

Mustang Messenger

Volume 14 Issue 1

February 2023



Looking Towards the Future

Jeff Arzt, Superintendent

Greetings Melrose-Mindoro Community,

As we say goodbye to 2022, I hope you are off to a Happy New Year! As the district jumps into 2023, I want to take a moment to update our families & community members on a few items of importance.

The school board approved the final 2022-2023 school budget on October 24, 2022. The final budget included a tax levy of \$4,375,355 with a mill rate of 9.784. This is a decrease of 1.98% on the mill rate from the previous year. This is the lowest mill rate in 10 years, despite an approximate 9.25% increase in property value and the \$24.7 million dollar construction project completed in 2018. The school board and administration has focused on improving school facilities and academic programming, while being fiscally responsible.

The district has used one-time Federal ESSER (Covid-19) dollars to help fund many needed programs, with no additional cost to local taxpayers and parents. Like most school districts in the state of Wisconsin, the Melrose-Mindoro School District recognized the need for before and after school care to combat the childcare shortage. In the 2020-2021 school year, the district started providing after school care for PreK-3rd grade students. Then in 2021-2022 we expanded to include before school care and offered both times to PreK-6th grade students. We currently provide this care to students from **6:30-8:00 a.m.** and **3:15--5:30 p.m.** when school is in session. For the past three years, the numbers of students participating has nearly doubled each year. We currently average around 90-100 students attending before or after school care each day. Along with the increase in students participation, the cost of funding the program as increased to approximately \$40,000 per year. This is not a problem while we have remaining ESSER dollars to fund the program, but when this funding ends in September 2024, the district will need to look for other ways to fund the program. The district has looked into applying for state and federal grants but currently do not qualify for most of the programs being offered to school districts. As a last resort, the district may have to look at charging families a fee to utilize the before and after school program.

I am hopeful the state legislature and governor will use the surplus in the state budget to provide our district with adequate funding to maintain our current programming. Despite the uncertainties of school funding, the school district is committed to ensuring services are continued to help support students & families. Please stay tuned for more information as we navigate through these issues over the next few years. Again, thank you for your support.

Holocaust Survivor to Speak to Students and Community Members

Peter Feigl, the only child of Ernst and Agnes Bornstein Feigl, was born on March 1, 1929, in Berlin, Germany. His father, a mechanical engineer, worked for a multinational company selling automotive equipment throughout Europe while his mother stayed home to raise Peter in an upper middle class environment. When the family, who were non-practicing Jews, moved to Vienna in 1937, Peter was baptized in the Catholic Church in the hope he would be shielded from the virulent antisemitism in Germany and Austria.

Sixth grade teachers Mrs. Janet Woodward and Mrs. Becky Blaken will both be attending the Holocaust Workshop hosted by Viterbo University in March. Both teachers attended last year and came away with a plethora of knowledge to assist in teaching this valuable information. Due to their participation in the workshop, the Melrose-Mindoro 6th, 7th and 8th grade students will have the honor and privilege to hear Mr. Peter Feigl speak on March 24th. He is a Holocaust survivor. Mr. Feigl will also have a public presentation on Thursday, March 23, 2023 at 7:00 PM. We encourage you to take the opportunity to hear living history.



Regular Open Enrollment: February 6-April 28, 2023

Wisconsin's inter-district public school open enrollment program allows parents to apply for their children to attend school districts other than the one in which they live. Applications may be submitted to up to three nonresident school districts.

The application period for the 2023-2024 school year is from February 6-April 28, 2023. **The application period closes at 4:00 p.m. on April 28, 2023.** Parents are encouraged to apply online at: <http://dpi.wi.gov/oe>

Once a pupil is accepted into a nonresident school district, the pupil may continue to attend that district without reapplication except that: A pupil may be returned to the resident school district if the special education required in a new or revised IEP is not available in the nonresident district or there is no space, or a pupil who has become habitually truant in the non-resident district may be returned to the resident district.

