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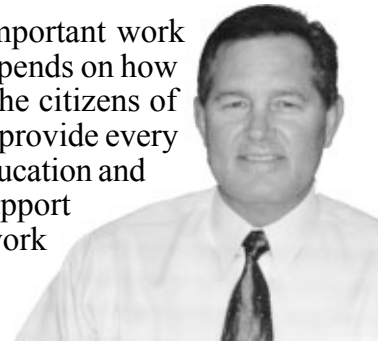
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## *From the Superintendent...*

We are now well into the 2005-2006 school year and all of our students seem to be settled into their daily routines.

Educating our children is important work because the future for all of us depends on how well we do this. Knowing that the citizens of Marion believe that our goal is to provide every child with a chance at a quality education and that our schools depend on the support of our community helps as we work together towards this goal.



Providing quality education for every child is a great responsibility and hard work. It requires the best from our educators, our parents and our community. This strong home-school-community bond, along with the expectation for academic achievement, is the foundation for the future success of all our students. I encourage you as parents to be closely involved with your children's schools, teachers and other support systems that may be necessary for your children's achievements and growth.

As you read through this newsletter, please take note of the many, many accomplishments of our young people. You will also find information on our Annual Progress Report and Adequate Yearly Progress Report, which are required by the Iowa Department of Education and the Federal Department of Education, respectively.

Please feel free to contact me or any member of our administrative staff with questions or concerns. Thank you for what you do each day – for our children and our schools. We value the support you give to the students of Marion Independent School District.

Sincerely,  
Nicholas B. Hobbs  
MISD Superintendent

# NCLB Annual Progress Report

Each year, in accordance with the No Child Left Behind Act, our district is required to submit information on proficiency levels on the ITBS/ITED achievement tests to both the Iowa Department of Education through the Annual Progress report and the Federal Department of Education through the Adequate Yearly Progress report in the subject areas of Reading, Math and Science at the 4<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, and 11<sup>th</sup> grade levels. The complete 2004-2005 Annual Progress Report is available on the Marion Independent School District's web site, [www.marion.k12.ia.us](http://www.marion.k12.ia.us). We wanted to share with you some highlights which were included in our report to the Iowa Department of Education:

## Proficiency Levels – District Wide

- Reading: Grade 4 – 81% Grade 8 – 69% Grade 11 – 85%
- Math: Grade 4 – 85% Grade 8 – 85% Grade 11 – 84%
- Science: Grade 8 – 82% Grade 11 – 92% (The science portion is not reported to the state at the 4<sup>th</sup> grade level)

Goals in both reading and math are proficiency percentages set for each district by the Iowa Department of Education. Marion Independent School District met the target goals in reading and math.

The Science Goal is set each year by the district. The Annual Science Goal for 2004-2005: **The percentage of 11<sup>th</sup> grade students with Individualized Education Plans scoring in the less than proficient level on the science portion of the ITED will be reduced.** In 2003-2004, 48% of the group were proficient, 52% were not proficient. In 2004-2005, 71% of the target group was proficient, 29% were not proficient. This was a reduction of 23 percentage points in the non-proficient group. Our Science Goal was met.

These scores in the Annual Progress Report include all students in our district, regardless of how long they have been enrolled in our district, unless they are excepted by an Individual Education Plan.

## Some other information we reported:

- The district attendance rate for 2003-2004 (the latest year data is available) for K-8 was 96.3%. This was higher than the state average of 95.8%.
- Marion High School's graduation rate for 2003-2004 (the latest year data is available) was 97.78%. The state average for the same period was 90.3%.
- 55 of the 76 seniors who took the ACT test for college entrance scored 20 or higher, indicating probable post-secondary success.
- 11 high school students took 14 college courses from Kirkwood Community College.

The Adequate Yearly Progress Report is required by the Federal Department of Education. This report requires the district to report the proficiency data of students in reading, math and science who have attended schools in the district for 1 year or more. This information is used to determine whether any of the buildings in the district are to be designated as Schools in Need of Assistance. The Marion Independent School District had no schools in 2004-2005 designated as Schools in Need of Assistance.

