

## Successful Fall Sale for TPGC

Submitted by Frances Stafford

What a lovely day was had by all at the Autumn Bounty Sale!!! Once again, the club wants to thank village residents for their wonderful support.

The money raised is used to buy colorful flowers that beautify our village gardens in three seasons. We feel that it was a great success both financially and socially! Families came and enjoyed the chance to mingle with friends on such a lovely day. This time nature conspired to give us less heat and humidity, so we were comfortable.

As for sales, all the mums, corn stalks, straw bales and salad greens were sold followed by a great many pumpkins and gourds, most of them edible and all of them decorative. The committee purchased aprons with TPGC logos to identify the helpers. Sales slips were given to each of the sales team as they followed buyers and led them to more items they may have overlooked. They filled in the slips and recorded the total dollars for each line item. When the buyers arrived at check out, totals were added up quickly which saved a lot of time and prevented crowds around the tables. New yard signs were also bought and will be used again for future sales. Another great help

was Laura's middle daughter, Josie aged 13 years, who stayed all day selling and moving items. She put out chalk boards with the pricing of all the pumpkins and gourds and told shoppers the merits of the goods, sometimes with recipes that her family uses. Another source of great help came from another two 13-year-old girls. Chiqui Pryor's granddaughter Lily Billups and her friend Campbell Drum. They worked tirelessly loading purchases onto carts, then unloading them into cars. Lily enjoyed the whole day and expanded her activities by creating attractive towers by balancing three carefully chosen pumpkins. Customers liked the idea and the look and purchased them (3 instead of just 1).

Now that the summer is winding down, our members will be tidying up flower beds and making plans to plant them again next year with something new, beautiful, and exciting.

Whether you are a novice or an experienced gardener, we cordially invite you to a meeting usually at the community house. Please consider joining our club by contacting President Amy Evans at 513-403-6180 or Membership Chair Tina Hesser at 513-520-8912.



## Support for Sybil Schooler

On Tuesday, October 5th the Mariemont Junior High girls and boys soccer teams hosted a breast cancer awareness night. Due to the generosity of those who supported the event, over \$1,900 was donated to the Susan G. Komen Foundation in honor of Terrace Park resident and cancer survivor Sybil Schooler.

## Dear Neighbors,

We always joke that Cincinnati only has two seasons, summer and winter, but nobody can deny we are having a beautiful autumn this year. It's mid-October and we are still enjoying warm sunny days with crisp, cool mornings. The first yellow and red leaves are starting to dot the banks of the Little Miami and, thanks to the Garden Club's fall sale, mums are the now the flower of choice on the village streets.

As you are no doubt aware, we have a school board election coming up on November 2. The Village Views reached out to each candidate and asked for their responses to the following three questions: 1.What, in your opin-

ion, is the role of a school board member? 2.What issues do you believe MCSD needs to address in its academic program and offerings and what changes would you recommend? 3.What should the school district do to better prepare students as citizens?

You will find their answers and a little information about each candidate in this issue. We also have a record three letters-to-the-editor this month and they are all regarding the election. No matter how you feel about the candidates and the issues, it's great to see that so much of the community is engaged and passionate about our schools.

Now a quick note about

something we can all agree on-Halloween! Here's the schedule for this year:

The Pumpkin Festival (TP Elementary, Harry Potter Theme!): Friday, October 22 6-8 PM

Halloween Parade (TP Elementary): Friday afternoon, October 29 1PM

Trick-or-Treating: Sunday, October 31, 6-8pm.

November will end with the start to the holiday season so enjoy the next couple of quiet weeks in the village before we start the sprint towards 2022! Until next month I remain,

Your Editor,  
Steve Early



## A remembrance. August, 2021.

Submitted by Joy Hammond

I did not know him. I only knew of him, and I too saw him on the sidelines as the disease took him away.

It is a time like now that can make us know God's love even more. Because God created Graham and gave him his extraordinary talents. Then Graham used those talents and became a champion on the field but more importantly in life. We watched and we lived it from afar.

Why did God send him here, to this beautiful little village with only beautiful little children who live in beautiful little houses and drive beautiful little cars? Perhaps God sent him here to teach young people how to win, how to become champions. And they did!

The Mariemont lacrosse program is a big story. Bigger

than here, bigger than out there.

Let the story tell of the greater one within. Let the story tell of commitment, of promise, of love. Especially in today's world of throwaway children, of throwaway marriage. And now we and our children have been shown the right way, the better way.

Who knows, maybe years from now, one or two of those players will remember his life, his lessons.

Thank you God for Graham. Now we give him back to you.

There is another champion in this story. Her name is Dawn... "in sickness and in health until death do us part".

Rest In Peace coach. Amen.

## Historical Society Celebrates 20th Anniversary

The Terrace Park Historical Society had its first official meeting on Monday evening, November 5, 2001 in the undercroft of St. Thomas Church. According to the Village Views, 48 interested and enthusiastic people attended and selected a board of 9 trustees: Carol C. Cole, president; Betsy Holloway, vice-president; Kay Pope, secretary; Bill Holloway, treasurer; Ken Bassett, legal counsel; Helen Barnett, Stan Brown, Lee Cole and Julie Northrop.

