

February 2009



# Marquette Minutes



*Home of the Marquette Mustangs*

Marquette Elementary School  
1501 Jenifer Street  
Madison, WI 53703  
204-3220  
FAX: 204-0467

Andrea Kreft-Principal  
Email: [akreft@madison.k12.wi.us](mailto:akreft@madison.k12.wi.us)  
Janet Wells-Secretary  
[jwells@madison.k12.wi.us](mailto:jwells@madison.k12.wi.us)  
Web Site: <http://aphammarquetteweb.madison.k12.wi.us/>

Greetings and Happy 2009!

I hope your break went very well and that everyone is refreshed for the second half of the school year. It was a surprise to have a snow day the last day of school back in December and we missed that chance to say "goodbye". So, on our first week returning to school in January we ended up showing a **slide show** that we had planned to show on the Friday before break. Staff put together a funny video along with the slide show of many pictures we've taken this year due to the PTG's gift of six cameras. There were lots of smiles and laughs!

We were honored to have an **Artist-in-Residence** come to Marquette in January. His name is Skip Jones and his message is about working towards respect in a program he names "H.E.R.O. (Helping Everyone Respect Others). Using songs and stories, he helps students grasp concepts of character development, cultural diversity and the need to value their education. Skip is a very talented musician and a world traveler and he also brought artifacts from all over the world to symbolize unity in his message. We hope to continue to bring in area talents in the future to open new experiences for our students.

As I speak to Skip Jones's message of respect and the theme of "Working Towards Respect" in our school, I want to share data that continues to be a concern to our community. This information has to do with school **attendance and arriving to school on time**. In our second quarter data (44 days of school, 221 students), 92 of our students were tardy for a total of 287 tardies. 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
- Teacher must repeat directions
- Lessons are disrupted

**Teacher must spend time getting this student caught up**

Students who are habitually tardy also show loss of individual progress in school. Please let us know if we can help your child get to school on time and keep this information in mind to support our school wide theme of "respect" at Marquette.

Our school **Geography and Spelling Bees** have taken place. Please see the list of homeroom Geography Bee and Spelling Bee winners listed in this newsletter! Nils Arneson (5<sup>th</sup> grade) is our Geography Bee Champion and has advanced to the State Bee, which includes a written test. This was the second year in a row that he won our Bee! The winner of our Spelling Bee is Louis Squitieri (4<sup>th</sup> grade) and he will advance to the Madison All-City Bee on Feb. 11<sup>th</sup>. Good luck to him! I would also like to congratulate David Kwong and Inez Dufresne for making it to the final round in both of these Bees.

I wrote this letter in an empty school over the past two days due to the Cold Advisory Warning. We will be in contact with you about how the district will plan for making up these hours of instruction. In the meantime, stay warm!

**Andrea Kreft**

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

**Important Dates to Remember**

**Feb 10th PTG Meeting 6:30 PM  
at Marquette**

**Feb 20th Popcorn day**

**Feb 27th No School SWEIO  
Convention**

## UNICEF

Marquette Elementary School will be recognized as a UNICEF Delegate for raising \$592.13 for UNICEF (the United Nations Children's Fund), a global organization that saves kids' lives in over 150 countries by providing clean water, nutrition, medicines, education and aid in emergencies. Our students brought UNICEF's little orange collection boxes out with them on Halloween night, and Trick or Treated for UNICEF. Well done!



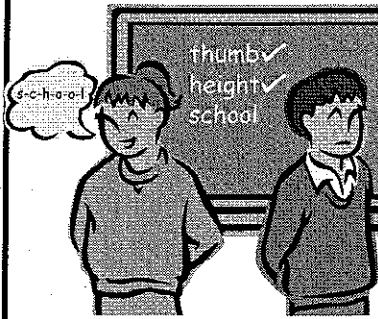
## Art Room Needs

The Art Room desperately needs newspapers and small yogurt containers ASAP.

Also, any parents that are interested in working on a "Museum Week" display featuring beautiful fine art reproductions of American Art sometime this spring can contact me at my home email [busyb4@tds.net](mailto:busyb4@tds.net) or call 221-4105.

Thanks!

