

A LEGACY TO REMEMBER



MADISON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

1956-2026

A LEGACY TO REMEMBER

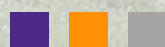
Madison Elementary School has been a place where generations of students learned, grew, and built lasting connections. For decades, its classrooms, hallways, and playgrounds have been filled with laughter and curiosity.

As we prepare to close this chapter, we recognize the importance of honoring the memories and experiences that have shaped Madison into what it is today.

This memory book was created to preserve those moments.

Through photos and stories shared by students, families, staff, and community members, this collection reflects the heart of Madison.

While the building may no longer serve its original purpose, the impact of Madison Elementary will live on in the lives it has touched.



OUR STORY

Madison School has been part of our community's story since the earliest days of education in Manitowoc County. Its roots trace back to the 1830s, with the original Madison School opening in Union Park in 1873.

Over the years, the school was known by several names, including Park School, Second Ward School, and Northside High School, reflecting both its location and its role in serving students across grade levels.

On November 2, 1914, the Board of Education officially named the school after President James Madison. As the community grew, a new Madison School was built and opened on March 12, 1956. Students and staff marked the occasion by parading from the old building to the new one, carrying their books and supplies.

For generations, Madison has been a place of learning, connection, and pride. Its legacy is defined not only by its history and lakeshore location, but by the students, staff, families, and community members who have made Madison what it is today

Home to approximately 200 students, Madison has always been more than a school; it has been a place where relationships matter, where students are supported, and where the Cougar spirit of strength, determination, and kindness is lived each day.

OUR VALUES

Respect • Collaboration • Diversity • Safety



A FAMILY'S MADISON STORY

Andy & Khloe

The Brouchoud family shared moments that capture the connections and celebrations that made Madison feel like home. From first days to final ones, these memories reflect a journey filled with growth, relationships, and lasting impact.



GROWING UP AT MADISON

The relationships Andy and Khloe formed at Madison, with teachers, staff, and one another, are what made it feel like home.



MADISON MEMORIES

Hailey W.

Former Student

I remember being in Ms. Moyer's 4th grade class doing the Africa projects, the shirt project, and the crazy clothes she would wear. My parents went to Madison, I went to Madison, and three of my children went to Madison. I'm sad to see it go, but I'm happy that we all had the opportunity to experience this school.

MADISON MEMORIES

Harry O'Connell

Former Teacher/Staff Member

It was August of 1971. The first day of my employment. This was an in-service day. I arrived extra early and parked my new car in the school parking lot. As I entered the front door, I was greeted by BJ Marshall, the secretary. She greeted me with a hug and welcomed me. Then she asked me if the only car in the parking lot was mine. I proudly told her that it was a 1971 Chevy Malibu. It had a 454 cubic engine, vinyl hard top, 4-speed Turbo Hydramatic transmission, and in 35 more payments, it would be mine. She smiled sweetly and said, "That's nice, dear, but it is in the principal's parking spot!" I quickly moved the car and never made that mistake again!

MADISON MEMORIES

Mary (Stoikes) Indritz

Former Student

April 3, 2026

Madison School

I started Kindergarten at Madison School with Mrs. Bjorkland in the fall of 1965. My Mom brought me to school the first day and we tucked my nap rug (everyone else had a plastic covered foam mattress while I had a bumpy rag-rug my grandfather had woven for me) into the cubby and she held my hand for awhile. The next day I was a "big girl" so I carefully walked from 8th Street along Cleveland Avenue (stopping to pick up Annie Heckel and have her mom tuck in anything loose after those three blocks) to 4th Street to school. Mrs. Bjorklund came to our house for the teacher conference and she and my mother became good friends.

In first grade I had Mrs. Twichell and my mom already knew her. By then we were all comfortable in the school and where to hang up coats, put away boots, pull off warm pants from under our skirts (never pants in the classroom!). We knew how to get the milk from the cold room on the north side of the building, at the entrance, so we could have our morning snack. We all went home for lunch and then back to the learning. We learned to read and started on math and did art and music lessons.

In second grade we had Miss Hazlewood and our classroom was on the lake side of the school. That was the year my sister started Kindergarten so I had someone to walk the whole way to school with each day.

In third grade we had Miss Wedel and she is the only teacher I knew who got married so when we came back to school the following year she was "Mrs." This was our last year upstairs and we finally got to be the big kids who had their classrooms downstairs near the movie-room.

