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## EDUCATION - ELECTRONIC EDITION

WWW.LCSC.ORG



## FAMILY SCAVENGER HUNT

by Laura Holzworth, Breckenridge Pre-K Teacher

Breckenridge ECFE, along with Wahpeton Parks and Recreation, coordinated a Family Scavenger Hunt for area families on May 1st. Normally, there would have been a Spring Easter Egg Hunt, but due to COVID restrictions, we had to get a little creative!

Families drove into the school's parking lane, rolled down their windows and received a book of clues. Each book contained six clues that would take them to six different locations in the Breckenridge/Wahpeton communities.

Once they solved the clue and went to that location there was a volunteer there to give them a sticker in their book. When they solved all six clues and received all their stickers, they returned to the Breckenridge school to receive a bag full of prizes!

There was an overwhelming amount of support and donations from the community! We were able to buy tote bags and fill them with outdoor toys such as: frisbees, bubbles, chalk, bug catchers, books, and so much more! We also received a donation from Chahinkapa Zoo for each child to ride the carousel for free!

In addition to ECFE staff, the National Honor Society students, teachers, paras, and the Elementary principal all volunteered to help make this a successful and fun event for nearly 200 adults and children!



## A Message from LCSC Executive Director

JEREMY KOVASH

What. A. Year. As your cooperative, we have listened to our schools. We have felt and heard your stories. We have strived to serve when we could and lead in our teams. We have seen death, despair, agony, mental anguish, and many failures. However, we have not seen defeat.

Be proud of your accomplishments. Be proud of your successes. Be proud that you picked up your lunch pails and continued to work. You continued to be positive for children and communities. You continued your life's work.

We are grateful to be by your side on this journey.

**Together We Achieve...**

One day you will tell your story of how you overcame what you went through and it will be someone else's survival guide.

- Brené Brown



## What is CPC?

Service Cooperatives are public, nonprofit membership-based organizations dedicated to providing services that help make members successful. The Cooperative Purchasing Connection (CPC) provides every school, city, county, nonprofit and other governmental agencies with the same purchasing power of their much larger counterparts. Their competitively solicited contracts meet state guidelines and eliminate the need for time-consuming bids and multiple price quotes.

CPC offers a wide variety of competitively solicited contracts for capital projects, copiers, furniture, classroom, fleet vehicles, office supplies and more! Not only do you get great pricing, but certain suppliers also offer free shipping, free consultations, and extended warranties. Review all contracts by visiting [www.purchasingconnection.org](http://www.purchasingconnection.org)

Like to purchase online? Use Express, our recently updated online marketplace. This free-to-use online marketplace allows you to purchase from multiple suppliers with one login and password! We are confident you will find great value in the CPC contracts.

Please contact us with questions:  
888-739-3289  
[info@purchasingconnection.org](mailto:info@purchasingconnection.org)



## How to redirect the tempting conversation of 'learning loss'

by Kim Gibbons, Ph.D. & Katie Pekel, EdD

We are now one year into the COVID-19 pandemic, and we are all well aware of the challenges this has created for educators, students, and families. Along with significant disruptions to students' education, other challenges such as food and housing insecurity, childcare, access to technology and the mental well-being of educators, students and families have all been impacted. In the past year, schools have been required to transition between in-person, hybrid, and full distance-learning, many times. Many schools routinely screen students for important milestones in reading, math and writing and participate in end-of-year accountability tests (MCAs) to quantify the degree to which schools are providing instruction that is sufficient to help most children attain proficiency.

Due to timing of school closures, Spring 2020 data does not exist for the Minnesota Comprehensive Assessment (MCA), and it is unclear how many districts are collecting screening data during the 2020-21 school year. The absence of data and disruptions to learning have created a "perfect storm" for our schools, and it has been hypothesized that the economic impacts and trauma of recent events will likely exacerbate long-standing opportunity gaps. These hypotheses are now taking root in the form of a multitude of market-based solutions to address, "learning loss." One principal reported receiving over 30 emails from vendors already. The term "learning loss" is 'sticky', meaning it seems to make immediate sense; however, we are growing increasingly concerned with its use. First, the hypothesis of 'learning loss' described in the media is not based on actual assessment results (more on that below). Second, the language itself situates the last year entirely in a deficit frame, not acknowledging or taking into account the many real skills students and educators have learned that may be leveraged to accelerate instruction, like the use of technology and asynchronous lessons.

