

December, 2006

SCHOOL DISTRICT REVIEW



Chisago Lakes

SCHOOL DISTRICT 2144

Save the Date!

December

- 18 Lakeside 5th Grade Choir Concert, 11:50 a.m.
- Middle School Choir Concert, 7:00 p.m.
- 21 Middle School Band Concert, 7:00 p.m.

December 25-January 2
Holiday Break – **Schools Closed**

January

- 18 Lakeside kicks off Pennies for Leukemia
- 19 District-Wide Staff Development – **No School**
- 22-26 6th Graders at Wolf Ridge
- 29 Senior Financial Aid Night, PAC 6:30 p.m.

February

- 1 Elementary Conferences – **Early Release for Elementary Only**
Taylors Falls 4th Grade Science Fair
- 2 Elementary Conferences – **No School for Elementary Only**
- 16 District-Wide Staff Development – **Early Release--All Schools, No Kindergarten**
- 19 President's Day – **No School**
- 23 8th Grade Health Fair
Taylors Falls Vocabulary Parade 9:10 a.m.
- 26 8th to 9th Grade Parent Night, PAC 6:30 p.m.

March

- 1 Lakeside 4th Grade Program, 7:30 p.m.
Taylors Falls Grades 4 & 5
Music Program, 7:00 p.m.
- 2 Taylors Falls Books and Breakfast
- 12-16 Spring Break – **Schools Closed**



Chisago Lakes Staff Honored

Educators from across the state were honored at the Fifteenth Annual Leadership in Educational Excellence Awards and Banquet Ceremony on October 25th at the St. Cloud Civic Center. This annual event is an excellent opportunity to recognize and honor outstanding school personnel who have a profound impact on the youth in Central Minnesota. Four Chisago Lakes educators were chosen for this award:

Ken Orwoll - District Technology Coordinator
Cheryl Peterson – 1st grade teacher – Primary School
Melanie Langenfeld – Early Childhood - Family Center
Dave Ertl – High School Principal

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Letter from the Superintendent:

As the cold weather approaches, our students and staff are looking at the mid-point of the school year. We had a great start to the year and are settled in for a productive winter season. Parents and guardians are asked to again familiarize themselves with the school weather emergency closing procedures that the school district follows. We hope to have a safe and comfortable winter transportation season and ask for your help in meeting that challenge.

The Board of Education met in late September to set goals for this school year. Each of our schools has identified an academic goal based on testing results and other student performance data. We will be monitoring our performance toward meeting those goals during the school year. While working toward academic goals in our schools is certainly not something new, the idea of targeting a specific area in a particular discipline is being encouraged as a result of the wealth of data available to us through current testing and assessments.

The Board also identified goals for maintaining school funding at satisfactory levels and in making plans for catching up on some overdue maintenance and facility repairs. Maintaining our many facilities remains a challenge in times of tight educational funding. Further details on these goals will be forthcoming in future editions of the School Review, but achieving these goals will make certain that our academic success with our students continues. Meeting these goals will also ensure that students across the district will have the opportunity to attend schools that are safe, well kept and clean, and properly positioned to sustain all of our current academics, arts, and athletic programs into the future.

Our faculty and staff continue to work hard to provide the best opportunities for all of our students in the district. I am very



proud of the job they all do and continue to believe we have one of the finest school districts in the state. This success is also attributable to the excellent community and business support found in our communities and for that I thank all of our residents as well. Thanks as well to the many retired citizens of our communities who continue to find time to volunteer in our schools. We appreciate your help.

Please contact me if I can ever be of assistance. Best wishes for peaceful holiday season.

Mike McLoughlin
Superintendent

School Board Update

The board of education met on September 27, 2006 to formulate goals and proposed timelines for the administration and staff to implement. Regular reports will be made available to the Board regarding the progress made in each goal area.

- Increase student achievement:
 - Each building determined specific goals based on student data.
- Continue Investigating Property for Possible Future School Site.
- Plan for future Operating Referendum to replace existing referendum
- Plan for Bond Referendum for Facility Repairs and Upgrades
- Establish a Finance Committee of the Board & Meet Quarterly
- Complete an "Alternative Teacher Performance Based Pay System" application to MDE by Spring of 2007 pending C.L.E.M. approval.
- Maintain Progress in Previously Established Board Goals
 - Communications, Curriculum Review, Department Leadership, and H.S. and M.S. credit and elective course increases.

Please feel free to contact any school board member with your comments, questions, or concerns.

