

Lakeview Elementary Families Read the Same Book at the Same Time

By Susanne Lee, Literacy Coordinator, Lakeview Public Schools

As part of the February *I Love to Read Month* activities, Lakeview School hosted a kick-off assembly to jump start the elementary school-wide book club, One School, One Book. The assembly was designed to add excitement and encouragement to read a chapter book as part of the annual program.

The title of the book was kept secret from the students. The kick-off included clues about the book for the Pre-K through 6th grade audience. The clues included a small realistic mouse which was pulled out of a bag, the sound of a motorcycle, and the reveal of a real motorcycle hidden under a blanket on stage. Once the clues were given the title was revealed to a cheering crowd. This year's book was The Mouse and the Motorcycle

by Beverly Cleary. The finale of the as-

sembly was when Dean of Students, Jake Hanson, coasted around on the stage. He was dressed as a mouse and rode on a flashy red motorcycle to the delight of the students.

Every family took home their own book to read and keep. The student and their family read one chapter each night. Questions about the chapter were asked the following day at school. The questions were videotaped by school principal, Phil Lienemann. This activity created daily awareness of the book and continued encouragement to continue reading.

While it was wonderful to have everyone united by reading one book at the same time, the overall importance of the program was to place an emphasis on reading. The goal was to encourage reading at home and instill a joy of reading. This program was made possible by the generous donations from the Lakeview PTO and the Lakeview Booster Club.

Lots Happening at Cedar Mountain

By Jeremy Schultz, K-6 Principal, Cedar Mountain Public Schools

New this year at Cedar Mountain is the full implementation of our Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) program. This program is focused on student behaviors and changing student motivations from non-productive behaviors to happy and healthy behaviors in a nurturing environment. Our Elementary school received the *Celebration School* status from MDE, and we have had students selected for the National FFA competition. Prepared, Respectful, Integrity, Disciplined = Excellence at Cedar Mountain!



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English Language Programming

By Dr. Deborah Mitchell, EL Coordinator, Worthington Public Schools

Worthington was ranked fifth in the state in percentage of racially isolated districts for the year 2010. The number of English Language (EL) students relative to the total student enrollment was 58%. Worthington was preceded only by St. Paul (75%), Minneapolis (69%), Columbia Heights (66%), Richfield (65%), and Brooklyn Center (65%). For our current school year the diverse population at the elementary level is 71.61%, 64.31% at the middle school level, and 55.72% at the high school. The implications for our community as a *small* district are vast, and thus, the necessity for a well-planned EL program within the school system has emerged and will continue to evolve.

The purpose of the EL program is to provide experiences that promote individual and social well-being and to provide equal educational access for students whose primary language is not English. It is an interdisciplinary program that helps students acquire essential skills for learning a new language and adjusting to a new culture. Recognizing that each student is unique, the aim of the program is to be responsive to the initial and changing needs of the student and to maintain flexibility within the program.

Our EL program emphasizes instructional assistance in the four skill areas of language development: listening, speaking, reading, and writing as well as in (1) social and instructional language (2) the language of language arts (3) the language of mathematics (4) the language of science and (5) the language of social studies. As such, the EL program assists non-English or limited English speaking students in developing English language skills at a level which will enable them to perform successfully in mainstream classes, graduate from high school, pursue further education, and function successfully in American culture.

The EL program is also committed to encouraging a positive self-concept, maintaining a healthy attitude toward individual differences, and creating a school wide culture of understanding, empathy and interaction among students, staff, faculty, administration, and community members.

The EL Department works with the families and communities of EL students to ensure that students and their families are offered opportunities to learn, grow, and participate inside and outside of school. Many of the EL services for students and families extend into academic, cultural, and community areas. We provide services to our students through: The EL Programs, Early Childhood Family Education, Adult Basic Education, Adult ESL classes, Citizenship classes and Language and Culture Enrichment Programs.

The EL Department offers content-based EL instructional programs, which strive to promote students' English language proficiency and mastery of academic content at the same time by integrating subject areas with language objectives. EL students acquire English through participation in age-appropriate instruction that is aligned to national, state, and district content standards as well as English language proficiency standards as outlined by WIDA (World-class Instructional Design and Assessment). The primary objective of teaching language through content is to make grade-level standards and curriculum accessible to EL students at all levels. English language acquisition and proficiency is the goal of all of the EL services. As Worthington continues to grow, one goal of our district is to become a model for rural Minnesota schools that service a diverse population.



Risk Management Services

Wellness Institute Pilot Project

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

During the month of February, ten schools participated in biometric screenings offered to employees in the second year of the SW/WC SC Wellness Institute pilot program. Onsite screenings were performed to check employees' cholesterol, glucose and blood pressure levels, body mass index and waist circumference. During the month of March, employees took an online Health Risk Assessment using the results from their biometric screening to receive an individual health risk summary. We also had three new school groups participate in their first year of the Wellness Institute program in 2013. During the months of April and May, employer groups will be verifying roster reports for employees that took the online health assessment. The Institute will then advance the incentives to the groups for their employees to be given as a premium reduction or a contribution to a VEBA/HSA. The advanced funds will be added to the group's 2014-15 renewal. Each employee who participated (voluntary) received an individualized report with online coaching while the group will be receiving an aggregate report to use as a guide for worksite wellness programming.



