



Tracy Student First in State to Earn ProStart National Certificate of Achievement

Chad Cooreman of Tracy Area High School is the first student in Minnesota to obtain national certification in the ProStart Program. Tracy is one of 34 high schools in Minnesota that offer the two-year ProStart curriculum, with 13 of the schools located in southwest Minnesota. The National Certificate of Achievement was earned by passing the national tests for Pro Start Years one and two as well as completing 400 hours of work in the industry. Tami Wee, Family and Consumer Science Instructor at Tracy Area High School, said she is “very proud of Chad, he worked very hard and was always enthusiastic while completing his requirements”. Chad is a 2007 graduate of Tracy Area High School and is currently enrolled as a freshman at Minnesota State University Mankato. He took his portfolio to an interview and was hired at an assisted living facility near the college. Chad competed on the Tracy Area High School Culinary Team at the Minnesota ProStart competition held last March in conjunction with Culinary Skills Challenge at Southwest Minnesota State University in Marshall. "The (ProStart) class is full again this year with all seniors who are ready to work hard and have fun in this new and exciting program," said Tami Wee. Congratulations to both Chad and Tami!



Chad Cooreman



Tami Wee

The ProStart® program, administered by the National Restaurant Association Educational Foundation (NRAEF), provides high school students with an opportunity to explore career options in the restaurant and foodservice industry through academic and work-based learning. The two-year program teaches students the management skills they will need to progress in their education and careers. When students meet academic standards, complete a checklist of competencies, and participate in at least 400 hours of a mentored work experience, they are awarded the ProStart National Certificate of Achievement that signifies they are well qualified to enter the industry workforce. ProStart works with leading college and university restaurant and foodservice management programs across the country to create articulation agreements that provide benefits to students who earn the ProStart National Certificate of Achievement.

These top students have access to scholarship opportunities, college credit and other advantages that can make a college degree more affordable and faster to earn. **More than 60 colleges and universities across the country are offering these scholarship or college-credit benefits to ProStart National Certificate of Achievement students.** The ProStart Collegiate Passport is designed to make students, parents and counselors aware of these opportunities. **For more information on these schools and the benefits they are offering, please visit: www.nraef.org/prostart/students/college/passport.asp**



MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR MARCH 26, 2008

The 2nd Annual MN ProStart Student Invitational will once again be hosted at SMSU in Marshall in conjunction with the 4th Annual Culinary Skills Challenge. Check www.lifetimeoflearning.com for information regarding Culinary Skills Challenge, or contact: Mary Lou Blasing 507-537-2273 Marylou.blasing@swsc.org



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THE REVIEW

SERVING SCHOOLS, COMMUNITIES, AND OTHER AGENCIES

SW/WC SERVICE COOPERATIVE OPENS TRAINING LAB

After many years of planning, the vision of a state-of-the-art technology training lab has come to fruition at the SW/WC Service Cooperative (SW/WC SC) in Marshall. For years, temporary training lab environments were set up on an as-needed basis in the SW/WC SC conference rooms to meet member training needs.

The training lab has 16 student workstations and one trainer workstation. The lab is complete with a high speed internet connection, Microsoft Windows XP and Vista, as well as Microsoft Office 2003 and 2007.



SW/WC Service Cooperative Training Lab

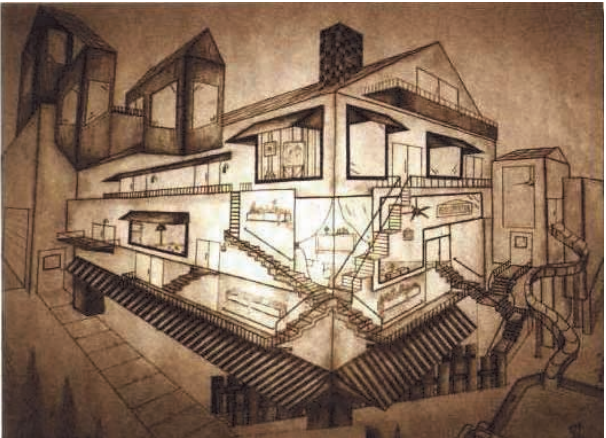
The lab has a SMART Board as well as Interactive Television capabilities. Users of the facility will have the ability to use this interactive setting in conferences with MDE and other organizations throughout the world that utilize ITV. In general, the creation of the lab allows the SW/WC SC to provide a higher level and a wider range of training opportunities for both its members and its employees, all with the goal of increasing the abilities and effectiveness of everyone.

The SW/WC SC Training Lab will be home to a wide array of trainings. The Regional Management Information Center within the SW/WC SC will conduct training in both finance and human resource related areas. The Information Technology Department will utilize the training lab to provide training on the TSIS student information system and the Cognos data warehouse product, as well as many general trainings on computer usage and various software applications. Training in data warehousing will be a big part of services offered through the Information Technology Department and the School Improvement and Curriculum/Assessment/Instruction Departments. In addition, the Regional Educational Services Department will hold specific training opportunities focused on special education.

For more information on the Training Lab, contact Josh Sumption at josh.sumption@swsc.org or 507-537-2265.



Jordan Vanderpoel, Grade 8,
Pipestone Area School



Bo Johnson, Sr. High
Pipestone Area School



Sr. High Plaster Masks in Pipestone
Area Showcase

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- Annette Miller
Director Of Finance
Ph. 507-537-2244
- Luther Heller
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Program
Red Rock Ridge ALC
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www.swsc.org

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT:

Welcome back to a new school year! It is not very often that we have an opportunity to start with a clean slate, with new begin- nings! However, each fall, for those of us who are in the school business, we have the chance to completely start over with a new year, a new group of kids, a new atti- tude! For all of you who are in the school business, I hope your new year is full of promise, accomplishment, and positive experiences!



The SW/WC Service Cooperative is also embarking on a number of new initiatives this fall! We are in the midst of a complete re-structuring of our risk management programs and services. In a continued effort to provide quality services, the Service Coopera- tive is working through a number of transitional issues around a change in how we administer the risk management programs. This has been a challenging, yet rewarding experience, as we work to continue to improve upon our communications, customer service, and delivery of health insurance programs for our school and city, county, other governmental agency insurance pool members. We are committed to providing quality risk management programs and services now and in the future!

We are in our 2nd year (first full year) of working with our school members on issues around NCLB and adequately yearly progress (AYP). This has, and will continue to be, a focal point around the teaching and learning services and support we provide our school district members. This partnership with the Minnesota Department of Education has proven to be an effective way to provide regional support to our member schools. The SW/WC Service Cooperative hopes to expand on this partnership with MDE and bring more re- gional initiatives to our school districts.

At the October Board of Directors Meeting, the board approved two new board seats representing CCOGA (City, County and Other Governmental Agencies) members. These two new seats will begin terms on January 1, 2008. The process for filling those two posi- tions will be determined in the next month, with information dis- seminated to CCOGA members very soon. This governance deci- sion is directly related to our renewed efforts around providing ad- ditional programs and services to our CCOGA members. It is also in response to a number of requests from our CCOGA members who participate in our health insurance pool.

Thank you for your support and membership in our programs and services. Please feel free to contact me with your questions, com- ments, and concerns!

Cliff Carmody
Executive Director

2007-2008 TECHNOLOGY
WORKSHOPS

SAVE THE DATES!!!

