

MGNS NEWSLETTER

April 2025



CALENDAR

APR 4 – Spring Fling Online Registration Starts

APR 10 – Volunteers are needed to move tables & chairs

APR 12 – Spring Fling Breakfast 9-11 AM & Spring Fling Auction ends 9 PM

APR 14 – Volunteers are needed to return tables & chairs

APR 16 – Silent Auction items Pick Up 11:30 -12:30

APR 17 – Silent Auction items Pick Up 11:30 -12:30

May 2 – No School Dolphins & Sea Otters

May 5 – Starfish Field Trip

May 7 – Dolphins Field Trip

May 8 – Penguins AM Field Trip & Sea Otters PM Field Trip



FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT

Spring is blooming, and with it comes the much-anticipated **Spring Fling**, a morning of delicious pancakes, toe-tapping tunes from **David Landau**, and strong community spirit.

But the Spring Fling is more than just pancakes and music. It's a pivotal moment as we launch our **Capital Campaign**, a crucial initiative that will shape the future of MGNS. To kickstart this exciting endeavor, we're hosting a fantastic **Silent Auction** featuring a wide array of incredible items, experiences and even purchasing items for our new school. This is your opportunity to snag amazing deals while making a meaningful contribution to our school.

Every dollar raised from the Spring Fling and Silent Auction will directly fuel our Capital Campaign, enabling us to successfully move to our new space and implement vital improvements. This is your chance to leave a lasting legacy and invest in a brighter future for MGNS students. We are thrilled to embark on this journey with you and look forward to celebrating together at the Spring Fling!

Warmly,
Maria Keegan
Board President



MGNS BOARD OF DIRECTORS SPOTLIGHT

Beth - Beth is in her 4th (I think) year on the board! She has previously served as vice president and currently advertising coordinator. Beth and family love MGNS and have attended for the past 6 years with all 4 children (Molly 9, Sadie 7, Nina and Rose 4!) Outside of being a stay-at-home parent Beth loves waterskiing and participates on the Mad City Ski Team with her family - come see a show on Sunday nights in the summer in front of Monona Terrace! Beth lives in Monona with her wife, daughters and their beloved dog Tinkerbell!

MGNS has an exciting time ahead as we plan for our future in our new space. We are officially launching our capital campaign "*Same Heart, New Start; Help us pave the way to 65 more years of play!*" this month! This year, all funds from the spring fling silent auction will be dedicated to the capital campaign. This will give us a strong start... but the silent auction is just the beginning! Our campaign team has put in countless hours researching, designing, applying for grants, and connecting with alumni. This is an all-hands-on-deck endeavor for our small and mighty school and there are many ways you can help:

- Does your employer offer a match for your donation?
- Do you know of companies or organizations that have contributed to early-childhood education?
- Do you have other ways to give and want to learn more about tax incentives for donating to a non-profit 501c3 organization like MGNS?
- Do you have family or friends with a passion for high-quality, child-centered programming with whom you could share our message?

The long, successful, (and play-full!) legacy of MGNS will continue because of our amazing community. Thank you for being a part of our story. Let's share the message and set MGNS up for an amazing future for generations of kids to come! Let's make it happen! Reach to Capital Campaign Lead, Kathryn Premo Mingione with questions (play@mgns.org) or donate at mgns.org/capital-campaign/ today!

FUNDRAISERS

Your favorite MGNS fundraiser is back again! This year our **silent auction** proceeds will go directly towards the renovation of our new space. Even if you don't see an item you want for yourself, you can still support our renovation by donating to buy us an item for our new space (a cubby, a toilet, a loft!). It all goes to support our capital campaign fund for our "forever home"! [Auction link](#).

Bid high, bid often and know you're supporting a great cause: MGNS! Ready, Set.....BID!

SPRING FLING **AUCTION ENDS** on **April 12** at **9 pm**. **PICK UP** items on **April 16 & 17** from **11:30-12:30**.

Spring Fling Event! Bring the whole family and enjoy an all-you-can-eat pancake breakfast and live-concert to celebrate the last day of the Spring Fling auction!

Join us in celebrating the memories made in our current space and help support our future space! Enjoy pancakes, sausage, and fruit (coffee for grown-ups too!) in Fellowship Hall and visit our classrooms and playground. David Landau will begin his live concert at 9:45am.

Spring Fling is **Saturday, 12 April** from **9–11am**. Register online before **April 4**.

Adults - \$6 each (age 18+)

Children - \$4 each (ages 3-17)

Young Children – free (age 2 and younger)

<https://forms.gle/ghFpSSyok2tQyTQA>



A Heartfelt Thank You! We are beyond grateful to everyone who joined us for our Dine Out Day at Waypoint. Thanks to the incredible support of our amazing families, we raised an incredible \$700! Your participation helps us strengthen and grow MGNS, and we couldn't do it without you. Together, we're making a lasting impact—thank you for being part of our community!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

MGNS no longer has access to the tables and chairs belonging to our current landlord, LEUCC. For the spring fling, we will be borrowing tables and chairs from our new location landlord, Lake Edge Lutheran Church. We need **VOLUNTEERS** to help **move** those tables/chairs on the morning of **Thursday, April 10**, and **return** them on the morning of **Monday, April 14**. If you can help, please let Sue know at director@mgns.org.

