

bug Botschaft

The Milwaukee German Immersion School PTA NEWSLETTER • OCTOBER 2011

From the PTA President... Erika Conner

Dear Parents, Teachers and Staff Members,

I would like to thank all the people who helped at **Grill Fest** especially **Geno Kloiber**, who did an outstanding job chairing Grill Fest for his second year. Thanks Geno & all of your volunteers! It was a very fun night!

At **Open House**, the **Ice Cream Social** was a lot of fun. This was **Dorothy Malone's** first year chairing this event, thank you so much for all of your efforts.

Upcoming PTA events include **Coffee with the Principal on September 29**. Please take the opportunity to learn more about our principal, **Dr. Brugger**, and our school.

We will have our **October PTA** meeting on **Wednesday, October 5 at 6:30 p.m.** Attending the meeting is a great way to find out how you can help our school. You will have a chance to **join the PTA**, buy Scrip, and win a Scrip gift card. However, there will **NOT be childcare** available for this meeting. We still do not have a chair for this committee, and will not be able to offer childcare until we are able to fill this position. If you or anyone you know are interested in helping with this important committee PLEASE let me know. Even if you can just help once, that would be great!

Lastly, our **Mr. Z's fundraiser will end on October 3**. Please keep the pink copy of the order forms and send the others to school with your child. **On October 26**, bring cash or a money order to the school gym from **3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.** for the amount you sold and pick up your items. Please note, you must pay and pick up your entire order. This is your only chance to pick up your order; we will not hold anyone's order. We can always use more help at pick up. E-mail cgarder@wi.rr.com to help.

Do you have a question about volunteering? E-mail me at connerika@gmail.com
I am looking forward to a wonderful fall season, and getting to know many more of our wonderful parents at MGIS. If I don't already know you, please stop me around school and introduce yourself!

Hope to see you at the PTA meeting.

Parent Volunteer Training

Planning to volunteer this year at school? Be sure to attend the Parent Volunteer Training with Dr. Brugger on Wednesday, October 5th at 6:15 in the lunchroom. Also make plans to stay for the PTA meeting immediately following the training. Meet other parents, learn more about PTA and how you can get more involved! Questions, email: mgsipta@wi.rr.com or contact Volunteer Committee Chairperson, Melissa Charnon at 414-535-1990 or Pam Gende at 414-875-9368

MGIS Yearbook

Frau Savignac works on the yearbook photo pages from now until February. Anyone with photos of school activities is welcome to send them to her for possible inclusion in our year book. Digital images or prints are acceptable. Please send them to Frau Savignac in Room 20 or by email: savignkm@milwaukee.k12.wi.us

SMILE

School Picture Day!

October 26 & 27 - make sure your kids bring their best smiles to school! Order forms are due that day. So get all spruced up and say "Käse."

Volunteers are needed to help corral the kids and keep them in line - literally. If you can help, please call Frau Engelbart in the office at 393-5600.

OCTOBER 12-19

(RIF) Book Distribution

Each year the Milwaukee German Immersion School PTA sponsors RIF (Reading is Fundamental) book distributions. RIF is a program that motivates children to read by giving them free books. The first distribution of the year will be from October 12 -19. Classes will come to the library at their regularly scheduled time during this week, and each child will select a book to keep. We are looking for volunteers to read to the students and help them choose a book of their own.

If you would like to help, please contact:
Pam Carroll at 837-6538, pamcarroll@wi.rr.com or
Bridget Smith at 536-1324, QuiltMom@wi.rr.com

OPEN HOUSE

Ice Cream Social

It was a good event. I want to thank Erika Conner for all of her help. Also, the Girl Scouts who handed out the ice cream to everyone. Thanks for everyone coming to Open House. We look forward to great things next year.

MGIS October Calendar

- 3 Fundraiser Ends**
- 5 PTA Meeting - 6:30 p.m.**
- 7 Banking Day/No School**
- 17&19 Parent -Teacher Conferences**
- 15 No School**
- 12-19 RIF/ Book Distribution**
- 21 No School**
- 26 Fundraiser Pick-up 3:30 - 5:30pm**
- 26&27 Picture Day**
- 27 Hearts & Hands Family Night**
- 28 No School**

November Preview

- I PTA Meeting - 6:30 p.m.**
- 7-11 Food Drive**
- 11 Laternennacht**
- 24&25 Thanksgiving - No School**

T-SHIRT SALE

Help Needed

We will be needing help with T-Shirt sales during Parent Teacher conferences on Oct. 17 & 19 in the evening. Please consider helping, even if it's for just a few hours. If you can't attend, consider asking a family member (grandparent?) to help. We welcome all helping hands at German Immersion. If you are able to help, please email Jennifer - cjmandel@yahoo.com or Jen Bjork - sbjork@sbcglobal.net to let them know which hours you are willing to work.