Since that time, our organization has experienced many changes. Our membership now includes 92 Lifetime members, including John and Paulette Luneborg, who recently donated a treasure trove of circus material from a lifetime of collecting. We maintain our archives on a cloud-based platform for ease of searching and cataloging. Information that was once found only in cabinets and bookshelves is now available digitally.



We provide two college scholarships for Mariemont High School students and hold the annual Third Grade Walk for the elementary school.

Our Tracker newsletter has recently had a facelift, thanks to our new volunteer, Sumitra Gopal. We hope you are enjoying her stories about Terrace Park artists and the

history of some of Terrace Park's oldest homes.

If you would like to help us keep Terrace Park memories alive, consider joining us as a member, a volunteer, or a board member.

We can be reached at [tphistoricalsociety@gmail.com](mailto:tphistoricalsociety@gmail.com) or by calling (513) 418-1480.

# Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

Is Critical Race Theory (CRT) working its way into Mariemont City School District's K-12 schools? Our district leaders say "no", citing the lack of technical legal theory appearing in classrooms. However, parents are rightfully concerned that CRT's regressive and divisive principles are infiltrating Ohio public schools. It's crucial to assess this question accurately, for the sake of all kids.

MCSD is increasingly embracing race essentialism, a core tenet of CRT, which trains children to focus on their differences, and believe that race is the most important determinant of their identity. According to this ideology, our nation's institutions and founding principles must be "dismantled" in order to achieve equal group outcomes. Proponents of this ideology believe Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was wrong to promote judging others by the content of our character instead of the color of our skin.

There are many misunderstandings on what FAIR is and is not. FAIR is a non-partisan organization founded by a democrat, Bion Bartning, who is of native American, Hispanic, and Jewish background. The board of advisors consists of a true melting pot of Americans. FAIR does not give money to the local chapters or candidates. FAIR Mariemont Schools

Dear Editor,

The Mariemont City School District's Destination 2026 plan defines an engaged student as one who challenges him/herself, the status quo and previously held beliefs and assumptions by asking thoughtful questions and offering different perspectives. The engaged student makes connections and looks deeper through seeking additional information. The introduction of courses on the human experience and global competence helps advance this important objective.

For example, in a class on the human experience, a student might learn about the widely published intersection between poverty and children's health, including all of the important research on ACES (adverse childhood experiences) and how stress & trauma can literally alter a child's brain chemistry. The student could learn that at a local level, there is research done here at our city's children's hospital that shows that a child's likelihood of a hospital admission is closely linked to the zip code in which that child lives, and that overall, children who live in neighborhoods with high poverty and substandard housing conditions bear the burden of disproportionately poorer health outcomes.

When a student reviewed the research establishing that children in the zip codes of 45229 and 45204 have significantly higher hospital admission rates than other area children, it would be important to not only consider what interventions could be implemented to address that, but to also contemplate what factors have led to the historically high rates of poverty in these neighborhoods. Approaching it from this paradigm takes one on a very short drive to the linkage of historical policies and practices that lead to neighborhood segregation facilitated by discriminatory lending practices such as redlining, blockbusting, restrictive covenants, and steering.

This full picture of where we are now + what got us here = an

(our local chapter) is run and organized by citizens of our school district with ZERO outside influence. FAIR does have speakers at our meetings on occasion from outside our district, but they are not part of our group. FAIR provides education and materials that support their mission.

Our chapter is focused on keeping on keeping the neo-Marxist elements of CRT out of our classrooms. This is accomplished by increasing transparency and accountability of the administration, educating parents about the implementation of anti-American values, and making sure there is diversity and tolerance of all opinions.

FAIR was founded to uphold these principles—promoting civil rights for all Americans based on a common culture of shared humanity. FAIR promotes our mutual dignity, that we're unique individuals with self-determination, and that we should judge by the content of one's character and not the color of one's skin. This mentality helps build resilient, confident, tolerant children prepared to thrive and reach their fullest potential.

To learn more, please join our local chapter FAIR Mariemont Schools by emailing us at MariemontFAIR@gmail.com

Don Venderbush/Matt Urshel  
FAIR Mariemont Schools  
<https://www.fairforall.org>

example of providing context to contemporary issues by investigating the past. It is possible to examine the history of practices such as redlining without condemning a particular race or assigning guilt or blame. It happened. Here's what happened. Here are the results. Any conclusion that redlining disproportionately impacted people of color is up to each individual learner. Arriving at that conclusion is not inherently divisive or regressive. Instead, it helps us recognize patterns and practices that one hopes will not be repeated because of the evidence of the harm it caused generations of families. We don't have to feel guilty about that; but we should try to work together to make sure it doesn't happen again.

Why would anyone want their student deprived of the opportunity to learn about what living in 45229 means for children's health outcomes and how that is linked to the segregation of neighborhoods, redlining, and the development of the interstate highway system in Cincinnati?

Yet, there is a not so subtle threat looming in our community that aims to suppress students' opportunity to look deeper at big issues like this and to examine different perspectives. A Trojan horse movement claims that studying the big picture could lead to the promotion of regressive and divisive principles. Any effort to deprive learners from the prospect of arriving at their own conclusions after an examination of the whole story is beneath the esteem of our district and the development of our global learners and ought to be placed back on the shelf alongside ideas like censorship and book banning.

