

Lapham Lookout

#2 Oct 2008

Elementary

Lapham Elementary School
1045 East Dayton St.
Madison, WI 53703

Dr. Michael Hertting
Principal

mhertting@madison.k12.wi.us

Dear Parents:

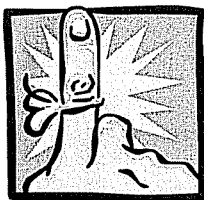
It has been a quick month. Our staff has been working hard to assess and identify students for our District Supported Math and Literacy classes. You may or may not know that our school added the equivalent of one full time teacher more than we expected to support our students in Math and literacy. The additional allocation was great news for our school. Our kindergarten and first graders are all in smaller classes for math and literacy. We send a big thank you to parents for their support when we needed to move students to additional sections.

Another very important item in this newsletter is the Referendum information. Please be sure to contact me if you have further questions. Also, please note the information sessions being held in October. We want our parents to have the most up to date information on this important item for MMSD.

Another area we are continuing to work on here at Lapham is the tardiness of our students. It is my hope that we will have fewer tardies than the 2200 we had last year. This really is a drain on staff time that is unnecessary. Now that the first month is past, routines should have been established. Please understand our concern in this area as we inquire why students are tardy. Please also remember that this affects not only your child's learning but all of the other children's learning as well. I know as a school we can do better than last year. Thank you for working with us in this area.

Have a great October with your family. **Mike Hertting**

Dates To Remember



- Oct 7** Fire Prevention 8am-11am
- Oct 13** Up Close and Musical performance 8am-11am
- Oct 14** PTG Meeting 6:30pm at Marquette
- Oct 16** 2nd Grade field trip to Folklore Village
- Oct 21** Awards assembly 9:15am
- Oct 21** Kindergarten field trip to the Pumpkin Patch
- Oct 24** First Grade field trip to Aldo Leopold Nature Center
- Oct 30 & 31** No school (WEAC convention)



Questions and Answers

How many students are enrolled at Lapham? Our 3rd Friday enrollment was 232 students; 72 kindergarteners, 73 first graders and 86 second graders. This was 16 more students than we expected.

Is there going to be Pizza Hut this year? No, our Food Service Department decided to discontinue Pizza Hut because it no longer meets the criteria in our Wellness Policy and also there was likely going to be a price increase.

Can we visit our child's classroom? We get many, many requests to visit our classrooms. We are very protective of the learning time at our school. Please talk with your child's teacher about visiting. Some teachers have special days or weeks for the students, others have parent volunteers and yet others organize special events for parents. It varies by classroom and teacher.

When will the School Directory Come Out? The directory should be distributed near the end of the first quarter. We had to wait until after our K reorganization to request the data file from which it is created.

Rumor Control

Have you heard something that you wonder about or that you do not understand? Please call the school and ask us. We want parents and students to have and pass on accurate information as well as to have answers for their questions. We cannot answer questions we do not know about. Thank you for checking in with us when you are not sure about something.

Did you know?



One of the best family events in Madison is free? Visit Kids in the Rotunda (at the Overture Center) every Saturday at 9, 11 or 1 for a free kid show. These are great events for families and Madison is lucky to have this resource.

Emergency Drills

Last week we had our first fire drill. It was announced in advance. Each month we have a Fire Drill. We also have Code Red drills twice a year which are used if we need to lockdown the building for the safety of our children. In the Spring we also have a tornado drill. Please use this notice as a reminder to check the batteries of your smoke alarms and talk about a meeting place in case your house needed to be evacuated.

Wish List



New or gently used hats and mittens in anticipation of the upcoming winter. Please send them to the Health Office. We could also use some new underwear for our students.

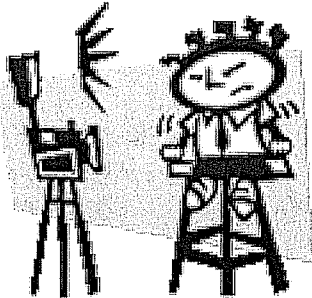
MP3 or IPOD for our gym teacher to use in gym class.

Meet Sarah Keyes!