WEIHNACHTSMART



Tin Coffee Cans

Frau Engelbart is collecting small tin coffee cans for our Weihnachtsmarkt. Please bring them to the office.

Save the Date!

The MGIS Craft Bazaar will be on **Sat., Dec. 10**. Don't miss the bake sale, St. Nikolaus, or the raffle with something for everyone!

Let your regular shopping help raise money for MGIS!

Your regular shopping can provide money and school supplies for our classrooms. We don't ask that you buy any products that you don't already purchase! Let your normal shopping raise some money for our kids.

LINK A CARD TO MGIS

Pick'n Save We Care Card

Visit a Pick 'n Save Customer Service desk, and tell them that you'd like to designate 1% of your purchases to go to MGIS.



Target Take Charge of Education

If you have a Target RED Card, link your account to MGIS.



CLIP, SAVE & BRING TO MGIS

Box Tops for Education

has labels on General Mills®, Pop Secret®, and Pillsbury®, Ziploc®, Kleenex®, Avery® Office Products and other brands. Each box top is worth ten cents that goes to our school. More information about the program and eligible products visit www.boxtops4education.com. Also, if you sign up on their website, you will get monthly letters that occasionally have contests, you can sign up for, so our school could earn even more money.



Campbell's Labels for Education.

Save proofs of purchase from Campbell's®, Spaghetti-O's®, Pepperidge Farm® (including Goldfish® Crackers), Swanson®, V-8® and Prego®. Next to the LFE logo, it instructs you to save a label, UPC code or lid. More information about the program and eligible products can be found at www.labelsforeducation.com.



GIF EVENTS

German Immersion



Foundation Calendar of Events:

The 2012 annual silent auction will be held **Saturday, March 24th** in downtown Milwaukee. More details will be coming out in next month's Bug!

The annual German Immersion Foundation **fall social event** will be held on Friday, November 4th at 7:00 pm. Check out www.germanimmersionfoundation.org for details and to purchase your tickets. Ticket sales will be limited this year so order early.

Where is the German Immersion Foundation's "Rome n' Garten Zwerg?" Be the first to identify the secret location pictured below by sending your guess to robb@eua.com and your name will be entered into our drawing for a free GIF silent auction ticket. Note "GIF" and the location in the email subject line and include your name and phone number.

Where is our Rome n' Garten Zwerg?



Email your answer to: robb@eua.com

Did you know?

The German Immersion Foundation was started 11 years ago by school parents who wanted to ensure that MGIS and MSL would continue to offer academically excellent programs. For additional information and to sign up for quarterly updates via e-mail, please visit our website at www.germanimmersionfoundation.org

MINUTES

MGIS Governance Council

Meeting 9/12/11

Members Present: Herr Arndt, Frau Mattke, Dr. Brugger, Frau Arnhold, Frau Engelbart, Frau Thompson, Frau Fritz, Frau Welden, Herr Klein

Members Absent: Frau Mandel, Frau Riebe

Meeting called to order by Herr Arndt at 4:35 pm.

Minutes from August 24, 2011 reviewed and moved for approval by Frau Mattke and seconded by Frau Engelbart.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Dr. Brugger expressed his appreciation for the many parent volunteers throughout the building helping with coverage and supervision since the start of school. He also commended staff for all of their hard work starting out the new school year; taking over duties that have been previously done by others and implementing mandates from MPS.

PUBLICITY COMMITTEE

nothing to report

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

2011-2012 Enrollment and Budget- 612 students are currently enrolled in the school. The count may rise to 613-616 by Friday. All students that were on the wait list were called in and we currently do not have a wait list.

There are some additional sources of revenue for the 2011-2012 school year:

In terms of Budget, 7 additional students equal about \$30,000

A donation by an individual of \$25,000

Help Immersion Live For Ever(HILFE) has a donation of about \$25,000

Reading Resource Teacher position has not been filled leaving \$20,000 in the budget

The Council discussed various scenarios for use of these funds including increasing educational assistants' time, increasing specialist time, and designating an educational assistant to help with reading instruction throughout the building. Dr. Brugger will consider all discussion and make a final decision on budget prior to third Friday.

