



TRADITIONS

FALL 2008



Glacial Drumlin School Opens!

Glacial Drumlin School serves students in grades 5-8 with a current enrollment of 702 students. The school is 160,000 square feet that sits on 40 acres of land in Cottage Grove on highway BB and Damascus Trail. There are many interesting features of the architectural design including wide hallways and an abundance of windows that provide natural lighting. Another hallmark of the school is the environmental efficiency of the geothermo heating and cooling system. Dramatic energy cost savings have already been realized.

Relative to teaching and learning, the school is structured for middle level education. There are four houses or pods unique to each grade level. Student technology access is increased by having a computer lab in each pod. The school is equipped with science labs at each grade level. The full range of encore offerings are available to students including two world languages (Spanish and French) beginning at grade six; music (general music, band, choir, and orchestra), technology education; physical education, family and consumer education, and art.

The rural setting provides an ideal opportunity for students to study a prairie ecosystem that is being developed under the leadership of science teacher, Bob Schlaeffer. The prairie will surround the retention pond near the school. Another project in place to bring families, students, and citizens together is the community garden located on the west end of the school. This summer, the garden produced lovely sunflowers with the help of Master Gardener and parent, Beth Dolan. This project would not have been possible without the generous funding of the Monona Grove Education Foundation.

On behalf of Glacial Drumlin staff, students, and families thanks for your commitment to providing quality educational experiences for all students! Your contributions have truly made a difference.

Written by: Renee Tennant, Glacial Drumlin Principal



New Superintendent Ready for Big Challenges, Bright Future in Monona Grove

Amy Knap, Herald-Independent

As Monona Grove's new superintendent, Craig Gerlach faces a steep learning curve. As a family man, he is happy for the opportunity to provide his children with new possibilities in a bigger city. After serving as superintendent of the Gale-Ettrick-Trempealeau school district for 13 years, Gerlach was ready for the challenge of a larger school district. Knowing that if they were going to move, they wanted to do so before their kids got into high school, he and his wife, Janice, decided the time had come. In August, the Gerlachs left the natural beauty of western Wisconsin's Coulee Region for the hustle of the Four Lakes Region.

Gerlach said his kids - 11-year-old Jordan and 8-year-old Lucas - were initially "not real excited" about moving. "That's your biggest fear with kids is how well they will transition into a new setting," Gerlach said. "I'm not interested in uprooting my kids." But it appears they are doing well, and he is pleased. They attend Winnequah School. "I just believe there are more opportunities for our children here that they might not have had otherwise," he said. "It's been a positive adjustment."

A self-described avid outdoorsman, tall and trim Gerlach said he and his family are enjoying the many bike trails in the area, as well as the ability to bike or walk with a destination in mind.

(cont'd page 3)



Winnequah School
 Monona Grove School District - *"Building a Community of Learners"*

Mission Statement

"Our mission, as a school in partnership with the community, is to provide a respectful and nurturing environment, which is fostered by a commitment to high expectations for both students and staff where individual differences are recognized and provided for through a balanced curriculum and quality instruction."

Winnequah School underwent major renovations over the past two years.

Monona children attend Winnequah during grades 3rd through 6th.

Madison Community Foundations Provides Charitable Gift Ideas—

A Charitable Gift Annuity is a simple agreement between a donor and the Foundation. It's a unique opportunity to make a tax-deductible gift while receiving a lifetime annual income from that gift. The remainder of the Charitable Gift Annuity is used to create an endowment benefiting a charity (MGEF). It can be Individualized to your situation and:

- ◆ Offers an immediate charitable income tax deduction
- ◆ Provides a fixed annual income
- ◆ Results in a partial tax-free return on principle on each payment received
- ◆ Ensures that charities have a steady and permanent stream of income.

A Scholarship Fund gives donors a vehicle to support the education of students by designating distributions to specific educational institutions, churches, and charitable organizations.

Scholarship and Endowment Funds:

- ◆ Promote educational opportunities for students now and in the future
- ◆ Ensures that scholarship gifts are managed properly and effectively

Leaving a legacy by making a permanent gift to a charitable cause. This can occur through: Will Provisions, Life Insurance Policies, IRA's and Qualified Retirement Plans (401(k), 403(b))

Legacy Funds:

- ◆ Provide the opportunity to give back to future generations
- ◆ Ensure that charities have a steady and permanent stream of income
- ◆ Allow recognition today for gifts that will be made in the future

Please Consider a Donation to Monona Grove Education Foundation!

