Prairie View Elementary Receives National Blue Ribbon Award

It was a cold January day. Tracy Stockwell, principal of Prairie View Elementary School, was working in her office when she received a phone call. The caller informed her that Prairie View was one of just eight schools in Wisconsin that had been nominated for recognition as a 2014 National Blue Ribbon School.

“Because our focus is on our students and not on winning awards, I was completely shocked when I learned Prairie View had been nominated,” Stockwell said.

The U.S. Department of Education’s National Blue Ribbon Schools Program annually honors America’s schools that embody success and exemplify academic excellence.

Stockwell is quick to note that Prairie View earned the prestigious nomination because of broad community involvement.

“Prairie View is privileged to have involved parents as enthusiastic partners in the educational process,” she said. “Our family-oriented culture really promotes cooperation and true engagement among staff members, students, their families and the greater community.”

Being nominated for the award began a lengthy process that involved completing a comprehensive 44-page application that was reviewed by the U.S. Department of Education.

Weeks passed until the news arrived. On Sept. 30, Stockwell was able to announce to staff and students – with utmost joy and excitement – that the application had been accepted and Prairie View would join Section Elementary School (which received the same award in 2010) as a National Blue Ribbon School.

“This award is a testament to the support parents give to our school,” Stockwell said, “and we proudly represent all of our district’s schools as a 2014 National Blue Ribbon School.”

“We continuously strive to differentiate and individualize our teaching approach, helping the whole child experience success.”

- Tracy Stockwell, Principal

“This award is a testament to the support parents give to our school,” Stockwell said, “and we proudly represent all of our district’s schools as a 2014 National Blue Ribbon School.”

“We put our hearts and souls into what we do and this award affirms that we are going in the right direction,” said Kim Struve, a second grade teacher at Prairie View.

“Our staff realizes that success looks different for each student in our care,” Stockwell said. “We continuously strive to differentiate >>
Did You Know? - MHS was named to the National College Board’s 4th AP Honor Roll

The hallways of Mukwonago Schools were filled with students taking advantage of summer learning opportunities. Summer school has become an increasingly popular way to spend the summer months with more than 1,500 classes taken this summer.

Over 500 middle school and high school students maintained their fitness over the summer months by participating in strength and conditioning classes or independent physical education courses. Others experienced online learning in financial literacy class. Credit recovery classes were offered for middle school and high school classes to ensure on-time graduation.

Middle school students participated in exploratory summer school classes to increase their understanding of computers, equations and expressions, geometry, financial literacy, Spanish, and STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics). Students also expanded their art skills by creating murals and mixed media.

Music could be heard in the halls of schools throughout the district as students learned instruments during Jump Start week, took band and orchestra lessons, and participated in marching band.

Teachers also participated in summer learning. Sixty-five MASD teachers gained 21st Century teaching and learning skills this summer by participating in the Interactiv Conference sponsored by Burlington Area School District, MASD, and UW–Whitewater. They joined approximately 300 other teachers, student teachers, and university instructors who learned skills needed to teach 21st century learners.

Teachers attending Interactiv had an opportunity to expand their knowledge base, share ideas, and create lessons for use in their classrooms. They developed plans to use digital tools, collaborative technology, and personalized learning to prepare students for the ever-changing expectations of college and careers.

- Contributed by Mary Koski, Ph.D. Director of Student Learning

New I.T. Academy Coming to MHS

Mukwonago High School will be launching an Information Technology Academy in the 2015-16 school year. Students in the academy will be a part of the whole student body but will take a sequence of classes and electives which have an IT focus. In addition to the standard requirements for graduation, IT Academy students will meet a set of requirements including participation in a capstone project and an internship with local partners.

As Principal Jim Darin describes, “It will be like these students have a major while in high school. Students in the IT Academy will be able to personalize their learning to align with the interests and skills which suit them best.”

MHS is in a unique position to help prepare students interested in IT/CS careers because it is the only high school in Wisconsin with three certified Computer Science teachers. Additionally, MHS is one of only 29 high schools in the state (out of 400+) which offer AP Computer Science.

