



School-Community- CONNECTION

DECEMBER 2012

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Referendum questions pass

Voters in the school district spoke loud and clear on Tuesday, Nov. 6.

Both referendum questions on the general election ballot passed with more than 60 percent of the vote. The capital question of \$59.8 million to rebuild and expand Kromrey and expand Glacier Creek passed with more than 68 percent of the vote, while the operational question of \$797,000 passed with nearly 64 percent of the vote.

Under the plan, fifth-graders will move to both middle schools starting in September 2014. That will help alleviate overcrowding at all six of the district's elementary schools.

Construction at both facilities is expected to begin immediately after school finishes in June 2013. No students will be displaced during the 2013-14 school year while construction continues.

Kromrey will be completed in three phases. Phase One, which includes the fifth-grade wing, the cafeteria, music, band and other rooms, will be completed before the start of

the 2014-15 school year. Phase Two, which includes the three-story middle school wing, will be completed by late November 2014, and students are expected to move into the wing after winter break.

At that point, the older portions of Kromrey will be demolished. Phase Three, which involves adding a second gymnasium and a fitness room, will begin after the demolition and be ready by the fall of 2015.

Besides fifth-grade classrooms, Glacier Creek will also gain an extra art, music and careers classroom, additional cafeteria space and another gymnasium. All of the construction will be completed before the start of the 2014-15 school year.

"It was the right solution at the right time with the right messages," Community Relations Specialist Perry Hibner said.

The tax impact is conservatively estimated at \$70 on a home valued at \$100,000. It was based on a 4.5 interest rate for a 20-year bond. The rate will be finalized in the spring.



Music Groups Perform *Bye Bye Birdie* Medley

The Broadway Express groups from both middle schools joined the MHS Broadway Bound team for a "Bye Bye Birdie" medley at the choral concerts Dec. 4 and 6 at the Performing Arts Center.

Sunset Ridge honored as National Blue Ribbon School

Sunset Ridge Elementary was one of eight Wisconsin schools to be named a 2012 National Blue Ribbon Schools award winner this fall.



Sunset Ridge is the second MCPASD school to be honored since the program began in 1982. Middleton High School also won in 2005. Nearly 7,000 schools in the United States have received

the honor, including 269 this year.

"It is such an honor to have Sunset Ridge Elementary School recognized as a National Blue Ribbon School," Principal Todd Mann said. "We have wonderful students who come to school ready to learn and very supportive, caring and involved parents. Our teachers and staff members are outstanding and focused on the educational success of every child. By working together and supporting each other, we have a positive and effective learning community for our students."

The Department honored approximately 219 public and 50 private schools at a recognition ceremony on Nov. 12-13 in Washington, D.C. Schools also receive a plaque and a flag signifying their status as a Blue Ribbon School. Mann and reading specialist Jessica Block represented Sunset Ridge at the ceremony.

The National Blue Ribbon Schools award honors public and private elementary, middle, and high schools where students perform



Sunset Ridge Principal Todd Mann with the National Blue Ribbon School plaque.

at very high levels or where significant improvements are being made in students' levels of achievement.

Sunset Ridge was honored as a high performing school. To be eligible, schools must score in the top 15 percent on state assessments in reading and math. High-performing schools must have met the state's adequate yearly progress objectives for the previous two years.

More than 98 percent of fourth-graders at Sunset Ridge were proficient or advanced in reading and math on the 2010-11 Wisconsin Knowledge and Concepts Examination (WKCE).

Take our referendum survey online

The Middleton-Cross Plains Area School District wants to hear from you.

The district will conduct a post-referendum survey from Dec. 14 until Dec. 24. The survey is open to adults over the age of 18 who reside in the school district. Participants can access the survey by visiting the district website's main page (www.mcpasd.k12.wi.us). A link to the survey is on the left-hand side, just below the referendum logo.

The survey consists of about 20 questions, some relating to the referendum questions that passed in November, others about the district's communication efforts in general and a few more about parent-teacher conferences. It should take no more than 10 minutes to complete. The results will be available on the district website in January.

"We really do want to hear from as many people as possible," Board of Education president Ellen Lindgren said. "Our goal is to make sure we are engaging the entire community and not just when we go to referendum. The more we can learn from people the better."

'12-13 district budget approved

The Middleton-Cross Plains Area School District Board of Education unanimously approved the 2012-13 budget on Oct. 31.

The total budget was \$91,025,771, about \$2.5 million more than a year ago. The 2012 tax levy of \$59,078,289 approved by the Board is 3.9 percent more than a year ago.

The tax levy dropped by nearly \$800,000 from the preliminary budget due to an increase in state funding, which the district found out about in mid-October.

