May 2023

# LCSC Communicator

LAKES COUNTRY Service Cooperative
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*Regional News, Views, and Information*

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**EDUCATION-**
*Electronic Edition*
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# Parkers Prairie
## KNOWLEDGE BOWL TEAM

**Celebrates**
**Class A**
**Victory at the State Tournament**



**Team Members:**
Abigail Bauer,
Isaac Grabow, Brody Lenzen,
Aili Toyli and Jasmine Wendt

The Parkers Prairie Knowledge Bowl team recently brought home the Class A championship title at the State Knowledge Bowl Meet held on April 13-14 at Cragun's Resort near Brainerd.

Coaches Fred Liljegren and Dave O'Brien spoke about the team's performance in the final round of the competition. "Watching them walk out of the final round content with their performance was a proud moment for me," Coach Liljegren said. Coach O'Brien stated, "They were up going in, but they kept composed and were able to lock up the championship."

The entire school and community celebrated the team's success with a firetruck escort welcoming them back to the school. "Arriving home to a firetruck escort with the students and staff waiting for us at the front of the school was cool," shared one of the students on the team.

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***Source/Author:*** *Monica Thompson, Academic Challenges Coordinator*

Coach O'Brien praised the team's work ethic and team spirit, saying, "It was fantastic! This group works together well, and they are fun-loving." He also shared a funny story from the night before the competition, when the team spent time launching one of their team members as high as they could into the pool.

The students spoke about their experience at the competition, and one shared that "the food was great, the accommodations were wonderful. Everyone had a good night's rest and was ready to compete." They also acknowledged their challenging competition, with every round demanding and challenging.

Parkers Prairie has past State Knowledge Bowl experience. In 2021, the State Knowledge Bowl Meet was held virtually because of the pandemic. The team gathered around a laptop at Coach Liljegren's kitchen table and competed with other Knowledge Bowl teams across the state. Last year at the State Meet, they faced tough competition but worked hard as a team and placed 6th in Class A.

Winning the Class A championship title this year was a significant accomplishment for the team and their coaches, who took pride not only in the victory but in the students' character. "It felt great! The students were proud of their accomplishment, and we took a lot of pride not just in victory but in how these young people carried themselves," said Coach Liljegren.

The Parkers Prairie Knowledge Bowl team has shown that hard work, dedication, and teamwork can lead to great success. Their victory as Class A champions is a testament to their skills and community support. Congratulations to the Parkers Prairie Knowledge Bowl team on their outstanding achievement!



2021 Team



Competing virtually in 2021 at Coach Liljegren's kitchen table.



Competing at Cragun's in 2023.

**Want to learn more about the Knowledge Bowl and Academic Challenges programs? Visit the Academic Challenges page on our website.**

FROM THE

# Executive Director

"Learning, Leading, and Innovating to Achieve Vibrant, Inclusive Communities."

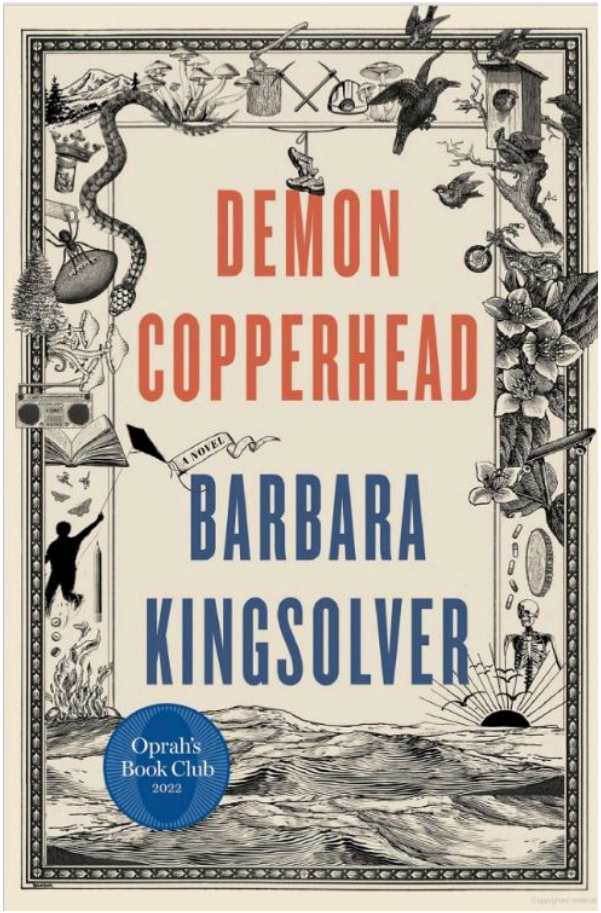


**Jeremy Kovash**
*Executive Director*

When Charles Dickens penned "David Copperfield" in the 1840s, it was an autobiographical tale of institutional poverty and the perils of children. A modern version of this classic literature is "Demon Copperhead" by Barbara Kingsolver. This novel should be a resource, if not a requirement, for our educational professionals.