Wednesday, October 24, 2007
Wednesday, December 5, 2007
Thursday, March 13, 2008
Tuesday, April 15, 2008

FALL TOPICS WILL INCLUDE:

Statewide Online Testing Updates
Local Area Network Best Practices
Email, Workstation and Network Security

SPRING TOPICS WILL INCLUDE:

Integrating Technology into a 21st Century Classroom
Additional Coverage of Technology Conference “Hot Topics” which will be determined through feed- back from our Technology Conference.

Speaking of the Technology Conference, mark Thursday, February 7, 2008, on your calendar. This will be the date of our 2nd Annual Technology Conference. We hope to see you there!

ONLINE LEARNING

The Service Cooperative will be offering an online Information Literacy class for spring 2008. Fees for the class will be \$350 per student. Check back for online classes next year as we will be greatly expand- ing our online course offerings.

For more information or to enroll, contact:
Courtney Bartelt, Technology Integration Specialist
Ph. 507-537-2259
courtney.bartelt@swsc.org



Amber Schmidt, Senior
Pipestone Area High School

INSIDE
THIS ISSUE

02 Executive
Director’s
Report

3-4 Teaching &
Learning

5-11 Student
Activities

12-13 School News

14 Students &
Money

17 Risk
Management

18-19 Deferred
Maintenance

19-20 Professional
Development

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SW/WC SERVICE COOPERATIVE STAFF LEAD DATA RETREAT IN LITCHFIELD.

BY MEG LITTS, COORDINATOR OF CURRICULUM, ASSESSMENT,
AND INSTRUCTION



Meg Litts, Coordinator of Curriculum, Assessment, and Instruction, and Ellie Helgeson, School Improvement Specialist, both with the SW/WC Service Cooperative in Marshall, recently spent two days in Litchfield working with a school leadership team as they participated in a data retreat.

The data retreat process, led by regional school improvement specialists, engages a school team in the process of examining multiple types of student data—primarily student achievement data, but could also include program, perception, or participation data such as attendance and discipline—to determine strengths and opportunities for growth in district/school programs.

Leadership teams participating in data retreat training learn to manage multiple years' data. Looking at data over a period of time allows the team to identify trends. The team will also drill down to skills/benchmarks to align state standards and local outcomes. From the analysis of the data, school teams will then set goals through action plans for addressing how the school can meet identified student learning needs through data driven decisions.

Data retreats are just one of many programs and services offered by the SW/WC Service Cooperative to school districts in southwest and west central Minnesota.

CONGRATULATIONS TO BBE SCHOOLS!!!

The Belgrade-Brooten-Elrosa Elementary School is one of eight schools in Minnesota to receive a No Child Left Behind Blue Ribbon Award. The U.S Department of Education award honors schools that are academically superior in their states or make dramatic gains in student excellence.



CENTER FOR ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE UPDATE....

WEM Foundation Awards - 2007

Last Spring, a Jackson County Central Middle School teacher, **Laura Bidne**, was one of six educators honored for outstanding accomplishments and contributions to student learning. Bidne, a classroom teacher and academic coach from **Jackson County Central Middle School in Jackson**, was one of two recipients of the WEM Foundation's statewide Academic Coach of the Year Award, which recognized coaches of student teams who participate and compete in academic challenge or enrichment programs endorsed by the Minnesota Academic League Council. The honor is one of six sponsored annually by the WEM Foundation, which provides an unrestricted \$10,000 award to each recipient.

Our southwest and west central region was also home to two honorees in the same category! A classroom teacher from **Glencoe-Silver Lake Public Schools**, **Patrick Hiltner**, was named as a regional honoree in the WEM Foundation's 2007 Outstanding Educators Awards program. Hiltner was honored in the Academic Coach of the Year category. Another teacher, **Lori Galles** from the **Hutchinson School District**, was named as a regional honoree as well, also in the Academic Coach of the Year category. Congratulations to all! The SW/WC Service Cooperative is proud to have such high quality educators in our region!!

Gathering of Champions—2007

The stars were out August 3 at the Mall of America during the 16th Annual Gathering of Champions sponsored by the Center for Academic Excellence (CAE). The recognition ceremony honored students nominated by their educators and MN League Council challenge winners as Academic All-Stars. There were 3,000 students in attendance. From the southwest and west central region of the state, 257 students were nominated for this honor, and 26 students registered to attend the event. Students did not need to be present to receive this recognition. These students represented 5 school districts in our region: **Benson, Cedar Mountain, Murray County Central, and Windom Public Schools**. A huge thank you goes out to these five districts for taking the time to nominate their students!

2008 GATHERING OF CHAMPIONS LOGO CONTEST

Students still have the opportunity to enter the motif contest to determine the logo for the 2008 Gathering of Champions. Student drawings can be mailed or e-mailed to the Center for Academic Excellence (CAE). The contest deadline is November 26, 2007. All entries will be posted to the CAE web site and you can vote for the drawing of your choice! Votes will be received throughout December and the GOC logo contest winner will be announced in January. The winning entry will become the focal point of the 2008 Gathering of Champions - scheduled for Friday, August 1, 2008.

The Gathering of Champions is an annual statewide event honoring students who are named as Academic All-Stars by officials in participating schools. The honored students may include top academic achievers, students who have made a dramatic improvement in their academic work or achievement, and the top finishers in academic challenges and competitions at a regional or higher level endorsed by the state's Academic League Council. *Submit your logo design today, and remember to vote for your favorite design starting in December at: www.mncae.org*

Send entries to:
Center for Academic Excellence
1610 Commerce Drive
North Mankato, MN 56003
or: cae@mncae.org



(Continued from page 19)

Professional Learning Communities II: Using Data to Engage in Professional Dialogue
Thursday, February 14, 2008, 8:30-3:00

This workshop will provide an experiential opportunity to learn facilitation skills and use tools to engage in data-driven professional dialogue that impacts teacher competency and improves learning for all students. Working in learning teams, participants will analyze data and begin to develop strategies for improved student achievement.

Coaching Skills for Educators: Focused Dialogue for Professional Growth
Wednesday, March 26, 2008, 8:30-3:00

Educators who work with individuals or groups of classroom teachers benefit from using a coaching dialogue as part of their day-to-day role. In this workshop participants will learn a variety of coaching tools that promote reflection and action in a focused and professional manner.

Teacher Observation II: Tools and Strategies to Support Higher Levels of Instructional Performance (Suggested Prerequisite: Teacher Observation I)
Friday, March 14, 2008, 8:30-3:30

This workshop builds on the standards-driven process of teacher observation. Analysis of case studies and experiential activities will guide the participants in applying rigor to the observation rubrics. Focus will include examining the dynamic nature of goal-setting and using highly effective questioning techniques to promote professional and student learning. rubrics and how inter-rater reliability impacts teacher observation.

(In)Formative Assessments
Thursday, May 22, 2008, 8:30-3:00

A critical element of the data-driven decision-making process is the use of formative assessment to inform instruction and student learning. This workshop is designed to engage teachers in the use of formative assessments to improve instructional methods and provide student feedback throughout the teaching and learning process.

REGIONAL MANAGEMENT INFORMATION CENTER

The Regional Management Information Center provides finance, human resource, payroll, and student administrative support services to districts and educational cooperatives in Regions 6 and 8.

