

Blue Devil Bulletin

Martensdale-St.Marys Community School District

August 2009

From the Desk of Ms. Peterson,
Superintendent

Football/Track, Air Conditioning and Elementary Gym Entrance Projects

We are still moving forward with all of these projects. Approximately two weeks ago, we had a torrential downfall of rain in a very short amount of time. This, of course, made things awfully wet at the football/track facility. The rain has been an obstacle for the completion of this project. But, things are moving ahead and I am sure everyone has seen the progress being made especially on both the press box and the locker room/concession stand areas. We are still hopeful that we will be able to play our first home football game there in September.

The air conditioning project is almost three quarters of the way completed. All of the classrooms are scheduled to be air conditioned by the start of the school year. The 1985 gym should be completed by the middle of September.

The elementary gym entrance remodel is moving along too. We needed to remodel that entrance because of flooding issues we had last summer and to make that entrance more handicap accessible.

Funding Sources Have Restrictions On Their Uses

In the past few newsletters, I have been doing articles on "Understanding School Finance". This is another article in regard to that topic. School Finance is a complex topic. Hopefully, the information I have been providing has been helpful for you to dispel the mysteries surrounding school funding.

One of the most difficult and confusing elements of school funding is how Iowa law restricts the ways K-12 public schools can use various funding sources. Simply put, if we have a shortage in one area of the budget, we cannot use other funds available to the district to offset such a shortage unless specifically allowed by law.

According to the Iowa School Foundation Formula, the largest funding source for schools comes from state and property taxes. Revenues received under the formula are part of a school district's General Fund, which covers most of our expenditures for faculty and staff salaries. We also have dedicated funding streams for facilities, like the Physical Plant and Equipment Levy, which can only be spent on buildings,

grounds and certain equipment. People often refer to the General Fund side of the budget as the "breathing" part of the budget, while the other side is often referred to as the "bricks and mortar" side. Depending on each district's economic and demographic situation, some have issues with the staff side of the budget while others have more pressures on the facilities. However, due to the organization of revenues, excess money from the general fund cannot be used to solve shortages on the facilities side or vice versa. As a result, you sometimes end up with districts that have adequate facilities funds but have to lay off staff.

As was discussed in previous newsletter articles, the state partially funds and equalizes the General Fund to promote equity among students and taxpayers in the state, but does not do the same under the facilities side of the budget. If the legislature ever did allow such unequalized funding sources to be used under the General Fund side of the budget, some districts could potentially receive much more revenue per child, violating the general principle of equity. For example, our instruction expenditures are equalized, but the funds we levy locally for buildings are not. Except for the local option sales tax, the tax capacity of the district largely limits the amount of funds for building expenditures.

The one area where some state equalization of capacity is occurring is in the state penny sales tax. This tax, which replaces the one-cent local option sales tax, is dedicated primarily to school buildings, equipment and property tax relief. It has proven to be a popular alternative to property taxes to fix and update buildings/facilities. With the passage of the state penny for school infrastructure, each school district will be receiving the same amount per pupil by the year 2014. In the Martensdale-St. Marys Community School District, we are grateful to our voters for approving the local option sales tax and have been using the money to help pay down the bond debt, to renovate the football/track facility, to air condition the rest of the educational facility, to make upgrades in our technology, to purchase a new bus and to make many other improvements to our facilities/grounds.

In short, when it comes to school spending, districts must look at all potential expenditures and determine not only if they have the money, but whether state law allows a particular fund to cover the expense. This standard, often referred to as "Dillon's Rule", says school districts are only allowed to do what is specifically outlined by state law. This differs from cities and counties, which operate under "Home Rule" which allows them to do anything not specifically prohibited by state law. Schools have less latitude than cities and counties in complying with the Code of Iowa, and in turn, how to spend their money.



Pay for the 2009-2010 Registration Fees through PaySchools!

Martensdale-St. Marys School District is Now Accepting Electronic Checks and Credit Cards.

Paying your child's school registration fees just got easier with PaySchools, a secure online payment processing system that lets you pay by electronic check or credit card. You can pay your child's school expenses anytime, anywhere. No more lost checks!

Please check out the MStM Website and click on Fall 2009 Registration. Here you can pay for your registrations fees, lunch account, and athletic passes.