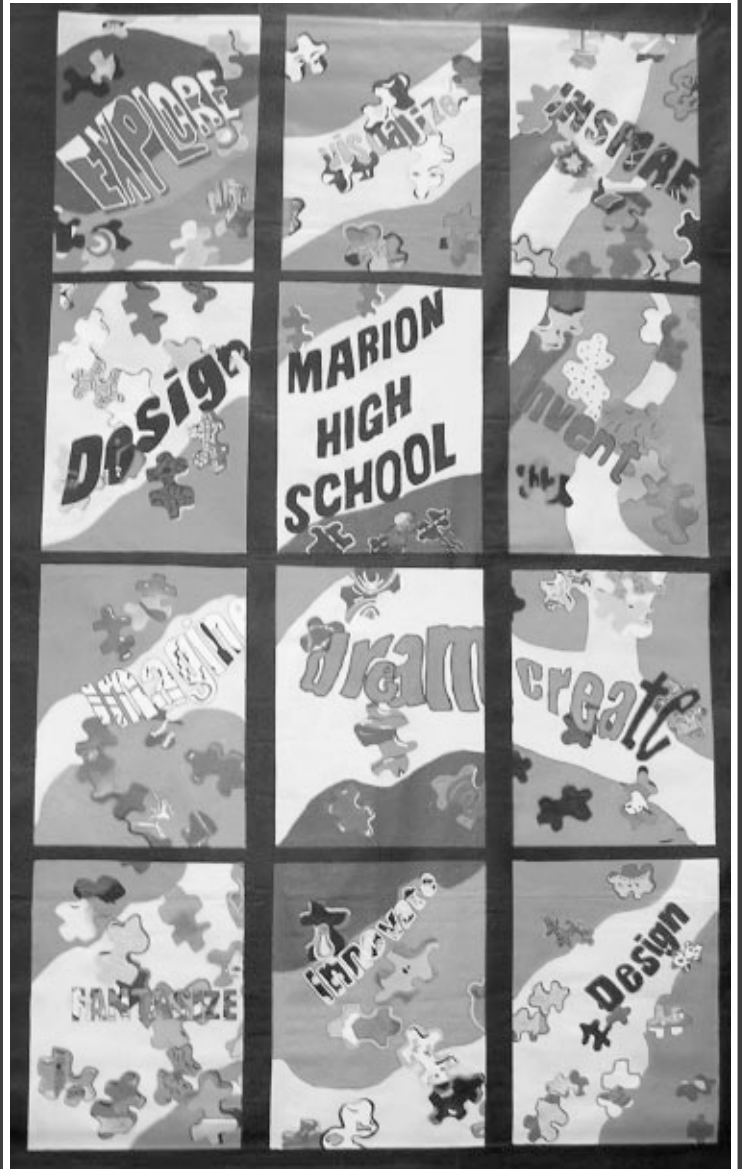
## Art Gets Around!

The Marion High School Art Department was recently asked to create a banner to be used as a backdrop for Iowa Governor Vilsak's speech announcing three "Great Iowa Places."

The students were given a list of 10 inspiring words - **Imagine, Innovate, Create, Dream, Explore, Invent, Inspire, Visualize, Design** and **Fantasize** - to use for the 63 inch by nine foot canvas, and were encouraged to use their creative ideas and talents to create whatever they felt reflected those inspiring words.

The Computer Graphics classes created the overall design of the project, using giant puzzle pieces and a window-pane effect to tie it all together. It was then handed off to the Drawing and Mixed Media classes who used a grid system to expand the work. Bold colors were used to finish the piece, and it was taken to Hancher Auditorium where it hung during Governor Vilsak's speech.

The original banner is now back at Marion High School where it will be proudly displayed, but we've reproduced a copy here for your enjoyment.



# 2005 Scholarship Recipients Announced

**Kelly Grishaber Memorial Scholarship**  
Alisabeth Caraway

**Jeff Rehnstrom Memorial Scholarship**  
Tara Huber

**Mike McGrew Memorial Scholarship**  
Tara Huber

**Ratliff-Ames Memorial Scholarships**  
Jessica Ogburn • Emily Schroeder  
Brittany Weisinger • Nathan Young

**Jay White Memorial Scholarship**  
Alyssa Clark

**Todd Little Memorial Scholarship**  
Nathan Young

**Kiwanis Scholarship**  
Holly Grieder

**MEA Rosa Rowen Memorial Scholarship**  
Heather Mock • Michelle Davis  
Emily Schroeder • Alyssa Clark

**National Council on Youth Leadership Scholarship**  
Nathan Young • Alisabeth Caraway • Ashley Cudworth

**Mt. Mercy College Art Scholarship**  
Lindsey Ferguson

**Coe College Art Scholarship**  
Bryan Clark

**CR West Rotary Kirkwood Scholarship**  
Amy Bahl

**Scottish Rite Adams Scholarship**  
Leslie Coffman

**University of Iowa Scholarship**  
Leslie Coffman • Nathan Young • Alisabeth Caraway

**Pepsi Cola Foundation Scholarship**  
Nathan Young

**Central College Scholarship**  
Megan Anderson

**Coe College Scholarship**  
Bryan Clark • Holly Grieder

**Cornell College Scholarship**  
Anna Hauskins

**Kirkwood College VITAL Scholarship**  
Kyle Boots • Brandon Leffert • Jessie Lacy

**Luther College Scholarship**  
Alyssa Clark • Emily Schroeder

**Marion American Legion Auxiliary Scholarship**  
Jesse Carsner • Allison Koeppen

**Milwaukee School of Engineering Scholarship**  
Ashley Brown

**Mt. Mercy College Scholarship**  
Lindsey Ferguson • Melissa Shuttleworth  
Tiffany Tope • Heather Mock • Travis Eagle

**United Methodist Scholarship**  
Ashley Cudworth

**Simpson College Scholarship**  
Ashley Cudworth

**Senninger Scholarship-Marion Lions Club**  
Ashley Cudworth

**Loras College Scholarship**  
Lucas Hindman

**University of Northern Iowa Scholarship**  
Valerie Crutchley • Amber Howe

**Upper Iowa University Scholarship**  
Alyxandria Miskell

**Wartburg College Scholarship**  
Brittany Weisinger

**Cedar Valley Science Scholarship**  
Brittany Weisinger

**National Honor Society Scholarship**  
Alyssa Clark • Brittany Weisinger

**Mentzer Scholarship**  
Bryan Clark • Holly Greider

**CR Board of Realtors Wahl Scholarship**  
Melissa Schmidt

**Justin Turner Memorial Scholarship**  
Nathan Young

**John Deere Credit Union Scholarship**  
Lucas Hindman

**Senninger Memorial Scholarship  
Trojan Lodge #548**  
Amber Howe

**St. Pauls Church Leola Clark Scholarship**  
Jessica Ogburn

**Cedar Rapids Jaycees Scholarship**  
Ashley Cudworth • Alyssa Clark

**Linn County Farm Bureau Scholarship**  
Brittany Weisinger

**Hills Bank Leadership Grant**  
Alyssa Clark • Ashley Cudworth

## MHS Students of the Week

Congratulations to the following students who were chosen as Student of the Week by *The Marion Times*:

Beaty, Sara (11/03)  
Cayton, Kelly (09/22)  
Cory, Ashley (10/20)  
Holland, Matt (09/15)  
Koppedryer, Ben (09/29)  
Messerli, Ben (10/13)  
O'Connell, Brandon (10/27)  
Ryther, Krisanne (10/06)  
Jones, Jessica (11/17)  
Lockwood, Aaron (11/10)



Eric Hauschildt's kindergarten class used imagination and glow-in-the-dark stars to experience the space station.

# Communicating as Children Grow Up: A Parent's Challenge

Hoping to find their own identity, many kids between the ages of 10 and 15 distance themselves from their parents.

During this transitional stage between childhood and early adulthood, kids begin to question the purpose behind school, hobbies and even family.

More cynical and even at times resentful, kids experiencing adolescence can suffer intense feelings of insecurity.

That's why parent involvement and careful communication during this stage of life is crucial.

In the box on the right you'll find a few helpful hints for keeping the lines of communication open between parents, teens and pre-teens.

## Some Helpful Tips –

- Talk to your kids on a regular basis. Get past the typical "How was your day." Encourage kids to discuss courses, friends and peer pressures.
- Allow your kids to explore issues through discussion without passing judgment. Just make sure they understand the dangers of smoking, drinking, drug-use and sexual relationships.
- Ask lots of questions. Know your kids' friends, what they're doing in class and what's bothering them.
- Don't sweat the small stuff. Conflict can be expected. Is a crazy hairstyle as important as keeping up with homework?
- Tell stories about embarrassing moments you experienced when you were your kid's age. Often kids feel all alone during adolescence. Sharing a laugh and even a little humiliation can offer needed relief.
- Encourage your kids to consider future aspirations like college, a career or athletic achievement. Explain the importance of setting goals and developing a plan of action.
- Be especially careful to model appropriate behavior in front of your kids. Practice what you preach. This is the time when kids become acutely aware of contradictions and inconsistencies.
- Respect your kid's autonomy and increasing interest in peer groups. It's time to allow kids some independence. But make the most of the time you have. Take your kids shopping, do chores together and eat dinner with the TV off. While out and about, get your kids talking. Make sure they know you are listening and that what they say matters.
- Finally, acknowledge achievement. During this stage of life, kids undergo rapid physical and mental growth. They're constantly seeking affirmation from teachers, peers and parents. Celebrate success in school, in athletics and any other extracurricular activities.

# MHS Students Put Laws of Physics to Work

Things were really rolling in Mr. Zrudsky's Physics 1 class at Marion High School.

As a project for the quarter, the students were divided into groups and each group was given the parts to make a small, battery-driven car. The catch was they were not given any instructions needed to make their cars run! Using the "trial and error" method, they built and refined their designs each week using principals and skills they learned in class. Once a week or so they held "races" to see which group had managed to improve the performance of their car. At the end of the term, they held a final race to determine the championship. Look out NASCAR!!!



Taylor Benter and Hillary Youngman prepare to race the cars their teams built in Physics 1.

## 'Joseph' takes center stage –



The fall musical has become a cherished tradition at MHS. This year students performed *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* on Nov. 3, 4 and 5 to a packed auditorium. Performers included students from MHS as well as 22 students from FMI. The cast worked very hard throughout October memorizing the music and the choreography, and the backstage crew put in many hours creating scenery and staging. Directors Amanda Freese, Cynthia Martin, Matt Thornton, Pam Schultz and Kevin Wake did a fabulous job coordinating the cast, crew and pit orchestra.

# Fall Activity Accomplishments Rundown

## Volleyball

**WaMaC First Team All-Conference** – Angela Bys - Unanimous  
**WaMaC Second Team All-Conference** – Ashley Cory, Andrea Podoll  
**WaMaC Honorable Mention** – Jessi Bullis, Brittney Thomas  
**First Team All-Metro Volleyball** – Angela Bys – Unanimous  
**Second Team All-Metro Volleyball** – Andrea Podoll  
**All-Metro Honorable Mention Volleyball** – Ashley Cory, Brittney Thomas  
**Marion Girls Volleyball - WaMaC Tournament Champions**  
**2005 3A State Volleyball Tournament Participant**  
**9th Girls Volleyball** – Marion Red and Gold teams tied for fourth place in Metro league comprised of 18 teams.

Marion High School hosted the first two rounds of the Region 7 3A Volleyball October 24 and 26  
 Marion High School will host 2A Regional Final November 7, 2005  
 Marion VB team: participant for second straight year in the Regional final. Last year lost to eventual state champion Walhert, this year?

## Performing Arts – Vocal and Band

**All-State Music Festival - Sarah Young, Soprano II**  
**All-State Music Festival - Liz Smith, bassoon**  
**State Marching Band** – Division I rating – 77.1  
**National Anthem Singers** – Performed at all high school football and volleyball games.

