

Chisago Lakes Area Schools  
ISD#2144  
13750 Lake Blvd.  
Lindstrom, MN 55045

Tel. 651-213-2000

[www.chisagolakes.k12.mn.us](http://www.chisagolakes.k12.mn.us)

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DECEMBER 2009

SCHOOL DISTRICT REVIEW



# Chisago Lakes

SCHOOL DISTRICT 2144

## Chisago Lakes Schools and Chisago Lakes Area Library Partner for “Authors Live”

A collaboration between Chisago Lakes Schools and Chisago Lakes Area Library brings special opportunities to meet authors, ask questions and get signed copies of books. These events will take place at either the public library or the middle school media center. See calendar below and district website <http://www.chisagolakes.k12.mn.us/> for specific authors, dates, times and locations.

### January 14, 2010 7:00 - 8:00 PM Lakes Area Library

*Julie Kramer author of Stalking Susan and Missing Mark*

Julie Kramer is a freelance news producer for NBC's Today show, Nightly News, and Dateline. Prior to that, she was a national award-winning investigative producer for WCCO-TV in Minneapolis. An avid reader, she tired of fictional TV reporters always being portrayed as obnoxious secondary characters who could be killed off whenever the plot started dragging. So her debut thriller, STALKING SUSAN, features a TV reporter as the heroine and takes readers inside the world of television news. She lives with her husband and sons in White Bear Lake, MN.



### February 11, 2010 4:30-5:30 PM Middle School Media Center

*Chris Sauro author of THE TWINS PLATOON*

On June 28, 1967, a group of over one hundred young men, as well as four young women, were sworn into the Marine Corps at a Minnesota Twins baseball game. I was one of those young men. We were dubbed the “Twins Platoon”. This book tells the story of what happened to us after we were cheered off the ball field. It tells of our Marine Corps training, our Vietnam experiences, and what happened to us when we returned home.



**Mark your Calendar** for future “Authors Live” Events:

- **March 11, 2010** 7:00 – 8:00 PM Lakes Area Library - *Rachel Coyne*
- **April 8, 2010** 4:30-5:30 PM Middle School Media Center - *Sue Leaf*  
\* 5:30 Dinner available - \$6.50 with advanced reservations and payment.
- **May 13, 2010** 7:00 -8:00 PM Lakes Area Library - *Roger Stelljes*
- **June 10, 2010** 4:30-5:30 PM Middle School Media Center - *PJ Tracy*

“Authors Live” updates on the Chisago Lakes District website at <http://www.chisagolakes.k12.mn.us>

**Suggested donation of \$5.00 to cover expenses.** Advance tickets available at Chisago Lakes Area Library, Chisago Lakes District Office, by calling 651-213-2007, or e-mail [dmaitrejean@chisagolakes.k12.mn.us](mailto:dmaitrejean@chisagolakes.k12.mn.us). Tickets will also be available at the door.

\* **5:50 PM Dinner** - \$6.50 with advanced reservations and payment through Chisago Lakes Food Service, 651-213-2066 or email [dpeltier@chisagolakes.k12.mn.us](mailto:dpeltier@chisagolakes.k12.mn.us)

# Letter from the Superintendent:



I have had the wonderful opportunity to visit many of our schools over the course of the past three months of the school year and I have been excited to see the many events that our students are engaged in.

Taylor Falls Elementary students and I were treated to a great Chisago Lakes High School Marching Band concert recently. Director Josh Anderson had the Wildcat Marching Band in top form and the students really enjoyed the marching, the musical selections and the chance to perform with the drum line. Later in the month TF students were also able to attend an assembly where staff members reinforced the guidelines of our



Olweus Anti-Bullying Program that teaches skills to reduce bullying in school and enhance respect for each other. Several TF teachers and Mr. Thimm acted out the roles that students often find themselves in and stressed the correct way to handle a possibly bad situation.

Later in the month Ms. Joy Ruce at the high school invited me and several other staff members to judge her “Iron Skillet Cook-Off” contest. Teams of students in Ms. Ruce’s classes are challenged to cook specific recipes using a “secret” ingredient and the judges have the difficult task of selecting their favorites based on presentation, creativity and best use of the ingredient. This is always a fun day in the FACS class and I especially enjoy being asked to judge. We have some very talented future chefs at CLHS.



I also had the opportunity to visit Lakeside School, the High School and Chisago Lakes Middle School media centers to present gifts to our school media centers from the Chisago Lakes Rotary. I accompanied Rotary President Craig Lindstrom who presented over two hundred dollars in new donated books to our media centers. Our local Rotary provides this service several times during the school year and we are very thankful that the Rotary is so supportive of our young readers.

These are just a few of the many exciting things that occur in our schools every day. Our staff and students work hard to maximize their learning time and they are achieving great results.

