

M

MARGARETTA

Local School District Newsletter

Volume 6, June 2008

**MARGARETTA
ELEMENTARY
Grades K-6**

Bus Drop
7:45 a.m.

Student Day
7:59 a.m. - 2:45 p.m.

Bus Pickup
2:45 p.m.

**MARGARETTA
HIGH SCHOOL
Grades 7-12**

Bus Drop
7:35 a.m.

Student Day
7:44 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Bus Pickup
2:35 p.m.

Board Prepares: Reviews District Finances

by Mr. Ed Kurt, Superintendent

Margaretta Local Schools are proud of the fact that the last additional levy passed in the district occurred in 1997. However, as discussed in previous newsletter articles we will need to generate additional revenue in some fashion in the near future. Former 5-year forecasts indicated that the district would be in the red in fiscal year 2009. However, we are pleased to report that our new forecast has extended the point of going into the red until the fiscal year 2011. By reducing our staff to reflect our declining enrollment we impacted our expenses and saved revenue. Along with the staff reduction we implemented one bus route, and are consolidating our elementary buildings. Each of these moves is helping to make our revenue last as long as possible. These cost saving strategies have not solved our deficit spending. They have merely given us a bit more time. Unless additional revenue is passed by the district in the near future we will have to

cut staffing to the point of negatively impacting student achievement. The board is considering being back on the ballot in November and will be engaging discussions with our community this summer and fall to solicit your input on the future of our school system. A strong school reflects a strong community and even in tough times we need to make sure that we are providing a strong educational program to prepare our children for life in the twenty-first century. Please engage in these strategic discussions this summer. Serious problems are only solved by working seriously together to find the best solutions.

Farewell to Retiring Margaretta Teachers

We thank the following teachers for their years of dedicated service to teaching generations of children from Margaretta Local Schools:

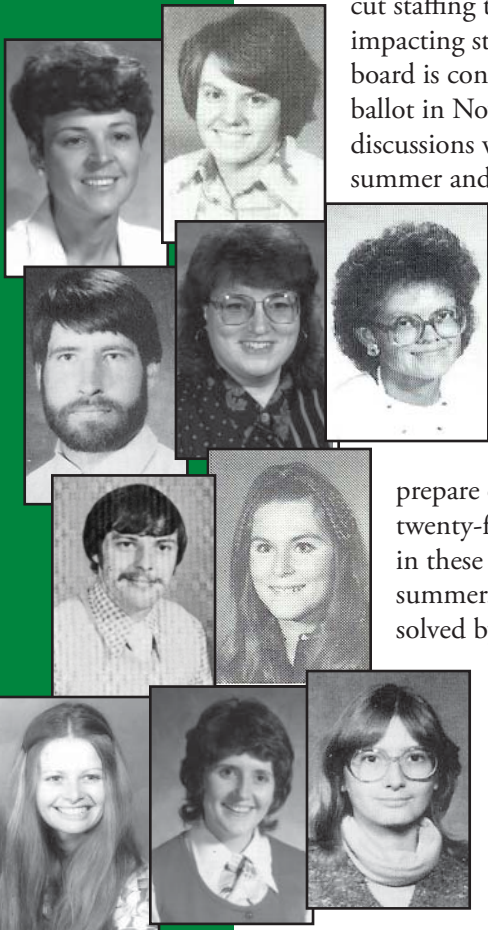
Mrs. Delores Meggitt, a guiding force in the Margaretta Local School District, is retiring this year after 36 years in education. Mrs. Meggitt, a Margaretta graduate, has been Townsend Elementary Principal for the past 22 years. She also taught Language Arts, Math and Social Studies for 14 years at Clyde Junior High prior to returning to her hometown. Her parting words of wisdom to students are "take advantage of every educational opportunity that you have available. Work hard and do your best in all your endeavors, but also take time for friends and for fun. Enjoy growing up; you have little time to be young and many years to be old."

Mrs. Ellen Beier has been an educator at Townsend Elementary for 37 years. She has taught language arts, math, science, and social studies to students in grades 3-6. She wants students to remember to "always do your best. You are a great bunch of students and will achieve a lot in your lives. Strive for that higher level."