Health Cost Management Program

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

For groups who are participating in the Health Cost Management (HCM) Program here are a couple of reminders as you conclude your worksite wellness program. For us to reimburse you for expenses we will need a detailed receipt of those expenses, and proof of payment by the district for the expense. Reimbursement will not be granted if there is insufficient information on the receipt. All reimbursement requests need to be submitted to the SW/WC SC by Friday, May 10th. The annual Fall Health Conference will be held on Thursday, September 19, 2013, at the Marshall office. Please encourage wellness coordinators/committee members to attend! Contact Kari (507-537-2292 or kari.bailey@swsc.org) if you have any questions about reimbursement or the HCM Program.

MDE Commissioner Visits GSL

By Chris Sonju, Superintendent, Glencoe-Silver Lake Public Schools



The Commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Education visited all of the schools in the Glencoe-Silver Lake school district on January 24th. She also took part in our community schools group. She took time to address the group and complimented our focus on school improvement. It was a great day!



The students who went on the recent Close Up trip to Washington DC got a chance to meet Senator Al Franken and get their picture taken (picture at right). What a great opportunity to have a close up experience with government!



Special Education Services

Special Education Monitoring Process

By Diane McCarron, Director of Special Education, diane.mccarron@swsc.org



The Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) Division of Compliance and Assistance is authorized and obligated to ensure that each school district demonstrates general compliance and continuous improvement in the implementation of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and of the full provision of each discretionary grant and their respective requirements. The review process is a five year cycle. This year the SW/WC SC special education coordinators have been working with special education staff to prepare for this process. Next year the school districts in the SW/WC SC will begin the MDE Special Education Monitoring process.

School Year 13/14 Self-review: During this school year, MDE will require SW/WC SC and selected district staff to attend three days of record review training. MDE chooses a number of student files to be reviewed from each school district. Following the record review training the files chosen by MDE will be reviewed for compliance with state and federal laws. The results of the reviews are then reported to MDE using a computer based system.

School Year 14/15 Self-correction: Following review of individual student records, the Federal Office of Special Education Programs and the Minnesota Department of Education requires that districts correct all identified individual student non-compliance. The districts will complete that responsibility during this year. All corrections are reported to MDE through the computer based system.

School Year 15/16 Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) review: During this school year, MDE will require record review training for district representatives, the district representatives will then review student records for compliance with state and federal laws, MDE will conduct a site visit, completion of parent and staff surveys, and other monitoring activities, and will issue a monitoring report of your district's compliance with state and federal laws.

School Year 16/17 Correction/Corrective Action Plans: Following review of individual student records, the Federal Office of Special Education Programs and MDE requires that districts correct all identified individual student non-compliance. The districts will complete that responsibility during this year. The districts will also be responsible for implementing and demonstrating corrective action plans as required by the MDE monitoring report.

Fiscal monitoring of special education programs is also conducted during this year. Using desk reviews, on-site reviews, and the Minnesota Continuous Improvement Monitoring Process (MnCIMP), MDE fiscal monitors determine whether required controls are in place and funds are being spent appropriately. Corrective action plans are also implemented and demonstrated for any concerns identified during the fiscal review.

School Year 17/18 Free: The district is not scheduled for MDE review, self-review or self-correction. The district continues to implement any corrective action or continuous improvement initiatives and prepare for the new five year cycle to begin.

The SW/WC SC has asked Janet Dirksen to serve as the lead coordinator for the monitoring process, in order to complete this involved and complicated process in an efficient manner. She will oversee the process, be the liaison with the Minnesota Department of Education, complete all reporting requirements, and work with the other SW/WC SC coordinators to make all necessary corrections. <http://education.state.mn.us/MDE/SchSup/ComplAssist/Monitoring/index.html>

April is Autism Awareness Month

By Penny Cammack, Regional Autism Specialist, penny.cammack@swsc.org



April is Autism Awareness Month. Through the media, as well as personal experience, people are becoming more educated about what autism spectrum disorders (ASD.) To help increase knowledge, here are some common myths regarding ASD, and the facts as shown by current research:

Myth: Autism is a mental health disorder.

Autism is a neurodevelopmental disorder in which the brain's growth and development is affected. The affected parts of the brain impact three core areas: social behaviour, communication and restricted, repetitive patterns of behaviour.

(Continued on next page)

Autism Awareness (continued from page 4)

Myth: Autism is the result of unemotional parenting.

In the early years of study regarding autism, a theory was proposed that children developed autism because their parents (mothers in particular) did not engage enough with their children. Today we know that the diagnosis of an autism spectrum disorder has nothing to do with how a child was parented. As noted above, there are brain differences that lead to the symptoms associated with an autism spectrum disorder.

Myth: Every child with autism has a special talent.

While there are those people on the spectrum who have extraordinary abilities (autistic savants), the vast majority of persons with ASD show the typical range of strengths and weaknesses. In other words, the *Rainman* character was a portrayal of rare occurrence of exceptionality.

Myth: People with autism never want or have friends.