Hi! My name is Sarah Keyes, and I am the new Math/Literacy turned full-time kindergarten teacher at Lapham, and I could not be more thrilled to join an excellent staff and a wonderful student and parent population. After just graduating in May from the University of Wisconsin, I feel blessed beyond belief that I can start my first year of teaching at Lapham! I am ready to build relationships with students, help them to reach their potential, meet any challenges, and have fun doing it!

Besides teaching (which, as you know, is more than a full-time commitment!), I like to spend time with family and friends. I am getting married in only five weeks to my fiancé Jon, and I am so excited! You've probably seen him around; he's been a big help in getting my classroom organized. Together, Jon and I are learning to cook—slowly but surely. I also like to spend time up at my cottage or relax with an episode of FRIENDS.

Picture Day



Did you miss the first picture day on Monday, September 29th? If so, please mark your calendar for **Thursday, November 6th** when we will have Picture Retake Day.

If for any reason you are unhappy with the first pictures taken, you may bring them back and have your child's picture taken again.



A Message from the Lunch Room

Did you know you can monitor your child's food service account on line? Just visit www.MealpayPlus.com to view account balances, payments, and account activity at no cost. This is a great way to make sure you always have funds in your student's account and to make sure we haven't made any errors in charging.

Lapham Library Info

The Lapham Library is a busy space. Each classroom has a scheduled time in the Library for instruction in library skills with connections to the curriculum in the classroom. Children also come to the Library independently to choose library books and to use other library resources.

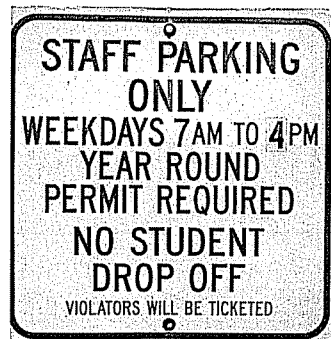
Library books are due in one week. Many children return books sooner and check-out new books. Books can be renewed if no one else is waiting to read them. Overdue notices are sent home about every two weeks. This is a reminder to families that the books are still out and need to be returned so that others can read them too. There are not fines for overdue books. Children are encouraged to have a special place to keep library books.

Parents can help in a variety of ways. The single most important thing is to read to your child every day. Let them see you reading, talk about the books you are reading, and ask them questions about the books you read together. Also make regular visits to the public library with your child to create and nurture the "library habit." Come and visit the Lapham Library.

Student Drop Information

Please use one of the following areas to drop off your child for school in the morning:

- ✓ Circle Drive on Ingersoll St. (**No Parking—drop off only**)
- ✓ A legal parking spot on any of the streets (Then walk your child to the playground).
- ✓ Dayton Street (In the **Loading Zone** – you can park for up to 10 minutes!)



Please Read
This

Please **do not** drop your child off in the **staff parking** lot. The Madison Police Department will ticket parents who drop off children in the staff parking lot. We **do not** want children and parents near school buses that are loading or unloading.

The Madison Metropolitan School District's Board of Education voted unanimously to ask the voters to consider a referendum question on November 4.

Why these budget gaps?

In 1993, the State of Wisconsin created two competing pieces of legislation. First, the revenue cap (or revenue limit) restricts the amount of funds that a Wisconsin school board can raise from local property tax without going to referendum. This law has allowed an average yearly increase of 2.22% per student above a district's previous year's budget. For the 2008-09 budget of the Madison Metropolitan School District (MMSD,) this increase is \$270 per student or about a 2.5% increase.

Second, the Qualified Economic Offer (QEO) requires that "school district professional employee" contracts increase by a minimum of 3.8% to avoid arbitration on economic issues. All employee contracts make up about 85% of the MMSD budgets. When districts negotiate a 3.8% total package (wages and benefits) to avoid arbitration but the overall budget can only increase by an average of 2.22%, a budget gap is created.

A partnership

The community and the school district would share the responsibility for the gap: the community part would come through an approved referendum. The school district part would come by continuing to make cuts, find efficiencies, and lessen the tax impact - see "**Tax Savings**" below.

