

MARGARETTA

Local School District Newsletter

Volume 6, April 2008

Communication is the Key *by Mr. Ed Kurt, Superintendent*

We have communicated the state of the district in previous newsletters and will attempt to provide an update in this edition. Plans are progressing for the consolidation of the two elementary buildings for the 2008-2009 school year. At this time, we are working with architects to develop blueprints for the addition to Bogart Elementary. The building addition will include an office, computer lab, restrooms, classrooms and gymnasium. We will be entering into a lease agreement to add six modular classrooms at the site. Bogart Elementary will be renamed Margarettta Elementary and will educate students in preschool through 6th grade.

Efficiency will increase by operating out of two buildings in close proximity. We believe that this move will realize \$450,000 dollars in annual savings, and the cost of the addition will be under \$200,000 annually. This savings will not solve our operational deficit situation but it will help.

We will also be entering into an agreement with the North Pointe Educational Service Center (ESC), formerly Erie-Huron-Ottawa County ESC, to lease the Townsend Elementary facility to service between 70-100 special needs students. We believe that finding an alternative use for the Townsend facility was critical to the consolidation process. Knowing that the building will continue to be used to educate children is a win-win for all. The district will have use of Townsend after 3:00 p.m. for special events and the community will have the continued option to rent the facility for after-hour activities. Also, in addition to the operational

savings we anticipated from the consolidation, we will be able to reduce transportation costs by servicing our own special needs students in our district. Currently, we bus students to and from Huron, Sandusky and

Perkins for special education services.

We were fortunate to have reached an agreement with our teachers union on a two-year contract. We reached a tentative agreement in one day of negotiations, thanks to the collaborative effort from the negotiation teams. The reason we could not execute a three year contract is due to the statutory limitations based upon the financial position of the district. We agreed to offer a retirement incentive with the goal of reducing teaching positions by way of attrition rather than layoff. The net effect will be a cost savings to the district.

The Board and administration will continue to look at ways to reduce cost. We still have a long way to go to balance our operational deficit. It does not appear that our economic solutions will come from Columbus. It will be up to us to determine how far we will reduce educational programs or how soon we will be willing to contribute local revenue in the form of a tax increase.

We need your input to determine the best approach to our financial dilemma. We would like to hear from you on whether we should (1) have half day Kindergarten, currently we believe that the first years of a child educational experience are very important, although the state does not require nor fund full-day Kindergarten; (2) reduce or eliminate extra curricular activities; (3) eliminate certain high school electives; and/or (4) increase the student-to-teacher ratio whereby the number of students in a classroom would increase. Or, if you believe that we should preserve the current level of educational services by finding alternative revenue sources including supporting an (1) additional property tax; or (2) income tax; or by taking smaller steps including (3) paying to participate in sports oriented extra curricular activities and/or (4) charging for parking privileges. We know that these decisions are not easy to make, but we will explore these and other possibilities in the coming months.

We would like to begin having community meetings to gain input and ideas from citizens in the community. We hope to meet individually or in small groups to develop a two-way dialog. If interested, please feel free to contact us at the Board Office at (419) 684-5322. This is a critical time for our district and we need to discuss options and alternatives. Communication is the key!

The enrollment period for **Open Enrollment** for the 2008-2009 school year is between May 1 and May 31. Applications are available on the "Parent/Student Forms & Documents" link on our website.

This link also provides the 2008-2009 Kindergarten Registration packet, physical form, 2008-2009 school calendar and other forms and documents.

Visit our website at: www.margarettta.k12.oh.us



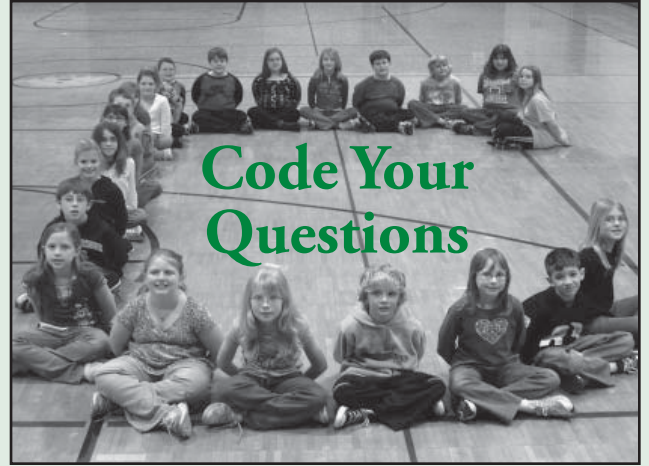
Bogart Elementary dedicated a week in February for the "Pennies for Patients" campaign. Students collected pennies and other spare change in the amount of \$350 to benefit the Lymphoma and Leukemia Society.