Difficulty with social interaction is a core feature of an autism spectrum disorder. The lack of social abilities makes it problematic for people with autism spectrum disorders to be as effective in their relationships with others. This does not mean that they do not want to have friends. Persons with ASD will often search out peers with whom they can form friendships. However, their unusual approaches can make their peers uncomfortable and cause a rejection of the social overtures. This emphasizes the need for early intervention in social development, since every aspect of our lives is guided by social awareness.

Myth: People with autism don't have emotions and don't understand the emotions of others.

Although it may be hard or someone with ASD to express their emotions, they do feel them. Their perception may take a different form from others. Some with ASD talk about understanding emotions as colors or use other visual formats to help them understand emotions.

One of the problem areas for people with ASD is an inability to accurately read nonverbal communication, such as facial expressions, gestures, and body posture. These subtle nonverbal actions convey more than 90% of what we communicate (as opposed to 10% or less coming from the words we say). Therefore, those with ASD may miss the signs that could tell them how others are feeling. If the individual with ASD is directly told how another person is feeling, many are able to show concern and empathy.

Myth: Everyone with an autism spectrum disorder has intellectual challenges.

The *spectrum* portion of *autism spectrum disorders* refers to the fact that there is a range of ability levels, characteristics and communication levels involved. Some with ASD have a normal to high level of intellectual ability while others have lowered intellectual ability.

Congratulations to Dr. Eric Ose!

Congratulations to Eric Ose, Heartland Ranch School Teacher, on receiving his Ed.D. in November 2012 from Bethel University in St. Paul. The topic of his dissertation was "The Impact of Learning Community Participation on Teacher Leadership Capacities." It was a mixed methods research project utilizing a quantitative instrument to measure changes in the leadership attributes demonstrated by learning community participants coupled with a qualitative follow-up to explore the participants' perception regarding what elements of the program might be most responsible for the observed changes.



These are only a few misconceptions regarding autism. Visit these sites for more information:
www.autismspeaks.org
www.ausm.org



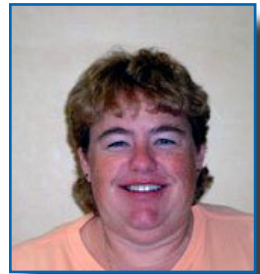
Work Skills Day Competition

By Janet Dirksen, Special Education Coordinator, janet.dirksen@swsc.org

The Montevideo Area Community Transition Interagency Committee (CTIC) held a Work Skills Day on Wednesday, March 13 at MN West Community and Technical College in Granite Falls. The Work Skills Day was for 10th, 11th, and 12th grade students that receive special education services

from their school district. There were 39 students in attendance from the following schools: MN Valley ALC, CMCS, Lakeview, MACCRAY, Montevideo, RCW, and YME. The Work Skills Day is a competition format where students display their skills at getting and keeping jobs. They moved through 4 sessions including: interviews, problem solving, general knowledge, and application completion. Students were divided into 3 groups based on their academic ability level. Medals were given for each session for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place in each group level.

Interviewers and judges included folks from the following organizations: SW/WC Service Cooperative, Southwest MN Private Industry Council, Big Stone County, Vocational Rehab Services, Yellow Medicine County, Chipewewa County, MN West Community and Technical College, Southwest Council for Independent Living, Retired Work Force Center, Granite Falls Bank, Montevideo High School, MN Valley ALC, and MACCRAY school.



Murals and Memories at YME

By Sheila Koepke, Special Education Teacher, Yellow Medicine East Public Schools



Several students in grades 6, 7 and 8 at Yellow Medicine East Middle School have had the opportunity to work with artist, Tammy Isfeld, thanks to an Artist-in-Residence grant from the Southwest Minnesota Arts and Humanities Council (SMAHC). Many of the students are in the Building Bridges after school program; a few others, not in the program, volunteered their time to help with this project

The grant made it possible for Mrs. I, as the students called her, to teach them about the history of murals and wall paintings. Mrs. I began with a presentation on why people paint murals and the need to document history through art. She showed pictures of everything from cave paintings and graffiti to the Sistine Chapel.

The students were each given a sketchbook and a mission. They had one week to draw, write and/or sketch what YME means to them. Mrs. I took their sketches and helped the students turn them into true works of art. The murals are painted on hardboard and emphasize the Art Deco style of the school's main lobby, where the completed art will eventually be displayed.

Some of the staff even got involved, volunteering two Saturday mornings to paint the lobby ceiling and walls in the same color combinations as the murals.

Many of the students said their ideas came from favorite memories of their time at school. Those memories will now be a piece of YME history!



Teaching and Learning Services

PBIS Continues to Grow

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



In 2008, the SW/WC Service Cooperative, South Central Service Cooperative, and Southeast Service Cooperative collaborated on an implementation grant to fund SW-PBIS (school wide positive behavior interventions and supports) in the southern part of Minnesota. The goal of this implementation project was to expand the number of schools implementing PBIS throughout the state. At the time, there were only four schools in the southern region who were in various stages of implementation.

After four years of cohort training throughout the state, 366 schools are now implementing PBIS. In the southern region we have gone from 4 to 71 schools, with another 16 schools in cohort 9 training which starts this August. In the southwest region, we didn't have any schools implementing PBIS. Now, we have 24 schools.

