

December 2008



Marquette Minutes



Home of the Marquette Mustangs

Marquette Elementary School
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Happy winter to you,

Last month our first quarter ended along with the **WKCE** testing and **Parent/Teacher Conferences**. I want to compliment our staff, who were diligent in balancing their curriculum with the state-wide assessment, and not missing a beat in communicating your child's progress and experiences in their classrooms. Marquette is successful due to their professionalism and commitment to educating our students! Communication between home and school is a critical component to student success and we value the time we have to discuss your child's learning. Thank you for attending your child's conference! It is said that it takes a community, and that is exactly what we have.

December 1-5th marks the **8th Annual Inclusive Schools Week**. During this *Week*, school districts across the country are working to educate their staff, students, and parents about what it means to be inclusive. Research has consistently demonstrated that inclusive teaching practices ensure that the classroom offers opportunities for **ALL** children to succeed. Inclusive teaching means presenting information in ways that are relevant and meaningful to each and every student. Discussion, hands-on-learning experiences, and inquiry-based projects are all examples of inclusive teaching practices that have been shown to improve academic achievement for all students. Thank you to our teachers who are making their curriculum relevant for every child, for this important work! To celebrate, please visit: www.inclusiveschools.org.

Our school would like to communicate to you how much we value having our students come to school on time! In this newsletter there is a "**Lets Get to School on Time**" article that we would like you to read. In it we share information on why timeliness is important and provide first quarter data on the number of tardies at Marquette. We are looking to improve this area of attendance and are asking for your help. Thank you!

A father from California visited with me last month to talk about the state of education and schools. His family has narrowed down their search to find the best education possible for their two children and they ended up visiting Marquette. He was struck by what Wisconsin schools offer students and shared about the state of schools where they live. It reminded me that we are very fortunate and I wanted to thank you and our school community for the important work you did in helping our **school referendum** to pass last month. I know many of you were extremely active and committed in seeing this through. On Wednesday, December 3rd at 6:30 p.m. an organization called CAST is gathering at the Hawthorne Library, 2707 E. Washington St. plan an event at the State Capitol in early January to meet our legislators and ask for their leadership. Join in if you can.

Stay Warm,
Andrea Kreft

Principal for a Day

Marquette School was pleased to participate in the Foundation for Madison's Public Schools 5th annual Principal for a Day event on Tuesday, October 21. Sara Kronenberg, a news reporter for Channel 3, WISC TV joined Mrs. Kreft for a morning full of activities with students and staff. Their day consisted of a tour of the school and sharing about our community and the programs within our building. They went around to classrooms and interacted with the students. Mrs Kreft and Sara Kronenberg joined a 3rd grade classroom and interviewed a few students about voting which was later shown on the news that day. Sara Kronenberg was also interviewed by a student in a 4th grade class for their classroom newsletter. She also joined a classroom to read them a book and followed with a discussion on politics. She shared that she had interviewed both Obama and McCain during her time in Iowa. She also participated in lunch recess and was able to interact with students in the lunch room. Sara Kronenberg was one of more than 60 business and community leaders to serve as Principals for a Day in every Madison public school. Mark Bugher, Director of University Research Park served as Superintendent for a Day shadowing Dan Nerad for the morning.

The Foundation for Madison's Public Schools sponsors the Principal for a Day event to bring a variety of community leaders to our schools so that they can experience first-hand the joys and challenges of public education. The Foundation advocates and facilitates partnerships between the schools, community groups and businesses and the Principal for a Day event is crucial to developing valuable partnerships.

Please visit the Foundation's website at www.fmmps.org <<http://www.fmmps.org/>> or call 232-7820 to learn more about Principal for a Day or any of the many other Foundation programs.

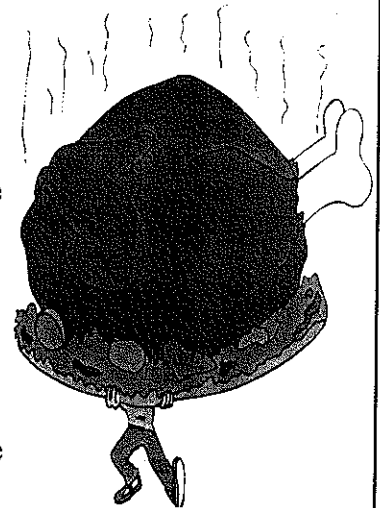
FeastFourth Grade Feast

On Friday, Nov. 21st, the annual "4th Grade Feast" was held. This event has become a yearly tradition with our 4th grade students and their families, and over 150 people were in attendance this year! The feast is a wonderful chance for us to gather together and celebrate foods from our heritage, and foods from our state. In 4th grade, we learn a great deal about WI immigrants and agriculture, and the feast is a fantastic way to celebrate this unit of study!