Luther Heller, Director of Administrative Services Ph. 507-537-2255—luther.heller@swsc.org	Sue Buysse, Payroll/HR Coordinator Ph. 507-537-2276—sue.buysse@swsc.org
Darin Jensen, RMIC Manager Ph. 507-537-2280—darin.jensen@swsc.org	Fran Stassen, Assistant Payroll Coordinator Ph. 507-537-2274—fran.stassen@swsc.org
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Shareen Neumann, UFARS/Shared Accountant Ph. 507-537-2275—shareen.neumann@swsc.org	Denise Hoek, Administrative Assistant Ph. 507-537-2264—denise.hoek@swsc.org

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Mary Lou Blasing, Career Development Coordinator, 507-537-2273 marylou.blasing@swsc.org	Penny Cammack, LI Autism Consultant—507-537-2286 penny.cammack@swsc.org	Laurie Van Watermeulen, P/HD/Tech Prep—Assistive Technology—Carl Perkins Secretary, 507-537-2270 laurie.vanwatermeulen@swsc.org
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Sue Gorecki, Student Activities Coordinator, 507-537-2258 sue.gorecki@swsc.org	Darwin Dyce, LI P/HD Consultant, 507-537-2287 darwin.dyce@swsc.org	Marilyn Labat, Autism/Regional Staff Development Secretary, 507-537-2249 marilyn.labat@swsc.org
Andrea Anderson, Student Activities Assistant, 507-537-2257 andrea.anderson@swsc.org	Dick Branting, LI P/HD and Vision Consultant, 507-537-2288 richard.branting@swsc.org	
Sharyce Baartman, LI Audiologist, 507-537-2283 sharyce.baartman@swsc.org	Tammy Stahl, LI Severely Multiply Impaired Consutant, 507-537-2291 tammy.stahl@swsc.org	

Regional Educational Services
Website
www.swscedservices.org

ATTENTION: AUTISM AND SPECIAL
EDUCATION TEACHERS
TARGETING TRANSITION FOR ASD STUDENTS

PRESENTED BY LINDA WATSON
NOVEMBER 29, 2007
9:00 A.M.-12:00 P.M.
SW/WC SERVICE COOPERATIVE OFFICE
MARSHALL, MN

Only \$95.00 for the workshop, manual and CD-ROM!
More information will be available at our website
www.swsc.org click on workshops/seminars and look for
this workshop title.

If you have any registration questions contact:
Marilyn Labat, SW/WC Service Cooperative
507-537-2249 or marilyn.labat@swsc.org

Workshop questions can be directed to:
Karin Marquardt at 507-537-2285 or
karin.marquardt@swsc.org



Throughout this issue of the Review you will see artwork from students attending Pipestone Area Schools. Their artwork was recently included throughout the MSBA Journal. This was a great experience for the children and parents to experience their artwork in a more meaningful way.



Approximately 650 participants attended the 15th Annual Conference for Young Writers on May 15, 2007 at SMSU in Marshall. Tim Piccirillo of Ridgway, PA presented the keynote entitled "The Magic of Your Potential." Piccirillo used magic, humor and personal example to show attendees that they have the potential to have, do and BE virtually anything in their lives!

Students learned techniques to bring stories to life, created cool characters, explored the world of mystery writing, created poems and tall tales, dabbled in watercolor painting and wrote poetry, used their senses to gather ideas and words, learned to draw characters and cartoons, created humor columns, wrote songs, learned new writing skills, and more.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

January 8, 2008 is the 14th Annual Science & Nature Conference at SMSU in Marshall. This conference is for students in grades K-8 with strands of K-2, 3-5 and 6-8. Last year, approximately 800 participants (from 25 schools and many individual registrants) attended the event.



In addition to a keynote presentation, students attend three age-appropriate, fun hands-on sessions on a variety of science, nature and technology topics. At past conferences, students have explored the solar system, had fun with digital photography, discovered cool things in a grossology class, built a greenhouse, created edible science, and discovered interesting facts about bugs, etc.

Brochures will be distributed in late October/early November. The early bird registration deadline is December 4 and the final registration deadline is December 11. A registration form is available on our website: www.swscedservices.org. If you have questions, contact Andrea Anderson (andrea.anderson@swsc.org or 507-537-2257) or Sue Gorecki (sue.gorecki@swsc.org or 507-537-2258) at the SW/WC Service Cooperative.

CHESS TOURNAMENT

The SW/WC Service Cooperative is sponsoring a new competition – a regional chess tournament. This competition was considered after interest was expressed by member schools.

The Regional Chess Tournament is open to students in grades K-12 who have had prior chess playing experience. This event is an opportunity to improve analytical thinking skills while having fun competing with students from other districts. Numerous studies indicate that children who play chess regularly see improvements in reading and math scores. Chess teaches critical thinking and problem solving.



The tournament is scheduled for Saturday, February 2 in Marshall from 8:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. The snow date is Saturday, February 16. There will be rated and non-rated sections divided by grade level. Students will be guaranteed at least four match games. Students MUST bring their own chess board and be accompanied by an adult. Medals and certificates will be awarded. For information about setting up a chess club at your school, contact Steve Harder at chess@mtlake.org.

The early bird registration deadline is January 4 and the final registration deadline is January 18. Check our website for additional information and a registration form: www.swscedservices.org. If you have questions, contact Andrea Anderson (andrea.anderson@swsc.org or 507-537-2257) or Sue Gorecki (sue.gorecki@swsc.org or 507-537-2258) at SW/WC Service Cooperative.

(continued from page 18)

Whether your district pays as it goes with this new revenue system or tackles larger projects with Capital Facilities bonds, access to deferred maintenance revenue allows school districts to address some concerns that are long overdue. Districts with questions about the amount of use of deferred maintenance are encouraged to call Springsted at 651-223-3000 for more information and assistance.

Don E. Lifo, Springsted Incorporated, 651-223-3067
Jim Schmitt, Springsted Incorporated, 651-223-3028
DeeDee Kahring, Springsted Incorporated, 651-223-3099



2007-2008 MDE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT TOPICS

(THESE TRAININGS WILL BE HELD AT THE SW/WC SERVICE COOPERATIVE IN MARSHALL)

Teacher Leadership I: Linking School Effectiveness and School Improvement

Thursday, December 13, 2007, 8:30-3:00

Teacher leaders mobilize and energize others to sustain the vision of the school, with the goal of improving the school's performance. Issues which impact teachers as school leaders will be explored. Participants will explore cultural and structural conditions that promote and foster teacher leadership. We will reflect on leadership and how the leader's role supports sustainable change for student academic growth. The opportunity to dialogue with fellow leaders is embedded throughout the workshop.

Teacher Leadership II: Strategies and Tools for Differentiated Leadership Roles

Thursday, May 15, 2008, 8:30-3:00

Leadership roles and strategies that provide growth for teachers and students will be explored. Participants will work with tools that will help to guide professional and instructional growth.

Professional Learning Communities I: Building a Team for Professional Development

Thursday, November 1, 2007, 8:30-3:00

Participants will examine research to build a common understanding and language about professional learning communities. Tools such as agendas and protocols will provide practical frameworks for implementing and sustaining professional development within a learning community setting. Opportunities to explore first steps in building a team, as well as to reflect on next steps for your team, will be a focus of this workshop.