You will have the option to directly debit the funds from your bank account (electronic check) by entering your bank's ABA routing number and your personal bank account number, or you can make purchases with their VISA, MasterCard or Discover credit card. After making a purchase, an email receipt will immediately be sent to you confirming your purchase(s). PaySchools does not save or store bank or credit card information to ensure privacy and security for users.

Benefits for Parents:

- Convenience – make purchases 24 hours a day/7 days a week
- Control – eliminate lost checks or cash
- Timely – credits payment to student account instantly
- User friendly – processes both e-checks and credit cards
- Secure – ensures private and secure transmission
- Accessible – view purchases and payment online

PaySchools Instructions & Tips

To get started:

1. Go to the district Web site <http://www.m-stmarys.k12.ia.us/>
2. Log on to Parent Information Access – JMC or click on PaySchools Logo.
3. Once you are logged in click on item you want to purchase.
4. Follow the directions – but here are some tips:
 - The first time you use PaySchools – **you register twice** – once to get logged on and then again to make a payment. You can use the same email address and password both times.
 - You can use your debit card – just select “credit” and then use your debit card number.
 - After making a payment an email receipt will immediately be sent to you confirming the payment.
 - Once you have registered in PaySchools you will also be able to check the balance in your child's meal account through JMC.

- PaySchools does not save or store bank or credit card information to ensure privacy and security for users – so you will need to enter this information each time.

If you have a problem, please contact Jill Gavin at 641-764-2608 or at jill_gavin@m-stmarys.k12.ia.us

Attention: All Newsletter Recipients MStM is “Going Green”

In an effort to save on paper and postage, the MStM Newsletter will be available to read on our website effective July 2009. If you would like to discontinue receiving the newsletter by mail, please email karen.tomlinson@m-stmarys.k12.ia.us or call 641-764-2621.

Our responsibility to the environment is a growing concern for everyone and this effort will help meet the State of Iowa goal of “Going Green.”

REMINDER:

School Board Election on September 8, 2009 for Director Districts 1,2,& 4.

WELCOME TO THE DISTRICT

HIGH SCHOOL

Alison Condon – Family Consumer Science
Samantha Tunell – Math
Justin Herrick – English

ELEMENTARY

Nancy Kisling - Associate

7th Grade Orientation

Orientation will be held on August 13, 2009 from 7-8pm in the Media Center.

We look forward to seeing you there!

**Retirement Party
Jim Seymour
Bus Driver for 34 Years**

**Please join MStM in celebrating
Jim Seymour's retirement as a
bus driver for the past 34 years!**

**Where: MStM Cafeteria
When: August 20, 2009
Time: 6:30-7:30 p.m.**



Enjoy Retirement Jim!

**COMING SOON!
BUS ROUTES AVAILABLE**

ONLINE!



Come join us at "OPEN HOUSE!"

August 20, 2009

**Please be sure to help us welcome our
new staff at 6:00pm in the cafeteria.**



**We will then start "Open House" at
6:30pm and will end at 7:30pm.**

**We encourage the children to meet their
teachers and leave their supplies in their
new classrooms that evening.**

See you there!

Just a Reminder:

**School starts on August 24th with a 2:15pm
dismissal. Also, there will be a 2:15pm
dismissal on August 25th.**

2009-2010 REGISTRATION

**Dates: August 12, 2009 8am-4pm
August 13, 2009 12pm-8pm**

To locate registration forms, here are your options:

- *Stop by the Superintendent's office to pick up the forms, or*
- *Go to the website @ mstm.us to print the grade appropriate forms*

Please return all forms to the appropriate office by August 12, 2009:

- *You can mail them*
- *Drop them off to the appropriate office, or*
- *Scan them and email to the appropriate office. Email addresses can be found on the website*

PaySchools: Registration Fees, Athletic Passes, Lunch Accounts, Preschool Fees, and Day Care Fees can all be made payable by clicking on the PaySchools logo on the website. Remember if you are sending in your payments by check that lunch money should be a separate check.

If you are a new student, kindergarten or preschool student then your presence is preferred at registration during one of the two days available.

If you need to make alternative arrangements due to conflicts, please contact either Mrs. Tomlinson at the Elementary office @ 641/764-2470 or Mrs. Henderson at the Jr./Sr. High office @ 641/764-2486 after 8/10/09.

Thank you for your cooperation, see you soon!

**MStM Before and After Child Care Program
Registration and Enrollment Policies:**

Registration: A parent of guardian must complete a registration form from each child they wish to enroll along with a \$20 non-refundable registration fee payable to MStM Community School, %Superintendent's Office. The \$20 fee does not apply to current daycare enrollment.