For more information contact Michelle Murray, Open Enrollment Coordinator by calling 608-488-2201 ext. 1168 or email murraym@mel-min.k12.wi.us. You may also find information at <http://dpi.wi.gov/oe>.

Child Development Day 2023

WHO: 3 & 4 year old children

WHEN: Friday, February 17 from 8:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

WHERE: Melrose-Mindoro Elementary

WHY: To find out more about your child's development

COST: FREE!!

Children will participate in a variety of play activities where social, communication, motor & early learning skills will be observed. There will also be opportunities for parents to discuss their child's development with representatives of the school district and local agencies serving young children & their families.

Parents of 3 & 4 year old children who are on our district census will be mailed an appointment time along with a link to fill out a developmental questionnaire and other important information. Parents are strongly encouraged to bring their child to this screening event if you have not attended previously.

Please call Chelsea or Haley in the elementary office if you are new to the district or need to reschedule your appointment time. They can be reached between 6:30 AM-4:30 PM, Monday-Friday.

Your child does not need to attend if they are currently enrolled in Early Childhood or the 4K program.

Job Opportunities at the Pool

Enjoy being outdoors and having fun in the sun? Working at the Melrose Pool is the job for you! Lifeguards and water safety instructors are needed and training is provided. Please contact Clark Anderson by **April 1, 2023** at **Village of Melrose, PO BOX 117, Melrose, WI 54642,**



December in 4K was all about gingerbread! We have a stuffed gingerbread friend who comes to visit each classroom every day. Ginger and Gumdrop leave us a note and a treat, a new book or fun activities to do. Our family outreach project was to disguise a gingerbread friend so they wouldn't get eaten over the holidays. We had a few snowmen, a penguin, some Santa's, Mickey Mouse, a police officer, kids, Spiderman and a Ninja Turtle! We also participated in a gingerbread exchange with 20 other schools across the country. We received gingerbread friends in the mail from as far away as California and Utah and as close as Michigan and Illinois. We had fun finding the different states on a map and learning a little bit about each one. The best part of our gingerbread fun was building and decorating gingerbread houses in the classroom using milk cartons and lots of frosting and treats! We are working hard on learning the alphabet letters and their sounds, rhyming, making patterns, counting, number sense and writing our names!

District Nursing News

Tara Tjerstad, RN BSN

tjerstad@mel-min.k12.wi.us (608) 488-2201 ext. 1128/2128

It's Cold Outside! Winter gear is necessary for warm, happy, healthy students. We have a supply of donated coats, hats, mittens, scarves, and snow pants. If your child is in need of warm clothing, please let a staff person know. If we do not have what your child needs, we will help find it. Students will have outside recess unless air or wind chill temperatures are zero or below as posted on the National Weather Service. This is monitored closely during the cold winter days.

REMINDER OF CRITERIA FOR KEEPING A STUDENT HOME FROM SCHOOL:

Temperature over 100°F by mouth/ear. **Please do not send the student back to school until the temperature is normal for 24 hours without the use of a fever-reducing medication.**

Severe cold with headache, chills, fever and stuffy or runny nose

Vomiting in the past 24 hours

A red sore throat with white spots, lasting more than 12 hours

An undiagnosed rash

Red blood streaked eyes that are matted shut, itch, are swollen and hurt.

Diarrhea in the past 24 hours

Live head lice – may come after treated

COVID positive

If your student is not going to be attending school, please call (608) 488- 2201 or email the secretary at attendance@mel-min.k12.wi.us to let them know of the absence and the reason. Please also let your bus driver know.

HEAD LICE: If you have a concern about your child, let me know and I will discreetly check them. They do not jump or fly and do not like to leave the head they are on – unless they can move directly to another. If your child has long hair, please **style it pulled back or up**. When the children put their heads together working on projects, telling secrets, etc., the lice have the opportunity to move to another head.

Occasionally check your child after their bath or shower. If you have found head lice at home, please let me know, along with any other students that your child is in close contact with. This is kept confidential. You can find our complete head lice policy and treatment information on the school website.