The approved levy results in a tax (mill) rate of \$10.91 which is 17 cents less than was projected in the preliminary budget.

It also is 4.8 percent more than a year ago. For comparison, the tax rate was \$10.98 in 2002-03.

The owner of \$297,540 house is projected to pay \$3,246 in school taxes, \$91 more than a \$303,000 home was assessed in 2011.

Assistant Superintendent for Business Services Tom Wohlleber said forecasts for the 2013-14 budget are already underway and should be ready by the end of December.

A copy of the 2012-13 Adopted Budget can be found under Budget Downloads at <http://www.mcpasd.k12.wi.us/>

Student enrollment continues to climb

Total enrollment in our District reached 6,577 this school year, an increase of 161 students from a year ago, according to the District's third Friday September count.

Elementary school K-5 enrollment went up by 86 students, an increase of 3.2 percent. The largest increases occurred at West Middleton (380 to 430) and Sunset Ridge (518 to 553).

The high school and Clark Street Community School rose by 22 students to 2,014, while middle school enrollment increased by 33 students to 1,391.

There are 6,159 students in our K-12 buildings. There are another 327 students registered in our 4K program, which is in its second year, while another 91 students, up from 78, are participating in our 21st Century

eSchool, an online program.

The District did not accept any open enrollment students in its K-12 buildings for 2012-13. In 2011-12, the District only accepted open enrollment students at one grade at one middle school.

Meanwhile, the University of Wisconsin Applied Population Lab (APL) report issued in November projects that enrollment in the District is expected to increase by as much as 9.4 percent over the next five years.

All four of the APL models project growth for K-12 enrollment. By 2017-18, the smallest projected K-12 enrollment is 6,298, while the largest is 6,554. That model, which looks at baseline trends, projects enrollment to be 7,098 by 2022-23.

School district establishes bond with sister school in China

The Board of Education passed a resolution in early October to enter into a sister school agreement with Fuyang Yongxing Schools.

Board president Ellen Lindgren, Superintendent Don Johnson, MHS principal Denise Herrmann and MHS Chinese teacher Piyanut Sripanawongsa visited the Fuyang schools and China for a little more than a week in late September and early October.

"We had a fantastic time in China," said Lindgren, who pointed out they were there while the school was celebrating its 70th anniversary. "The trip was quite eye-opening." Pengfei Ye, the vice principal at Fuyang High School and the director of the Advanced Placement program at the school, attended the Oct. 10 MCPASD Board of Education meeting along with his niece and an educator from Nova Scotia.

Conversations between the districts begin in June. Some of the outcomes the districts hope result from the agreement include:

- Planning exchange visits for students, teachers and administrators to China and the United States. Student exchanges would be for 10-20 days; teacher and administrator exchanges would be for 1-2 weeks; and student academic exchanges would be for a semester or a school year.

- Extension and improvement of world language instruction, specifically Chinese at MHS and English at Fuyang High School.
- Electronic communications and collaboration between students and staff.

"Through such collaborative activities, students will gain knowledge and compassion that can lead them to be action-oriented, global citizens who can effect change and possibly help resolve some of the global issues that exist," Herrmann said. "Students can be empowered to help remedy problems. Our students can make a difference, and global education can support them on their journey."

Fuyang High School is located in southeast China, in the province of Zhejiang and in the



From left: MHS principal Denise Herrmann, MHS Chinese teacher Piyanut Sripanawongsa, Superintendent Don Johnson and Board president Ellen Lindgren visited Fuyang Yongxing Schools in China earlier this fall. Travel and lodging was provided by the Chinese school district.

city of Fuyang. It is the biggest high school with approximately 4,000 students.

Herrmann, Johnson and Lindgren spent three full days in China speaking with teachers, students, administrators, alumni and community members about the strengths and areas for improvement in the Chinese educational system. They also observed classes at many of the schools.

Children from first grade through high school sleep in dorms at Fuyang, Lindgren said. Lindgren added a typical high school student is up at 5:30 a.m. and is in class, exercising or studying until 9:30 p.m. Herrmann said she was surprised to find out more than 90 percent of the 3,000 students who attend grades 1-6 stay overnight Monday through Thursday.

"For many years we have embraced the

"There are also options for electronic communications as e-mail pals, Facebook-like connections, and real-time Skype engagements become possible to shrink the many miles and oceans that lie between us," he said.

"We cannot pretend to understand others without a personal connection and the ability to learn about them directly," he said. "Building friendships is the foundation for a more vibrant and holistic understanding of others around the world."

Sripanawongsa, who is in her second year teaching Mandarin-Chinese at MHS, went along as an interpreter.

She was impressed with the quality of education and facilities at Fuyang High School and how much the school wants to learn about education in the United States. She also pointed out that the school's staff consists of professionals from all over the world, including teachers from Minnesota.