Eligibility: Children PreK-6th Grades
Program hours and days: This program will begin August 2009 and will run through May 2010. Hours of operation will be 6am until 5:45pm.

Cost: \$60 per week for Before and After Care
 \$30 per week for Before School Child Care
 \$35 per week for After School Child Care
 \$19 per All Day Child Care
 \$9.50 per 1/2 day

Drop In Rate:
 \$7 per morning
 \$8 per afternoon
 \$70 per week for Before and After Care
 \$35 per week for Before Care
 \$40 per week for After Care

- Enrollment:**
1. Parent/guardian will be provided with a set of enrollment forms for each child. All forms must be completed and returned before or on the first day of attendance.
 2. Parents/guardian must sign their child(ren) up at least one-week in advance.

Before and After Child Care Registration Form:

(Please Print)

_____ (Child's Name) _____ (Date of Birth) _____ (Home Phone)

_____ (Parent / Guardian's Name)

_____ (Address) _____ (Work Phone)

Indicate with an X your childcare needs:

Starting Date: ____/____/____

_____ Full-time mornings (circle-M T W TH F)

_____ Full-time afternoons (circle-M T W TH F)

_____ Full-time AM & PM (circle-M T W TH F)

_____ Part-time mornings (circle-M T W TH F)

_____ Part-time afternoons (circle-M T W TH F)

_____ Part-time AM & PM (circle-M T W TH F)

_____ All Day Child Care

_____ Drop-in (Note: Because of daily scheduled activities, we need to be notified by 5pm the day prior to drop-in.)

_____ (Parent/Guardian Signature) _____ (Date)

MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING

June 4, 2009

The Board of Directors of the Martensdale-St. Marys Community School District met in regular session, pursuant to law, on Thursday, June 4, 2009.

Members Present: Scott Anderson, Vice-President; John Della Vedova and Nicole Bunch; together with Superintendent Jean Peterson and Business Manager Jill Gavin.

Members Absent: A. Velvet VanHoose, President and Cathy Seymour

I. Welcome
 Anderson called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. and welcomed all guests.

II. Public Comments
 There were no public comments.

III. New Business

A. Discuss – Secondary/Elementary Handbook Updates for 2009-2010

Wood discussed the changes made with the Board for the 2009-2010 Elementary Handbook.

Crozier discussed the changes made with the Board for the 2009-2010 Secondary Handbook. A committee of students, staff and parents reviewed and made changes that were highlighted for the Board's review. Changes to the Semester Tests guidelines were discussed. Bunch asked about the long term impact on the semester test waiver on post secondary students. Bunch asked if there was another motivation that could be used instead of the current reward. Della Vedova suggested giving them a day out of school as motivation. Crozier will review this policy again.

Crozier continued to review his Principal Report because he will not be in attendance at the June 8 Board Meeting. He reviewed Summer School for this summer with Ron Peterson in charge. Graduation was very nice. He announced the Students of the Month, Teacher of the Month and Students of the Year.

Supt. Peterson and Gavin reviewed the rest of the agenda for the June 8 Board Meeting.

B. Discuss/Approve – Naming Baseball Field after Jim Donohue – Supt. Peterson

The Board discussed in length about the need of a policy when it comes to naming athletic complexes or parts of the building

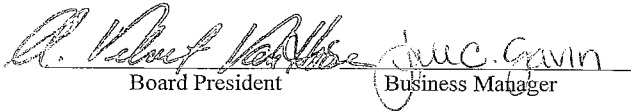
after a former teacher or coach. Supt. Peterson has contacted other districts and they do not have a current policy in place either. There is also not a current policy to refer to from the Iowa School Board Officials. Supt. Peterson will research this topic further. Della Vedova presented to the Board that it is not a Donohue issue but a policy issue. Della Vedova stated that he has total respect for Donohue and agrees that he had a very successful career as the baseball coach for MStM but also agrees that a policy needs to be put in place.

Bunch motioned to table the request of naming the baseball field after Jim Donohue seconded by Della Vedova. Roll call: 3 ayes.

IV. Adjourn

Bunch motioned to adjourn seconded by Della Vedova. Roll call: 3 ayes. Time: 6:20 p.m.

APPROVED


Board President Business Manager

MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING June 8, 2009

The Board of Directors of the Martensdale-St. Marys Community School District met in regular session, pursuant to law, on Monday, June 8, 2009.