CORAL THE NATURE STORYTELLER

Coral the Nature Storyteller will be returning to our school for one more round of Stories, sharing and creating based on the rhythms of spring. We will be making nature wands and hearing about how spring evolves each year. We love Coral, and encourage you to follow her various nature based educational events around town. [Coral the Nature Storyteller](#)

- Dolphins and Starfish with Coral at MGNS - April 22
- Penguins and Sea Otters with Coral at MGNS - April 24



ALDO LEOPOLD NATURE CENTER FIELD TRIP

Important! Our field trip to ALNC is an all morning or afternoon trip and your kids need to be dropped off and picked up at ALNC. All children are invited to bring an adult along, but if not, drop off and pick up is at the same time as classtime! Be prepared to be outside the whole time and if a grown up is coming along, please review our field trip guidelines [here](#). Your teaching team will send you a sign up and more information!

Monday, May 5 – Starfish morning

Wednesday, May 7 – Dolphin morning

Thursday, May 8 – Penguins morning

Thursday, May 8 – Sea Otters afternoon

HELPFUL NEWS FROM THE TEACHERS

We are loving all of the outside time and all of the water/mud/sandbox play. Please remember to pack indoor shoes for your kiddos. Also now is the time to double check those extra clothes! Even with boots and rainsuits, we sometimes get wet feet and pants so extra socks and extra pants feel good when we head inside! Feel free to use the rainsuits and borrow rain boots if you forget them.

YARD SIGN EXTRAVAGANZA!

We can't thank you enough for your support and involvement—you truly helped make this event so much fun and very successful! We appreciate each and every one of you more than words can say! If you haven't had a chance to return your sign yet, no worries at all! Just drop it off at Sue's office at the school whenever it's convenient for you.

Thanks again for being part of it!

Thank you to everyone who attended our parent meetings this past month! We had engaging discussions on important parenting topics and lively participation from our parents. A special thank you to Mary Sue Reutebuch from Whole Child Parenting and Bonnie Winkofsky from 4-C for sharing valuable resources with our community. You can find these resources, along with their contact information, below. If you have any questions about the parent meetings, please feel free to reach out to Nicole B at: vicepresident@mgns.org.

From Whole Child Parenting with Mary Sue:

- How to Raise Happy & Successful Kids with Grit:
<https://reimaginepeacefulparenting.com/raise-kids-grit/> * Parent Coach and Educators
- The Hard Thing Rule:
<https://www.thetwentypercenter.com/the-hard-thing-rule/> From a Leadership Perspective
- Positive Discipline: <https://www.positivediscipline.com/blog-category/parents>

Books:

- Grit: The Power of Passion and Perseverance - Author: Angela Duckworth
- Positive Discipline - Author: Jane Nelson
- Raising Self Reliant Children in a Self Indulgent World - Author: Jane Nelson and Stephen Glenn
- Emmanuel's Dream - Author: Laurie Ann Thompson Recommended For: Primary (K through 3rd grade)

Mary Sue Reutebuch

Email: marysue@wholechildparenting.org

[Website](#)

Bonnie is a trainer and the Manager of the Training and Quality Improvement Services at 4-C in Madison. She has earned an associate's degree in child development, a bachelor's degree in liberal arts, and a master's degree in educational administration and supervision. Prior to Bonnie's work at 4-C she was a group child care director/owner, a private elementary school Principal, and a non credit instructor at a technical college.

- Five for Families: <https://fiveforfamilies.org/the-5-strengths/>
- General resources from 4-C: <https://www.4-c.org/families/>

Bonnie Winkofsky

TQIS Manager

608-216-7040

bonnie.winkofsky@4-c.org



POSITIVE SOLUTIONS

This month's resource from our Positive Solutions for Families library is about being in a restaurant with a kiddo. This is such a common time for behavior issues, and the PFS approach of "Prevent, Respond, Teach" can be helpful. Please enjoy this month's topic, and also reach out if you need some tips and tricks for other situations. [Restaurants - Positive Solutions for Families](#)

We are getting so excited about our move to LELC right down the block! The plans are really coming together! Thank you to everyone who has signed up on our Google form ([linked](#)) to help pack, unpack, paint, do light construction, etc. Please add your name if you can join in the fun!

We are looking to line up a few things for summer. Can you help?

Currently we are looking for:

- **Standard moving boxes & plastic tote** donations (new or good condition) – as you go throughout your spring cleaning, please keep MGNS in mind for any plastic totes or standard moving boxes you are looking to repurpose. Please also keep an eye out on neighborhood websites, Buy Nothing, etc... This will help us reduce moving costs.
- **Trailer or flatbeds**- There are a few items from the playground and classrooms we need to move ourselves. We are looking to line up some trailers or flatbeds to use later this summer. If you have a trailer or flatbed and are willing to help, we would be forever grateful! Date and time can be flexible.
- **Volunteers who are able and willing to build a large outdoor shed** (~9ft x 12 ft)- Do you want to be part of a team who will build our new storage shed? We will be building this over the summer. Date TBD.

Please reach out to Sue if you can help with any of these. Thank you for your consideration!

We need our whole community! Can you help pack, unpack, paint, hammer, landscape, etc? Please share any ideas you have about the new space, playground, the move, possible funding—anything! — via this form (QR code at right): bit.ly/4av3rrq