Deanna White  
Mariemont School District Parent

Village Views welcomes reader mail. Signed letters to the editor must be received by 9 p.m. on Friday, November 12. Please limit length to 350 words. Letters over 350 words will be published as submitted subject to space availability. All signed letters will be printed as submitted; however, minor editing for grammatical and typographical errors may be necessary. Content will not be edited. Any questions should be directed to the editor. See below.

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Terrace Park, OH 45174. If possible, the staff prefers to receive contributions by e-mail at [tpvillageviews@gmail.com](mailto:tpvillageviews@gmail.com). Please submit articles as Microsoft WORD or .jpg format. Please put your name and date on submitted disks. Photographs and disks will not be returned. The deadline is Friday, November 12 at 9 p.m.

Advertisements for Village Views may be placed in a variety of sizes. A business card size (2x4) is only \$24 per month. A classified ad is \$10 to Village residents only. Payment must accompany ad. Call Business Manager Gregg MacMillan @ 702-9370 for additional rates. Village Views welcomes your business.

The next deadline for Village Views is Friday, November 12. All camera-ready ads and articles must be submitted by 9 p.m. All advertisements go to Gregg MacMillan at [macmillan@mac.com](mailto:macmillan@mac.com). All articles go to Steve Early 382-1218 or [tpvillageviews@gmail.com](mailto:tpvillageviews@gmail.com). Questions? Call Steve Early at 382-1218.

Village Views welcomes readers to submit articles: promotions, awards, school activities, engagements, weddings, births... things you think people would like to know and read about.

Leaving the Village?  
Subscriptions are available for \$20.00 per year. To subscribe send payment to: Village Views P.O. Box 212 Terrace Park, OH 45174

# Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

Mariemont Boards of Education have consistently operated from the foundation of "what is in the best interest of our students?" This unbiased foundation drives the culture of the entire district. This has resulted in a longstanding approach the superintendents, the administrative teams and our teachers have adopted. Our students have excelled because of it and our community has flourished.

For decades the Mariemont City Schools have been exemplary. One reason is that Board of Education members have never pushed a special interest or personal agenda. They are not political, nor have they ever been swayed by political voices over the years, especially voices from outside of our community. We have been unique in this area and, as a community, have held to this essential piece of integrity when electing people to the school board.

We seem to be in a time where this essential piece of the Mariemont City School District is at risk. Critical Race Theory (CRT) and masking are becoming agendas individuals are running on in our upcoming Board of Education election.

We believe that there is a false narrative circulating about Critical Race Theory working its way into our classrooms. We have been talking to others, reading and doing research to see if these accusations about our district and teachers are true. We truly believe it simply is NOT. As a school district we have

been, and hopefully always will be, required to teach these students to think critically. We need to allow them to do this by introducing them to different ideas. This is educating them, not indoctrinating them. And this too has been a central part of our schools' excellence.

We understand the difficult decision the Mariemont Board of Education members were tasked with regarding masking. We believe the vote was made with careful consideration after actively listening to our community and ultimately voting with the best interest of the students to keep them safe, healthy and in the classroom.

We need to choose Board of Education members who are not championing their own, local or national political agenda. There are candidates on the ballot in November's election who understand this foundational piece of the district and others who may not.

We encourage you to talk to the candidates, read the information and listen to their ideas. Vote for our district to continue to move forward with excellent leadership. Let's elect Board of Education members whose focus is on what is in the best interest of all the kids, not their own agendas.

On November 2, we will be voting for Laura Organisciak, Dave Rogers and Andi Murphy. These are the candidates that we believe will serve the best interest of our district, today and beyond.

Marie Huenfeld & Dee Walter  
Former Board of Education Members

supposed to enjoy a cold one without a big red straw?

This month's police report consisted of several vehicle break-ins as well as a stolen vehicle. Like, a whole entire vehicle was stolen in our lovely neighborhood! Lock your car and purchase "The Club". Actually, go ahead and switch to a stick shift. That eliminates millennials and about 90% of the population from stealing your vehicle. Stay vigilant, Terrace Park!


# Law & Order

Submitted by Eric Schmidt

During the early morning hours of 9/25, an Officer was patrolling Miami Avenue and happened to see numerous red "ICEE" straws and a straw holder lying next to a stop sign. The Officer also observed a broken eggshell at the foot of the sign and egg yolk partially dripping from the stop sign. The Officer drove to the UDF and the UDF employee confirmed that the "ICEE" straw holder was in fact missing from the store. How are we





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Terrace Park, OH

# Meet the Candidates

## Tracey Gordon

As a nurse and Army veteran, I know what it means to work hard for others. My husband Louis, a MHS graduate, and I chose to live in Fairfax based off of the glowing reputations of our school system. Our oldest, Jed, will start kindergarten at Mariemont Elementary in 2022and Gabriel will follow in 2024. I have a vested interest in our schools as my children will attend them for 15 years. The US Army is one of the most diverse institutions on the planet. During my 9 years

serving as a critical care nurse my team and I saved lives. We were all different races, colors, and creeds and we saw each other as human beings that worked together for the common good for those entrusted into our care. As a schoolboard member I will ensure that every single one of our students is treated with love and respect and taught to love, respect, and work with others of all backgrounds as we prepare them for college and adulthood.