Members Present: A. Velvet VanHoose, President; Scott Anderson, John Della Vedova, Nicole Bunch, and Cathy Seymour together with Superintendent Jean Peterson, and Business Manager Jill Gavin.

Members Absent: None

- I. Welcome – Board President
VanHoose called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and welcomed all guests. Guests included Tom Wood and Matt Carlile.
- II. Consent Items
Della Vedova motioned to approve the consent items seconded by Bunch. Roll call: 5 ayes.
- III. Celebrations
Supt. Peterson announced the outstanding turnout we had at the Girls' State Track and the Boys' State Track meets. The following teams qualified for the Girls' and Boys' State Track.

Shuttle Hurdle Relay – Taylor Johnson, Megan Simms, Beth Rucker, Meagan Streyffeler, PJ Estell and Shannon Snyder.

4x400 Relay – Carrie Wood, Morgan Halverson, Meghan Halverson, Meagan Streyffeler, Megan Simms, Katie Butcher

4X800 Relay – Meghan Halverson, Morgan Halverson, Katie Butcher, Carrie Wood, Meagan Streyffeler, and Rachel Connor

Distant Medley – Megan Simms, Carrie Wood, Meghan Halverson, Morgan Halverson, Taylor Johnson and Meagan Streyffeler

100 Hurdles – Meagan Streyffeler

400 Hurdles – Meagan Streyffeler

100 Hurdles – Kyle Bown

400 Hurdles – Kyle Bown

Kyle Bown- Lukas Schrodt

Congratulations to the Girls' Shuttle Hurdle Relay who placed 5th at the State Track Meet.

Supt. Peterson announced that the MStM Graduation was very nice and had a great turnout. Wood announced that the PTO had another successful year for the K-8 Fun Run. They made improvements to the Fun Run from last year and it went very well. Wood announced the outstanding achievement of the 1st Grade class. It is the first time ever that every 1st Grade student hit the DIBELS benchmark in oral reading. Wood, Mrs. Devore and Mrs. Schad had an award ceremony and honored the students with a certificate. The Preschool and Kindergarten Graduations were held on the last day of school and there were tears from both students and staff.

IV. Public Comments
There were no public comments.

V. Old Business
A. Reports

1) Facilities Report – Supt. Peterson. Supt. Peterson introduced Matt Carlile who gave us an update on the track and field project. Grading is going well with the amount of rain that we have been receiving. We had a bulldozer burn up; which slowed us down a little. They will be pouring slabs by the end of the week, the practice field on the right is at the correct level and the underground utilities is a little behind but they have to meet the deadlines that were given to them.

The Board asked if the alternate plan was in place in case we can't play out first home game on the new field. Simpson has been contacted and estimates have been made on travel expenses. Carlile will be getting weekly if not daily reports and will attend our July meeting for another update. Supt. Peterson updated the Board on the air conditioning project. The electrical work will be completed this week, once the inspection is completed then the transformer will arrive during the 2nd or 3rd week of July.

Classrooms will be done before school begins but the gym will not be completed until the first part of September. Mr. Young is doing a nice job. He is here daily and keeping us updated regularly. The Elementary Entrance will begin construction this week.

2) MStM Music Booster Minutes – Supt. Peterson. The Board asked if the music class made it to Adventureland. Yes they did but it was a wet trip. They will not be participating in any RAGRAII fundraisers.

3) MStM Athletic Booster Minutes – Supt. Peterson. Supt. Peterson updated the Board on the baseball dugouts. They are done for the most part and the Athletic Boosters have paid for half and the school has paid for half.

B. Presentations

1) Superintendent’s Report – Supt. Peterson. Supt. Peterson reviewed with the Board the dates set for our Department of Education site visit for February 9-11 and information on what to expect. Supt. Peterson provided the Board information about the IASB Legislative Action Priorities and Resolutions and that the Board needs to select up to five resolutions that are important to the MStM School District at the July Board Meeting. Supt. Peterson provided to the Board a new website with updated information on the Iowa Core Curriculum. She has been working with teachers in writing curriculum this summer and getting them to go beyond the standards and benchmarks to provide higher level teaching skills and assessments.