DEFERRED MAINTENANCE REVENUE PROVIDES OPTIONS FOR SCHOOL DISTRICTS

School districts not qualifying for Alternative Facilities Bonding (all but 21 districts statewide) received much needed help in the form of deferred maintenance revenue beginning with the 2007-08 school year. The maximum revenue under this statute, which for most districts is some combination of local levy and state aid, is \$60 per AMCPU. School districts qualified for either the maximum or a lesser amount based on the MDE’s calculation of the ratio of the average age of building space within your district to 35 years.

Deferred Maintenance Revenue generated by the combination of levy and aid can be used for the following purposes:

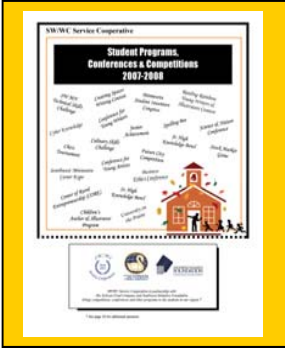
- Health and safety projects without restriction to project size;
- Disabled access;
- Capital expenditures and maintenance projects necessary to prevent further erosion of facilities

Deferred revenue collected through levies and state aid must be held in a reserve account in the general fund and used only for eligible projects. In planning for deferred maintenance projects, districts have two options – “pay as you go” based on the district’s highest priority needs and the balance available in the deferred maintenance account, or finance the improvement with Capital Facilities Bonds. The advantage of paying as you go with current revenues is avoiding interest and issuance costs. The advantage of financing eligible projects with Capital Facilities Bonds is tackling more expensive, high priority projects that could not otherwise be done on a timely basis. In the case of financing improvements, districts repay principal and interest on the bonds with revenue from the deferred maintenance levy and aid. In considering issuance of Capital Facilities Bonds for larger projects, it is important to remember two things. First, deferred maintenance revenue can only be used to repay principal and interest on the bonds for eligible projects as described above. Second, use of deferred maintenance revenue to finance Capital Facilities Bonds does not increase the amount of borrowing that a district can do under the Capital Facilities Bonding programs. However, use of bonds does provide greater flexibility in the use of operating capital revenue if the negative levy adjustments in the general fund offsetting the debt payments for a Capital Facilities Bond are charged to the deferred maintenance account for eligible deferred maintenance projects, thereby leaving more in the operating capital account for other purposes. Districts electing to finance larger deferred maintenance projects with bonds must meet the same requirements and follow the same procedures as any other issuance of Capital Facilities Bonds. The key steps are as follows:

- approval by the Commissioner of Education of proposed uses;
- review and comment for projects in excess of \$500,000 per school site;
- publication of notice of the intended projects, the amount of the bond issue, and the total amount of district indebtedness;
- subject to the districts; debt limit.

In terms of planning, districts that issue Capital Facilities Bonds for eligible deferred maintenance projects should also be aware of the following timelines:

- Projects in excess of \$500,000 per school site need to allow approximately 80 days for preparation, submission, and consideration of the required Review and Comment (123B.71, subd. 11&12).
- For all Capital Facilities and Equipment Bonds, as for all other general obligation bonds, the Commissioner of Education must authorize issuance of the bonds.
- Allow a minimum of 30 days between adoption of the resolution of intent and sale date in order to prepare official statement and meet other requirements including publication and the 30 day petition period.
- Assuming that the district has completed all requirements summarized above, it is recommended that your financial advisor be notified as soon as possible, but not less than 3-4 weeks before the meeting at which the school board will review recommendations and act on a resolution stating its intention to sell bonds.
- The closing on the sale is typically about four weeks after the school board approves the sale, at which time the bond proceeds are distributed to the school district.



Several copies of the booklet (pictured on the left) and post card (below) were sent to member schools earlier this fall. Keep the post card in a handy spot so you can refer to it often for dates of the student conferences, registration deadlines, etc. You might want to put the early bird registration deadlines on your calendar in order to submit registrations in a timely manner and to save money. In order for staff to process registrations and make final preparations for the event, no registrations are accepted after the final deadline.

Check the booklet or our website: www.swscedservices.org for more details about a specific activity. For your convenience, registration forms for the conferences and competitions are on the website – just type the information in, save, and email the attachment, (or fax) or mail it to us.



If you have any questions, contact Sue Gorecki (sue.gorecki@swsc.org or 507-537-2258) or Andrea Anderson (andrea.anderson@swsc.org or 507-537-2258).

THE CHILDREN’S AUTHOR & ILLUSTRATOR PROGRAM

The Children’s Author & Illustrator Program, a residency program for elementary schools, is scheduled during the weeks of April 14-28 and April 28-May 2, 2008. Presenters for the residencies are:



Lynne Jonelle

Jonell is the author of *Emmy and the Incredible Shrinking Rat* published in August 2007. She has also written seven picture books (*Mommy Go Away!*, *I Need a Snake*, *It's My Birthday, Too!*, *Let's Play Rough*, *Mom Pie*, *When Mommy Was Mad*, and *Bravemole*). She also illustrated *Bravemole*. Her books have been published in seven languages.



Joni Oeltjenbruns

Oeltjenbruns started her career in children's picture books as an illustrator and recently became an author. She first illustrated *Not Enough Beds* by author Lisa Bullard, followed by several more books. She has also written several books including *Trick or Treat on Milton Street* and *Rafu, An African Journey*.



Jim Postier

Postier began his career as a medical illustrator, working for 13 years at the Mayo Clinic, making anatomical and surgical drawings for doctors. After his first book, *Goose Moon*, was released, he began working from his home studio on a variety of children's books and medical projects. He has also illustrated *Best Little Wingman* and *Turtle Girl*.

For elementary schools interested in participating in the residency program, the registration deadlines are listed below:
Early Bird Registration Deadline: November 1, 2007—Final Registration Deadline: November 8, 2007
The brochure and a registration form are available on our website: www.swscedservices.org. If you have questions about the Children's Author & Illustrator Program, contact Andrea Anderson (andrea.anderson@swsc.org or 507-537-2257) or Sue Gorecki (sue.gorecki@swsc.org or 507-537-2258).

EDUCATIONAL RESOURCE LIBRARY NEWS

By Mary Weber, Resource Library Coordinator
Ph. 320-269-9243
Email: mweber@swsc.org

Another school year is underway. Time seems to move so quickly.

The Educational Resource Library is the renamed combination of the Special Education Instructional Materials Center (SEIMC) and the Media Services Library. In this issue’s article, I will focus on the media materials and services component of the Resource Library. Some people have had questions on what’s been happening to the videos.

When we combined programs, we lost some things media patrons liked and used very much. The number of available videos dropped (storage space and limited usage), on-line searching and ordering (very expensive), door-to-door delivery (funding), and paying a fee per item used. We also gained some features: teacher requests by curriculum area and grade level, extended signout period (2 weeks), new materials on DVD format, and a single fee for all materials used. Subscribing districts can still order videos (catalog but no annotations), Science PACs and kits, Baby Think-It-Over Dolls, the Planetarium, and GPS units. Delivery is now on a weekly basis. For districts south of Marshall we contract with Plum Creek Library.