I support full transparency from the school administration, including recording school board meetings. I support the right of parents to be aware of the specifics of their children's curriculum.

Nothing is as important as supporting the exclusive right of parents to instill values into their children without the school system overriding. It would be an honor to serve the residents of Terrace Park on the school board. Please vote for me on November 2nd.

1. What, in your opinion, is the role of a school board member?

I believe a school board member's most important job is to serve as a representative from the district. A member makes sure the communities' voice is heard regarding school policy and curriculum. A member should facilitate an environment where the community has access to all school board meetings. A member should set a clear vision and set goals to keep the school dis-

trict stellar. A member should be part of overseeing the budget and ensure fiscal responsibility.

2.What issues do you believe MCSD needs to address in its academic program and offerings and what changes would you recommend?

I am concerned the current

Gordon cont. Page 4

## Andi Murphy

As a village resident since 2011, I've been very lucky to see my kids grow up in the Mariemont City School District. My kids - Reese (ninth grade), Sean (seventh grade), and Sammy (first grade), have flourished in the schools. While I was a busy physician, I spent years coaching soccer and basketball, and helping with PTO and classroom activities with my limited spare time. Having recently stepped back from my medical

career, I'm thrilled to now have so much more time to commit to the district that has given us so much. I've really enjoyed getting to see how many dedicated families in the district donate their time, energy, and money to make our schools a place where students and teachers can thrive. For example, helping to plan and coordinate the winter teachers luncheon last year felt like a direct way to say "thank you" to the teachers during an incredibly

stressful school year. We are so lucky to have a district that attracts such amazing educators that are so committed to our kids. I am running for a seat on the school board to continue the tradition of excellence in all of our buildings.

1.What, in your opinion, is the role of a school board member?

The main role is to be a leader and champion for an exceptional, well-rounded educational experience for our kids, for strong fiscal

stewardship, and to be a conduit for the two-way flow of information between the community and schools. We have a responsibility to attract and retain top leaders in our school's administration, which ensures that we continue to have exceptional teachers in all of our buildings. I've spent my career as a physician carefully listening to my patients, and would continue to use those skills to not just listen to community concerns, but to real-

ly hear them. I anticipate working as part of a strong team dedicated to address issues that arise, and to seek advice/input from subject-matter experts where the need may present itself. As a mother of 3 kids in our schools, I'm connected to our community via sports, the arts programs, and volunteering with the TPPTO. I have a direct investment in ensuring that regardless of

Murphy cont. Page 4

## Laura Organisciak

I am civic-minded and have long been invested in the schools and community. While currently a CPA and Director of Finance for PricewaterhouseCoopers, my favorite role is raising my three school-aged children with my husband, Greg. I tirelessly volunteer and have served as the Mariemont Elementary PTO Treasurer, Vice-President, President, 2014 & 2018 Levy Committees, Superintendent's Advisory Council and have served on the

Board of Education for the past 15 months.

Our award-winning Mariemont schools are among the very top in the state and nation. I want to keep the focus on student academics and opportunities while helping to ensure continued strong fiscal management. My keen financial background brings a focus of fiscal responsibility to ensure we protect the investments made by each taxpayer within our district. I

am looking forward to continuing to serve the community.

1.What, in your opinion, is the role of a school board member?

The role of a member of the Board of Education is to focus on student success both inside and outside of the classroom and to ensure each and every student is prepared to succeed not only while in our district but beyond. When serving on the Board, I believe it is critical

that one keeps the best interests of all of our students at the forefront and does not let personal, political or voices outside of our community dictate what happens within our schools. Creating a safe space for our children to create, explore, learn and grow is crucial in the increasingly complex world we live in today. It is vitally important as a member of the Board to listen and understand the needs and wants of our community and liaise with our

administrators to create those experiences within our schools.

Mariemont City Schools, led by the Board of Education, has a long history of employing and keeping the absolute best educators and administrators who teach, listen, communicate and most importantly truly care about our students and families. Protecting the

Organisciak cont. Page 4

## David Rogers

I'm Dave Rogers and I'm running for the Mariemont Board of Education to help continue its longstanding tradition of success. We have a thriving, world-class school district that I'm fortunate to experience as a parent of two current students and a MJHS football coach. I believe our district's success is due to its strong commitment of putting our students first, regardless of politics or personal agendas. This empowers our talented, dedicated staff to work to-

gether toward the goal of educating our children for success. My education and work experiences have prepared me to serve on the school board:

- The Ohio State University, MBA.
- Harvard College.
- 12 years leading a successful family business.

- 7 years serving on two national nonprofit boards (helping wounded veterans heal and

supporting STEM education programs).

- Financial discipline creating and maintaining profitable organizational budgets.

- Experience working with grassroots organizations and in team-oriented, collaborative environments.

I moved to our community for the outstanding schools. It's my turn to give back. I want to make sure all our students continue to get an excellent education and are

equipped to chase their dreams.