A record number of MHS students (185) took one or more computer science courses this past year; the school has enjoyed outstanding success in computer instruction for over 15 years. - Contributed by James Darin

Principal, Mukwonago High School
Big Bend’s Artful Endeavors Earn Top Recognition

Artsonia, the world’s largest online kids’ art museum, recently recognized Big Bend Elementary School art teacher Amy Kratochvil for outstanding leadership in the area of Arts Education. Big Bend’s art program has ranked in the top ten in Wisconsin for eleven consecutive years.

Last school year, the BBES art gallery showcased 3,630 pieces of artwork which were viewed a total of 188,113 times and received 546 comments. Mrs. Kratochvil was one of ten teachers in the nation to receive Artsonia’s Annual Leadership Award honoring teachers who encourage family and community involvement in Arts Education. BBES is proud to applaud Mrs. Kratochvil, her student artists, and their supportive families and staff. The community is invited to view artwork on the Artsonia website at http://tinyurl.com/k3c83xc

Section Elementary Breaks Ground with IPLC for Personalized Learning

Section Elementary is leading a paradigm shift for the Mukwonago Area School District through its Innovative Personalized Learning Community (IPLC) program, now in its second year. One third of Section’s students (136) are enrolled in the IPLC program which focuses on adaptable learning experiences targeted more on a student’s actual progress and learning versus completing the same set of tasks or assignments for all students in that grade.

In an IPLC classroom, students experience more assessments and have greater choice options as they demonstrate competency with skills. The one-to-one access to technology plays a huge role in providing opportunities for assessments, remediation, inquiry/research, writing, and sharing. Chromebooks are the device of choice for the older students while a mixture of use with Chromebooks and iPads takes place with younger pupils.

Section’s IPLC is divided into two groupings: 1st-3rd grade and 4th-6th grade. Each learning community consists of a double-sized classroom plus one additional breakout room. Within those rooms, students work with three classroom teachers; sometimes they are with their own grade level and other times with mixed-grade groupings.

“Reading is the student’s lifeline to tasks rather than the teacher’s organization and structure being the lifeline.”

- Section School Staff

A strong sense of community exists and students collaborate in learning. Community meetings are held to allow for the group to process its successes and areas in need of change. Students are often afforded freedoms ranging from where and with whom to sit to a menu of homework options and “voice and choice” in assignments.

In analyzing initial year data, Section found that the IPLC students kept pace with, and in some cases exceeded, testing performance of the students not in the program. (continued on p. 8)
Community Partnerships + Students = SUCCESS

The Mukwonago schools and community value the abilities of all students and strive to develop productive workers and good citizens. In recent years, significant partnerships formed which provide resources to our students, families, and community.

School health services include a partnership with ProHealth Community Outreach nursing staff to give parents assistance connecting with medical and dental care, counseling, and community resources for family needs. This year, partnerships have been expanded to include working with the new Mukwonago Community Resource Center to provide easy access to food, clothing, and health care.

To ensure students have the necessary supplies for school, MASD partnered with the Waukesha County Backpack Coalition, collecting and distributing school supplies for community youth. PVMS Principal Mark Doome coordinated this highly successful collection for MASD students. In addition, community clubs such as the Lions and area churches donated school supplies and funds to support student success.

Two informational guest speaker workshop series, Parents United and Get Connected, continue to provide free information on mental health and special needs topics provided by area experts. Finally, additional partnerships have supported prevocational development including Market Day, Jo-To-Go, and Puppy Love Bakery which are businesses operated by students with special needs and which provide "real work" venues where youth learn teamwork, problem-solving and essential communication skills.

MASD schools are proud of their partnerships and are always looking for new opportunities; interested partners are encouraged to contact the district.

-Midwokwago School District Combines Success AND Lower Tax Burden

The 2014-15 MASD budget includes a tax levy reduction of 2.0%. This is the fourth consecutive year that the district has lowered the property tax burden for area residents.