The new DVD titles include the following:

DVD 5	Great Lakes, The: An Overview
DVD 12	History of the U.S.: Part 3—Civil War and Westward Movement
DVD 10	History of the U.S.: Part 1—Explorers and Colonists
DVD 14	History of the U.S.: Part 5—Great Depression To SuperPower
DVD 11	History of the U.S.: Part 2—Revolution and Manifest Destiny
DVD 13	History of the U.S.: Part 4—Robber Barons To the Roaring Twenties
DVD 9	Lewis and Clark Expedition, The
DVD 8	Professor Iris: Sports/Exercise
DVD 6	Professor Iris: The Seasons
DVD 7	Professor Iris: The Wind
DVD 1	What’s Up In Space? Earth
DVD 3	What’s Up In Space? Planets
DVD 4	What’s Up In Space? Stars
DVD 2	What’s Up In Space? The Moon

The above titles were ordered last year. Any teacher in a subscribing Resource Library district can request these DVDs. I will be ordering more DVDs this fall. If you have recommendations for future holdings, please contact me. I always keep a file of potential orders. I try to order items for all grade levels and make sure they align with the curriculum.

All materials are listed on the SW/WC Service Cooperative website under Programs and Services: Montevideo: Resource Library. If you have questions, please contact me.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide you with curriculum support materials.

Visit Our Website
www.swsc.org



Emma Shriver
8th Grade
Pipestone Area
Schools

SW/WC SERVICE COOPERATIVE’S REGIONAL

24th Annual Special Education
Day of Excellence



Monday, March 10, 2008
8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Southwest Minnesota State University

Welcome again to what is now our 24th Annual Day of Excellence where our focus is “Achieving Educational Excellence” and its impact on Special Education. Sessions will be conducted for Special Education Teachers, General Education Teachers, Administrators, Paraprofessionals, Parents, Agency Personnel and many others.



Tim Piccirillo
Professional Speaker,

Born with Tourettes Syndrome, Tim grew up with severe symptoms (currently controlled with medication) of jerking his limbs involuntarily, facial tics as well as self-abusive behaviors.

With the help of his parents and the support of two teachers, Tim learned to cope with this devastating disorder and achieve success in two different fields. Tim graduated from Clarion University of Pennsylvania in 1984 with a B.S. in Habilitative Science. He worked in progressively responsible positions in the mental health/mental retardation field before becoming the Executive Director of a Center for Independent Living in 1989. In 1992 he decided to pursue his lifelong dream of becoming a professional comedy magician. He has worked with many national stars and celebrities in his career as an entertainer.

In 1995 he decided to share his experiences and knowledge to help others fulfill their dreams. As a full-time motivational youth speaker and keynote presenter, Tim travels across the country motivating and inspiring students, teachers, human service professionals and corporate and association audiences through his various programs. He lives what he teaches and believes in the power of **EVERYONE'S** potential.

For More Information Visit www.timpic.com
Brochures will be mailed in early January, 2008

This brochure will give detailed directions for specific session information and online registration.

For more information please contact:

SW/WC Service Cooperative
ATTN: Deecy Jesse
1420 East College Drive
Marshall, MN 56258
Phone: 507-537-2253
Email: Deecy.jesse@swsc.org

Sponsored by:

SW/WC Service Cooperative
Regional Educational Services
MN Department of Education
Regional Comprehensive System of Personnel
Development



JUNIOR & SENIOR HIGH KNOWLEDGE BOWL EVENTS

A meeting was held for both Jr. and Sr. High Knowledge Bowl coaches on September 20 in Marshall. Information about the upcoming season was presented, coaches' handbooks were distributed, contact information was updated, new scoring software was demonstrated, etc. Listed below are the dates of events.

Junior High Knowledge Bowl

All events are held at SMSU in Marshall

Sub-Regionals

- Region 6 – January 4, 2008
- Region 8 – January 3, 2008

Regional

- January 10, 2008

Senior High Knowledge Bowl

Sub-Regionals

- Region 6
 - February 29, 2008 – Granite Falls
 - March 7, 2008 – Canby

Region 8

- March 7, 2008 – Jackson
- March 12, 2008 – Marshall

Regionals

- Region 6 – March 12, 2008 – Marshall
- Region 8 – March 17, 2008 – Pipestone

State Competition – April 15-16, 2008 – Cragun's, Brainerd

- Region 6 – 3 teams; Region 8 – 4 teams

Check out the website for more details, registration deadlines, snow dates, forms and other updated information: www.swscedservices.org, click on Student Activities on the left. There are three pages on Knowledge Bowl: KB Coaches' Information – general information for all coaches, and then a page each for Jr. High and Sr. High Knowledge Bowl. If you have any questions, contact Sue Gorecki, Student Activities Coordinator, at sue.gorecki@swsc.org or 507-537-2258.



RISK MANAGEMENT UPDATE

The Service Cooperative would like to welcome the following new members to our Risk Management Groups!!!

City of Round Lake
City of Scandia
Windom Area Hospital
Kandiyohi Area Transit

Pipestone Area Schools
Lac qui Parle Valley School District
Cedar Riverside Community Schools

CHANGES IN VEBA PLANS...

The Minnesota Service Cooperatives, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota, and SelectAccount are pleased to bring you the next generation of the VEBA plan. Your VEBA plan will now give you access to more investment options, while providing you with access to a new on-line investment site to help you manage your self-directed investments. And remember, if you decide that you'd rather not invest your VEBA dollars in mutual funds, you'll be happy to know that you can leave the money in your VEBA account and earn interest on the unused balance.

Why is the plan changing?

The Minnesota Service Cooperative's VEBA plan has grown dramatically since it was first introduced in 2004. Today, the plan includes more than 33 percent of all Service Cooperative groups and covers 12 percent of all account holders. Compared to the national average of less than 3 percent enrollment for consumer-directed health plans, that means your first generation VEBA plan has been quite successful.

So, why make any changes?

For starters, in the current VEBA arrangement, only 11 percent of members maintain an active investment account, despite the fact that they're all currently paying for this feature.

What's changing?

New investment program — On November 1, your self-directed VEBA investments will transition from a Wells Fargo investment arrangement to a new program powered by the world class, on-line investment management site of Schwab SRT, an on-line platform created by Charles Schwab & Company.

More investment options — VEBA investors now have access to 15 best-in-class mutual funds selected by Devenir LLC, a registered investment advisor.

A better service experience — As part of this new program, your existing VEBA account administrator SelectAccount, will also provide administrative customer service support for your self-directed investment account. When you have a support question like how to activate an on-line account, you have a familiar number to call where you will be recognized as a valued customer, a Minnesota Service Cooperatives member.

New trustee – As part of this transition, MG Trust will replace Wells Fargo as trustee of the VEBA. This change will have no direct impact on your account.

What do you need to do?

Your current Wells Fargo account will automatically transition in full to a new interest bearing account on November 1. There's no work required on your part to make the transition happen.

