

## MacArthur Elementary

# The Messenger

February 2012



### MacArthur Elementary

WI 54 N11492 Fond du Lac Ave  
Germantown, WI 53022

Phone: 262-253-3468  
Fax: 262-253-3496  
Mrs. Schneider's e-mail:  
aschneider@germantown.k12.wi.us

### School Hours:

Kdg-5th 8:50—3:44

*Please remember that students cannot be dropped off at school any earlier than 8:35 a.m.*

Mission Statement

## MACARTHUR

- Exercise mind and body
- Accept others
- Give back to the community
- Learn for life together
- Educate for success
- Show respect

## Germantown Kindergarten Registration 2012-2013

Tuesday, February 28th 9:00—3:00 & 5:00—7:00

Wednesday, February 29th 9:00—3:00

If you have a child who will be five years old on or before September 1, 2012, please register at your school of attendance, or at any of the elementary schools. Please bring your child's birth certificate, immunization record, and two proofs of residency, such as a valid current lease agreement, an offer to purchase a home with a closing date prior to the start of school, current utility bills, or driver's license with current address.

## Mandatory Kindergarten

Wisconsin law now requires a child to complete 5-year-old kindergarten as a pre-requisite to being admitted to first grade in a public school, including a charter school. The bill also requires a child who is enrolled in 5-year-old kindergarten in a public or private school to regularly attend kindergarten during the school year. This will apply to all students entering school in Germantown. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact our District Office for details.



## Souper Bowl



Who will win the Super Bowl? The New York Giants or New England Patriots? Bring in canned goods from January 30th—February 3rd and make your choice for who you would like to see win the Super Bowl with our own Souper Bowl! Students can vote as many times as they wish, and we will keep a daily tab of who is in the lead and announce that to students. It will be fun to see if our results match the real results, and we will make a difference in our own community by collecting food for our local pantry.

# Time to Order Yearbooks



Once again this year we will producing our yearbooks through VIP, the same company we worked with last year. Parents will be able to purchase the 2011-12 yearbooks online with a credit card. The cost is \$10 for a standard 60 page yearbook with a current events section. You also have the option to personalize your yearbook cover with your child's name and photo for an additional \$4.50.

The yearbook can be ordered at: [www.vipis.com](http://www.vipis.com).

You will be asked to fill in the Protected Gallery Password which is: MACYB.

Click on the GO button and you can order your yearbook. If you are personalizing the book, you will have to order each book separately if you have multiple children.

For parents that prefer not to order online, you can complete an order envelope and include a check made out to VIP. If you have questions about the above online ordering process, feel free to contact Tina Meskimen from VIP at 262-375-9633.

If you have photos from the 2011-12 school year (September through June) that you would like considered for the yearbook, feel free to email them to Gina Peissig at [peissig@wi.r.com](mailto:peissig@wi.r.com) or Heather Schmidt at [hshmidt@pga.com](mailto:hshmidt@pga.com). The photos will need to be sent in their original .jpg format. Please indicate the grade and the classroom for the pictures so that we use them on the appropriate pages. We are looking for school related photos of field trips, special school events, school parties, concerts, performances, classroom shots, and fun at recess. We like to include a large variety of events from all grades, so all photos are appreciated.



## Recess Rule Review

Playing in the snow is a lot of fun, but it also presents challenges for students that like to build snow forts. Please review the following rules with your child so that each student can have a fun and imaginative time at recess! You can find a more comprehensive list in the student handbook that was sent home with each child on the first day of school.

1. No pushing, shoving, kicking, hitting, or tackling. Pretending to kick or punch someone is not allowed. Tackle football is not allowed. No hardballs.
2. Play away from the building, not near the gravel next to the building or near the bikes. Stay away from the trees (and fenceline).
3. No climbing on the snow hills at the edge of the blacktop. Stay off the ice. No throwing snow or ice. Snow forts cannot be saved. (We do allow students to walk on the snow hills, but the supervisors monitor it for safety.)
4. When the ball fields are damp, children may play out there, if they wear boots. You must wear snow pants and boots to play in the snow.



## School Closing Due to Inclement Weather

Severe weather bulletins regarding school closings and delays will be issued over the Germantown School District website at [www.germantownschoools.org](http://www.germantownschoools.org) and the following television and radio stations:

### Local Television Stations

WTMJ 4—NBC  
WITI 6—FOX  
WISN 12—ABC  
WDJT 58—CBS

### Local Radio Stations

94.5 FM LAKE FM	95.7 FM WRIT	96.5 FM WKLH
98.3 FM WFMR	99.1 FM WMYX	100.7 FM WKKV
103.7 FM WXSS	104.9 FM WTKM	106.1 FM WMIL
106.9 FM WZBK	620 AM WTMJ	920 AM WOKY
1130 AM WISN	1250 AM WEMP	
1470 AM WBKV		

If there is a school closing or delay, you will also be notified via AlertNow, a phone system that will dial your Primary Phone number.