Mrs. French was our teacher in fourth grade and she was the teacher we all waited to have as she was kind and tough. Our classroom overlooked the playground and we had "real" lessons as we were now serious older students at the school. We started learning Spanish that year as it was a requirement for admission to the University of Wisconsin. We were also now on the floor where we had come down for the tornado drills so we felt very safe.

Oddly, I don't remember anything about fifth grade...

But, in sixth grade we had our first man-teacher, Mr. Park – only we were the first class to be transferred to McKinley School because Madison was too crowded and we were very sad about leaving "our" school. Very tall and very calm, was Mr. Park. Miss Espeland was our principal and she would get Mary Stoikes confused with Michael Stokes yet, somehow, managed to put us with the right mothers. It was a new direction to walk and now my friends were picking me up on the way to school rather than the other way around; we had to cross the busy 8th Street to get there. We all missed Madison School and had to meet new students in the move and, I think, there were two sixth grade classes but I may not remember that correctly.

MADISON MEMORIES

Mary (Stoikes) Indritz

Former Student



All in good preparation for the transition to Woodrow Wilson Junior High the following year.

Over those years, Madison School was our foundational learning place. From clambering onto the buses at the south end of the school for field trips (School Forest, Rahr Art Museum) to gym classes (climbing the ropes, dodgeball) to putting on plays and other programs in the gym for our parents (we were always nervous and proud). Even our Girl Scout Troop had a “fly-up” ceremony in the gym. We got our polio shots and, later, sugar cubes in the nurse’s office next to Mr. Greene’s office. We made lifelong friends there and saw the best and worse of each other (though we did not know it at the time as we were all “just” ourselves) every day. There was holding onto sweaters over hands so as not to be infected with “boy” or “girl” germs during square dancing lessons and much running and laughing. I walked home for lunch each day and, later, had piano lessons over the lunch hour and then – gasp – got a ride from my mom or dad back to school just in time. We learned to manage homework and our teachers were friends with our parents and everyone in the neighborhood helped raise all of us...sometimes with just a shake of a head and sometimes by feeding us lunch when a mom was away for a day. Every day was not roses and we learned to manage relationships and conflicts amongst ourselves (though I imagine none of this was lost on the teachers). We had our hooks in the halls and, later, lockers; all of this helped us grow up to look out for ourselves and our friends. Madison School was a place we were welcomed every day by the great teachers there.

As an adult I can look back and say that Madison School was very impactful on my life though I did not know it at the time. The education in Manitowoc was exceptional and my curiosity and love of learning started in those halls, along with the lessons that make me the good citizen that I am today. There is no comparison, as I see it, to how Madison School raised me compared to the experiences of my children when they started Kindergarten 35 and 38 years after me...we had an idyllic time while we learned and learned through growing up; we had kids of all backgrounds (though very light on ethnic diversity) and we learned to listen and respect each other as people without the hovering of our parents. What a privilege to have started out life in this environment.

Thank you to the past teachers and staff who shaped me, guided me, watched over me, kept my parents in the loop, and let me grow. The celebration of this closing feels like the death of a good friend whom I have lost contact with but have never forgotten. May the legacy of Madison School be in the students who passed through her doors.

Sincerely,

Mary (Stoikes) Indritz
Fall 1965-Spring 1971





MADISON THROUGH THE YEARS

March 1956: A Historic Move

This letter, sent to Madison families ahead of the school's move to its current building, offers a firsthand look at a day many in the community still remember.

Madison School

3-12-56

Dear Parents:

The day we have been anxiously waiting for has finally arrived. Monday, March 12, is the day we'll move from the old building to the new James Madison School.

We are planning to have all pupils, both junior and senior kindergarten, and grades one through five come to the old building at the regular time that morning. As soon as we can assemble, possibly at 9:15 a.m., we will begin our march to the new building. A color guard of four of our students will lead the parade followed by the Woodrow Wilson Junior High School band. Junior kindergarten, senior kindergarten, and grades one to five will follow in that order. Pupils will carry their school supplies and books in boxes or shopping bags. Those in grades three to five may use coaster wagons to haul theirs.

Our parade route will be:

leave school grounds by east gate
north on 6th Street to Park Street
east on Park to 4th Street
north on 4th to St. Clair Street
east on St. Clair to building.

Upon arrival at the new building we will have a flag raising and pledge of allegiance followed by a ribbon cutting ceremony at the school entrance.

