

Marshall School News

MARSHALL SCHOOL NEWSLETTER • BACK TO SCHOOL 2007

EDUCATION AND ORANGES

An interview with Barb Brueggemann, Head of School

Barb Brueggemann, Marshall's new Head of School, has been in Duluth only a few short months, but to many of us who have had the opportunity to meet and work with her, it would appear that she has been here a lot longer. Her experience, vision and passion for education are a natural fit for Marshall and - true to her history as a competitive cross country athlete and coach - we are off to a 'running' start.

Catching up with Barb for a few moments recently, the Administrative Team had a chance to capture some of her first impressions of our Marshall and greater community. We also offer some tidbits of interest, hoping that you, too, will glean a sense of the interesting, wise, and vibrant woman who is our new Head of School.

Why Duluth?

I never thought that I would land in Minnesota after spending 30 years as a New Englander. With that said, I have fallen in love with Duluth – the shores of Lake Superior are like the Maine coast without the salt (no kidding!). In addition to the amazing natural beauty, I am drawn to the educational and environmental spirit here. It is a perfect fit!

Now that you've been here a few months, what continues to surprise you?

The "breeze" off Lake Superior. I often ride my bike up Scenic 61, and there is a constant headwind no matter the direction!

As a newcomer what do you see as outstanding about Marshall School?

No question; the community. I love coming to school every morning. Whether I am on the playground with the middle-school students or sitting in a high-school class, I learn from them. And, I have never been among such interesting adults, and I have met some interesting folk in my many travels.

Reunion 2007 was the first big Marshall event you attended this summer. What's your favorite moment from that weekend?

One particular exchange stands out. I was chatting with Alumni Director Sarah Perry-Spears '92, and a 1955 graduate about basketball (no idea how we happened on that subject!), and we suddenly realized that we represented three different generations of the game for women. The 1955 graduate played the half-court game; three girls on defense and two on offense. The game changed in the 1960's, and I played that version – the boys' full-court version. Sarah played the modern game – a three-point line and a women's ball (lighter and smaller). It was a great moment to stand next to each other and see how life changes as each generation passes through – a very cool realization at an alumni event because our school is all about how each generation contributes something to the next. The topic was basketball, but the meaning behind the conversation was so much more!

If you could take one class at Marshall what would it be?

Hmmmm. Good question. I think Geometry. It stands out as the class in which I

stopped asking questions because I had trouble understanding the concepts. I regret the fact that I stopped asking the questions, so now I would go back and let the questions flow. I would love to understand it all. That regret serves as a constant touch-stone for me as an educator. I never want kids to stop asking questions.

Who was your favorite teacher in school? Why?

Ms. Clark. She was my 10th-grade English teacher. She was passionate about literature (and as a child, she was well acquainted with Robert Frost, and that spectacular intersection did not really dawn on me until much later in life). She was elegant and graceful in her passion for the spoken and written word (she painted amazing pictures with words), and I had only a glimmer of understanding of how lucky I was to be her student. It took me much longer to appreciate all she gave to us. My biggest regret is that I never took the chance to go back and thank her.

What are the top three personal or professional qualities/experiences you bring to Marshall?

My broad experience as an educator (and general love of education), my experience in independent schools, and my openness to collaborative work. I love education and the 'teachable moment' in all forms!

Where did your passion for education come from?

My mom and dad. I was raised on social justice and taught to see education as the great equalizer in society. Knowledge and understanding are powerful, and I was taught to respect it and to protect the opportunity to have access to it. My hope is to pass along the passion and respect. I am clear with my own daughter; I expect her to find her own ways to change the



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2007-08 CHAPEL SCHEDULE

Chapel is one of the oldest traditions at Marshall. All-Faith chapels are presided by the school chaplain and student volunteers who celebrate Marshall's commitment to peace and justice in prayer, music and inspired readings.