"Dead in the heart of Lee County, between the RueLynn Coal Camp and a settlement people called Right-Poor on the top of a road between two steep mountains is where our single wide was set" describes the setting of "Demon Copperhead." Kingsolver's magical use of language and metaphor makes this novel must-read. Set in Southern Appalachia, the book delves into difficult concepts, including teenage parenting, foster care, school systems, social services, poverty, mental health, and addiction. It is a story of continued loss and never-ending tragedy yet highlights the difference that caring adults can make on lives… adults who make a difference. It instills empathy, delivers hope, and Kingsolver appropriately dedicates the book to "the survivors."

We hope that this spring (finally) and summer give each of us a chance to refresh, renew and recharge.





KARNA JOHNSON, Y.E.S. PROGRAM INSTRUCTOR AND Y.E.S. STUDENT ALEXIS, ON GRADUATION DAY

# YOUTH EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

## A LEGACY OF LEARNING

On March 9, 2023, the Lakes Country Service Cooperative (LCSC) Board of Directors made a very difficult decision to close the Youth Educational Services (Y.E.S.) program as of July 1, 2023. Y.E.S. was created as a cooperative alternative learning program for five districts (Moorhead, Barnesville, Dilworth-Glyndon-Felton, Hawley, and Ulen-Hitterdal) in LCSC's northwest region over 30 years ago.

We are so proud of the incredibly effective educational culture that the Y.E.S. staff fostered over the years, which has positively changed many young lives. The testimonials from former students and families have been both uplifting and heartbreaking, with the knowledge that we cannot continue the program. We agree with those who say there are not enough educational alternatives like Y.E.S. for kids in need. As we look to the future, LCSC will advocate for other opportunities for kids who need non-traditional and nurturing educational environments. We encourage everyone in the community to stay involved in advocating for alternative programs.



Y.E.S. STUDENTS STUDYING THE MISSISSIPPI HEADWATERS

***Source/Author:*** *Jane Eastes, LCSC, Executive Deputy Director*

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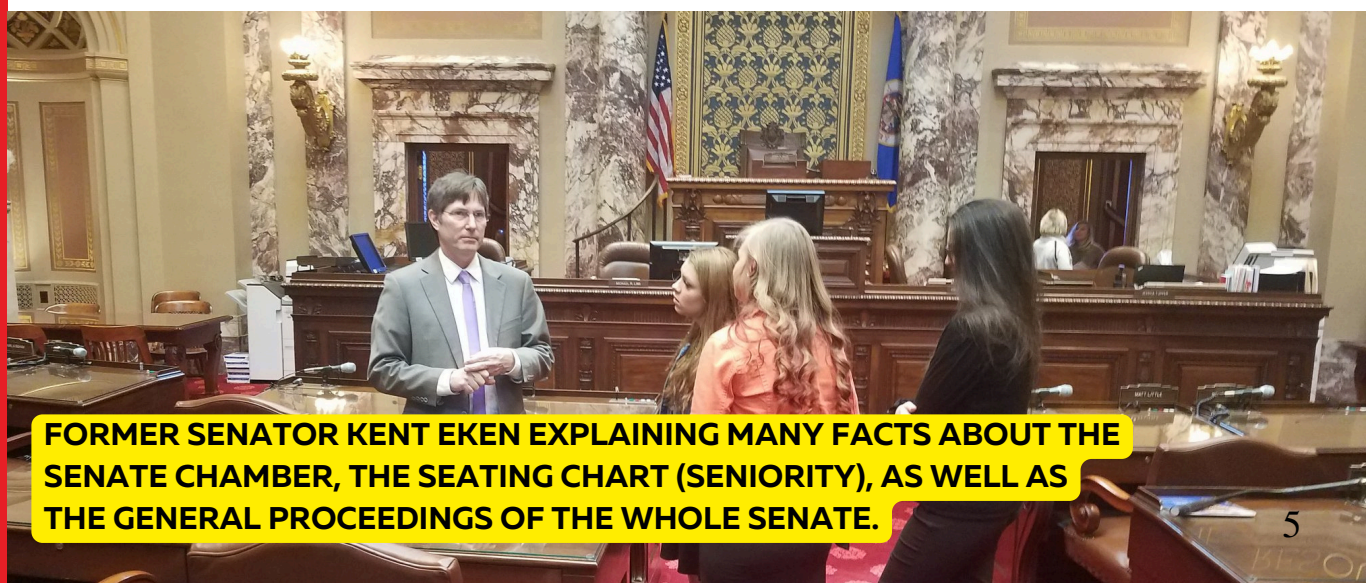