The Margareta National Honor Society received the Firelands Hero Award 2008 for Community Service Youth. These representatives of the group received the award for the time spent with bloodmobiles, Clothe-A-Child and other charitable work. "The kids that excel in academics are also the ones that somehow make time to do community service," Jamie Drossman, NHS advisor, notes. "I get lots of last minute calls for help and there are always honor society members who'll say, 'I can do that!'"



Sixth graders enjoyed an incredible week at the Mohican School in the Out-of-Doors in Butler, Ohio in February. Students attended classes each day centering on the themes of nature, protection of the environment, and conservation of resources. Classes included Reptiles, Raptors, Green Features, Nocturnal Awareness, Microbiology, Compass Challenge, Ornithology, Limnology and Pioneer Cooking. All students played part in a living history play, reenacting the late 1700s in the area of Mohican (L-R: Brandon Gormley, Nick Kelble, Logan Eisenhauer and Erin Paule). Many of the classes and activities adhered to the Ohio State Standards for 6th grade, including science, health, and social studies related subjects. Students lived in large dorms, used composting toilets, had daily jobs to perform, and ate family style dinners together in the huge dining hall. Thanks to the plentiful snow, students were able to enjoy sledding, hiking, tubing, skiing and a Winter Olympics competition. They also participated in a talent show in which they got to imitate their teachers, enjoyed nightly sing-alongs by the fire and played traditional pioneer games.



The fourth grade language arts students in Mrs. Danevich's class created an educational video to remind students to code their short and extended response questions. Coding questions involves numbering the steps, boxing all the verbs, and underlining key words so that when attacking a question they address all parts completely. It is the hope of the creators of this video that fellow students will remember this catchy jingle when completing assessments, especially the Ohio Achievement Test that will be given in April.



Townsend sixth graders worked diligently on their independent study projects which began in October with a trip to the Sandusky Library. Students chose a topic they were interested in, developed questions for research, and authored a research paper. Upon completing their research, students were required to create four projects to further their understanding of the topic. Each individual then wrote a speech and created a display and participated in a judging contest on March 18th. Volunteer judges came from all over the county and included the students enrolled in the EHOVE Teacher's Academy. Everyone did an excellent job and the displays looked fantastic!



Marcia Schonberg To Visit Elementaries

On April 16th and 17th students at Bogart and Townsend Elementary, respectively, will be visited by Marcia Schonberg, an award winning non-fiction author, journalist, and photographer from Ohio. In her book [B is for Buckeye: An Ohio](#)

[Alphabet](#) she has uncovered Ohio's most unique attributes. [Cardinal Numbers: An Ohio Counting Book](#) explores additional facts and numbers about the Buckeye State. In her newest publication, [The Ohio Reader](#), riddles, rhymes, fun facts and historically based stories are presented in an old-fashioned McGuffey Reader-type format. [I is for Idea: An Inventions Alphabet](#) presents innovative concepts that influence the way we live, while introducing us to inventions.

An evening program, "Celebrate Ohio", will be presented by Marcia Schonberg in the Bogart cafeteria on April 17th from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. All students and their families, along with any other community members, are invited to attend this presentation. Marcia will share her love for Ohio through an informative slide show and discussion. Students will display projects and books they have created in anticipation of Mrs. Schonberg's visit. Mrs. Schonberg will sell and sign her books following the presentation. While Marcia signs books, students and their guests will participate in a "Celebrate Ohio" activity. Refreshments will be served and door prizes will be awarded. Mark you calendar and come join the fun!



A special awareness for our K-3 students this year has been wellness and healthy habits. Breakfast continues to be a daily offering and lunches now have regular and alternate choices. Students in Bogart's physical education classes are "stepping" thanks to a Health Department grant and money from our PTO. Both were spearheaded by school nurse, Mrs. Sue Coffman, and greatly increase our efforts to help have students healthy.



Keeping our Earth healthy is very important to our 5th grade students. Students began their Recycling, Reducing and Reusing Projects back in December when they graphed their trash thrown away at home. With the material gathered and the knowledge gained in science class, students created their own contracts to help keep our Earth healthy. After a couple months of working on their contracts, students presented the completed projects to their 5th grade classmates.



The Townsend Academic Challenge teams met with great success this year at the Erie County Academic Challenge held in March. The fifth grade team (top), placing second, included Lindsey Dillender, Austin Windau, Steven Holliday, Chelsea Legg, Ryan Dauch, Jonah Stanley, Briahna George and Dylan Bailey. The sixth grade team placed first in their division. This team included Steven Johnson, Kayla Daniel, Josh Bartels, Austin Spicer, Steven Stark, Tori Wright, Caleb Pribanic and Maycee Blodgett. The sixth grade team will attend the Tri-County match in April to compete against the winners from Huron and Ottawa county. Congratulations and Good Luck, Polar Bears!

