



Millwood Musings

"We cannot hold a torch to light another's path without brightening our own."
Ben Sweetland

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September 2008

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Contact information

president@millwoodpark.org

'WE'RE ALL IN OUR PLACES WITH SUN SHINEY FACES'



This is how it looked on the first morning of the first day of school in Room 108, Maple Tree Milwaukee Public School: Sixteen six-year olds seated with hands clasped on pint-sized desks. All were eager and ready to enter the wonderland of learning.

Their teacher is Houei Lapworth, one of three first grade teachers at Maple Tree. This is her sixth year in the classroom. Her credentials as an educator are headed by a quality shared by all outstanding teachers. She loves to teach.

First grade is one of the most important grades in a child's

education. There is much to be taught, much to be learned. Lapworth's greatest thrill as a teacher comes when a child grasps a concept. She said, "You can see it in their faces. They will light up and sometimes a child will say, "Oh I get it!"

She enjoys working in tandem with parents and guardians. She said, "We love the parents as educators. They (watch over) the homework and support the children from home."

First graders are very little kids. Sometimes mischief breaks out. Experienced teachers like Lapworth know

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‘Keep On Truckin’

Standing on the corner of 102nd and Mill Road on August 28, a few neighbors gathered for their first look at the black top “binding layer” that had been laid that day. Comments ranged from half done to half to go to a passing worker’s remark that “we’re a little behind schedule.” But to “road watchers” a vision of a



Eastbound Mill Rd Resurfaced

road, completed, sleek and new was clear.

Residents by now will have learned to reverse their routes as they weave in and out of the infamous orange barrels that lead east. Several months down the road lies the eventual completion of

State Two of the \$2.2 million reconstruction. Landscapers will then take over. Driveways will be completed at no charge to home owners unless the resident wants a material other than cement. Most front yards will be finished off with sod. Trees will be planted in spring.

Every event in daily life has a story hidden away in it. In the Mill Road tale it’s the chronicle of resident engineer Claude Williams Jr, the man who juggles innumerable details of the reconstruction and his dad Claude Williams Sr. It turns out that Claude Williams Sr. was a laborer with pick and shovel on the old Mill Road and his son, Claude Jr, is the man “with the plans in his hands.”

Occasionally former co-workers of the senior Williams drop by for a bit of kibitzing. Engineer Williams tells them what residents want to hear: “We expect to be done by November 3.” “Not hope”, the writer asked. “Nope,” was the emphatic reply. “Expect.”

Terry Lorbiecki, *Editor*

"Education – a debt due from present to future generations."

George Peabody

**The deadline for copy for the next issue of *Musings* is September 24th.
Your tips are welcome! Please address to the editor at
president@millwoodpark.org**

In The Know - Millwood Park Doings

School buses

School buses are out and about. Be on the lookout for children standing on corners or running for their buses. Drivers coming out of alleyways should look down the sidewalk before pulling out. A child might be dashing towards a bus.

Havenwoods State Forest Nature Fest

From 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 13, rain or shine, enjoy hikes, demonstrations, games, nature art and other activities. See how dogs are trained and used for hunting. Grab a piece of a huge parachute and have some fun. Get to know reptiles and amphibians up close and personal. Make a sunprint or create a weaving with natural materials. Except for lunch, it's **free** to all comers. The center is located at 6141 N. Hopkins Street. For further information call 527-0232.

International Food Fair

The Seventh-day Adventist School, 10900 W. Mill Road will have its annual food fair

Sunday September 28th from 5 to 8 p.m. Parents who represent many nationalities prepare the food. It's **free**. All are welcome!

Head Start

Children of W-2 clients may be eligible for no-cost early childhood education. The program is planned for children 3-5 years of age. Many options are available. For further information call 353-1680. The center is located at 10232 W. Fond du Lac Avenue.

Stamp Out Graffiti

Don't put up with this form of vandalism. If you see it on street signs, yard signs, mailboxes, garages or the streets, take a minute and do something about it. If you catch the perpetrator in the act, call 911. If you are the owner of the property call the Police, call 933-4444. If you see graffiti anywhere, call the Anti-Graffiti hotline at 286-8715. It can also be reported online at Graffiti@Milwaukee.gov

WELCOME TO THE COMMUNITY

Say hello to Seventh-day Adventist School Principal Daniel Kunz. He's no stranger to schools, both urban and suburban. He has taught both high school and middle school students. His specialties are science, biology, and anatomy.

This is his first year as a principal. His school is a parental choice school with children coming from various parts of the City. Ninety children ages 7 to 16 are enrolled. As a small school, he has the opportunity to know each child by name, adding with a laugh, "not only the kids that end up in the office."

Also new to the Millwood Neighborhood is Jane Behr, the new Principal at Maple Tree

Milwaukee Public School. Behr comes with some special credentials. She is a graduate of the Naval Academy and is a teacher with seven years experience. As an assistant principal, she was mentored and trained by New Leaders for New Schools, an organization dedicated to promoting excellence in urban schools.

In speaking of the task ahead she used the words "urgent" and "critical." As a teacher and now as a principal she has dedicated herself to urban education. She looks forward to "dramatically improved achievement." She said, "We need to take kids where they are and educate them." She described herself as a woman "on a mission."

Sun Shiny Faces

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how to handle it. She directs attention with techniques she learned as a college student and tricks she developed through experience. But no matter what transpires in the classroom, whether it's calming a talkative child or showing how

to form that tricky letter "s", Lapworth said, "Everything is (fashioned) to cater to the needs of the children."

The Chinese have a proverb that expresses the nature of learning. "Teachers open the door. You enter on your own." Interestingly, Lapworth is of Chinese ancestry.

"Nine tenths of education is encouragement."

Anatole France

Day by Day

Richard Says It All

I'm a school volunteer with 17 years of experience with first graders. I've met hundreds of kids over that time. All were special in one way or another. But Richard, he was a stand out. He had a sweet disposition despite a frustrating speech impediment that required him to repeat himself again and again and again before one could make out what he was struggling to say.

One day Richard (the kid who couldn't be understood) and I (the tutor who is deaf in one ear and can't hear out of the other) settled down for some reading practice. He was all excited. Apparently something had happened on the playground during recess. He had to tell someone, and I just happened to be that person. As he leafed through his book to find the page, he said, "Zi hsf s g yttinblr yimr eiyh onr og yhr dkifd on yhr plsy htounfl. Hr vould n'y lry mr plsy.z."

Huh?!

And then he looked up at me and added words that sparkled with clarity, "Do you know what I mean!" No! I didn't! I hadn't the foggiest idea, but I was not about to insult him by asking for a translation. I said something to the effect of "Well, what do you think of that!" It was enough. He was satisfied.

I wonder how many times we pass each other by for want of communication skills. Can't speak or won't speak. Can't hear or won't hear. At our best we want to be open so that we may be of use to others. Many times all we can do is offer a pat on the hand or a what-do-you-think-of-that. It's not much, but it's something.

Next Meeting of the Millwood Park Neighborhood Association will be held
September 13, 2008, 10 a.m. at West Granville Presbyterian Church
located on 107th and Fond du Lac Ave.