

MGNS NEWSLETTER

May/June 2024



FROM THE SCHOOL PRESIDENT

Dear MGNS Families,

The school year is winding down, and for me, that also means my family's time at MGNS - and my time serving on the MGNS board - is winding down as well. It is very difficult to put into words how much MGNS has meant to us. My kids have learned so much here. Perhaps though, I have learned more. MGNS has taught me to be a better caregiver and parent. I have learned to be a better team player, listener, a better delegator (debatable.... :), and a better recognizer of others talents. Mainly what I have gained is gratitude; gratitude for a program that keeps it all about the kids. Truly, I could not have imagined a better way for my children to spend their "birth to 5" years. I have come to deeply understand that keeping play and wonder in our kids' lives as much and as long as possible is so important. Working and volunteering for a school that values play-based learning so highly has been an eye opener and experience that I'll carry with me forever.

The people I have had the privilege to work with over the years are simply outstanding. Thank you to all our teaching staff who make it look so effortless, but really do put in tons of effort to create a play-based environment in which children can really thrive. Thank you to all the board members who have served this year and years past. It's easy to be the "leader" when the team you're working with steps up, goes above and beyond, and thinks deeply about how to continue the mission of MGNS in the best possible way. Next year's board has a great mix of incoming and veteran members and I have no doubt whatsoever, our new president, Maria Keegan, will do a fabulous job. Change is good :). I also have to offer a giant THANK YOU to our School Director, Sue Carr. I have learned so much working closely with her over the past years. So many things happen behind the scenes to ensure MGNS remains the child-focused, wonderful school it is. And we largely have Sue to thank for that. And, of course, MGNS is nothing without all of our wonderful families. So thank YOU for sending your kids - YOUR AMAZING KIDS - to MGNS.

CALENDAR

May 6-10 – Teacher Appreciation Week

May 22 – Ian's Pizza 5-9pm

May 6 – Starfish Field Trip

May 7 – Dolphins Field Trip

May 10 – Penguins Field Trip

May 15 – Sea Otters Field Trip

May 29 – Pick Up Brats & Pretzels 1-4pm

JUN 5 – End-of-Year Picnic Starfish Picnic 9-11am

JUN 6 – End-of-Year Picnics
Penguins Picnic 9-11am
Dolphins Picnic 9-11am
Sea Otters Picnic 1-3pm

They are the heart and soul and the reason we do what we do, and why it was never ever "too much" for me to spend my time volunteering on behalf of the school. Thank you.

It has been an honor to serve on the MGNS board for 6 years and to serve as your president for 4 of them. I'll still be around the school as both a Toddler Time teacher and our yoga teacher next year. It will feel different to have my children moving on, but I feel entirely grateful for the memories we have made and the experiences they have been afforded. And I am grateful to continue to be able to remain a part of this organization. It's been a roller coaster - up and downs, highs and lows, but a thrill the whole time. High fives all around. Have an awesome summer!

Sincerely,
Kathryn Mingione
(Outgoing) MGNS Board President

FUNDRAISERS

The Silent Auction was a great success! Everyone who showed up to support the school was outstanding! Thank you for all your bids and the commitment to MGNS. We made over \$8,000!! We have 3 remaining items that are up for grabs for "best offer." If you are interested in these items, please reach out Denay and Claire at fundraising@mgns.org by **May 15**. The highest offer wins!

- Digman Fitness: A \$100 gift card for one-on-one personal training and body assessment
- Kicks Unlimited Karate Birthday Party: Worth \$250. This gift certificate is good for a Karate Birthday Party for up to 10 kids. Includes 90 minutes of instructor-led activity, fun games and invitations. Sun Prairie, Fitchburg or Stoughton locations
- Wisconsin Timber Rattlers Tickets: Worth \$56 for 4 reserved seats. Attend a game of your choice from the 2024 minor league baseball season of the Wisconsin Timber Rattlers! Home games are played at the Fox Cities Stadium located in Appleton, WI.

We made over \$1200 for the school! Our combined Rackow's Brats and Milwaukee's Pretzels fundraiser order forms are in and your orders are in the works! All items will be delivered and available for pick up **Wednesday May 29 from 1-4pm** (flexibility may be needed as the exact pretzel delivery time will not be confirmed until that day due to items being delivered via UPS). Provide one check for all items sold made out to "MGNS". **Please make every effort to pick up your items from fellowship hall on May 29 as there is limited storage at the school.** Consider asking a friend if you can't make it to pick up!