If you have any questions during this transition, please call the SelectAccount service line for Service Cooperative members at toll free 1-800-859-2144 or (651) 662-5065 in the Twin Cities metro area from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., Monday through Friday.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR! 2007-2008 STUDENT ACTIVITIES

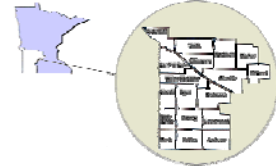
- | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|
| 1/3/08—Jr. High Knowledge Bowl Region 8 Sub-Regional | 3/17/08—Culinary Skills Challenge |
| 1/4/08—Jr. High Knowledge Bowl Region 6 Sub-Regional | 3/26/08—Culinary Skills Challenge |
| 1/8/08—Science & Nature Conference | 4/14 & 18—Children's Author & Illustrator Residencies |
| 1/10/08—Jr. High Knowledge Bowl Regional | 4/15 & 16—Sr. High Knowledge Bowl State Competition |
| 2/2/08—Regional Chess Tournament | 4/20/08—Creating Spaces Writing Contest Award Ceremony |
| 2/19/08—Regional Spelling Bee | 4/28 & 5/2—Children's Author & Illustrator Residencies |
| 2/29/08—Sr. High Knowledge Bowl Region 6 Sub-Regional | 04/30/08—SW Minnesota Technical Skills Challenge |
| 3/7/08—Sr. High Knowledge Bowl Region 6 Sub-Regional | 05/13/08—Conference for Young Writers |
| 3/7/08—Sr. High Knowledge Bowl Region 8 Sub-Regional | |
| 3/11/08—Multi-Region State Spelling Bee | |
| 3/12/08—Sr. High Knowledge Bowl Region 8 Sub-Regional | |
| 3/12/08—Sr. High Knowledge Bowl Region 6 Regional | |

ARE STUDENTS BEING PREPARED TO MANAGE THEIR MONEY?

SUBMITTED BY TOM HOFF, CAREER & TECHNICAL PROJECT COORDINATOR

According to a [Roper Poll](#) commissioned by the American Institute for Certified Public Accountants (AICPA), 43 percent of Americans live above their means, spending \$1.22 for every dollar they earn. In 2003, 1.6 million Americans filed for bankruptcy, a number that has doubled since 1993 ([360 Degrees of Financial Literacy](#), 2004.) Debt has become a personal finance crisis in America. What is being done to reverse this trend?

Thirty-two school districts in southwest and west central Minnesota recently took part in, what is believed to be, the most comprehensive study in Minnesota of K-12 students' knowledge of personal and business finance, and their saving and spending behavior. Over 3,725 sixth, ninth and twelfth grade students took part in the study. The study was authorized by the Center of Rural Entrepreneurship (CORE) and was funded through a Federal Congressional Earmark Grant and a grant from the Southwest Initiative Foundation. Both the Congressional Earmark Grant and the grant from the Southwest Initiative Foundation were written by staff at the SW/WC Service Cooperative. Each school that participated in the study was mailed a comprehensive and confidential report that compared the results of their student surveys against the aggregate survey results.



The study was conducted by the Southwest Marketing Advisory Center (SMAC) with input from staff from the SW/WC Service Cooperative and the University of Minnesota Extension Service Regional Office in Marshall. SMAC is a self-funded entity within the academic marketing program at Southwest Minnesota State University (SMSU). Its mission is to service the marketing and research needs of southwest Minnesota while giving “real-world” experience to the Junior, Senior and Graduate level student employees. The Center was founded by its Executive Director, along with the assistance of two Senior level marketing students in 2002. Never using grants or university dollars during its six years of service to the area, SMAC has completed over 210 client projects.



Some conclusions from the K-12 personal and business finance study include:

- The majority of 6th and 9th graders receive most of their money from their parents or family members, the majority of 12th graders work for most of their money
- 6th graders are more likely to save a larger amount of their money than 12th graders
- Eighty percent of 12th graders save their money in a bank
- 12th graders were most likely to have a checking account, however, the responses in this study indicated 6th graders were more likely to have a checking account than 9th graders
- Approximately 20 percent of 12th graders carry a credit card, among those that have a card, 80 percent use it and 60 percent indicated they pay the balance on the credit card each month
- Students self-reported a perception of having a high level of understanding with reading, writing, and math; while having the least amount of understanding with business finance and personal finance
- Students perceptions of their abilities in the areas of business and personal finance are significantly higher than their actual scores in these areas

Regional organizations and programs such as CORE, Junior Achievement, Students in Free Enterprise, University of Minnesota Extension Service, Southwest Initiative Foundation, Regional Development Commissions, Professional Student Organizations, K-12 School Districts and others will use the results of this study, along with other regional data, to help promote and implement Personal Finance and Free Enterprise Education to students in the 18-county service area. If you would like to see the full report on this study, and other projects completed by SMAC, go to www.southwestmsu.edu/smac/projects_k12education.html

SCHOOL NEWS

RED ROCK RIDGE AREA LEARNING CENTER

The Red Rock Ridge ALC is off to a great start this year. Our ALC is starting with a record number of 45 students.



We generally start with around 30, so things took off with a running start. Our Setting IV and Day Treatment are nearing capacity, but generally, it does not take long for those programs to also fill up.

We have one new staff member in the Elementary Day Treatment room, Breanne Powers. Breanne lives in Windom with her husband Brady and two daughters, Kyli age 8 and Addyson 5 months. Breanne has an A. A. degree in Liberal Arts and A.A.S degree in Community Supports for People with Disabilities.



New this year to all three programs is what we call S.I.L.K. (Surviving Independent Living Klass). A grant was written and received from the Remick Foundation. It allowed us to create a reasonable facsimile of a real life apartment. In addition to the funding, various people donated major appliances, dishes, furniture and other useful items to assist us with putting some finishing touches to the apartment.

All of our students, grades 3-12 will have the opportunity to take the SILK class. They will learn basic housekeeping skills, including “green products”, creating basic nutritious food, learning about safety in the kitchen and the home, child care, basic interior design, and basic textiles which includes clothing repairs and making quilts. We are very excited about this opportunity we can give our students, and very thankful for the help and assistance from the Remick Foundation and all the other contributors.

WHAT'S NEW IN LAKE BENTON?

The Lake Benton School has possibly welcomed high school students in September for the last time, but we are definitely not going out quietly. Our staff and students have dove head first into a new school year and we are all working hard to ensure it's successful.

New classroom teachers at Lake Benton include Paul Tuszyński in the art department and Tricia Gerlach who will be teaching our science courses. Lucy Jerzak has also joined our district as a paraprofessional in the elementary classrooms.



We are very lucky to have them on our staff. Homecoming week has also come and gone quickly this school year. Events included obstacle course races, volleyball competitions, coronation, and the parade on Friday afternoon. The students showed their school spirit off, and our homecoming royalty were a great representation of our student body. As you can see in the picture we displayed them in style at our home volley ball game.

Our students have been working hard in and out of the classroom. Junior and Senior Student Council members assisted with the food drive in Ivanhoe. We were proud of their hard work and enjoyed spending the time with them. Finally, our FFA students helped out the environment by picking up garbage.

NWEA testing will take place in the fall and our teachers are planning on using strategies to utilize the data for their classroom instruction. This is always difficult, but important, so we ensure success for all of our students.

SCHOOL NEWS

SMART BOARDS, SYNERGISTIC LABS, CONSTRUCTION AND MUCH MORE AT E.C.H.O. CHARTER SCHOOL

There has been much anticipation about all of the new technology and building improvements going on in our school. ECHO has been fortunate to be awarded a few substantial grants to improve all aspects of our students' learning and our teachers' ability to teach more effectively. This fall a few of our teachers have been lucky to receive their classrooms SMARTBoard. They are excited about utilizing the unique components these have to offer. The grant we were awarded will allow us to install SMART-Boards for all of our classrooms K-12.