## Boys and Girls Cross Country WaMaC Conference Champions for Boys and Girls at the Varsity and JV level State Meet Team Qualifier District 2nd place –

Girls Cross Country: Rachel Smith, Alicia Zanzie, Jacqueline Kane, Chelsea Burhite, Monica Kelly, Tori Kloubec, Madison Bliss. Alternates: Briana Reeves, Sitherland West, Danielle Mikkola.  
**State Meet Team Qualifier District 3rd place** – Boys Cross Country: John Burhite, Jon Olivarez, Nathan Nissen, Colin Langfitt, Owen McGlynn, Derrick VanDerMillen, Chris Burhite. Alternates: Matt Jordan, Cory Mohling, Austin Cudworth  
**WaMaC First Team All-Conference** – Alicia Zanzie and Rachel Smith  
**WaMaC Second Team All Conference** – John Burhite  
**Marion Girls Cross Country 3rd Place at State Meet**  
**Marion Boys Cross Country 4th Place at State Meet**

**All-Metro Cross Country** –  
**Girls First Team** - Alicia Zanzie – unanimous, Rachel Smith  
**All-Metro Cross Country** –  
**Girls Second Team** - Chelsea Burhite  
**All-Metro Cross Country Honorable Mention** - Tori Kloubec, Monica Kelly  
**All-Metro Cross Country** –  
**Boys First Team** - Nathan Nissen  
**All-Metro Cross Country** –  
**Boys Second Team** - John Burhite  
**All-Metro Cross Country Honorable Mention** - Owen McGlynn, Colin Langfitt

**Golf**  
**All-Metro Boys Golf** –  
 First Team – Matt Horine, Ben Messerli

**Dance and Cheer**  
**Dance Team qualified for National Dance competition**  
**Cheer placed 2nd at Westdale Competition**

**Football**  
 9th grade football 7-1 record  
 10th grade football 8-1 record  
 Varsity football 7-2 record, 3rd Place District finish

**Marion Hall of Fame – 2005 Inductees – February 10, 2006**  
 Coach: Bob Thurness  
 Community Members: Joe Hutchins and Jerry McNamara  
 Athletes: Dr. Shane Kasner, Vaughn Klopfenstein, Steve Schone, Kevin Techau, and Karen Williamson Trapani

### All District Football Team 2005: (7 1st team)

1st team

**OFFENSE:**

Nick Cannavo	5'9"	160	SE/LB	SR
Derik Daubenmeir	6'4"	280	T	SR
Eric Hanna	6'3"	170	QB	SR
Alan Reisner	6'3"	170	TE	JR

**DEFENSE:**

Joey Swanson	5'7"	150	DB	SR
Zach Blazek	5'8"	155	DB	SR
Ben Messerli	6'0"	200	LB	SR

**Honorable Mention:**

Bill Law	6'4"	260	C	SR
Nick Walters	6'3"	270	DT	SR
Clancy Quinn	6'0"	170	S	SR
Cyrus Coffman	5'10"	180	LB	JR

## Once an Indian... Always an Indian

*by Dan Kellams*

In a time long ago and a place far away, I was an Indian, a Marion Indian. I have been a Marion Indian ever since, and when I go to my last, great resting place, I hope I will remain an Indian.

The Indians, of course, was the name of our high school sports teams, and during the 1940s and 1950s we were the scourge of our conference and a power in our region in football, basketball and track under a great coach named Les Hipple, who drilled us in discipline, hard work and fair play. He made being an Indian an honor. As I recall, we had no real Indians on those teams, but we poured our young hearts into being worthy of the name.

Our teams had no mascots in Indian dress. The logo was the profile of a chief in a headdress. Townspeople did not come to the games in face paint, waving hatchets. No one screamed while opposing players shot free throws. If any Marion player behaved so badly in a basketball game that he drew a technical foul, Coach Hipple would bench him for the rest of the game. It only happened once or twice in 20 years.

Would I feel the same nostalgic pride today if I had been a Marion Bobcat? Perhaps, but something tells me there is more to being an Indian than being a Bobcat, a heritage of sorts, no less real for having been unearned. Over the years, MHS has remained true to its history and resisted sporadic attempts to change the name of its teams. If that ever happened, it would be a sad day for a lot of old Indians.

# A Special Cause for Emerson Students

The Emerson community—staff, students and parents—have rallied around a special cause this fall.

Josie Tompkins, a second grader at Emerson Elementary School, was diagnosed with cancer last spring. Over the summer she bravely endured the amputation of her leg and is now undergoing chemotherapy.

“The medical staff at the University of Iowa Hospitals are doing their best, so we felt we could do our best, too,” noted Bob Klostermann co-chair of the Emerson Parent-Teacher Organization.

“The family faces other health issues as well and so we are pulling together to raise money to help with the medical bills,” said Doreen Zumwalt, who serves as the other co-chair of the Emerson PTO.

Joyce Kuethe, Anita Reisner and Suzanne Henson, teachers at Emerson, led building activities. Students made “Josie Bracelets” comprised of five red and gold beads (the number of letters in Josie’s name) on a band. The sale of bracelets has raised \$547 thus far. The teachers also organized a book sale, asking students to bring in “lightly used” books which were then sold to other Emerson students at \$1 each. The book sale netted \$786.

Efforts did not stop there. A can drive organized by the PTO, under the direction of Jenny Brown and supported by Rockwell, has brought in \$590.

The total amount raised by these efforts at press time was \$1,923. Bracelets continue to be made and sold and the public is invited to make contributions to the fund. Proceeds have already been shared with this family.

“We know the expenses are immediate and continue to mount,” observed Klostermann.

All contributions are welcome and can be made to Emerson Room Parents and can be mailed or delivered to Emerson Elementary School.



