

The Messenger

September
2011

Message from Mrs. Schneider

MacArthur Elementary

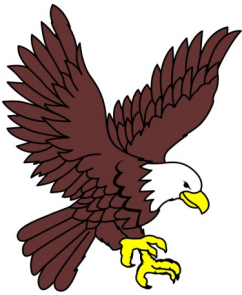
W154 N11492 Fond du Lac Ave
Germantown, WI 53022

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

- E**xercise mind and body
- A**ccept others
- G**ive back to the community
- L**earn together for life
- E**ducate for success
- S**how respect

What a great start we have had to this school year! We are thankful for the cooler weather that arrived! Because the mornings have been much cooler, please make sure your child is wearing a coat to school; sometimes it will even be needed at the first recess of the day.

With the new school year underway, I want to give more information regarding a few things happening at MacArthur Elementary this year, including new staff members!

Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS)—The Germantown School District's four elementary buildings are implementing this behavioral model beginning this school year. Our start this year is with Line Basics and Volume Level. Returning students are familiar with the Line Basics terminology, but this year we will focus on teaching through example and practice and well as providing frequent and specific positive reinforcement. Students viewed a video during our first assembly (MacFest) that showed MacArthur students demonstrating Line Basics. Ask your child the features of Line Basics (if you need a prompt, check out the handbook on the MacArthur school website!). Another area is related to Volume Levels, which assigns appropriate voice levels to certain areas of our building (ex: Library is Volume Level 1, Hallway is Volume Level 0). This, too, is listed in the handbook for your reference. As we move forward with PBIS, we will look to teach, practice, and positively reinforce appropriate behavior in other locations of our school as well (bathroom, lunchroom, playground, bus/dismissal).

Attendance—Per state law, students aged 6—18 are required to attend school on a regular basis. 5 year old students attending full-day kindergarten have the same requirement. Parents are allowed to excuse their child, with prior notice, up to 10 days each school year. Written notification will be sent for absences that exceed 10 days. A student is considered truant if he/she is absent without an acceptable excuse for all or part of one more days in which school is held. A student qualifies to be habitually truant when he/she is absent without an acceptable excuse all or part of five or more days in a school semester. If we do not receive a phone call from you indicating an absence, your child will be marked as unexcused. Please know that your child is marked **tardy** if they arrive up to one hour late or leave up to one hour early at the end of the day.

NWEA MAP—Students in 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade will participate in a computerized assessment this month that will measure their ability in the area of reading. This test will occur again in January and in May as a way to measure individual growth. Beginning in May, we will administer the math portion of the MAP test as well. Parent reports will be shared after each testing session. This assessment is an excellent tool for educators, parents, and students as we continue our monitoring of individual student progress and adjust our instruction to meet each child's needs.



New Staff Members



Ryan Jacobson
2nd Grade

Mr. Jacobson comes to MacArthur after teaching for 9 years with Milwaukee Public Schools. He taught 1st grade for 8 years and 2nd grade for 1 year. He is married to Carrie, also a teacher, and they have two daughters, Emma (6) and Morgan (3). Mr. Jacobson and his family love to go to the zoo, the parks, and swimming. They also enjoy going on vacations. Mr. Jacobson is a sports-loving guy—he plays co-ed kickball and is in a men’s basketball league! He cannot wait for the football season to start! Welcome, Mr. Jacobson!



Karen Unruh
1st Grade

Mrs. Unruh graduated from Cardinal Stritch University in 2007. For the past several years she has been working for the Grafton School District as a long term and daily substitute (mainly in first grade), and then had a one year contract in second grade for a teacher on leave. She also worked for the Wauwatosa school district in 2009/2010 as a literacy assistant. Mrs. Unruh is married and she has two daughters ages 21 and 17. She enjoys gardening, kayaking, and cross-country skiing. She is very excited to begin her position here at MacArthur Elementary. Welcome, Mrs. Unruh!



Julie Mandella
Special Education

Mrs. Mandella transferred to MacArthur after working at an Early Childhood teacher in Germantown last year. She taught at Children’s Tender Care as a self-contained EC teacher and also serviced special education pre-schools in other settings. Prior to coming to Germantown, Mrs. Mandella taught in a variety of settings in Glendale and Brown Deer as a CESA #1 employee as well as with the Birth-3 program at St. Francis Children’s Center. Mrs. Mandella is married and has two children (Nick is a senior and Joey is a sophomore). Mrs. Mandella loves to exercise with her family and enjoys watching her boys participate in sports. Welcome, Mrs. Mandella!



Angie Dora
3rd Grade

Mrs. Dora is definitely not a new face to MacArthur! After teaching Title 1 mathematics at MacArthur and Rockfield for the past three years, she finally gets to fulfill her dream of having her own classroom! Mrs. Dora is married and has two children, Ethan (5) and Ava (2). They love to spend time together as a family and go on vacations. Welcome, Mrs. Dora!