Mr. Tim Drumm has been in education for 30 years, 28 of those years have been spent educating junior high and high school students at Margaretta. He has taught Accounting I, Accounting II, General Business, Computer Programming, Web Design and Basic Personal Typing. His parting words of wisdom to students are "Learn to be a hard worker. That more than anything will take you where you want to go."

Mrs. Mary Anne Lenhart began teaching at Margaretta in the fall of 1986. As a 35-year veteran elementary teacher, she has taught reading/language arts, math, science, social studies, health, physical education, music, and art to students in preschool, kindergarten, transition first grade, first grade, third grade, sixth grade and Title I. She wants students to remember to "Read! Read! Read! Reading is the key to success in most everything you will do. The more you read, the more you will succeed! In the words of Dr. Seuss: "The more things you read, the more things you will know. The more things you learn, the more places you will go.""

Mrs. Judy McEowen has been in teaching for 36 years, 31 of those educating students in kindergarten, first, second and third grade. Her



advice she wanted her students to remember is, "You may not think education is important now, but it will be in the future."

Mr. Tim Niemeyer has taught agriculture at Margaretta for over 33 years. He will retire 120 days into next school year. His parting words of wisdom to students are, "Don't let anyone get in the way of your dreams. We are all capable of much more than we realize. Don't be afraid to reach out and accept a challenge."

Ms. Beth Pitts has been in education for 37 years teaching Kindergarten and first grade at Bogart Elementary School. When asked what she was going to miss most about working for Margaretta, she responded, "Of course, I'll miss the kids and their families. Like one parent said to me, 'You've taught just about a whole town!'"

Mrs. Bev Semon has taught reading and math to students in first, second, third and fourth grade over a span of 35 years at Bogart Elementary. Mrs. Semon was honored when one of her former students nominated her for "Who's Who Among America's Teachers." The student's name was never released, but she'd like to extend her gratitude to that student. "I would like to encourage students to express their appreciation to the teachers who have impacted their lives."

Mrs. Jean Smith has been an educator for 36 years. She has served as the district's Speech-Language Pathologist for the past 18 years. She would like students to remember to "enjoy learning as a life-long endeavor. Know that your school is there to help you reach your goals. Being positive and happy is a choice we hope you choose."

Mrs. Linda Spayd has been an educator for over 30 years teaching biology, chemistry, physics, physical science, freshman science, and computer programming to high school students. Her parting words of wisdom to students are, "Remember your siggie diggies!"



The retiring faculty members were honored at the final day breakfast hosted by the school board on June 9th. Retiring staff members, representing over 300 years of service to Margaretta Schools, include (back row, L-R), Bev Semon, Tim Drumm, Ellen Beier, Mary Anne Lenhart, (front row, L-R) Delores Meggitt, Linda Spayd, Carol Greene, Beth Pitts, Judy McEowen and Jean Smith (Tim Niemeyer missing)





Fifth grade Language Arts students enjoyed an authentic revision experience with the help of Judy Kuns. These students had fun reading the yet-published second novel of this local author, entitled “Orange around the Edges”.



“Rock and Roll Is Here to Stay!” On May 8th, the Townsend Sixth Graders performed a collection of popular music from every decade beginning with the 50’s. They delighted the audience as they sang and danced their way through 60 years of popular music!



Encore Plastics recently sponsored an “Earth Day” poster contest. Winners of the contest, 3rd grader Kim Killingsworth, 5th grader Austin Windau and 1st grader Quentin Justice, had their designs printed on buckets made out of recycled plastic. All students in grades K-6 received an Earth Day bucket, courtesy of Encore Plastics.



The Professional Development Team (PLC) has worked together all year developing and implementing action plans to improve the educational program for our students. Dr. William Daggert, center, nationally recognized educator provided intervention strategies to meet the various learning needs of children. Our team will continue their efforts as we implement our Response to Intervention assistance program to help the teachers in this task. Our team consists of (L-R) Erica Grahl, Drew Grahl, Mindy Harris, Kathy Hall, Dr. Daggert, Jen Coffman, Wendy Kimberlin, Katie Berg and (front row, L-R) Linda Stauffer, Fran Warner and Delores Meggitt.