2) Principal’s Report – Mike Crozier and Tom Wood. Wood reviewed with the Board the Title I Parent Involvement Policy and the 4th Grade Honor Roll. Students who demonstrated Citizenship for Character Counts were:

PK: Sydney McCasland & Colton Fluharty
K: Jeriray Croy and Katelyn Lefleur
1st: Kaley Verwers and Grace Hart
2nd: Vincent Girardi and Shelby McCasland
3rd: Gabby Briney and Brianna Hartman
4th: Joel Criswell and Courtney Gehringer
5th: Courtney Craig and Madison Newbury
6th: Brianne Connor and Emily Murphy

Wood continued to present to the Board the issues we have had with our servers and his proposal to upgrade the servers and technology for 2009-2010. He is looking at three different bids for the project. The Board will approve at the July Board meeting.

Crozier was not in attendance but presented his Principal Report at the Agenda Meeting on Thursday, June 4, 2009. At the Agenda Meeting he reviewed the changes to the Secondary Handbook, resignations, summer school program, and how nice Graduation was this year.

He also announced the May Students of the Month.

7th Elizabeth Gerdes

8th Katie Schrodt

9th Daulton Gibson

10th Cori Williamson

11th Kyle Wiedman

Teacher of the Month – Jed Alexander

The students who were selected Students of the Month for 2008-2009, were then looked at for Student of the Year. Crozier announced those individuals at the Agenda Meeting.

7th Laura Lacquement

8th Cassidy Phillips

9th Morgan Halverson

10th Katie Butcher

11th Kati Gehringer

12th Meghan Halverson

VI. New Business

A. **Approve Personnel Recommendations** – Supt. Peterson. Supt. Peterson and Tom Wood recommended Nancy Kisling for the Special Ed Associate for the 2009-2010 school year. She was the long term sub during the maternity leave of Dawn Tibbits. She has bonded well and has established a good relationship with her one on one student. Seymour motioned to approved Nancy Kisling for the Special Ed Associate position seconded by Anderson. Roll call: 5 ayes.

B. **Approve Personnel Resignations** – Supt. Peterson. Supt. Peterson announced the following personnel resignations:

Brandi Cole – Family Consumer Science

Dawn Tibbits – Special Ed Associate

Jim Seymour – Bus Driver

Rana Webster – Dance Coach

Terah Henson – Cross Country Coach

Supt. Peterson informed the Board that Webster and Henson would continue with the positions if we could not find a suitable replacement. Della Vedova motioned to approve the personnel resignations of Cole, Tibbits and Seymour and the resignations of Webster and Henson unless we can not find a suitable replacement seconded by Bunch. Roll call: 5 ayes.

C. **Approve Open Enrollment Requests** – Supt. Peterson. Anderson motioned to approve the open enrollment request of Rick and Melissa Schad seconded by Bunch. Roll call: 5 ayes.

D. Approve Transportation Contracts – Supt. Peterson. Gavin provided current rates and proposed rates for the 2009-2010 transportation contracts for Missy Perry and Dick Wadle. Wadle requested no increase in pay for the 2009-2010 school year. Della Vedova approved the \$462.50 increase to pay for Missy Perry and accepted the proposal from Wadle seconded by Anderson. Roll call: 5 ayes.

E. Discuss/Approve Early Start Calendar Waiver Request – Supt. Peterson. Supt. Peterson explained to the Board, due to the Iowa Code a School Board must request for an early start waiver if starting prior to September 1, 2009. Seymour motioned to approve the early start waiver request to begin school on August 24, 2009 seconded by Anderson. Roll call: 5 ayes.

F. Discuss/Approve Secondary and Elementary Handbook – Tom Wood. Wood and Crozier reviewed the changes made to the Secondary and Elementary Handbooks for 2009-2010 at the Agenda Meeting held on Thursday, June 4, 2009. Della Vedova motioned to approve the Secondary and Elementary Handbooks for 2009-2010 seconded by Seymour. Roll call: 5 ayes.

G. Discuss/Approve New Teaching Positions – Supt. Peterson. Supt. Peterson recommended to not pursue hiring a new math/technology teacher for the 2009-2010 due to the budget cuts that were given to us in 2008-2009 and 2009-2010. She wants to keep a healthy unspent balance and be prepared for future budget cuts for the 2010-2011 school year. She proposed that Mr. Alexander and Mr. Hilsabeck would each take on one or two advance math courses for the 2009-2010 school year. The Board understood the concerns given by Supt. Peterson but feels that providing the necessary advanced math courses is very important to the MStM students and requested that the Administration pursue a half time math teacher to teach the lower levels of math and to allow Mr. Alexander to teach the more advanced math classes. Della Vedova motioned to approve a new half time math teacher for the 2009-2010 school year seconded by Anderson. Roll call: 5 ayes.

