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NEWS RELEASE – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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LAND O’LAKES ELEMENTARY RECEIVES WISCONSIN SCHOOL OF RECOGNITION AWARD

LAND O’LAKES, WI – Northland Pines School District’s elementary school in Land O’Lakes is one of 153 schools to be honored by the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (DPI) with the Wisconsin “School of Recognition” Award.

“Land O’ Lakes Elementary School is one of the district’s best kept secrets...” states District Administrator Mike Richie, “...but it shouldn’t be. It is an outstanding facility with an exceptional staff in an appealing community.” The elementary school was built in 1997 nestled on 20 wooded acres in the charming community of Land O’Lakes, about 20 miles north of Eagle River. “It is great to see this school finally being recognized for its contribution to the area.” stated Richie.

In order to receive this award, the school must meet the following criteria; be a Title I-eligible school in the top quartile of the state for the percentage of students receiving free/reduced lunch, have above-average student academic performance on WKCE test scores (Wisconsin Knowledge and Concepts Exam) in reading and mathematics when compared to similar schools, and have met AYP (adequate yearly progress) indicators for two or more consecutive years. Wisconsin DPI has been recognizing schools for this award since 2003 under the Federal No Child Left Behind Act of 2001.

In the state press release, Tony Evers - State Superintendent affirms “These schools are committed to forging partnerships among teachers, parents, administrators, other school staff members, and the community to create an educational environment that supports children’s learning.” Evers also stated “The link between poverty and educational challenge is one these schools are breaking through rigorous programming and attention to student needs.”

Elementary school principal Duane Frey remarked “Land O’Lakes Elementary School has a very dedicated staff, low class sizes in grades PK-5, above average test scores, and a private day care within the school.” Both Richie and Frey agree that the quality of all the staff attributes to the schools success and will stimulate repetitive achievements.

Of the 153 schools receiving this award, 96 are elementary, 33 are middle or junior high schools and 24 are high schools. During the awards ceremony on October 18, 2010 at the state Capitol, five schools will receive flags for earning the award for five consecutive years. Another 17 schools have received the award for more than five years. An award plaque will be presented to each school with a \$2,000 check. Recipients of this award are now eligible to apply for a \$250,000 competitive grant and also a Teacher Fellowship Program which can be up to a \$10,000 grant.

Evers praised these schools by saying “The staff and administration of these schools know how important it is that every child graduate with the knowledge and skills needed for the workforce or further education.”

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