Y.E.S. CLASS OF 2020.

We know the final decision is a shock to those of you who have known and loved the Y.E.S. program over the years. For the LCSC staff and Board, closing the program was a long and very agonizing decision. It made financial and educational sense for districts to collaborate on one program for many years, but that model has changed for many school districts. We have tried many alternatives to keep the program financially solvent, but in the face of continued losses, we realized the Cooperative does not have the financial resources to continue the program the way it should be funded.

We are so grateful to the teachers who have given their expertise and hearts over the years to create a culture known for safety, connection, and building confidence in students. Rarely have we seen a team more dedicated to students' well-being. We admire the thought, care, and professionalism of our current teachers, Karna Johnson, Nicci Seifert, Mathew Dahmen, and Sadie Windego.

The impact this team has made will last for generations.



FORMER SENATOR KENT EKEN EXPLAINING MANY FACTS ABOUT THE SENATE CHAMBER, THE SEATING CHART (SENIORITY), AS WELL AS THE GENERAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE WHOLE SENATE.

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June 20 & 21, 2023

We know that educators want to renew their excitement, energy, and focus within their classrooms and buildings. The multiple "Keynote Sessions," on June 20 and June 21, allow participants to learn from a few leading experts to address the systemic trauma we see, ignite our shine, and the changing atmosphere of education. Register today for the FIRST Education WE GOT THIS SUMMIT at Detroit Lakes Public Schools on June 20 & 21, 2023.

**CLICK HERE to download the entire summit agenda and details.**

WORLD SAVVY

## Students Take on the Challenge of Promoting Well-being for All Ages

Over 60 students from Fergus Falls and Parkers Prairie schools spent a full day exploring the theme "promoting well-being for all at all ages," which they had selected themselves. With the help of World Savvy's Knowledge-to-Action framework, they created a co-creative response to the issue. This kind of initiative is crucial for everyone in the 21st century and beyond: it encourages active citizenship, prepares individuals for the jobs of the future, and develops skills to solve both local and global problems. WORLDSAAVY.ORG





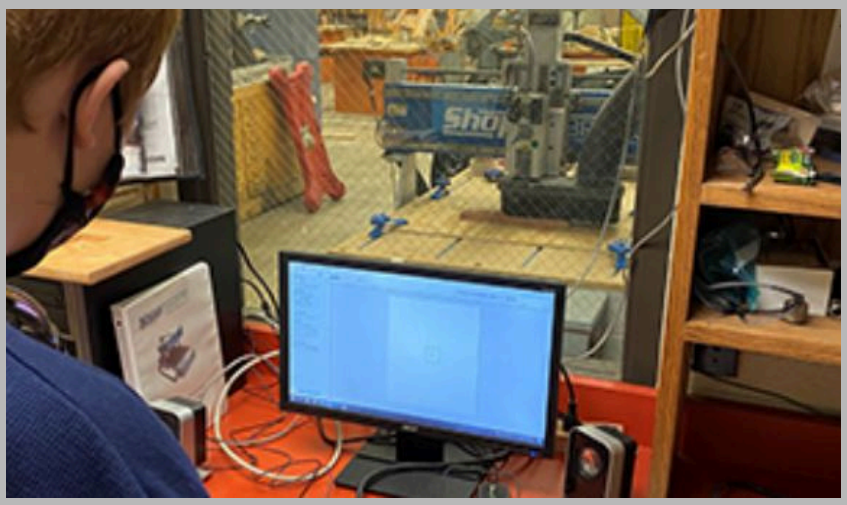



# SKILL DEVELOPMENT

## THAT LEADS TO WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

**Source:** Troy Haugen, LCSC Director of Career and College Readiness; Mike Martin, LCSC RCTECG Grant Manager; Tom Leuthner, LCSC Alternative Teacher Preparation Program Leader
**Author:** Mary Phillipe, LCSC's Communications Generalist

What happens when 32 schools provide students with computer numerical control (CNC) machines? "The students get excited about designing and delivering projects," said Lakes Country Service Cooperative's (LCSC's) Rural Career & Technical Education Consortium (RCTEC) Grant Manager Mike Martin. In addition to serving as the grant manager Martin is responsible for the delivery and set up of the equipment in the schools. He shared that he is pleased with the equipment and program's rollout, and that all the schools utilizing the same system and software make providing training and follow-up with programming and equipment questions less complicated.