Students loved shopping for ‘lightly used’ books at Emerson’s book sale. Some student couldn’t wait to read their new books! Everybody found something they really liked at the book sale.



## Students Chosen for Opus Honor Choir

Several elementary students from the Marion Independent School District were recently selected to participate in the 20th annual Opus Honor Choir.

Fifth grade students Tori Fitzpatrick and Abigail Washburn and sixth grade student Ryan Watters were chosen through taped auditions this fall.

The 2005 Opus Honor Choirs performed at 4 p.m. on November 17 in C.Y. Stephens Auditorium on the Iowa State University campus in Ames, Iowa.

Congratulations to some very talented students!



Ryan Watters

## Simply Dedicated to Performing Arts

The Marion Independent School District Performing Arts Council is a visionary group committed to promoting and supporting high quality performing arts programs for students of all ages.

The Performing Arts Council meets the second Sunday of the month at 4 p.m. Meetings are open to the public and held at the Administration Building, 777 S. 15th St., in the board room.

Minutes, agenda, mission statement and advocacy statement for the Performing Arts Council can be accessed via the internet on the group’s web page – [http://www.marion.k12.ia.us/MHS\\_Site/mhspac.htm](http://www.marion.k12.ia.us/MHS_Site/mhspac.htm)

When you need to know the latest...  
**[www.marion.k12.ia.us](http://www.marion.k12.ia.us)**

# Athletic Boosters continue winning ways

The Marion Athletic Booster Club is a group devoted to making athletic participation at Marion Independent School District a positive and rewarding experience.

The Marion Athletic Booster Club has many projects they have funded or are funding.

Among the completed projects:

- Completed the baseball/softball concession stand and restroom facility
- Purchased new volleyball standards and nets for both gymnasiums
- Purchased top dressing for competition soccer field

Plans are in place to:

- Purchase hurdles for track
- Football field is in need of new scoreboard
- Refurbish the baseball/softball diamond behind the school next to the football/soccer practice fields

The MABC is looking for members to step forward and become more active in the organization. Please attend the

meetings on the second Wednesday of the month at 7 pm in the board room, 777 S. 15th St., to learn more or call Ron Mikkola or Pam Van Gorp with any questions.



The new concession stand at the MHS baseball/softball complex will soon be busy serving snacks and soft drinks to hungry spectators.

## All-State Music Festival Honors Students



Marion High School students Sarah Young and Elizabeth Smith have attained the highest individual honor available to Iowa high school musicians by being selected as members of the 2005 All-State Chorus and Band, respectively.

Sarah is the daughter of Marvin and Sheryl Young. Elizabeth is the daughter of Betty Jean Smith.

The 2005 Iowa All-State Music Festival celebrated the 59th anniversary of this prestigious event. District auditions for the 279 piece All-State Band, 197 piece All-State Orchestra and 600-voice All-State Chorus were held on Saturday, October 22, 2005, at Storm Lake, Hampton, Oelwein, Atlantic, Indianola and Washington. Approximately 17 percent of the students who audition are selected for membership in the All-State ensembles.

Participants rehearsed in Ames on Friday and Saturday, November 18 and 19, and the Festival Concert was presented to the public at 7:30 p.m. in Hilton Coliseum, Iowa State University, Ames, on Saturday evening, November 19.

Iowa Public Television recorded the concert for broadcast on Thursday, November 25, at 8 p.m. and again on Friday, November 26 at 1 p.m. This program is under the auspices of the Iowa High School Music Association and the Iowa Music Educators Association.

## Music Boosters Don't Miss a Beat

The Marion Music Boosters are dedicated to enhancing the music education and experience of students in the Marion School District. Any parent of a music student is automatically a member of the Music Boosters, and they meet the first Monday of each month at 7:30 p.m. in the band room at Marion High School.

The group raises money for new band uniforms and choir robes, music shells, risers and marching band equipment through football and basketball concessions. Parents can also work at the concessions to earn points to pay for their student's travel expenses when the band and choir travel to contests out of state. The Music Booster Board consists of: Co-Chairs Jan Langfitt and Cindy Page, Secretary Dawn Whited, Treasurer Nancy Thornton, Calling Committee Chair Judy Lubben, Food Purchasing Chair Jeri Thompson, Pop Purchasing Chair Steve Godar, Apparel Committee Chair Angie Anderson, Sewing Committee Chair Dana Walters, Points Secretary Janelle Ster and Fundraising Chair Linda Albee.

Anyone interested in serving on the Music Boosters Board can contact any of the members listed above.



MHS's Scarlet Spectrum Marching Band received a Division 1 rating at the 2005 State Marching Band Contest at Kingston Stadium. The band is under the direction of Larry Bobe and assisted by David Law. The program was entitled, "Masters of the Ivories."

# Professional Development Update: FAQ

## Why do teachers need more training? Aren't they prepared to teach when they are hired?

The practice at MISD is to hire the person best qualified for the position. However, just as in medicine or in the automobile industry, there are new developments that come along. Brain research, for example, has made giant leaps with the use of MRI technology, so that new information is available about how students respond to different environments or times of the day. Just as you expect your physician or repair person to keep up with the latest developments in the field, teachers must do the same.

## How does the district make decisions about what to offer as training?

You may have heard the term "data driven decisions". One of the ways MISD determines what to offer in teacher training is by looking at student performance on ITBS, ITED, or other assessments. For example if data denote a trend of weakness among 6th graders in reading comprehension, then teachers—not only sixth grade teachers, but K-5 teachers, may receive training in how to improve reading comprehension.

