. The Project SEARCH school is located at the Avera Marshall Regional Medical Center.

Setting IV Therapeutic Programs: These programs are designed to meet the needs of students who are experiencing mental health problems and are currently receiving special education services. Students spend about half of the school day in educational classes and the other half receiving mental health services. These programs are located at the following sites: Belview Learning Center-Belview, North Central Learning Center-Willmar, and Red Rock Ridge Learning Center-Windom.

Setting IV Behavior Programs: These programs are designed to meet the needs of students in special education who are unable to remain in their home districts due to behaviors. Students receive instruction in social skills and positive behavior choices in addition to their academic classes. These programs are located at the following sites: Belview Learning Center-Belview, Blue Mound Learning Center-Pipestone, and Red Rock Ridge Learning Center-Windom.

Setting IV Autism Program: This program is designed to meet the needs of special education students with severe disabilities and a diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Disorder. Many of the students have minimal to no verbal skills. Behavior and communication skills are the main focus of the program. This program is located at the Cosmos Learning Center-Cosmos.

Alternative Learning Center (ALC): This program is designed to meet the needs of special education and general education students who meet one or more of the twelve eligibility areas according to Minnesota statute. The ALC offers core curriculum courses as well as elective classes. These students can graduate with a diploma from their home district. This program is located at Red Rock Ridge Learning Center-Windom.



Infant Hearing Screening

By Ed VanderHeiden
Audiologist
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Approximately 6 of every 1,000 babies have a significant hearing problem at birth. More than 4,000 babies are born with hearing loss each year. Babies are not able to tell you they have hearing loss and the first year of life is critical to the development of normal speech and language.

Most states (including MN) require newborn hearing screening testing. If your infant has had a hearing screening and is unable to do some of the examples listed below, based on their age, schedule a follow-up appointment with an audiologist to have their hearing checked again.

Hearing loss in infants is a hidden disability, and it is important to pay attention to their development and get their hearing tested.

An infant with normal hearing should be able to do the following:

Around 2 months: startles to loud sounds, quiets to familiar voices, makes vowel sounds like "ohh".

Around 4 months: looks for sound sources, starts babbling, makes squeals and chuckles.

Around 6 months: turns head toward loud sounds, begins to imitate speech sounds, babbles sounds like "ba-ba".

Around 9 months: imitates speech sounds of others, understands "no-no" or "bye-bye", turns head toward soft sounds.

Around 12 months: correctly uses "ma-ma" or "da-da", gives toy when asked, responds to singing or music.

Contact us for more information on hearing tests.

SOURCE: AMERICAN ACADEMY OF AUDIOLOGY

Glencoe-Silver Lake Senior Privilege

By Paul Sparby, HS Principal

One of the privileges we offer to the senior class is the opportunity to paint their very own parking spot at the high school. We pick a Saturday to do the activity, which is available to any senior who wants to participate. Students pay \$5 and after a random draw, the lowest number selects their parking spot first. After all spots are chosen, the students paint it however they like (within reason, of course). Most kids are very creative and design something that depicts their personality. This becomes their personal parking spot for their entire senior year. We typically have about half of the senior class participating.



Hearing Loss in Children

By Ed VanderHeiden, Audiologist, ed.vanderheiden@swsc.org

Approximately 12% of all children, ages 6-19, have noise-induced hearing loss! Noise-induced hearing loss is permanent and almost always preventable! Hearing loss can happen at any age. A growing number of teens and younger children are damaging their hearing by prolonged exposure to loud noise.

Noise-induced hearing loss is caused by damage to the hair cells that are found in our inner ear. Hair cells are small sensory cells that convert the sounds we hear (sound energy) into electrical signals that travel to our brain. Once damaged, our hair cells cannot grow back, causing permanent hearing loss.

To protect your child's hearing, have your child wear the proper hearing protection (earplugs or earmuffs) when in noisy environments (concerts, sporting events, fireworks displays, car races). Hearing protection devices come in a variety of sizes and textures to provide optimum fit. Custom-made earplugs can also be obtained from an audiologist. Teach your child to turn down the volume and to walk away from loud noises.