Our last fundraising event of the year will be at Ian's Pizza for the final Dough-nation night on **May 22 from 5-9pm at the Garver Feed Mill** location! [Show the flyer](#) on your phone when placing your order. The more people who show up to support the school, the larger percentage of sales we get!

TEACHER NOTES

Please bring an extra pair of shoes! When kids play in the sandbox or in the garden boxes outside, we like them to change their shoes when they come in so that we don't track all of that into the classroom.

And, again as it begins to warm up, remember that our playground still might be a little chilly! Better that they have too many clothes outside than not enough!

Remember! MGNS has rainsuits and boots on a rack in the hall! You are welcome to help yourself at any time! We get Messy in the spring.



We are looking forward to our school trips to Aldo Leopold Nature Center! Again, we will each MEET OUR CLASSES at the Nature Center at their class start time, and we will release the kids from the Nature Center at their pick up time. All kids are welcome to bring one grown up along! Please read the field trip expectations sent home by your teachers in the weekly wrap up.

Monday, May 6 – Starfish

Tuesday, May 7 – Dolphins

Friday, May 10 – Penguins

Wednesday, May 15 – Sea Otters

END-OF-YEAR PICNIC

Our school year ends with a class/family picnic each year on the last day of school. We meet you at a park, and you stay or go as long as you please- adults must be with kids.

It's a fun time to chat and reminisce and make connections for the summer.

Wednesday, June 5 – Starfish at Lake Edge Park 9-11am

Thursday, June 6 – Dolphins at Lake Edge Park 9-1 am

Thursday, June 6 – Sea Otters at Lake Edge Park 1-3 pm

Thursday, June 6 – Penguins at Bridge Road Park from 9-11am



TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK MAY 6-10

Sending lots of love to ALL of the staff members and subs who are a part of our school. This school simply could not function without the above and beyond attitude of every single one of you. SO a huge shout out to all of the women who make this place tick.

Staff members: Juli, Jodi, Dawn, Sarah, Kate, Patrice, Sue, Kathryn, Maureen, Laura, Katie

And our fabulous subs! Maria, Gigi, Chyna, Sarah T, Ellen, Robin, and Rebekah. THANK YOU!

SUMMER RESOURCES

We have ordered Nature Net Booklets for each of our preschool and 4K students and we encourage you to get out there and see all the parts of the booklet and explore all that our area has to offer in the outdoors.

UW Extension is offering free or low cost parenting classes this summer! Many of them are virtual and could be helpful for you and your family situation. Check it out here: <https://parenting.extension.wisc.edu/>

Don't forget to sign up for your local library's summer reading program. Great way to motivate kids to read or be read to this summer! Here is Monona Library's program: <https://www.mymonona.com/789/Reading-Program>

And here is a comprehensive look at the Madison Library's "WE READ" program and a reminder of what is offered there! <https://www.madisonpubliclibrary.org/weread>

FROM THE SCHOOL DIRECTOR

It is hard for me to believe that we are again nearing the end of another school year! We thank all of you for sharing your children with us. For those of you who will be returning in the fall, watch for an email coming soon about our new enrollment software (Pro-Care) and other information about getting your kiddo all set up!

And we do want to be upfront and say that our building is for sale by Lake Edge UCC. That means, when you return in the fall, we may have a new landlord. We have a lease for a couple of years and we are hoping to extend that for many years to come with our new landlords. We will keep you posted!

It is always hard to say goodbye to our friends who are moving on, whether it be to kindergarten or to other places. But we know that you all have a great basis of social-emotional, play based skills to launch you on that journey. Parents, remember that we are always here to support you, especially in your advocacy for more play, fewer screens, and more time outside in your child's day.

Several members of our board will be moving on too. It is so hard to express the thanks I have for Robin Smekal, Denay Czerniecki and Jake Kozelek for their incredibly hard work on the board this year! And for those board members who are staying on – Thank You! You will be joined by Jordan Skoda, Nicole Blattner, Veronica Willsey, Karina Farrey and Sarah Thompson. Thank you to those folks for raising their hand to get more involved with our school.

Finally, having worked with Kathryn Mingione on the board for 6 years, I cannot thank her enough for her incredible commitment, energy, time, and smart thinking. She and I have had many long discussions about so many complicated parts of this school, and I have always felt challenged, supported, and I have laughed a lot! I feel so happy that she will remain a part of the MGNS orbit as a Toddler Time teacher and our Yoga instructor. From the bottom of my heart, I thank her for her service to our organization.

Sue Carr