Martin planned and created the equipment starter kit and coordinated all school training.

> "We enjoy seeing these new CNC machines making dust and not collecting dust," said Mike Martin.

The RCTEC grant provides 3 million dollars annually to support Career and Technical Education for eight service cooperative regions in Minnesota. Lakes Country Service Cooperative's Director of Career and College Readiness, Troy Haugen, shared that eight of the nine Minnesota Service Cooperatives worked together to submit a request for a 3 million Rural Career and Technical Educations Consortium Grant, of which LCSC received $600,000 for LCSC's service region.

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After receiving a grant award, Lakes Country Service Cooperative's Deputy Executive Director, Jane Eastes, and Cooperative Purchasing's Procurement Specialist, Kristine Urbowicz, opened an RFP for competitive bids from CNC manufacturers across Minnesota. Following a thorough selection process, ShopSabre, a local Minnesota manufacturer, was chosen to provide the CNC equipment to 32 schools. Thanks to effective training by Tom Leuthner and excellent planning by Mike Martin, all 32 schools have received CNC machines, equipment carts, and 40 licenses for the VCarve design software. Martin and Leuthner were pleased with the machine selection, stating that the CNC tables are faster and quieter than traditional router tables and are fitted with a spindle head.

It is such a benefit that students can get this hands-on experience. “The art of cabinet making is trending away from the more traditional tools and migrating to a CNC based environment and especially where large volumes of production are needed,” said Martin.




“Students enrolled in the CNC program gain practical experience in programming and operating CNC machines, preparing them for future careers in engineering, manufacturing, and other technical fields.” Tom Leuthner, LCSC’s Alternative Teacher Preparation Program Leader, provides the training for the CNC program teachers at each school. Access to industry-grade equipment gives students the exposure they need to succeed in the field. It's also encouraging to hear that there has been a significant increase in female student enrollment. This is especially evident at Lafayette High School in Red Lake Falls, where all ten elective CAD/CNC program students are females. It's essential to continue to make strides in diversifying the field and encouraging more women to pursue careers in technology and design. By providing access to industry-grade equipment and training, we can help students, regardless of gender, reach their full potential.

One of Leuthner's favorite projects involves repurposing acrylic sheets from school offices, which were initially used to maintain safety during the COVID-19 pandemic. The students have employed these sheets for drafting and design assignments, resulting in an innovative and eco-conscious initiative that stimulates creativity while repurposing materials that would have otherwise been discarded.

Do you want to learn more about the CNC Program in the LCSC’s service region? You can visit the Minnesota Century Program Website or - Contact LCSC’s Director of Career and College Readiness, Troy Haugen, at thaugen@lcsc.org.

# MANAGING SCHOOL CRISIS

LAKES COUNTRY Service Cooperative

## 2-Day Training

**There is no fee to attend this training.**
**Funding is provided by Project AWARE**

### The Trainer

Brian Skogen
International Critical Incident Stress Foundation (ICISF) Instructor
SW/WC MN SCRT Coordinator
Suicide Prevention Specialist
bscllc21@gmail.com
BSC brianskogenconsulting.com

### Who should attend?

- ✓ School Social Workers
- ✓ School Counselors
- ✓ School Psychologists
- ✓ School Nurses
- ✓ Other School Mental Health Professionals

**Date: June 28 - 29, 2023**
**Time: 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.**
**Location: LCSC, 1001 E. Mount Faith, Fergus Falls, MN 56537**

REGISTER HERE

### PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- Nature of school crisis and traumatic stress on learning.
- Major components of crisis management.
- Specific goals of crisis intervention and crisis management.
- Standard of care as it relates to school crisis management.
- CISM (Critical Incident Stress Management) as a model of crisis intervention.
- Unique role and needs of the school staff.
- Group intervention techniques for students and staff.
- Protocol used for small and large incidents.