Noise-induced hearing loss can be caused by prolonged exposure to any loud noise over 85 dB (the loudness of sound is measured in units called decibels (dB)). Listed below are some examples.

60 dB – normal conversation/dishwashers	80 dB – alarm clocks
90 dB – hair dryers, blenders, lawnmowers	100 dB – MP3 players at full volume
110 dB – concerts, car races, sporting events	120 dB – jet planes at take-off
130 dB – ambulance and fire engine sirens	140 dB – gun shots, fireworks, car stereos at full volume

Prevention is the key to healthy hearing!

SOURCE: AMERICAN ACADEMY OF AUDIOLOGY

From the Division of Administrative Services

Technology Integration

By Kara Damm, Technology Integration Specialist
kara.damm@swsc.org

Technology Integration, when done properly, can really engage your class! Technology Integration should be a seamless part of your classroom. I am currently contracted to go to five schools (BOLD, Edgerton, GSL, Lakeview and Pipestone) to assist their teachers with Technology Integration. During my days at districts, I assist 1:1 with teachers or in groups. There are several different areas that I work with teachers: iPad Integration (not just playing games), Teaching with iPads, Apps, SMART Boards, Web 2.0 websites, and much more! It's such a rewarding job when teachers see how technology can make their teaching life easier and engage their students. If you

would like more information on adding Technology Integration Services in your district, please contact Josh Sumption, Manager of IT Services at SW/WC SC. We can also provide Technology Integration trainings at your district. Please contact Kara Damm, Technology Integration Specialist, for more information.



This is IT2 2014 Keynote & Proposals for Presentations Announced

By Josh Sumption, Manager of Information Technology, josh.sumption@swsc.org

Proposals for presentations at **This is IT2 2014** are now being accepted. Visit www.swsc.org/tech-conf2014 for details and the online submission form. Unlike other conferences that require presenters to register and pay for conference fees if they present, we offer all of our presenters complimentary admission to **This is IT2 2014**! Up to two presenters for each conference session will receive complimentary admission to the March 14 conference. Those who present during our Pre-Conference Workshops on March 13 also receive complimentary admission to the March 14 conference!

We are excited to announce our keynote speaker for **This is IT2 2014** will be **Rob Mancabelli**, author of *Personal Learning Networks: Using the Power of Connections to Transform Education*. Rob has spent over a decade developing 21st Century learning environments, is a former school district Technology Director and he writes a column for District Administration magazine. Rob also inspires audiences with insights into 21st Century learning, strategies for engaging stakeholders, and methods for transforming organizations.

Rob's expertise comes from a deep background in ed-

ucation, planning, and leadership. He received his MBA from MIT and earned his international certification as a Project Management Professional (PMP). Rob worked in public and private schools for fifteen years, as a teacher and then technology director, directing dozens of large-scale projects that used technology to improve learning outcomes. He served on the state-level task force for New Jersey High School Redesign, and he was chosen by Apple as one of the first five K-12 content contributors to iTunes University. Rob serves on educational advisory boards for Dell Computer and Acer Corporation.



Office Supplies

Food and kitchen supplies

Copiers

Furniture Vehicles

Tablets and other technology

Buildings and Grounds supplies

Curriculum



Contact Shareen Neumann for more information
shareen.neumann@swsc.org

iPads in Worthington For Staff

By Amy Ernst, Technology Director

This past spring, on April 22, every teacher in Worthington received an iPad. The day kicked off with a celebration and skit put on by some of the staff. As you can see in the picture, some of the cast members may reflect staff in your district: Light



Bulb Boy, Cheerleader, iPad Man, Eager Young Teacher, Agnes, Drama Queen, Student, Old Guy and Ms. Mini iPad. Since the rollout to staff, student in grades 3-8 have also received their devices with over 1,900 in use. Worthington intends to expand their 1-1 initiative in the fall of 2014 with students in grades 9-12 at the high school and the ALC, as well as grades K-2, receiving devices.