Over the past four years, the tax levy has decreased by 4.39%.

Additional financial information can be found on the district website: www.masd.k12.wi.us.

Middle School

At Park View Middle School, desired behaviors are reinforced and taught through the Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) program. Park View calls its PBIS program "The Mustang Way: Respect Yourself, Others, and Your Environment".

Park View created a variety of lessons and activities known as Cool Tools to address various character traits and help promote "The Mustang Way" throughout the school year. A different Cool Tool each month focuses on respect, health and wellness, courage, optimism, integrity, diversity, citizenship, compassion, and responsibility.

These traits are often linked to state observance days, current events, and various service projects done by groups and clubs at PVMS. In September, for example, the "Mustang Roundup" teaches the Cool Tools in the actual locations where skills are most needed throughout the building, such as courtesy in the hallways or neatness in the cafeteria. Additionally, PVMS

Did You Know? The MASD Annually Hosts Regional and State Level Robotics Tournaments

The TRIAD: Welcome to the Mukwonago School District
The Clarendon community beautified the surrounding neighborhood last year while creating a fun family event that celebrated learning through the 2014 Art Show and County Fair. Starting with a grant from the Mukwonago Area Public Schools Education Foundation, all students in the school read *Charlotte’s Web* for Clarendon’s One Book, One School project. The project included fun activities, special assemblies, and celebrity guest readers like Mukwonago Chief reporter Carol Spaeth-Bauer, School Board members Jeff Voelkel and Art Schneider, and Superintendent Shawn McNulty.

The culminating event, however, was the creation of a mural at Horn Feed commemorating the students’ work and the County Fair. Students spent the spring studying advertising, design elements, and submitting proposals for the mural prior to sketching it out across the large wall. Then, each class and many staff members spent time painting the wall to bring it to completion.

The mural was unveiled at the Art Show and County Fair on May 21; this continued the One Book, One School theme for *Charlotte’s Web*. Student art work was displayed throughout the school along with fun activities and food for both families and Clarendon neighbors. Hundreds turned out to celebrate the event and partake in the rides, games, and activities.

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**Earns PBIS Merit Award**

Required behaviors are reinforced and taught through the Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS) program. Park View calls its Respect Yourself, Others, and Your Environment. Lessons and activities known as Cool Tools to address Promote “The Mustang Way” throughout the school month focuses on respect, health and wellness, diversity, citizenship, compassion, and responsibility. State observance days, current events, and various clubs at PVMS. In September, for example, the Cool Tools in the actual locations where skills are needed, such as courtesy in the hallways or neatness. PVMS is working with local businesses this school year to develop a Cool Tool to use with students to teach them about their business expectations. This gives a chance for PVMS to partner with those local businesses to reinforce “The Mustang Way” in the community.

As a result of the work of the students, staff, and parents at Park View, the Wisconsin School PBIS Network honored PVMS with the PBIS School of Merit Award for the 2013-2014 school year. A variety of criteria is traditionally used to receive the school of merit award such as completing PBIS training, having a leadership team, using internal coaches, assessing the Mustang Way’s efficacy over multiple years, implementing an action plan for goals, and using student data for deciding goals. PVMS was proudly one of only six middle schools in the state of Wisconsin to receive the PBIS School of Merit honor.

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**Clarendon Elementary Celebrates Learning, Beautifies Community**

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**Did You Know?** MASD Parent Groups supported over fifty events last year. Thank you!

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**Middle School Earns PBIS Merit Award**

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**Contributed by Lee Libecki**
Associate Principal, Park View Middle School

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**Contributed by Ben Kossow**
Principal, Clarendon Elementary
The mission of Rolling Hills Elementary School is to develop the intellectual, physical, social, emotional, and creative capabilities of all learners. Staff believe that success for each student can be achieved through high expectations, challenging curriculum, and a positive learning environment which extends throughout the school and its community. Creating a secure, safe, and engaging atmosphere by teaching and modeling respect, responsibility and cooperation remains a constant goal. Through this, students are empowered to become lifelong learners.