H. Discuss/Approve Athletic Director Salary – Supt. Peterson. Supt. Peterson wanted the Board to know what an excellent job Ron Peterson has done this past year as Athletic Director. He has put in many hours at all the events, evaluated the coaches, has made the tough calls, and has also connected with those in the At-Risk program. He is also in charge of the Summer School program. Supt. Peterson recommended giving him an extra \$1000 to his contract for the Athletic Director position. Bunch motioned to approve the \$1000 increase to Ron Peterson's Athletic Director position seconded by Della Vedova. Roll call: 5 ayes.

I. Discuss/Approve K-6 Reading Language Arts Textbooks/Materials – Tom Wood. Wood reviewed with the Board the research he did for the upcoming textbook adoption for the 2009-2010 school year. He went over several companies that provide textbooks, he had teachers visit several schools to review their programs, and he requested the teachers review the materials extensively for several weeks. The K-6 teachers were very impressed and unanimously agreed on Treasures textbook program. The program works well with the DIBELS and the Iowa Core Curriculum requirements. It will allow teachers to pinpoint reading problems with students very early on. Our current reading curriculum is about seven years old. Curriculum should be replaced every five years. Della Vedova motioned to approve the K-6 Reading Language Arts Textbooks/Materials seconded by Seymour. Roll call: 5 ayes.

J. 2nd Reading Policy Series –705.1 - 711.9 – Supt. Peterson. Supt. Peterson reviewed changes to the policy. Anderson motioned to approve Policy Series 705.1-711.9 seconded by Seymour. Roll call: 5 ayes.

K. 1st Reading Policy 800 Series – Supt. Peterson. The Board will review the second reading of policy series 800 at the July Board Meeting.

L. Closed Session – Superintendent's Evaluation. Anderson motioned to go into Closed Session to discuss the Superintendent's Evaluation seconded by Della Vedova. Roll call: 5 ayes. Time: 7:52 p.m.

Seymour motioned to go out of Closed Session seconded by Della Vedova. Roll call: 5 ayes. Time 8:27 p.m.

M. Confirm – Next Meeting Dates. The Board discussed not having an Agenda Meeting on July 9, 2009. Board packets will be delivered to the Board members. The Board also discussed having the Board Meetings at 5:30 p.m. during the summer.

7/08/09 – Agenda subcommittee by e-mail
7/09/09 – No Agenda Meeting
7/13/09 – 5:30 p.m. Board Meeting

VII. Adjournment

Anderson motioned to adjourn seconded by Della Vedova. Roll call: 5 ayes. Time 8:30 p.m.

APPROVED


Board President Business Manager

The Martensdale-St.Marys District Newsletter will be mailed out before the fourth Friday of each month. Questions or concerns may be addressed to Mrs. Tomlinson @ 641/764-2621 or 641/764-2470. Thank you!

RAGBRAI 2009

Cheer Squad member, Beth Rucker “flips out” over RAGBRAI 2009 as it makes its way through Martensdale on July 21, 2009!



Beth Rucker was a big hit with all of the RAGBRAI riders!
What enthusiasm, she flipped for hours while entertaining the crowd!

Beth Rucker (right) taking a well deserved break! →

The words we heard from the RAGBRAI riders were very favorable towards the effort made by all of the St. Marys, Martensdale and Prole residents. “What a nice community” was over heard many times

Good job to the whole MStM community, you’re the best!



LOOK, one of our own MStM family members has arrived!



Mr. Hatcher arrived in Martensdale on his third day of RAGBRAI. The girls basketball players and cheerleaders encouraged him along the route to Indianola.

Pictured with Mr. Hatcher are: Carli Kenyon, Carrie Wood, Danielle Broadbent, Kayla and Kelsey DePauw, Elizabeth Gerdes, Katrina DeVore, and Megan Krumme. Carli Kenyon wins the award for the most persistent venter. The riders had no trouble knowing where the “Homemade Brownies” and “Chill Cups” were located.

What an enthusiastic crowd!



Mr. and Mrs. Don Hatcher with the thumbs up on a successful day of RAGBRAI 2009 (Mr. Hatcher is an MStM high school teacher). Another day well under way!

