



MARQUETTE MINUTES

The family newsletter for Marquette Elementary School

January 2018

Marquette Elementary

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[Marquette website](#)
[School Supply lists](#)
[MMSD School Year Calendar](#)

Sally Parks, Principal
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Upcoming Events

Wednesday, January

3: School Resumes

Tuesday, January 9:

PTG Meeting @ Lapham 5:45 p.m.

Monday, January 15: No School - Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Friday, January 19: 10:50 - Early Release - End of Semester

Monday, January 22: Beginning of 3rd Quarter, 2nd semester

Thursday, February 8: Read your heart out

Dear Marquette Families,

Happy New Year! I hope you and your family had an enjoyable Winter Break.

December was a busy and productive time at Marquette. Marquette Elementary is fortunate to have many "Super Heros" throughout the school using their powers to support students.



On December 8th, during our staff development, we studied the different "Power Moves" we have as teachers to improve learning for students. As you can see from the photo we also had a little fun celebrating our "Super Powers"

On December 18th the Marquette Geography Bee was moderated by "Miss Geo".

Congratulations to all our participants. They showed us all their "Super Power" of courage in front of the entire school.



I am looking forward to the New Year at Marquette and appreciate all you do to support our kids and staff.

Friday, February 9:
NO SCHOOL - Staff
Development

Tuesday, February 13:
PTG Meeting @
Lapham 5:45 PM

Wednesday, February 21:
Fine Arts Night 5:45 PM

Attendance:

Please remember to call Marquette's safe arrival line at 204-3233 to report all student absences.

Attendance can also be reported online by using the following link but please do so before 8:00 AM on the day of the absence.

[Attendance information](#)

Thank you to Roman Candle Pizza!
Thank you to Roman Candle Pizza for donating towards our teacher holiday luncheon. We appreciate your support of Marquette Elementary School!

Your Principal,
Mrs. Parks



Congratulations to Theo Beilfuss for being our school's Geography Bee winner!

We also want to congratulate and thank all those students that participated. We commend you on your hard work and courage that it took to get involved.

Volunteering at Marquette:

Parents/Guardians,
If you are volunteering at Marquette, we want to thank you! Volunteers are an important part of the Marquette Learning Community.

If you haven't filled out these two volunteer forms, please do so. All school volunteers should have these forms on file in the office. If you are unsure if you have them on file, please ask in the office.

Thank you for volunteering!

[Volunteer Disclosure Form](#)
[Volunteer Expectations](#)

Attendance Matters!

A Note from Marquette's school nurse, Mary Hutchinson:

MMSD's Attendance Goal is that all students will meet or exceed the rate of 94% attendance. This means that a student cannot be absent (for any reason) more than ten days per year. The good news is that children in grades three through five have in the past had the lowest percentage of habitually absent

students.

If you notice that your child is having trouble with attending school, it's important to figure out why. Some of the things you should be on alert for are:

1. Your child expresses that they have been bullied or harassed.
2. Your child has difficulties with the morning routine.
3. Your child is having academic difficulties.
4. Your child complains of frequent stomach aches or headaches.

These are all predictors for truancy and absenteeism in the school age child. This may require meeting with school staff, and also a consult with your child's pediatrician.

You may find it helpful to educate your child about the importance of school attendance, and that ATTENDANCE MATTERS now and in their future. Below are some important attendance facts that are supported by research.

FACT: Students with good elementary school attendance have good high school attendance and are more likely to graduate!

FACT: Students who are involved in school activities or after school activities like music or sports have better school attendance and have a significantly greater chance of graduating from high school.

FACT: Students who attend school regularly report having more friends and being happier.

FACT: Good attendance habits that students develop while in school will carry over into good work and attendance habits after graduation in employment.

FACT: Students who attend school and graduate have greater incomes than students who do not graduate.

FACT: Missing as few as 15 days in a school year for any reason while in elementary school makes school harder!

FACT: Students who attend school regularly are more likely to pass reading and math assessments than students who don't attend school regularly.

FACT: Regular school attendance can also help students who are learning English by giving them the chance to master the skills and information they need more quickly and accurately even in other subjects!

FACT: Just by being present at school, students learn how to be good citizens by participating in the school community and they learn valuable social skills.

AND ONE MORE: A high attendance rate is more predictive of student graduation than standardized test scores!

If you feel that your child is having difficulty with attendance, I am available

for consultation. Please call me at 204-3235. I am available on M,T,TH, and Friday. I hope that your holiday season is filled with JOY!

Traffic Safety Reminders

Vehicle Traffic

Please remember there are certain areas in front of the school where you may NOT park. This includes any area where the curb is painted yellow, especially around the crosswalks directly in front of the school on Jenifer Street and at the end of Rogers Street. When vehicles are parked close to the crosswalks, it is extremely difficult to see oncoming traffic. We do have some signs that are placed in these areas as a reminder but we need your help in keeping these areas clear.

Also, as pick-up and drop-off space is very limited, please help out by moving your vehicle forward or away from crosswalks when space opens up. This will improve safety for our students crossing the street and our Safety Patrol members who help with crossings during this time.