During the summer two teachers attended Synergistic Lab training in Pittsburg, Kansas. The Synergistic Lab is a hands-on, project based, career exploration learning lab designed for junior high students. The lab will be functional and included in our academics starting the second semester of school. The unique labs will meet Math, Science, English and technology state standards. Along with the technology installations came construction. We are all looking forward to new walls, windows, ceilings, lights and an elevator. Construction crews have been busy all summer into this fall. The elementary classrooms are getting new energy efficient windows and lights. The elevator is being put in to make our school accessible to all types of learners. The improvements to our building are making more than just the staff excited; the whole community has been involved. Community members are visiting the school weekly to check out all the excitement!

ECHO and the surrounding communities are very proud of our school, students, and staff. Everyone is looking forward to another great school year. The staff at ECHO strive everyday to reach our school's mission statement of insuring every child has the opportunity to achieve to their highest potential.

Please visit us on the web at www.echocharter.com or stop to see what we're all about.

FRONT ROW: (LEFT TO RIGHT)

TERA RISKENS, 2ND GRADE, DANAE RUPP, 2ND GRADE, JAKE SUTER, HS SCIENCE

2ND ROW: HEATHER ANDERSON, ENGLISH

PATTY MARYOUTT, ELEM. SPECIAL NEEDS

3RD ROW: JOY KAUFFMAN, FRENCH

ERICA HESS, KINDERGARTEN/1ST GRADE

4TH ROW: MARIA ZEMKE, ELEMENTARY SPECIAL NEEDS,

MALINDA KLAASSEN, HS SPECIAL NEEDS

5TH ROW: NIKKI ROYAL, HS ENGLISH,

KARI JOHNSON, MATH, AMANDA MACZIEWSKI, 3RD GRADE

ELAINE STOERZINGER, HS SOCIAL STUDIES

6TH ROW: DARCY JOSEPHSON, STAFF DEVELOPMENT,

DAVE WINGERT, H.S. SPECIAL NEEDS, DAVE MCCORMICK, BAND

7TH ROW: JEAN ANDERSON, PE AND SPECIAL NEEDS,

BRANDON RAYMO, HS SOCIAL STUDIES,

TREVOR SCHULTE, HS ENGLISH



NEW STAFF AT YELLOW MEDICINE EAST



Family Support Connection



"To say I was shocked would be an understatement. I was stunned. It was like being hit by a baseball bat."

The early times after the diagnosis of your child's hearing loss are often the toughest part of the whole journey. If all the other parents who have been in your shoes could talk to you right now, they would likely tell you, "please be kind to yourself." A major weapon parents use in dealing with the shock of diagnosis is to get educated about hearing loss. **Minnesota Hands and Voices** can help you get in touch with many sources of information and support.

"It's an invisible disability. People belittle it. They say, 'Sometimes I don't hear either.' People don't comprehend.."

A 2001 creation of Lifetrack Resources, the Family Support Connection - Minnesota Hands and Voices - is a private non-profit program whose mission is to provide a variety of unbiased support services to families of children who are identified with hearing loss. MN Hands and Voices provides **parent-to-parent support** to families of children diagnosed as deaf or hard of hearing. MN Hands & Voices staff are parents of children who have hearing loss. They share the same emotions, decisions and questions as the families they serve and are committed to providing a balanced look at raising a child who is deaf or hard of hearing. All staff have a strong belief that it is the parents who know what is best for their child. Parents simply need enough information to make sound, informed choices.

MN Hands and Voices has been active in our own SW/WC Service Cooperative Region. They have provided unbiased parent support by connecting families with children of all ages and types of hearing loss, co-sponsoring and attending family networks, offering parent-to-parent guides, and giving access to many resources through their lending library of books, videos and other materials, so that families can learn more about their child's hearing loss.



709 University Avenue West, St. Paul, Minnesota 55104-4804, 651-265-2435 (voice), 651-265-2379 (tty), 1-866-DHOHKID (toll-free), 1-866-857-2379 (toll-free tty), www.familysupportconnection.org or www.handsandvoices.org.

Submitted by Jill Rohman, Consultant for Deaf/Hard of Hearing Students

LAMBERTON HOT IRON DAYS!

The Lamberton Hot Iron Days on Friday and Saturday, September 7th and 8th provided such a great learning experience for numerous Red Rock Central students. Art students were encouraged to not only view the spectacular iron pour with firework like sparks and pyrometrics, but to become involved and build a mold of their own. Local artist and Lamberton High School graduate, Larry Hubert, conducted the workshop, where students built clay or carved Styrofoam sculptures.

These sculptures were encased in silica sand molds, and once the sand had firmed, the clay was extracted. If Styrofoam was used it was simply left in place to be burned away. Iron was heated to approximately 2600 degrees in a furnace constructed by Larry. It was poured by Larry, his sons, and others with experience and the proper protective garb. Once the iron was cooled, the molds were broken away, and the sculptures were viewed. An awesome experience! If you did not have the opportunity to participate this year plan to do so next year- it's an annual celebration - the 2nd weekend in September, 2008.

WELCOME NEW SUPERINTENDENTS!!!!

Lee Westrum—Benson
Chris Sonju—Glencoe-Silver Lake
Barry Loos—Lincoln Hi
Corny Smit (Interim)— Lake Benton
Keith Redfield—Atwater/Cosmos/Grove City
Lance Bagstad—Renville County West
Keith Kottke—Springfield
Howard Caldwell (Interim)—BOLD
Leroy Domagala—Balaton



7TH GRADE EARTHWARE CLAY GARGOYLE PROJECTS

FOUR SCHOOLS ADDED TO THE SW/WC SERVICE COOPERATIVE'S
WILLMAR SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICE CENTER

The SW/WC Service Cooperative in Marshall is proud to announce the addition of four school districts to the Willmar Special Education Cooperative: Buffalo Lake-Hector, Glencoe-Silver Lake, Lester Prairie, and McLeod West. The Willmar Office provides a wide variety of educational resources and services to school districts, such as administrative services, occupational therapy services, physical therapy services, speech/language services, birth to three programming, coordination of educational services, school psychology services, third party billing services, and other resources.

With the addition of these four schools, the Willmar Office now provides services to 13 school districts. The other districts are: ACGC - Atwater, Cosmos, Grove City; BBE - Belgrade, Brooten, Elrosa; BOLD - Bird Island, Olivia, Lake Lillian; Eden Valley/Watkins; KMS - Kerkhoven, Murdock, Sunburg; MACCRAY - Maynard, Clara City, Raymond; New London/Spicer; Prinsburg District #815; and Willmar. The SW/WC Service Cooperative has outstanding personnel who are dedicated to serving member school districts and communities. The staff place top priority on the students and strive to work closely with parents to improve the lives of the youth. The SW/WC Service Cooperative believes in continual improvement and is committed to a student-centered focus.

The SW/WC Service Cooperative is very excited to be working with Buffalo Lake-Hector, Glencoe-Silver Lake, Lester Prairie, and McLeod West! This will also provide the addition of the Willmar Office Alternative Programs which are a Setting IV special education program. These will be housed in the Lincoln Building of Glencoe-Silver Lake School District.

If you have any questions about SW/WC Service Cooperative, please contact Dr. Mary Palmer, Director of Special Education, at mary.palmer@swsc.org or 320-231-5184. Or, please feel free to visit the SW/WC Service Cooperative website at www.swsc.org for more information. Special education services are just one of many programs offered by the SW/WC Service Cooperative.