LCSC'S DIRECTOR OF CAREER AND COLLEGE READINESS

# Troy Haugen

## APPOINTED TO THE GOVERNOR'S WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD (GWDB)

**THE GWDB'S MISSION IS TO ANALYZE AND RECOMMEND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT POLICIES TO THE GOVERNOR AND LEGISLATURE TOWARD TALENT DEVELOPMENT, RESOURCE ALIGNMENT AND SYSTEM EFFECTIVENESS TO ENSURE A GLOBALLY COMPETITIVE WORKFORCE FOR MINNESOTA.**



On March 17, 2023, Troy Haugen was notified of his appointment to the Minnesota Governor's Workforce Development Board. Haugen, who has served as the Director of Career and College Readiness for the past ten years at Lakes Country Service Cooperative, shared that he was excited about the news and honored to fulfill the role on the governor's board.

"The seat I hold on the board is related to career and technical education.

I am excited to orient myself to the full depth and breadth of the work of the board and then learn where I can advocate on behalf of our secondary and post-secondary Career & Technical Education and Career Pathways Program in Minnesota to be better integrated into the larger education workforce ecosystem," explained Haugen.

As a member of the Governor's Workforce Development Board, Haugen will have the opportunity to play a vital role in shaping policies and initiatives that support the needs of Minnesota's workers and businesses.

# COMPOSTING

## We Start by Changing Behaviors

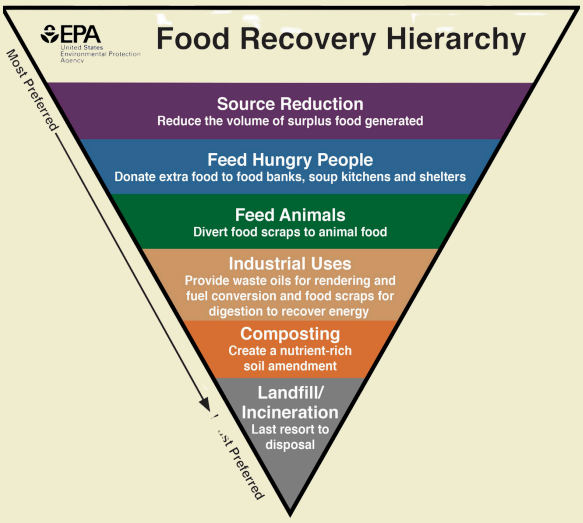
Cedar Walters grew up in a home where caring for the planet was an everyday practice. "I have a passion for this project!" said Walters about the food composting project in Otter Tail County. Walter's role as Public Information and Education Officer (PIEO) for the Otter Tail County Solid Waste Department is about educating our communities. "It has been a heavier lift than I anticipated," said Walters.




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**Source:** Cedar Walters, Otter Tail County Solid Waste Department Public Information and Education Officer, Otter Tail County Solid Waste Website, Minnesota Pollution Control Website, US EPA Website

**Author:** Mary Phillipe, LCSC's Communications Generalist







"We are working to change behaviors. First and foremost, we want people to stop wasting food. If food waste needs to be dealt with, using the steps of the food hierarchy model is the best way to ensure proper disposal of the items."

The average American produces roughly 4.4 lbs. of trash daily, and about 1/4 of that is compostable food waste. According to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), food waste was one of the most significant contributors to landfills in 2018.

The Otter Tail County, Solid Waste Department, completed a waste composition study to analyze the substance of the average household garbage. Employees sorted household garbage by hand into separate categories of waste. This analysis concluded that 27% of the trash collected at the household level was preventable food waste and compostable food scraps. Everyone creates wasted food, but it is just as simple not to create it. Both businesses and individuals can learn to effectively prevent wasted food by taking simple steps such as making grocery lists, inventorying supplies, and buying only what you need.

Environmental impacts of food waste

• When food is wasted, all the resources used to produce that food are also wasted.

• Eight percent of US agricultural land used to produce food is wasted.

• Twenty-five percent of all freshwater in the US is used to produce food that is thrown away.

• Food waste also has a carbon footprint. Most uneaten food goes to landfills, producing methane, a greenhouse gas 24 times more environmentally harmful than carbon dioxide.

In 2022, nearly 500 Otter Tail County residents received supplies to participate in the Backyard Composting Program. The program aims to help people in rural communities compost at home. This program was supported through a grant from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, and in the first nine months of the program, over 60,000 lbs. of food scraps were composted.