The Ohio Foreign Language Association awarded Mrs. Bonnie Greer, the french teacher at Margareta High School, the *Beginning Teacher Award* at their annual conference. Bonnie is a third year teacher who has moved the program forward to where four levels of French, which include Advanced Placement, are offered. She has orchestrated a trip to France and has received a grant for her program. Congratulations, Mrs. Greer!



Organizers of the International Club “Mercado”

2008-2009 School Calendar

Inservice/Staff Days
August 28-29

Labor Day
September 1

First Day of School
September 2

Inservice Day
October 27

1st 9 Weeks Ends
October 31

Elementary Parent
Conferences
(No School K-6)
November 21

Parent Conferences
(No School K-12)
November 26

Thanksgiving Break
November 27-28

Winter Break
Dec. 24-Jan. 4

MLK Day
January 19

2nd 9 Weeks Ends
January 21

2 Hour Late Start
February 6

3rd 9 Weeks Ends
March 27

Spring Break
April 6-10

Memorial Day
May 25

Last Day of School
June 4

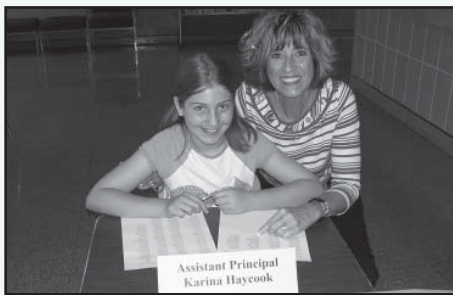
Graduation
June 6



At the Academic Booster Club's annual Fine Arts Night in April, scholarships totalling \$2150 were awarded to seniors (back, L-R): Heather Cox, Kayla Munk, Jessica Fitz and (front, L-R): Jennifer Nath, Mary Griffith and Jamie Siesel. Awards were also presented to the creative writing contest winners: Madeline Geiger (8th grade), Stevie House (7th grade) and Xavier Corbin (6th grade) and to the outstanding senior art student, Cody Dauch. Special recognition awards for creative writing went to 8th graders Jarrett Eckhardt, David Brownell, Rachel Patten and Jessica Gilbert and to 9th graders Kalie Bodey and Paige Keller.



On April 16th Marcia Schonberg, a children's author from our Buckeye State, visited Bogart Elementary. Many classrooms presented her with books they had authored in anticipation of her visit. Above, Brittany Kingseed presented Mrs. Schonberg with a hard-bound book, *F is For First Grade*, which was authored collaboratively by all first grade Star Readers.



The 2007-08 Townsend recipients of the Carol Barnes Accelerated Reader Award were: Jacob Caponi (4th), Makayla Mullins (5th), and Josh Bartels (6th). Bogart 3rd grader, Kristina Haycook, was "Assistant Principal" for the day. This award is presented annually to the student at each grade level who earned the most points for reading books and successfully passing their AR book report tests.



They met their goal! The sixth grade students who work with Mrs. Kuns celebrated the publishing of their book, *T is for Townsend* in late May. After researching old year books, documents found in the school, and interviews with local citizens, the students used their writing skills to create this book of memories and poetry. "It made my dad cry," said Mrs. Steager-Burkett. Mrs. Judy Schwochow McEowen said her family is having a blast passing it from family to family to enjoy the memories. The book contains varied topics from the annual ice cream social to how many stairs are found in the Townsend building. Each family of students at Townsend received a free copy, compliments of Box Tops for Education money. Copies are available to buy at the Margareta Elementary office for \$5.00.



Taylor Massey (right) won Margareta's first-ever "Best Of Show" award at the Five-County Invitational Art Show in April. Other awards included first place: Brittany Yost (left) - water color, Taylor Massey - pencil drawing. Second place: Maria Nelsen, Carli Eddy and Rian Spicer. Third place: Mackenzie Keegan. Honorable mentioned: Tyler Beekman and Rian Spicer.