HEALTH SCREENINGS: Vision: The Mindoro Lions Club partnered with La Crosse Lions to conduct the screening using a photoscreening digital device called a SPOT. It is like a large camera and takes a picture of your child's eyes. It has technology to detect a number of potential eye problems. Mid November, Early Childhood through 6th grades completed the screening. Letters have been sent home for children who need further evaluation. I can continue to vision screen students at parent or staff's request. **Hearing:** Our school district has an Audio Pilot screener that can be used to screen the hearing of any child that parents or staff have a concern about.

MEDICATION: Any medication at school requires a School Medication Form signed by the parent and be in the original container (no baggies). For prescription medication, the form must also be signed by the physician. Please contact me if you have questions or need assistance. Students are NOT allowed to carry or keep medication with them unless authorized by his/her physician.

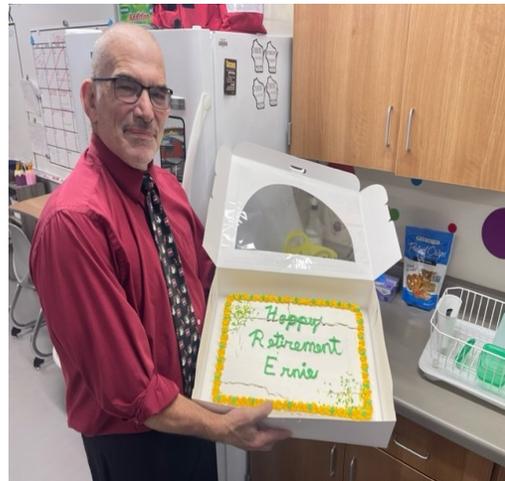
MORE INFORMATION: I will occasionally post information on our district website. You can find me under the "schools" tab at "News From Our School Nurse". Dr. Elizabeth Hanson from Gundersen Onalaska Clinic is our district's Medical Advisor and much of the information I post comes from the Gundersen Clinic website.

We want our students to be healthy, in school, and ready to learn!

A Not So Superstitious 'Friday the 13th' Celebration

Ernie Brodsky was a young man, fresh out of Valley City College in North Dakota, looking for a job. Hired in 1982, Mr. Brodsky found a home with the Melrose—Mindoro Mustangs and Friday, January 13, 2023, marked his last day. He has taught high school English to thousands of students; some of which are current staff members. Not only has he taught English to eager (and maybe not so eager) students, he was a leader coaching athletes on and off the wrestling mat and football field for many years.

Best of luck to you Mr. Brodsky in your retirement! Our doors are always open to you.



Melrose-Mindoro High School Presents

Jolly Roger and The Pirate Queen

By Craig Sodaro



Friday, March 24th at 7pm |
Saturday, March 25 at 2pm and 7pm

Bridging Brighter Smiles



shutterstock - 149935553

Bridging Brighter Smiles is in our district and provides basic dental health for students. This program is open to all students in the district 4K-12th grade. Visits are held throughout the school year and services include oral screening, cleanings, fluoride varnish applications, dental sealants, dental health education and referral assistance.

To enroll your children, go to enrollment.bbsmiles.org to complete an enrollment form right online!

Bridging Brighter Smiles accepts Forward Health (BadgerCare). They do not bill or accept other private dental insurances. Questions? Call 262-896-9891 or visit them on the web at www.bbsmiles.org



SNOW MAKE UP DAYS

School will be in session on April 10 and April 11, 2023. These are snow make up days.

Hello to the New Additions to our Mustang Family!



Top row: L to R: Sydney Behm, Ashley Boe, Steve Boe, Brianna Brehmer, Kayla Foley, Eunice Flick-Webb, Lisa Franks, Jaclyn Grieve, **Second Row:** Nicole Hummel, Kathy Jones, Asley Kaz, Sadie Korth, Steve Kurschner, Chelsea Parker, Scott Scholze, Dawn Speckeen. **Bottom Row:** Anne Wachter-Labus. Student Teachers: Gabby Barnes & Luke Thornton. Pet Therapy dogs: Harrison, Lambeau & Lacy. Harrison is technically not considered 'new' to the staff but he has a couple of new buddies to join him helping with students. Missing from photos: Tina Braun, Hannah Donelson, Allison Gerdes and Myla Heller.