Mrs. Brochtrup



## Spelling Success

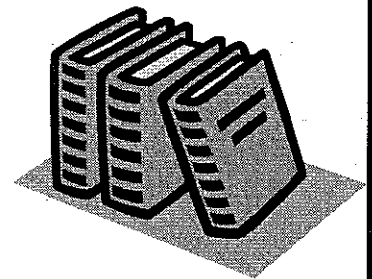
Marquette students participated in the spelling bee. It started with grade level competitions and many students "tried out." In Mrs. Henze's classroom Isaiah Agnew, Gus Kuhr and Ben Handel-Kutz (Elsa Ackerman was the alternate) earned the right to go on the 3rd grade spelling bee. Jane Hobson, Thane Hurley and Madeline Conowall (Kareem Mayouf was the alternate) from Ms. Mack's room went on to the 3rd grade spelling bee. From Ms. Moore's homeroom emerged Joseph Terranova, Maudius Muckler and John Ryan (Hari Jayaprakesh was the alternate) as winners to proceed to the 3rd grade spelling bee. Congratulations to all the 3rd grade participants and winners. At the 3rd grade spelling bee, Joseph Terranova, Thane Hurley and Isaiah Agnew earned the right to compete in Marquette's All-School Spelling Bee! In 4th grade the competition really heated up. Ms. Haugen-Wente's room produced Marcel Bogucki, Luna Abresch and Raimi Matthew-James (Grace Link was the alternate) as finalists for the 4th grade spelling bee. In Ms. Beitlich's room Livia Arneson, Inez Dufresne and Henry Carman (alternate was Bennett Salber) earned the right to go to the 4th grade spelling bee. David Kwong, Lou Squitieri and Rose Caplan (alternate was Maia Rivoire) from Mrs. McB's room emerged victorious and ready to try their spelling talents at the 4th grade spelling bee. All these great spellers battled until there were three 4th grade winners: Inez Dufresne, Lou Squitieri and David Kwong (Henry Carman was the alternate) who competed on January 7th at Marquette's All-School Spelling Bee. The 5th grades produced some great spellers. From Mrs. Zillman's room came Slater Hale, Mairead Thistle and Mia Rothwell (Jack Ludkey was the alternate). From Mrs. Carlson's room the victors were Dakota Jones, Quincy Williams and Emma Kuhr. (Taya Grahn-Galloway was the alternate). Finally the spelling bee representatives from Ms. Cratic's room were Nicki Waldman, Emma Huismann and Marina Brendel (alternate was Hans Barkei). These students waited until after winter break to compete in the 5th grade spelling bee. The wait was worth it for Emma Huismann, Nicki Waldman and Mairead Thistle (alternate was Quincy Williams) who then had to turn around and compete in Marquette's All School Spelling Bee. Words like plagiarize, chateau and questionnaire were hurled at these top spellers. Emerging as the winner was Lou Squitieri (David Kwong was the alternate) who spelled resemblance correctly to earn the victory and the right to go on to the All-City Spelling Bee on February 7th at Monona Grove High School. We wish Lou luck and skill and congratulate all of Marquette's fine spellers!

## Battle of the Books

The Battle of the Books teams are reading, reading, reading. How exciting. The competitions are getting closer.

Fourth grade teams meet Tuesday, February 24 at 9:15. Fifth grade teams meet Wednesday February 25 at 9:15. Both competitions will be in the Marquette library.

You are welcome to come to support your favorite team.



## Geography Bee News



“The Yamana are a people indigenous to Tierra del Fuego, an island at the southernmost point in South America that is divided between Argentina and what country to the west?” If you know the answer to that is Chile, then you are in great company. Our Geography Bee finalists, 5<sup>th</sup> graders Nils Arneson and Donovan Tomony had to answer that, along with many other challenging questions about our country and world until we had one clear winner- **Nils Arneson** from Ms. Cratic’s room. **Congratulations, Nils!!!** He now goes on to take a qualifying test for the state Bee. Good Luck, Nils. Congratulations as well to the more than 70 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders who participated in this year’s Bee. Our finalists from each-classroom were:

Ms. Beitlich: Henry Carman and Sam Thorson  
Ms. McB: David Kwong and Andre Dufresne  
Ms. H-W: Ben Toney and Mika Hoecherl  
Ms. Carlson: Oliver Soler and Cecil Ross  
Ms. Cratic: Nils Arneson and Donovan Tomony  
Ms. Zillman: Eli Rubin-Calvert and Slater Hale

## Tech Survey

The Madison Metropolitan School District updates a technology plan every three years as required by state and federal laws. The District also uses the plan to describe the key priorities for how technology should be used to improve student learning and operate more effectively. To create a plan that meets the needs of our community it is essential that we hear from many stake holders, especially parents. Please take some time to complete the survey which can be found in either English or Spanish on the following web sites:

English <http://www.zoomerang.com/Survey/?p=WEB228KZLKXLFE>

Spanish <http://www.zoomerang.com/Survey/survey-intro.zqi?p=WEB228L4EZZBND>

If you would prefer to complete a paper copy of the survey please notify staff by either calling 663-4942 or emailing [jcastroromak@madison.k12.wi.us](mailto:jcastroromak@madison.k12.wi.us) .