Our School Board is hard at work planning for our operating levy renewal next fall. As many of you know we are benefitting from a voter approved operating referendum that will need to be renewed soon. More details will be shared with our school community as the Board makes final decisions. Our students are able to benefit from these extra resources that our community provides and we are extremely grateful for that support.



In closing I would like to also put in a word for our Chisago Lakes School Endowment Fund. Many people make year-end charitable donations to worthy causes and I would ask that if you are one of those who are able to contribute, why not consider a small gift to the school foundation. Our goal is to make small grant awards to worthy school projects once our fund is able to support doing so and the fund is growing every day. All gifts of any amount at all are welcome. There is more information available on our web site.

I would like to send my best wishes for a great Holiday Season, and also my thanks for your continued support of Chisago Lakes Schools. Please feel free to contact me if I may ever be of assistance.

## Chisago Lakes High School Link Crew



Chisago Lakes High School is excited to welcome the freshman class of 2013 with Link Crew. The Link Crew Program's sole purpose is to help freshmen successfully transition into high school. Built on the belief that students can help students succeed, Link Crew trains members of the junior and senior class to be Link Leaders. As positive role models, Link Leaders are motivators, leaders and teachers who guide the freshmen to discover what it takes to be successful during the transition to high school.

Link Crew increases freshmen success; more and more studies are showing that if students have a positive experience their first year in high school, their chances for success are exponential. The Link Crew high school transition program provides the structure for freshmen to receive support and guidance from juniors and seniors who have been through the challenges that high school poses, and understand that the transition to a larger school can sometimes be overwhelming.

We're looking for fun, exciting and helpful students to participate as Link Crew Leaders! CLHS is excited to continue this program and welcome the third year of Link Crew Leaders!

CLHS Link Crew Advisors: Kim Hofmann, Amy Malloy, Bryan Nelson, Sara Johnson

## Chisago Lakes Educators Honored with Leaders in Educational Excellence Awards

Recently five outstanding Chisago Lakes educators were honored for their excellence: Ed Wachutka Middle School social studies teacher, John Menard Middle School principal, Kim Hofmann High School Spanish teacher, Roxy Carlson Lakeside third grade teacher, and Neva Noyd Taylors Falls fifth grade teacher.

Chisago Lakes Superintendent Mike McLoughlin serves on the board for Resources Training and Solutions, which sponsors the LEEA award ceremony. He was asked, at the last moment, to step in as presiding superintendent. Without the opportunity to prepare, Dr. McLoughlin stepped to the podium and spoke to the nearly 450 people in attendance including 150 award recipients, their families and colleagues. Part of what he said was, "As a school administrator, my family has had to move often. That can be traumatic for kids. But, around the supper table the talk seems to always get back to their favorite teachers. So, whether you like it or not, you are talked about in homes and your influence is carried on further and further." The positive influence of these outstanding educators has been spread to hundreds of Chisago Lakes' students.



**Ed Wachutka, John Menard, Kim Hofmann, Rob Cavanna (of Resource, St. Cloud), Roxy Carlson and Neva Noyd**

## Middle School Breakfast Club



**Vicky Logan - Song Writer - Careers in Music**



**Chip Cravaack - Navy Captain (retired) - Leadership and Careers in Aviation**

# Heroes and Patriots

## Traveling Vietnam Memorial



### *Excerpts from an essay, by 8th grader Erica Ristow :*

This wall is half the size of the real Vietnam Memorial in Washington, but just as moving... A man dressed in full uniform gave us a tour of the wall and the actual tents used in Vietnam... I saw 58,261 names on that wall... I thought to myself, all these people had families and friends and they gave everything up... But the saddest part of our trip was the hand written letters. One woman wrote that they would have celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary, if only they could celebrate their first. Her young husband died the day before their one-year anniversary... Even though I don't have family member's names up on the wall, I will never forget my experience of visiting the memorial.



### **Lions Peace Poster Winners:**

- 1st place – Claire Dronen – 7th grade
- 2nd place – Victoria Nugent – 7th grade
- 3rd place – Alison Stiller – 6th grade
- 4th place - Sierra Stendahl – 6th grade



### **Patriots Pen Contest Winners:**

- 1st place - Ali Saueressig,- 7th grade
- 2nd place - Samantha Hindt - 8th grade
- 3rd place - Branden Bent - 7th grade
- 4th place - Matt Hoffman - 8th grade

# Honoring Our Military

VFW and Ladies Auxiliary Patriots Pen and Voice of Democracy essay and speech contest  
1st place winners, from the Chisago Lakes District, responded to the topic of heroes.