Unicycle Parking

The fire department asks us to ensure the area around our front stairwell is clear of objects. This area is adjacent to the racks that are used for scooter and unicycle parking. The large number of unicycles on Fridays make it impossible to keep this space clear. Therefore, I'm asking students to park their unicycles at the outside bike racks on Fridays. I encourage students to lock their unicycles to the bike racks. My hope is that we can still have unicycles park inside Monday-Thursday and still keep the stairwell space open.

We appreciate your help and support following these procedures to ensure the safety of students, Safety Patrol members, families, and staff. Thanks for keeping Marquette safe for everyone!

Marquette's Fine Arts Night

Greetings Families! We are excited to announce that our Fine Arts Night will take place, February 21st from 5:45-7:00. Each grade level will perform a few songs and highlight their art. The musical performance will take place in the O'Keefe field house. Art will be displayed in the hallway outside of the Marquette Library. Marquette's Show Choir will also perform! We look forward to seeing you on the 21st!

Greetings from Music!

Hello, families!



December was a short, busy month in music class. All students began preparing for **Winter Fine Arts Night** (Feb. 21 @ 5:45 p.m.), and they're working on a variety of songs to share with you. It will be wonderful to perform for you in February!

Our *Musician of the Month* was **Lindsey Stirling**, a tremendously talented and inspirational violinist. Check out some of her music if you'd like!

Lindsey Stirling - Crystallize

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aHjpOzsQ9YI>

Lindsey Stirling - My Story

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BEHhz8SgV7E>

Please let me know if you have questions or concerns, or if you'd like to volunteer in music class. It continues to be a joy to teach your children.

Mrs. Kazda



akazda@madison.k12.wi.us

Elementary Report Cards

The Madison Metropolitan School District is now using a standards-based report card for all elementary students. Rather than giving number grades (1-4), K-5 teachers will be reporting on students' progress toward grade-level expectations, or standards, that they should meet by the end of the school year.

The standards-based report cards will be helpful in many ways. They provide a better and more accurate communication tool for families, they align to the district's curriculum and classroom expectations and they focus on your child's strengths and successes.

Visit <https://curriculum.madison.k12.wi.us/mmsd-school-report-cards> to find resources to help you and your child understand what the report cards mean and measure. View a sample report card for each grade level; watch videos; download general resources including an extensive guide and FAQs for families, a quick-reference guide, and bookmarks; or reference materials that you can use to guide the conversation at your next parent-teacher conference.

The Art room at Marquette continues to be an exciting place to be!

Please remind your student(s) that the art room is a place of learning and the behavior expectations are the same as all the other classrooms in the building.

Our Fine Arts Night will be on Wed, Feb. 21 from 5:45-7pm at Marquette. The show choir will perform and all grade levels will sing. Winter themed art work made by all of our students will be displayed around the building.

There will be a 3rd grade art show at Cafe Zoma in January. Self Portraits will be on display. The opening reception (art party!) will be on Tues, Jan. 16 from 5-7pm.

There will be a 4th grade art show at Cafe Domestique in March. "Fun Bikes" will be on display. The opening reception (art party!) will be on Wed, March 7 from 5-7pm.

There will be a 5th grade art show at the Goodman Community Center in April. "Celebrating our Diversity" paintings will be on display. The opening reception (art party!) will be on Thurs, April 5 from 5-7pm.

I plan to have snacks and am hoping to have live music at all the opening receptions. All students, families and staff are welcomed and encouraged to come! These art shows and opening receptions are bound to be a wonderful opportunity for our entire Marquette community.

Since the last newsletter, all students continued to work on drawings of what they are grateful for around the Thanksgiving holiday.

3rd graders have been working on self portraits for their art show.

4th graders continued their identity collages. Some of them are now on display outside the LMC. They have also been working on winter self portraits which will be on display at our Fine Arts Night.

5th graders continued working on their thaumatrope's. Thaumatrope's are discs with a picture on each side attached to two rubber bands. When the rubber bands are turned quickly the two discs spin around and animate the pictures! We've also been working on drawings with paint of hot cocoa in mugs for our Fine Arts Night.



If you have materials at home that you think we can use in the art room, please bring them in or send them with your child. We are in need of magazines (with appropriate images), yarn, and glue sticks. Please also save your plastic bottle caps! And please don't hesitate to contact me with any questions you may have. Thanks so much for your support of your child/ren and of the arts!

Kimberly Wilson, Art teacher

Library Update



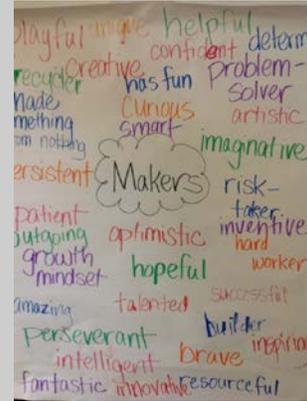
December has been Maker Month at Marquette! In LMC we've been learning about coding and practicing coding skills with Hour of Code activities. Check out [Code.org](https://code.org) to continue at home!

We learned about being a Maker and began to work on gaining Maker skills with our Innovation Stations. Innovation Stations are STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art, and math) activities that build problem-solving skills and growth mindset through play. These will continue throughout the rest of the year!