...and for Students

By Barry Fischer, Coordinator of Teacher Education

“The Times They Are a-Changin’”, a song nearly fifty years old by Duluth’s native son, Bob Dylan, is as relevant now as it was in 1964. Only now we are talking about education and the change that has been sweeping over the landscape like the wind over Lake Okabena pushing the windsurfers... that change is technology and the 1-1 movement. This year students in grades 3-8 at Worthington Public Schools have received iPads.

In waves, the iPads reached the students one grade at a time. The first building to receive iPads was the middle school. The middle school students received their

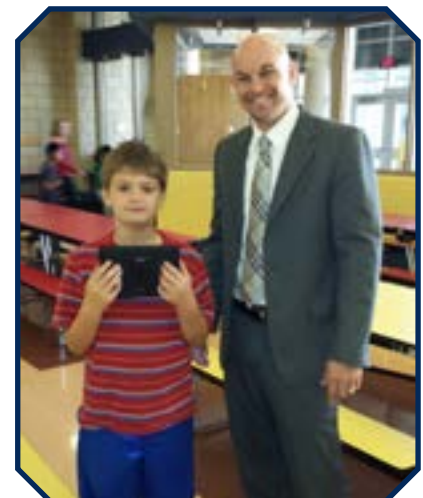
iPads with a brief history of student learning devices presented through a skit with the television show, Survivor. Over in Prairie Elementary, the students learned the do’s and don’ts through a riveting game of Family/Teacher Feud.

Now that the celebration has died down, learning is now the focus not only for the students, but also the teachers. Teachers are learning about tools to both produce and consume, along with collaborate and communicate, on the iPad.

This year will no doubt have a few bumps in the road, but with a mind for change the students of the Worthington School District

are well on their way to meet the future.

Pictured: below Elementary Principal Josh Noble and one of his 4th grade students



WWG Preschool Program Expands

By Paul Olson, Elementary Principal

The Westbrook-Walnut Grove (WWG) Preschool Program has expanded into its second room for our all day preschool program for three, four, and five year olds.

WWG started all day preschool back in 2009. We are now in our fifth year. Our program has seen growing numbers, and with that comes the need for more classroom space to give our “Little Chargers” room to learn and play. Our second room is full of play centers and hands-on activities to help young minds grow and learn.

This extra room has also allowed us to utilize our first room for curriculum purposes. We use a SMART Board, iPads, and a



SMART table to enhance our student learning. These items were all generously donated by the Walnut Grove Alumni Association.



The Cooperative Purchasing Program now offers an exclusive contract with Tierney Brothers for a new educational tablet solution called LearnPad. LearnPad supports a wide range of curriculum resources, including tablet “apps”, websites and flash based eLearning content. LearnPad is an affordable solution that meets classroom needs. **Kara Damm** and **Shareen Neumann** have both been trained on the LearnPad and can help you with professional development around this great new tablet!



Introducing VIBE Online Academy

By Nate Hanson, Alternative Learning Principal, and Andrea Derynck, Extended/Online Learning Manager

Worthington ISD 518 is excited to announce that Virtual Instruction By Excellence (VIBE) has been recently accredited by the Minnesota Department of Education to be a K-12 online school in the state of Minnesota. K-8 students may enroll in the VIBE Online Academy as full-time students. High School (9-12) students may enroll full-time or take supplemental classes. VIBE is a public school using an innovative educational model to provide students with the best education possible. As a school within Worthington ISD 518, but available to all of Minnesota, our unique educational approach allows us to tailor an education that is specific to each learner.

