

in Education for its exceptional and innovative achievements in educating children.

Lake Marion Elementary School is truly a model of educational success. Three factors that make the school particularly outstanding include: a high level of involvement by parents, innovative programs, and academic achievement.

Lake Marion Elementary School takes great pride in involving parents in their children's school experiences. Lake Marion's Parent Teacher Organization has provided volunteer and financial support for the Artist of the Month program, for which parent volunteers teach a class about an artist and his/her works; the Junior Great Books program; the Lake Marion Yearbook, which has set the standard for elementary school yearbooks; the fifth-grade trip to Camp Saint Croix Environment Camp; the school directory; Family Fun Night; cultural awareness programming; mini-grants for selected staff projects; and field trip transportation costs.

Lake Marion Elementary provides the children innovative programming outside the school day. Targeted Services offers additional reading and math support in classes which run before school and are very popular with the children and their families. Additional programs include before- and after-school athletics, art, and world languages.

The school's many successes are reflected in the pupils' outstanding academic accomplishments. Lake Marion Elementary School's Math Masters Teams have finished first two times, second four times, and third five times in Regional Math Masters competitions. In addition, Lake Marion Elementary has received a five-star rating from the Minnesota Department of Education in reading and math every year since the inception of the Minnesota School Report Card system.

Much of the credit for Lake Marion Elementary School's success belongs to its principal, John W. Braun, and the dedicated teachers. The pupils and staff at Lake Marion Elementary School understand that, in order to be successful, a school must go beyond achieving academic success; it must also provide a nurturing environment where pupils can develop the knowledge, skills, and attitudes for success throughout life. All of the faculty, staff, and children at Lake Marion Elementary School should be very proud of their accomplishments.

I congratulate Lake Marion Elementary School in Lakeville for winning the Award for Excellence in Education and for its exceptional contributions to education in Minnesota.●

ORCHARD LAKE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, LAKEVILLE, MINNESOTA

● Mr. DAYTON. Mr. President, today I honor Orchard Lake Elementary School, in Lakeville, MN, which re-

cently earned an Award for Excellence in Education for its exceptional and innovative achievements in educating children.

Orchard Lake Elementary School is truly a model of educational success. The staff at OLE, always seeking to improve professionally, value in-service days and use this time to study new and innovative teaching techniques. Every year the school does a book study that addresses ways to increase achievement for students. The teaching staff takes on new challenges, studies best-practice ideas, has conversations across grade levels, offers mutual support, and applies solutions.

In the spring of 2004, Orchard Lake Elementary was the first school in Minnesota to receive the Tekne Award for Innovations in Teaching. Mark Deming, the media specialist, had pupils in grades 5 and 6 arrive before school and called them the "Morning Crew." The children learned to design segments of school news, interview classmates and staff, and videotape and edit productions so that they could produce the morning announcements. In addition, they created their own music using the Garage Band program on the school computers. The morning announcements were shown over the school's media system and produced exclusively by children for all classrooms to enjoy. This system is still in place for use by fourth- and fifth-graders.

Orchard Lake Elementary teachers work with parents as partners in education. Five years ago, when space became a concern, the PTO purchased a portable computer lab. Last year, the PTO purchased 14 new computers and has entered Phase 2 of purchasing all new computers for the lab classroom. The PTO recently held a fund-raiser to purchase new playground equipment. OLE had a 99 percent parent-participation rate at parent-teacher conferences. The school has a gifted education program, as well as a targeted services program, which offers extra instruction in reading and math for struggling students. Involved parents support their children by working together with teachers, who value the parents' active contributions.

Orchard Lake Elementary provides a safe and nurturing environment, both educationally and emotionally. Teachers build relationships with pupils through a community circle and discussions of life skills. The children take part in student council, art shows, music concerts, morning announcements, band, and academic choice in the classroom.

Orchard Lake Elementary School was recognized by the State Department of Education as a five-star school in both math and reading. This distinction is particularly impressive, considering that Orchard Lake, which has a high concentration of low-income students, is a Title 1 school.

Much of the credit for Orchard Lake Elementary School's success belongs to its principal, Karen Roos, and the dedi-

cated teachers. The pupils and staff at Orchard Lake Elementary School understand that, in order to be successful, a school must go beyond achieving academic success; it must also provide a nurturing environment where pupils can develop the knowledge, skills, and attitudes for success throughout life. All of the faculty, staff, and children at Orchard Lake Elementary School should be very proud of their accomplishments!

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MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Ms. Evans, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations and two withdrawals which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 2:15 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Hays, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 395. An act to adjust the boundary of Lowell National Historical Park, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4742. An act to amend title 35, United States Code, to allow the Director of the Patent and Trademark Office to waive statutory provisions governing patents and trademarks in certain emergencies.

H.R. 5110. An act to facilitate the use for irrigation and other purposes of water produced in connection with development of energy resources.

H.R. 5466. An act to amend the National Trails System Act to designate the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail.

H.R. 5666. An act to authorize early repayment of obligations to the Bureau of Reclamation within the A & B Irrigation District in the State of Idaho.

H.R. 6111. An act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide that the Tax Court may review claims for equitable innocent spouse relief and to suspend the running on the period of limitations while such claims are pending.

H.R. 6316. An act to extend through December 31, 2008, the authority of the Secretary of the Army to accept and expend funds contributed by non-Federal public entities to expedite the processing of permits.

H.R. 6338. An act to amend title 18, United States Code, to prevent and repress the misuse of the Red Crescent distinctive emblem and the Third Protocol (Red Crystal) distinctive emblem.