Read more about the idea of 'learning loss', 'test' data, helpful principles of assessment, resources for districts and additional reading on the topic in an MN ED Connect blog post titled "Words Matter" by Western Lakes Regional Center of Excellence Director, Staci Allmaras [here!](#)

**“ And, yes, words matter. They may reflect reality, but they also have the power to change reality – the power to uplift and to abase. ”**

*William Raspberry*





## Brandon-Evansville Collaborates with LCSC to Conduct STEAM Workshop for P3

by Deb Berry, Early Childhood Teacher

COVID has disrupted many events: just like the troll in the story of the Three Billy Goats Gruff. The P3 STEAM workshop for the Brandon-Evansville P3 Team and community childcare providers was no exception, as it was rescheduled at least three times. When the workshop finally took place on Monday, April 26th, attendees were happy to be doing something “semi-normal”.

LCSC’s Megan Peterson, Technology Integration Coordinator and Monica Thompson, Coordinator of Technology Integration & Co-Coordinator of Academic Challenges were invited by Deb Berry and Linda Saari, Early Educators at Brandon-Evansville school to lead the workshop. Megan and Monica were asked to take early learning standards and show how a child might learn STEAM concepts from birth-3rd grade using the story, The Three Billy Goats Gruff.

All participants spent time “playing” with the amazing activities that Megan and Monica created and brought. Attendees were able to discuss how these activities might be incorporated into lessons they already do. Information about the resources that LCSC provides to assist schools in enhancing their classes was provided, and each participant left with a STEAM kit to try these activities with their classes. One childcare provider even sent a picture of her kids being creative and using the materials the very next day!

Participants included: Brandon-Evansville teachers from Early Education, Head Start and K-3, childcare providers from the community, Connie Fields (Douglas County ECI Coordinator), Beth Achter (ECFE Regional Coordinator from LCSC) and B-E Superintendent, Don Peschel.



*P3 STEAM Workshop Team*

*Thanks to United Way of Douglas & Pope Counties  
as well as Megan & Monica from LCSC for  
making this workshop possible!*  
Brandon-Evansville School



## A *Reminder* from the LCSC Health & Safety Team

by Rick Brynildson  
LCSC Health & Safety Manager

During the pandemic, many facilities took steps to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Steps such as removing drinking fountains and discontinuing fountain use. As several schools have started to return to in-person learning and many others are planning for next school year, COVID-related changes made within schools - such as putting fountains back into use - are taking place.

Prior to allowing students and staff to use fixtures such as drinking fountains, the LCSC Health & Safety Team recommends that you

establish a flushing protocol, allowing for fixtures to run for several minutes prior to first use.

The reason for this is because the longer a fixture has remained dormant, the higher the likelihood that lead levels in the water line will be elevated. The flushing of the line allows for any accumulation of lead - or other toxins from metals - to flush out of the lines prior to first use.

The Health and Safety team at Lakes Country Service Cooperative also wants to



Lance Roisum, LCSC Health & Safety Facilitator

remind schools that lead in water testing is required every five years. Many of our member schools started testing for lead in water in the summer of 2016. Remember to note any new construction or remodeling projects that added water fixtures since you last tested, as these should be tested shortly after occupancy and then re-tested every five years.

If you have a question of when your school performed lead in water testing, please reach out to your health and safety facilitator. Your facilitator can assist you in determining when testing was completed, and the steps needed to get testing done and stay in compliance.

The cost of lead in water testing would fall under the health and safety portion of Long-Term Facilities Maintenance funding and should be listed as a recurring cost on your 10-year plans.



## PRAIRIE WETLANDS NOW BOOKING FIELD TRIPS

*Reservations are now open to all schools and groups!*

This is your official invitation to reserve a spot for field trips at the Prairie Wetlands Learning Center.

You now have access to create and/or swap reservations for next school year (2021 - 2022) in the [PWLC calendar](#) on Sign Up Genius.

Please do not hesitate to contact Justin Heersink with any questions.

Teleworking: (763) 301-9780  
Office: (218) 998-4481

**We look forward to seeing you at the PWLC!**

# 6th Grade Math Masters Place 3rd!

Submitted by  
Nikki Ament, 5th Grade Teacher  
Jon Lillquist, Activities Director  
Sebekka Public School



Sebekka 6th graders recently competed in a Math Masters competition. Math Masters is a statewide competition, and within this particular contest, a team from Colorado joined in the competition. Sebekka 6th graders have been participating in the Math Masters competitions for the past 12 years.

Congratulations go out to the 6th grade Math Masters students from this year (2021) who competed against 22 teams and 112 individuals finishing 3rd overall.

The team was coached by Nikki Ament and consisted of members: Reed Koll, Max Lake, Asia Hillukka, Sofia Pulju and Gene Morter.

The 3rd place finish is the highest placing finish for a Sebekka 6th grade team in the history of attending the competition - along with the 1st place finish two years ago!