MARGARETTA GRAD Alumni Profile



Dave Younker '80

David Younker, son of George and the late June Younker, graduated from Margarett High School in 1980. He participated in a variety of extracurricular activities, earning varsity letters in basketball, cross-country and track. He also played trombone in the concert, marching and jazz band and was selected to travel to Europe in the summer following graduation as part of a concert

band from Ohio Northern University. He was a member of the National Honor Society, participated in Buckeye Boy's State and was a member of the Academic Challenge team that competed in Cleveland. The honor he is the most proud of, however, was being selected by his classmates to deliver the Senior class address for the graduation ceremonies.

Following graduation, Dave earned his Bachelor's Degree in Electrical Engineering from the University of Toledo in 1984. He married his wife, Brenda, that summer and began his career as an Electrical Engineer for Owens-Illinois, Inc. in Toledo. In 1987, they moved to the Detroit area when Dave accepted a position as an Electrical Engineer/Project Manager for Guardian Industries Corp. They also started their family later that year when their oldest daughter, Caitlin, was born.

From 1987 to 1996, Dave and his family (which grew to 5 with the birth of Michael in 1991 and Hannah in 1994) moved 8 times as Dave pursued his career as Project Manager in charge of constructing float glass manufacturing facilities for Guardian. This included 1 year in South Carolina, 2 years in Venezuela, 2 years in Thailand and 1 year in Iowa. Since, Dave and his family (now up to 6 with the addition of Andrew in 1997) have lived in Rochester Hills, Michigan. He and Brenda will celebrate their 24th anniversary in August.

Dave is currently Director of Project Engineering for Guardian and has had the opportunity to travel the world, visiting such places as Luxembourg, Spain, Poland, Germany, Russian, United Arab Emirates, Thailand and Venezuela.

Dave credits the sense of teamwork he learned while participating in sports at Margarett and the integrity and value of hard work that he learned from his father for the success he has enjoyed. He would encourage all young people to be willing to work hard, not to be too impatient, to take some chances with their careers and to not be afraid of success.



The Younker Family '08

Lieutenant Tommy Johnson from the Margarett Township Fire Department visited the Bogart Preschool classroom in March. He explained the dangers of matches, allowed students to dress up in firefighter gear, and gave the preschoolers a tour of the fire station's brand new ambulance.



Townsend 6th graders benefited from D.A.R.E. (Drug Abuse Resistance Education), the highly acclaimed program that taught our students the skills they will need to avoid involvement in drugs, gangs, and violence. Deputy Paul Defazio of the Erie County Sheriff's Department led a series of classroom lessons on how to resist peer pressure and live productive drug and violence free lives. During the D.A.R.E. Recognition, Steven Johnson and Audrey Braun were selected to read their essays explaining how D.A.R.E. will influence their life in the future.


OAT Test Dates Moved Ahead

by Fran Warner, Director of Curriculum & Instruction

Ohio Achievement Tests (OAT) will be given from April 21 through May 2 (see the April calendar for testing dates by subject/grade level). Testing is starting one week earlier than was originally planned. The Ohio Department of Education recently gave schools the option of testing students over a two week span rather than all in just one week as last year. Margarett chose to go with this option because we feel it is more pedagogically sound. The state will go to the two week plan next year for the spring OAT testing. This is the only year for the optional choices of one week or two weeks.

Please help your child do their best by encouraging them to eat a healthy breakfast, get a good night's sleep, relax, and be in attendance and ready to go. They have been preparing for the OAT all year and now it's time to show what they know! Go BEARS, you can do it!!