Most of our new staff were pretty shy about telling us a little about themselves, but we were able to convince a few to do so.

Steve Boe: 2002 graduate of Blair-Taylor High School. I am a graduate of the University of Wisconsin - River Falls with a double major in Political Science and Agricultural education and have lived in Taylor, WI pretty much all of my life except for my years at college and the 2 1/2 years I worked at the State Capitol. I enjoy being active in my community. I am the service director for Taylor First Responders, and serve on the Board of Director and Treasurer for the Jackson County Ag Society (Fair Board), as well as the treasurer for the Taylor FFA Alumni Association.

Hannah Donelson: live outside Holmen, have four boys at home aged 12 to 3 years. I love reading in my free time and traveling. I am so excited to be working with all the kids and helping them learn and grow.

Allison Gerdes: I joined Melrose-Mindoro Elementary School as a Behavior Interventionist in December. I am a 2017 Mel-Min graduate and received my bachelors in Psychology from UWL. Currently, I am working toward my master's in Mental Health Counseling at South Dakota State University. I am passionate about working with children and adolescents of varying abilities. My goal is to help them recognize their strengths and overcome struggles they may be facing through individual and group work. My work is designed to help students improve their classroom behavior, support academic progress, assist them in gaining insight into themselves and others, enhance self-concept, and to achieve skills in problem solving, decision-making, and social interactions. Sessions equip students with strategies to succeed in and out of the classroom. I look forward to helping students thrive in the classroom.

Jaclyn Grieve: I grew up in south Texas and moved to Wisconsin to attend college at the University of Wisconsin- River Falls where I received my Bachelors of Science in Equine Science. After spending some time working at a few farms/ranches across the United States in the performance horse industry, I decided to come back home and pursue a different avenue which has led me to work at Mel-Min. In my free time I enjoy riding horses, spending time with my kids, and playing fetch with our two dogs. In the summer my family and I travel to Alaska to visit my parents where we spend most our time fishing for Halibut and King Salmon!

Kathy Jones: I am an Early Childhood teacher and have taught in both residential and public schools for 20 years. I live in Cataract on a small hobby farm with my husband and daughter along with our cats, dog and chickens. When I am not at school, I love to be with my family, go for walks, quilt and scrapbook.

Scholarship Opportunities

Thanks to the generosity of many people, local groups sponsor a variety of scholarship programs. Individuals, clubs, and businesses provide funds that students from Melrose-Mindoro receive every year, and some of the groups make multiple awards. Most of these scholarships do require an application. Seniors should check in the guidance office to obtain more information. They will receive a list of local scholarships, and most of the application forms are available on our school computer network.

Most local scholarship applications are due in early April, but some deadlines are earlier.

Help is also available for students researching state and national scholarships. Applicants should be aware that the deadlines for these programs vary widely. For most students, focusing their effort on local scholarships is more productive than participating in nation-wide competitions.

Our local donors may change every year. Anyone interested in starting a new scholarship is encouraged to contact the high school. All eligible students are encouraged to apply for these awards.

Consider Becoming a Host Family

Consider opening your home to a high school foreign exchange student in the 2023-2024 school year. Contact JH/HS Principal Rick Dobbs for information.



Check out our Website & Like us on Facebook

Get the most current information and learn about the latest changes to the academic or sports schedule by visiting our website: www.mel-min.k12.wi.us or search & like **Melrose-Mindoro School District** on Facebook.



Top photos: The Junior High student council held a food drive and collected over 20 boxes of food to donate to area food pantries. Students from Mrs. Windsor’s class visited the Jackson County Animal Shelter this fall. They learned about the adoption process and were even asked to come up with names for the cats. They also spent time with former Mel-Min staff and students!

Bottom photos: During library time fourth grade students learned about STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) work. Students worked in groups to follow directions and create a LEGO model of a slide with movable gears.