The premise behind SW-PBIS is to shift from a reactive and adversative approach to managing the behaviors to one that is preventive and positive. SW-PBIS is comprised of a broad range of systems and individual strategies for achieving important social and learning outcomes while preventing problem behaviors for all students. SW-PBIS is a schoolwide initiative which focuses on all students in all locations.

SW-PBIS consists of the integration of 4 key elements:

- 1) Operational the fine and valued outcomes
- 2) Behavior and biomedical science
- 3) Research validated practices
- and 4) Systems changed to enhance the broad quality with which all students and staff are living and learning through the reduction of behavior problems.

Schools in our region that are in various stages of SW-PBIS include:

Cedar Mountain - elementary and secondary	Edgerton - elementary and secondary
Glencoe Silver Lake - Baker Elementary and Lakeside Elementary	KMS - elementary and secondary
Lake Benton - elementary	Marshall - middle school
New London Spicer - elementary and secondary	Murray County Central - elementary and secondary
Sleepy Eye - elementary	RTR - elementary and middle school
Windom - middle and high school	YME - elementary and high school

GSL has FIRST Robotics Team

By Mike Sunblad, Industrial Technology Instructor, Glencoe Silver Lake Public Schools

The FIRST Robotics competition challenges over 4,000 schools nationwide to design and build a working robot to perform a variety of functions. Students were informed of the 2013 game on January 5th. From that day, the team had six weeks to build the robot from an array of parts provided by FIRST. After the build the robot is locked up until the competition date, which for GSL, was March 28-30, 2013, at the University of Minnesota - Mariucci Arena.

To see this year's challenge, visit the Glencoe Silver Lake Robotics website at: http://www.gsl.k12.mn.us/pages/Glencoe-Silver_Lake_Public_Sch/Activities/Clubs_and_Groups/Robotics

The GSL FIRST Team works each day after school until 5pm during the 6-week build. We have also been meeting on Saturdays. Students are expected to work a minimum of 30 hours during the build to be eligible to participate at the University of Minnesota event. During the first build week, our team, *The Predators* developed a strategy, built a practice pyramid (to test our design and working robot) and put together a base that was driven around school.





Regional Winners



Millie Piper, Fulda



1st Place Scholarship Winners

Hannah Harrison, Minneota; Non-Fiction
Jessie Lee, New London; Poetry

Not pictured - Keisha Groenhoff, Canby;
Fiction



1st Place Winners

Poetry, Fiction, and Non-Fiction
for each grade level:
3-4, 5-6, 7-8, 9-10 and 11-12

Spelling Bee News

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

Regional Spelling Bee Winners Advance to Multi-Region State Spelling Bee

The Regional Spelling Bee was held on February 12 in Redwood Falls. Twenty-eight local winners competed against each other through a written test and three preliminary oral rounds. The scores were added together and 15 students with the top scores participated in the afternoon's spell-down. After nineteen intense rounds, Millie Piper of Fulda was declared the champion. Other winners included Alyssa Boynton (Murray County Central Elem. - 2nd place), John Sweetman (Murray County Central Jr. High - 3rd place), and Asa Ulferts (Yellow Medicine East Jr. High - 4th place).

Millie Piper Declared 1st Runner-Up

The four winners advanced to the Multi-Region State Spelling Bee held on February 26 in Fergus Falls. The Bee began with twenty-one spellers. It took twenty-six rounds and a demonstration of impressive spelling skills before Emma Greenlee, an 8th grader from Mesabi East-Aurora, was again declared the Champion. Millie Piper, an 8th grader from Fulda, was named 1st runner-up. By round sixteen, only Emma and Millie remained. "I think everyone in attendance was awed by the poise and ability these young people displayed today. All twenty-one of them deserve to be champions," commented Susan Ward, State Coordinator. She further stated that "Millie Piper has been here all four years (grades 5-8) and is one of the most poised, affable, charming and talented eighth graders I have ever met."

The event was sponsored by the following Minnesota Service Cooperatives: Lakes Country Service Cooperative - Fergus Falls, Northeast Service Cooperative - Mt. Iron, Northwest Service Cooperative - Thief River Falls, Resource Training & Solutions - St. Cloud and the SW/WC Service Cooperative - Marshall.

Awards Ceremony for Creative Writing Contest Held

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

Entries for the Creative Writing Contest have been judged and prizes were awarded to the winners at the Awards Ceremony on April 21 at SMSU in Marshall. The entries were first screened multiple times by SMSU creative writing students using a rubric. The entries with the highest scores were submitted to the final judges, faculty in SMSU's Creative Writing Program.

The contest was open to students in grades 3-12 with categories of poetry, fiction and non-fiction. 268 students participated in this year's contest and submitted 416 entries - the largest participation ever! We thank the students and schools that participated in the writing contest.

The Awards Ceremony was for finalists, their families and teachers. This year's special guest speaker was Thomas Maltman, an award-winning novelist, who teaches at Normandale Community College. Students received their awards including a copy of the anthology which contains their work. A recognition award was presented to the school with the most winning students. This year the award went to Hutchinson.



Science and Nature Conference Fast Approaching

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

Approximately 1,100 students, teachers and parents are registered to attend the 19th Annual Science & Nature Conference on May 15 at SMSU in Marshall. We believe this is one of the largest and most popular science conferences in the country for K-8th grade students!

