

Winter 2012 Quarterly Newsletter

Happy New Year 2012:

All of us associated with the Martensdale-St. Marys Community School District have had a successful and productive first half of the 2011-2012 school year and are excited about the experiences and adventures that await us during the spring semester. The weather has been unbelievably pleasant, with virtually no snow and consistently unseasonable temperatures.

Members of the district communications advisory committee are busy analyzing the data we collected from the survey many of you completed regarding ways the district can improve efforts to provide meaningful information to you about the many programs and activities. We will include a summary of the findings from this survey in the spring newsletter. If you haven't already done so, please check out the new and improved Martensdale-St. Marys Community School District website, at www.MStM.us. We believe it has been streamlined and is much easier to navigate.

From the Desk of Mrs. Tomlinson Furness Family Fundraiser Report

The Martensdale-St. Marys staff, PTO, Music Boosters and Athletic Boosters held a chili dinner as a fundraiser for the Dean Furness family on Tuesday, December 20th, from 5:00-8:00 p.m. in the school's cafeteria. The fundraiser was held before and during the JV/V basketball games of MStM vs. the Falcons of Wayne CSD.



On December 14, Dean was involved in a serious farm accident and was air lifted to Methodist Hospital in Des Moines where he is receiving on-going treatment. Dean is not only an active MStM community member, father of three daughters that attend MStM, but also serves on the MStM School Board.

The chili supper was held as a free will donation and all of the donations went to the Furness family. Along with the chili dinner, there were many items to be raffled and also items for the silent auction. An account has been opened at City State Bank in Martensdale for any additional donations.

The support that was received for the Furness family at the chili supper was amazing! Not only did we have enough food donated to feed a small country, but our MStM community, friends, families and guests helped to raise \$6,220. Your generosity was so amazing! A special thank you goes to the Wayne CSD Falcons and their community members for their participation and support of the fundraiser.

We were especially glad that Deonne Furness, along with her extended family, was in attendance and that we were able to lend words of encouragement, hugs and support for them during this trying time. Please continue to support them in your thoughts and prayers.

Congratulations go to the entire MStM community for going above and beyond and for your continued support! Isn't it great to be an *MStM Blue Devil*?

Testimonial Regarding Mackenzie Morrison's Experiences

When we decided to transfer our daughter, Mackenzie, from Norwalk to Martensdale-St. Marys, we were met with some criticism from family and friends. They couldn't understand why we would move her from a large 3A school to a small 1A school. We had however done our research and had found that MStM was better suited to fit her needs. MStM ended up being the perfect fit, with a good balance of academics and athletics. She not only graduated with a 4.0 grade point average, and being recognized as salutatorian of her class, but got to play on a volleyball team that made it to sub-state, throw the discus at the state track meet, and play on the basketball team that was the Iowa State Champion her senior year.

She now attends a prestigious college on the east coast on a full-ride scholarship. The College of William and Mary is a Division One college that is known for its tough academics and high entrance standards. Mackenzie, with the education she received at Martensdale-St. Marys, is thriving and has been getting all A's and B's. She has felt well-prepared and able to adapt to this challenging college experience. We are thankful she attended the Martensdale-St. Marys Community School District and can't be more complimentary of the teachers, staff, and coaches for all they've done to help get her to where she is today.

Sincerely,

Pam and Mike Morrison

Mandated Food Service Price Increase

On July 13, 2011, we received an official notification from Ms. Patti Harding, Administrative Consultant, with the Iowa Department of Education Bureau of Nutrition, Health, and Transportation Services regarding federally mandated hot lunch price increases.

According to the calculator we were required to use, the Martensdale-St. Marys Community School District is below the minimum federally mandated nutrition fee level. Unless the district increases our hot lunch food prices for elementary and secondary students by five cents per meal, we will lose the reimbursement we receive for the free and reduced-price meals we serve.

Beginning on Thursday, January 12, 2012, the first day of the second semester, the price for an elementary student lunch will be \$1.65 and the price for a secondary student lunch will be \$1.85.

We do appreciate your understanding with this mandated lunch meal increase, but the district cannot afford the potential loss of free and reduced-priced lunch federal reimbursement.

Student Drop-off and Pick-up

If you are currently transporting your children to and from school each day, you can help the district bus drivers and assist in protecting our students from accidental injury by dropping your students off at the main school entrance by the superintendent's office.

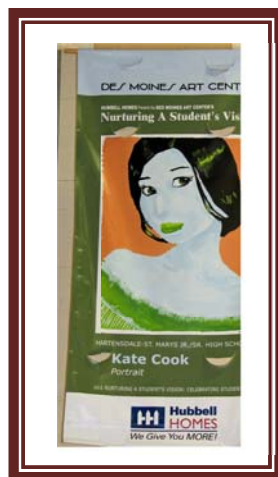
From approximately 8:00 to 8:20 each weekday morning and again from about 3:10 to 3:30 each weekday afternoon, Burlington Avenue essentially becomes a one-way westbound street. When drivers attempt to navigate the street around the parked buses during those times, students run the risk of being injured by a moving car or bus.

Taking an alternate route that bypasses Burlington Avenue in front of the elementary portion of the school would help a great deal.

Martensdale-St. Marvs Student Special Recognition First Semester 2011-2012

Several of our students have received special recognition during the first semester of the 2011-2012 school year. Listed below are students who received recognition at the conference and state levels.

Kate Cook, Martensdale-St. Marys High School senior student, for having one of her pieces of artwork selected by the Des Moines Art Center to promote their student program '2011: Nurturing a Student's Vision: Celebrating



Students K-12'. Kate's work was one of only four selected from pieces submitted by area high school art students for this promotion and the portrait has been reproduced as a large banner.

Volleyball Honors

All Pride of Iowa Conference

Riley Dunn	First Team Setter
Andria Harper	First Team Hitter
Hailey Sweet	First Team Defense
Meagan Streyffeler	Second Team Hitter

All Pride of Iowa Conference – Academic

Meagan Streyffeler	Hailey Sweet
Michaela McIlravy	Andria Harper
Hannah Schnurman	Paige Mullins
Danielle Broadbent	Katrina DeVore
Cassidy Phillips	Riley Dunn
Paitin Gavin	Elizabeth Gerdes
Vicki Kordick	

Football Honors

All-District

Austin Streyffeler	First Team Split End
Zeb Noel	First Team Tight End
Jake Anctil	First Team Offensive Line
Brad Nauman	First Team Defensive Line
Garrett Gehringer	First Team Linebacker
Tyler Reindl	First Team Defensive Back
Trent Verwers	Honorable Mention
Jacob Hines	Honorable Mention

All-District – Academic

Mitchell Brown	Miller Hatcher
Connor Dunn	Zeb Noel
Philip Hand	Daultan Gibson
Dylan Gibson	Troy Harding
Tim Snyder	Cody Harvey
Jake Anctil	Dalton Knickerbocker

All-State

Brad Nauman	First Team Defensive Line (Des Moines Register) Second Team Defensive Line (Iowa Sports Connection)
Trent Verwers	Second Team Quarterback (Iowa Sports Connection)
Jake Anctil	Third Team Offensive Line (Iowa Newspaper Association)