## Eagles Of the Week

The following students were selected as Eagles of the Week during the month of January. This is a random selection, and every child has equal opportunity to be Eagle of the Week.

### January Eagles

Kindergarten—John Aebly, Grace Stoming, Fletcher Filla, Johannah Zimpleman

1st Grade—Sasha Timmerman, Isabel Sandrone, Jackson Kirsch, Husaina Lotia

2nd Grade—Yash Gajjar, Marec Macek, Claire Stresing, Dakota Katzka

3rd Grade—Jason Loftus, Megan Stewart, Anthony Gumina, Will Hammond

4th Grade—Lyric Curry, Nick Fuchs, Jack Oswald, Gavin Ebli

5th Grade—Avian Brunner, Devin Koppen, Ryan Derry, Lindsay Paul



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## General MacArthur Awards

Each school year we select two students in fifth grade to receive the **General MacArthur Awards**. We honored both a boy and a girl during our all-school MacFest on January 26th. The recipient of this award is one who possesses similar characteristics to General MacArthur. All staff and 5th grade students vote to determine which students had the following qualities:

- Cooperative Attitude
- Considerate, kind, helpful and courteous
- Loyal, obedient, and respectful
- Fair, honest, and a good sport
- Ability to do their best and may do more than expected
- Consistently obeys school rules
- Tries to be neat and well-groomed
- Brave and supports the rights of others



We honored **Michael Wahl and McKenna Rasmussen** with this prestigious award. During lunch, we celebrated this great day with cake provided by the MacArthur PTA.

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## Odds and Ends

If you miss a call from MacArthur Elementary, please do not hit redial on your phone. This dials an outgoing line, and we may not be able to receive the call. Please always dial 253-3468 as this will insure your call is answered.

Due to the tight custodian cleaning schedule in the evenings, we are unable to let students into the classrooms after 4:00 to retrieve forgotten homework materials.

Students should not have soda with their lunch; this same rule applies when a visitor comes and brings a special lunch from McDonald's, Subway, Roberts, etc. Thank you for your cooperation!

Remember to call school no later than 9:00 a.m. if you child will be absent that day. If your child will be late and is eating hot lunch, please call school and place his/her order before 9:00 a.m.

## Library Update by Mrs. Duenk

Kindergarten students have been having fun with the alphabet. I have shared some unique alphabet books we have in our library and we sang some new alphabet songs.

First and Second graders have been learning how the fiction section is organized (ABC order by the author's last name). After using the SMART Board to practice putting books back on the shelf in the correct order, I took the second grade class to a website I found for more practice. To access "Order in the Library" please begin by going to your school's main website home page. Then look for the library page (Amy Belle Library, County Line Library, MacArthur Library, and Rockfield Library) and click on that tab located on the left side of the screen. This is a site I created for the library. Now look for "Online Resources" also located on the left side of the screen and click on it. A symbaloo page will appear and you will see a green "order in the library" button on the left-hand side. I believe it is located in the third row. Let the fun begin!



### Attendance Matters

The Milwaukee Bucks are offering an incentive for students that have perfect classroom attendance (no tardies or absences) during the month of February. Students will have the opportunity to receive complimentary tickets to a home game. Student attendees will receive a free Brandon Jennings Bucks T-shirt. Attendance All-Stars will have the opportunity to shoot a free throw on the Bucks court at the game and there will be a random drawing to be a part of the Kourtside Kids (watching the warm-ups from the sidelines)! The school office will issue award letters at the end of February for those students that have had perfect classroom attendance.



### Kindergarten Screening

**Due to Kindergarten Screening, there will be NO SCHOOL for current kindergarten students on Fri-day, May 4, 2012.**

Germantown Recreation Department will be offering childcare for interested families (limited space available). Students do not need to currently be enrolled in Kids Klub to take advantage of this offering.

Registration forms will be coming home soon with your kindergarten student.

## Fundraising

Fundraising is an ongoing task. All the money raised is put back in the school for SMART Boards, SMART Board technology enhancements, curriculum enrichment, events, gifts and contributions. Please help with fundraising using Market Day, Target Visa, Kemps or Deans milk caps, Labels for Education (found on Campbell's Soup and other participating products), Box Tops, and Scrip. If you have any questions on how these programs work, please do not hesitate to ask your teacher, principal or any PTA board member. Every little bit helps raise money for MacArthur.