In individual rounds, Reed Koll placed 2nd overall and 1st in fact in drill. Max Lake placed 14th overall in the individual round and 4th in fact in drill. Team scores are a combination of the individual performance on problem-solving rounds as well as two rounds where the students work as a team on problem-solving.



*Members: Reed Koll, Max Lake, Asia Hillukka, Sofia Pulju and Gene Morter.*

**CONGRATULATIONS**  
GO OUT TO THE 6TH GRADE MATH  
MASTERS STUDENTS FROM THIS  
YEAR WHO COMPETED AGAINST **22**  
TEAMS AND **112** INDIVIDUALS  
FINISHING IN **3RD PLACE** OVERALL!



# Initiators Fellowship

Enterprise for Good in **Greater Minnesota**

## CHANGE GREATER MINNESOTA WITH US

The Initiators Fellowship equips early stage social entrepreneurs with the support they need to transform their ideas into scalable, sustainable ventures that serve and enrich Greater Minnesota.

## ABOUT THE FELLOWSHIP

Through a friendly but competitive selection process, eight Fellows will be chosen for Cohort 3. The program provides wrap-around training, mentoring and guidance—plus \$30,000 annually for two years—to support Fellows and their social enterprise ideas to improve Greater Minnesota communities.

[LEARN MORE!](#)

## KNOWLEDGE BOWL SEASON A SUCCESS

Submitted by Susan Ward, LCSC Academic Challenges Coordinator

The 2021 State Knowledge Bowl meet was very different from previous state meets, but it was also very successful.

48 teams from throughout the 11 MN regions competed on April 9th for the coveted top positions. Students expressed their excitement and were prepared to work as a team to do their best.

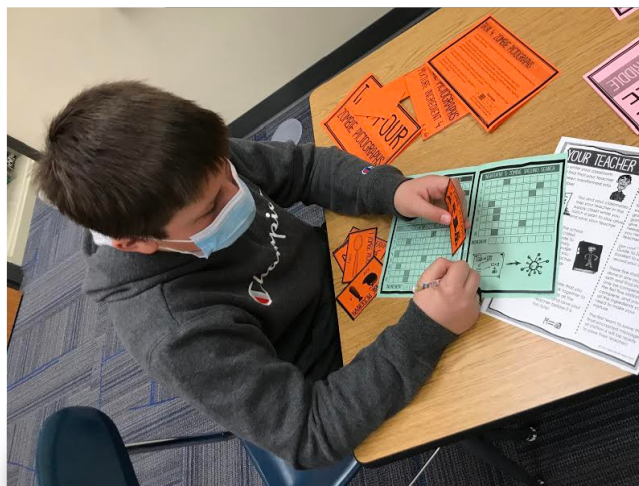


We all learned that after a huge disappointment, we could come through the experience with the ability to accept change and learn how to proceed through unprecedented times with success.

We are thankful for the dedication and willingness of our students and coaches to make 2021 an enjoyable season.

*We are hopeful to get back to “normal” for our Knowledge Bowl season next year, but we will be ready for anything!*





## Masterminds Program at Ulen-Hitterdal

by Therese Vogel

This spring Ulen-Hitterdal School started a new program for a small group of sixth grade students called "Masterminds." Coordinator Angie Klevgaard works twice a week with five sixth grade students selected through teacher recommendations, attendance, and a variety of test scores to further challenge their learning.

The group is publishing a Titan Times newsletter, has completed a DIY greenhouse project; journaling how the vegetables and flowers grew inside their own greenhouse, solved puzzles and riddles to escape from a zombie themed room, and participated in a book club on Escape from Mr. Lemoncello's Library - learning about the importance of working together to accomplish goals.

**"I really enjoy challenging the students! They are so much fun to work with."**  
-- Angie Klevgaard

## SCHOOL FINANCE WORKSHOPS

Lakes Country Service Cooperative

Lakes Country Service Cooperative (LCSC) is sponsoring School Finance Workshops taking place on dates in July and September for all new Superintendents, aspiring Superintendents, Principals, Business Managers, Bookkeepers, School Board Members or anyone interested in learning the fundamentals of Minnesota School Finance.

Dr. Bruce Jensen will be leading four sessions covering various school finance topics such as: Intro, Pupil Units, Taxes, Revenue Sources, UFARS, Budgets, Audits, Levy Sheets, and more.

**Continuing Education Units (CEUs) will be made available for attendees of these sessions.**

[Register online](#) or contact Jolene King at, [king@lcsc.org](mailto:king@lcsc.org) or call her at, 218-737-6521

- All 4 Sessions: \$400
- Per Session: \$125

**REGISTER HERE**





### EmpowerU coaches:

highly trained  
and empathetic

help students  
face obstacles

make important  
connections

persistence and success - without putting additional strain on your already busy staff.