Townsend celebrated its final 6th Grade Recognition Ceremony on Friday afternoon, June 6th. Each year, the President's Award for Educational Excellence is presented to those students who met the specific criteria required for maintaining academic excellence across their 4th, 5th, and 6th grade years. This year the President's Award was earned by 19 students in our 6th grade class.



Corporal Eric Michel visited Mrs. Rotsinger's computer class to present students with a flag from Iraq. Students practiced their keyboarding skills by writing letters to U.S. soldiers deployed to Iraq.

Treasurer's Notes

by Jude Hammond, Treasurer/Business Manager

Did you know that in certain instances parents may become obligated to pay tuition for their child (ren) to attend public school? The Ohio Revised Code section 3317 requires parents who send their children to a school district outside of the geographic boundaries of the public school they reside in are obligated to pay tuition to the "outside their residence district" public school educating the child(ren). There are exceptions like "open enrollment" whereby a school district may establish policies which allow families residing outside the school district to send their children to their school district without the cost of tuition given specific terms and conditions. A common example of when tuition is charged is when a family moves out the school district during the school year and wishes to continue to send their children to the same school to provide continuity in their child's educational experience.

The amount of tuition is established by the Ohio Department of Education. The formula for determining the amount of tuition is calculated by the average amount of local taxes provided on a per pupil basis. The tuition rate for the 2007-2008 school years was \$4,856.97 per pupil. This can be prorated on a daily or monthly basis dependent upon the amount of time the parent resides outside the district proportionate to the full school year.

The advice I would give parents who may be moving during the school year is to contact the school or board office and let us know what you are considering. We can let you know what options may be available regarding the continuation of your child(ren)'s education. These days with all the resources available in the public domain, it is not too difficult to find out if families have moved out of the district. To avoid a large bill for tuition, don't assume that you can just continue sending your child(ren) to school without consequences. If you have questions or concerns regarding tuition or open enrollment, please contact the school or the board office at (419) 684-5322.



The fourth graders again participated in the St. Jude's Children's Hospital Mathathon raising \$1703.66. This was the most ever raised in the four years that Townsend Elementary 4th graders have been participating. The top money raiser was Austin Gale with \$742, Cameron Gessner with \$140 and Jacob Lehrer with \$129.72.

MARGARETTA LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
2007 - 2008**

Elmer Lippert, President
Mike Myers, Vice President
Mark Bodey - Judy Kuns - Roger Stark

