and accommodations to the Scripps National Spelling Bee in Washington, D.C. Merriam-Webster Unabridged Online, a mint proof set, a spelling supplement, and travel expenses were awarded to fifth through eighth grade students who had previously won their local bees.

On Feb. 22, 18 spellers from south central Minnesota competed in the South Central Service Cooperative’s regional spelling bee. The event was held to support literacy and celebrate the hard work and dedication of young people. Two programs are now available to incorporate into your curriculum that will inspire students to excel in reading and writing. Synergy & Leadership Exchange, an administrative services program of SCSC, works with regional, state, and national leaders to develop programs that will benefit students. SCSC’s Regional Counselors Community of Practice will meet on February 12th and 13th to focus on expanding the boundaries of learning, regardless of physical location or financial well-being.

Regional counselors will gather at the “State of Our Schools” gathering in Mankato on February 12th. The event will feature several speakers, including SCSC staff and representatives from the Minnesota Governor’s Office and the Legislative Covid Response Committee. Nursing Assistant Training Available this Spring: Nursing Assistant Training is available this spring for those interested in pursuing a career in healthcare. This training is a great sharing opportunity for local employees and 10th graders! More than 1,500 tenth graders are expected at this year’s Career Expo! The event takes place on February 24th and 25th.

In celebration of the 2022 Gathering of Champions, a call for logo entries is now open. Submit your original logo design ideas for the 2022 Gathering of Champions. The winning logo will be featured on SCSC’s website, literature, and promotional materials. The logo contest is open to all SCSC members and the deadline for submissions is March 10th.

Winter Chess Results: The winter chess tournament was held on February 19th. Participants received awards for their achievements in various categories, including best player, best team, and best game. The tournament was a great opportunity for young players to continue playing chess without discouraging them from participating in future events.

The Minnesota Governor’s Office and the Legislative Covid Response Committee have approved a new initiative to provide transportation support for families. This initiative will provide free transportation for families who need it to attend events, such as the spelling bee, and to visit with industry representatives at the Interactive Exhibit Hall. The event will take place on February 24th and 25th. More information can be found at visittheminnesotasite.org.

Did you know that there is tuition support for Region 9 school employees considering enrolling in a program to become a special education teacher? Tuition is supported by Low Incidence Grant funds. For more information, please reach out to Erin Toninato, SCSC Special Education Director, at 507-389-1914 Ext. 2010 or ctoninato@mnscsc.org.