The question

The referendum asks for the approval - starting in 2009-10 - to spend more than the revenue limit will allow. The amount to exceed the revenue limit would be

- \$5 million in the 2009-10 year,
- an additional \$4 million in the 2010-11 year for a total of \$9 million, and an additional \$4 million in the 2011-12 year for a total of \$13 million.

It's a recurring referendum which means that, if approved, the school district could exceed the revenue limit by \$13 million in the 2011-12 year and in every year after that.

Tax impact

The projected tax impact on the average Madison home (valued at \$250,000) will be

- an increase of \$27.50 in 2009-10,
- in 2010-11, an increase of \$43.10 over the previous year, for a total of \$70.60, and in 2011-12, an increase of \$20.90 over the previous year, for a total of \$91.50.

The cumulative total increase over three years is \$189.60 (\$27.50 + \$70.60 + \$91.50), or an average of \$63.20 per year.

Cuts to be made in next 3 years

Passing a referendum does not necessarily allow the MMSD to add programs and services because reductions will still be necessary.

The projected budget shortfall for 2009-10 is \$8 million. An approved referendum would provide \$5 million. The school district would still need to address a \$3 million budget shortfall for 2009-10:

- \$600,000 from staff positions not allocated to schools
- \$400,000 in yet to be determined areas
- \$2 million used from the district's cash balance for the 2009-10 year

Even with an approved referendum, the school district projects it will still have to make cuts of approximately \$2.5 million in the following two years. It should be noted that since 1993 the district has reduced programs and services by over \$60 million.

Tax Savings

The district is taking two other actions to lower the amount of tax dollars needed:

- Levy \$2 million less in the Fund 80 portion of the budget for the 2009-10 year.

Use the Capital Expansion Fund, also named Fund 41. (Funds are categories of the local budget.) Under Wisconsin's equalization aid formula, the MMSD has to give dollars back to the state because Madison has higher than average property values and higher than average cost per pupil.

By using Fund 41, the district can spread the cost of capital projects over a longer period of time, which means the district will receive more from the state and rely less on the local property tax.

**HERE ARE SOME EASY WAYS TO EARN \$\$\$
FOR OUR SCHOOLS!!**

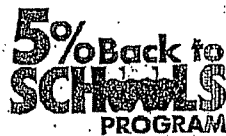
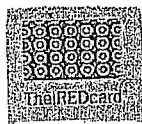


Clip Box Tops for Education from hundreds of participating products. Box Tops are worth 10¢ each when our school redeems them from Box Tops for Education. Lapham has earned over \$1,000 from Box Tops over the past five years, and Marquette earned over \$600 during the same time period. Drop off your Box Tops at either the Lapham or Marquette offices.

We are also collecting milk bottle tops from Golden Guernsey and Morning Glory labeled Kids Caps and Ca\$h, and from Kemps labeled Nickels for Schools. These are worth 5¢ each when redeemed by our schools. Again, you can drop them off at either the Lapham or Marquette office.

Look for the Labels for Education UPC codes on Campbell, Pepperidge Farm, V8 and other products. Clip the UPC's and our schools can earn points to be used for school-related merchandise from the Labels for Education catalogue. Right now Lapham has over 3,000 points and Marquette has over 10,000 points.

Questions about these programs can be directed to Christine Kern Steffen, the Box Tops coordinator for Lapham School, at kernsteffen@charter.net or visit www.boxtops4education.com; www.foremostfarms.com; www.kemps.com; or www.labelsforeducation.com.



TARGET – If you shop at Target and use a Target Visa card, you can designate 1% of your purchases to go to our schools. Lapham currently has 88 REDcard holders enrolled in the program and earned \$160 in the last six months alone. Marquette has 64 REDcard holders and earned \$120 in the last six months. Find out more by reading Take Charge of Education on www.target.com.

OFFICE DEPOT - The 5% Back to Schools Program credits designated schools with 5% of the cost of eligible purchases to be used towards school supplies. Lapham's school ID is #70109332 and Marquette's ID is #70109328. You can learn more about the program at www.officedepot.com.

CARTRIDGES FOR KIDS - Recycle your used printer cartridges, iPods, cell phones, and other electronics to help earn money for Marquette! For a list of accepted items to bring to the Marquette office, see www.cartridgesforkids.com.