Ali Saueressig, a 7th grader, wrote in part... What does it take to be a military hero? Do you think someone who put their life on the line every day, endured suffocating heat, bone-chilling cold, soaking rain, and parching dryness just so you, whom they never met, could live a free life is a hero? If you said yes, you're talking about every single person that's ever served in the military... These amazingly strong determined men and women all gave some, and some gave all, for the sake of their country... So put that card in the mail, or give that hero a smile and say "Thank You" today, because today is the right time to honor our heroes.

Senior, Ali Turnquist said in part ... Every single war veteran is a hero... There are heroes fighting in the war in Iraq right now.... At this VERY moment, soldiers are risking their lives... Recently, I had the privilege of experiencing the Vietnam Wall replica... I listened to the veteran tour guide's voice crack as he spoke of his fallen comrades. Does a hero have to be someone directly involved in war? I believe the answer to this question is no, because I have met numerous other heroes... 307 million hearts make up the United States of America. Is yours contributing in a positive way?... YOU can be a hero too. Be a soldier. Be a volunteer. Be a friend. Be a supporter of the American Dream. And most importantly, show your patriotism... heroes will emerge in America. They always have, and they always will.



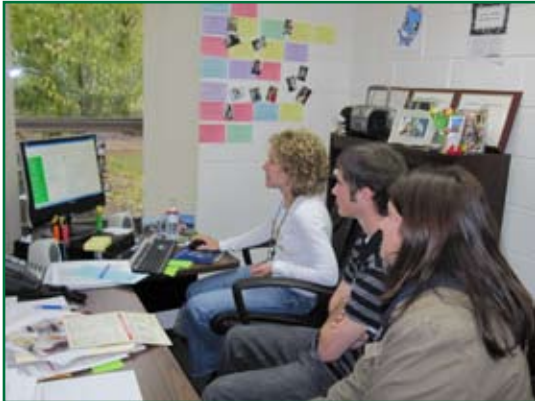
## Voice of Democracy Contest Winners:

- 1st place - Ali Turnquist - 12th grade
- 2nd place - Libby Storlie - 12th grade
- 3rd place - Jaclyn Erdman - 10th grade
- 4th place - Patrick McCarthy - 10th grade

## High School Counselors Are Important To Students

The three pillars of counseling, as defined by the American School Counselors Association are:

- **Personal** – social - counseling one to one, crisis management, mental health, help with relationships, attendance, and substance use/abuse.
- **Academic** - registration for classes, credit tracking, credit recovery options, testing, participation in team meetings for students at risk.
- **Post secondary planning** - freshmen and juniors are guided in the use of Discover to inventory their interests and explore possible careers, a junior parent night is held to give parents the opportunity to see the post secondary planning needs.



Each fall the counselors meet with all seniors to conduct “Senior Interviews”. The purpose of this time is to review seniors’ post-secondary plans and graduation status. This year we will be introducing seniors to a program called Naviance, which allows students to explore colleges and careers and input their personal data to track their post-secondary plans. Other unique features include scholarship and college visit notifications. This program will greatly enhance the counseling staff’s ability to track students’ post-secondary plans and the tasks they need to complete. Naviance is a web-based tool that includes a personal database for students to explore and save their individual post secondary planning information in one convenient location. Students can access their Naviance accounts from any computer.

The two full time counselors and one counselor/dean at Chisago Lakes High School take on all of these responsibilities for large numbers of students. At Chisago Lakes, each full time counselor has up to 500 students on their caseload while the counselor/dean has 250 students. These counselors are busy and important to the students at Chisago Lakes High School.

## Walmart Community Grant Goes to Rick Bouwens

Chisago Lakes High School teacher Rick Bouwens was awarded a \$2,000 grant, the largest given by the St. Croix Falls Walmart in 2009. When Rick heard about the grant he thought that he would like to buy new technology for his social studies department to share. He checked with Principal Dave Ertl and then applied for a grant to pay for a Generation 2 Smart Board and 3 Airliners. When he turned in his paperwork he was told that all the funds had already been given out but his application would be kept for next year. In March 2009, he got a call from general manager Steve Ritter, saying he was invited to attend a Walmart associates meeting where he would be given a check for \$2,000.



## Peg McCubbin Gets 20 Year Service Award - Read The Rest of the Story

In the last 20 plus years of service to Chisago Lakes Schools, Peg McCubbin has been absent only six days. If you think that is a marvelous accomplishment, read on to the end of this article to find out what the famous broadcaster Paul Harvey called, "The Rest of the Story."

Peg McCubbin is known at Chisago Lakes High School as the "Tutor", which she is, but she is also a licensed teacher who holds degrees in Medical Biology, Chemistry, English and Education. Peg taught 5th grade in St. Paul Public Schools. She and her husband bought a farm in the Lindstrom area in 1971. She was a busy farm wife with a big garden and many chores to do. During the first ten years in Lindstrom Peg tutored students in her home. Then in 1980 her husband died and Peg began substitute teaching and doing homebound instruction for Lakeside and Middle School.