She has already heard from several MHS parents asking when they can send their children to China.

"I think we are very fortunate to have such a great opportunity," she said. "There is no question that by doing this exchange, our students, staff, and community will also benefit from this partnership. Our students and staff will gain valuable life experiences."

Lindgren also had great things to say about the city. "Fuyang will be a wonderful place for our students and staff to visit," she said. "It's safe, clean, and beautiful. For our students and staff to see the similarities and differences in education and the amazing culture will be a broadening experience for them. The area has much to offer, and I hope many will take advantage of whatever exchanges we can develop over the next few years."

"All of us felt very comfortable moving around there," Lindgren added. "I was really excited thinking about our students having an opportunity to get a broader global view. They will be in great hands when they go over to visit... We really look forward to nourishing this relationship."

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Schools earn high marks on DPI's school report cards

Nine Middleton-Cross Plains Area School District schools exceeded or significantly exceeded expectations on the School Report Cards that were issued in October by the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction for every public school in the state.

"The performance of our students on the Wisconsin School Report Cards was impressive in many ways, especially in math at all levels," Superintendent Don Johnson said. "Our staff will use this data to pursue even greater levels of achievement through our Continuous Improvement efforts. Congratulations all of our faculty, staff, and leadership, as it requires a high quality school system supported by all to be truly successful."

MCPASD was the only district in the 10-team Big Eight Conference to have all of its schools in those categories. The only other Dane County school districts to have all of their schools in the top two categories were Mount Horeb, with four schools, and Cambridge, with three schools.

"This is a real tribute to our staff, students and families for placing such high value on educational success," Assistant

State testing plan no surprise to MCPASD administrators

State Superintendent Tony Evers' announcement that Wisconsin public high schools administer four tests as part of a career planning and accountability initiative didn't take the MCPASD officials by surprise. "We've been doing this for five years," Assistant Superintendent for Educational Services George Mavroulis said.

Evers' proposal would have all ninth-graders take the ACT EXPLORE assessment in the spring of 2014-15 school year. The ACT PLAN would be given to 10th-graders and the ACT and WorkKeys assessments would be administered to 11th-graders.

MCPASD has ninth- and 10th-graders take the PLAN test, while juniors take a practice ACT, which doesn't give them an official score but is identical to the ACT. The testing is part of the district's own College and Career Readiness (CCR) assessment program.

"We have eighth-graders take the EXPLORE

Superintendent for Educational Services George Mavroulis said.

More than 2,100 state schools received report cards. Only 68 were in the significantly exceeds expectation category, including West Middleton. Another 637 schools exceeded expectations, including Elm Lawn, Northside, Park, Sauk Trail, Sunset Ridge, Glacier Creek, Kromrey and Middleton High School.

Clark Street Community School, a charter school for students in grades 9-12, and the 21st Century ESchool for online students, were two of the 241 schools not rated because they are new, too small or lack sufficient assessment data to receive an overall accountability rating.

West Middleton had the highest score among MCPASD schools with an 85.4, while MHS had the lowest at 73.6. However, MHS lost five points for falling two students short

test, too," Mavroulis said.

He said the district decided to have MHS ninth-graders stop taking the EXPLORE and switch to the PLAN recently. "We had so many kids topping out that it didn't make sense. We're moving to the PLAN because of its higher ceiling," he said.

There are a couple of benefits for the district because of the announcement, Mavroulis said. The state is proposing administering the tests, which would cost approximately \$7 million annually. Evers' proposal is part of his 2013-15 education budget.

"This could save us money," Mavroulis said.

In addition, the proposal would mean the district could compare its scores in each grade against other districts in the state. Currently, MHS compares scores with a number of Dane County schools, including Monona Grove, Waunakee and Verona.

of the required test percentage of special education students for WKCE in 2011-12. They were the only MCPASD school to have a deduction.

The DPI's School Report Cards measure school performance. Each public school earned a "score" from 0 to 100 that is called an accountability index score. Schools can be placed in one of five categories, from Significantly Exceeds Expectations to Fails to Meet Expectations, based on their score. The 0 to 100 accountability index score is not a "percent correct" measurement, and is not

similar to a score a child might earn on a test in school. The plan is for School Report Cards to come out every year and for student results on state tests to continue to be reported.

All of the school report cards for the district can be found on the DPI's website. The data can also be found on the district website under the About Our District section.

"This would give us a state-wide system for doing that," Mavroulis said. "We think that's a good thing."

About 61 percent of Wisconsin public high school students take the ACT. The ACT is a benchmark for college readiness.