APRIL 2008

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>The pool is open to the public every Monday and Wednesday until April 30. Open Swim: 6:30-7:30 p.m., Swimmercize: 7:30-8:30 p.m.</p> <p>Summer Open Swim June 9 - July 31 Monday through Thursday, 1:00-2:30p</p> <p>Summer Swim Lessons 1st Session: June 9 - July 3 2nd Session: July 7 - July 31 Morning & evening classes are available. Registration April 30 & May 1 from 6:00-7:30 p.m. in the HS Medica Center. Call Holly Miller at (419) 625-3977 for more information.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">1</p> <p>Bogart spring pictures</p> <p>ABC scholarship applications due</p> <p>BB/SB@Bellevue 4:30p</p> <p>JVBB/JVSB Bellevue 4:30p</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">2</p> <p>Townsend spring pictures</p> <p>3rd 9 weeks ends</p> <p>BB Fostoria 4:30p</p> <p>JVBB@Fostoria 4:30p</p> <p>TR Tri-Meet@Seneca East 4:30p</p> <p>Pool Open</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">3</p> <p>BB Vermilion 4:30p</p> <p>JVBB@Vermilion 4:30p</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">4</p> <p>ABC Creative Writing contest due</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">5</p> <p>Athletic Booster Reverse Raffle</p> <p>SB Willard 11:00a</p> <p>JVSB@Willard 11:00a</p>	
<p style="text-align: right;">6</p> <p>Kindergarten Registration April 7-10</p> <p>Call 684-5357 for more information or to schedule an appointment.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">7</p> <p>BB/SB Sandusky 4:30p JVBB/JVSB@Sandusky 4:30p</p> <p>PTO Bogart Library 7:00p MARMO HS Choir Rm. 7:00p Athletic Boosters Football Facility 7:30p</p> <p>Pool Open</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">8</p> <p>TR Tri-Meet 4:30p</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">9</p> <p>BB@Rossford 4:45p</p> <p>JVBB Rossford 4:45p</p> <p>Pool Open</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">10</p> <p>BB/SB@Fremont St. Joe 4:30p</p> <p>JVBB/JVSB Fremont St. Joe 4:30p</p> <p>TR@Willard 4:30p</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">11</p> <p>Elementary Report cards</p> 	<p style="text-align: right;">12</p> <p>SB@New Riegel 12:00p</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">13</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">14</p> <p>JHTR Clyde 4:15p</p> <p>BB/SB@Perkins 4:30p</p> <p>JVBB/JVSB Perkins 4:30p</p> <p>Parents Care (MPC) HS Media Center 6:30p</p> <p>Pool Open</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">15</p> <p>TR Clyde 4:15p</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">16</p> <p>Author Marcia Schonberg visits Bogart</p> <p>JHTR Port Clinton 4:15p</p> <p>BB/SB SCCS 4:30p</p> <p>JVBB/JVSB@SCCS 4:30p</p> <p>Pool Open</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">17</p> <p>Author Marcia Schonberg visits Townsend</p> <p>Grades 9-12 Assembly</p> <p>“Celebrate Ohio” by Marcia Schonberg Bogart 6:30-7:30p Open to the public</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">18</p> <p>BB/SB@Oak Harbor 4:30p</p> <p>JVBB/JVSB Oak Harbor 4:30p</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">19</p> <p>TR@Patrick Henry Invitational 9:00a</p> <p>SB Fostoria 10:00a/12:00p</p> <p>JVSB@Fostoria 10:00a/12:00p</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">20</p> <p>Spring Sports Codes:</p> <p>BB - Varsity Baseball SB - Varsity Softball JVBB - JV Baseball JVSB - JV Softball TR - Boys/Girls Track JHTR - JH Track</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">21</p> <p>OAT Reading: Grades 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, & 8 Markey Day Orders Due Today</p> <p>JHTR Edison 4:15p BB/SB@Clyde 4:30p JVBB/JVSB Clyde 4:30p</p> <p>Board of Ed. Mtg. 7:00p Pool Open</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">22</p> <p>Tri County Academic Challenge 6th grade participating</p> <p>SB Norwalk 4:30p</p> <p>JVSB@Norwalk 4:30p</p> <p>TR Edison 4:30p</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">23</p> <p>OAT Math: Grades 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 & 8 Academic Boosters <i>Fine Arts Night</i> HS Media Center 7 p.m.</p> <p>JHTR Huron 4:15p BB/SB Port Clinton 4:30p JVBB/JVSB@Port Clinton 4:30p Pool Open</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">24</p> <p>2 HOUR LATE START</p> <p>TR Quad Meet 4:30p</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">25</p> <p>OAT Writing: Grades 4 & 7 and Science Grade 5 & 8</p> <p>Polar Pride Assembly 4th: 1:00p, 6th 8:15a</p> <p>BB/SB@Edison 4:30p JVBB/JVSB Edison 4:30p JHTR Junior Relays 4:30p</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">26</p> <p>TR@Huron Invite 10:00a</p> <p>BB Monroeville 10:00a JVBB@Monroeville 10:00a SB New London 11:00a JVSB@New London 11:00a</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">27</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">28</p> <p>OAT Social Studies: Grade 5 & 8</p> <p>Market Day Pickup Bogart cafeteria 4:30-5:30p</p> <p>JHTR Perkins 4:15p BB/SB Huron 4:30p</p> <p>JVBB/JVSB@Huron 4:30p Pool Open</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">29</p> <p>OAT Make-ups April 29th – May 2</p> <p>TR@Port Clinton 4:15a</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">30</p> <p>Polar Pride Assembly 5th: time TBA</p> <p>JHTR SCCS 4:15p</p> <p>BB/SB Perkins 4:30p</p> <p>JVBB/JVSB@Perkins 4:30p</p> <p>Pool Open - Last Open Swim until June 9</p>	<p>Margaretta Academic Booster Club (ABC) will be sponsoring a creative writing contest with the winners announced at the ABC Fine Arts night on April 23rd at 7 p.m. The Fine Arts Night is open to the entire community. We will be announcing our ABC scholarship, creative writing, and art award winners.</p> <p>ABC has recently awarded 8th grade Student of the Month awards to Tatum Tucker and Jordan Kurt, provided treats to the Junior High and High School honor and merit roll students, donated ABC pencils in support of the OGT’s and sponsored the Fine Arts evening. They have also awarded \$50 teachers’ mini-grants to Ms. Depinet to purchase batting for a quilt project in Living Skills, Mrs. Lott for SAT test prep CD’s and Mr. Schoenegge for theater supplies.</p>		