October 11 9:45 AM

ANIMAL BLESSING CHAPEL

Middle School in the Chapel

November 21 11:10 AM

ANNUAL THANKSGIVING & GRANDPARENTS CHAPEL

All School in the Chapel

December 21 2:15 PM

WINTER HOLIDAYS CHAPEL

All School in the Chapel

Alumni are especially invited to attend

January 22 9:45 AM

MARTIN LUTHER KING ASSEMBLY/CHAPEL

All School in Fregeau Auditorium

February 6 9:45 AM

ASH WEDNESDAY CHAPEL

All School in the Chapel

April 22 9:45 AM

PRAISE GOD IN SONG CHAPEL

All School in the Chapel

May 14 9:45 AM

IVY CHAPEL

Upper School in the Chapel

June 7 4:00 PM

BACCALAUREATE

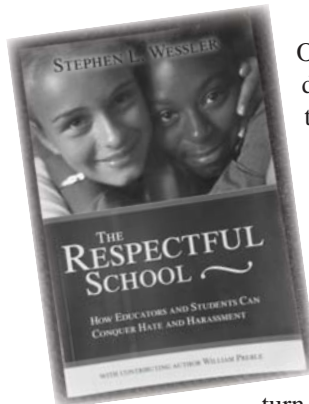
Fregeau Auditorium

All are welcome to attend this pre-graduation celebratory chapel for the senior class.

CREATING A CULTURE OF RESPECT

by Barb Brueggemann, Head of School

Creating safer school communities has been at the top of educators' and parents' list for years. As a public school principal during the time of Columbine, I know how critical a culture of safety is in a school, but what I did not see clearly ten years ago was the essential importance of viewing school violence on a continuum. Yes, hazing and bullying were and are on everyone's radar, but the connection between "everyday teasing" and physical violence was not well understood. In *The Respectful School*, Stephen Wessler and contributing author William Preble vividly capture the connection, and their call to educators to create fully respectful school environments is compelling. Calling a school safe is not enough, and although difficult, we must admit that name calling happens, and every time it happens, the respectful culture is eroded and kids are at risk.



Once we understand that the "casual" negative chatter heard on a daily level in schools plays a role in the development of physical violence, we must in turn address it if

we want a truly safe school. Marshall has always valued safety, and the low teacher to student ratio allows the rare opportunity for taking a safe environment to an even safer level. Now we are asking, "How do we voice respect and civility in our classrooms, hallways, playing fields, etc."

We are jumping in as a school community to begin answering those questions. Every teacher and staff member will have the chance to read and discuss *The Respectful School*, after which we can begin to explore how we will further the goal of safety at Marshall.

Another resource we will use to facilitate our discussion is a book published by the

Southern Poverty Law Center's Teaching Tolerance Program. The book, *Speak Up!* was published in 2005 as a way for people to explore how everyday words can wound or heal. The simple premise is that there are hurtful words and/or actions that many of us simply accept – either because we have never thought about the negative impact of our own words, or because we simply do not know what to say in response, even though we are uncomfortable. *Speak Up!* moves us to explore our own bias (acknowledging that we all carry some bias), and then empowers us to speak up every time we hear bigotry.



Their simple challenge to all of us is: In pledging to respond to everyday bigotry, I will:

- Speak up when I hear or see bigotry;
- Question and identify bias when seen;
- Be mindful of my own behaviors;
- Promote and appeal to higher principles;
- Set limits on what is said or done around me;
- Seek help and help others to work against bigotry; and
- Remain vigilant and persistent.

In closure, we know that kids thrive when they feel safe and respected, and we, at Marshall, pledge to provide that safe and nurturing environment for all of our students every day.

2007-08 School Year Theme:

PRIDE

chosen by the Marshall Upper School Student Council

NEW FACULTY AT MARSHALL



Kathryn Grossman

Guiding the middle school as counselor is Kathryn Grossman. She will also support the learning needs of students as a Learning Specialist. Kathryn received her BA in Liberal Arts/Business from Metropolitan State University in Minneapolis and her master's degree in Educational Psychology/School Counseling from the University of Utah. She has been working as a school counselor in the states of Washington and Wisconsin.