## SCHOOLS/COLLEGES PARTICIPATING IN THE PROGRAM:

- FERGUS FALLS AREA LEARNING CENTER
- CLEVELAND ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
- HENNING SCHOOL
- KENNEDY SECONDARY SCHOOL
- M STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE (FF)
- PARKERS PRAIRIE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL & HIGH SCHOOL
- UNDERWOOD SCHOOL

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Food composting is recycling organic materials (like food scraps, coffee grounds, yard waste, and soiled paper products) into nutrient-rich soil/compost. Composting also supports plant growth, reduces water usage, and decreases the need for chemical fertilizers. Additionally, composting is an easy way to reduce environmental impact and positively contribute to the planet's health. Composting is simple. It happens in nature all the time. If you pile your organic waste in a specific area, it will break down even if you ignore it.

In addition to residential support for composting, Otter Tail County Solid Waste partners with local schools and businesses to provide food waste pickup. Otter Tail County contracts with Steve's Sanitation in Perham to pick up compost at 20 participating schools and businesses.




**To learn more,**
visit their website at https://ottertailcountymn.us/content-page/organics-recycling/ or contact Cedar Walters at 218-998-8950.

Schools in Fergus Falls, Underwood, Parkers Prairie, and Henning currently participate in the composting program. The highest volume participants are Pizza Ranch, Lake Region Healthcare, and Kennedy Secondary School in Fergus Falls. Parkers Prairie and Henning schools collected 30,000 lbs. of composted food in their first year of operation.

So where is the food waste deposited? The materials are delivered to the Glacial Ridge facility in Hoffman, Minnesota. The facility, which opened in 2022, supports the composting needs of Douglas, Pope, Grant, Stevens, and Otter Tail counties. https://popedouglasrecycle.com/glacial-ridge-compost-facility/

In Minnesota, the Duluth area pioneered composting, and in the Twin Cities Metro area, composting has been very common for at least 20 years. Now counties all over Minnesota are participating. Minnesota currently has nine large-scale compost sites permitted to accept food waste.

When asked if she feels the program makes a difference, Walters stated, "It is making a difference, but we have far to go. I don't pull my punches as much as I used to. I tell people that we all must do as much as possible to reduce the waste in our landfills, and I ask them if this is what they want to leave their children and grandchildren. Right now, we are leaving them a trashed planet. Every little bit we each do now will help their future."

Do you want to start composting? Otter Tail County offers resources and information on composting, including workshops and classes. Additionally, several options exist for purchasing compost bins or building your own. Following the county's guidelines on what can and cannot be composted is essential. Still, it's a simple and environmentally friendly way to dispose of food waste and yard debris.



# ALPHABET MIX-UP!

**Source/Author:** Linda Saari, ECFE Coordinator, ECFE Educator and ECFE Parent Educator

## P is now replacing the letter K in K -12 Education.

This surprising change adds a noteworthy focus to Brandon Evansville's activities related to The Week of the Young Child. This change was the topic of Minnesota Department of Education's Mike Brown's regional presentation at Brandon-Evansville School. When our teachers first heard Mike's presentation on this topic, we tried to get up to speed quickly. We wondered if the letter combination P -12 stood for Preschool to Grade 12. This shows you that teachers are constantly needing to learn as well. Mike, and his Minnesota Department of Education team, told us that the term P -3 means Prenatal – 3rd grade Education. This new label, P – 12, means that all children from Prenatal – 12th grade are included in our school systems.



# PRENATAL

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Superintendent Louisa Glenetske at Brandon – Evansville School is excited to welcome the youngest children into our P -12 school system. Brandon – Evansville's School Board Chair, Jana Anderson, feels the same. Here is a summary of the plan being used to carry out this project:

1) Connie Fields, from the Douglas County Early Childhood Initiative, is now leading a Minnesota Department of Education-sponsored study group to help Brandon-Evansville PreK – Kindergarten educators ease any transition line that may come up between the two grade levels.

2) As research shows that the brain neurons for love and learning start with the beginning of life, B-E schools are working with Lakes Country Service Cooperative to pilot a new program. This program is called Raising a Reader. The mission of this program is to engage caregivers in what Raising a Reader LCSC Coordinator Deb Berry calls "book cuddling." This book cuddling will foster healthy brain development, healthy relationships, a love of reading, and the language and literacy skills critical for school success.

3) The Douglas-Pope County United Way has provided resource support for our Raising a Reader program, The L. A. Amundson Foundation, the Minnesota Department of Education, The Douglas County Public Library, the Douglas County Early Childhood Initiative, West Central Community Action Head Start, and LCSC.