1.What, in your opinion, is the role of a school board member?

The school board works together as a single body, as defined by its charter. It is responsible for the following: directly supervising the district superintendent and treasurer; setting policy, as outlined in the school board's charter documents; helping set strategic vision; and, serving as a liaison between the school district and the community. Board members help the dis-

trict make good business decisions, maintain healthy and balanced finances while fiscally preparing for the future. All of this is ultimately being done for the sake of our students.

I believe it is important for board members to be levelheaded, work in a respectful and diligent manner, and be a good team player. Board members should be up to date on current educational issues.

Rodgers cont. Page 4

## Ken White

Joy (a long time grade school and preschool teacher) and I moved to Settle Road in Mariemont in 1986. Our two children attended Mariemont Schools (K -12) and we now have a grandson attending Mariemont Elementary and his sister will soon. When I first joined the Mariemont School Board (15 years ago) we had many issues including 5 older buildings and spending growing by over 6% per year. Today we have 4 modern

buildings and spending growth at 2.5%. I look forward to supporting the residents of Terrace Park if I am reelected. Thank you for your past support and I would appreciate your vote on November 2.

1.What, on your opinion, is the role of a school board member? Legally the board has just a few responsibilities. The first is to hire the superintendent and treasurer, who run the day to day operations of the district. All other

hiring nonfinance department hiring is the responsibility of the superintendent. The board formally approves policies that govern the district. The board has a consultancy role in assisting the superintendent and treasurer. I believe that as an elected official; a board member has a responsibly to represent the stakeholders and convey public views or concerns to the district for its response and action. A board member cannot act independently,

A majority vote on any issue sets the public position of the board.

2.What issues do you believe MCSD needs to address in its academic programs and offerings and what changes would you recommend? Mariemont has outstanding programs for the advanced student and the most challenged students. A consistent complaint is that our middle tier student is not a focus. Some of the ways this is being addressed are the

Expeditions (Junior High) and the many Warriors Beyond opportunities. A partnership with the Oaks Career Tech Ed School brings automotive and construction trades, medical and teaching certifications off campus classes for Mariemont. Also, the Oaks teachers are on our campus teaching classes in Business (DECA) and Project Lead the Way (pre-engineering). Another oppor-

White cont. Page 4

## Dennis Wolter

My name is Dennis Wolter, and I would appreciate your consideration in electing me to the Mariemont City School Board. I hold a degree in industrial design from the University of Cincinnati. After graduation, I served as assistant to the director of biomedical communications at the University of Cincinnati Medical College. I then became a full-time teacher in the aviation and engineering department at Cincinnati State Technical College. My wife Cynthia

and I have lived in Mariemont for 35 years, and we currently run a successful aircraft renovation business that I founded in 1973. I was a member of Mariemont Village Council for ten years beginning in 2008, serving two terms as vice-mayor and as chair of the safety committee for six years. I have been active in various community organizations, and for several years I participated in a local program mentoring young men. I would very much like to serve our com-

munity in the capacity of school board member.

1. What, in your opinion, is the role of a school board member?

Regarding the role of a school board member, it is the job of the board to provide guidance to the school administration to ensure that every student receives a strong core value-based education. Focus should be on quality education, not indoctrination. As a board member, I will advocate strongly for responsible fiscal management of

tax dollars with thoughtfully controlled spending. Instead of relying on property tax increases, the school could pursue previously untapped alternate revenue sources by creating a development position to investigate endowments and other income opportunities. The board must also be sensitive to the needs of all residents, particularly single parents as well as older long-time residents who choose to age in place and are living on fixed incomes. All qualified residents who support

Mariemont schools through taxes, not just parents of students, should be eligible to serve on the school board. I believe in transparency on the part of the board; meetings should be televised via ICRC TV.

2. What issues do you believe MCSD needs to address in its academic program and offerings and what changes would you recommend?

I am concerned with the pos-

Wolter cont. Page 4

# Meet the Candidates

## Gordon cont.

school board and administration is more focused on “equity” rather than equal opportunity for students. The implications of this will harm Mariemont’s tradition of excellence. I love freedom and personal responsibility, so this is concerning. I want my children to grow up in an environment where they will be “judged by the content of their character” and where they

## Murphy cont.

any particular “role” I may fill, our schools deliver excellent educational and extracurricular opportunities for the students we serve. With every question that comes before the board, we need to ask ourselves, “How will this decision affect students?” We need to support our staff and ensure that resources are available so that they may focus primarily on the emotional and educational needs of the kids. A good school board member is involved and invested in our children and in

## Organisciak cont.

investment each taxpayer has made not only in the physical buildings throughout the district but in our award winning teachers and reputation is also a key responsibility of each member of the Board.

2.What issues do you believe MCSD needs to address in its academic program and offerings and what changes would you recommend?

Our award-winning schools have a strong reputation of meeting our students where they are and growing them academically by

## Rodgers cont.

It is essential for board members to maintain a non-partisan/ apolitical perspective and evaluate issues based on critical and objective analysis, and open discussion. I think a good board consists of a diversity of backgrounds and perspectives and remains free of any personal agenda. Board members must be excellent listeners, appreciate engaged community input, and express empathy. They are unifiers between the community and the school district. Lastly, a good board member will always have a student-first mindset.