Carolyn Kerns joins us with great familiarity with the school – an alumna of the class of 2000. Carolyn will teach middle school Religious and Ethical Studies. She completed her bachelor's degree in Religious Studies at Macalester College. She describes herself as a well-traveled, multi-lingual student of religion.



Carolyn Kerns

As a near-native French speaker, Bob Pokorney will teach French in the upper school. Bob received his BA in Art History from Colorado College and his master's in French Language and Civilization from Middlebury College School in France. He has directed study abroad programs in Paris and has worked as a translator in France and Italy.

Tracy Ricketts is not completely new to the school. She coached girls' basketball at Marshall in 1993. Tracy will join us this year teaching math in the upper school. She has taught math at the secondary and collegiate levels and holds a bachelor's degree in Secondary Math Education with a minor in coaching from UMD. She has also completed master's degrees in Science Education-Instruction and School Counseling at UWS.



Bob Pokorney

Kristin Stuchis will teach Spanish in both middle and upper school classrooms, but with primary responsibilities in the middle school. She holds a BA in Biology with a Spanish minor from Grinnell College, along with a Masters of Education degree in Environmental Education from UMD. Her experience includes teaching at the middle, high school and university level. Kristin is also involved with the Spanish and Portuguese language and culture through travel and participation in Hispanic/Latino/Chicano student groups.



Tracy Ricketts

We are pleased to welcome another alumna, Brianne Vigen '99, to the classroom. Brianne will teach history in the upper school. She received a BA majoring in History and Interdisciplinary Studies (French concentration), along with a BAA majoring in teaching Social Studies with a concentration in History from UMD. She has supplemented her teaching with an educational computing and technology certification. Throughout college, Brianne tutored students and was a substitute teacher at a number of schools in the area. She has been a ski instructor at Spirit Mountain for ten years.



Kristin Stuchis

In a partnership with True North AmeriCorps, we have gained the services of Peter Halquist. He is an active artist/sculptor with considerable experience coordinating and working with a number of non-profit agencies throughout the Northland that serve youth. Peter earned his BA in Studio Art from St. Olaf College. Peter will work with our after-school program expanding the opportunities for our middle school students who wait for late afternoon rides.

NEW TRUSTEE

Marshall welcomes back JAMES C. JAROCKI '76

as he rejoins the board of trustees. Jim is President of Stolat Partners, an investment management firm based in Duluth which invests in mortgage-backed securities, real estate, U. S. Treasuries, and a variety of financial derivatives. Prior to founding Stolat in 1992, he was president of Americity Federal Savings Bank in Dallas, Texas, which he helped charter. He also worked as an analyst on Wall Street for Goldman Sachs and as an auditor in the New York office of a large public accounting firm. Mr. Jarocki is a Certified Public Accountant and earned a Masters of Business Administration from Harvard Business School. He is a graduate of St. John's University (Collegeville, MN). He serves on the Finance Council and the Priest Pension Board for the Diocese of Duluth, the Endowment Board for Marshall School, the Investment Board for the Duluth Superior Community Foundation and the Executive Board of the Voyageur Council of the Boy Scouts of America. Jim has also served on the Board of Trustees for the College of Saint Scholastica. He coaches Little League baseball and youth soccer, is an Assistant Scoutmaster for Boy Scout Troop 9 and is Treasurer for Cub Scout Pack 43. He and his wife Kris Blakeslee reside in Duluth with their five children, three of whom are current Hilltoppers.