At least 12 states use EXPLORE, PLAN and ACT as part of their state testing program. The EXPLORE test is designed to help students explore high school and post-high school options. The PLAN helps students continue coursework selection and planning for college and career readiness. Both tests also prepare students for the ACT.

Under Evers' proposal, the costs for 11th-graders to take the ACT would be paid by the state and used for state and federal accountability requirements. Students who take the ACT more than one time to improve their score for college admission purposes would pay for additional assessments.

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MHS students among state's best on tests

It was another successful year for MCPASD seniors who took the ACT and SAT.

The district's composite ACT score was 25.5, which was the third-highest average in the state in 2011-12. The state average composite score was 22.1. The only districts with higher ACT averages than MCPASD were Kohler (27.6) and Whitefish Bay (25.9). Middleton had 362 seniors take the ACT last year, while Whitefish Bay had 175 and Kohler had just 26.

About 68 percent of the 518 seniors who were enrolled in the school district took the ACT in 2011.

The composite average tied the highest ever recorded by MCPASD students, which was first set in 2010-11.

The ACT is a series of tests in English, math, science and reading. The ACT is used by many colleges as a factor in determining who is accepted to a school.

Only 52 MHS seniors took the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) in 2011-12 but they easily exceeded the state and national averages.

The MHS students had a critical mean reading score of 627, which was 33 points above the average for all Wisconsin students, while the national critical reading score was 496. The MHS students averaged 643 in mathematics, while the state average was 605 and the national mean score was 514. The writing mean score for MHS students was 609, which was 32 points above the state average and 121 points above the national average.

Meanwhile, MHS tied a school record with 13 National Merit Semifinalists, the National Merit Scholarship Corporation announced in early September.

MHS also had 13 semifinalists in 2011. About 270 MHS students took the Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test (PSAT) last year.

The 13 students are: Evan Bauch, Christie Cheng, Elizabeth Couser, Christopher Eom, Alexander Goodsett, Michael Hoot, Casey Hutchison, Rebecca Jin, Suzy Kim, Laura Knutsen, Megan Phillips, Victoria Wang and Kimberli Ward.

There were 78 students in Dane County and 300 statewide honored as semifinalists.

Kromrey's Hiteman finalist for award

Kromrey sixth-grade science teacher Kathy Hiteman is one of five Wisconsin educators to be named a finalist for the Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching, the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction announced in July.

"I am just so honored," she said the day the finalists were announced. "I was also surprised to be a finalist... So many teachers are worthy of awards. I wish we all could have been nominated."

Hiteman was nominated for the award by Reid Cooper, whose child was a student of Hiteman's about 15 years ago. Cooper is currently a professor at Brown University in Providence, R.I. The award is funded by the National Science Foundation (NSF) and Cooper is a grantee of that organization, Hiteman said.

"He saw the award cross his desk and thought of me 15 years later," Hiteman said. "He wrote me the most beautiful letter of recommendation I have ever seen."

Hiteman, who won the Kohl Fellowship Award for teaching excellence several years ago, is in her 23rd year teaching in

the district. She is

on her second stint at Kromrey, and has also taught at Glacier Creek Middle School and West Middleton Elementary.

Applications for the five state finalists will be judged at the national level by a committee organized by the National Science Foundation. The panel may select one math and one science teacher to receive the Presidential Awards from each state and four U.S. jurisdictions in the spring. The winners will be honored in Washington, D.C. They will also receive \$10,000 and a citation signed by the president.

"Kathy is a hard-working and innovative teacher and we are proud to have her as part of the Kromrey team," Kromrey Principal Steve Soeteber said.

"This recognition of her dedication to her students is well-deserved."



District again named Energy Star leader

The Middleton-Cross Plains Area School District was named an Energy Star leader by the Environmental Protection Agency in July.

The school district achieved a rating of 75 or greater (leaders top performer) for the eligible facilities in its portfolio.

"That means we are better than 75 percent of the schools in the program," MCPASD Energy Manager Neal Bickler said.

Actually, all 10 schools in the district rated well above that number, he said. The average for the 10 schools is 91. "We have some as high as 97 and our lowest is 87," Bickler said. MCPASD facilities were first honored by Energy Star in 2007 and it is the fourth straight year all 10 schools have received the honor, he said.

According to the Energy Star website, the district was named a Top Performer in 2010 and also was recognized for having energy efficiency improvements of at least 20 percent in normalized energy use.

District hires new technology director

The school district has a new director of technology.

Jim Blodgett joined the district in early October and replaced Jeff Knutsen, who left in September to take a position with the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction. Blodgett's plan was to be a classroom teacher. He graduated from UW-Eau Claire with a bachelor's degree in physics and mathematics in 1990 and added a master's degree in math in 1996. He started teaching at Eau Claire Memorial High School in 1991. In, 1997 he became the technology resource teacher at the school. He said it was a struggle to get enough technology in the classrooms.

