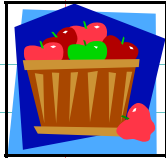




The Communicator

Notes from the Director's desk...

October 9, 2007 Issue 1



October is here already!

We have completed 26 days of school in the "blink of an eye"! We welcomed 57 students to the new school year, about sixteen less than last fall due to a large graduating class and families relocating over the course of the year/summer. We have also welcomed a few new families (3) to our community, but recruitment will be crucial as we move forward.

It is wonderful to be settling into our new "home" - no worries about moving mid-year!! **Teachers, specialists and paras** have all been busy providing all sorts of activities throughout the school day, keeping students engaged in learning as they adjusted to returning to the classroom. Now that summer is "put to bed", teachers can really zero in on their new units of study, which probably brings more homework and projects! Be sure to keep the channels of communication open with your child's teacher—it benefits everyone.

Our \$330,000 **Media Center** is complete and a very beautiful space, indeed! Please stop by to see it! We are grateful to the parents who donated their time this week to help re-shelf books in the new library as students and staff are anxious to get in

there to use it so their help certainly helped speed-up this process of moving in! We are still waiting on furniture and the Lab/TV Studio will be set up in the coming weeks— it is a little more complicated due to all the computers, etc. Next thing we will be needing to do is some creative fundraising to buy more library books.

Our **Capital Campaign** is still in full swing and it certainly keeps me (and Nan) busy! MDS has raised \$210,000 in contributions from Foundations thus far. We are very fortunate to receive these generous gifts, and it is being used to help pay off our \$900,000 in renovation costs. We will continue our campaign through December and we will be soliciting funds from our community, as well, later this fall as part of this fundraising effort.

Teachers are once again involved in **Bilingual Staff Development** after school this year (Wed.) - Levels 3 and 4, along with MNSA's teachers. It is a great tool for shaping how instruction is delivered and assessments are conducted.

Watch for a change in **lunch** vendors— we are most likely changing companies in Nov. with new menu items (same cost).

Again, we look for your continued support and participation in our programs. **Parent involvement** is at an all time low—even here at MDS, so please don't drop out— drop in!

Lisa E. and I hope to see you soon.

Dyan Sherwood

DATES TO KEEP!

- Oct. 10** Bd Meeting 5:45 P.M.
Interpreters provided
- Oct. 18** Professional Day—no school
- Oct. 19** School Closed
- Oct. 30** Pre-K –3rd to Apple Orchard @ 11:00
- Oct. 30** Picture Retakes @ 9:00
- Oct. 31** Halloween parties

Student Council News

Campaigning went on for a few weeks, elections were held and MDS' new officers are:

- President: Ellie H.
- V-President: Erika L.
- Secretary: Kaleen H.
- Treasurer: Trevor A.
- Sergeant at Arms: Kevin P.
- Advisor: Kelley Cole

Congratulations!!

Be sure to watch for upcoming events SC will be sponsoring.



We Are Part Of MN State Pride!

The MN Historical Society had a booth at this year's MN State Fair, and asked people to nominate parts of Minnesota that are a source of state pride. More than 2000 nominations were received and 150 were selected. One of those was the charter idea - because of a note from a 10 year old charter school student from MPLS. who loves

her school and what it has done for her and others.

The questions: If it were up to you, what would make the list of the 150 people, places and things that have shaped Minnesota?

Those chosen will be featured in a new exhibit and book at the History Center. It is great to know that Charter Schools are valued and seen as an important contributor in MN's history!!

Way to go!

September Students of the Month

- Kaylah V. (5th)
- Erika L. (8th)



One student from K-5 and one student from middle school is chosen each month for demonstrating good citizenship, fair sportsmanship, responsibility, good effort and respect for others.