ADMINISTRATION

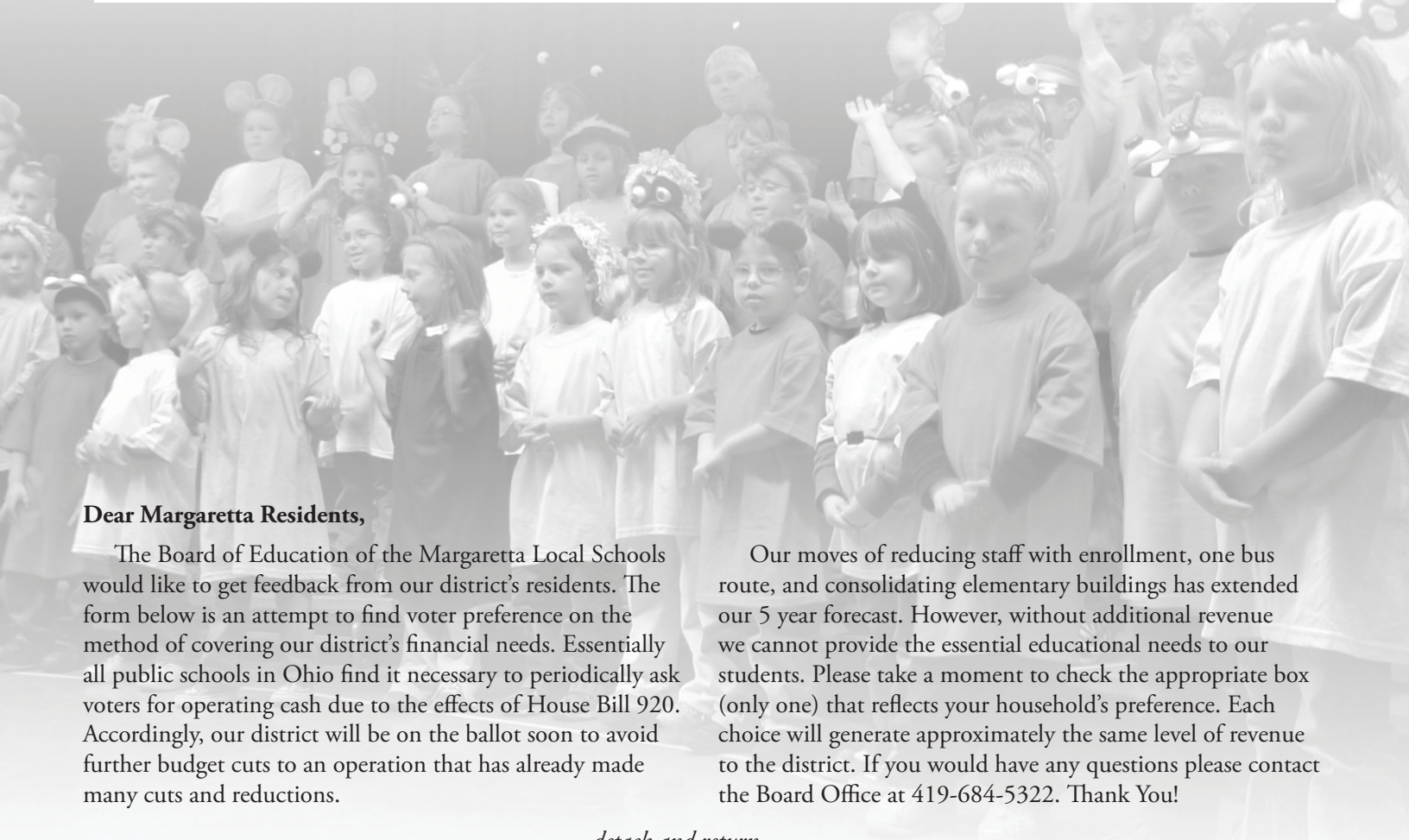
Ed Kurt, Superintendent
Jude Hammond, Treasurer/Business Manager
Keith Bonnigon, HS Principal (419-684-5351)
Delores Meggitt, Townsend Principal (419-684-5385)
Linda Stauffer, Bogart Principal (419-684-5357)

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
Castalia, OH 44824
Permit No. 5



Margaretta Local School District Newsletter
is also available on the Internet. Visit
the district's official website:
www.margaretta.k12.oh.us

Administrative Office: 305 South Washington Street • (419) 684-5322



Dear Margaretta Residents,

The Board of Education of the Margaretta Local Schools would like to get feedback from our district's residents. The form below is an attempt to find voter preference on the method of covering our district's financial needs. Essentially all public schools in Ohio find it necessary to periodically ask voters for operating cash due to the effects of House Bill 920. Accordingly, our district will be on the ballot soon to avoid further budget cuts to an operation that has already made many cuts and reductions.

Our moves of reducing staff with enrollment, one bus route, and consolidating elementary buildings has extended our 5 year forecast. However, without additional revenue we cannot provide the essential educational needs to our students. Please take a moment to check the appropriate box (only one) that reflects your household's preference. Each choice will generate approximately the same level of revenue to the district. If you would have any questions please contact the Board Office at 419-684-5322. Thank You!

-----detach and return-----

- School District Income Tax** – A tax separate from federal, state, and municipal income tax that is earmarked specifically to support a given school district.
- School District Income Tax on Earned Income Only** – A tax very similar to the above, but with the stipulation that it is on “earned” income and self-employed income only. This tax would not include other types of income such as interest, dividends, capital gains, or pensions, for example.
- School District Property Tax** – A tax which has been traditionally used in this school district. It is a tax on real property only.

After marking, please detach and return to 305 S. Washington Street, Castalia, Ohio 44824. Thank you!