Alumni Notes —

Sharon McCall Malec (Class of '59) is planning the 50th reunion and is looking for Nora Orton Velarde .

Janet Smith Koch (Class of '62) of Lake Jackson, TX writes: "Hello Ya All!" She is busy with yard work and updating their home. Updates include: a workshop for Duane's retirement and an updated kitchen to spend time with their five grandchildren. "All is well here in Texas and hope everyone of the class of '62 is also well."

Linda Kohlhaugen Boerner (Class of '69) writes: Hello to her fellow alumni! She along with husband, Jerry, moved permanently to their South Carolina vacation home. Linda hopes to continue her volunteer work at a hospital in SC.

Pat Gillespie (Class of '72) of Rogers, MN: Gordon has a prominent role in a Chicago Theatrical Production about Mayor Daley, *Hizzoner*. For more info: log onto www.hizzornetheplay.com. Gordon has performed in many other Chicago theatrical productions.

Jeff Machut (Class of '79) was chosen as Grand Marshal for the Monona Memorial Day Parade. Jeff was chosen for his lifetime involvement in the Monona community, and is owner and general manager of AmericInn in Monona.

Bill Cords (Class of '80) is retired from the US Navy at the rank of Captain (06). He and his family reside in St. Mary's County, Maryland. Bill will continue his work with Naval Aviation at Patuxent River, MD.

Erica Buchberger (Class of '97) of Oxford, United Kingdom: will be attending Oxford University this fall to pursue a Master's and Doctorate in medieval history.

Andrea Slinde (Class of '08) writes to MGEF: Thank you for considering me as your scholarship recipient. I have taken great pride in my education at Monona Grove High School and I am very appreciative that you have awarded me this scholarship. This fall I am attending Marquette University and I will be studying Exercise Science. This scholarship will help me in achieving my future academic and career goals. Thank you again for your generosity.

Huntington Learning Center Awards Grants through MGEF—

A grand of \$1000 was awarded to Winnequah School for an innovative project. Parents Kristin and Peter Sobol helped to create an idea involving an artist in residence project. Artists Jeanne and David Aurelius from Door County will be creating tiles with all students in grades 3-6 at Winnequah School . The tiles will be installed as a mural connecting curriculum and community in the newly remodeled cafeteria and be will culminate with the "reopening" of Winnequah School.

Another \$1000 was awarded to Glacial Drumlin School to enhance learning at the Norman Vethe School Forest. The School Forest consists of 68 acres of glacial drumlin landscape that includes three major ecosystems for exploration: the prairie, the wetland, and the forest. It is located behind Cottage Grove School. The money will be used to involve Glacial Drumlin staff in development and planning of standards-based curriculum in environmental education and to provide funding for transportation and materials .

We are Delighted to Receive Greetings From --

Jacqui Paul Shanda (Class of '71) Madison, WI. **Karen Fry Chisholm** (Class of '73) Waunakee, WI. **Carolyn (Morris) Teegardin** (Class of '77) Vancouver, WA

Breast Cancer Awareness:

Debby Kuckkahn, Barb Higgins Beckett and Leanne Hilgers Widen (Class of '79) will be participating in the 3Day, 60 mile walk benefiting Komen for the Cure in Phoenix, AZ November 13-16. Leanne was diagnosed with breast cancer in 2005. The three hosted a fundraiser in Cottage Grove this August that raised over \$15,000. Their theme is 3 Years, 3 Friends, 3 Days. They are walking so that their mothers, daughters, sisters and friends may never have to hear the words, "You have breast cancer!" They are walking because, "Everyone deserves a lifetime!" For more information log on to: www.the3day.org and search Arizona race team: Lee Lees Ladies.



The Monona Grove Education Foundation publishes this alumni newsletter as a service to all residents of the Monona Grove School District, past and present. Your donation to the Silver Eagle fund will support grants for innovations in education and will guarantee the future of MG Alumni Traditions.