A huge thank you to Kris Sapinski for organizing the Box Top Contests. In only five months we have reached our goal of 25,000 Box Tops! We are able to move forward and purchase one SMART Board with this great achievement. Let's keep up the hard work and try to reach another 25,000 to keep the SMART Board initiative going.

## Upcoming PTA Sponsored Events

Souper Bowl is scheduled for 1/30-2/3. Please bring in a can of soup or canned good to vote for your favorite NFL team to help fill our local food pantry. Dr. Seuss' Birthday will be celebrated Friday, March 2 with trivia questions and prizes. Author Bill Buczinsky will be visiting the school on 3/7 and D.A.R.E. graduation will take place on 3/22 at 2:00 p.m.

## Carnival

Our carnival date has been set for Friday, March 2, 2012 from 6:00-8:30 p.m. Please look for information the beginning of February regarding volunteering and baking for the Cake Walk. We will need several parent and 5<sup>th</sup> grade volunteers to make this event happen. Please look for a volunteer flyer to be coming home. The carnival will have inflatables, cake walk, food to purchase, and carnival games for school age children and younger. We will be going to tickets or wristbands only. Although you can purchase tickets and wristbands the night of the event, pre-sale tickets and wristbands will be offered this year to decrease the wait time at the carnival. Hope to see you there! Any questions please contact Brenda Kunz at [bandbkunz@hotmail.com](mailto:bandbkunz@hotmail.com).



## PTA Meeting

Please join us at the next PTA meeting Thursday, February 9 at 7:00 p.m. in the library. Free childcare is available.

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## ENROLLMENT AT MACARTHUR

<u>GRADE</u>	<u>CLASS SIZE</u>	<u>TEACHER</u>
Kindergarten	24	Mrs. Books
Kindergarten	24	Mrs. Schwarten
Kindergarten	24	Mrs. Hauck
1	22	Mrs. King
1	21	Mrs. Pecunia
1	21	Mrs. Unruh
2	20	Mrs. Collins
2	20	Mrs. Doedens
2	20	Mr. Jacobson
3	24	Mrs. Brewer
3	23	Mrs. Dora
3	24	Mrs. Van Slett
4	22	Mrs. Berglund
4	22	Mr. Greifenkamp
4	21	Mrs. Niedfeldt
5	26	Mrs. Besonen
5	25	Mrs. Biermann
5	23	Mrs. Lehouillier
	<b>406</b>	

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## FEBRUARY CALENDAR



<b>9th</b>	4:00—8:00 Parent Teacher Conferences 7:00 PTA Meeting
<b>13th—17th</b>	Bus Driver Appreciation Week
<b>16th</b>	5th Grade to KMS for Band/Music Presentation
<b>20th</b>	<b>No School—unless inclement weather make-up</b>
<b>23rd</b>	1:00 Concert Dress Rehearsal 6:00 1st/2nd Grade Concert 7:15 3rd Grade Concert
<b>28th</b>	9:00—3:00: Kindergarten Registration
<b>29th</b>	9:00—3:00: Kindergarten Registration 5:00—7:00: Kindergarten Registration

## Parent Calendar Survey Feedback

Thank you to all of our parents who participated in the calendar survey and provided us with excellent feedback. The number of people participating in the survey was phenomenal and your feedback was exceptionally useful in developing the first draft of the calendar presented to the Calendar Committee of the School Board on January 3, 2012. Now, the committee is working with your ideas and thoughts, as well as the legal parameters for the calendar and area comparables, in order to develop the calendar for 2012-13. It is our hope that the published, final calendar will be on the website and distributed through schools in March of 2012.

With any survey, we find there is an ongoing opportunity to share information. Here's a quick Q & A to help both parents and staff understand some of the parameters of creating a calendar:

**When can school start?** By law, school must start on or after September 1 each year. This is a state statute that all schools in Wisconsin must follow.

**Is it possible to start on September 1 (as required by law) and complete the school year before the Memorial Day weekend?** Yes. It is possible. However, in order to meet the 180 days and hours of instruction, we would need to eliminate or move the professional development days and dramatically shorten the holiday breaks to account for around fifteen days. This was not the preference of parents as indicated in the survey.

**When can school end?** By law, students must have 180 days of school and at each level (elementary, middle and high school) there are a required number of hours. There are some exceptions to this. However, the exceptions are unique and rare, due to extraordinary circumstances or for specific, documented and measured professional development. So, there is no specific end date, but we must meet BOTH the number of days and total hours per school year.