4) West Central Initiative and the University of Minnesota Morris have provided additional training for starting education at the beginning of life. The two partners have teamed together to sponsor the Fulbright Scholarship of Dr. Iiris Happo from Finland. In the last year, Dr. Happo visited our region to share information with us on how Finland has some of the highest reading scores in the world. One of the important points from Dr. Happo's presentation is that funding for each child's education begins at birth. At the initial step of that funding, parents are given a full year of support to stay home and be with their children. During that first year, they can access the early care and education system and all the resources it provides to Finnish parents. Those elements of the Finnish education system provide a strong foundation for reading competency for students.

As much as people in our region were impressed with Finland's support for young families, Dr. Happo was impressed with how Minnesota provides Early Childhood Family Education. E.C.F.E. is our program for parents and children to learn together. The Minnesota E.C.F.E. program goes from P – 3rd grade.

In addition to carrying out the activities involved with the new P-12 plan at Brandon-Evansville, the school's E.C.F.E. program continues to look for ways to include and provide services for more area children and families. Using the Raising a Reader program, we have expanded the number of children and parent participants to 140 families. We aim to increase this number in years to come by further expanding the program to more of our local Child Care Educators.

An African proverb says, "It takes a village to raise a child." That is so true! We must all contribute to our children's meaningful education and positive development.

So "cuddle up" and treasure your children as you celebrate their young lives this week. Doing this now has never been so important. Positively building and improving the meaningful bond between you and your children will impact their lives, and yours, forever.

**Want to learn more about Brandon Evansville Public Schools' work with ECFE and young children? Contact Linda Saari at lsaari@b-e.k12.mn.us**

# KNOWLEDGE BOWL




Knowledge Bowl continues to grow and attract students and coaches that value cooperation, competition and knowledge. During the 2022-23 school year, 97 teams from 33 schools participated in the junior high Knowledge Bowl, and 148 teams from 37 schools participated in the senior high Knowledge Bowl.

The senior high Knowledge Bowl got off to an incredible start, with 148 teams competing over two days at Concordia College in Moorhead, Minnesota, in December. These teams continued to compete throughout the winter, and during the postseason, competing for one of the six spots from our region to attend the State KB meet held on April 13-14 at Cragun's Resort near Brainerd.

Region 4 had six teams who worked hard to earn a spot at the State Knowledge Bowl meet and competed well!

- **Class A Champion: Parkers Prairie**
- **4th Place Class AAA: Moorhead**
- **5th Place Class AAA: Alexandria**
- **12th Place Class AA: Park Christian School**
- **12th Place Class A: Clinton, Graceville, Beardsley School**
- **14th Place Class A: Battle Lake**

We are proud of all the Region 4 teams and their outstanding performance at the State Knowledge Bowl Meet. Congratulations again to all the participants for their hard work and achievement!

# Math Masters

The halls at Lakes Country were filled with the hustle and bustle of 4th, 5th and 6th grade students during Math Masters competitions. Their excitement could be felt throughout the building! Almost 200 students participated in Math Masters competitions at Lakes County during our first year hosting.

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# Top Teams

## 5th Grade: Morris




## 4th Grade: Fergus Falls




When the day began you could feel the nerves in the room. As the tests were passed out, the students were anxious to see how many questions they could solve. With pencils and calculators ready and the timer set, they were ready!

The students competed as individuals and then on teams for a total of six rounds of competition for 4th grade and eight rounds of competition for 5th and 6th grade. As each round ended, the nerves turned into enthusiasm for their accomplishments.

When asked what the best part of the day was the answer was “everything” and many asked “when can we do this again?”

# YOUNG WRITERS CONFERENCE

The Young Writers' Conference provides students in grades three through seven with an opportunity to attend classes presented by Minnesota authors and other artists. Approximately 300 students will attend this event in Fergus Falls on May 16th.

This year we have a couple new presenters and many favorites that will be returning to share their love of writing, reading and art in the hopes of inspiring everyone!

Everyone will get the opportunity to share some laughs and be amazed by Nick Bretz. Nick is not only a magician, but he also has a 4th degree black belt in Tae Kwon Do. During his show he is often seen entertaining the crowd with his magic, juggling, yo-yo tricks or making balloon art and animals.

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The students will also attend a session with an author, storyteller, and artists. Here are the talented authors, storytellers, and artists presenting at this year's conference.