We also welcome the following staff members who have joined MacArthur:

Kathy Cowan—Instructional Assistant
Theresa Nickerson—Lunchroom Aide
Sue Kratz—Lunchroom/Playground Aide
Tammy Meyers—Lunchroom/Playground Aide
Sandy Mayer—Food Service

Dear Parents of K-8 Students:

Each year at this time I send home a letter concerning your child's safety while attending home events at Germantown High School. Monitoring the behavior of K-8 students continues to be a concern.

The administrative team at Germantown High School requires an adult to accompany all K-8 students who attend the activities at Germantown High School. In addition we are asking parents to take more of a supervisory role of your K-8 students to help prevent the amount of activity away from the field that has increased the risk of injury. All children attending home events will be required to be under the direct supervision of the adult chaperone that accompanies them to the event.

We are very concerned about the safety and welfare of your children. We ask you to please help us by appropriately supervising your children. I hope to see you and your children at the GHS events. If you have any questions, or if you care to make any suggestions that would improve the environment at our events, please do not hesitate to contact me. Go Warhawks!

Sincerely,



Jack Klebesadel
Activities/Athletic Director
Germantown High School
jklebesadel@germantown.k12.wi.us

Message from the Food and Nutrition Department

The Food and Nutrition Department is now part of Skyward Student Management System. This is a family based system. All children in your family draw from one account. Family ID numbers are no longer needed. You can check your family balance through Family Access in Skyward.

When paying electronically with EFunds, you will need to link your children to your account. This must be done even if you have used EFunds in the past. This only needs to be done **once**. If paying by check, **please put your children's first and last name in the memo section of your check**.

TO PAY ONLINE USING EFUNDS:

Log on to www.germantownschools.com. You will need your child's Other ID number located in Family Access of Skyward in the student's profile to link you children to your account **(this is only done once)**.

If you do not have your Skyward Login information, contact your child's school office. Click on the **Parent Tab** at the top Click on **EFund On-line Payment** Click on **Account Info** (on the top) Click on **Student Management** (in the middle) Click on **Add Students - By Using Student's Other ID Number** This will link your children.

Be sure to monitor your account activity and balances in Skyward. Thank you for your patience during this transition.

Spencer Tait, a student at Kennedy Middle School and formerly a student at MacArthur, was recently featured in the August edition of *Highlights* magazine! Way to go Spencer!!!

Gallant Kids

Saving the Okapi

“I was five years old,” Spencer Tait explains, “when I saw my first okapi. I liked it because it was different. I thought the only animal with stripes was a zebra. Then I noticed the tongue was like a giraffe’s. The giraffe was my favorite animal before I saw the okapi.”

Ever since that day, Spencer has been talking and learning about this animal that is so secretive that for many years people thought it was a mythical unicorn.

In truth, the okapi is a rare, giraffe-related animal that lives in the Ituri Forest in central Africa. It is not endangered yet. But the land it lives on is being destroyed. Many trees are being cut down, and wars are being fought over minerals that are found on okapi land. When Spencer learned this, he decided he had to help the okapi.

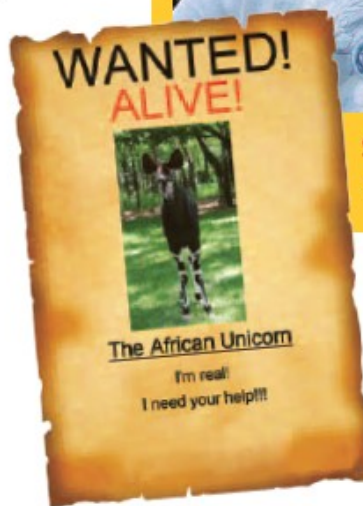
Getting the Word Out

To raise awareness about the okapi, Spencer created a Web site and raised money for the Brookfield Zoo in Illinois, where he first saw a live okapi. In six months, he raised \$500. The money went to a program for studying okapis and buying them fresh green leaves to eat.

“After that,” Spencer says, “I decided to make the Web site more about educating people. Most people have never heard of okapis. If the word gets out, the okapi might end up being saved.”



Spencer Tait wants to save an animal most people don't even know exists.



Spencer has done a good job getting the word out. He has been interviewed by newspapers and radio programs. He's been on TV. His Web site links to organizations that research okapis, to zoos where okapis live, and to places that accept donations. Spencer also exchanges e-mails with okapi fans. “I've gotten tons of e-mails from around the world. Lots of kids e-mail me to do interviews for school projects.

“Maybe when I'm older I can do more,” Spencer says, “like start a nonprofit organization or help get a wildlife preserve set up for okapis.” In the meantime, Spencer is busy educating thousands of people about the rare animal he first saw when he was five.

Highlights is proud to know this Gallant Kid.

—Gail V. Goodwin

ENROLLMENT AT MACARTHUR

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

Total: 407

SEPTEMBER CALENDAR

8th	7:00 PTA Meeting
14th	3rd grade to Honey Acres
15th	2:45 Fall Fundraiser Kick-off
16th	5th grade to Buckskinners
30th	4th grade to Seussical the Musical at First Stage

