



## Summer Quarterly Newsletter 2011

Greetings:

The 2010-2011 school year was indeed a special one for the Martensdale-St. Marys Community School District, as several of our high school athletic teams accomplished very lofty goals and received state and national recognition for their achievements. As your superintendent, I want to emphasize that as successful as our student-athletes were as team members and as individuals, we should be just as proud of our academic standards and performance. We offer a very strong educational program and have set rigorous and challenging standards for performance in the classroom. Information related to student performance on mandated standardized assessments was included in the spring quarterly newsletter. Contact me if you want additional information. We are excited to begin a new adventure in 2011-2012 and invite you to join us!

As you know, several of our faculty members have accepted new positions in other Iowa school districts and we wish them well in their new surroundings. Ms. Beth Lund was previously teaching high school language arts at Oskaloosa High School and she has been hired to replace Mr. Justin Herrick, who accepted a teaching position at Waukee High School; Ms. Marcy Roff was previously teaching in Nebraska and she has been hired as a science teacher to replace Mr. Caleb Hales, who accepted an elementary teaching position at Madrid; Mr. Adam Hansen was previously teaching high school mathematics in Lone Tree and he has been hired to replace Mr. Jed Alexander, who accepted a math teaching and varsity basketball coaching position in Van Meter; and Mr. Craig Huegel was previously teaching in North Polk and he has been hired as district at-risk coordinator and activities director to replace Mr. Ron Peterson, who has accepted a social studies teaching and varsity wrestling position at Knoxville High School.

The summer 2011 varsity sport season was an unbelievable experience for players on our Martensdale-St. Marys softball and baseball teams, coaches, family members, and other community supporters for our teams. Our softball team completed an undefeated regular season as Pride of Iowa Conference champions and ultimately finished the season as one of the third place teams at the Iowa High School Girls' Athletic Union Softball Tournament, held in Fort Dodge. Four of our players were selected for **first team** all-state softball recognition. They include senior Sam Norris, senior Brittany Kubik, junior Hailey Sweet, and junior Meagan Streffeler. Katrina Devore, sophomore, was selected for **third**

**team** recognition and junior Morgan Halverson received **honorable mention**. Our coach, Todd Verwers, has been named Iowa Class 1A 2011 Softball Coach of the Year, by Sports Connection and was named South Central Iowa District Coach of the Year by the Iowa Girls' Coaches Association. These are outstanding honors and reflect very highly on Coach Verwers, our players, our communities, and the Martensdale-St. Marys Community School District. For those of you who might be unaware, Coach Verwers joins baseball Coach Justin Dehmer and girls' basketball coach Tim Baker as Iowa Class 1A Coaches of the Year. That is indeed an amazing achievement.

The Martensdale-St. Marys Blue Devil Baseball Team completed its second straight undefeated season as Pride of Iowa Conference champion and closed the season as Iowa Class 1A champion, with its win over Lansing Kee in the finals of the Iowa High School Athletic Association Summer Baseball Tournament, at Principal Park, in Des Moines. Three members of this year's varsity team were selected for **first team** all-state recognition. They include senior Dillon Coates, junior J. D. Nielsen, and senior Ethan Westphal, who was also chosen as the captain of the Class 1A team. Zeb Noel, junior, was named to the all-state **second team** and Josh Defenbaugh, junior, was selected for **third team** recognition. For any of you who don't know, our Martensdale-St. Marys varsity baseball team has now won 87 games in a row and has set a national record for most high school baseball games won in a row. The Blue Devils surpassed the Portsmouth, New Hampshire, high school baseball team for most consecutive wins.

During the spring semester last year, a district communications committee, comprised of board members, administrators, teachers, students, and community members, was organized and has been active. Several communications projects are currently in the works and will be launched early this fall. One of the important projects is the creation of a 'welcome packet' for realtors to share with families that are considering relocation in the Des Moines area. Another of the important projects the communications committee has created is a brief survey to determine the frequency and quality of sharing school-district related information with students, families, and community members. It is the intent of the communications committee to utilize several methods to provide this survey to you. Within the next week you will be able to access and complete the communications survey as a **link** on the Martensdale-St. Marys Community School District website [www.mstm.us](http://www.mstm.us). The survey will also be included in the summer quarterly newsletter. Your completed survey would be returned to the administrative offices. Surveys will

also be available at registration and at early fall school activities, such as football and volleyball games. Thank you, in advance, for supporting your school district and completing your survey.

