

October 2008

Marquette Minutes



Home of the Marquette Mustangs

Marquette Elementary School
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I joined a classroom this morning in time to listen to one of our students' play the piano for the class. It is always special to get a glimpse of student's interests and abilities outside of their school life. It made me think about the wealth of talent and skill that our students, staff and families have in this community (which we may or may not be aware of). I'd like to see us continue to tap into our community's resources and expand the experiences of our students. What do you have to share?

Our start to the year has been busy and productive. Students are getting back into the "school routine" and seem happy to be here. I hope that this change in routine is going well for you too! One area that has kept us busy is in preparing for the **Marquette Mile on October 16th at 1:45**. Students brought in their brochures and parent volunteer slips and we have ordered the T-shirts with a design created by two of our students, Aidan Coffin Ness and Nyika Campbell. I hope that you can join us for our mile run/jog/walk to raise money for our 3rd grade urban adventure, 4th grade caving and camping trip and 5th grade low and high ropes adventure. Please also see the information in this newsletter about the **Literacy Walk on Sunday, October 12th at 10:30**. The goal is for Marquette to have the most people sign up to be on our Marquette team to win \$1000 in books for our school and raise money for literacy!

Students met with me during the second week of school to discuss the **Code of Conduct** and I spoke with them about the "**Above the Line**" practices of being safe, respectful and responsible. I really tried to express the importance of being a positive member of our community and what it feels, looks, and sounds like when someone begins to get in the way of our right to learn. At Marquette we have Fix It Plans and Behavior Referrals when a student "Falls Below the Line" at school. To best communicate with you about an incident, we ask that you sign the Plan or Referral and send it back to school. Thank you for partnering with us in this process. I'd also like to inform you that on October 23rd we will be holding a **Code Red**. This practice drill is done to prepare and be informed for a possible crisis situation at school (as we do with fire and tornado drills). Please read our letter in this publication about this drill and talk with your child in preparation for this day.

In closing, I appreciate those of you who are being attentive to **traffic safety** at the beginning and end of our school days. I have seen a difference this year! Thank you to our parent group that has come during these times to assist in informing our families. We request that you please remember to not stop your car in the yellow curb areas to keep our students safe.

Enjoy the change in season,
Andrea Kreft

Hello Parents,

For the past few weeks the PTG Safety Committee has been busy spreading the word, educating parents about the correct drop-off/pick-up zone at Marquette school.

Our goal is simple; we want to make this area safe as possible for all the children of Marquette school. We ask that you be especially mindful when driving into the school area and follow the drop-off guidelines or consider other options so that you don't drive into the school zone.

Our school is a neighborhood school, in every sense of the word. It does not have a lovely and safe circle driveway for school busses and for parents dropping off their children. Instead we have narrow city streets, with many parked cars to navigate. Plus, within a 15 minute time span most of the 650 children attending Marquette and O'Keeffe schools arrive.

Winter is just around the corner. Our streets become even narrower. Snow banks will cover the yellow-painted curbs and their height will further decrease visibility. If it snows as much this year as last, the snow banks will be taller than our fifth grade crossing guards.