Another example of a data set is the number and type of office referrals, to determine if there are behavior problems. Lack of positive outcomes on these data sets provides an area where staff training may help improve student behavior. Thus, we have had training on bullying at VMS and Character Counts at FMI.

## How do rulings or laws from the state or federal government impact staff training at Marion Independent?

Usually the rulings or laws have some "wiggle room" to make the requirements fit with our district. For example, the new requirements for supplementary instructional plans for students who are struggling with a subject may look different in different districts, or even buildings. It is the challenge of each district to interpret the intent of the law and to make that intention workable for helping students.

## Project *CRISS* offered at MISD

Two sections of Project *CRISS* (CREating Independence through Student-owned Strategies) will be offered to MISD teachers in the spring semester. Each section will meet after school for 2 hours for 8 weeks. The first section will begin in January and the second in March. The only cost to participants is if they elect to use the class for credit.

The many strategies introduced in this class will provide teachers with tools and structures to facilitate learning through writing and discussion. Participants will learn how to support student learning by activating background knowledge, setting a purpose for learning, recognizing author's craft and organizing content. Specific content lessons with these principles embedded will be modeled throughout the workshop. Dr. Jill Olsen received certification as a *CRISS* trainer this fall and will serve as the instructor. Pat Wilson, district consultant, will assist Dr. Jill in the classrooms of the participants to help them use these strategies with their students.

## How do we know that teachers use the learning from staff training to actually benefit students?

Teachers are now required to document their performance as part of the evaluation process. Learning logs, implementation logs and observation by principals are forms this documentation can take. Learning logs are journals in which a teacher records his or her thoughts about the implementation of a new strategy, along with some thoughts or suggestions for how to improve the delivery of that strategy. Implementation logs are a simple day-to-day record of when a strategy was used in the classroom. Principals can also check to see if teachers are actually using a strategy by visiting classrooms. That is why it is so important for principals to attend trainings along with their staff.

## I have heard about the new "Professional Development Model" required by the state. Just what does that mean for Marion?

The professional development model requires that schools use data to inform them about student needs and therefore what training will be offered. The delivery of the training must include the theory and practice—the "why" and the "how" of using a strategy that is research-based. (The Professional Development Model requires that we look at the research to make sure that the strategy does work with students.) The Model also requires teachers have time to reflect on and share their experiences with regard to implementing a new strategy.

***Students graduating from high school this spring will not retire until approximately the year 2050. The education they are getting now will determine whether they struggle or lead the pack. Which situation do you want for your child?***

## Travel Opportunity Available in 2006

Walk in the footsteps of the ancient Greeks on Mt. Olympus. Survey the beauty of Athens from the Acropolis and the Parthenon. Cruise the deep blue waters of the Mediterranean, stopping on islands to explore. Experience the beautiful seaside city of Sorrento. Visit the ancient ruins of Pompeii. And then there is Rome - St. Peter's Basilica, the Sistine Chapel, the Colosseum, the Fountain of Trevi and many other famous sights. Spend a day in Florence, the home of Michelangelo, with glorious cathedrals and breathtaking artwork.

Experience all this and more in early August of 2006 with a full-time, experienced tour guide and well-traveled group leader to help you enjoy your trip to its fullest. The group was formerly called "Art Together", and is comprised of area art teachers waiting to recruit eager travelers.

The group will travel to Chicago by charter bus on Monday, July 31, 2006, fly to Europe and return on Aug. 11.

Participants do not have to be associated with the high school. If you have the desire and interest to travel, experience and learn, then this is a trip for you. For more information, including cost and tour dates, contact Barb Shultz at MHS, 377-9891, ext. 1174.

# At MISD 'Character Counts'

## FMI Hosts Character Revue –

To celebrate Character Counts! Week, all 4th and 5th grade students performed skits and a musical revue for their families and the district's 3rd graders. Wearing brightly colored shirts tie-dyed during art class, they displayed the colors associated with the Six Pillars of Character, the program's foundation.

This year's school-wide art project was also unveiled. Along with the colored pillars, a 10-foot stretch of hallway is now enlivened with the six student-designed animals that correspond to each pillar. The background for the painted Masonite pillars and animals is galvanized steel, and before long this empty space will be filled with photo magnets showing students who were "caught being good" by their teachers!

Thanks to the Marion Foundation, FMI students and staff are benefiting from their involvement with the Character Counts! program. Implementing the Foundation grant are Karen Vinson, (counselor), Pam Schulz (music) and Karen Hoyt (art).



Mrs. Spaak's class entertained the audience with a musical number.

## Character Counts Everywhere –

Mr. Martin, Mrs. Murphy, Mrs. Thomason, other staff members and VMS students worked together to create a Character Counts float for the Swamp Fox Parade. The float displayed all six Character Counts pillars: Trustworthy, Respect, Responsibility, Fairness, Caring, and Citizenship. VMS Cheerleaders and SODA (Students Okay without Drugs & Alcohol) students marched behind the float chanting the following Cheer created by Mrs. Rowe:

*I don't know but I been told, Good Character is good as gold  
Six traits is all you need inside, Six traits to help you stand with pride*

*Trustworthy..... -Step one*

*Respectfulness....-Step two*

*Responsible..... -Step three*

*Fair & Caring..... -Four & Five*

*Citizenship .....-Step Six*

*Now break it on down*

*T R R F C C.....What?!*

*T R R F C C.....Oh Yeah?!*

*What's it spell? Terrific!*

*What will you be? Terrific!*

*Character Counts in Marion.....Hoo Yeah!*



## Vernon Celebrates Character –



Iowa House Representative Swati Dandekar enjoyed breakfast served by students and staff at Vernon Middle School.