Our mission is to strengthen the promise of education, providing each child an education that unlocks their true inner potential with a range of online education options that solve real challenges for districts, schools, teachers and parents—while enhancing students' ability to advance their 21st century skills. We deliver what is widely recognized as the best K-12 online curriculum and a broad array of professional services. The main focus is to provide a highly effective online learning experience through consistent interaction and a rigorous curriculum. Our online program makes it easy for a parent to become an active participant in their child's public school education. VIBE is designed to accommodate a variety of learning styles and allows students to work at their own pace. Recognizing that online learning is not necessarily for everyone, our staff will work with each family to determine if it is the right choice. Our vision is to provide educational opportunities for all students to gain the knowledge and skills necessary to be productive global citizens and successful lifelong learners, while we capitalize on collaboration that leads to student success in school and the world. For more information visit our website: www.isd518.net/vibe or contact Nate or Andrea.



GSL Community Schools Group Looking Forward to a Great Year

By Chris Sonju, Superintendent

At Glencoe-Silver Lake (GSL), our Community Schools group meets every other month to hear about the great things that are going on at GSL. The group is made up of men and women from the GSL business community, school staff, and students. The goal of the program is to network, communicate, and to bring our businesses into our buildings. The meetings are over lunch, provided by Chartwells, our food service provider, and last for about an hour.



The main focus of our group is the student and adult conversations about careers, futures, and post-secondary learning opportunities. This dialog is a great way for our business community to connect with our students, as we can learn from each other. We then have a short program on a topic of interest that ranges from our ICU program, test scores, student groups, etc. Many times our students present the program. We

include students from all grade levels. We believe our business community can learn a lot from students in high school as well as in elementary school.

Overall, this group has been a huge success. At times, we have close to 80 people attending and it is our hope that attendance continues to grow as the year goes on.



A special thank you goes out to Chartwells Food Service for providing lunch. We also thank our business community and students for taking part in our Community Schools group.

Pictured at left: Secondary Principal Paul Sparby and Assistant 7-12 Principal Dan Svoboda make a presentation to the Community Schools group about the ICU program during a recent meeting.

Pictured above: Lunch is provided by Chartwells Food Service at each Community Schools meeting.

We Are Social...

By Shelly Maes, Manager of Member Services, shelly.maes@swsc.org

...and we want you to join us!

If you are on any of these social channels, please connect with us!



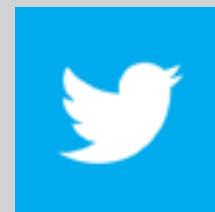
www.youtube.com/SWWCSC



www.pinterest.com/SWWCSC



facebook.com/SWWCSC



[@SWWC_SC](https://twitter.com/SWWC_SC)



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

From the Division of Teaching and Learning



Southern Regional PBIS Update

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

Positive Behavior Interventions and Support (PBIS) began in Minnesota in 2005 with 9 schools from 3 districts. We are currently providing services to cohort 8 and 9 schools. There are 16 schools in cohort 8 and 17 in cohort 9. Cohort 9 schools had their first training session in August. Schools in our region who are part of cohort 9 year include BOLD elementary, middle, and high school, Kennedy Elementary and Roosevelt Elementary in Willmar, and Windom elementary. Currently there are 428 schools across MN that are implementing PBIS. This translates into about 179,000 students who are benefiting from these positive behavior school systems.

The Southern cohort 8 and 9 schools will be getting together again in November and March for additional training. The schools are all working hard to implement a solid foundation so that PBIS systems are successful in the future. The cohort 9 schools are beginning a journey that will take them several years to be fully implemented. Throughout the first year, teams learn about systems that make up PBIS and create consistent schoolwide expectations, reinforcement systems, and plans for discouraging undesired behavior. Much of that first year is used

to build that solid foundation for PBIS. Second year schools (cohort 8) had a PBIS kickoff in the fall. These schools taught expectations and content and are working to find creative ways to reward students for demonstrating positive expectations. The schools are changing their climate and culture in a positive way as a move through the process.

Applications for cohort 9 PBIS schools will be coming out in November. An information session about PBIS is planned in our region on December 4th. The session will give an overview of PBIS and also walk through the application process. For additional information please contact me.



At the 2013 Spring SW/WC SC Inservice, Janet Dirksen received the Senior Fellows Award.

Congratulations Janet!