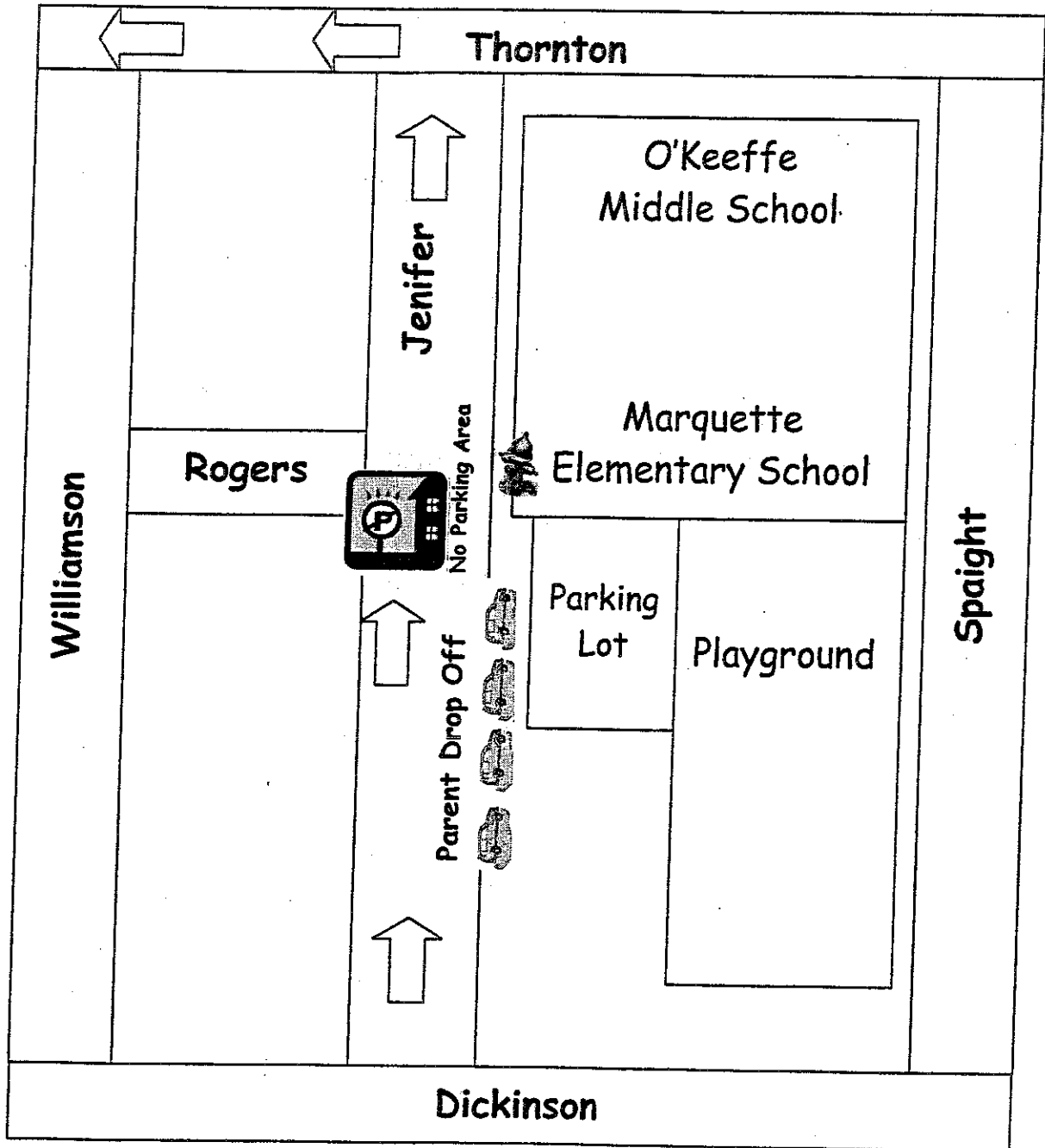
The best way to improve the safety around our school is to decrease the traffic volume. Is it possible for you to do this? Does your child need to be dropped off at the front door? For those who drive several miles, can you drop your child several blocks away and either walk with them or have them walk on their own? For those within a mile or so can your child walk, scoot or bike to school? Or can you form a walking bus (like a carpool without a car)? There are many options; can you brainstorm a list until you reach a solution?

Just like recycling, we all do little things to do our part to decrease our impact on the environment. Is there something you can personally do to decrease the volume of traffic around our school and improve the safety of children?

We're happy to help; if you have questions about the drop-off/pick-up guidelines or would like to join or start a walking school bus, call us. Diane Scherschel, 255-8438.

Thank you for your consideration.
PTG Safety Committee

MARQUETTE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
TRAFFIC PATTERN
FOR STUDENT DROP OFF AND PICK-UP



Join Our Marquette Team

Literacy Network Run/Walk Sunday Oct. 12th

Mark your calendars! This year's Literacy Network Run/Walk is **Sunday, Oct. 12th at 10:30 a.m.** This fun event supports Dane County's Literacy Network. Besides contributing to a great cause, we can actually **win \$1,000 in books for our school** if we take first place in the number of participants per student population. How exciting is that??? Please strongly consider joining us, and if you can't make the actual walk, you can still get "counted" just by registering.

It's easy to do:

Register on line by Oct 9th at: www.litnetwork.org

Mail registration by Oct. 4th (Your child's teacher has registration booklets if you haven't already received one)

Register in person at Literacy Network 1118 S. Park St. or Avol's Books 315 W. Gorham St.

Questions? Call the Literacy Network @ 244-3911

Just be sure to register under the name **Team Marquette**

Team Captain: Andrea Kreft

It's a great walk down State Street and through the University grounds. We hope to see many of you on Oct. 12th.

Book Fair Safari

The bookfair is coming, the bookfair is coming!

The library will be hosting the Marquette bookfair November 7—18. It will, of course, be open during Parent teacher conferences. Watch for more information in the next newsletter.

Student Council

Student council has once again started up this year. It is open to anyone who is interested in joining. Student council members help work at the School Store which will be open on Fridays this year. Student council members also help with Spirit Days and others projects where leadership is needed.

Code Red Drill

We will be holding a Code Red practice drill at Marquette Elementary School the week of October 20, 2008, with a planned day and time of Thursday, October 23, at 10:00am. Possible Code Red situations include the presence of a dangerous intruder in the building, a weapon or other disruption that threatens the safety of staff and students. Students and staff are directed to go to their safe space in the building during this drill.

Teachers discuss this drill with students and will reflect on the drill with students after it has been completed. You may want to talk with your child about the drill, emphasizing that it is only a practice and will last approximately 10-15 minutes from the start of the drill until it is finished.