• **Jim Fletcher:** Jim is an artist and the author of four novels. His art and his writing merged while developing his fantasy adventure trilogy.

• **Bob Gasch:** Bob has years of experience as a teacher and storyteller. He captivates the audience by sharing his love of storytelling with his expressive and boisterous laugh.

• **Debbie Hoven:** After 40 years of encouraging her students to use their imaginations, retired preschool and kindergarten teacher Debbie Hoven, followed her own advice. Combining her creativity with her love for Christmas, Debbie's first book "Light Up the Year" was published.

• **Laura Rach:** Laura is a mixed media artist and independent teacher. She enjoys sharing her creative spirit by leading art exploration classes from her in-home studio, BrightCottage. The students will get to make their own creation.

• **Jan Smith:** Jan is a professional storyteller and lecturer. With guidance from Jan, students will help solve a mystery as they write a tale of suspense, drama, and solution.

• **Terri Karsten:** Terri has been a writer and educator. After 21 years of teaching high school English, she now works as a writing coach and focuses on writing historical fiction.

• **Christine Lawson:** Christine is a ceramic artist and owns Christine Lawson Ceramics. Christine will share her passion for art inspired by other local artists and how the local art community continues to support each other. The students will get to make their own creation.




**If you have any questions or would like more information about any of these programs please reach out to Monica Thompson (mthompson@lcsc.org), Academic Challenges Coordinator or Jolene King (jking@lcsc.org), Program Assistant.**

## THE GYMNASIUM AT ROOSEVELT HIGH SCHOOL HAS BEEN RENOVATED.

# RENAMED OTTER FIELDHOUSE





On March 3rd, a time-honored facility that has contributed to the legacy of Fergus Falls Public Schools was on full display. Fergus Falls hosted the Perham Yellow Jackets for a varsity basketball game in the newly refurbished Otter Fieldhouse for the first time in over ten years.

For almost 70 years, the Roosevelt High School gym (also known as Fergus Falls High School) was a hub for Fergus Falls students, fans, and the community. This type of fieldhouse is unique and will never be rebuilt anywhere again.

The Fieldhouse experienced some much needed TLC over the past couple of years to include new lighting, new paint, new wall pads, a new floor and, most recently, new retractable bleachers. The bleachers now provide the seating capacity to host a wider variety of events. The renovation has been a partnership utilizing both school district funds and private donations.

"The facility exudes a sense of nostalgia and Fergus Falls history," shared Fergus Falls Superintendent, Jeff Drake, "It serves as a testament to the stories and memories embedded in its wood and brick. From athletic contests to prom and grand march, graduation ceremonies and more, this building holds countless treasured moments."

## FROM PLANNING TO IMPLEMENTATION: CREATING A CUSTOMIZED PLAN FOR A DISTRICT'S FUTURE

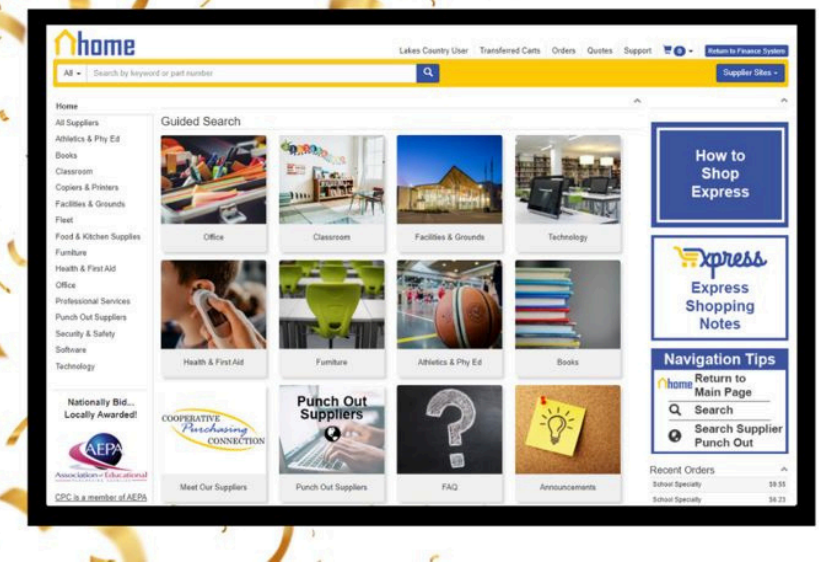

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For more information, reach out to Karen Klein, Cooperative Accounts Manager, at karen.klein@ics-builds.com or 651-728-1880.




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