Brianne Vigen



Peter Halquist

HAPPENINGS IN FREGEAU AUDITORIUM

November 8 - 10 7:30 PM

US Play "Footloose"

November 11 2:00 PM

US Play "Footloose"

December 11 7:00 PM

US Strings and Choirs Concert

December 13 4:15 PM

MS Ensembles Concert grades 5-8

December 17 7:00 PM

*US Band, Jazz Band, Chamber
Strings & Singers Concert*

February 11 7:00 PM

US Pops Concert

March 11 4:15 PM

MS Pops Concert

April 18 - 19 7:00 PM

US Play "Blythe Spirit"

April 20 2:00 PM

US Play "Blythe Spirit"

May 8 7:00 PM

Spring Strings Concert

May 12 7:00 PM

Spring Choir Concert

May 15 7:00 PM

Spring Band Concert

June 8 3:00 PM

Class of 2008 Graduation

For other important dates
visit the parent calendar at
www.marshallschool.org/calendar

MARSHALL'S BIG CIRCLE FUND

Creating Access to the Marshall Experience

by Shannon Hoffman, Director of Annual Giving

The Marshall Experience

In my short time at Marshall, I have made a point to ask as many people as possible—students, parents, teachers, administrators—what they like about Marshall.

Repeatedly, the answer is that the Marshall community creates a spectacular experience for our students.

And most people don't just like the Marshall experience—they love it.

Why? Because of Marshall PRIDE.

Passionate teachers who are so motivated that they can't help but pass that enthusiasm on to their students.

Rigorous academic programming which encourages excellence and promotes self-confidence.

Inspiring students who motivate each other with their high standards.

Diverse co-curricular activities that provide opportunities to develop body, mind, and spirit.

Empowering environment in which students learn about respect for self and others, establishing a moral compass that will guide them for the rest of their lives.

The Big Circle Fund

"That's how the big circle works. You never know when you're going to find yourself in a position where you need a hand. You never know when you'll have a chance to next offer yours." (Sam Cook, from his 1986 book of essays, *Up North*)

Donations to the Big Circle Fund support Marshall's financial aid program. It was established when a Cathedral alumnus offered financial aid to help pay tuition for a Hilltopper in need. Currently, about 27% of our students receive some form of financial

assistance to pay for a Marshall education. We award more than \$500,000 in assistance annually.

The Big Circle Fund allows us to extend a hand, to offer the Marshall experience to students in the community who otherwise might not be able to afford it.

The Annual Fund

The cost of a Marshall education is approximately \$13,000. Every Marshall student—even

those who pay full tuition—benefits from the generosity of others. Money raised for the Annual Fund and Big Circle Fund ensures that all qualified students have access to the Marshall experience and the Hilltopper community.

How You Can Help

Donate to the Big Circle or the Annual Fund this school year. Each school year brings new challenges and increased budgetary needs. This year our Annual Fund goal is \$285,000. We believe we can achieve this goal, but only with the help of the entire Hilltopper community.

There are many ways to give:

- Make a recurring gift by calling me at 218.727.7266 ext 107.
- Donate on our secure web site www.marshallschool.org/development/onlinegiving.php.
- Send a gift to the Development Department at Marshall School.
- Or e-mail for more information: shoffman@marshallschool.org.

Every gift makes a difference - especially yours.

Shannon Hoffman
Director of Annual Giving

For today. For tomorrow. For Hilltoppers.



THE MORE EXPERIENCE

written by Lance Rhicard, Upper School English Teacher

I'm used to working with Marshall sophomores on English essays. They dive into papers with determination and rewrite them with fortitude. I'm familiar with students plying through difficult novels and poems



Students work together to clean up the Mission Creek trail in Duluth



More trail work



Students decorate the Lake Superior Zoo for their annual Boo at the Zoo event.

and studying diligently for exams. It's common knowledge that Marshall students garner respect for their academic prowess; not only are they smart, they know how to study hard.

During the inaugural sophomore component of the MORE program, though, I got to work side by side with our students as they swept floors after serving meals, cleaned up trails, hauled garbage, and washed and painted walls. Some were hesitant Tuesday morning as we looked at an old residential trash dump we were supposed to transform into a cross-country trail. Brewery Creek runs alongside the abandoned dump, and we had just learned that it is the most polluted creek in the city—and, of course, it empties into Lake Superior. Shards of glass, tin cans, bottles, old tires, pieces of metal, and all manner of garbage protruded from the ground. We stood with rakes and shovels in hand, not sure exactly where to begin.

