



**White Bear Lake  
Area Public Schools**

Independent School District 624

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**Marisa A. Vette**  
Communications Director

4855 Bloom Avenue  
White Bear Lake, MN 55110  
651-407-7695  
mavett@wbl.whitebear.k12.mn.us

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Contact: Marisa Vette, Communications Director  
White Bear Lake Area Public Schools  
651-407-7695 (office)  
[mavett@wbl.whitebear.k12.mn.us](mailto:mavett@wbl.whitebear.k12.mn.us)

## **White Bear Lake Area Schools' Extended Day programs accredited**

WHITE BEAR LAKE, Minn. – The White Bear Lake Area Schools Extended Day programs at Lakeaires, Matoska International and Otter Lake Elementary Schools were recently accredited through the Minnesota Afterschool Accreditation Project (MAAP).

The accreditation application process is a lengthy one involving the guidance of an outside coach and an internal stakeholder team that implements a self-study process. Information is gathered through observations and completed surveys from parents, staff and children to create an improvement action plan. In the end, an outside endorser observes the site, studies the documentation and meets with the stakeholders and staff members to make a final recommendation for accreditation.

“White Bear is proud to be one of only three school districts in the area with accredited Extended Day sites,” said Pat Riebau, Extended Day coordinator. “High quality afterschool programs can have a strong positive effect on children's academic, social and emotional lives. Recent reviews show that participation in quality afterschool programs improved youths' feelings of self-confidence, self-esteem, attitude towards school, grades, test scores, and reduced problem behaviors.”

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Accreditation is a strong indication of program quality. It provides afterschool professionals with performance indicators and benchmarks of quality to guide program planning, implementation and evaluation. Accreditation also serves families in making informed choices about afterschool care for their children. The accreditation process supports a team approach to program improvement and fosters competent, caring and qualified staff.

There are 55 accredited sites across the state. Lincoln and Vadnais Heights Elementary Schools are enrolled in the Minnesota After School Accreditation Project for this year.

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Photos from Otter Lake Elementary Extended Day program activities:

