



March 1, 2011

Message from Dr. Bob Newsum  
Interim Superintendent

It is now officially time to Think Spring:

From an education standpoint, this is a critical time in the school year. All of us are dealing with the effects of the long winter season, with its cold, snow, and ice, and some of us are suffering from the seasonal affect disorder brought about by lack of sunshine. The good news is that the 'winter doldrums' are nearly over and will be replaced by warmer temperatures and extended sunlight. The bad news is that the warmer weather and longer days signal the start of spring activities. At this time, it is easy for students to lose focus on what's important. I would encourage you to take the time and give your children a 'pep talk' about maintaining a focus on their school work. At this point in their lives, school is their 'job' and it is important for them to put forth their best efforts in the classroom.

As of the day my article for the March district newsletter was written, we had only missed two days of school due to inclement weather and those days will both be made up by extending the current school year two days. Students will now attend classes on Tuesday, May 24, and Wednesday, May 25. Graduation is still set for Sunday afternoon, May 22, beginning at 2:00.

At the February 14 regular school board meeting, your board approved the school calendar for 2011-2012. You can find the 2011-2012 school calendar link on the Martensdale St. Marys district web site. Next year's school calendar includes registration dates on Wednesday, August 10, and Thursday, August 11; a school year start date for students on Wednesday, August 24; fall parent-teacher conferences during the first week of November; a twelve-day holiday vacation from December 22 through Monday January 2, 2012; spring parent-teacher conferences during the week of March 12-16, with a full week of spring break beginning on March 19; graduation for seniors on Sunday, May 20; and the end of the school year for all other students on the Thursday before Memorial Day, May 24.

The district communications advisory committee has now held two meetings, but it's not too late for you to join us. If you are interested in helping us improve our efforts to communicate about the many excellent programs, experiences, and activities taking place in the Martensdale St. Marys Community School District, please accept this message as an

invitation to become a member of a 'District Communications Advisory Committee'. Additional evening meetings will be scheduled throughout the second semester. If you are interested in participating as a member of this important committee, please contact a board member, Mr. Crozier at the high school office (641-764-2686), Mr. Wood at the elementary office (641-764-2621), or Bob Newsum at the superintendent's office (641-764-2466) or cell phone (641-203-8893).

From the Desk of Mr. Crozier,  
Secondary Principal

**Principal's Message**

What a great end to the month of February. We had great weather and loads of extracurricular activities to attend. We are very proud of our wrestling team, who sent 5 athletes on to the state tournament: Dylan Gibson, Taylor Hagen, Kole Stapes, David Walker and Robert Walker. They were the runner-up in the team dual regionals and district champions. These young men have worked hard and are great representatives of our school. Congratulations to Coach Sweet, Coach Miller, Coach Vodraska, and Coach Lash for all of their hard work and dedication to these young men.

Congratulations to Robert Walker, Martensdale-St. Marys' first two-time state champion. Robert finished the season undefeated.

The girls' basketball team has won the Pride of Iowa Conference Championship for the third year in a row, going undefeated for the second season in conference play. They are the District 8 IGHS AU Champions and will make their third straight trip to the State Tournament. Congratulations to Coach Baker, Coach Henderson, and all the girls' basketball players. We are looking forward to a great run at the State Tournament.

The Martensdale-St. Marys High School Band had seven of its members playing in the Pride of Iowa Honor Band on February 22<sup>nd</sup> at Graceland University. They were: Michaela McIlravy, Jacob Schrodt, Cassidy Phillips, Kayla DePauw, Katrina DeVore, Troy Harding and Tayler Schad. Congratulations to these students for representing Martensdale-St. Marys.

Parent/Teacher Conferences will be held on March 7<sup>th</sup> from 4:00-8:00 PM and March 10<sup>th</sup> from 3:30-7:30 PM. We will use our traditional format for these conferences. No appointments are needed. Please take the time to visit all your children's teachers.

Upcoming events:

- ✓ Girls State Basketball Tournament February 28 – March 4
- ✓ Boys State Basketball Tournament March 8-13
- ✓ March 7<sup>th</sup> – Parent/Teacher Conferences 4:00-8:00 pm
- ✓ March 10<sup>th</sup> – Parent/Teacher Conferences 3:30-7:30 pm
- ✓ March 11th - No school – comp day

Michael Crozier, Secondary Principal  
[mike\\_crozier@m-stmarvs.k12.ia.us](mailto:mike_crozier@m-stmarvs.k12.ia.us)

**From the Desk of Mr. Peterson,**  
**Blue Devils Activities Director**

The month of February has been very exciting in the activities department.



The **girls' basketball team** finished its second consecutive unbeaten Pride of Iowa Conference Championship. The girls' followed that up with a third consecutive trip to the Class 1A State Championships. The girls' will open play at 10:00 a.m. on February 28<sup>th</sup> at Wells Fargo in Des Moines against Newell-Fonda. Congratulations Ladies.



The **boys' basketball team** had a very successful 2010-11 season. The last home game of the year against Murray was outstanding. The Mustangs owned an 18 game winning streak until the Blue Devils ended it with a layup by Ethan Westphal at the buzzer. Congratulations to the Boys' Basketball Team.



The **wrestling team** has an outstanding month of February. The boys place second at the Class 1A sectional tournament at Liberty Center and advanced eight wrestlers to the district championships. As a result of their sectional finish, the team advanced to the regional dual meet championships. The Blue Devils beat an outstanding Lynnville-Sully team and lost a heart-breaking one point dual to I-35 in the regional finals. The team ended their dual season with an 18-7 record.





The eight district qualifiers moved on to I-35 on Saturday, February 12th and captured the 2011 Class 1A District Championship and advanced five individuals to the 2011 State Championships. At the State Championships, Robert Walker won his second consecutive **Class 1A 140 lbs State Championship**. Robert finished his junior season with 46-0 record. Congratulations to Robert Walker.

Dylan Gibson, Taylor Hagen, Kole Stapes, and David Walker all scored first round wins at the state meet as the Blue Devils held third place after the first day. Day two saw the Devils lose some close matches and knock the guys out of contention. David Walker injured his shoulder in his match on the first day and was unable to continue in the championships. The young men who represented our school did a great job.

Congratulations on an outstanding season.

District Qualifiers: Dylan Gibson – 103  
Taylor Hagen – 112  
Kole Stapes – 119  
David DeLong – 125  
David Walker – 135  
Robert Walker – 140  
Brad Nauman – 160  
Dillon Coates – 171

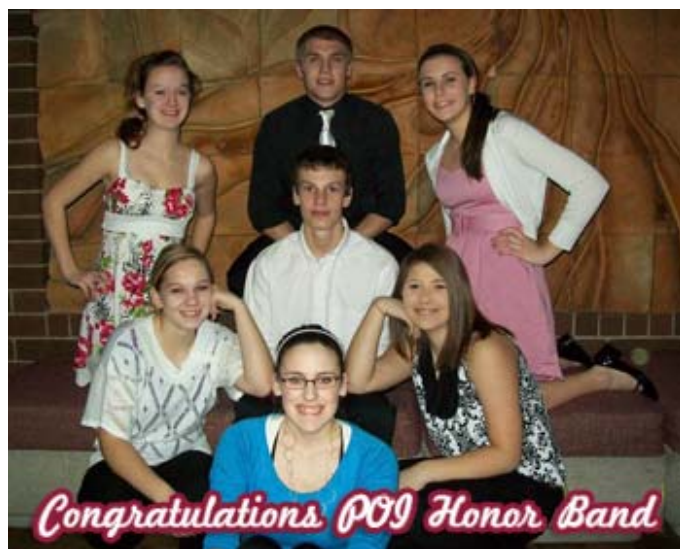
State Qualifiers: Dylan Gibson – 103  
Taylor Hagen – 112  
Kole Stapes – 119  
David Walker – 135  
Robert Walker – 140



It was exciting winter season and I want to thank everyone who helped out this winter.

The following individuals participated in the Pride of Iowa Honor Band day at Graceland College on February 22<sup>nd</sup>. Congratulations on your selection.

Katrina DeVore-POI Honor Band  
Kayla DePauw-POI Honor Band  
Troy Harding-POI Honor Band  
Cassidy Phillips-POI Honor Band  
Michaela McIlravy-POI Honor Band  
Tayler Schad-POI Honor Band  
Jake Schrodt-POI Honor Band



**From the Desk of Mr. Folkerts**  
**Secondary Counselor**

Greetings! I have just a bit of information I would like to relay to everyone. The final two ACT test dates are rapidly approaching...April 9<sup>th</sup> and June 11<sup>th</sup> are the last two times students can take the test in 2011. See Mr. Folkerts ASAP for registration materials.

Reminder... The experts encourage everyone to apply for financial aid even if you don't think you will qualify. They also encourage families to apply as early as possible! If you have any questions about this application, or for more information on eligibility requirements you can call 1-800-4FED-Aid, look on the Internet at [www.ed.gov/studentaid](http://www.ed.gov/studentaid) or contact Mr. Folkerts. Additional new scholarships have been mailed to my office over the past few weeks. Please encourage your son or daughter to stop by my office and check out those opportunities! Also, a quick reminder, I will disperse all local scholarship information the week of March 7<sup>th</sup> -10<sup>th</sup> to all seniors. All local scholarships are due in my office Friday, March 25<sup>th</sup> at 3:00...no exceptions!!

Here are a few more ideas all junior and seniors should be working on....

### **March Senior Reminders 2011**

- If you have not yet submitted your FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid), you should complete it as soon as possible.
- Keep copies of your completed federal tax returns handy. Be prepared to mail them to your college(s) if requested to do so. Promptly respond to any document requests made by your college.
- Expect your Student Aid Reports (SAR) within 2 – 4 weeks from the time you filed your FAFSA.
- Make sure your first semester transcripts have been sent to the college(s) to which you have applied.

### **Junior Reminders 2011**

- Investigate careers. Link to information about various careers on the web site [www.ICANSucceed.org](http://www.ICANSucceed.org) or [www.ihaveaplaniowa.gov](http://www.ihaveaplaniowa.gov)
- Make sure your senior year includes required credits to meet the college entrance requirements. Consider taking honors or college level classes while still in high school.
- Put together a resume listing of your activities, volunteer experiences, academic achievements and employment.

Have a great March!

### **From the Desk of Mrs. Sowder, Tag & Yearbook Department**

#### **TAG NEWS:**

The State of Iowa v. Kody Lee Shannon case for the mock trial has started and the high school attorneys have met with their mentor, John Wheeler, of the Iowa State Bar Association. Attorneys Katymae Moore, Hannah Hill, Dylan Gibson, and Eddy Kraber are preparing their statements and designing their witness questions. The defendant will be played by sophomore Abby Wetzler, who has allegedly killed an elderly woman. This criminal case will be presented in the school's library the second week of April, with a final date to be set after spring break. Community members and parents of participants are welcome to attend. Please e-mail Amy Sowder by April 8 to confirm your attendance.

Freshman Riley Dunn and junior high students Emily Murphy, Emma Johanson, Magen Andrasko, and Jennifer Hraha are now published authors with their own books in our elementary library. Their books may be checked out with Ms. Skellenger. This winter, the five created books from scratch-the plot, the simple wording, the illustrations-for our preschool students. The junior high academic teams have begun meeting for practice sessions and will compete in online academic trivia contests in April. The seventh grade team consists of Magen Andrasko, Jennifer Hraha, Jack Murphy, and Joe Townsend. Connor Dunn, Alex Kim, Kyle Kisling, and Emily Murphy will make up the 8<sup>th</sup> grade team.

The high school academic team of Captain Shannon Snyder, Rachel Connor, Taylor Gavin, Joe Harkin, Jake Schrodt, Tim

Snyder, and Anthony Rudich participated in the Pride of Iowa Academic Bowl in Creston on January 26. The Blue Devils lost both rounds of competition they competed in. Anyone interested in receiving a more detailed TAG newsletter that is published once a semester, please e-mail Amy Sowder with your request.

**YEARBOOK NEWS:** The 2011 yearbooks can still be purchased with a credit card through Jostens Web site, or purchased by check through the mail. Send in your statements to Jostens, even though the deadline may have passed. Cash payments or payment plans may be set up through Amy Sowder, advisor. Yearbooks are \$47.00, a minimal investment for a lifetime keepsake.

### **From the Desk of Mrs. Davidson Art Department**

Superintendent, Dr. Robert Newsum, joined Pottery class on Monday, February 21, 2011. Dr. Newsum, a former art teacher himself, demonstrated how to throw pots on the potter's wheel. He shared his keys to effective throwing. Students have been able to work with Dr. Newsum to improve their skills on the potter's wheel.

Special thanks to Dr. Newsum for sharing with us!





## Elementary Art Show

Preschool – 6<sup>th</sup> grade art students have been working on artwork that will be on display for the Elementary Art Show. This year the students are creating art based off of Caldicott Medal Award winning books.



The Caldicott Medal is awarded each year for a book for its outstanding illustrations. The artwork will be on display in the commons during the evenings of Parent-Teacher Conferences on Monday, March 7 and Thursday, March 10. Come and see the wonderful art work.



**Pictures:** Baize Gibson's oil pastel and watercolor artwork (above) based off the book, "The Girl Who Loved Wild Horses" by Paul Goble. Isaac Gavin's watercolor (below) based off of the book, "Owl Moon" by Jane Yolen and John Schoenherr.



## From the Desk of Mrs. Clark, Vocal Music Dept.

The MStM music students have been busy preparing for the Pops Concert on Thursday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>. This is in place of the Variety Show of the past. The concert will start at 7:00pm with performances in the small gym. Performing that night will be the junior high and high school bands, and also the junior high and high school choruses. There will also be some dancing! Come and have fun while listening and watching the students perform! Admission to the concert is a free-will donation.

Looking ahead, the younger students are working hard for their concert on Tuesday, April 5<sup>th</sup> @ 7:00pm. Our preschool, kindergarten, and first grade students will have their spring concert that night. They will be taking a trip to the "zoo" this year. Their concert theme is "All Creatures Great and Small". Put this on your calendar and plan to come!

New in the elementary this semester are the Boomwhackers! These are plastic tubes that have pitch, and students play them by lightly tapping them on a hard surface. Also, the fourth graders will be starting recorder lessons later this spring. The upper elementary grades have been learning about composers such as Rossini, Handel, and Beethoven. Ask your child about these great composers. Encourage your children to participate in music by listening, singing, or playing an instrument!

## From the Desk of Mr. Wood, Elementary Principal

### Having Successful Parent-Teacher Conferences

It doesn't matter if you're the student, the teacher, or the parent, parent-teacher conferences are bound to cause some anxiety. Yet these one-on-one meetings are priceless opportunities for families to get a better understanding of their children. By preparing well for your meetings with teachers and following up with both your children and their teachers afterward, you can strengthen your children's school success.

### Before the Conference:

#### Listen.

Any time you hear your child talking about something he or she is doing really well in or is having trouble with—either with schoolwork or with classmates—make a note of it. When it's time for the conference with the teacher, you'll have a ready-made list of things to discuss.

#### Ask.

When it's time to schedule the conference with the teacher, sit down with your child and ask him or her what you should discuss with the teacher. Encourage your children to open up and tell you what it's like for them in the classroom. Do they feel like they're falling behind academically? Or are they bored because they understand the material that the rest of the

class is struggling with? Are there any troubling issues with any of their classmates? One thing that's guaranteed to get your children to open up is asking them what they think their teacher is going to tell you about them.

**Bring notes and papers.**

Write down questions you want to address with the teacher. Bring copies of any assignments you have questions about. Think ahead of time how to be tactful and kind in wording concerns you have about the teacher or the class.

**During the Conference:**

**Be on time.**

Schools tightly schedule parent-teacher conferences because there's only so much time available and dozens of families to see. Show up at least a few minutes early, so you know you'll be set to begin when it's your turn.

**Hire a babysitter.**

It's important to make sure that the time you have with the teacher is as productive as possible. Having other children in the room is distracting. Either hire a babysitter or trade off with another parent so that your children don't tag along.

**Take notes.**

In addition to presenting the questions and concerns you brought to the meeting, make sure to take notes about what the teacher is telling you about your child. Be sure to address these important areas: strengths, weaknesses, and social skills.

**Keep emotions out of it.**

It is always difficult to hear that your "angel" or "young Einstein" isn't exactly the person you thought he or she was in the classroom. Keep your cool and bear in mind that the teacher is offering constructive criticism.

**After the Conference:**

**Talk to your child.**

Sit down with your child and tell him or her what you and the teacher discussed. Emphasize the positive things the teacher said. Remember that it's important for your child to feel positive about learning, the teacher, and the school.

**Follow up.**

If there were important issues that need to be dealt with, such as finding a tutor or getting counseling for your child, make sure to follow up in writing with the teacher soon after the conference. Specify exactly what you discussed with the teacher, what steps will be taken, what your responsibilities and the school's responsibilities will be, and what the timetable is for action.

**Remember the principal.**

If, after meeting with your child's teacher, you still feel like you have serious issues that weren't adequately addressed, set up a time to talk to the guidance counselor or principal to see what other options are available.

**Follow through.**

Once you know what you can do at home to help your child succeed in school, make sure to actually do it. It's understandable that finding the time might be difficult, but remember—your child needs you.

## **Kindergarten Roundup**

**Friday, May 6, 2011**

**9:00 am – 2:00 pm**

There will be an informational meeting for the parents that will have a child entering kindergarten in the fall of 2011. The meeting will be at 6:00 PM in the High School Media center on Thursday, April 28, 2011. We will be sending a packet out to the families who have contacted the office with their mailing information. The packet will include information about the meeting and our upcoming school year.

We will be holding a round-up day for the upcoming kindergarten students on Friday, May 6th from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm. This will be a day filled with meeting new friends, exploring the kindergarten classrooms, and a chance for the kindergarten teachers and children to meet one another.

Please contact Brenda DePauw in the elementary office if you know of a family that will have a child entering kindergarten next fall! It is important that we spread the word and reach out to any new families in the district so that everyone has the opportunity to take part in these two dates! 641-764-2621



### **Counselor's Corner** **Mrs. Pribil, Elementary PK-6**

Our next character counts assembly will be held on Friday, April 1st at 8:40 in the small gym. We will be recognizing one student from each classroom that demonstrates the Character Counts pillar Fairness. The 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter honor roll will also be announced for students in grades 3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup>.

Fairness is:

- Playing by the rules
- Taking turns and sharing
- Being open-minded; listening to others
- Not taking advantage of others
- Not blaming others carelessly
- Treating everyone equally

On a personal note, I will be starting my maternity leave sometime during the first week of March and will not return until the end of April. Martha West will be my substitute

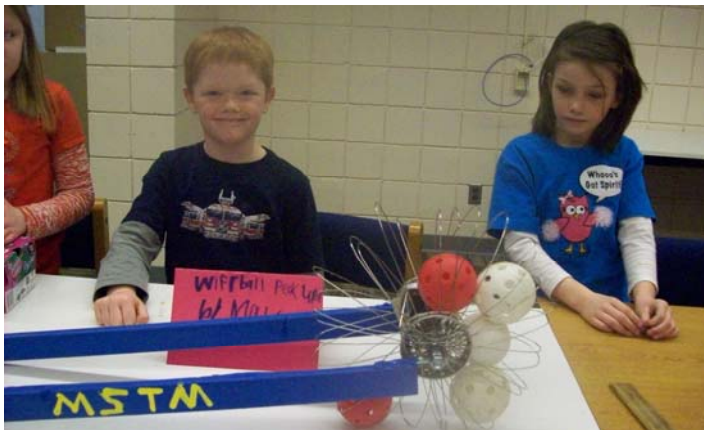
while I am gone. She is a certified school counselor and is qualified to do counseling with individuals and small groups of students. If you need to get a hold of Martha, her email address is [martha\\_west@m-stmarys.k12.ia.us](mailto:martha_west@m-stmarys.k12.ia.us). I will be checking my email periodically during my time away, so feel free to contact me for anything.



**From the Desk of Mrs. Devore & Mrs. Schad**  
**First Grade News**

1<sup>st</sup> Graders have been busy in Science. We just completed a unit on the Human Body. Students made life-size models of themselves adding each body part to their model along the way. We read a lot of information about the human body and the different systems. We saw some really cool videos on how the body works. This month, we will be going on a field trip to Hy-Vee Hall to see Mr. Slim Goodbody who will present to us a program about the human body and also how to stay healthy.

February is also the month that 1<sup>st</sup> graders get to learn about famous inventors. We talked about famous inventors such as Ben Franklin, Alexander Graham Bell, and The Wright Brothers. We researched when everyday items were invented, like blue jeans, band aids, vacuum, chocolate, post it notes, etc. On February 8<sup>th</sup>, we held the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Inventor's Fair. This is always a favorite among 1<sup>st</sup> graders and their families. There were some really neat inventions this year!



(Matt Hughes displays his "Whiffle Ball Picker Upper", while Kaylynn Fisk looks on.)



(Sydney McCasland is very proud of her "Twirl a Squirrel Feeder".)

**MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING**  
**JANUARY 6, 2011**

The Board of Directors of the Martensdale-St. Marys Community School District met in regular session, pursuant to law, on Thursday, January 6, 2011.

Members Present: Nicole Bunch, President; Dave Shutt, Vice President; Amy Harper, together with Superintendent Robert Newsum and Business Manager Jill Gavin.

Members Absent: Scott Anderson, Wade Gibson

The President called the meeting to order at 5:03 p.m.

Supt. Newsum reviewed the agenda items for the Monday, January 10, 2011 Board Meeting.

Harper moved to adjourn, seconded by Shutt. Roll call: 3 ayes. Time: 5:25 p.m.

APPROVED

*Nicole Bunch*  
 Board President

*Jill C. Gavin*  
 Business Manager

**MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING**  
**JANUARY 10, 2011**  
**RESCHEDULED FOR JANUARY 12, 2011**

The Board of Directors of the Martensdale-St. Marys Community School District met in regular session, pursuant to law, on January 12, 2011.

Members Present: President, Nicole Bunch; Vice President, Dave Shutt; Wade Gibson, and Amy Harper; together with Mike Crozier, Tom Wood, Josh Moser, Interim



Superintendent Bob Newsum and Business Manager Jill Gavin.

Members Absent: Scott Anderson

I. Welcome

Board President Bunch called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. and welcomed all guests.

II. Consent Items

- A. Approval of Minutes Board President
- B. Approval of Agenda Board President
- C. Approval of Bills and Secretary's Report Board President
- D. Approval of Hot Lunch and Activity Reports Board President

Gibson motioned to approve the consent items seconded by Shutt. Roll call: 4 ayes.

III. Celebrations

Mr. Crozier announced that we made it through the first semester with minimum problems and no snow days. It has been a great year so far! He also announced that the girls basketball team is rated #1 again.

The Board read the thank you letter from Emily Hutcheson. She thanked the District for receiving the Lester Phren Scholarship.

Ron Peterson announced that he just received notification today that the Central Iowa Sports Commission announced that our 2010 Championship Baseball Team is one of five finalists for "Team of the Year". More information will be sent out tomorrow to vote for our team. Congratulations!

Harper requested this information to be in the newsletter. Mr. Crozier announced a successful turnout for the Staff Jeans Fundraiser before Christmas. The Staff raised \$1,100 to be donated to families in our District. He noticed a lot of giving going on from the staff and community members.

Mr. Wood announced that the projectors donated by the PTO were all installed over Winter Break in the PK-6 classrooms. He wanted to thank Miller Electric for the timely work and for our MStM Custodial Staff for their hard work in finishing up the installation and clean up. They did a great job!! The teachers are very excited about the projectors and have been finding new ways of using them. The PTO is excited about providing document cameras for the staff next year. Thank you again to the PTO for their donations and hard work with their fundraisers.

IV. Public Comments - none

V. Old Business

- A. Reports

1) Facilities Report – Newsum discussed a range of issues and the need to set up a meeting with the Facilities Committee. One of the issues is discussing the use of the school space and a possible fee schedule. Bunch reviewed with the Board that there is a process and a form to complete. There is no charge to those that live in our District but to pay for a custodial fee. Multiple discussions have been made about what it fair to charge. It is difficult to have a one fee schedule for all requests. We also need to realize that we can't be open 24-7 because we would need to increase the hours of our custodians.

2) MStM Music Booster Minutes – Minutes were provided from the December 14, 2010 meeting.

3) MStM Athletic Booster Minutes – Minutes were provided from the November 11, 2010 meeting.

4) MStM PTO Minutes – Minutes were provided from the December 14, 2010 meeting.

B. Presentations

- 1) Principal's Report Tom Wood

Character Counts! Students Demonstrating Responsibility

- PK: Kaylie Moes and Jackson Wiles
- K: Emery Gibson and Jack Connor
- 1<sup>st</sup>: Jaclyn Kleve and Kate Puderbaugh
- 2<sup>nd</sup>: Baize Gibson and Brooks Trom
- 3<sup>rd</sup>: Grace Hart and Brynn Olson
- 4<sup>th</sup>: Kailyn DiCesare and Katelyn Amfahr
- 5<sup>th</sup>: Gabby Briney and Conner Boehler
- 6<sup>th</sup>: Dakota Gibson and Kaci Sherwood

Projectors were installed in all PK-6 classrooms and the elementary library. The PTO funded the project with the intention of adding document cameras next year. Maintenance completed all work over Winter Break. Thank you for your donation and hard work!!

ITBS testing will take place January 31-February 10. The Elementary will again follow the two week schedule to break up the test times into smaller parts. Mr. Wood received positive feedback in the past about stretching out the tests.

Mr. Wood provided an update on the Daycare program. It was recommended by



the Board a year ago to save costs and reduce expenses. After having the parents complete a survey it was decided to raise the daycare rates \$10. Hours were cut back, no raises were given to daycare staff, parents provided snacks and supplies when needed, and now the balance of the Daycare Fund is just over \$19,000. It was discussed that we need to look at the balance again at the end of the school year before deciding to raise or lower rates. The current balance will help cover the spring break and summer expenses that include salaries, adding a staff member, field trips, breakfast, lunch and snacks, and other activities. Another factor that needs to be considered is the number of students which is an unknown. Newsum commented that the goal of the Board was not to make a profit but to break even. Shutt commented that we have to operate the Daycare program as a business and not lose money.

## 2) Principal's Report Mike Crozier

Mr. Crozier informed the Board that ITED testing will take place January 31 – February 3, 2011. The first three days will be for the important tests, like reading, math, and science as the first test of the day. The Seniors will have the option to take the Work Key test.

Mr. Crozier informed the Board about the Every Fifteen Minute Program. The program stages a car accident in the parking lot, students will be staged in the car accident, fire and rescue will be involved, police officers and a funeral director will also be involved. Every fifteen minutes a student will be pulled from class to represent another death and be isolated from the other students. Concerns are for the students who would not be comfortable in taking part in the program. The possible cost of this program could be about \$2,000 to cover the video production of the program. Mr. Crozier would like to conduct the program before Prom and Graduation.

The yearbook contract needs to be renewed. Mr. Crozier informed the Board that Amy Sowder is very happy with the current vendor, Jostens, and recommends we approve a 3-year contract and not a 5-year contract. The contract is \$7,228 each year.

Mr. Crozier and Ron Peterson informed the Board that the neighboring schools are not willing to share soccer with us this year due to a class change. For them to accept our students it would mean a bump up in a class

for them. Currently, there are only two students who have an interest in soccer.

Mr. Crozier discussed with the Board finding a solution in the supervision of the wrestling cheerleaders. Currently, Sara Franey is the Cheerleading Sponsor for all sports. In years past, we had two Cheerleading Sponsors. It was agreed with Franey that she would not be required to go to all away and Saturday wrestling matches. Coach Sweet agreed that the cheerleaders could ride the team bus to the matches but he would not be able to supervise them during the matches. Manda Gibson has volunteered to help with this situation. Mr. Crozier is recommending looking into hiring a second Cheerleading Sponsor or finding a volunteer for next year and discussing this more during budget time.

## December Students of the Month:

7<sup>th</sup> Kyla Morris  
8<sup>th</sup> Alex Kim  
9<sup>th</sup> Kaitlyn Belieu  
10<sup>th</sup> Katie Schrodt  
11<sup>th</sup> Jacob Hines  
12<sup>th</sup> Cori Williamson

## 3) Curriculum Director's Report

Josh Moser

Mr. Moser informed the Board about the upcoming Professional Development on February 16, 2011. He provided the sampling of staff responses to the book *Whatever It Takes* that included characteristics of Professional Learning Centers (PLC), barriers, students, parents and community, curriculum, instruction and assessment, current realities, suggestions for implementation and improvement, and lingering questions. These responses will be reviewed with the staff at the Professional Development Day on the 16<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Moser has also invited a speaker from the AEA to join the staff on the 16<sup>th</sup> to discuss mental illness that is left out of many discussions but it is important to recognize. They will also be screening the movie "Waiting for Superman" that will depict several takes on current education.

Mr. Moser will be attending a Curriculum Network meeting in February where they will discuss new standards for the Iowa Core Curriculum.

Mr. Moser provided updated information about the Quest Mini-Grant applications that have been submitted.

4) Superintendent's Report  
Supt. Newsum

Supt. Newsum informed the Board that the Winterset Meeting was rescheduled to January 19<sup>th</sup>. This regional meeting is to consider ways our districts can work together to operate more efficiently and better serve our students. Bunch and Harper will be able to attend. He discussed briefly the Communication Committee meeting that met prior to the Board Meeting and ways they will be working on how to promote our District. He discussed with the Board that he located the Board Goals for 2008-2011 that were updated a year ago and a workshop meeting will be set up to update the goals again.

Supt. Newsum received a formal request from the Martensdale St. Marys Education Association to begin negotiations for 2011-2012 in February 2011. We agreed to delay our initial negotiations proposal until after the legislature sets the allowable growth new money for FY12. Bunch requested to start working on the Classified Master Contract prior to negotiations. An Employee Relations meeting was set for January 26, 2011 at 5:00.

Supt. Newsum provided to the Board information provided by the IASB at a January 4<sup>th</sup> AEA Superintendent's meeting regarding the upcoming legislative session. It is being predicted that the legislature will set the allowable growth for FY12 at 2% and will fully fund it at that level. Additional information was provided regarding IPERS. Beginning July 1, 2011, the amount of money districts must contribute into the IPERS retirement program will increase by 2%.

Supt. Newsum informed the Board that the Instructional Support Program for the MStM District will need to be renewed. The Instructional Support Program is funded by a combination of property taxes and Iowa income tax surtax providing about \$229,000 to the General Fund. These funds can be used for general fund expenses and personnel. He reviewed the Boards options and timelines and recommended that we begin the process of promoting it for the voters and include it in the September 2011 election. Supt. Newsum recommended

starting the process at the February Board Meeting.

VI. New Business

A. Personnel Recommendation  
Supt. Newsum

Gibson motioned to approve the Paula Smith as the new Special Ed Transportation Associate for our special education student that is transported to Woodward Granger, seconded by Shutt. Roll call: 4 ayes.

B. Personnel Resignation  
Supt. Newsum

Harper motioned to approve Jon Fitzpatrick's resignation as Junior High Baseball Coach for the 2011 season, seconded by Gibson. Roll call: 4 ayes. There is currently no replacement.

C. Approve Yearbook Contract  
Supt. Newsum

Shutt motioned to approve the 3 year contact with Jostens, seconded by Harper. Roll call: 4 ayes

D. Approve Every 15 Minute Program  
Supt. Newsum

Gibson motioned to approve the Every 15 Minute Program with the expenditures up to \$2,000, seconded by Harper. Roll call: 4 ayes

E. Discuss/Approve Superintendent Search  
Supt. Newsum

Bunch informed the Board that we tabled a discussion about finding a permanent solution for the Superintendent's position and that it is time to decide whether or not we bring John Della Vedova back to start the search or continue with the interim status. Bunch asked Mr. Wood, Mr. Crozier, and Ms. Gavin how things have been going so far having an Interim Superintendent and we all agreed that we have had a very smooth start for the school year and are very pleased with the current set up. The Administrators have not seen or heard of any issues and it will help the District financially as well. Shutt motioned to table the search of a full time Superintendent and continue with the current Interim Superintendent position for FY12, seconded by Harper. Roll call: 4 ayes

F. Discuss/Approve Robert Newsum as Interim Superintendent for FY12  
Supt. Newsum

Harper motioned to approve Dr. Robert Newsum as the Interim Superintendent for FY12, seconded by Gibson. Roll call: 4 ayes

G. Review/Approve 2009-2010 Audit  
Supt. Newsum

Gavin presented to the Board the 2009-2010 Audit provided by Nolte, Cornman, and Johnson. The audit reveals that the District is sound financially and the trends are generally moving in a positive direction. Harper motioned to approve the 2009-2010 Audit findings, seconded by Shutt. Roll call: 4 ayes

H. Confirm – Next Meeting Dates  
Supt. Newsum

02/09/11 – Agenda subcommittee by e-mail  
02/10/11 – 5:00 p.m. Board Agenda Meeting  
02/14/11 – 5:00 p.m. Board Meeting

Further discussion was made regarding communication to the public, responding to community emails, and the chain of command when responding to the public. No decision has been made by the Arbitrator in the Clark case.

The following meetings were scheduled:  
January 19 – Facilities Meeting at 4:00  
January 26 – Employee Relations Meeting at 5:00  
February 7 – District Community Communication Meeting 7-8:30 p.m.  
February 10 – Agenda Meeting at 5:00  
February 14 – Board Meeting at 5:00 – note time change.

VII. Adjournment

Gibson motioned to adjourn the meeting seconded by Harper. Roll call: 4 ayes. Time: 7:35 p.m.

APPROVED

  
Nicol Bunch  
Board President

  
J. C. Gavin  
Business Manager

It is the policy of the Martensdale-St. Marys Community School District not to illegally discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, disability, religion, creed, age (for employment), marital status (for programs), sexual orientation, gender identity, and socioeconomic status (for programs) in its educational programs and its employment practices.

There is a grievance procedure for processing complaints of discrimination. If you have questions or a grievance related to this policy, please contact the district's Equity Coordinator.

MStM's Equity Coordinator is Mike Crozier, secondary principal. His address is MStM Community School, 390 Burlington, Martensdale, Iowa 50160. His phone number is 641-764-2686 and his email address is: [mike\\_crozier@m-stmarys.k12.ia.us](mailto:mike_crozier@m-stmarys.k12.ia.us)

*The Martensdale-St.Marys District Newsletter is published and disbursed by the end of the preceding month.*

*The newsletter is available for pickup in the Superintendent's office, Jiffy station and Roadside Inn. All of which are located in Martensdale.*

*Copies are also available at Kum & Go in Bevington. You may also view it on the <http://mstm.us/> website.*

*Questions or concerns may be addressed to:*

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Martensdale, Iowa 50160  
[karen\\_tomlinson@m-stmarys.k12.ia.us](mailto:karen_tomlinson@m-stmarys.k12.ia.us)*

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