Receive your alumni newsletter and support the Monona Grove Education Foundation grants to Monona Grove Teachers.

Just fill out this form and send it in with your contribution in one of the suggested categories.

Choose a category

- Silver Eagle "Professor" – \$500 Silver Eagle "Scholar" – \$100
 Silver Eagle "Fellow" – \$250 Annual membership – \$12
(valid through 6/30/08)

Make checks payable to: Monona Grove Education Foundation, **or use MasterCard or Visa:** provide card number and expiration on a separate sheet.

Mail to: Monona Grove Education Foundation, 5301 Monona Drive Monona, WI 53716

Monona Grove Education Foundation is a 501(c)(3) charity. Your donation is tax exempt to the extent allowed by law.

JOIN US

Class Year _____ E-mail _____

Name (first, maiden, last) _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Spouse's First Name and Initial _____

Phone (Evening) _____

Phone (Daytime) _____

Future Reunion News

Class of 1959

50 Year Class Reunion

Saturday, June 27, 2009

Madison Elks Club

contact Keith Sorenson at

zeker4010@aol.com

for info and to provide change of address.

Karen Fry Chisholm (Class of '73):

Plans are underway to hold a fundraiser for the 40th Class Reunion in 2013. Perhaps a golf outing/picnic?

For suggestions, contact: Karen Fry Chisholm at kchisholm@msn.com

Class of 1979 is looking for a Class Reunion Committee. 30 Years, can you believe it?

Contact: Leanne Hilgers Widen at mgtraditions@yahoo.com



Thank you to the Class of 2008 for their contribution of \$500 to the Brian Howell Scholarship!

SUPERINTENDENT-CONT'D

They've spent some time on the lakes, too. He said everyone has been very welcoming, including neighbors and coworkers, and his family and friends are excited about their move, as well. "When you live in another part of the state, it's just a treat to go to Madison. Everybody likes to go to Madison. We've had family or friends visit every weekend," he said. Every chance he gets, though, he likes to get away to the log cabin he built on the highest spot in Monroe County with his brother-in-law. "I spend as much time as I can up there, hiking, cross-country skiing, cutting wood, hunting, waterskiing, just getting outside sitting around the campfire," he said, pointing out the photos of his retreat that hang on his office wall.

After the busyness and instability of the last few months, a getaway likely sounds welcome - though unattainable just yet. The job of superintendent is keeping him very busy. "I'm in the process right now of learning what's going on," he said. "There's just so much information I need to absorb regarding the people and the

communities themselves. I certainly have a better picture today than I did six months ago.

He believes Monona Grove has a very strong foundation.

"This has been a very welcoming experience. We have met many really nice people. We are impressed with the many things happening in the district, and we're very pleased with the kids' experiences," Gerlach said. "There's a lot to build on, and I'm looking forward to participating in building."

(see www.herald-independent.com for entire article)



MG SCHOOLS RECONFIGURE:

- ◆ Maywood Elementary: 4K-2
- ◆ Taylor Prairie School: Early Childhood –1
- ◆ Cottage Grove Elementary: 2-4
- ◆ Winnequah School: 3-6
- ◆ Glacial Drumlin School: 5-8
- ◆ Monona Grove High School: 9-12

Monona Grove Alumni

TRADITIONS

Monona Grove School District
5301 Monona Dr., Monona, WI 53716

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IN THIS ISSUE:

- Welcome New Superintendent
- School Updates
- Alumni Notes and Greetings
- Charitable Gift Ideas
- Class Reunions



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Funding for this newsletter is made possible through a grant provided by the Monona Grove Education Foundation.

Please take a moment to check your mailing label. If there are any errors, please send us the label with your corrections.

Planning a move? Don't forget to let us know. Your class doesn't want to lose you!

Take a minute to complete this form!

We'd love to hear what you are doing now, and we will share that information in our next newsletter.

**Traditions, MGEF
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yahoo.com**

BE A TRADITIONS REPORTER!

Help us gather information and news for the next TRADITIONS newsletter! Send us the scoop about engagements, weddings, births, deaths, promotions, new jobs, awards, or honors, even your change of address ... or just tell us what you are doing now.

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