"I was always pushing our technology department to do more," he said. "So I was basically asked after the IT guy left, 'OK, now do it.'"

He became the network engineer manager for the entire district in 2000 but the job took its toll.

"We were so busy implementing the network I never got a chance to be in the classroom," said Blodgett, who said he has been looking for the right position for two years. "When this position became available, in my mind it was what I was looking for."

He said the transition has been very smooth. He wants to make technology more consistent throughout the district and make

Schools make gains with new websites

Every school website in the Middleton-Cross Plains Area School District should have a new look by early in 2013.

The six elementary school and two middle school websites are currently being converted to the same content management system that the is used for the district website and Middleton High School. The District switched in November 2011, while MHS moved over in August 2012.

West Middleton was the first elementary school to debut its new website. Elm Lawn and Sunset Ridge also showed off their new sites in late November.

"We are very proud that our school district has been recognized by the EPA as a 2012 Energy Star Leaders Top Performer," Assistant Superintendent for Business Services Tom Wohlleber said. "This achievement demonstrates our district's commitment to efficiency and sustainability. Our students and staff, led by Energy Manager Neal Bickler and our Facilities Services team, are to be complimented for their efforts in support of this important initiative."

A certificate and letter of recognition were mailed to Wohlleber.

"They don't give the plaques anymore because it's too expensive," Bickler said with a laugh.

MCPASD is one of 12 state schools to be honored in the past three years. No other Dane County school districts have received recognition from Energy Star. The only other state school district to receive a Top Performer award in 2012 was Oconomowoc.

decisions less site-based and more district-driven.

"I want to help provide tools to make things easier for our staff. The teachers here are doing great stuff," he said.

"There isn't always a technology solution. Not every class needs to use a SmartBoard. We want it to be relevant. ... Building a consistent vision is part of the next five years of my life."

He also wants to make sure we make learning easier for students.

"We need to help students view learning as an activity that can take place anywhere and at any time, and not constrained to school buildings or hours, helping them learn to find the knowledge that they need to solve the problems that are important to them," he said when he applied.

Superintendent Don Johnson worked with Blodgett in Eau Claire and was thrilled when he applied.

"I have high expectations that Jim will provide the leadership, positive communication, customer service, K-12 instructional knowledge, and the technical expertise to take us to the next level of excellence," he said.

The new websites will have much of the same content that was on the old system but will have a completely new look and feel. Feedback has been overwhelmingly positive for the new websites.

The pages are easier for readers to navigate and the main page is less cluttered than the previous ones. There are also fewer sections at the top of each page. One other real benefit is the pages should look similar from school to school, which should make it easier for people to find information no matter which school their children are attending.



Glacier Creek pays tribute to Weitzel

Prior to the final round of the annual Brain Bowl this fall, Glacier Creek Middle School students and staff took time to honor the life of guidance counselor Bob Weitzel, who drowned on Lake Superior in June.

Weitzel was on a solo kayaking trip around Lake Superior. His goal was to raise \$5,000 for Big City Mountaineers, which would give 15 urban at-risk kids the chance have an wilderness adventure. Since June, the fund has grown to more than \$13,000.

Principal Tim Keeler explained that they decided to hold the memorial on the day of Brain Bowl, because Mr. Weitzel loved the Brain Bowl and would want to be associated with something that is celebrated.

"Almost every day we share stories about Mr. Weitzel. how he impacted people in his life," Keeler said. "He was our friend and colleague who always helped us keep things in perspective."

"Mr. Weitzel has affected me personally. I always respected the journeys he made. I think the thing that I respected the most was that he always spoke the truth. It was his truth and he was willing to share it with anyone who would listen, and I always respected that about him."

Family members and former students attended the assembly.

MHS sophomore Nikki Satturlund shared a poem called "Kiddo" she wrote after learning

about Mr. Weitzel's accident. The poem describes the impact Mr. Weitzel had on her life, and her memories of him standing in the hallways greeting her as 'kiddo'.

"You made such a difference in every life, Every life you touched, And in mine, You showed me that who I am is so much more than I thought it could be. And that's what being "Kiddo," Means to me."

In honor of Mr. Weitzel, the school placed a framed photo of the Spirit Tree on Lake Superior near the guidance office. Weitzel wrote on his blog that it is the oldest living tree of any of the Great Lakes.

"We thought that the spirit tree was a beautiful symbol of Mr. Weitzel." Glacier Creek social worker Dale Kaufman said.

The inscription reads: "In loving memory of Robert Weitzel, who, like the Lake Superior spirit tree met every sunrise and sunset on his own terms, and never gave up his spirit. June 2012."