As a data-driven, Tier 1 and 2 intervention, EmpowerU can work within your district's MTSS framework to successfully equip students with the skills and support they need to re-engage and thrive, before costly escalation to Tier 3.

Over 93% of students who complete EmpowerU's program make significant progress in motivation, confidence and well-being.

Feel free to review the [EmpowerU funding toolkit](#), [white paper](#), and [website](#) for more information on how these programs can be implemented to help improve school-wide mental health and resilience.

For more information, email Betsy Arnold Bahn at, [betsy@empoweru.education](mailto:betsy@empoweru.education) or contact her at, (612) 987-8098.

**empoweru**

Resilience • Persistence • Success

## New LCSC Business Partnership!

Lakes Country Service Cooperative is excited to announce a new partnership with EmpowerU. This past year has been extremely hard, and the research is clear; helping students re-engage and find motivation to overcome their stress and anxiety is key to academic success.

EmpowerU is a tech-enabled social and emotional learning (SEL) solution that blends accessible and engaging online, resilience-building lessons with 1:1 daily, personalized support from master's level online coaches.

A turn-key solution, EmpowerU seamlessly helps students replace anxiety and discouragement with resilience,

## SHARE THESE GREAT RESOURCES WITH STUDENTS!

FROM LCSC BUSINESS PARTNER ONTOCOLLEGE



[40 Questions to Ask on a College Visit](#)  
[How to Choose a College That's Right for You](#)  
[What Colleges Offer the Best Merit Scholarships?](#)

# The Latest from West Central Area Schools

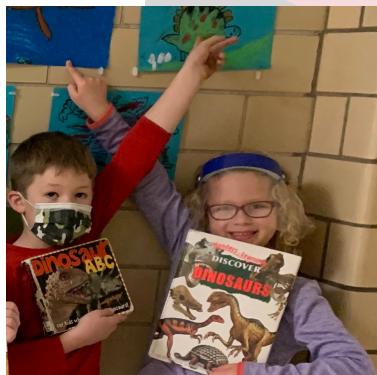
by Kari Kreft



## DYNAMITE DINOSAURS



Mrs. Simon's class is wrapping up a unit that is a first-grade favorite; dinosaurs! While writing research reports, the first graders get to explore several different school subjects through a dinosaur lens. They learned lots of new vocabulary and compared and contrasted dinosaur species through reading fiction and nonfiction dinosaur texts.



## MUSIC IN OUR SCHOOLS



Music and excitement are in the air within WCA's music programs!

Plans are in the works for upcoming in-person concerts.

Boom whackers - tubes that are tuned to specific pitches - have become common place at both the elementary and high school levels.

A new opportunity! Next school year, WCA will be offering college band.

The junior high boys choir has been thinking outside of the box and working on a drumming project which will include a performance.

## LEARNING FROM THE BEST



West Central Area Culinary students got to visit NDSCS, the North Dakota State College of Science, and learned alongside their Culinary Department. Students gained valuable insight and learned important tricks of the trade that they hope to implement in their own kitchens. It was an exciting and delicious opportunity!





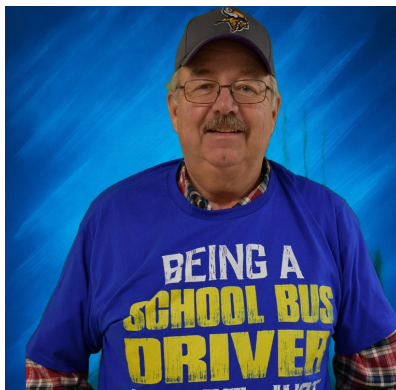
# MEMBER STAFF ANNOUNCEMENTS



**RYAN BARON**



Welcome Ryan Baron as the new Superintendent at Ulen-Hitterdal Schools.



**LARRY OHE**



Congratulations to Rothsay Bus Driver Larry Ohe, who just completed his 50th year of driving bus for Rothsay School.



**KYLE GYLLAND**



Congratulations on retirement to Barnesville schools' grades 7-12 Counselor, Kyle Gylland.

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## THE LCSC COMMUNICATOR IS A PUBLICATION OF LAKES COUNTRY SERVICE COOPERATIVE.

Lakes Country Service Cooperative (LCSC) is a public, non-profit membership-based organization dedicated to providing services that help make our members successful. Originally created by legislation in 1976 as one of Minnesota's nine service cooperatives to provide services to pre-K through 12 education, we have grown and expanded to provide high quality, innovative programs to cities, counties, other governmental agencies, and non-profit entities. Together, we build relationships that help make all members and communities stronger.

*Together...We Achieve.*

## STAY CONNECTED.