WELCOME TO THE SERVICE COOPERATIVE!!!!

The Service Cooperative would like to welcome Clarkfield Charter School as one of our new members!



Brochures on the 4th Annual Creating Spaces Writing Contest were distributed to schools this fall. The contest is open to students in grades 3-12 with the following categories:

fiction, poetry, and creative non-fiction. This year there is no required theme. Students are free to submit any work that they like. Teachers who use the contest in their classrooms may establish themes if they choose to do so. Encourage students to write throughout the year. The submission deadline is February 6, 2008 with an awards ceremony planned for April 20, 2008 at Southwest Minnesota State University, Marshall.

The Creating Spaces Writing Contest was established as a partnership between the SMSU English Department and the SW/WC Service Cooperative's Student Activities Program to encourage a love of language and writing for all students

and as a way to recognize the talented young writers in southwest and west central Minnesota.

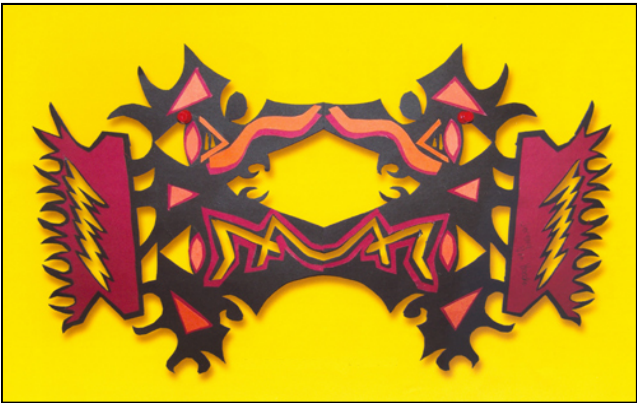
Check out our website: www.swscedservices.org for the brochure with more details. A registration form is also available. If you have questions about the contest, contact Andrea Anderson (andrea.anderson@swsc.org or 507-537-2257) or Sue Gorecki (sue.gorecki@swsc.org or 507-537-2258).



COOPERATIVE PURCHASING

The Cooperative Purchasing Program is dedicated to combining the collective purchasing power of our members in order to receive the best value in goods and services. By working cooperatively, on a regional and statewide level, each of our members will benefit by purchasing goods and services at a lower cost than if individually purchasing those same things. When choosing vendors, the Cooperative Purchasing program focuses on quality, service, support, as well as competitive pricing. The goal of our program is to have our members receive the best long-term value possible. Consider the Cooperative Purchasing Staff your district's personal shopper. Call us; we will do the work for you!

Debra Foley, Sales/Marketing Associate
debra.foley@swsc.org
507-537-2279



JEREMY VANHOECKE, SR. HIGH, PIPESTONE
AREA SCHOOL



Support For Student Activities
Comes Through The Southwest
Student Enrichment Fund.

NOMINATIONS SOUGHT FOR 2008 OUTSTANDING EDUCATOR AWARD

The WEM Foundation and the Center for Academic Excellence (CAE) invite you to help recognize and honor the outstanding K-12 educators who help make Minnesota a national leader in teaching and learning.

CAE is accepting nominations for the tenth annual WEM Foundation Outstanding Educator Awards in three categories: Academic Challenge Coach of the Year (for outstanding coaches of activities endorsed by Minnesota’s Academic League Council), Teacher Achievement (for teachers who excel in advancing student learning in challenging or alternative settings), and Ethics in Education (with individual and team recognitions for promotion of ethical behavior in school curriculum or policy and personal practice). Currently-practicing educators from public and non-public schools, including public charter schools, are eligible for nomination. Nominations are particularly encouraged from students, parents and colleagues.

The Center for Academic Excellence and the WEM Foundation work in partnership with the service cooperative members of the Minnesota Regional Service Agency (MRSA), to administer this program on a statewide basis. (CAE is a non-profit organization that delivers statewide student and educator recognition programs.) A blue-ribbon judging panel will name six state honorees and regional finalists to help showcase academic excellence in Minnesota. Each state honoree will receive an unrestricted \$10,000 prize from the WEM Foundation, to honor the “unsung heroes” of the education profession.

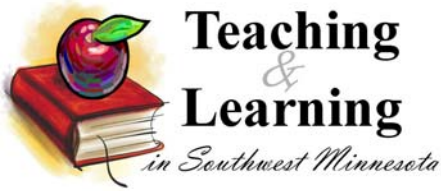
Additional information about the awards criteria, including an online nomination link, is available at CAE’s web site: <http://www.mncae.org>. Nomination forms also are available by calling CAE at 507-389-2461. Nominations received by March 3, 2008, will be eligible for consideration for the 2008 awards program.



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Chris Schmitt, E-Rate Support Ph. 507-537-2262 chris.schmitt@swsc.org	

2007 CONFERENCE KICKS-OFF THE SCHOOL YEAR FOR 1,550 EDUCATION PROFESSIONALS



The 2007 Teaching and Learning Conference kicked off with keynote speaker Pat McGill motivating a crowd of 1,550 with humorous stories and practical advice that every educator could relate to. This was the third annual event and has grown from 820 in 2005 and 1,250 in 2006. Twenty-six public and private school districts, Southwest Minnesota State University, and Minnesota West Community and Technical College partner with the SW/WC Service Cooperative to plan and hold the event. This year’s event was held at the Marshall High

School in Marshall. Conference participants chose from a menu of 93 breakout session titles that covered all grade levels and disciplines. Additionally there were 40 educational vendors available to participants throughout the day.

Year-in and year-out, the most talked about highlights of the conference are the networking sessions. Each participant registers for a small group networking session with other educators that teach at their grade level and/or discipline area. Over 80 facilitators were trained prior to the conference to lead their group through the session. This formalized networking time provide teachers a chance to share curriculum ideas, discover new resources, and seek input and support from colleagues. Networking doesn’t have to stop after the conference; nearly 1,400 educators are registered for the “Teacher to Teacher” on-line networking site (found at www.educatorcom.com). The site provides an electronic forum for teachers to share and receive news, have bulletin board discussions, and share relevant websites based on their educational discipline.

The SW/WC Service Cooperative would like to thank each participating school district, the conference advisory committee, and the conference sponsors for making the 2007 Teaching and Learning Conference a big success! Planning for the 2008 event will soon be underway.

UPCOMING SERVICE COOPERATIVE WORKSHOPS

11/02/2007—ECSE Workshop—Washington Learning Center—Willmar	12/03/2007 & 12/04/2007—AIMSweb Training—two day workshop—Pipestone Area Schools Library
11/03/2007—Enhancing Parent Involvement in the IEP Process—Best Western Marshall Inn—Marshall	12/06/2007—Exclusionary Services for Young Children with Disabilities—MN West—Pipestone
11/05/2007—CPI Training—Jackson County Central Public School	
11/05/2007—CPI Refresher Training—Jackson County Central Public School	
11/07& 08/2007—12/06/2007—Moodle Training—SW/WC Service Cooperative—Marshall (3 day workshop)	
11/27/2007—SMARTBoard Training—SW/WC Service Cooperative—Marshall	

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THESE WORKSHOPS VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT WWW.SWSC.ORG



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