This Code Red drill is an important element in our crisis response plan at Marquette Elementary School. We hope that we will never have to utilize this drill in a real circumstance, but it is important for us all to walk through the process of staying safe. This Code Red drill experience is meant to be practice only, not threatening or scary in nature.

Thank you for your continued support.

MARQUETTE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Innisbrook Giftwrap - PTG Fundraiser

Fundraising Goals

Last year Innisbrook helped us raise \$4,000 and this year we hope to do even better. If 15% of our families participate, 50% of the sales will go directly to the Lapham/Marquette PTG in support of our teachers, schools and student activities.

Kids will be selling from September 29 - October 10 with product delivery by November 15.

Innisbrook goes GREEN

- all standard gift wrap, catalogs, envelopes and boxes are printed on recycled paper
- ink is 100% water based and applied with a computerized process to minimize waste
- leftover ink is reformulated and recycled

WHAT IS THE MIDWEST ACADEMIC TALENT SEARCH?

To: Parents of Third-Eighth Grade Students
From: Talented and Gifted (TAG) Resource Teachers

Each year, The Center for Talent Development (CTD) at Northwestern University in Evanston, IL conducts the **Midwest Academic Talents Search (MATS)**. Participating in this activity is voluntary and at parent/guardian discretion. Students in grades 3-6 may take the EXPLORE test, a test designed for 8th grade students. Students who are in grades 6-9 may choose between the ACT and SAT tests, which are designed for high school juniors or seniors.

It is recommended that participating students have WKCE scores at or above one of the following:

<u>Grade</u>	<u>Verb/Rdg</u>	<u>Math</u>
3 rd	504	487
4 th	528	518
5 th	535	549
6 th	558	567
7 th	568	586
8 th	584	598

Why might a student participate in this testing opportunity? Reasons include:

- The testing process offers an out of level testing opportunity for students who typically perform at the “ceiling” (or top) of grade-level standards.
- This may be the first testing experience a student has in which s/he does not know all of the answers, or is even able to complete the entire test.
- Students will gain information about other academic opportunities around the state and nation (Wisconsin Center for Academically Talented Youth [WCATY]), Northwestern University, etc.)

You may read more about the Midwest Academic Talent Search and its cost, and also register on-line at:
<http://www.ctd.northwestern.edu/mats/index.html>

If you prefer to register on paper, please email Kerry Berns at kberns@madison.k12.wi.us or call 663-5230. Your message should include your child’s name (please spell the last name), grade, and school. An application will be sent to you with a deadline of October 30th.

Students who qualify for free and reduced lunch will qualify for financial aid and registration must be done by paper, not online.

Special Notice: Talented and Gifted Parent Meeting to meet new staff and learn more about MATS

When: Thursday, October 16th 7:00-8:30

Where: McDaniels Auditorium, Doyle Administration Building, 545 West Dayton

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 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.

Marquette Elementary
Telephone Numbers

Andrea Kreft, Principal 204-3220
Janet Wells, Secretary 204-3220
SAFE ARRIVAL 204-3233

Phone calls do not ring in the classroom during the school day, but you may leave a voicemail message by using the following information.

Dial Auto Attendant 204-3221
then dial 4-digit extension :

Grade 3

Kim Henze 4-6922
Kathy Mack 4-6924
Peggy Moore 4-6923

Grade 4

Carrie Beitlich 4-3249
Kristin Haugen-Wente 4-6894
Maureen McGilligan-Bentin 4-6920

Grade 4

Stacy Carlson 4-3254
Therese Cratic 4-3246
Mary Zillman 4-3245

Specials Teacher

Barb Brochtrup, ART 4-3258
Mary Clark, LMC 4-3229
Jason Jacobs, STRINGS 4-6864
Mary Milhaupt, PHY ED 4-3240
Tom Krabbe, MUSIC 4-3256
Janice Baylor, MUSIC 4-3256

Support Staff

Paula Avelleyra, SW 4-3226
Kerry Berns, TAG 663-5230
Sophi Atkins, PSYCH 4-3232

TEP

Sandra Mell, Secretary 4-2272
Val Grittinger, Teacher 4-3253
Amy Noble, SW 4-6826

Cross Categorical

Barbara Corsi 4-3259
Bobbi White 4-3255
Sue Zwart 4-6921

Student going to be
Absent? Tardy?
Call
SAFE ARRIVAL
24/7
204-3233

Marquette Community Calendar

October 2008

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14 PTG Meeting 6:30 Marquette	15	16 Marquette Mile 1:45 PM	17 Popcorn Day	18
19	20	21 Principal for a Day	22 Marquette Mile Rain date	23 Code Red Drill 10:00 AM	24	25
26	27	28	29 Picture Retake Day	30 Teachers Convention NO School	31 Teachers Convention NO School	