The keynote speaker is Lonnie Dupre of Grand Marais. Dupre began his third attempt (in January 2013) to become the first person to summit Mount McKinley (a.k.a. Denali) alone in the month of January. After nineteen days he was forced to make the decision to begin descending the Alaskan mountain. During an arctic career spanning 25 years, Dupre has traveled over 15,000 miles throughout the high arctic and polar regions by dog team, ski and kayak. He will have many interesting stories and great photographs of his travels to share with conference participants.

In addition to the keynote presentation, students will participate in three hands-on sessions selected from twenty-six different topics related to science, nature and technology. Topics are divided into strands for grades K-2, 3-5 and 6-8.

Some schools are bringing classes as part of an end-of-the-year field trip. The date for next year's conference has not been set but it will be at a similar time (mid-May). Knowing the approximate date should give you more time for planning if you're interested in bringing classes (open to grades K-8) to the Science & Nature Conference next year instead of another type of field trip. With the wide variety of classes that are offered, every student should find topics they are interested in learning more about. Please contact me if you have questions about the conference.

GSL FFA Receives SHIP Grant

By Becky Haddad, Ag Instructor, Glencoe-Silver Lake Public Schools

The Glencoe-Silver Lake FFA chapter has been awarded \$3,000 as part of SHIP (Statewide Health Improvement Program) in conjunction with Meeker/McLeod/Sibley Community Health Services. This grant was a large part of what brought the garden to the forefront as a Farm to School Project for FFA this year. This grant will be used to purchase supplies for fencing, tools for extending the growing season, as well as a special provision for berry bushes and fruit trees. SHIP has also supported additional training for the garden staff over the course of the spring.

The FFA Chapter was approached in August with the idea to start a one acre community garden. With plans already underway, the GSL FFA Chapter intends to raise awareness for healthy eating, the value of a garden for exercise, smart environmental and conservation practices, as well as supply food to our middle and high school cafeteria, and provide community programming that will supply food to those in need (including community education, food shelves, and other donations).

The garden will serve as a community resource for fighting hunger and encouraging a healthy lifestyle. The garden site will be within walking distance from school and provide students and the community an opportunity for camaraderie, exercise, and fresh produce. A summer class will be offered in conjunction with the garden to provide opportunities for FFA members to work throughout the summer, and community members are encouraged to take advantage of opportunities to help with planting, (Continued on page 13)



Scan this QR Code to
read more about ALL of
our Student Activities



Senior High Knowledge Bowl Teams Earn Top Places

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

The Senior High Knowledge Bowl (SHKB) Program began the season with 103 teams registered from thirty-eight districts. They practiced locally and at invitational events hosted by area schools. Through a series of four sub-regional events and two regional events, six teams won the right to advance to the Minnesota State Knowledge Bowl Competition on April 11-12 at Cragun's. The top forty-eight teams in the state will compete in two tiers to see who will be the Champion of A and AA.

Region 6 Sub-Regionals - Winners

March 1 at Canby: 1st - Yellow Medicine East #1, 2nd - Canby #2, 3rd - Ortonville

March 12 at Granite Falls: 1st - Willmar, 2nd - Hutchinson #1, 3rd - Glencoe-Silver Lake #1

Region 8 Sub-Regionals - Winners

March 8 at Jackson: 1st - Murray County Central #1, 2nd - Mountain Lake #1, 3rd - Jackson County Central #1

March 12 at Marshall: 1st - Worthington #1, 2nd - Red Rock Central #1, 3rd - Springfield #2

Teams that placed in the top half at sub-regionals advanced to compete again at the regional events. The top three teams at each regional event advanced to the State SHKB Competition on April 11-12.

Region 6 Regional Winners (Shown Below)

March 22 at Canby - 1st - Glencoe-Silver Lake #1, 2nd - Willmar, 3rd - Hutchinson #1

Region 8 Regional Winners (Shown at Right)

March 14 at Marshall - 1st - Worthington #1, 2nd - Mountain Lake #1, 3rd - MCC #1



Region 8 Winners



1st - Worthington #1



2nd - Mountain Lake #1



3rd - MCC #1



1st - GSL #1



2nd - Willmar



3rd - Hutch #1

Region 6 Winners



Congratulations
Glencoe-Silver Lake
State Knowledge Bowl Champions
"A" Division



YME-Building Bridges After School Program

By Al Reszel, Program Coordinator, Yellow Medicine East Public Schools

Yellow Medicine East Middle School and High School are in our first year with the 21st Century Community Learning Center Grant. As we evaluated the students that would be involved and the student goals to be accomplished, we decided to rename our program as *Building Bridges*. The after-school program continues to provide opportunities for students to extend their learning outside the regular school day and classroom. Ten to fifteen students in the middle school grades spend the first half of the program working on homework and having some *free read* time. The two adults who are leading the activity for the evening provide a snack and homework assistance during this time. The second half of each program is spent doing a variety of different projects, games, or activities.

We are fortunate to have many teachers and paraprofessionals involved. Their unique skills and interests allow us to offer a very diverse number of student activities. There have been Treasure Hunts and Amazing Races, Movie-making, Cooking and Baking, Building Duck Houses, Engineering Pasta Cars, Designing and Building Cranes and Baking Gingerbread Houses. Field Trips have included bowling, the SMSU Planetarium, Game sessions at the Granite Falls Manor, and swimming at the local pool! We provide programming for our students four days per week and at least one Saturday each month. We are currently developing a wide range of activities for our summer program.