- Chairman**
Mark Leigh 257-9551
- Treasurer**
Wade Carlson 257-2298
- Vice Chairman**
Lori Berg 462-6815
- Director**
Gerald Vitalis 257-4496
- Clerk**
Lynn Johnson 257-9758
- Director**
Noel Stensrud 257-3245

Chisago Lakes Schools all Making Adequate Yearly Progress

The schools in the Chisago Lakes District all successfully met their Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) targets for the 2005-06 school year, according to the Minnesota Department of Education.

The results of the statewide testing, known as the Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments (MCA-II) were made public on November 15th. These are new, more rigorous versions of the state tests being used to determine whether enough students have reached grade level standard for the school or district to avoid consequences outlined by the federal law known as No Child Left Behind.

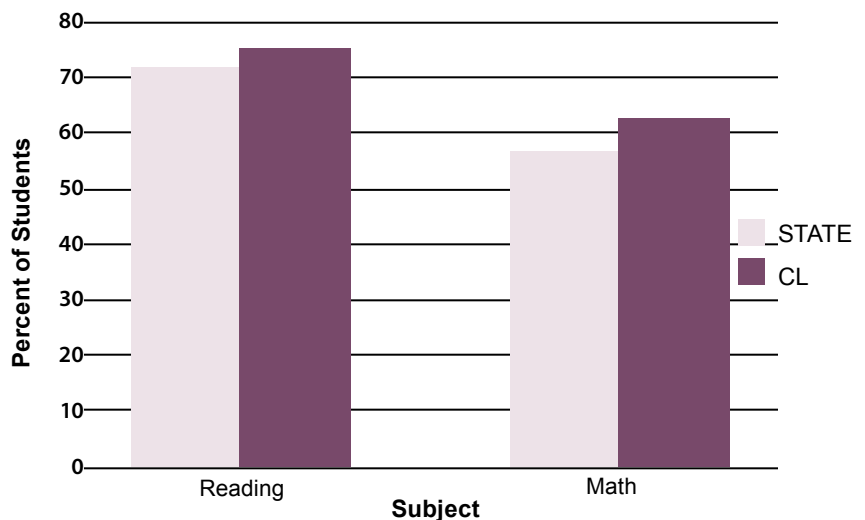
While each school has met AYP targets, the district as a whole did not. There are a total of 9 subgroups that must all meet these targets, based on ethnicity, special education or limited English status, and whether students receive free or reduced price lunch.

At the district level, a single subgroup consisting of 27 students

did not meet its AYP target in the area of math. As a result, the district is designated as not meeting Adequate Yearly Progress, and enters into a one-year grace period. If the district misses AYP in math again next year, federal consequences would begin. Most experts expect a large increase in the number of Minnesota schools and districts flagged as not meeting AYP this year.

While the district recognizes that not meeting this target is a concern, district staff feel that this is not a reflection of any decrease in the overall performance of its students. Our district continues to exceed state averages. We will not lose sight of the tremendous progress we have been making over the years, and we will continue the strong initiatives we have in place to help all students.

Percentage of Students Reaching Grade-Level Standard on the MCA-II: Chisago Lakes vs. State of MN (Spring 2006, all Grade Levels)



Minnesota Education Credit and Subtraction

Parents can get a state tax credit or subtraction of costs for your children's schooling or related things. These cover children in kindergarten through high school. The maximum credit is \$1,000 per child. You can use costs like: tutors, academic books and materials, fees paid to others for transportation, music lessons, after school programs, and academic summer camps. You can also use costs for computer hardware or educational software (\$200.00 limit). Private school tuition is a subtraction only. To get the credit, fill out Form M-1ED. To use the subtraction, do the worksheet on the back of Form M-1.

Our Schools – Our Responsibility

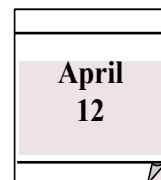
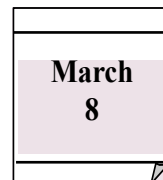
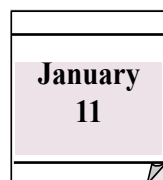
Busy people make a positive difference in Chisago Lakes Schools K-12. We have just three one-hour meetings remaining this school year.

Parents and community members work together to show teacher and volunteer appreciation as well as advocate for our schools

Get to know nice people and school issues.

Involved people each do a little bit with big results. Check it out. We won't burn you out!

Mark your Calendar for 2008!



**6-7 pm – Middle School – Room 121
(Classroom next to the main entrance)**

CHISAGO LAKES STUDENTS

SERVING THEIR

at Home &

Students in the Chisago Lakes Schools

Lakeside Students Spread Holiday Cheer

For the last seven years, the students and staff of Lakeside Elementary have been involved with their local community by making and delivering holiday fruit baskets. Students collect money, ice cream buckets, candy, wrapping paper, tea, and cocoa. Each class decorates and fills between ten and twelve fruit baskets which are topped off with homemade cards. Lakeside parents and staff deliver them to elderly and needy residents in their community. Over seventy baskets are given to the local Meals on Wheels Program.