Superintendent Don Johnson talked about Mr. Weitzel's passion for life.

"Mr. Weitzel would not want you to focus on the sadness of his passing. Rather, he would want to you to celebrate the adventure and passion and the life that he exemplified to everyone else," he said.

Kramer, Stendahl remembered

Two former school district staff members died this fall.

Park reading specialist Clifford J. Kramer, 61, died Nov. 17. Kramer joined the district in February 1985 and retired in 2006.

"Cliff loved teaching kids how to read," said Park kindergarten teacher Amy Callies, who spoke at a celebration for Kramer that was held on Nov. 23. "I can hear him saying 'right!' He always said his whole job was to convince each child he worked with that they were a great reader!"

Dewey Stendahl, 64, died on Nov. 1. He was a varsity football assistant coach from 1971-94 and also coached freshman baseball and sophomore basketball. He coached the MHS boys golf team from 1990-2004 and led the Cardinals to four WIAA Division 1 state titles and two runner-up finishes.

Dignitaries visit school district

MCPASD was a popular place with state and national leaders this fall.

On Sept. 27, school district officials hosted Nancy Sutley, President Obama's principal environmental advisor and Chair of the White House Council on Environmental Quality. Tutley toured Middleton High School and also met with three MHS students and environmental studies teacher Leah Williams.

Earlier in 2012, MHS was selected as one of the first U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools. Green Ribbon Schools are recognized for reducing energy use, providing a healthy learning environment, and providing effective environmental education that prepares students to succeed in the 21st century.

"We really like to visit our Green Ribbon Schools whenever we can," Sutley said. "It is a phenomenal experience for our students," Assistant Superintendent for Business Services Tom Wohlleber said. "Here is our future right here and we give them lots of opportunities."

Added Williams: "I was very excited to hear that she was visiting, especially knowing that my students would have the opportunity



Cliff Kramer



Dewey Stendahl

"Dewey did everything the way it was supposed to be," athletic director Bob Joers told the Middleton Times-Tribune. "Dewey had a calm, very effective way of getting his point across, truly one of a kind. I think all of us have come to a point in our coaching careers where we have said, 'What would Dewey do?' Wow, I will miss him."

to meet her. I think it is very important for students to meet individuals like Chairperson Sutley, because it is a motivating and inspiring experience."

West Middleton students and staff got a chance to meet Lieutenant Governor Rebecca Kleefisch on Nov. 14.

Kleefisch visited the school to help promote the state's STEP (Student Tools for Emergency Planning) program. Earlier this fall West Middleton became just the third school in Dane County to sign up for the program, which helps ensure students are prepared to respond to various emergencies and disasters, from tornadoes to floods to blizzards.

West Middleton got involved with the program thanks to teacher Mark Getz. "When I first heard about the program, I thought it was a great tool for me to use with my students," Getz said.

"Emergencies and disasters can happen at any time to anyone, and that's why we think it's important to prepare our students" West Middleton principal Todd MacKlem said. "We're excited to teach the STEP curriculum and give our students the confidence and potentially life-saving tools they need to

Honors and accolades

Five area businesses were nominated for the inaugural Wisconsin Association of School Board's Business Honor Roll.

Representatives from J.H. Findorff & Son, Standard Imaging, State Bank of Cross Plains, BMO-Harris, and Middleton Community Bank were recognized for their contributions to our schools and our students. They were honored at two Board of Education meetings.

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MHS teachers graded a writing assessment that more than 450 freshman took on Sept. 14. Results will inform instruction in writing across the curriculum and help the school develop a robust literacy program.

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Assistant Superintendent for Business Services Tom Wohlleber was sworn in this fall to the board of directors for the National Association of School Business Officials.

* * * * *

Board of Education member Bob Green received an award from the Wisconsin Association of School Boards.

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MHS junior Tyler Wigington carried the torch on a 3-mile run through Portage during the Law Enforcement Torch Run, which kicked off the Special Olympics state games in Stevens Point.

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MHS held its first U.S. Government and Politics Committee Hearing Day on Nov. 15. More than 300 students took part in this simulation of the U.S. legislative committee hearing process. The students spent three months studying the legislative process, researching issues, and drafting their own bills. Students presented and debated their bills before one of 14 different committees. Bills that make it out of committee made it to the full legislative session where they will be debated again on Dec. 13 and Dec. 17.

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Kromrey physical education classes learned basic moves in karate from teachers at Infinity Martial Arts. The business spent four days teaching all middle school physical education classes.