JUNE 2008

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3 Last Day for Seniors	4 Graduation Practice 1:15p	5 Polar Pride Assembly 6th grade: 10:30a 5th grade: 12:40p 4th grade: 1:40p	6 6th Grade Recognition Last School Day	7 Class of 2008 Graduation



In February Mrs. Lenhart's and Mrs. Semon's Title I students, along with their adult guests, participated in "Tool Time at Lowe's". The students and their adult helper(s) practiced their reading skills by following written directions to complete a woodworking project together. They learned that reading is a very useful skill!



The industrial technologies classes do a wide range of projects. Students learn hands on projects in the classroom and the shop including how to use the CAD system to design architecture.



Since 80% of all learning takes place through sight, it is important for all children to have a comprehensive vision exam beginning at the age of three. In February Title I students were treated to a free vision screening by volunteers, who are professional vision specialists, in an effort to determine if the students' vision is causing unnecessary challenges in their learning. Last year approximately 25 out of 75 children screened were prescribed glasses after completing a comprehensive exam by their vision specialist. Many thanks to these community volunteers for their continued service to our Title I students.



Mr. King's biology class works on dissecting. Biology and Advanced Biology classes are important core courses for college preparation.

Treasurer's Notes

by Jude Hammond, Treasurer/Business Manager

"Maximizing student achievement given a limited amount of resources." In essence, that is the mission of the Margaretta School District. Managing the process is the responsibility of the Board and administration. Some strategies are clear, some not so clear. One thing is certain, the decisions made will impact this community, and the Board and administration will come under scrutiny by those who are affected by the decisions.

One difficult decision that was made that will have a great impact on the future of the district is the consolidation of elementary buildings. Next school year, we will have students in Kindergarten through 6th grade attending Margaretta Elementary at our Bogart Road facility. The motivation behind this decision is the cost savings associated with the move. Our initial assessment was determined to be a savings of \$450,000 annually by consolidation.

To accommodate the move, we needed to create gym space and some temporary classrooms. We initially proposed to the voters a replacement of the 1.50 mill Permanent Improvement Property Tax Levy to 3.5 mills, whereby the expense to build a gym would have been paid from the new levy. In November 2006, the replacement levy was defeated.

The Board and administration then proposed to address the operational cost to maintain our existing facilities and continue to

provide the same level of service to our students. In May 2007, we proposed a 1% Income Tax that would have generated nearly \$1.3 million annually beginning in 2008. That levied failed.

The Board and administration, sensing that voters are not prepared to levy any additional tax burden at this time, made the decision to move forward on the consolidation of the buildings and use operating funds to pay for the additions. Since the district will use some of the operational savings to pay for the construction of the gym, the net savings to the district is estimated to be around \$200,000 annually.

The operational deficits facing the district in the upcoming fiscal years will exceed \$1 million annually. The \$200,000 savings will not resolve all of the financial problems. Additional cuts will occur unless additional revenue is obtained.

The ability to manage the district without additional revenue will be a challenge. Just recently we have seen the price of diesel fuel exceeding \$4.00 per gallon. The proposal of Ohio Edison's 34% rate hike would cost the district approximately \$50,000 in additional expenses. In addition, we experienced a water main break at the High School, the hoist at the bus garage needs to be repaired and the roof at Bogart Elementary needs to be replaced. Rest assured that the Board and administration will continue to "maximize student achievement given a limited amount of resources."



Mohican 2008

MARGARETTA LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

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