Pupils will then move into their respective rooms and begin organizing for resumption of their school work. Special open house and dedication programs are planned for the early part of May.

We shall have news coverage by radio station WOMT, the Herald Times, and WBAY-TV.

We urge all parents and friends to join in the ceremonies by seeing us off, watching our parade, or awaiting our arrival at the new building. We hope to make this an event never to be forgotten.

Respectfully yours,

Eugene Krejcarek

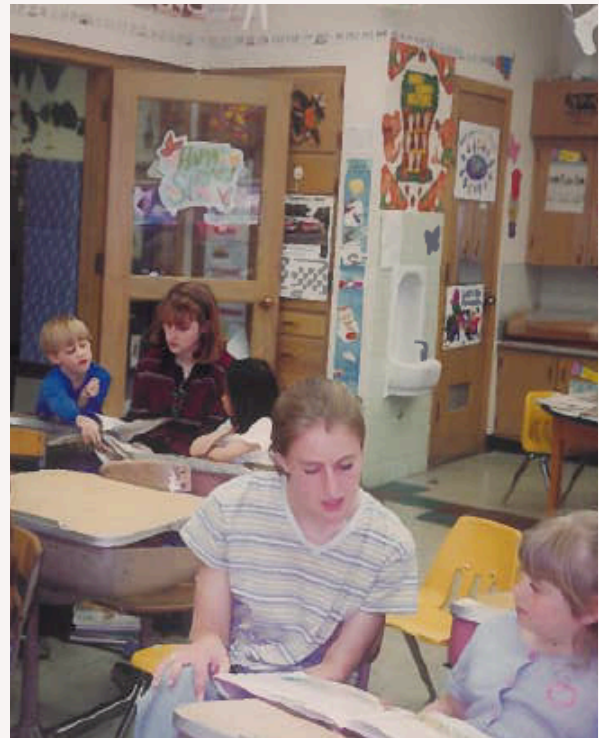