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Middleton High School Drama Department presented its Fall play "On the Razzle" Nov. 8-10. More than 75 students



More than 200 elementary teachers participated in a Units of Study Writing Workshop, during the District's fall Collaborative Release Time (CRT). Above are elementary teachers Jessie Moore, Amy Weber and Amy Schmidt.

worked on the production, according to MHS English teacher and theater director Kendra Dando.

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It was another great year for MHS fall sports varsity teams. Among the highlights:

- The girls tennis team was undefeated in Big Eight Conference play and captured its third straight championship. The Cardinals also won the conference tournament and advanced to the WIAA Division 1 state team tournament for the fifth time since 2006.
- The girls golf team was 9-0 in Big Eight play and finished second at the conference tournament. The Cardinals finished tied for sixth at the Division 1 state meet.
- The girls cross country team finished second at the Big Eight meet and advanced to the state meet for the second straight year where they finished fourth. Sophomore Delaney Foster placed 23rd overall, the top individual finisher at state for the Cardinals.
- The girls swimming team finished 9-0 in the Big Eight to win its third straight conference title. The Cardinals also won the conference meet and won sectionals for the second straight year. Middleton finished fourth at the Division 1 state meet.
- The boys soccer team was 9-0 in Big Eight play and was ranked second for much of the season in the Division 1 state poll.
- The boys volleyball team was unbeaten and won the Big Eight title for the sixth time in seven years. They lost in sectional finals.
- The girls volleyball team was perfect in Big Eight play en route to the regular season championship.

Clark Street off to a successful start

Clark Street Community School (CSCS), a new place- and project-based democratic charter school in the school district, opened this fall with 110 students in grades 9-12.

The first quarter at CSCS featured seminars, or interdisciplinary group projects, on topics ranging from the Flora and Fauna of Pheasant Branch, Self-Defense, Healthy Relationships, The Wars in Iraq and Afghanistan and the Paths of Discovery. Field study experiences are a focus of learning at CSCS and during the quarter students visited and studied at a variety of places, including: Pheasant Branch Preserve, Fred's Farm, Madison Children's Museum, Wisconsin Science Festival, Durwood's Glen Ropes Course, Sauk Trail Elementary School, Harbor Athletic Club, American Players Theatre, Globe University and Fizeology Foods. The quarter wrapped

up with students leading their own parent/teacher conferences. Students reported to their parent/guardian as well as their advisor on the growth and learning they experienced and set goals looking for the next quarter.

The second quarter will have more time spent on democratic education.

There are a limited number of spaces for students at CSCS for second semester. Applications can be found at www.clarkstreetcommunityschool.com. Students interested in attending CSCS for the 2013-14 school year can also apply online. Applications for next school year will be due Feb. 1, 2013 at 3 p.m. If there are more students interested than there is space available, a lottery will be held to establish accepted and waitlisted students. CSCS will also hold open houses in January.

School meals got even healthier this fall

As of the beginning of this school year, MCPASD school nutrition joined schools across the country in serving meals meeting the new federal nutrition standards. These stricter standards are designed to ensure our meals are even healthier, well-balanced and provide students all the nutrition they need to succeed at school. Each school lunch demonstrates appropriate portion sizes for the student age group and demonstrates balanced eating for lifelong health.

Our students continue to be offered milk, fruits and vegetables, proteins and grains that all meet strict limits for saturated fat and portion size. The additional standards this

fall now require calorie limits appropriate to age, larger servings of fruit and vegetables over a wide variety of color, more whole grains and less sodium.

MCPASD school nutrition has been working toward these significant changes for over three school years with a gradual shift to more fruits, vegetables and whole grains as well as fat-free flavored milk. We have designed some new recipes to keep the old favorites as part of the menu. Student reactions have been very positive to the fresher approach and our nutrition staff continues to serve up smiles with those lunches.

Nondiscrimination Notice

It is the policy of the Middleton-Cross Plains Area School District that no person be denied admission to any public school in this district or be denied participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be discriminated against in any curricular, extracurricular, pupil services, recreational or other program or activity because of the person's sex, race, religion, national origin, ancestry, creed, pregnancy, marital or parental status, sexual orientation or physical, mental, emotional or learning disability as required by section 118.13 of the state statutes.

Registration for 4K begins in January

Registration for the 2013-14 4K program in the Middleton-Cross Plains Area School District will begin on Jan. 7, 2013, 4K principal Kari Gault announced recently.

Parents have the option of registering their child in person or via e-mail.

In-person registration will be held on Jan. 9 from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the District Administrative Center (DAC), 7106 South Ave., Middleton.

Drop-in registration is allowed on Fridays starting on Jan. 11 and running until June 7 from 7:30 a.m. to noon and from 1 to 4 p.m. at the DAC.