Character Counts Week was observed nationally October 16 to 22. VMS Staff and students celebrated all week!

On Sunday, staff and student volunteers decorated downtown business windows with messages of Character, the Character Counts Pillars and trait words. Thank you to Stampin' & Scrapin' Pad, Huntington's, Tomaso's, Cost Cutters, Philip's Diamond Shop, Irwin's Clothing, Marion Antiques Center, Sorg Sample Pharmacy, and the Marion Maid Rite for letting us decorate their windows.

There was a poster contest in the 6th grade in which Emily Roberts and Alexis Timp won first place.

On Friday, a Local Heroes Breakfast was given. The invitation list included representatives from MISD staff, MISD School Board members, Marion's Mayor, Marion City Council members, Marion Police and Fire Departments, Linn County Sheriff's Department staff, National Guard members of 334 Company B, and Head Quarters 234 staff and members, Representative Swati Dandekar, Senator Mary Lundby, members of the American Legion/SAL//Auxiliary from Post 298 and local medical professionals. Though people from all groups were unable to attend, a wide variety of our local HEROES enjoyed the breakfast with students and staff. Thanks goes out to Shawn Kiene and Rinehart Foods for his time and food donations, and to Ms. Henderson and Quaker Oats Company for food donations. The breakfast will definitely be a continuing part of Character Counts Week activities in following years.

Remember, Character Counts year round so be TeRRiFiCC...polish your pillars of character! Trustworthiness, Respect, Responsibility, Fairness, Caring, and Citizenship.

# MISD Students Offer Helping Hand

When the students and teachers in the Marion School District saw the devastation caused by Hurricane Katrina, they all wanted to help with the relief effort. At the High School, the National Honor Society and the Student Senate started a coin campaign to raise money to donate to the Red Cross. The choirs held a pop can and donation drive, and decided to donate \$300 of the money they raised directly to the Pass Christian High School Music Boosters to replace some of the equipment and music which was lost in the storm. Another \$200 went to the Mississippi Music Education Association to establish a music lending library to help affected schools borrow music. Several other groups from MHS joined in and \$1476.30 was donated to the Red Cross.

At Emerson Elementary, the students had a “Hats for Help” day. For a quarter, they could wear hats all day at school. Even though Emerson has only 210 students, \$641.91 was raised for the Red Cross!

Starry Elementary had a “Penny Harvest” in which donations were collected in a bucket, and a donation gauge was used to help the students visually track the progress. The goal of \$441 dollars (\$1 for each student at Starry) was easily surpassed, and a total amount of \$1600 was donated to the Red Cross.

At Francis Marion Elementary, students held a “Spare Change” fund drive for the Red Cross. Students emptied piggy banks, checked parent’s pockets for change and even gave up their allowance for hurricane victims. At the end of the week, over \$1300 had been collected!



Students enjoyed Hat Day at Emerson and raised money for the Red Cross at the same time.

Vernon Middle School raised money through its “Change the World” fund drive, which lasted a week. Monday was “Pennies for People”, Tuesday was “Nickels for the Needy”, Wednesday was “Dimes for Disaster”, Thursday was “Quarters for Katrina” and Friday was “Bills for Beginnings”, to signify the new beginnings people affected by the storms would have to make. By the end of the week, \$1800 was raised and donated to the Red Cross.

Thanks to the generosity of MISD students, parents and staff, over \$7350 was donated to hurricane relief efforts!

## Foundation Awards Scholarships

Since our last issue, additional 2005 Scholarships were awarded to some deserving students.

They include:

- Alisabeth Caraway  
Marion-East CR Rotary  
College: University of Iowa
- Will Larsen, Cassie Sweeney, Jen Noe, and Lizz Smith  
Zach Peterson Summer Band Camp Scholarship  
Current MISD Students  
Jacob Corell and Perry Clouse  
John Scarborough Miller  
College: Iowa Wesleyan College



Red Cross Representative Eldon Pugh receives a check from MHS students Gary Gaal, Krisanne Ryther, Brian Buh, Sarah Young, Kelly Cayton and Ashley Vangen.



Eighth grade Student Council members Maddie Barnhart, Jenny Brimeyer, Darbie Danford, Nathan Hummel, Karina Kiene and Shelby Jo Weber represented VMS students and staff as they presented a check to the Red Cross.

## Marion Fund Grant Recipients

- **ChatterVox Portable PA System** – MHS, Amanda Freese
- **“Character Counts! At F.M.I.”** – FMI, Karen Vinson
- **Physical Education for Progress** – MHS, Steve Fish
- **Reading Counts! A Follow Up** – Emerson, Renate Bernstein
- **Math Resource Kits for Interventions** – Starry, Terri Schmidt
- **Rhyming Trade Books for Phonological Awareness** – Starry, Kim DeWulf

## Your Help Is Needed

Please contribute to the Drive for Five for the Marion Foundation! You can contact the Foundation through the website at [www.marion-foundation.org](http://www.marion-foundation.org)

## New Faces & New Places

We have some new faces this year in the buildings and some familiar faces in new places!