**When students are not in school, are teachers off?** Generally, the teacher schedule follows the student schedule for major holidays. However, the school calendar also includes a number of days where teachers are at school learning, analyzing data, and collaborating to provide quality instruction. These are times when students are not at school.

**Can these professional development days happen before the school year and after the school year?** Like any professional organization, we focus on continuous improvement for staff, students and programs. If a plan is developed at the beginning of the year and only revisited at year end, the opportunity to analyze and adjust the plan for students doesn't happen. We need the opportunity to adjust the plan periodically in order to ensure that we are providing the best opportunities for student learning. Examination along the way to check student progress shows us where our plans are working and where the plan can be improved for students. So, no, our organization cannot simply plan at the beginning and evaluate at the end. Further, new mandates from the state level are requiring the implementation of many new pieces of our puzzle such as reading initiatives, new student information systems, new state tests, or new teacher effectiveness models. These mandated, state-imposed time lines are often set beyond the control of the District.

**Can the time for this be after school?** Yes and much of it is currently done in the after school hours through committee work such as curriculum coordination, technology teams, staff meetings, etc. However, when we need the entire staff to learn a new skill or collaborate across buildings and grade levels having staff participate in a data retreat or learning opportunity would be an added cost as employees are working well beyond the eight hour day. Further, staff members who coach or advise co-curriculars would have difficulty attending creating a need for replication of the learning at additional times and added costs.

## Parent Calendar Survey Feedback Continues.....

### Additionally, the following is a summary of the parent survey data:

Parents predominantly prefer early release over the late start we tried earlier in the year.

Late start allows for longer blocks of building collaboration on a schools individual improvement plan.

Early release allows for collaboration across and among buildings and student grade levels.

Eighty-two percent of parents prefer to continue fall parent teacher conferences and the preference for the timing was slightly greater for nine weeks into the year.

The format of for parent-teacher conferences responses revealed a preference for teacher-led conferences with a wide margin. Student-led conferences were the next favored format for parent-teacher conferences. Video chats and Skype as well as e-mail and phone ranked lower.

Parents also responded to their preferred time of day for parent-teacher conferences.

Ninety-nine percent of parents prefer a parent-teacher conference after 4:00 p.m.

Twenty-four percent of parents prefer a parent-teacher conference between noon and 4:00 p.m.

Fourteen percent of parents prefer an AM time (8-12 noon).

When asked about the October long weekend, parents preferred both Thursday and Friday off. However, this is contradictory of the thought of ending school earlier in the year. Thus, this may not be possible to do both.

Parents prefer to have Spring Break change with Easter each year. However, again, this is contradictory with the desire to have the break set with other districts, university calendars, and less expensive travel times.

When asked about the best way to provide for staff professional development, parents prefer to have students off for a full day while teachers are learning. The second choice was early release.

Parents predominantly would like the full day or early release to extend a holiday or weekend.

Back to School, Open House and other orientation nights are preferred to be offered the week of August 27 with the first week of school as the second favorite. Please know that the decision on scheduling these nights is made by each building.

Again, thank you for your comments related to the development of the calendar. Your feedback is helpful as the School Board Calendar Committee develops the final draft to move forward to the full School Board for approval.

Dr. Borden

## Next Up.....Community Survey!

In the upcoming week, each household in Germantown will receive a survey to provide input to our School Board about the budget for 2012-13. This survey will cover budget planning about staffing, student fees, facility planning, and overall satisfaction with the district.

This survey is available online, and each household will be given an online code on the front of the survey. Those who wish to complete by hand may do so and mail the survey to the address found on the survey.

The window for the survey will be open from February 3—February 19.

Your input matters!



## **Food Pantry Donation**

Suggested donation of  
non-perishable food items  
(no glass)

- **Activities  
for teens and  
families of  
all ages**
- **Sports and  
racing  
autograph  
sessions**

# **CELEBRATE FAMILIES**



*Brought to you by the Celebrate Families Committee*



**21st Annual  
FREE Family Event**  
Sunday, February 12, 2012  
11:00 am - 4:00 pm  
Washington County Fair Park

- **Inflatable fun show**
- **Dance performances**
- **Music groups**
- **And much more ...**

Go to <http://washington.uwex.edu/family-living/celebrate-families/>  
for details & monthly calendar