The program is building a number of *Bridges*: student to student, student to adult, student to school, and student to community. Relationships are being built at the same time that students are doing some innovative and critical thinking. With this program our students see the benefits of working collectively to solve problems, respect other's ideas, and use their imaginations to have fun learning experiences.

WWG Elementary Beach Party

By Paul Olson, Elementary Principal, Westbrook-Walnut Grove Public Schools

The WWG K-3 celebrated being a rewards school by having a beach party. First grade teacher, Mr. Jenniges, planned a wonderful, good old-fashioned beach party for the students. Our beach party just happened to be scheduled on Friday, Feb. 1st, one of the coldest days of the 2012-2013 School year.

Our students changed into their beach attire once they got to school. This included shorts, Hawaiian shirts, beach towels, sunglasses, and hats. We loaded the students onto two buses around lunchtime and headed to "the beach"! We did not tell them where we were going. We drove around town for a few minutes and then unloaded them back at our gym. We had the Beach Boys CD playing on the sound system as the students entered the gym. Each student found an area to lay out their beach towel or blanket. Our cooks made each student a wonderful sack lunch. The students really enjoyed themselves. Many were even dancing while they ate. The beach party went into full swing after lunch. The students were divided into many different groups. Each group rotated through the activities that were planned. Some of the activities included beach volleyball, a scavenger hunt, and bubble activities, just to name a few. We also pulled together funds from various organizations to purchase items that were in turn given to each student at the end of the beach party. Some of the items in the goodie bags given out included a small teddy bear, a sucker, sunglasses, sandal erasers, surfboard erasers, tattoos, stickers and some tootsie pops. For our snack, the cooks prepared watermelon, pineapple, strawberries, and cantaloupe for the students to enjoy.



The building duck houses project includes:

- *PBS Duckumentary
- *Duck house construction
- *Field trip to install the houses and set up trail cameras



"Our students had a blast and I guarantee they will remember it for the rest of their lives. With the steady push to get students ready for the state tests, it is good to remember that we need to have a little fun along the way as well."

~Paul Olson



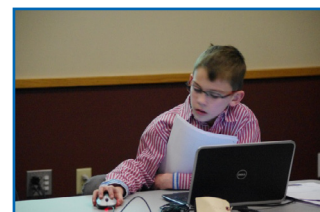
Administrative Services

Two Big Conferences...Complete

By Denise Hoek, Administrative Assistant, denise.hoek@swsc.org

Two big conferences highlighted the month of March for the Technology and RMIC departments. The 7th Annual Technology Conference was held on March 15th at the SMSU Conference Center with a Pre-Conference held on March 14th at the SW/WC Service Cooperative Office. The 30th Annual School Business Staff Conference was held on March 19th at the SMSU Conference Center. One always worries about the weather this time of the year. We were able to have both conferences but travel was not so good for some of our participants.

The Pre Tech Conference on March 14th featured six great three-hour sessions. These sessions ran from 4:00-7:00pm with a light supper served at 5:30 p.m. Many of the presenters and some of the participants also present or attend the full day conference as well but for those that are unable to make the full conference this is a great opportunity to *get in* on some of the greatest and latest things happening with Technology. One of our session presenters was a 4th grader from MCC Elementary School – Dante Damm (pictured at right). If you want to know anything about Scratch That!—contact Dante. Dante and his mom Kara, the SW/WC SC Technology Integration Specialist, teamed up to do this session. This session along with the others was very informative and well received by those that registered. We thank all those that attended and presented—it was a great way to start off the conference.



The Tech Conference on March 15th was a day filled with a wide variety of technology related sessions. The day started with Kari Arfstrom, Executive Director, Flipped Learning Network – Washington, District of Columbia giving a message on:

To Flip or Not to Flip – That is the Question.

Kari's message inspired educators to consider Flipped Learning in their environment. It was a great way to begin the conference and get everyone *geared up* for the day.

A total of fifty-two sessions were offered throughout the day. This year a new feature was the *focused groups*. Four sessions were offered right after lunch—with only four selections to choose from some great information was shared not only by the presenter(s)/panel but by those attending the session as well.

We had 28 vendors—8 of those being sponsors and 2 of them providing audio equipment and computers. We can't thank our presenters, sponsors and vendors enough for everything they did to make this such a great conference.

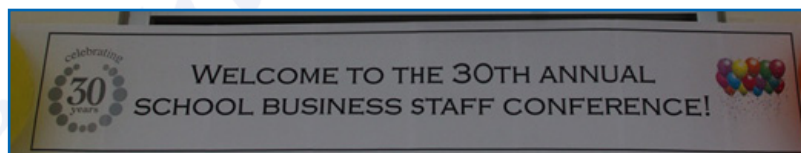
Thanks to all who attended as well—we hope you had a great day. What have you tried or maybe even already implemented into your classrooms since attending the conference? Be sure to let us know—this aids us in evaluating the conference and planning the next one.