For this event, each student (and their family) was asked to prepare a dish to share. Their food item was either a dish from their ethnic heritage, a recipe using WI ingredients, or a food steeped in family tradition. Students also made their own placemats and table decorations for the feast.

Finally, each student made a copy of their recipe, and we are putting them all together to publish a "4th Grade Cookbook." Each student will receive a copy of this collection of yummy recipes.

A **big** THANK-YOU goes out to all of the students, their parents/guardians, the 4th grade teachers and support staff, and everyone who helped make this wonderful event possible.





Flu Season is approaching

Influenza is a contagious viral infection of the nose, throat, and lungs. Influenza is caused by three viruses- Influenza A, B, and C. Influenza is transmitted person to person by contagious droplets that are formed when someone sneezes or coughs. In the United States influenza infections lead to 20,000 deaths and over 100,000 hospitalizations each year.

Symptoms of influenza include fever, headache, muscle aches, cough, chills, fatigue, sore throat, nasal discharge, and loss of appetite. For mild illness in people that are not high risk for complications the treatment of Influenza is often supportive. Treatment includes rest, analgesics, and increased fluids. If Influenza is diagnosed within 48 hours of the onset of symptoms in high-risk populations there are several antiviral medications available that may shorten the duration of symptoms.

Vaccination is the best method to keep your child from getting the flu. **The CDC recommends that all children age 6 months up to their 19th birthday should get the flu vaccine.** Certain children are at risk for more serious complications from the flu. These are children less than 5 years of age and children with chronic health problems. Children with asthma, diabetes, heart disease, kidney disease, sickle cell anemia, etc. should most definitely receive the flu vaccine.

Children can get immunized for the flu anytime from September through January and beyond. Flu vaccines are covered by most insurance plans and are also offered through the public health department. Because flu viruses change every year, the vaccine is given annually. So even if your child got the flu vaccine last year they need it this year!

Is Your Child Well Enough To Go to School

It is not always easy to decide if your child is sick enough to stay home or well enough to be in school. Children who come to school are expected, with few exceptions to participate fully in school activities. Here are some guidelines that might help in your decision making:

1. **Fever:** A fever of 100 degrees or more signals an illness that is probably going to make a student uncomfortable and unable to function well in class. Your child should stay home until he/she is feeling better and has been without a fever for 24 hours.
2. **Vomiting, Diarrhea or Severe Nausea:** These are symptoms that require a student to remain at home until a normal diet is tolerated the night before and the morning of school. They should not return until they are without these symptoms for at least 12 hours.
3. **Infectious Disease:** Diseases such as impetigo, pink eye with thick drainage, and strep throat requires a doctor's examination and prescription for antibiotics. Contacting your health care provider and using the medication as directed for the recommended length of time is necessary. Once antibiotics have been started and your child is feeling better, he/she may return to school. Students with strep throat can return after 24 hours of antibiotics. Students with chickenpox can return once all the scabs are completely dried and no new lesions are developing.
4. **Rashes:** Rashes or patches of broken, itchy skin needs to be examined by your health care provider if they appear to be spreading or not improving.
5. **Injuries:** If a student has an injury that causes continuous discomfort, the student should not attend school until the condition is checked by a health care provider or improves. Injuries that interfere with class participation need medical evaluation and written orders for activity restrictions.

Medications: If your child needs any type of medication (including over-the-counter) during the school day, it needs to be given in the health office. MMSD policy requires parent and physician written permission in order to give medication at school.



Mark Your Calendars!

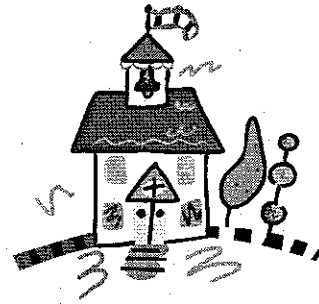
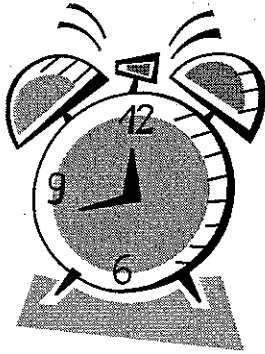
Thursday, December 11, 2008
Talented and Gifted Education Parent Meeting

Jackie Drummer, Wisconsin Association for Talented and Gifted (WATG) President and South Milwaukee educator, will be the guest speaker at a meeting on Thursday, December 11th from 6:30-8:00 PM in the O’Keeffe Middle School all-purpose room at 510 S. Thornton Ave on Madison’s near east side. The topic of her presentation will be “Advocacy: Making It Happen for Gifted Kids Now” and will examine why the time is ripe for gifted education advocacy and what to do about it.