ANNUAL NOTICE

HOMELESS CHILDREN AND YOUTH

The McKinney-Vento Act defines homeless children and youth as:

Children and youth who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence, and includes children and youth who are:

- sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason
- living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to the lack of alternative adequate accommodations
- living in emergency or transitional shelters
- abandoned in hospitals
- living in a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings
- living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings; and migratory children who qualify as homeless because the children are living in circumstances described above.

If you are personally aware of or are acquainted with any children or youth who may qualify according to the above criteria, the Melrose-Mindoro School District provides the following assurances to parents and guardians of homeless children and youth and unaccompanied homeless youth:

- The child or youth shall be immediately enrolled and allowed to fully participate in school, even if unable to produce records normally required for enrollment (e.g., academic records, immunization and other required health records, proof of residency, or other documentation) or has missed application or enrollment deadlines during any period of homelessness.
- Homeless children and youths are not stigmatized or segregated on the basis of their status as homeless and have full and equal educational and related opportunities.
- Meaningful opportunities to participate in the education of their children including special notices of events, parent-teacher conferences, newsletters, and access to student records.
- Immediate enrollment and transportation to the school of origin. "School of origin" means the school that a child or youth attended when permanently housed or the school in which the child or youth was last enrolled, including a pre-school.
- Written explanation of any decisions related to school selection or enrollment made by the school, the local educational agency, or the State educational agency involved, including the rights of the parent, guardian, or unaccompanied youth to appeal and receive prompt resolution of such decisions.

Please contact, Tammy Leis, Homeless Liaison for the Melrose-Mindoro School District, at (608) 488-2201 ext. 1127 or email leista@mel-min.k12.wi.us for additional information about the rights and services described above.



National Honor Society News

Members of the Melrose-Mindoro National Honor Society continue to work together to give back to the community. This time by making tie-blankets for residents at a local nursing home. Thank you NHS members for your positivity and being leaders in our community.

GEO & Remedial Summer School

GEO (Greater Educational Opportunities), Swimming Lessons and Remedial Summer School dates have been finalized! GEO is extra enrichment and fun classes that are offered at Melrose-Mindoro. Keep checking for updates when our course offering booklet and sign up forms are released. Our hope is to provide fun opportunities for all students in Grades PK-12 to enjoy. **GEO classes will run June 5-June 16, 2023. (8am-12pm).**

Remedial Summer School is offered to students to provide a refresher in reading and math. It is intended to give extra support and a confidence boost. **Remedial Summer school will be held July 24-August 4, 2023. (8am-12pm).**

If you or anyone you know has a hobby or interest you want to share and are interested in teaching a GEO class, please contact school. Please contact GEO Coordinator Jamie Koss – 608-488-2201 ext. 2127 or email koss@mel-min.k12.wi.us.



Early Dismissal & School Closing Procedure

If school will be starting late, closed, or dismissing early due to inclement weather, an announcement will be broadcast on the radio & TV stations listed below.



To receive information on your mobile device, visit the app store & download your favorite station's weather app or check their websites for up-to-date information.

Emergency Messenger through Infinite Campus may also be used to notify parents for early dismissals and closings.

Magnum Media: Kicks 106.3, Magic 97.9, WKBH 102.7, Alt 107.1, Mix 96.1, 94.5 WTMB

WWIS-Black River Falls: WWIS FM 99.7

WHTL-Whitehall: WHTL-102.3 FM

WCOW-Sparta: Cow 97.1

Midwest Family Broadcasting-La Crosse: WIZM 410 AM, WKTY 580 AM, WIZM-FM Z-93.3, WRQT 95.7/The Rock, KQYB 98.3 FM, KCLH 94.7 FM

Midwest Family Broadcasting-Eau Claire: WAXX 104.5 FM, WAYY 790 AM or 105.1 FM, I-94 94.1 FM

TV Stations

WKBT-8 (www.news8000.com), WXOW-19 (www.wxow.com) WEAU-13 (www.weau.com), FOX 25/48 (www.wiproud.com)



The first graders have been enjoying their personal narrative writing unit, this winter. They participate in many fun experiences and then use their knowledge of personal narratives to write about them. Some of their favorite experiences included Buddy Playtime, Marshmallow Tower, Paper Airplane Challenge, and Bridge Building. After they participate in the experience, they make a story plan, add adjectives and create a personal narrative with a beginning, middle, and an end. We are proud of how well our students are progressing with their writing, while sharing cool experiences as they learn.