### Emerson Elementary School:

Mary Brandhorst – Special Education Associate, transferred from Vernon Middle School  
 Chelsea Herren – Kindergarten Associate  
 Mark King – Evening Custodian  
 Barb Kalkwarf – Principal, transferred from Francis Marion Intermediate  
 Jill Olsen – Principal, shared as Executive Director of Instruction

### Starry Elementary School:

Gerry Schlotfeldt – Building Secretary  
 Jodie Ternes – 3rd Grade Teacher  
 Jason Dabroski – 3rd Grade Teacher  
 Susan Faley – 1st Grade Teacher  
 Kyle Von Behren – PE and Health Teacher  
 Gwen Buchheim – 3rd Grade, transferred from Vernon Middle School  
 Marilyn Stout – Special Education Associate  
 Dixie Viner – Special Education Associate  
 Kelly Sorensen – Kindergarten Associate  
 Kim Vrbeck – Kindergarten Associate  
 Cheri Rogness – Secretary  
 Jim Noe - Custodian

### Francis Marion Intermediate School:

Mike Murphy – Principal, transferred from Emerson Elementary School  
 Kim Specht – 5-6 Band Director – shared with Vernon Middle School  
 Kyle Von Behren – PE and Health Teacher – shared with Starry Elementary  
 Wayne Coover – Special Education Associate, transferred from Emerson Elementary  
 Tiffany Lenoach – Special Education Associate  
 Stephanie Viner - Special Education Associate

### Vernon Middle School:

Lindsay Albertsen – 6-8 PE and Health  
 Jamie Kelley – 6-8 General Music, 7-8 Drama, 7-8 Show Choir Director  
 Kim Specht – 5/6 Band Director – shared with Francis Marion Intermediate  
 Lorrie Timmerman – Special Education Associate

### Marion High School:

Melissa Margretz – Spanish Teacher

## Juniors... Mark Your Calendars!

Juniors and parents will once again take part in Transition Night on Monday, March 6, from 5 to 7:30 p.m. at MHS.

This event is shared with Linn-Mar High School, and brings together representatives from a variety of careers, professional organizations, colleges and universities, local employers and the military. Students and their parents will have a chance to speak to participants at their booths, pick up literature from local colleges and universities, or find out what employers are really looking for in a job applicant. Information will be available on apprenticeships and internships.

In addition, there will be 30 minute information sessions on a variety of topics including Financial Aid (this session is very popular with parents), medical professions, and college planning tips.

This is the seventh year for Transition Night, which gives students the opportunity to meet and speak to local residents who actually work in the jobs and careers in which the students are interested.



## Ready for the Round-Up?

The Marion School District will have Kindergarten Round-up in the spring for any child who will be entering kindergarten in the fall of 2006. Kindergarten Round-Up gives parents the chance to visit the school building, meet teachers and principals and fill out enrollment paperwork. This also helps the school district predict the number of incoming kindergarteners so the number of teachers needed for the following school year can be adjusted accordingly.

If you or anyone you know lives in the Marion School District and has a child who will be five years old by September 15, 2006, they will be eligible to attend. Proof of birth date will be required. To be placed on a mailing list for information on dates and times for Kindergarten Round-Up, please call Emerson Elementary, 377-0183, or Starry Elementary, 377-4698.

## New Administrators Join Marion Independent

Brian Bartz is the new Director of Financial Services/Board Secretary in the Marion Independent School District. Brian comes to us from Independence. He has a BA in Accounting from Upper Iowa University, is a CPA and is working on his MBA, also from Upper Iowa University. He and his wife Christy have 2 children attending school in the district – Jessica who is in 4th grade and Brady who is in kindergarten.



Greg Semler is the new Associate Principal at Marion High School. Greg is a former Social Studies teacher/Dean of Students/Activities Director from Springville High School. He and his wife Lori have a daughter, Kalli, who is in 11th grade and a son, Kasey, who is in 7th grade. Greg is no stranger to MHS – he used to coach both baseball and basketball here in the mid 80's and early 90's.





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## Mark Down these Important Upcoming Dates!

**December 22 –**

2-hour Early Dismissal (District Wide)

**Dec. 23-Jan. 2 –**

Winter Break

**January 3 –**

School Resumes

**January 13 –**

No School MHS, VMS, FMI (Teacher Work Day)

**February 13 –**

Parent Conferences at MHS

**February 15 & 16 –**

Parent Conferences at FMI & VMS

**February 17 –**

No School Starry, Emerson, FMI & VMS

**March 2 & 6 –**

Parent Conferences at Starry & Emerson

**March 3 –**

No School (District Wide)

**March 17 –**

No School (District Wide)

**March 20-24 –**

Spring Break (District Wide)

**April 14 –**

No School (or snow make-up day)

**April 17 –**

No School at MHS (Teacher Comp Day)

**May 1 –**

Parent Conferences at MHS

**May 18 –**

Early Dismissal (District Wide)

**May 19 –**

No School (District Wide)

**May 28 –**

Graduation

**May 29 –**

No School (District Wide)

**May 31 –**

Early Dismissal (last day of school)

**Here's to an excellent school year!**

The Marion Independent School Newsletter is a regular publication of the Marion Independent School District. Questions/comments should be directed to: MISD Administration, 777 S. 15th St., Marion, IA 52302. Phone (319) 377-4691

It is the policy of the Marion Independent School District not to discriminate on the basis of race, creed, color, gender, national origin, religion, age, marital status, sexual orientation, veteran status, or disability, in its educational programs, activities, or employment practices. If you believe you have (or your child has) been discriminated against or treated unjustly at school, please contact Superintendent Nick Hobbs at 377-4691.