A unique way that Rolling Hills students and staff work to accomplish this mission is through the Step Up program. The year begins with an all school teamwork assembly where teachers lead students in the motto of “Together Everyone Achieves More With Organization Respect and Kindness.”

Once a month throughout the year, teachers and students meet in multi-age Step Up clubs and tackle subjects such as “Respect” and “Cooperation.” In these clubs, Kindergarten through 6th grade students work together with teachers to strengthen the school community. Students develop connections with teachers and other students outside of their grade, and they carry these connections to the cafeteria, playground and hallways. Students and staff also participate in a ‘Mix-It-Up at Lunch’ once a month. On this day, rather than sitting with their grade level peers, students sit at multi-age tables. Teachers join students for lunch and each month use a different set of questions to promote conversations that help students get to know each other. This year our staff has extended invitations to special guest groups to join Mix-It-Up at Lunch. The Mukwonago High School Link Crew joined RHES in September, and Students Against Violence Everywhere (SAVE) participated in October. The success of Step Up is due to the dedication of RHES students and staff who are committed to ensuring Rolling Hills Elementary is a school where everyone is an important member of the community.

RHES students’ achievement is a result of their hard work, amazing parent and community involvement, and fantastic teachers. Teamwork at every level is what helps Rolling Hills Elementary School be a great place for students to grow and learn.

-Contributed by Casey Blochowiak
Principal, Rolling Hills Elementary
Eagleville Elementary celebrated its 165th birthday this year, highlighting the many traditions which have spanned multiple generations of families. Due to its status as a charter school, Eagleville offers many activities and enrichments unavailable at other elementary schools.

A public school of choice, Eagleville follows the Mukwonago District’s curriculum and includes environmental studies and Spanish. For example, the school has its own forest by Jericho Creek where students experience first-hand lessons about the environment, conservation, and recycling. The science club alone has over forty student members.

Multi-age and multi-grade level classrooms are also a distinguishing feature at the 165-year-old school as older students help take responsibility for younger students. Working as mentors, they help ensure everyone is progressing.

Additionally, schoolwide efforts encourage social responsibility. Last year, for example, students raised funds to send water filtration systems and other school supplies to their sister school in Guatemala.

Eagleville has been recognized for the second year in a row as “Significantly Exceeding Expectations” on the Wisconsin State School Report Card. As Principal Ron Schlicht explains, “This is a testament to the dedicated students, extremely supportive families, and tremendous classroom teachers we have at Eagleville.”

"THIS IS A TESTAMENT TO THE DEDICATED STUDENTS, EXTREMELY SUPPORTIVE FAMILIES, AND TREMENDOUS CLASSROOM TEACHERS WE HAVE AT EAGLEVILLE.”

- Ron Schlicht, Principal

Prairie View students have donated over $13,500.00 in the twelve years of this event. In 2013, students earned The Waukesha County Christmas Clearing Council’s Angel Award to honor how Mukwonago Area Schools strive to teach more than just academics to its students.

- Contributed by Tracy Stockwell
  Principal, Prairie View Elementary
(continued from page 3)

Section Breaks New Ground With IPLC

Reading performance in the IPLC had some positive peaks, especially for the youngest grades within each grouping. In addition to positive testing results, these students had more exposure to inquiry and research reading rather than teacher-led or assigned reading throughout the day. IPLC teachers were not surprised at the positive reading scores since, as they put it, “Reading is the student’s lifeline to tasks rather than the teacher’s organization and structure being the lifeline.” These cognitive structures help students to process information, construct meaning, problem-solve, and think creatively.

One-to-one technology provided students with current learning resources as well as opportunities to apply learning on an immediate basis. Constant collaboration and personalizing student learning through teacher-guided inquiries were additional benefits that the students received.

Last year, in addition to many staff within the district, Section’s IPLC was visited by eight different school districts and groups as far away as Wabeno, WI. Section students and staff are excited to continue working with the IPLC program and exploring models for learning that embrace 21st century learning.

-Contributed by Robert Slane
Principal, Section Elementary