We look forward to seeing you at next year's conference. The 2014 dates are March 13th for the Pre Conference and March 14th for the Tech Conference. We are always looking for session topics, so please be sure to contact us with your ideas/suggestions.



Four days later, the 30th Annual School Business Staff Conference was held on March 19th. This conference is held every year for school office staff—those that work with Payroll, Finance and Student Reporting (MARSS) in addition to everything else in between that fills up their days.

It wasn't a very nice day outside—you would think it was January 19
(Continued on next page)



Conferences (continued from previous page)

vs. March 19th -- but it ended up to be a great day inside, filled with lots and lots of valuable information for those in attendance.

Because of the weather some of our presenters and vendors were not able to attend but we made adjustments as we needed to and all but one session was held—we appreciated everyone's understanding and flexibility.

To celebrate our 30th Annual Conference, conference attendees received an insulated cooler and a Windows Surface was drawn for one of our member districts—the name drawn was Crystal Dahlke from Glencoe/Silver Lake. Pictured at right is the Surface being presented to the staff. A special thank you to all our conference presenters, sponsors and vendors. We thank all of you that attended—it's a great opportunity for everyone to get together to visit and to share information with the presenters and district staff. Our goal is all the same—to make Minnesota Schools the best we can! Mark your calendars, the 2014 Conference has been scheduled for Thursday, April 10th - we look forward to seeing all of you there.



Summer Tech Integration Workshops



There are SO many great opportunities lined up for this summer in our Technology Integration! Any classes listed in the Professional Development Classes Brochure can be customized and taught in your district. Please contact Kara Damm, Technology Integration Specialist, for more information. To view the entire summer catalog, visit www.swsc.org/techint and click on Upcoming Workshops!



kara.damm@swsc.org

GSL FFA (continued from page 9)

weeding, and harvesting. Plans have already been set in motion to work with the local food shelf and multiple community partners to utilize this new resource to its fullest extent.

With these plans in the works, the GSL 7/8 FFA Chapter has been hard at work writing grants, planning out plotting, advertising, preparing education opportunities, and most recently, planting. Wednesday marked the first planting day of the season as seventh and eighth grade students in Mrs. Haddad's agriculture classes started varieties of peppers and tomatoes in gloves (pictured at right). Within a few weeks of germination, the seedlings will be transplanted into egg cartons to allow a healthy start inside before meeting outdoor conditions.

SHIP works on the areas of community, school, workplace and health care toward sustainable, systemic changes that create widespread, lasting results. Instead of focusing on individual behavior change that may be hard to maintain over time, SHIP makes sustainable changes that support individual choices about health.



Distracted to Death

By Mrs. Hinz 6th grade homeroom, Yellow Medicine East Public Schools



The Yellow Medicine East 6th graders launched an IT CAN WAIT campaign against distracted driving. We believe that our students, parents, and community members are being distracted to death by their cell phones while driving. Our group has presented to the 7-12 student body at YME, the Granite Falls Kiwanis and will be hosting informational booths at our local parent teacher conferences and Granite Falls Health Fair on April 11th. Funding was secured for our project from the Granite Falls Kiwanis, Granite Falls Bank, and also the YAR - Youth Area Resource group out of Marshall. Our main focus is to teach everyone that no tweet, post, chat, read or sent message is worth losing your life or the lives of other drivers you are meeting. We encourage other schools to take action and start their own campaign. Please check out our teacher's website at isd2190.org ... then staff directory and then Mrs. Hinz. Our presentations are shared there as well as the stress ball keychains and T-shirts we designed for our campaign. It is this simple ~ IT CAN WAIT!



Olweus Bullying Prevention at GSL

By Paul Sparby, Junior High/Senior High Principal, GSL Public Schools

One of the initiatives we are working on this year K-12 at Glencoe-Silver Lake Schools is our Olweus Bullying Prevention Program. We have included a lot of the information from their website in this article, but you can also access their website at http://www.violencepreventionworks.org/public/bullying_prevention_program.page.

The Olweus Bullying Prevention Program is the most researched and best known bullying prevention program available today. We have been very fortunate in being able to work with Jean Johnson and McLeod County Health in being able to bring this program to Glencoe-Silver Lake Schools. Mrs. Johnson applied for and received a grant which is allowing us to purchase the curriculum and provide the trainings needed to our staff to make this initiative work at GSL.

The following are the program goals and this information can also be found on their website. The Olweus Bullying Prevention Program is designed to improve peer relations and make schools safer, more positive places for students to learn and develop.

Goals of the program include:

- reducing existing bullying problems among students
- preventing the development of new bullying problems
- achieving better peer relations at school

All of our students in grades 3-12 completed an online survey in October. The survey gives us data about what types of bullying is taking place on our campus. Where is this bullying taking place? How often? Etc... The K-6 and 7-12 Olweus Training teams consisting of teachers, counselors, and principals participated in trainings starting in November. The teams used the data compiled from the surveys to help mold and develop a bullying prevention plan that would be successful in their buildings. All K-12 staff have now been trained in the Olweus Bullying Prevention Program. The goal is to work in collaboration with students, staff, parents, and the community to develop plans that will improve our culture and make our campus a great place that is free from bullying.