## White cont.

tunity should be to bring the Oaks IT Academy to Mariemont High School as a Satellite program. As a Board Member of the Oaks CTE District, I am a strong advocate of their ability to supplement (at little cost) the Mariemont Experience with classes we could not provide on our own.

3.What should the school district do to better prepare students as citizens?

This is not just a job for the

## Wolter cont.

sibility that certain students may be overlooked during the course of a normal school year. While serving on Mariemont Council and mentoring young people, I often had conversations with parents who felt that the school’s priorities were primarily focused on gifted students and learning-challenged students, while neglecting the larger middle group of average students. I will fight to close the gap created by this inequity; every student should be given the full attention and encouragement of his or her teachers. It is the job of school board members to

can excel at learning and growing academically to prepare them for their future. I support the right of parents to be aware of the specifics of their children’s curriculum. Nothing is as important as supporting the exclusive right of parents to instill values into their children without the school system overriding. I also support full transparency from the school administration, including recording school board

our school community as a whole.

2.What issues do you believe MCSD needs to address in its academic program and offerings and what changes would you recommend?

I think we are blessed to be in a district that is already on an excellent path. MCSD has the distinct honor of being one of only 4 districts in Ohio to have each school in the district be recognized as a National Blue Ribbon School. We have wonderful opportunities through the Warriors BEyond program, offer-

providing a strong level of enrichment and intervention to ensure each student’s success. Our core curriculum, enhanced by outstanding elective courses and Warriors Beyond programming like Expeditions, Explorations and Master Classes help our children find their strengths and passions both inside and outside the classroom. MCSD test scores speak for themselves. MCSD outperformed all of its peer districts (Madeira, Indian Hill and Wyoming) on 15 of the 20 state tests students took in 2021. Comparing state test scores holistically

2.What issues do you believe MCSD needs to address in its academic program and offerings and what changes would you recommend?

I believe MCSD is in a strong academic position, highlighted by its Blue-Ribbon status. I also believe in continuous improvement. Mariemont has an excellent core of staff and volunteers. They are the front lines delivering and sustaining our schools’ culture of academic excellence. The first issue I think we need to address is to continue to retain and attract this rich talent. This will allow us to maintain, and even

schools. It is a parent and community role as well. One way is to increase the parental involvement in the classroom. When my children attended Mariemont Elementary it was common to have a parent helper in almost every classroom. Parents knew and were part of what was happening in the classroom. This community school partnership is critical. The schools, parents and community should be aligned in teaching the same values. This will prepare our students to

ensure that the school system provides a balanced education for all students. I will not support a curriculum that categorizes a student based on race, religion, socioeconomic status, or perceived learning ability. I feel that including CRT in any learning environment has a significant potential to cause irreversible social division, using skin color to create a group labeled ‘oppressed’ and another labeled ‘oppressors’. Martin Luther King got it right in his “I have a dream” speech. No one should be judged by skin color but rather by the content of their character.

meetings which is currently not in practice.

3.What should the school district do to better prepare students as citizens? My 9 year stint in the US Army as a critical care nurse made me realize that America is a great and diverse country, full of different ethnicities, religions, and economic backgrounds. The primary thing that binds the citizens

ing students a chance to pursue interests and experiences outside of a traditional classroom - to find their passions. My kids have loved these options - especially the after-school theater and STEM classes they’ve taken at TPES. We should always be reviewing our educational offerings and use of technology to ensure we are meeting the needs of our students to prepare for an ever-changing and increasingly connected world. Ongoing course development toward understanding other languages, cultures, and societies is

across grade bands between 2019 and 2021, our students maintained impressive passage rates, which is incredible considering the COVID environment during this time. A few other key highlights:

- 75% scored advanced or accelerated on the Grade 4 English test in 2021 vs 64% in 2019

- 98% passed the 7th grade English test in 2021 compared to 95% in 2019

- 92% passed the 8th grade math test in 2021 vs 86% in 2019

The results are impressive but

accelerate, the districts’ upward trajectory, and equip all our students for success and a bright future.

Second, I believe the district should continue to push and build upon its high academic standards, however not at the expense of our students’ mental health. The statistics we see around mental health and our kids today are startling. To help promote balance, I’d like to explore the feasibility of a mid-tier academic offering at the high school that is between collegiate-level AP and honors courses, and the CP (college prep) levels. I know there are students who are looking for

be citizens. Let’s bring parents (or grandparents) back with a school education volunteer role and we become partners in preparing our students as citizens? I have been an active member of Kiwanis for over 18 years. This group actively sponsors our students in the high school Key Club. Their mission is promoting youth volunteerism to give back to the community. Students who volunteer make better citizens. Our schools and communities have a strong ethic of volunteering, and

3.What should the school district do to better prepare students as citizens?