Thursday, January 15, 2009
Talented and Gifted Education Parent Meeting

Dan Nerad, Madison Metropolitan School District Superintendent, and Gretchen Wolfe, district coordinator of talented and gifted education, are eager to meet Madison families. During this informal *welcome and information* exchange, Dan and Gretchen will overview the frameworks that guide a progression toward exemplary gifted education programming. They welcome this opportunity to gather family questions and observations about gifted education opportunities in the Madison district. This meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 15th from 6:30 – 8:00 PM in the O’Keefe Middle School all-purpose room at 510 S. Thornton Avenue on Madison’s near east side.

Let's Get To School On Time!



When a student is tardy to school the following occurs:

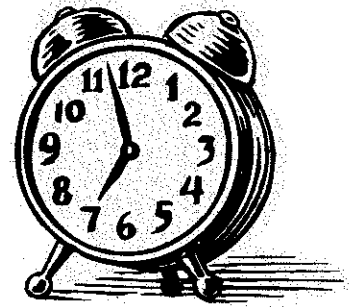
- Student misses social interactions with peers
- Class attention is focused on the student entering the classroom late
- Morning All-School announcements are missed
- Student's hot lunch isn't ordered and lunch count is inaccurate.
- Teacher must repeat directions
- Lessons are disrupted
- Teacher must spend time getting this student caught up
- Students who are habitually tardy show loss of individual progress in school

School Information and Data:

- First quarter, **132** of our **220** students were on time for school every day! Great!
- First quarter, **88** students have been tardy for a total **232** tardies. **44** of those students had **188** of those tardies.
- Students arriving to school after 7:50 are tardy.
- Tardies cannot be excused or unexcused.
- When a student gets to school after 9:00 a.m. they are considered a half of a day absent.
- At the close of our first quarter there are **66** of our 220 students who have perfect attendance, **44** students have missed only one day.

Our Leadership Team continues to have discussions on what our school can do about the excessive tardies at Marquette. We are concerned about our students coming late to school and want to be proactive in helping them get to school on time. One strategy we've used has been to give students alarm clocks and explain how to use them. Our office staff has also increased communication with students who are coming late to school and are making more of an effort to talk with parents to inform them of the number of tardies their child has. We ask that you keep this information in mind and help our students get to school on time.

Every day...
ATTENDANCE MATTERS!



Tips for getting to school on time ...

In the evening (this is the path to successful mornings!):

- * **establish a rule** (and stick to it) that homework is done at night
- * **remind your child to put the completed homework into backpack**
- * **make a list of the challenges faced** each morning (i.e. sharing the bathroom, getting dressed, eating breakfast, gathering backpack and other school items, etc.)
- * **make a plan** for dealing with the list of challenges (this may mean getting up 15 minutes earlier each morning)
- * **choose clothes** the night before
- * **establish a bedtime routine** including winding-down time with NO TV
- * **set a time for going to bed & for getting up** and stick to it, giving your child a “30-minute warning”
- * **set the alarm early enough** to have a calm start to the day
- * **be certain your child gets enough sleep** –
 - * **6 – 9 year olds need at least 10 hours** of sleep per night
(If your child needs to be up at 6:30am to catch the bus, s/he needs to go to start the bedtime routine at 8:00pm to be asleep by 8:30pm)
 - * **10 – 12 year olds need at least 9+ hours** of sleep per night

In the morning:

- * **get up before your child** needs to wake up
- * **start the day calmly** with hugs and encouragement
- * **eat breakfast** – it’s the most important meal of the day – it’s brain food!
- * **Get out the door early enough to arrive at school on time!**

PTG Minutes-November 11, 2008, 6:30- 8:00 p.m. Lapham Elementary

Abbreviated Notes –full notes on PTG website: Lapham-Marquette-PTG.org

1. Intros

22 in attendance. Great turn out.

2. Principal Reports

Mike represented all 3 principals.

Affiliated-Anne thanks all for quick response to a family need after a fire. We will post needs still not met.

Marquette-Andrea Nov 21 WKCE testing window closes. Book Fair going on. Thank yous for Wish List support.

Principals for the day Sara Kronenberg Channel 3 visited and discussed voting and election. Pop corn on third Friday of Month. Need volunteers to pop corn-contact Andrea.

Lapham- Lapham Principal for a day was a Wisconsin Alumni Representative. The PFAD joined in a first awards ceremony. Windy City Players visited performing Aladdin on Monday November 10. Holiday luncheon coming up Dec. 8 11:00-12:00. Madison East Jazz Ensemble will be playing. First quarter ended last week and conferences this Thursday. Parents invited to join students for lunch Friday Nov. 14th.