Kurt Kiefer  
MMSD Chief Information Officer  
608-663-4946  
608-442-0660 (Fax)

## MMSD Board of Education Progress Report – January, 2009

Happy New Year! I hope everyone had a restful winter break. I wish you all a happy and healthy 2009. December was a fairly quiet month for the Board.

Legislative: The Board met with the Madison state legislative delegation in December. This meeting was an opportunity to touch base and get an overview of the state budget and school finance plans that are being developed throughout the state. The dire condition of the state budget is certainly going to be their focus in the coming months. The Board will discuss our legislative agenda for the district at the 1/12/09 Board meeting. Once we approve our agenda, we will be working with the community and other school districts on the best way to advocate for the state budget and school finance programs.

Regular Board Meeting: The Regular Board meetings will now be held on the second Monday of each month at 6:00pm. This is a change from having the meetings on the first Monday of the month. Committee meetings will now be scheduled on the first Monday of each month.

Community Partnerships: The Board approved funding (under Fund 80) proposals for the following organizations to provide specific community service activities for the 2009-10 fiscal year. These are exciting proposals that will benefit our students in the MMSD. The organizations are: Literacy Network; Asset Builders of America; Vera Court Neighborhood Center; Goodman Community Center; UW-Madison Pre-College Initiatives; Children's Services Society of Wisconsin; Lussier Community Education Center; Gay, Straight Alliance for Safe Schools; UW-Madison Center for Biology Education; Urban League of Greater Madison (Bootstrap); African American Ethnic Academy; and Kajsia House.

Strategic Planning Process: The Board approved the Superintendent's recommendation for the structure and timeline for the MMSD strategic planning process. The strategic planning sessions will take place during the month of January. We are in the process of finalizing the strategic planning team. We have approved the use of an outside facilitator for the planning process. Dr. Keith Marty has extensive experience in working with school districts in developing strategic plans. I am very excited about the planning process and will update you as we move forward.

What's happening in January? January is a busy month. We start our new committee structure on January 5. The community input sessions on the recommendations from the Math Task Force take place in early January. The strategic planning meetings will also take place.

If you have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact the Board at [comments@madison.k12.wi.us](mailto:comments@madison.k12.wi.us) or call me at 516-8981.

Best regards,            Arlene Silveira

## MMSD Board of Education Progress Report – December, 2008

The major focus of our meetings in November was on aligning the work of the Board to the district's mission and research regarding effective school boards. The emerging literature regarding the role of school board governance in improving student achievement suggests that the manner in which the Board does its work can lead to positive student achievement results.

Superintendent Nerad has provided us with a great amount of research and experience to guide us in our discussions. An overview of some of our major changes is below. There are a lot of details behind each of the items listed below. If you have any questions, please let us know ([comments@madison.k12.wi.us](mailto:comments@madison.k12.wi.us)).

Arlene Silveira (516-8981)

**Committees:** We voted to replace the existing committees with the committees listed below in order to create a greater focus on student achievement and the need for improved student achievement and related development outcomes for the district. The committees are structured along key governing lines. Each committee is composed of the board as a whole with co-chairs.

**Student Achievement and Performance Monitoring:** Focuses on the district's mission and will consist of matters related to factors leading to the improvement of student learning. Governance function: district's mission – work and related accountability for student learning. Co-chairs: Johnny Winston Jr., Maya Cole

**Planning and Development:** Focuses on ensuring effective planning related to the district's strategic plan, demographic planning, facility planning and budget planning. Governance function: planning for improved results. Co-chairs: Ed Hughes, Marj Passman

**Operational Support:** Focuses on financial management, building maintenance and operations, land purchase and district administrative operations, retention and hiring of staff and staff equity issues. Governance function: internal functions and ensuring quality business, finance and human resource systems. Co-chairs: Lucy Mathiak, Beth Moss

**Engaging/Linking Stakeholders:** We are expanding engagement practices with the goals of determining stakeholder perceptions about the district and educating members of the public to build public will and support.

6 Regular board meetings/year will be held in different schools. As part of the agenda, host principals and staff will present learning data and their School Improvement Plan.

Each Board member will serve as a liaison to 7 schools to assist the Board in understanding the learning-related work in our schools.

The Board will schedule 4-6 meetings/year within the community to collect input from community stakeholders regarding "big" questions related to the district's strategic plan and/or educational programs/services.

### **Ensuring a Focus on Results and Accountability:**

**Data retreats:** As part of the work of the Student Achievement and Performance Monitoring committee, 4 meetings/year will include a data presentation related to specific student achievement and student performance measures.

**Program evaluation:** As part of the Student Achievement and Performance Monitoring committee, a schedule of program evaluations will be identified and implemented.