As we progress through the implementation of our Olweus Bullying Prevention Program, the next step will be our community wide kick-off event in the fall of 2013. We are very excited at GSL about our Olweus Bullying Prevention Program and think it will do great things for our campuses and help make them even better for our students! And at the end of the day, isn't that why we are here?



Engineering and More at GSL

By Mike Sundblad, Industrial Technology Instructor, GSL Public Schools
[University of Minnesota Engineering Course offered at GSL High School](#)

The 2013-14 school year will see more opportunities for GSL High School students. The Industrial Technology Department will be offering a *College in the School* course titled: Introduction to Engineering Design. The course curriculum has been designed by the national organization, Project Lead the Way (www.pltw.org). The Introduction to Engineering Design (IED) course is designed for 9th or 10th grade students. The major focus of IED is the design process and its application. Through hands-on projects, students apply engineering standards and document their work. Students use industry standard 3D modeling software (Autodesk Inventor) to help them design solutions to solve proposed problems, document their work using an engineer's notebook and communicate solutions to peers and members of the professional community. Future course offerings include Principles of Engineering (2014-15), Digital Electronics and Civil Engineering and Architecture (2015-16) and Computer Integrated Manufacturing (2016-17).

[GSL Supermileage Team](#)

Twenty-five Glencoe-Silver Lake High School Engineering students have formed their first Supermileage team. Students will build a one-person fuel-efficient vehicle for entry in the Minnesota Technology Education and Engineering Associations Annual Supermileage Challenge. The students will research, design, prototype, build and test a one person vehicle which meets the requirements for the MTEEA Supermileage Challenge. Students will use modern practices in machining, welding, sheet metal work, composites forming, engine technology, and drive train design. Their advisors are Mr. Svoboda and Mr. Sundblad.

The students met on weekends, days off, and over Christmas to develop a prototype, and met daily starting in March to complete their design, perform the assembly and test before the competition in May. Testing will take place on the GSL track in April and May of 2013. The final project will compete at the MTEEA Supermileage Challenge at Brainerd International Raceway in mid-May 2013.

The team recognizes that natural resources are finite. Humans must find a way to use earth's resources efficiently so there will be some left for future generations. Although this project is a small attempt to demonstrate that better fuel economy is attainable, it is a large step in the change of thinking for the future of these students. These are the future engineers, designers, mechanics, and consumers. This project will have a positive impact on their lives and the lives of future generations. Several local organizations are sponsors for the project, including the Southwest Initiative Fund and Youth Energy Summit, Stevens Seminary and Midwest Machinery.

Social Media at SW/WC SC



www.facebook.com/SWWCSC and
[SWWCTechnologyIntegrationinEducation](http://www.facebook.com/SWWCTechnologyIntegrationinEducation)

<http://pinterest.com/swwcsc/>



FOLLOW US ON **twitter**

@SWWC_SC - general account
 and @kdammm - tech integration

Many of our staff are on Twitter.
 Look at the @SWWC_SC
 followers to find all of them!



www.youtube.com/swwcsc

Professional Development

To register for any of these workshops, visit www.swsc.org/workshops.
Please check back often as workshops are frequently added.

May to September

4/29/2013	SLD Community of Practice - Worthington
4/30/2013	Intro to Cognos Bus. Insight Advanced & Query Studio
4/30/2013	Cognos Work Sessions
4/30/2013	MDE Breakfast Meal Pattern Training
5/2/2013	Effective Strategies Bullying Workshop
5/3/2013	Leadership in Literacy - Day 4
5/8/2013	TSIS-Year End Processing - non FLY Schools
5/9/2013	Superintendent Workshop
5/16/2013	iLearn Series
5/17/2013	Flipped Classroom Series
5/22/2013	Files, Files, Files - Just Do It! ECSE
5/22/2013	Files, Files, Files - Just Do It!
6/3/2013	Files, Files, Files - Just Do It!
6/3/2013	Files, Files, Files - Just Do It! ECSE
6/10/2013	TIES Technology Leadership Academy - final session
6/11/2013	iPad for Administrators
6/11/2013	UFARS/Year End and H & S Update Workshops
6/12/2013	Administrator Forum
6/12/2013	Behavior Intervention Plan
6/19/2013	TSIS - Personalized Learning - Content Management
6/19/2013	TSIS - Tests & Assessments - Content Management
6/20/2013	TSIS - Content Management Work Session
7/1/2013	Smartboard Level 1
7/8/2013	Smartboard Activity Toolkit
7/11/2013	Flipped Classroom
7/17/2013	Summer Leadership Conference
7/22/2013	Google Drive
7/24-25/2013	iPad Academy
7/29/2013	Schoolology
7/29/2013	Summer Principal Summit
8/1/2013	Smartboard Level 1
8/2/2013	iPad for K-6
8/5/2013	Smartboard Level 2
8/8-9/2013	iPad Academy
8/12/2013	Moodle
8/16/2013	iPad for Administrators
8/16/2013	Spedacular - Pipestone
8/22/2013	Spedacular - Willmar
8/23/2013	Newer Teacher Training - Redwood Falls
9/11-12/2013	Language & Augmentative & Alternative Communication



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9/25/2013	Formative Assessment, Part 1 - Willmar
10/8/2013	Formative Assessment, Part 2 - Willmar
11/5/2013	Formative Assessment, Part 3 - Willmar