Good job and way to represent the MStM community!

RAGBRAI has many special stories to tell each year and one of those stories started in Santa Cruz, CA. with a man by the name of Brent Futrell. Mr. Futrell (54 years old) started out on a six week journey across the United States. He dipped his rear bike tire in the Pacific Ocean as he embarked on a 4000 mile journey.

When he was asked how he could take six weeks off to ride his bike, he said, "I am lucky, I have the best job and I have worked there for 30 years and have built up six weeks of vacation and this is how I like to spend it."



Along the way he stopped to enjoy another year of RAGBRAI! He says, "I love riding in Iowa, everyone is so nice and always smiling. The food is wonderful and I have already gained 10 pounds while on this ride."

Mr. Futrell stopped by to get his bike washed by the Martensdale Volunteer Fire Department.

His bike has already seen 2500 miles in the past few weeks.

When all is said and done he will then dip his front bike tire in the Atlantic Ocean.



Scott Morrow and his daughter, Brianna Hartman had the honor of washing Brent Futrell's bike. He had nothing but compliments to give Brianna and Scott for a job well done!



More RAGBRAI pictures:



Terah Henson (Kdg. Teacher) gets into the act.



Robert and Stephanie Seymour along with Brianna Hartman get the job done!



**There you go, it's as good as new!
One down and only 10,000 more to go?**



**Mrs. DePauw is hard at work selling raffle tickets,
that will go to local church groups for a trip to Colorado.**



PJ Estell and Chester the Chicken hand out (what else) chicken samples to hungry bike riders.



RAGBRAI 2009



Haylee Gehring, Chester the Chicken and Carrie Wood ham it up for the camera while our local officers look to be very concerned about them. Okay maybe not!



Mackenzie Morrison, unknown biker, Carrie Wood and PJ Estell (left) work the “Make A Shot” fundraiser. Mr. Alexander is doing a fine job supervising the contest. For \$1.00 the contestant has a chance to make a shot and win a 2009 Girls State Basketball towel. All proceeds go towards the Blue Devil basketball program. We look forward to another awesome season. Go Devils!!

The Cheer Squad, represented by, Carrie Wood (right) does her best to sell “Cherry Chill Cups” on a cold and rainy day. Where is the hot weather when we need it?
Also pictured: Danielle Broadbent and Megan Krumme.

THE MARTENSDALE FIRE DEPARTMENT RAISES MONEY FOR RESTORATION PROJECT

The Martensdale Fire Department was washing bikes to raise money to restore their first fire truck, a 1935 ford. Although, the bike wash was not a planned fund raiser, it wasn't until a woman that was riding Ragbrai was asked "*Is there anything we can get for you*" she replied "*A bike wash*". We quickly gathered buckets, soap, rags, and a pair of old fire boots to hold the donations.

Before the pump was started on the fire truck we had a line of about 20 bikes waiting to be washed. We began washing between 12:30 and 1:00pm. We had a steady stream of riders wanting their bikes washed until about 5:30pm. Many people who were veterans to Ragbrai commented that they had never seen anything like it!

We estimate washing about 350 bikes in about 4 hours! The bike wash tallied just under \$700.

Bike washing is a total team effort!

Holly Morrow, Terah Henson, Brianna Hartman and Stephanie Seymour kept their smiles going all through the day.



With 2 bikes done, there are only 348 more to go!
Hooray!



A large RAGBRAI crowd gathers to wait for their turn at the Martensdale Fire Department bike wash.

Terah Henson (center) points out a missed dirt spot on the bike that Brianna Hartman and Scott Morrow are washing. Mr. Futrell finds that very humorous, but appreciates the attention to the details.

Holly Morrow (left) is busy rinsing off a completed bike. Great job guys!





A RAGBRAI rider concentrates on his shot to win a towel while Mackenzie Morrison is hard at work drumming up business for the team.



The Cheer Squad stand was selling cookies, brownies, chill cups, water, and Gatorade to the bikers (left), the money that is earned will go towards their new cheerleading uniforms. Abby Jones (right) gave one of the RAGBRAI riders a well appreciated push towards Indianola. Good job Abby! After a long couple of days preparing and praying for good weather, the end result was a fun filled day with people from all walks of life from all over the world. All in all, RAGBRAI was the biggest thing to ever hit the Martensdale-St.Marys Community School District and will be remembered by those who shared the day!

Home of the Blue Devils