I believe students should be taught a complete and accurate history of our nation, from its enlightened inception, through the dark decades of slavery, to America’s major hand in rebuilding post World War II Japan and Germany, to the civil rights movement and President Johnson’s Civil Rights Act of 1964. Learning about these and other historical events is critical in helping young minds understand how effective government can work, so they are

of our country together is a love of freedom, our Bill of Rights, and the founding precepts that have spread democracy throughout the world. Students should be taught both the flaws of our past AND the greatness of our country and its founders. If the greatness is ignored or destroyed in K-12 education, then there is no common thread to bind our students together as citizens of

very important toward producing well-rounded adults. Core subjects remain vital - whether the post-HS goal is work, military training, trade school, or higher education. I was extremely pleased to see MHS add AP Chemistry to the course catalog this year. (My undergraduate degree is in chemistry, so I’m a little biased.) Our teaching staff continues to show their dedication and flexibility to meet kids where they are - providing both challenges and extra help when needed. My own children have directly benefitted

we can’t stop here. My greatest concern is how we secure continued funding of the programs that make our school district and each student within it distinctive. Over the past 5 years, this equates to a decrease of \$909k or 23.1% in state funding. Further cuts put the burden on individual taxpayers within the district and that is a problem. Our Board and administrative team need to continue to tackle this at the state level.

3.What should the school district do to better prepare students as citizens?

challenging courses, but are feeling maxed out between heavy course loads, extracurricular activities, and work.

Finally, I’d like to see an AP Economics course offered. For students who would like to concentrate in business, this is an important subject. Economics are a driving force for all businesses, from the small, local business owner to a large, global corporation.

At the end of the day, academics paired with mental health and an appropriate balance of challenging courses will serve our students well.

we should promote this. The Global and Cultural Perspectives (GCP) program could also be a method of creating more knowledgeable citizens. The focus must be on the teaching how different cultures can work together today, and not focus on identity politics, systemic racism, and looking at everything through a racial lens. And like the program is named, there should be education about different global cultures, not just a focus on the

able to determine for themselves a balanced view of important issues in the 21st century. Let’s teach our students how to think instead of what to think. In response to surveys indicating young people are not prepared for the real world, I suggest setting up an exchange program during the summer where our students undertake public service projects in the inner city and inner-city students do the same in our community. This could give both groups of students an understanding of the needs and challenges facing their respective neighborhoods,

America. The trend recently is to tear down the positive of America, focus on the negative, and create group identities, which only hurts students and creates divisions. I will work to make sure this doesn’t happen in our school district.

from this. Maintaining appropriate class sizes and teacher:student ratios is of utmost importance to continue to allow teachers the ability to focus on the individual needs of their students.

3.What should the school district do to better prepare students as citizens?

Being a good citizen begins with kindness, respect, and caring deeply about our community. In schools, we should encourage curi-

## Murphy cont. Page 5

We often talk about the Mariemont Experience and I believe what that means to each student and family will be unique. What I also believe rings true for each member of our Mariemont City School district is that we want to do everything within our power to prepare our students to be successful members of society as they leave the safety of our schools. For our students to be equipped to succeed beyond our community, we

## Organisciak cont. Page 5

3.What should the school district do to better prepare students as citizens?

The school district needs to remain focused on its mission: Work Smart. Create Experience. Embrace Growth. It also needs to continue to put students first, without exception. I believe our school district already does a good job of this, so it is imperative to prevent personal and political agendas from entering the work of the Board of Education. That would compromise its student-first mindset.

## Rodgers cont. Page 5

cultures in America. Along with teaching diversity of cultures, there should be the ability to allow diversity of opinions. Our GCP program must not be monolithic in thought but promote both sides of the issues with an eye on unity, not division. If this positive and racially unbiased aspect of the GCP program is achieved, then it will be a success. My concern is where we could be in 10 years if this is not the our goal.

resulting in a positive cultural experience for all who participate. Potential programs would be studied by the school board in partnership with village and city leaders and could evolve in a number of ways.

I appreciate the opportunity of introducing myself to you and welcome your questions and comments. Please contact me at 513-509-8650 or drwolter@air-mod.com.

Murphy cont.

osity to help kids develop a passion for learning - no matter their area of interest.

Students today have an infinitely more complex world to navigate than I could've imagined at a similar age. With the abundance of information available at the click of a button, we need to focus on educating kids not just how to find information, moreso to find reliable and accurate information. Understanding sourcing and credibility is increasingly important in our digital era. I want my own kids to learn these skills now, so that when they enter adulthood (with all of the complex decision making that accompanies it) they can have the research and critical thinking skills

necessary to confidently make decisions. Perhaps most importantly, we need to both teach and model qualities of honesty, integrity, compassion, and respect. We need to teach kids how to have disagreements without becoming disagreeable. Our world is so much more broad than what one encounters on a typical day in this community. Their future success will require these skills.

Organisciak cont.

must give them a strong academic foundation and do all that we can to prepare them to navigate the increasingly stressful world around them, provide them with a global perspective that they will experi-

ence and help them to find their own personal interests that will allow them to thrive as they enter the next phase of their lives. I support the work of the district's Global and Cultural Perspectives committee. I do not support Critical Race Theory and it is NOT being taught in our schools.