Testing Requirements K4-5: A new mandate requires weekly testing of English reading using DIBELS (Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills). Tests take at least a minute per child. Concern expressed that this level of testing prevents teachers from focusing on instruction.

Discussion took place on how District mandates may impact the Immersion Program. Council agreed to invite Charter School representatives to our next meeting and look at advantages and disadvantages to becoming a charter school. Herr Arndt will invite speakers. The next meeting is scheduled for October 12.

Meeting adjourned at 6:00 pm, moved by Herr Arndt and seconded by Frau Thompson.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Susan Arnhold.

MINUTES

PTA Meeting

August 24, 2011

Call to Order: Ercia Connor called the meeting to order at 6:49pm. A quorum of registered members was established for voting purposes.

Introductions of officers were made.

There were no minutes from the May meeting to approve.

Money handling procedures were discussed. There is a file box in the office under the teacher's mailboxes, which has the forms in it. You must fill out the form and submit receipts to receive payment. If you are making a deposit two slips should be in the box. No cash is to leave an event; it should be placed in the safe, noting the amount there and the reason.

Budget copies were handed out for review. The Art committee was allotted more this year, while most other items stayed the same. A motion was made and accepted to adopt the budget. The budget passed.

A new committee has been formed. It is called Parent Aid Committee. The chairperson is Melissa Charon. The purpose of this committee is to find volunteers to assist at school, due to budget cuts. Dr. Brugger has stated he will need 10 – 15 parents to help out with the K4's the first week of school. Additional help will be needed for playground duty, helping in lunchroom and in our classrooms. It was suggested that the parents wear a vest, apron, to them noticeable to the children and parents. This idea will be researched as to costs, and feasibility.

Child Care is looking for a committee chair. Discussion stated that you need to have at least two to three adults at each sitting. Older children are great helpers. It was suggested that those who use this service, should volunteer to do it at least once. Another suggestion was putting everyone's name in a hat and drawing names out. We will be looking for suggestions.

Committee chairpersons were introduced. Several committees need chairpersons, and co-chairs. All committees need volunteers to help out with the event.

The fundraiser will begin this month. We will be selling Mr. Z's. Look for order packets to be coming home with your child. Details will be in the packet.

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 7:39pm.

UPCOMING EVENTS

September 7th Open House

September 16th Grill Fest – Third Friday

GRILL FEST

Thank you!

German flags waving and Oompa music playing... added to the festivities at Grill Fest 2011!

Many thanks to all the students, faculty and families who participated in making this such a great event. "Grillmeister" **Geno Kloiber** grilled the brats and hotdogs to perfection. Many volunteers contributed wonderful salads, sides and decadent desserts. A special Thank You to all the volunteers – this event simply would not happen without your involvement! Any dishes not claimed after Grill Fest are now in the "lost & found." It's never too late to volunteer to help with Grill Fest 2012!

PTA MEETING

OCT. 5 AT 6:30PM

Child care is NOT provided.

Childcare Needed!

During PTA meetings childcare has always been provided. This gives parents the opportunity to attend the meeting unencumbered, as well as keeping the meeting free of little voices interrupting. **We are in need of parents to help!** Whether you can be available one time or many, please email Erika Conner at connerika@gmail.com

Some books, toys, and puzzles are provided to keep the children occupied.

Herzlichen Glückwunsch zum Geburtstag

OCTOBER

The following staff members are celebrating a birthday this month. Don't forget to wish them well!



- 4** Frau Ross
- 10** Frau Engelbart
- 13** Frau Buchert
- 14** Frau Wisniewski
- 19** Frau Sulejmanovic
- 24** Frau Sykes

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

NEWS FROM

Roots and Shoots

We started the Roots and Shoots Club on September 22, one day after World Peace Day. We started out with students sharing their ideas about peace, and what it means to them.

We will work on **Pennies for Peace**, and see how we can help others understand that concept of Greg Mortenson's mission. You all might want to share the following stories with your children: *Peace Begins with You* by Katherine Scholes; *For Every Child* by UNICEF, and *Listen to the Wind* by Greg Mortenson and Susan L. Roth.

Hearts and Hands Across the World will be **Thursday, Oct. 27 from 6:30 to 8p.m.**

I will share slides about the mission in Bolivia, and where our quilts went in past years. After the presentation, each family will create one quilt square to share something special about themselves with the children in Bolivia. These quilt squares will be sewn into quilts at a later time. See the ad in this Bug for the Hearts and Hands form. Please fill out and return by Oct. 20, so I can have enough materials ready for all who are attending.