Eugene Krejcarek
Principal







CLASSROOM LIFE

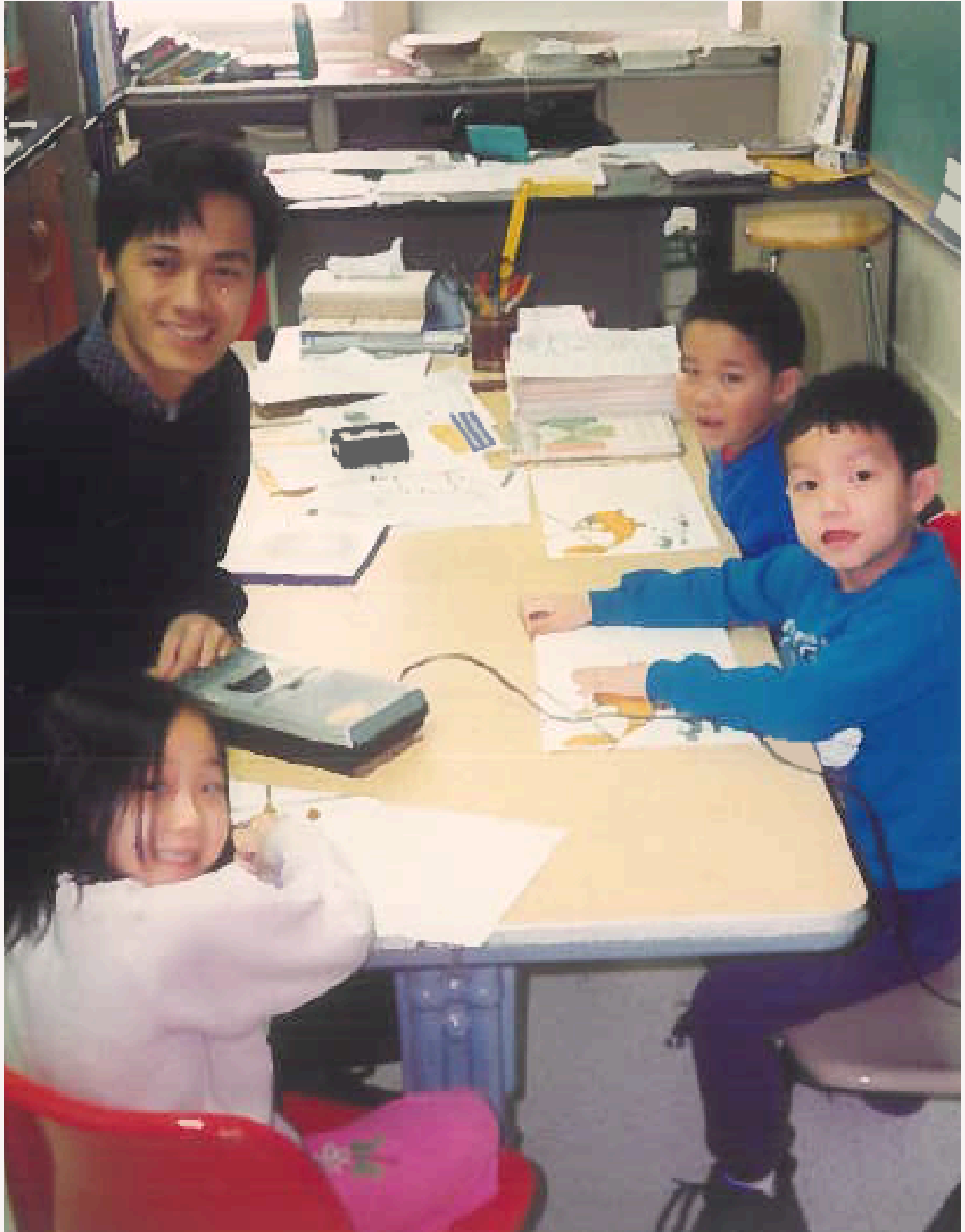












GROWING MADISON

As Madison grew, so did its spaces, adding a new gym, specials wing, and classrooms to better support students and learning. These additions are part of the legacy of a school that continued to evolve, always putting students and community first.



ACTIVITIES





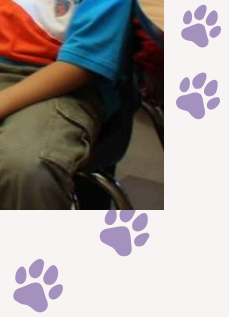






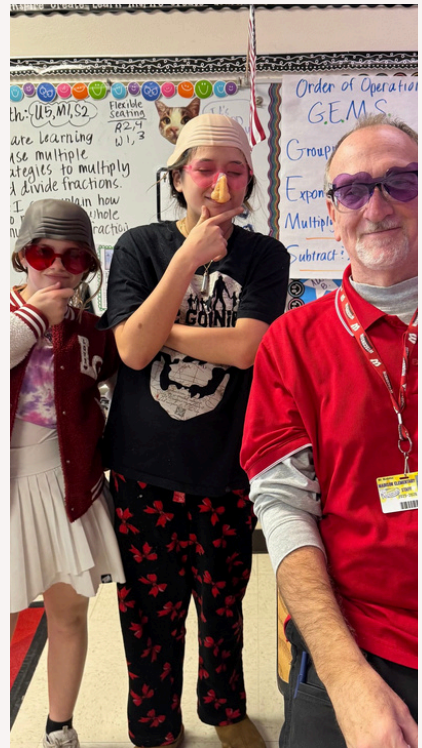
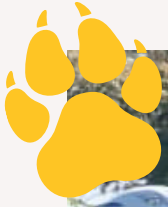
MADISON MOMENTS