*Designed by the Daily News*

More information on the other side →



### LIBRARY FAMILY STORY TIME SCHEDULE THROUGHOUT THE WEEK

Germantown-Duerwaerchter	Tuesday, February 14, 10:30 a.m.
Jack Russell Memorial	Wednesday, February 15, 10:00 a.m. (Baby/Toddler)
Hartford Library	Tuesday, February 14, 7:00 – 7:20 p.m. (Bedtime Read)
Kewaskum Library	Wednesday, February 15, 1:00 – 1:20 p.m. (Story Time Train)
Slinger Library	Wednesday, February 15, 10:30 a.m./6:15 p.m.
	Wednesday, February 15, 9:30 a.m.
	Thursday, February 16, 6:30 p.m.
West Bend Library	Tuesday, February 14, 10:00 a.m.
	Wednesday, February 15, 10:00 a.m.
	Thursday, February 16, 6:30 p.m.



### ENTERTAINMENT AT CELEBRATE FAMILIES KICK-OFF

February 12, 2012

Washington County Fair Park

<u>Ziegler Building</u>	11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.	Battle of the Bands
	2:00 p.m.	All the Above (Dance)
	2:45 p.m.	Badger Middle School Dance Team
	3:15 p.m.	Ballet Folklorico
	1:30 – 2:00 p.m.	Ballroom Dancing-UWWC and Boys and Girls Club
<u>Pavilion</u>	12:00 noon	The Celtic Company Dance Group
	12:45 p.m.	Young Patriots
	1:15 p.m.	Wayne Guenther
	1:45 p.m.	DuKatz's Academy of Martial Arts
	2:35 p.m.	Young Patriots
	3:00 p.m.	JK Lee Taekwondo Black Belt Academy
<u>Small Animal Building</u>	11:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.	4-H Shooting Sports

### EVENTS THROUGHOUT THE MONTH

#### EVERYDAY

**FREE XC Skiing** (classical only) on groomed trails at Lac Lawrann, West Bend (weather permitting), Glacier Hills Co. Park, Ridge Run Co. Park, dawn until dusk, Sandy Knoll Co. Park, Royal Oaks Park in West Bend

**FREE Ice Skating** at Regner Park in West Bend during park hours – warming house is open weekdays 5:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.; **weekends 11:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m.** (weather permitting) Ridge Run Co. Park, West Bend

**FREE Sledding** daily at Royal Oaks in West Bend during park hours (weather permitting) Ridge Run Co. Park, West Bend

#### Volunteer Opportunities

The Volunteer Center of Washington Co. Call 262-338-8256 or [www.volunteernow.net](http://www.volunteernow.net)

#### Tuesday, February 7

**Race Ready Seminar** – Kettle Moraine YMCA; West Washington St. Location – M & I Conference Room 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. Be race ready this spring! Join us for an informative three part discussion on proper Eating for competition, selecting the correct shoes and how to build endurance. Cost: **FREE**

#### Thursday, February 9

**“A Night Out...Valentine’s”** – (Ages 2 – 6) 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.; at the Family Center, 1517 Lang St., West Bend. Registration is required by calling the Family Center at 338-9461.

#### Wednesday, February 15

**“Let’s Start With a Book”** – (Ages 2 – 6) 6:00 – 7:30 p.m. at the Family Center, 1517 Lang St., West Bend. Registration is required by calling the Family Center at 338-9461.

#### Saturday, February 18

**Winter Wonders Walk at Lac Lawrann** – 300 Schmidt Road, West Bend – FREE 1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. Explore the wonders of winter on a guided hike through Lac Lawrann conservancy. A naturalist will point out tracks and signs of animals and talk about what wildlife is doing during these cold long days of winter. Dress for the weather.

#### Tuesday, February 21

**Intro to Nutrition Seminar** - Kettle Moraine YMCA, West Bend Location – Pool Observation Room 7:30 p.m. – 8:15 p.m. How do you decide what are the healthiest choices when you’re at the store or restaurant? Do you know what foods contain protein, fat and carbohydrates and why each is important? This seminar will discuss these questions and more, offering a thorough foundation of basic nutrition knowledge to help you achieve your health goals.

#### Thursday, February 23

**Intro to Nutrition Seminar**- Kettle Moraine YMCA, West Bend Location – Pool Observation Room 6:30 p.m. – 7:15 p.m. Same program as Tuesday, February 21.

#### Friday, February 24

**Family Sports Night** – 6:00 p.m., St. John’s Lutheran School, Newburg. Contact Sam Hunter at 262-675-6852 for more information.

#### Saturday, February 25

**Indoor Ice Skating** – FREE admission, \$2 skate rental; 1:00 – 3:00 p.m., Kettle Moraine Ice Center, 2330 S. Main St., West Bend. 262-335-0876