The Martensdale-St. Marys Community School District custodial staff has been busy over the summer months making improvements to our building and our facilities and I'm sure you'll be pleased with the improvements they've made. Many of our student lockers have been re-conditioned and repainted; the varsity gym floor has been completely re-sanded, resurfaced, and repainted, including the lower walls of the gym; many feet of old sidewalks have been removed and replaced with new concrete; the west ICN entrance to the building has been upgraded and is now handicap accessible; the internal wireless communications system has been upgraded to allow for improved internet connection; the broken and rough hard-surfaced main entrance to the junior high/high school and main office has been replaced with new concrete surface; the old garage has been removed and the large evergreen trees along the west side of the main parking lot have been cut down and removed; the old restroom doors in the kindergarten classrooms have been removed and replaced with new handicap accessible doors; and several classrooms have been reassigned and repainted. When you see Jim Lynch, Cory Fast, Trent Christensen, Jim Callison, Zach Wood, Carrie Wood, and Brandon Robinson, please thank them for all they've done to improve our school and facilities!

### **MARTENSDALE-ST. MARYS ALUMNUS SPOTLIGHT ON DR. JOHN J. CROAT**

One of the new features in each quarterly newsletter is a spotlight on one of the alumni of the Martensdale-St. Marys Community School District. Many of our high school graduates leave our communities and make significant contributions that make lives better, richer, and safer. It is an honor and a privilege to focus our first spotlight on Dr. John J. Croat. John was one of seven siblings born to Oliver Croat and Irene Wilgenbusch Croat and he was a member of the first class of seniors to graduate from the newly consolidated Martensdale-St. Marys High School, in 1961. Mr. Croat joined Ms. Kay Greubel in marriage, in 1966, and they have one daughter, Cynthia Ann Croat, born in 1980.

John first attended Simpson College, graduating in 1965, with a Bachelor of Science degree in chemistry. After graduating from Simpson College, Mr. Croat enrolled in the graduate program at Iowa State University, concentrating his study in the field of metallurgy. While attending classes at ISU, John was hired as a full-time researcher at the Atomic Energy Commission, where he carried out fundamental research on the preparation and properties of high purity rare earth metals. Mr. Croat completed his program of study and received his PhD from Iowa State University in 1972.

Immediately upon graduation, Dr. Croat accepted a position in the physics department of the General Motors Research Laboratories, in Warren, Michigan, with primary responsibility for developing a low cost, high performance

permanent magnet to replace ferrite magnets commonly used in automotive components. In 1982 he developed and patented a new family of high performance magnets, based on elements neodymium, iron, and boron. In 1984 John transferred to the Delco Remy Division of General Motors to help commercialize this new family of magnets. During this time at Delco Remy, Dr. Croat helped found the Magnequench business unit of General Motors. John has committed the past twenty-five years of his career working on the commercial development of NdFeB magnets and is currently chairman and CEO of International Magnetics Technology (IMT), a company that manufactures NdFeB magnets, in Thailand. Within a few years of his development, NdFeB magnets gained rapid popularity and today these magnets are widely used in all manner of computer peripheral, consumer electronics, office automation, and automotive applications. The single most-used application of these magnets is the spindle motor in hard disk drives and optical disk drives, which are used in all personal computers, as well as personal video recorders and advanced game consoles, like the Sony PlayStation and X-Box. In 2010, it was estimated that more than three billion products produced around the world use these magnets. Whether you know it, or not, you use John's magnets every day!

Dr. John Croat has received many honors for his development and refinement of the NdFeB magnet, including the 1985 Applications of Physics Prize, awarded by the American Institute of Physics; the 1986 New Materials Prize, awarded by the American Physics Society; and the 1994 Outstanding Engineering Achievement Award, from the American Society of Metals. In 1985 John was honored to have received both an Alumni Achievement Award, from Simpson College, and a Distinguished Achievement Award, from Iowa State University. In 2008 Dr. Croat was inducted into the Material Science and Engineering Department Hall of Fame, at Iowa State University. Dr. John and Kay Croat currently reside in the Lincoln Park area of Chicago. Congratulations, John, and thank you for the honor and recognition you've brought to the Martensdale-St. Marys Community School District.



SCHOOL BOARD ELECTION  
SEPTEMBER 13, 2011

MARTENSDALE-ST. MARYS SCHOOL  
7:00AM TO 9:00PM

THE OPEN DISTRICTS ARE:  
DISTRICT 3  
DISTRICT 5

CLICK ON THE WEBSITE FOR MORE INFORMATION

[www.mstm.us](http://www.mstm.us)