But Marshall kids know how to roll up their sleeves and throw themselves into whatever tasks lie at hand, and this day was no exception. Before long, rakes were clanking and heavy loads of garbage were being hauled by gloved hands. The crash of glass, rock, and metal echoed back from waiting dumpsters, and the dull thud of an adze chimed in to smooth sections of the trail we had cleaned.

Another sound rang out as well: laughter. The work was dirty, heavy, and unglamorous, as much of life's work can be, but it was made lighter by the contagious laughter and good-hearted joking of our students. I heard it on Brewery Creek. I heard it at the Union Gospel Mission and on city hiking trails. Other teachers and crew leaders heard it at their sites too, from the Damiano Center, the Duluth Zoo, the Chris Jensen Health Center; from Park Point's beach, CHUM, city recreation sites, and the Salvation Army.

When students study hard for an exam or put in extra hours to write a good paper, it directly benefits them. The rewards in-



Students display their painting talents and spruce up a storage shed at the Zoo



Students and residents at Chris Jensen Nursing Home get to know one another



Students unpacking pallets of donated food at CHUM

clude increased academic proficiency and knowledge, not to mention good grades. It was inspiring to see Marshall sophomores fanned out across Duluth for two days in September working hard in ways that directly benefit others—and doing it with joy and laughter.

Marshall School
1215 Rice Lake Road
Duluth, MN 55811

If your address has changed, please contact Jennifer Faria
in the Marshall School Development Office at
218-727-7266 ext. 113 or email jfaria@marshallschool.org

Additional copies of this newsletter can be printed from our web site! www.marshallschool.org

ADMISSIONS EVENTS 2007-08

November

3	Open House	1-3 PM
6	Campus Visit	8:00-3:05 PM
17	Testing & Tours	9-11 AM

December

13	Campus Visit	8:00-3:05 PM
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December break testing by appointment

January

10	Campus Visit	8:00-3:05 PM
26	Testing & Tours	9-11 AM

February

2	Open House	1-3 PM
7	Campus Visit	8:00-3:05 PM

February break testing by appointment

March

1	Open House	1-3 PM
4	Campus Visit	8:00-3:05 PM
15	Testing & Tours	9-11 AM

April

19	Open House	1-3 PM
23	Campus Visit	8:00-3:05 PM

May

3	Testing & Tours	9-11 AM
15	Campus Visit	8:00-3:05 PM

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world for the better. Education is the key and it represents a sacred responsibility to act.

How do you like to unwind?

No contest here: running and biking.

If you were a vegetable or fruit, what would you be?

Never thought about this one before. I think an orange – worth peeling for the sweetness. The tougher exterior protects from the occasional bumps, but it never compromises the softer interior. I aim to lead with a tough skin and an open heart.

Where's your "secret fort hideout?"

The many trails in and around Duluth. I love finding new places to explore, and I love the solitude and peace found on the more remote trails.

Have you had an unforgettable moment or experience in the past few months?

Playing tag with the 5th and 6th graders at recess. I'm happy to report that I can still

hold my own in a game of tag!

What is the last book you read for fun?

Okay, here is where I have to confess to being somewhat of a nerd. I read a lot! The last book I read was a re-read – Bill Bryson's *A Short History of Nearly Everything*. I love the history (I am an old history teacher), and I love the humor he injects into the story – a perfect balance between serious, factual history and the often-found humor that "happens" as the story unfolds.

What are you most looking forward to on the horizon?

Making a long-term home in Duluth.

Where would you like to see Marshall in five years?

I want it to be the best option for students who are ready to change the world in positive ways. I want it to be the best launching point in the region for students from all walks of life.