Primary Students "Give Back"

1st graders at the Primary have a tradition of going to Point Pleasant and Lakeview apartments spreading good cheer with Christmas carols.



3rd grade students choose a different "Give Back" project each year. This year, they are collecting and sending items to the soldiers in Iraq. Other projects have included making and selling school t-shirts to raise money for Hurricane Katrina victims, planting trees on school grounds, and raising money to buy toys and winter clothes for needy families during the holiday season.

7th Grade Global Warming Project

The 7th grade Jaguar Core at the Chisago Lakes Middle School, led by science teacher, Pat Collins, is participating in a year-long interdisciplinary service learning project.



Students kicked off this project by attending the movie, *An Inconvenient Truth*, a movie about global warming and its effects.

They followed up by planting 110 trees, as well as building and placing over twenty

bluebird houses at local Ki Chi Saga Park. The 7th graders will continue to research ways that they can have a positive impact on the earth as the year progresses. Other



upcoming projects include writing letters to other schools, ordering compact florescent light bulbs, studying the different varieties of trees that were planted, and possibly a follow-up planting in the Spring.

COMMUNITY

Around the World

have a history of community service.

Trick-or-Treating has BIG Payoff



Students from the portable classrooms at Taylors Falls Elementary collected school supplies for needy children in Afghanistan. They heard about the plight of these children through their connections with soldiers who served in the Middle East. When 5th grade teacher, Sheryl Spray, heard about Dr. Jonathan Moren, a dentist in Edina, offering children \$1.00 for every pound of Halloween candy, she encouraged the whole school to donate their trick-or-treat goodies. Sixty-one pounds of candy was collected by students and another fourteen pounds was donated by a good Samaritan who heard about the school project. Dr. Moren sent all of the collected candy to soldiers fighting in Iraq, while Taylors Falls students collected a check for \$75.00 to help cover the cost of mailing school supplies to children in Afghanistan.

National Honor Society Gets Involved

National Honor Society Students have been busy with projects like “trick-or-treating” for canned goods, highway clean-up, Festival of Trees, and the annual Red Cross blood drive.

Giving Tree at Taylors Falls Elementary

Taylors Falls Elementary Staff has provided a way to give to those in the area who are less fortunate by providing a giving tree in their school lobby. Steve and Betsy Sandgren donate a tree each year so that students and staff can donate toys, clothing, books, games and non-perishable food items. Items go to Family Pathways and to the Chisago County Santa Anonymous Program.

Connecting With Seniors:

Third grade students in Mr. Moberg’s class at Taylors Falls Elementary have been writing pen-pal letters to the residents at the Good Samaritan Home in St. Croix Falls for the past ten years. Students make a commitment to write a letter, make a card, or color a picture to send over each week. They are encouraged to visit a couple of times each year.



Instead of exchanging gifts as a class, students are encouraged to make or buy a special gift for their nursing home pen-pal.

School Board Looks at Options Aging

Over the last several months, the district administrative team and school board have been reviewing the state of the district's facilities. Although we are not looking at adding any new buildings, the district is looking at several costly repairs of existing properties.



Direct Water Entry



Ponding and Wall Deterioration

ROOFS:

All of the district's schools have sections of roofs that are in need of repair and replacement. Leakage has been reported within several facilities. The middle school, high school, Lakeside Elementary, and Taylors Falls Elementary all show signs of wet insulation.

Two independent roofing companies have been consulted to inspect and give recommendations as to a repair schedule for these projects. According to their reports, "several original vintage built-up roofs have surpassed their design life expectancy and are showing signs of general deterioration. Many other roofs are nearing the end of their service lives and are exhibiting signs of deterioration."

Taylors Falls Elementary has sections of their roofs that were installed prior to 1985. They have surpassed their life expectancy. It is recommended that they be replaced within zero to one year. Approximately 2,700 square feet of wet insulation was detected.

Lakeside Elementary has a couple of roofs installed prior to 1985 which are in need of replacement within zero to one year. They have approximately 1,000 square feet of wet insulation.

The Middle School has two roofs installed around 1975 and two prior to 1980. It is recommended that these roofs be replaced within zero to three years. They have approximately 500 square feet of wet insulation.

The High School has one roof installed in 1976, one in 1986, and another installed in 1993 that have exceeded or are nearing the end of their service life. They also have approximately 500 square feet of wet insulation.

