

Maverick Moments for December 2023

Winter break is just around the bend and even as the outside temperature is cooling off, activities here at MLS are really warming up considerably. Both the boys and girls high school basketball teams are in full motion as well as the JH girls basketball. Kids as young as kindergarten are also taking part in a community basketball program hosted here at the school and playing at some of the half-times. It's great to see so many kids involved, the school is literally used almost every day of the week by our kids.

The High School Christmas Concert took place on December 9th. This year we had the concert on a Saturday because of conflicts with activities each night. It was a fantastic concert that highlighted the immense talents of our students in both vocal and instrumental music. I was blown away by the rich sophisticated sound of our band, and the bright and captivating voices of our choir. It was a joy to attend! If you ever have a chance to listen to our music students, please take advantage of that opportunity.

The school board will meet on the 14th, the main thing on the agenda was approval of advertising for spring sports coaches. MLS returns head coaches for softball and baseball but will advertise for assistant coaches in each. We are set for track with coaches returning.

Our winter break starts at 2:00 p.m. on December 20th and students come back to school on January 3rd. January also sees a day off for students on Monday January 15th as teachers take that day to work on professional development. As most of you know, we may have a few "snow days" this winter (if we cancel school), in this case students will participate virtually in lessons and days will not be made up. It is important that students work from home on these days as not to miss important lessons and learning. The school will usually make decisions regarding school cancellations the morning of unless we have a bit more information in advance. Please look for announcements via our school communication system on your phones, email, etc.

On November 29th, MLS participated in a Critical Infrastructure Assessment. A group of advisors from Homeland Security toured our school and made suggestions for how we can make our school safer. They were very impressed with several safety features already in place like our security cameras, our controlled access doors, SRO position, our security lighting, our phone systems, windows, etc. and the general safety of our facility. It is our hope to continue to improve safety features and look for grant opportunities to help fund them.

As we wind down 2023, I just wanted to highlight the positive work of two of our groups here at MLS. These two groups work behind the scenes to make MLS run smoothly, to give our students safe transportation to school and to feed them both breakfast and lunch each school day. Our route drivers: Bruce and Norine Johnson, Dustin Newgard, Don Whitehead, Ron Johnson, Richard Eide, Charlie Eriksmoen and Jason Genareo, drive kids an average of **15,000 miles each month and more than 130,000 miles each year** safely delivering them to and from school under some pretty "hairly" road and weather conditions. They are to be commended for the work that they do each and every day. I can't say enough about this group of drivers! They are the best that I have ever worked with. They cover routes for each other so they all are familiar with multiple routes, they switch buses when we have bus issues, they add new kids all the time, they are extremely dependable and flexible. They are exceedingly

accommodating of families and kids. The kids absolutely love their drivers! We are so fortunate here at MLS to have this special group of people picking up and dropping off our kids each day. I would also like to mention our main substitute drivers Rick Kremer, Thurstan Johnson, & Chris Lauer as well as our main activity drivers Dean Schoenberg and Marilyn Brunner.

Our Food service workers Shannon Gubrud, Joan Solometo and Leigh Rice serve thousands of breakfast and lunch meals to kids. They are here early in the morning getting meals ready for the day and working to meet the nutritional and dietary requirements for each child. They face shortages, delivery issues, storage issues and price issues yet remain steadfast in their commitment to feeding our kids. They serve an average of 150 lunches per day and 75 breakfasts a day. As of December 1st they have served over 16,000 lunches and over 4800 breakfasts for a whopping total of 21,000 meals and we are not at the half way point yet! That's close to 50,000 meals served each year. Amazing! These three ladies do an amazing job and they absolutely love our kids. They know each kid by name, always ask them how they are doing and for many kids, they are the first face they see each morning. They are very special ladies indeed. I also would be negligent if I didn't mention our custodians who keep the lunchroom clean and our para professionals who supervise the lunchrooms and breakfast carts each day.

Thank you to both of these two groups and all of our hardworking family at MLS. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all!