Our district provides the fundamentals for success in each of the areas described above. As I look at my own children and how I can support them in achieving their goals, I am mindful of their mental health in this increasingly complex world that our students will have to navigate. I believe that we need to continue to focus on our Warriors BEwell programming to ensure our students are prepared not only academically but mentally to succeed.

Rodgers cont.

The school district has demonstrated its commitment to preparing students for success as global citizens and leaders, in our communities and beyond, as they enter the workforce, military or further their education. As the owner of a small local business with a global footprint, I've seen how important it is to work around the world, with many different cultures and perspectives, to achieve success.

I believe the school should continue to expand its opportunities for student travel, internationally and domestically. I think this

is one way to help prepare students to become independent, open, and critical thinkers. I love that the Junior High takes students to DC where they can learn about the US government, and the High School has multiple summer options. I believe that with travel, comes increased self-awareness, self-confidence, an appreciation for other perspectives and world views, which helps to establish common ground...which is very important for successfully working with others and being a good citizen.

What's Happening at the Mariemont Branch Library

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Library Babies — 9:30 a.m. Tuesdays  
Fun for you and your baby with songs, rhymes, stories, and movement.

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Outdoor Storytime: Preschool — 11 a.m. Tuesdays  
Enjoy books, songs, activities, and more while building early literacy skills.  
Ages 3-6. Registration is required.

Outdoor Storytime: Movers & Shakers — 10:30 a.m. Wednesdays  
Join us on the lawn to sing, dance, enjoy movement, and have fun!

A blanket or chair to sit on is recommended. Event is cancelled in instances of foul weather.  
Ages 1-4.

Adults  
Book Club — 6:45 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 18  
We are discussing Vinegar Girl by Anne Tyler. Copies are available at the branch.

Library hours are 10 a.m.- 8 p.m. Monday and Tuesday; 10 a.m.- 6 p.m. Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday; closed Thursday, Nov. 28, for Thanksgiving.  
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5

# SPORTS

## Under The Lights



The Terrace Park 8U Bulldogs visited Loveland for a primetime game under the lights on October 6th. The Bulldogs defeated Loveland Black 3-0, led by shutout pitching from Charlie Pike, Pete Sevek, and Zack Detwiler. If your child wants to be part of the fun, please contact our Mariemont Baseball Commissioner Max Kinman (maxwdk@gmail.com).



## Undefeated

Congrats to the MSJH soccer 8th graders and the JH soccer team who have gone undefeated for two years with a record of 26-0. The team is coached by Coach Hartman and Coach Marquex. Good luck to the team in the league tournament!



## For a Good Cause

Members of the MJHS girls soccer team take a picture with MJHS principal, Rob Polca before their annual breast cancer awareness match.



Daylight Saving Time ends at 2 a.m. on Sunday, Nov. 7, 2021, when the clock will “fall back” one hour

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- 1. Mariemont School Foundation
- 2. Mariemont Arts Association
- 3. Mariemont Boosters

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 **O**Laura Organisciak

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# Plaine Products voted Fan Favorite

Submitted by Jen Buchholz

Right here in Terrace Park you have neighbors working hard to make a difference in the world. This village is the current home of Plaine Products, a personal care products company focused on reducing single-use plastics with reusable, refillable packaging. The company, founded by TP's Ali Webster and her sister, North Carolina-based Lindsey McCoy, sells shampoos, soaps, skin- and hair care products in reusable aluminum bottles. Once the bottles are empty, customers return them to the company to be cleaned, refilled and sent out again. Together with their customers, Plaine Products has diverted over 400,000 plas-

tic bottles from landfills.

You may know about Plaine Products because you're already a customer. Or you may have learned about the company on TP List, where we issued a request for support for a recent contest. Plaine Products was up for a "Fan Favorite" award in the inaugural National Reuse Awards Show, presented by Upstream, a nonprofit organization focused on inspiring solutions for plastic pollution, in partnership with Closed Loop Partners, a circular economy-focused investment firm and innovation center. Plaine Products was one of five finalist organizations up for the Fan

Favorite award, which was based 100% on public vote, with a panel of judges selecting the finalists. Thanks to Plaine Products followers, customers, and all of you who voted, Plaine Products was announced as the winner!

The Reusies awards recognize trailblazers within the reuse industry, and acknowledges the organizations who are likely to invigorate and expand the reuse movement. This award isn't just a win for Plaine Products, though. It's a win for all of us. Their leadership will be part of the solution to the plastic pandemic the earth is facing. Scientists believe that if we don't change our

mindset about single use, disposable products, there will be more plastic pieces than fish in the ocean in the not too distant future. Plaine Products--and all of their customers, supporters, followers AND all of you who voted--are very much a part of the solution, too!

The award is announced just as Plaine Products is announcing their plan to scale their operation with expansion into a refurbished warehouse space in formerly abandoned buildings in Milford, Ohio, to give the organization added capacity as they continue to build their prod-

uct line and their environmental impact. Their renovations include a retail component. The company is currently seeking like-minded businesses to join them in their new space, with the goal of creating a new sustainability hub for Cincinnati.

Keep your eye on the old Baker Feed & Seed complex in Milford as the team continues to renovate and reinvigorate this building and brings more environmental solutions to the world right from their home in our neighborhood.

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