Primary School roofs are in better shape. They have two roofs installed in the early 1990's which still have three to five years of service life remaining. They do not show any signs of wet insulation.

to Address Facilities Issues

HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC COMPLEX:

The rubber surfacing on the high school athletic track is coming apart. Larson Engineering has determined that poor soil conditions beneath the track indicate that replacement rather than repair is needed. Other improvements to the athletic field should include a storm sewer system to provide proper drainage of the athletic field and track, replacement of the severely heaved crowd control fencing around the track, and updates to high jump, long jump and pole vault event areas.

The bleachers at the high school have long been a source of frustration for fans. Besides falling way short of the capacity needed, they are not handicap accessible at this time. Only the upper rows of the visitor seating allow for good viewing. We are looking at raising and adding to the visitor bleachers. Home bleachers will be replaced to allow for about 2000 seats. Both will have improved sight lines and handicap accessible ramps.



UPDATES NEEDED:

Primary School

Window replacement is needed at the Primary school for the 1965, 1970 and 1978 sections of the building. Installing energy efficient windows will save money in the future.

Lakeside School

The back parking lot at Lakeside is deteriorating due to poor drainage. The district has been patching it over the last several years, but the poor drainage problem makes replacement the best option at this point..

Middle School

At the middle school, work is needed on the sidewalks and pavement in the bus lane. The east parking lot needs to be repaired or possibly replaced due to excessive deterioration.

With school funding formulas falling short of what is needed to make these repairs, the school district is looking at a possible bond referendum to complete these necessary projects. We are working with Ehlers & Associates, Inc. to do this in a way that will not raise taxes for area residents. Look for more information on these facility needs in the months ahead.



High School Increases Graduation Credit Requirement

Last year, as part of an initiative to enhance student's high school experience, the Chisago Lakes school board approved an increase in the number of credits needed to graduate beginning with the class of 2008. The goal is to keep students in school for as much of the 4 years possible so they are gaining the skills and knowledge necessary to be successful and productive in their future.

By increasing the credit requirement for graduation, students will be better prepared for post-secondary plans, have greater exposure to higher level courses and diverse courses of interest, while participating in a productive senior year. Currently the class of 2007 will need 26 credits to graduate. The class of 2010 must earn 29 credits to receive a Chisago Lakes Diploma. The credit increase has been put in the "elective" credit area; allowing students to choose to take classes that best support their future goals.

Chisago Lakes Education Minnesota News



Currently Chisago Lakes Education Minnesota (C.L.E.M.) is working with the school district to establish an ATPPS system. ATPPS stands for Alternative Teacher Professional Pay Systems. It is the name given to a process to apply for extra funding provided by the state. In recent years, the legislature has decided to give additional funding to school districts through this process, instead of adding money to the formulary funding. Going through this application process is the only way to access this money. This process requires school districts to first send in a letter of intent. After that, the district needs to develop a plan to meet the requirements stated in the statute. Before a letter of intent or completed plan can be submitted to the state, the union membership needs to vote on it. Once a plan has been submitted and accepted, the state will distribute its portion of the funding. It's the hope of both the school district and CLEM that this can be fully implemented by the start of 2007-08 school year.

Building Security

School security has come to the forefront of the news as of late. Chisago Lakes School District is responding to the need for greater school security because student safety is of number one importance.

◆ Safety Drills

- As part of this past legislative session, a law was passed requiring school districts to annually conduct at least five school lock-down drills, five school fire drills, and one tornado drill, effective for the 2006-2007 school year
- All students in the Chisago Lakes School District have already begun the first rounds of these required drills
- These drills allow us to look for potential problems in our safety measures

◆ Visitor & Staff I.D. Badges

- All staff members are required to wear staff photo I.D. badges during work hours
- Visitors are required to stop by the office, sign in, and pick up a visitors badge
- Staff members are asked to stop and question any one not wearing an I.D. or visitors badge

◆ Limited Access to Facilities

- Only designated doors are kept open during school hours

- Staff members check to see that all entrances are locked regularly throughout the day
- Middle School & High School have staff posted at front entrances
 - *We are looking into this option at Elementary Schools*
- Middle School & High School have security cameras with digital recording devices posted on all entrances
 - *We are looking into this option at Elementary Schools*

◆ Communication System in Place for Emergency Announcements

- Administrators and Key Personnel carry phones with "direct connect" feature allowing for rapid dispersal of emergency messages to staff and emergency services
- New web-site has an important news bulletin area for rapid dissemination of information

We continue to investigate options to keep our buildings safe while keeping the majority of our resources in the classroom to educate children. Please feel free to contact your child's building principal for specifics on security measures at individual buildings. We welcome your comments and suggestions for improvement.