"In 1989 I followed one of my students who was afraid to go to the high school. I asked a counselor if I could have a room to work with him. I planned to be there for him through high school and before I knew it, I was full time," Peg explained. Counselors, teachers and other students tell kids who need help about Peg. "Word got around and I had a load of kids who needed help." Students who want help are welcome but there are checks to be certain that every student is accounted for and that no one uses the offer as a way to skip class or get out of work. With her background in science and education she is capable of helping students in most every high school subject. There are hundreds of kids who have availed themselves of her tutoring help especially in the areas of science and math.



Along with tutoring the students academically, Peg attends their conferences and is "there" for them when maybe others are not. One student told Peg that she is the school grandma. She buys and gives out kleenex, band-aids, and school supplies; makes and gives students hand knitted mittens and hats; when needed, dispenses hugs, a shoulder to cry on, straight talk, and grandmotherly advice.

Peg has held a teaching license for 45 years. She loves tutoring kids and has no plans to retire. "I have enough to live on and my needs are modest. I don't travel or entertain. This is my life, like a ministry, a calling, a mission. Whenever I think of retiring I get sick to my stomach. I saw the world as a child. I was an Army brat. I want to stay put. My reward is to be at graduation, right up front, where I can see every kid and give them a hug or handshake."

For her full time work for over 20 years Peg McCubbin has earned not one cent of payment. She is 100% a volunteer. The kids know that she doesn't get paid. They know that she does this, all day every school day, based upon the ideals of service and duty as the purpose of her life, and for the love of tutoring and kids. And now you know the rest of the story.

### Minnesota Student Survey Opt Out Notice to Parents

At some point between February and April, 2010 Students in grades six, nine and twelve will take the 2010 Minnesota Student Survey.

This is an anonymous survey that asks students questions about behaviors such as tobacco, alcohol and other drug use and attitudes, as well as sexual behaviors related to HIV infection, unhealthy dietary behaviors, physical activity, and unintentional injuries and violence. Your child's classroom may be invited to participate in this survey.

If you do not want your child to participate in this activity: parents of sixth graders contact Principal John Menard at 651-213-2400 or [jmenard@chisagolakes.k12.mn.us](mailto:jmenard@chisagolakes.k12.mn.us) parents of ninth and twelfth graders contact Principal Dave Ertl at 651-213-2500 or [dertl@chisagolakes.k12.mn.us](mailto:dertl@chisagolakes.k12.mn.us) no later than January 20, 2010.

If you wish to review any survey instrument or instructional material used in connection with any protected information or marketing survey, please submit a request to above principals who will notify you of the time and place where you may review these materials. You have the right to review survey and/or instructional materials before the survey is administered to a student.

## Minnesota Mystery Quest Video Conference

This fall two fifth grade classes from Taylors Falls and Lakeside participated in the first Minnesota Mystery Quest with other elementary classes from across the state. The objective of the quest is to present a state park to the other classes, listen to the other class presentations, research the clues given, and then try to guess what state park the other classes presented.

To prepare for this quest the students in Ms Klinke's class and Ms Pitala's class each selected a Minnesota state park (Tettegouche and Split Rock Lighthouse respectively), researched facts about their park, and prepared a presentation for two other schools connected via video conferencing technology.

On Wednesday, November 4, Ms Klinke's class connected with two elementary classes from Minneapolis, Waite Park and Loring Community School. Each school introduced themselves and then the quest was on. As each class gave their state park clues the other classes listened, watched and took notes to aid in the research they would be involved in next. Ms Klinke's class played "Are You Smarter Than A Fifth Grader?" as they handed out clues to their state park. They had a host, contestants, "fifth grade experts", sound effects and an awesome PowerPoint presentation.

On Thursday, November 5, Ms Pitala's class connected with two out-state classes, one from Mountain Iron – Merritt Elementary and the other from Koochiching County. This quest followed the same format as before. Ms Pitala's classes' classic PowerPoint presentation was full of interesting and obscure clues.

After the research portion of the quest, the groups returned to the video conference and tried to guess the state parks the other classes presented. In the case of Ms Klinke's groups each class guessed correctly. However, Ms Pitala's class was the only group to guess the other state parks correctly and have their state park incorrectly guessed by the other classes.

Overall the Mystery Quest was a success. Our students participated with other students across the state, researched information about our state parks, presented their clues to other classes and guessed correctly the other classes' parks.

Special thanks goes to the teachers and students that took on the challenge of using our new video conferencing technology to further their education here at Chisago Lakes.