**Improvement benchmarks:** When the district's strategic plan is completed. District level improvement benchmarks will be identified for each student-based strategy within the plan.

# Lapham-Marquette PTG December Meeting Minutes

(Rescheduled due to weather Dec. 15th)

## Special Brainstorming and Committees Meeting

1. Vote on Lapham and Marquette "Wish List" Purchases. Risso for Marquette-service contract comes with it for a few years. Laminator for Lapham- comes with 2 year maintenance agreement. Board recommending that we approve these items purchased out of our surplus. Vote taken and approved. Each about \$2300.

## 2. Principal Reports

Lapham- Indoor recess went well. K had a choice activity. Holiday luncheon went well. About 600 people turned out. Students from Affiliated Programs helped set up, serve and clean up. Report card window has opened. Report cards coming home 1/30.

Marquette-using PTG purchased digital cameras for ongoing project. Slideshow this Friday. Line item for performing arts-possible Drum and Dance theatre performance in the spring. Skip Jones coming for "Bully Proofing" community building. He is willing come through net PTG meeting and share out. Opera for the Young unable to come this year. Andrea asking for PTG input to use the rest of the item for. Lapham Choir coming over in the spring. Geography Bee is this Wed. 6 participants. Spelling Bee is coming up. Looking for parent input around Bees. How does the PTG feel about them? Traffic Committee meeting again. City releasing report. Update next meeting.

Marquette received a grant to get the gardening /market up and running. More to come.

## 3. Short Committee Updates

Budget Update-full update on website. Currently we are at where we were last year, but concern we may fall short. General appeal will come out with the directory. PTG currently has a surplus. Currently we can calculate a 15,000 surplus. Typically PTGs spend down budgets. Alex recommending a cushion to keep to cover future needs but still able to spend on WISH LIST items.

Advocacy-CaSt meeting last week to talk about school finance reform. Coming in legislature probably in Feb. Another upcoming meeting in January after new make up of assembly.

After School Clubs-Peggy Gartes- full proposal on website. We need to recruit leaders. Stipend offered. Sending parent interest info in listserve, on website, backpack mail and newsletter. No bus transportation, parent pick up or Red Caboose. Looking for a site coordinator for each school for 6 weeks Wednesday nights in Feb./March.

Fundraising Committee-looking for a committee of people to recruit volunteers, discuss what ones to continue and add etc. Minimal commitment. Contact Anita and Daithi. Donated Bucky Books will be used as an attendance incentive for PTG meetings. John Bishop first winner!! A Bucky Book will be given away at every PTG meeting. Others for sale for \$40 as a PTG fundraiser. Table set up at each office this Friday 2-3:30.



## Lapham-Marquette PTG Meeting Minutes Continued

Gardening Committee- presented an organization proposal. See website for proposed plan. Proposed a first draft with expanded plans for gardening initiative. Future discussion to come.

4. Brainstorming and Committee Formation: Parents discussed interests, updates and issues and ideas were grouped into committees as follows:

Traffic Safety/Recess Playground  
Enrichment/After-school Clubs  
Fundraising  
Gardening/Nutrition  
Room Reps

## January PTG Minutes

### Principal Reports

Marquette had a welcome back slide show using PTG donated digital cameras. Funny staff spoof video clips also. Artist in residence came Tuesday Jan. 13. teaching a respect curriculum. Spelling and Geography Bee. Book Bowl coming up. Report cards are the focus right now for teachers. Two bulletin boards by Marquette office to check out. One board is dedicated to PTG and parent news and another is filled by a rotating teacher to share class work. Andrea met with local business about possible future "support" or adoption of school by the business. Thank you from Marquette Staff (Mary Zillman) for PTG support for patrols including trip to DC for one student, safety committee and patrol trip to Bogey's.

Lapham-Mike and Anne met with another local business about an adopt a school program for Lapham and Affiliated programs. Lots of assessment and report card prep happening in building. Drama program and Opera for young coming up. Kindergarteners practicing to present first performance at the next awards assembly. In first floor hall display of fabrics/textiles hung. They will be labeled and added to. Good start to new year and good fun.

Affiliated- Anne shared transitions going on at High School level. Over 90 students signed up to have interviews for the work and learn program. Most likely 50 spots will be available. Signs will be posted. Tue. and Wed. next week will be interviews. Students will go directly up to the third floor. Semester switch coming. Some students will move on and next to assignments. Affiliated newsletter handed out. Published quarterly. Website coming.

Last month wish list items approved and since then they have been purchased. Next month's topic will be budget for the remainder of year and projecting next year. The remainder of the meeting was spent in social mixing around committees and issues.

Updates from these committees will be posted on PTG website.

Next meeting 6:30 February 10th at Marquette. Childcare available.