Pipestone Area Schools Wins MREA Award

By Cory Strasser, HS Principal

The Minnesota Rural Education Association (MREA) released the award winners for their 2013 Profiles of Excellence Award Program. Pipestone Area Schools (PAS) has been selected as an Award of Distinction runner-up for our program, The Transforming Power of ICU. PAS will be recognized at MREA's Annual Conference on November 18th.

The Transforming Power of ICU tells the story of how PAS uses the philosophy of the Power of ICU to end student apathy, complete all assignments and improve teaching and learning. The results of this approach have had a tremendous impact on student learning including the middle school having 100% completion of assignments in 2012-2013 and the district meeting AYP in all areas in 2012-2013.



Willmar Middle School and ICU

By Beckie Simenson, Assistant Principal

Willmar Middle School has implemented a new initiative to eliminate student apathy and reduce the number of missing assignments students have during the school year in order to increase student learning. We value this initiative because when students complete their assignments with high quality they are giving a true depiction of what they have learned.

In order to accomplish the goal of reducing the number of students with missing or incomplete assignments, we are following the philosophies found in the book, *The Power of the ICU*. Danny Hill, co-author of the book, states that “ICU stands for Intensive Care Unit and it implies that a student’s academic situation is “sick” and needs the attention of the school’s staff.” A key component is to create an

ICU list. When a student has missing or incomplete assignments, their teacher will put them on the ICU list. All staff that work with the student has access to the list and work collaboratively to help that student complete their assignments.

Parents/guardians have an important role in this initiative as well. They receive an email/text when their student is on the ICU list. Students are given extra time to attend the ICU Classroom before school (7:15-7:45), during their lunch time, or after school (2:30-3:00).

In the end, the goal is to end student apathy by providing extra time and extra support for our students to complete their assignments with high quality and learn the valuable content. Together we will help our Willmar Middle School students be successful learners!



Businesses Motivated by Career Expo

By Tom Hoff, Career and Technical Project Coordinator, tom.hoff@swsc.org

The Southwest Minnesota Workforce Council showed its commitment to career development in southwest Minnesota by serving as the “Title Sponsor” of the career expo for the second straight year! The expo provides students the opportunity to explore careers through interactive exhibits, receive small group college campus tours, and participate in a fast-paced game show to help them with college and career planning. On September 24th (SMSU) and 25th (Minnesota West-Worthington) the expo set new participation records by serving 1,941 students from 37 high schools. There was also a record number of exhibitors participating in 2013. Including both the Minnesota West–Worthington campus and the Southwest Minnesota State University events, there were a total of 83 interactive exhibitors. Many of the teachers and chaperones that attended thought these were the best expo exhibitors yet. The key to having a popular exhibit that attracts students’ attention is to make sure it is highly interactive. Not only were there many creative and engaging activities, some of the exhibitors also offered financial incentives that could help pay for the student’s college education, if they would agree to work for them upon graduation.



Businesses were asked, in a post-event survey, “What motivates your organization to participate in the career expo?” Their responses revealed several key reasons why businesses support the expo with their time and energy: 1. A desire to show students that there are great careers in southwest Minnesota. 2. The opportunity to feature high demand careers at their company. 3. An effort to raise awareness about their business and what it does. 4. A chance to inform students about internship and employment opportunities. 5. An opportunity to network with college faculty and other businesses.

This event could not occur without the support of the business community. See more pictures on the back page of the Review and at <http://www.swsc.org/page/274>.

Mark Your Calendars for Student Conferences!

Please mark your calendars with the dates and registration deadlines for the remaining conferences for students. Brochures for Young Writers will be sent out in October and brochures for Science & Nature will be



sent out in late February. If your school has participated in the student conferences before, we hope you continue to do so. If you have not participated, we encourage you to try it out.

They are great events and offer a wide range of topics so every student can find classes that interest them. We get groups of all sizes from schools – from just a couple to over 100 participants. Total participation has ranged from 800 – 1400+ per conference through the years. We also have many parents register their child on their own. We appreciate any assistance schools provide in getting the word out to parents! Please consider adding a link to our website on your school website.