Contact Dr. Hertting regarding volunteering for:

Holiday Lunch or Finding celebrity servers for lunch

Weekly lunch room helper with your child's own

3. Update on Outcome of Referendum

Majority of wards passed. CaSt,MTI, GRUMPS and MMSD student group and neighborhood associations all involved. There will be a CaSt meeting coming up in December to plan around school finance reform. Possible advocacy day on swearing in day in January.

4. Treasurer Report and Fundraiser

Budget snapshot. See website. Update:Overall, so far within reach of last year's budget although we are down in Innisbrook up in bake sale and Scripts/Target. Information on Scripts is coming. Fundraisers have been short on volunteers. PLEASE contact PTG if you have some time.

Upcoming Fundraisers or planning:

Annual appeal is due to be sent out this month.

Plant Sale ** coordinator needed

Holiday LED and CFLs light fundraiser coming very soon.

sports equipment exchange**coordinator needed

5. VP Report -- room reps, directory

Teacher proof read for directory is this week. Goal to have out in December.Discussion around responsibilities of room representatives.Committee will meet before next meeting to generate list.

7. Committee Reports, Call for Committee Participation --pushed to top of the agenda for next meeting. Committees forming around room reps, after school club, nutrition and farming, arts and enrichment committee.

8. Wish Lists/Initial Discussion on Expenditure, Programming Goals for 2008-2009 (also, report on last year's expenditures)

Two wish lists items-Laminator for Lapham and Risso for Marquette.

9. Website

PTG board coming up with a list possible things to post etc. VISIT THE PTG website Lapham-Marquette-PTG.org

10. Grants and Foundation Update

Both schools did submit and been awarded allocations for Foundation. Lapham is using the funds to supplement a field trip and purchase drums. Marquette is using funds for Fourth Grade Milton House trips, curriculum, scanner, and News Currents program.

11. Goals and Issues Brainstorming Session-pushed to next meeting

Next meeting At Marquette on Tue. Dec. 9 6:30-8

Topic Committees and Brainstorming around issues

Board of Education (BOE) Progress Report – Fall, 2008

I hope your school year is going well. Below is the Fall BOE update. Now that the referendum is over, you will receive updates on a monthly basis. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact myself at asilveira@madison.k12.wi.us or the entire Board at comments@madison.k12.wi.us.

Arlene Silveira

Thank You: On behalf of the BOE, I would like to thank the community for their support in the recent referendum vote. Your support of our students and schools is appreciated. Because of your support, you have maintained our foundation and provided us three years to focus on ways to improve our schools without the constant specter of compulsory budget slashing. We are committed to continuing the "Partnership Plan" that was at the heart of the referendum. We look forward to working together, with each other and with the community. More information on our future plans is below.

Governance: As we have stated, the referendum was only a piece of a bigger plan for the district. This week the Board and the Superintendent have continued discussions on governance models which will allow us to focus our energies and attention on student achievement. We plan on starting the implementation of a new governance model in December. Community engagement will be a key part of any model we pursue. More details will be available after our November 24 BOE meeting.

Strategic Planning Process: Beginning in early 2009, we'll undertake a long-range planning process with Superintendent Nerad. This process will include strong community input. This will follow with an assessment and review of district staffing and programs, and an examination of whether our resources are best allocated to critical areas of need. The Superintendent will make a presentation to the BOE on the planning process at our meeting in December.

Math Task Force: Last year the Board assigned a task force to look at the district's math curriculum and charged the task force to "initiate and complete a comprehensive, independent and neutral review and assessment of the District's K-12 math curriculum". The task force completed their report and presented to the BOE. The report and supporting documentation is at <http://www.mmsd.org/boe/math/>. The BOE accepted the report and referred it to Superintendent Nerad for analysis and recommendations.

Fine Arts Task Force: Last year the Board assigned a task force to look at the district's fine arts curriculum. The charge to the task force was 3-fold: 1) Identify community goals for MMSD K-12 Fine Arts education including curricular, co-curricular and extra-curricular; 2) Recommend up to five ways to increase minority student participation and participation of low income students in Fine Arts at elementary, middle and high school levels; 3) Make recommendations regarding priorities for district funding of Fine Arts. The report and supporting documentation is at <http://www.mmsd.org/boe/finearts/>. The BOE accepted the report and referred it to Superintendent Nerad for analysis and recommendations.

Thanks again for your support of our students and schools.

Marquette Community Calendar



December 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9 PTG, 6:30PM Marquette	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19 Popcorn Day	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
—Winter Break—No School—						
28	29	30	31			
—Winter Break—No School—						

Marquette Community Calendar



January 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
				<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> Winter Break No School </div>		
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	School Reopens					
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
		PTG, 6:30PM Lapham			Popcorn Day	
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
	NO SCHOOL Martin Luther King Jr. Day				Early Release 10:45 AM End of 2nd Qtr / 1st Sem.	
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
	Start of 3rd Qtr / 2nd Sem.					

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