Please, continue to send the juice pouches with your child. Just make sure that they pull out all the straws, and that they are empty. Thanks a lot.

Frau Mattke

FORMS NEEDED

Food Allergies

If your child has any food allergies (not a dislike for a certain food) you must have your child's doctor fill out a dietary restriction form. The form is available in the school office. We can't take your child's word on any information about allergies. Your child will receive a color coded card at the lunch computer, stating your child's specific allergy. That way the kitchen staff is able to ensure that your child will not get any food he/she is allergic to. If you have any request for special dietary restrictions (religious beliefs, vegetarian) we have a form in the school office that must be filled out and signed by a parent/guardian. Thank you.

SCRIP



Thanks to all the MGIS families and staff that have gotten us off to a GREAT start this year! You took the challenge and the news is:

We are on target to **DOUBLE** our sales and profits as compared to last September!

Take a look: September 2010 (4 weeks): \$504.35 profit on \$8,784.00 sales

September 2011 (first 3 weeks): \$738.18 profit on \$14,679.01 sales

Next Goal: October 2011 - \$1,200 profit!

So, what are people buying?

September's Top 10:

Top Sales:

- | | |
|-------------|-------------------|
| 1. Roundys | 6. Kohl's |
| 2. Speedway | 7. Target |
| 3. Sentry | 8. Crate & Barrel |
| 4. Walmart | 9. Kwik Trip |
| 5. BP | 10. Walgreens |

Top Profits

- | | |
|-------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. Roundys | 6. Sentry |
| 2. Crate & Barrel | 7. Gap/Old Navy/Banana Republic |
| 3. Speedway | 8. Chancery |
| 4. Kwik Trip | 9. Jose's Blue Sombrero |
| 5. Kohl's | 10. Walmart |

Which Retailers Give the biggest rebates?

50% - Restaurant.com \$20 card worth \$50

16% & above – AMC Single Admit Ticket, Brooks Brothers, Chancery, Fannie May Candies, Jose's Blue Sombrero, LL Bean, Lands End, Mary Kay & See's Candies

Visit Shopwithscrip.com to find hundreds of additional retailers ready to give money to MGIS!

When can you buy Scrip?

- Online: Anytime! MGIS Enrollment Code: 7176D2LD19477
- In person: Thursdays 3:30-5:30pm and Fridays 8:30-9:30am
- Oct 5th PTA Meeting
- Oct 17th and 19th Parent Teacher Conferences

Thinking outside the box!

Liz Juern Rocks! She was the first to think outside the box in using Scrip cards this year. Through her work at Interfaith Caregivers of Ozaukee County, she was given a donation to purchase gas cards for volunteers who drive elderly people to their medical appointments. Liz already knew the cards were doing a great thing by helping provide gas to her dedicated volunteers but she wanted the cards to do even more. By purchasing the cards through Scrip she earned MGIS students over \$50. Her challenge to you, think outside the box to see how you can use Scrip cards to earn FREE money for our students. Thanks Liz and thanks to your great volunteers for helping the elderly in our community!



Questions? Want to help? Contact a Scrip Coordinator:
Pam Gende 414-875-9368 pbgende@wi.rr.com or
Donna Harris 414-562-0637 donnaharris123@att.net

MEET OUR NEW INTERNS



Frau Victoria Wagner

Frau Wagner was born in Rosenheim, Germany. She attended Catholic University of Eichstätt-Ingolstadt where majored in English and minored in the principles of teaching physical education and of a combination of business, mechanics and economy. She lives in Bruckmuehl, Bavaria near the Alps where she likes to go mountain biking, hiking, skiing, snowboarding and swimming (she's also a certified life guard).



Frau Hannah Gorges

Frau Gorges was born in Trier, Germany and lives in Mainz where she attends Johannes Gutenberg-University. She has a younger brother and sister. She plans on being a teacher for English and History. She has tutored children in English, French, German and Math. She also loves teaching children and teenagers to play flute, dancing and handball.



Herr Michael Ehrhardt

Herr Ehrhardt was born in Ingolstadt, Germany and lives in Mertingen a small village near Augsburg, where he attends the University of Augsburg. Becoming a teacher has always been his aspiration. He is a qualified teaching assistant and has helped Russian children assimilate. He loves sports, especially football and also skiing and running.



Herr Michael Ganser

Herr Ganser grew up on a farm in Aachen, Germany with his parents and two sisters. He attends the Catholic University of Eichstätt-Ingolstadt. He has worked with Special Ed. Students, and has also coached 12 to 17 year olds with English, Latin, French, German and Math. He really enjoys working with children and would like to become a teacher.

