



**White Bear Lake  
Area Public Schools**

Independent School District 624

---

**Marisa A. Vette**  
Communications Director

4855 Bloom Avenue  
White Bear Lake, MN 55110  
[mavett@wbl.whitebear.k12.mn.us](mailto:mavett@wbl.whitebear.k12.mn.us)

**For Immediate Release: April 18, 2011**

Contact: Marisa Vette  
White Bear Lake Area Schools  
651-407-7695 (o), 651-387-9293 (c)  
[mavett@wbl.whitebear.k12.mn.us](mailto:mavett@wbl.whitebear.k12.mn.us)

## **Matoska International IB World School Exhibition**

White Bear Lake, Minn. – Community members are invited to Matoska International IB World School’s inaugural Exhibition Day on Friday, April 29. Presentations will take place in the three 5th grade classrooms from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and from 12:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. Each student group will present once in the morning and once in the afternoon.

The event is a culmination of an intense six week research project the fifth graders have been working on with volunteer adult mentors. The Central Idea of this Unit of Inquiry is “Children face risks and challenges.” After defining these terms, the students brainstormed a long list of risks and challenges that children face. Student teams selected the issue they cared most deeply about and wanted to study.

“Students are expressing very positive reaction. They are engaged because of the high degree of choice - they are in the driver’s seat! - and independence that this project requires,” said teacher Julie Stonehouse. “A typical student comment, overheard in my class last week was ‘Exhibition is fun! I like getting to decide what I’m going to learn about.’”

For the six week duration of Exhibition, the students are primarily focused on the project. Math and specialized classes are taught as stand-alone subjects, but the rest of the students’ days are spent on the Exhibition project. The unit incorporates writing, researching, reading, creative thinking, social/behavioral, speaking/listening, and personal organization skills.

The Exhibition experience is an International Baccalaureate project. Matoska International was named an International Baccalaureate World School earlier this academic year.

###