Many classes visited the LMC in December to try out the district's virtual reality kit! Using the goggles and the Google Expeditions program, students went on "virtual field trips" to the Galapagos, Angel Falls, and more! Teachers acted as "tour

guides" providing information and connections to classroom learning.



Whatever we're doing with technology, we keep Digital Citizenship and our school rules in focus. Here's a resource that can help you have conversations at home about keeping it safe online:

[Privacy and Digital Footprint Family Tips](#)

When is school closed due to weather?

Winter weather is fast approaching, so we want to take this opportunity to provide you with information about how decisions are made and communicated when the weather is severe. The safety of our students is our top priority, and we always follow a set of guidelines to make decisions about whether school will be open or closed.

The district must make a decision that is the best for all students. We realize, at times, our decisions may not fit with your individual circumstances. Therefore, we encourage and strongly support you in making the decision that is best for your child(ren). You are always the best judge of your child's health and safety.

When schools close, many families have issues with child care. As a result, we try to keep schools open if it's safe to do so. However, as we stated at the top of this letter, parents can always make the decision to keep their child(ren) at home in bad weather.

How do we decide whether or not to close due to snow, ice and/or extreme cold? The district monitors weather conditions and consults with meteorologists, the City of Madison, Madison Police and transportation providers. We will consider closing schools at negative 25 degrees. We use this information to consider closing schools in cases of extreme cold, snow or other hazardous conditions. To help our families plan for any school closures, we make every effort to make a decision on closing by 9pm the evening prior.

How can you find out if schools are closed?

On days when the weather is bad, listen to any local radio or television station for information about school closing. If you provided your email address and/or mobile phone number during enrollment, you will be contacted in the morning regarding a school closing via email, phone and text message. [Opt in now to receive MMSD text messages](#). You may also check [our website](#). Please note: If you'd like to receive text messages, you'll also need to provide a cell phone number during enrollment or to your school to be added in the Infinite Campus Parent Portal.

When schools are closed, are other activities canceled as well?

When Madison schools are closed for the day, it also means that all activities scheduled in school buildings for that day are canceled, including all MSCR programs, after school programs and athletics.

Why aren't schools dismissed early on days when the weather is bad?

Generally, once the school day has started, MMSD schools will not dismiss early to avoid complications with transportation and child care arrangements. However, if your schedule allows and if you feel your child will be safer at home, you can pick your child up before the end of the school day.

We appreciate your understanding of the difficulties in making this decision, and your support in helping your child get to school safely on winter days. Please know that the safety of all of our students is our first priority when making all weather-related decisions.

Read Your Heart Out Day

Read Your Heart Out Day
Thursday, February 8

On this day our whole school will celebrate reading and we'll invite families to celebrate with us. Watch for more details coming soon!

One way families can help us celebrate is by sending in a picture of your family reading in some way. It could be listening to an audio book, sharing a bedtime story, catching up on the morning newspaper--however your family reads together! We'll print your photo and hang it in the hallway to showcase all our reading families.

If you'd like to participate, during the month of January share a photo and a quick description to let us know what you're doing in the photo. You can email it to Ms. Heindel at mheindel@madison.k12.wi.us or post it directly on the Marquette Facebook page. Happy reading!

Join us for the JANUARY PTG meeting!

The January PTG meeting will be a working business meeting. The PTG meeting will be at 6 pm on Tuesday, January 9th in the Lapham Auditorium. All are welcome to join and help us work on exciting new events for the winter and spring!

Thank you to all who have generously given to the PTG direct appeal! We are currently fundraising to help make fabulous field trips possible for Lapham and Marquette students, to host fun community events for our schools, to support

our teachers and students and much more. Giving is easy! You can drop a check or cash donation in either school office or send your donation in a marked envelop back to school with your child. On-line donations can also be made on our website! Just click the DONATE button! <https://sites.google.com/site/laphammarquetteptg/> . Thank you for remembering the important work of the PTG in your end-of-year giving!

Save the date: January 20th is the Lapham- Marquette Open Swim! All are welcome to come for a swim in the warm Lapham Pool!
Lapham Pool Party, January 20th

[Lapham-Marquette Parent Teacher Group - Supporting our teachers, students, parents and schools](#)

Lapham- Marquette Open Swim!

SWIM at Lapham Pool Saturday, January 20th from 11am - 4 pm, FREE courtesy of Lapham-Marquette PTG. Donations will be gratefully accepted at the pool to cover costs. Come before or after lunch, but no food is allowed poolside. We'll have MSCR lifeguards on duty and will follow MSCR open swim rules: Kids 6 and under need an adult in the pool with them. Kids 7-8 can be in without their adult, if they are deep-end comfortable. If they aren't, their adult needs to be in too. Kids over 8 don't need a parent in the water. All parents are welcome to bask in the warm water, of course.

Questions? Please contact Mary Hillebrand (a mom of Lucy & Ben Hillebrand) at 608-556-8146 or mhillebrand@capitalcrittersitters.com. See you in the pool!



Marquette Elementary School | 1501 Jenifer St. | Madison, WI 53703-3792

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