For the first time, the district will accept registration via e-mail, starting on Jan. 7. All registration materials, including site selection and transportation forms, may be sent to 4KRegistration@mcpasd.k12.wi.us. Incomplete registrations will not be processed.

Children who are four years of age on or before Sept. 1, 2013, are eligible and permitted to start 4K the fall of 2013. The district does not have an early entrance policy for 4K.

If you are registering in-person or via e-mail, please make sure you provide proof of residency and proof of your child's age. Acceptable documents for proof of residency

include a current utility bill, a current lease agreement or documents from a recent home purchase. A birth certificate or current passport are needed to prove your student's age. If possible, please also bring your child's immunization record.

Registration materials and requirements for 4K are available on the district's website under the Our Schools section. Forms will also be available on-site during the registration process. If you have any further questions, please call 608-829-9067.

New to the district? Fill out our online census

If you are a Middleton-Cross Plains Area School District resident and have children (birth through 18) not currently enrolled in the Middleton-Cross Plains Area School District, please fill out our online census form.

The information you provide helps the District plan for future enrollment, and allows us to contact you with any important information regarding educational programs for your child.

Please use our online census form on our website, www.mcpasd.k12.wi.us.

Board of Education papers due Jan. 2

If you've ever considered serving on the the Middleton-Cross Plains Area School District nine-member Board of Education, you are in luck.

Each year, three Board of Education seats are up for election. Citizens residing in the areas are invited to run for the Board of Education for a three-year term.

This year's seats up for election are:

* Area I, currently held by Jim Greer.

* Area III, currently held by vice president Diane Hornung.

* Area IV, currently held by president Ellen Lindgren.

Area I includes the Springfield area. It is east of Enchanted Valley, north of Schneider Road and has a south boundary of Section 35 and 36 in the Town of Springfield. Area

III includes the West Middleton area and includes all district property south of Old Sauk Road and extending to the south boundary of Section 13 in the Town of Middleton. Area IV includes the City of Middleton, Town of Westport and a portion of the Town of Middleton.

Nomination papers and the Declaration of Candidacy must be filed no later than 5 p.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 2, 2013 in the office of the school district clerk at 7106 South Ave., Middleton. Forms can be obtained at the District Administrative Center, 7106 South Ave., Middleton, from 7:30 a.m. to 4:10 p.m. weekdays. The first day to circulate nomination papers was Dec. 1.

For information about the election process, please contact Cheryl Janssen at 829-9004.

Donor recognition now available through Education Foundation

The MCPASD Education Foundation has a new program to recognize donors who contribute to its endowment fund.

The foundation's board of directors, with the blessing of the Board of Education, voted to begin a donor recognition program at all of the district's schools.

Classrooms, libraries, computer labs, cafeterias, gymnasiums and other areas will be available. For now, the focus will be on classrooms, Education Foundation Specialist Perry Hibner said.

Individuals, families, local businesses and even school organizations can be recognized for 10 years with an attractive plaque for donations of:

* Elementary classrooms: \$1,500

* Middle school classrooms: \$2,000

* High school classrooms: \$2,500

There are approximately 300 classrooms in the district's schools. If you would like to learn more about the program, please contact Hibner at 829-9014.

The foundation recently received \$5,000 from BMO Harris. Earlier this year, the foundation received a \$10,000 pledge from J.H. Findorff & Son and a \$10,000 contribution from the MGE Foundation spread out equally over two years. HR Imaging also will contribute \$6,000 a year for up to five years. In addition, school district officials and staff have contributed more than \$15,000 since the endowment fund was established in 2011.

These donations come at an important time as Madison Community Foundation has pledged a \$35,000 grant if the foundation raises \$70,000 by the end of the year. The fund has nearly \$50,000 pledged to it by the end of 2012, with another \$80,000 pledged over the next five years.

Several key donors along with the foundation's board of directors also were honored at a special presentation during the Homecoming football game on Oct. 12.

"These generous supporters are helping us build the framework of what will be an ongoing way to support our school district's



enrichment programs far beyond the usual classroom experiences," said Courtney Ward-Reichard, chair of the foundation's board. "Their donations also seed scholarships to students who otherwise may not have the opportunity to advance their education beyond high school."

The foundation is planning an event in May to build awareness. The first grants will also be announced in the spring. To make a tax-deductible gift, visit the foundation's website (inspiringexperiences.org).

The Foundation's board is composed of community volunteers, BOE members and current and retired school district staff. They are: Courtney Ward-Reichard, Shawna Bertalot, Anjie Harris-Ostrem, Gene Kussart, Tom Kobinsky, Steph Mueller, Superintendent Don Johnson, Bill Reis, Brenda Delabarre, Charlie Saeman, Leeanne Hallquist, Ellen Lindgren, and John Selbo.