22nd Annual



Keynote by: Debra Frasier

Date: Jan. 8, 2014 (Snow Date—Jan. 9)

Grade Level: 3rd— 8th

Early Registration: Nov. 19, 2013

Final Registration: Nov. 26, 2013

20th Annual



Keynote by: Physics Force

Date: May 14, 2014

Grade Level: K— 8th

Early Registration: March 25, 2014

Final Registration: April 1, 2014

Adventures Await at Lincoln HI

By Rebecca Panka, Dean of Students

Lincoln HI in Ivanhoe has taken the concept of an afterschool program up a notch. They have a new afterschool program called Adventure Club. This program is open to all students in grades K-8. Each Adventure Club session has time designated for a socialization game, homework completion, time to work on



goals set through parent/teacher/student collaborations, and an enrichment activity.

The enrichment activities that are planned are ones that will engage each student and give them an opportunity to experience something out of the ordinary and have a true adventure. These activities include many things that can be checked out through the Educational Resources Library (ERL), such as the Star Lab and Engineering Lego kits as well as teacher created projects and science experiments.

Lincoln HI utilizes the resources in the Education Resource Library (ERL).

You can too!

Visit www.swsc.org/erl for more info!



Creative Writing Contest

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

Our 10th Annual Creative Writing Contest is for students in grades 3-12 with the categories of fiction, poetry, and creative non-fiction (grades 5-12). There is an open theme for this year. Students need to follow the general rules and contest guidelines. That information is available in the brochure on our website: www.swsc.org/studentactivities. Click on Creative Writing Contest in left column to bring the page up. The submission deadline is January 17, 2014.

Entries are first screened by SMSU creative writing students using a rubric, with each submission scored by multiple student judges. The entries with the highest scores are submitted to the final judges, faculty in the

SMSU Creative Writing Program. An awards ceremony will be held on Sunday afternoon, April 27, 2014 for finalists, their families and teachers. Awards will be distributed to individual students. In addition, a recognition award will be presented to the school with the most top three place winners.



Student Activity Staff Contact Information

For more information about any of our student activities, including the Creative Writing Contest, Knowledge Bowl, Spelling Bee, Children's Author and Illustrator Program, and our various student conferences, please contact:

Sue Gorecki
Student Activities Coordinator
sue.gorecki@swsc.org
507-537-2258

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

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



Knowledge Bowl News

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

The fall meeting for Jr. and Sr. High Knowledge Bowl coaches was held on September 24 in Marshall. Contact information was updated, program information was shared, and discussions held. It's always an interesting mix of new and experienced coaches so it's a great evening to get information about the Knowledge Bowl program and to network with other coaches from the region.

The spring meeting will be held on May 8, 2014 in Marshall – mark your calendar! Check our website for schedules of sub-regional and regional events, along with a listing of invitationals by region.

JHKB Registration Deadlines

November 12 – Early Bird Registration Deadline

November 19 – Final Registration Deadline

No registrations accepted after final deadline. The registration form is available on our website: www.swsc.org/studentactivities, then click on Jr. High KB page.

SHKB Registration Deadlines

January 27 – Early Bird Registration Deadline

February 3 – Final Registration Deadline

No registrations accepted after final deadline. The registration form is available on our website: www.swsc.org/studentactivities, then click on Sr. High KB page.



Children's Author and Illustrator

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

Brochures for our Children's Author & Illustrator Residency Program were emailed to schools in September. Consider signing up for a half day, full day or multiple day residencies for your elementary school(s). Twenty-one districts and 5,237 students participated in this program last year. For more information about this program, go to our website: www.swsc.org/studentactivities, click on Children's Author & Illustrator page. The brochure is available,

which includes a registration form and residency questionnaire. The early bird deadline is November 5 with the final deadline on November 12.

The presenters from last year were asked back again based on good evaluations! Presenters will be scheduled in different schools from last year, based on geographic location and available dates. Presenters are pictured left to right: Rick Chrus-towski, Nancy Loewen, and Nancy Carlson.