Frau? Herr? Huh?? What does that mean!

You might hear Frau so-and-so or Herr so-and-so a lot around MGIS. That's so weird, all the female teachers have the same name - *Frau* and all the male teachers have the same name - *Herr*! Well, actually it is the German courtesy title for Ms. and Mr. **Frau = Ms. & Herr = Mr.** See, you learn something new everyday.



PTA

Join the MGIS PTA! And your family could be featured as an MGIS PTA family in the Bug!!

Complete the form below, place it in an envelope marked "PTA - School Office" and send it with your child. Or sign up at the meeting on October 5. Don't forget to **include a check for \$6 per person** made out to MGIS PTA.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Hearts and Hands Across the Americas Family Night

**Thursday
October 27 at
6:30 - 8 pm**

In 1994 Ann Miletich traveled with a humanitarian medical/dental team to South America to work with orphaned children. The trip changed the direction of Ann's life and work. Since that time she has created an international humanitarian aid project, accessed through education, art, and community called "Hearts and Hands ACROSS the Americas."



I will share slides about her mission in Bolivia, and where our quilts went in past years. After the presentation, each family will create one quilt square to share something special about themselves with the children in Bolivia. These quilt squares will be sewn into quilts at a later time. The quilts will be delivered to needy children in the spring of 2012.

See you then, Frau Mattke

Please, let me know if your family will be attending, so I can plan for enough supplies. Turn this slip in to Frau Mattke Rm. 29, by October 20.

YES! We plan on attending Family Night, October 27

Name: _____

Number of people: _____



This is a fun way to teach children about another culture and caring – DON'T MISS IT!

To learn more about this wonderful program visit www.pasd.wednet.edu/school/fr/teacher/burnett/hands03

GETTING TO KNOW YOU



Frau Bay

Frau Bay

Many of you know me as Frau Bay. I've been teaching K5 in Room 22 at MGIS since January of 2003.

Before moving to Wisconsin, I lived in Detroit (where I was born), St. Louis and NW New Jersey. My two older half sisters now live in California and my younger brother lives in St. Louis. I graduated from UW- Eau Claire with my Bachelor's majoring in Elementary Education and German, minoring in Math. I went back to school for my Early Childhood certification and then for my Master's through UW-Stevens Point.

I've had the opportunity to travel to Germany in high school, spend a semester in Lutherstadt-Wittenberg in college, and participate in two programs (Leipzig and Hessen) while working at MGIS.

5 Things you don't know about Frau Bay

- 1 I have been figure skating competitively since I was 9 years old. I tested up to the Gold level in freestyle, dance and figures. I now teach lessons (group and private).
- 2 I love sports! I played competitive soccer and swam. I currently enjoy kickboxing and recreational (two hand touch) football.
- 3 If I weren't teaching at MGIS, I would like to teach 8th grade Math.
- 4 I am a St. Louis Cardinals (baseball) and St. Louis Blues (hockey) fan.
- 5 I have completed 5 half marathons and recently participated in a 12 person, 200 mile relay that began in Madison and ended in Chicago.



Family Members:

Will, Erika, Ivy, Willow and Brooke

Getting to know an MGIS Family... The Conner Family!

Both Erika and Will have spent a majority of their lives in or around the Milwaukee area. Will is currently working as a Systems Engineer for Roundy's Supermarkets. Erika works as a full time mommy while also doing some part time work at a local dental office. Both Will and Erika also own MudWater Outdoors LLC, a local hunting, sporting, and personal protection company.

Brooke is involved in MGIS violin classes, and also enjoys ballet. Ivy and Willow both take Gymnastics and love displaying their freestyle dance moves whenever they hear a beat. Willow also looks forward to joining her two sisters next year at MGIS. All three girls love camping with Mom and Dad, Monster truck rallies, and the occasional Nerf war. Feeding and cuddling their pet ducks is also one of their more favorite things to do.

Erika is currently the president of the PTA for the 2011/12 and 2012/13 school year and also chairs the Courtyard Committee. She spends time helping in Monday Morning Workgroup at MGIS while also having served as a room parent in both Brooke and Ivy's classrooms. You can find Will following Erika around, and helping wherever it is needed.

We are very proud to be a part of the MGIS family and appreciate the quality of education that our children are receiving. The teachers and staff at MGIS have been nothing short of wonderful and we love to promote this more than exceptional school to everyone we can.