CELEBRITY STORY NIGHT



What: Elementary students and families are invited to attend Celebrity Story Night. Students will listen to stories read by our high school wrestling team, girls basketball players, Harry the therapy dog and Superintendent Mr. Arzt.

Students will enjoy popcorn and juice. Each student will take home a free book, thanks to the PTO.

Families are welcome to check out our free little library and borrow books.

When: Wednesday, February 22, 2023

6:00-7:00 pm

Where: Elementary Cafeteria

Please let us know how many students in your family will attend. The bottom of this form can be returned to the child's classroom teacher.

Please return no later than 2/8/2023

Melrose-Mindoro Celebrity Story Night # attending

Number of students attending _____

Grade _____

Bus Driver Appreciation Week February 13-17, 2023

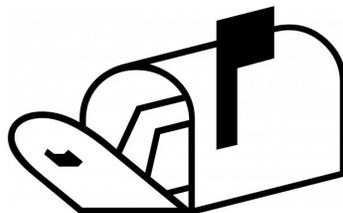


Bus Driver Appreciation Week is February 13-17, 2023. We are so grateful to all our staff and especially all of our bus drivers (some of whom do multiple jobs in the district) who get your children to and from school and activities. Please give a shout out to our staff! Back row: Heather Stello, Mike Hesse, Stanley Stetzer, Paul Lash, Joe Rochester, Troy Herzberg, John Stark, Brant Young, Dan Stetzer. Front row: Dan Adams, Penny Lash, Jeff Severson, Brian Lash, Kelly Mulholland, Terry Nickel, Spencer Windsor and Cindy Koss-Rommel. Missing from the photo: Greg Britton, Peter Kaz, Rhonda Murphy, Jamie North and Cal Tenner.

New Addition to the Family or New to the District?

Have you recently had a baby or your family has moved into the district? Please complete the **Census Data Collection** form at the back of this newsletter and return to the school. You may also email your information to murraym@mel-min.k12.wi.us.

By doing so, you'll receive notices about upcoming early childhood screening and 4K registration dates, along with other important events.



Spring Election, April 4, 2023



Area 2: Kim Sacia (I) covers 'That area south of CO Trunk D, extending in Jackson County, excluding the Village of Melrose.

Area 5: Richard Paisley (I) That area located between County Trunk M & State

Highway 108 (formerly CO Trunk C) in La Crosse County.

To be considered as a write in candidate, you must file your registration statement no later than noon on Friday, March 31, 2023.

Melrose-Mindoro School District Census Data Collection

(February 2023)

The Melrose-Mindoro School District is collecting census data for children 20 years of age (as of June 30, 2023) and younger. **Please complete this form only if you have a new addition to the family or are new to the district, even if your child(ren) do not attend Melrose-Mindoro Schools.**

Will your children attend school in the Melrose-Mindoro School District? () Yes () No

If no, where will they attend school? _____

Please list children age 0-20 years old as of June 30 this year residing in your home. Use legal names of children.

Child's First Name	Child's Last Name	Date of Birth	Gender (M/F)	Current Grade Level

Parent(s) or Guardian(s)
(List only those living in the household.)

Father's Full Name _____

Mother's Full Name _____

Other people living in home (not already listed) Full Names _____

Address (street, city) _____

City, Village, or Township you live in _____

Home Phone # _____ Cell # _____

Please send this form to:
Melrose-Mindoro High School
ATTN: Michelle Murray
N181 ST RD 108
Melrose, WI 54642
Or e-mail to: murraym@mel-min.k12.wi.us

Melrose-Mindoro School District

N181 State Highway 108

Melrose, WI 54642