Spelling Bee News

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

Registration is now underway for schools that wish to participate in Spelling Bee. Schools need to register with BOTH Scripps and the SW/WC SC. Schools needed to enroll with Scripps by October 15 in order to avoid a late fee. SW/WC SC's registration deadlines: November 5 – Early Bird Deadline; November 12 – Final Deadline with no registrations accepted after the final deadline. The registration form is available on our website: www.swsc.org/studentactivities, then click on Spelling Bee in the left hand column. We encourage schools that did not participate last year to register for Spelling Bee this year. The Spelling Bee program motivates students to expand their vocabulary, spelling skills and their appreciation of the English language. Last year's program included 4,790 students from 26 districts. They participated at several levels: classroom, grade, school, district, regional, and multi-region state events.

Important Dates

- January 28, 2014 – District Spelling Bees must be completed
- February 11, 2014 – SW/WC SC's Regional Spelling Bee – Redwood Falls (snow date – February 12)
- February 25, 2014 – Minnesota Service Cooperative's Multi-Region State Spelling Bee – Fergus Falls (snow date – February 27)
- May 25-31, 2014 – Scripps National Spelling Bee – Washington, DC



Upcoming Workshops

11/1 MSTP Science Workshop #1
11/5 MSTP Math Workshop #1
11/6 Food Service Networking Meeting
11/7 Business Teachers' Annual Meeting
11/8 DCD Networking Workshop
11/13 Regional Third Party Billing Workshop
11/13 World's Best Workforce Workshop
11/14 SMART Board Level I Workshop
11/15 CPI Refresher Training - Worthington
11/15 Schoology
11/15 ECSE Fall Workshop - Redwood
11/18 CPI ASD Refresher Training - Raymond
11/19 Introduction to Project-Based Learning
11/20 MSBA/ED MN Work Day: Building a Teacher Eval Plan
11/25 iLearn the iPad - Willmar
12/2 Windows 8 in the Classroom
12/4 SW-PBIS Information Workshop
12/5 MSTP Math Workshop #2
12/5 iLearn the iPad - Windom
12/6 MSTP Science Workshop #2
12/10 Technology Coordinator Workshop
1/3 Rick Wormeli Workshop - "Grading & Assessing" - Pipestone
1/10 Google Chromebook
1/13 SMART Board Level 2 Workshop
1/16 iPad for the Administrator
1/17 iPad for the K-6 Classroom
1/24 CK12 eTextbook Creation
1/27 SMART Board Lesson Activity Toolk
1/30 iBooks Author eTextbook Creation
1/30 MSTP Math Workshop #3
1/31 Schoology
1/31 MSTP Science Workshop #3
2/5 Windows 8 in the Classroom
2/6 Technology Coordinator Workshop
2/20 Google Drive

2/21 Moodle
3/11 MSTP Math Workshop #4
3/12 MSTP Science Workshop #4
3/13 Technology Pre-Conference
3/14 Technology Conference
3/19 Superintendent Workshop
4/9 Administrator Forum
4/10 School Business Conference
4/22 Technology Coordinator Workshop
6/4 Administrator Forum
6/17 Technology Coordinator Workshop

Workshops are in Marshall unless otherwise noted.

Register Now!

www.swsc.org/workshops



Scan here to keep current on workshops & meetings!

Check back often! We are always adding new things!



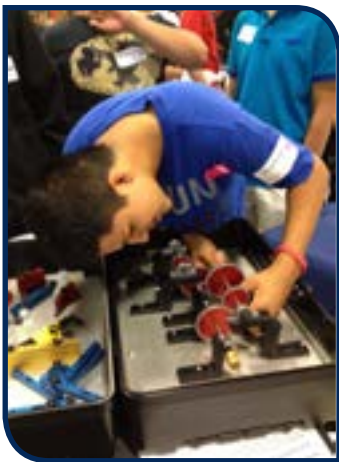
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The Review is published three times per year. If you have suggestions, comments, or items for submission, please contact Shelly Maes at shelly.maes@swsc.org.