MADISON MOMENTS





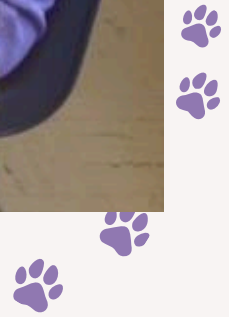
MADISON MOMENTS





LEARNING AT MADISON

LEARNING AT MADISON







LEARNING AT MADISON

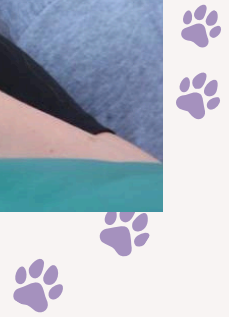


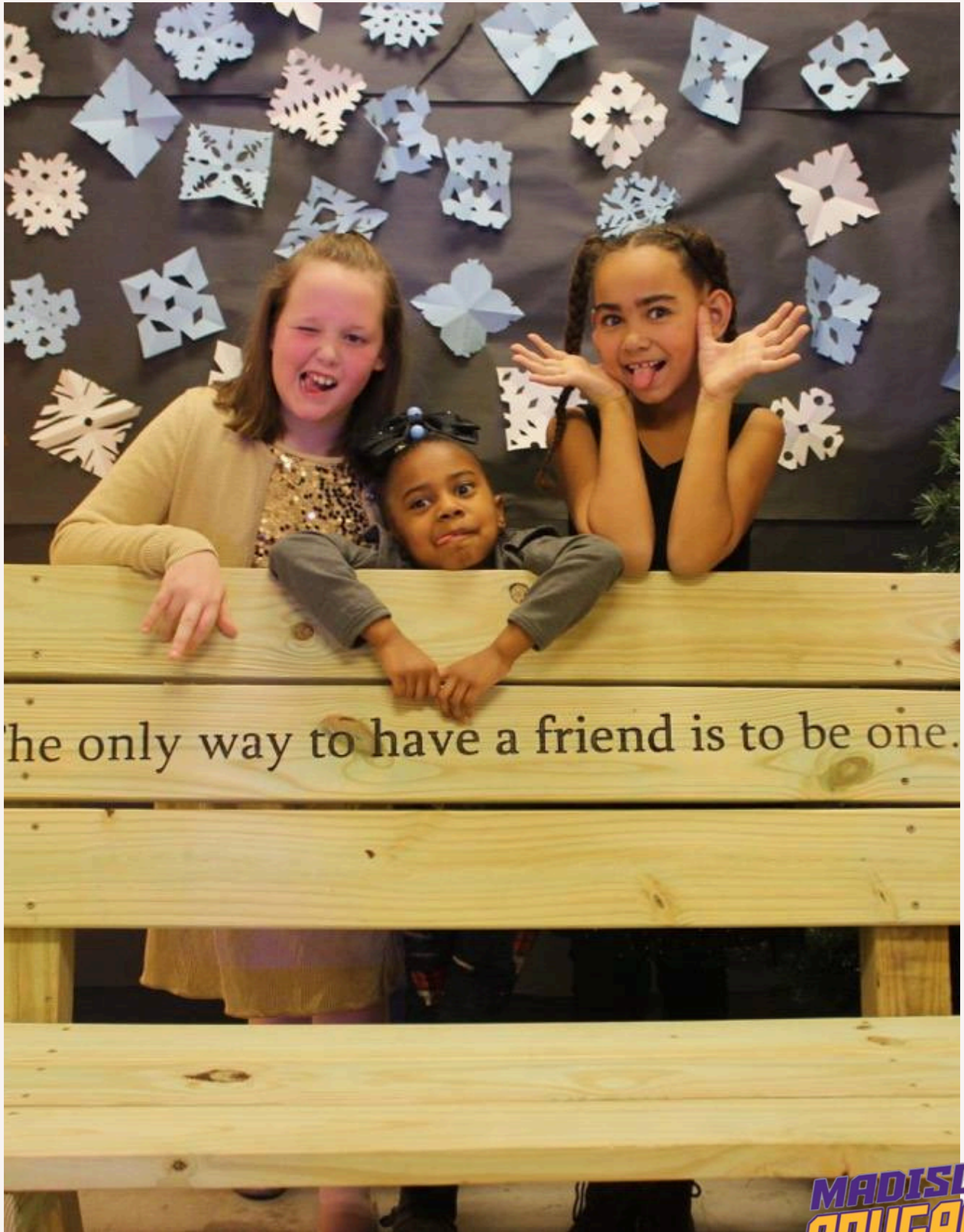




FRIENDS & FUN

FRIENDS & FUN



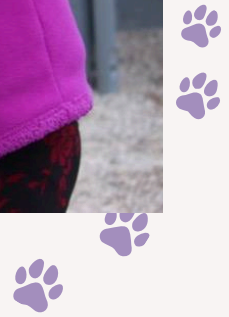


FRIENDS & FUN





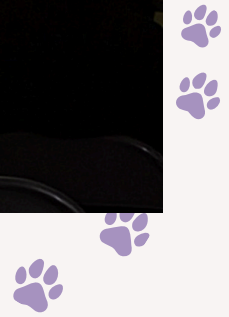
FRIENDS & FUN





CELEBRATIONS & TRADITIONS

CELEBRATIONS & TRADITIONS





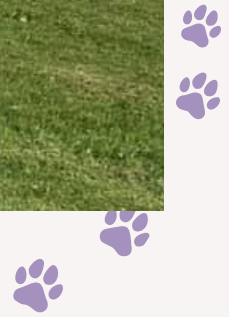


CELEBRATIONS & TRADITIONS



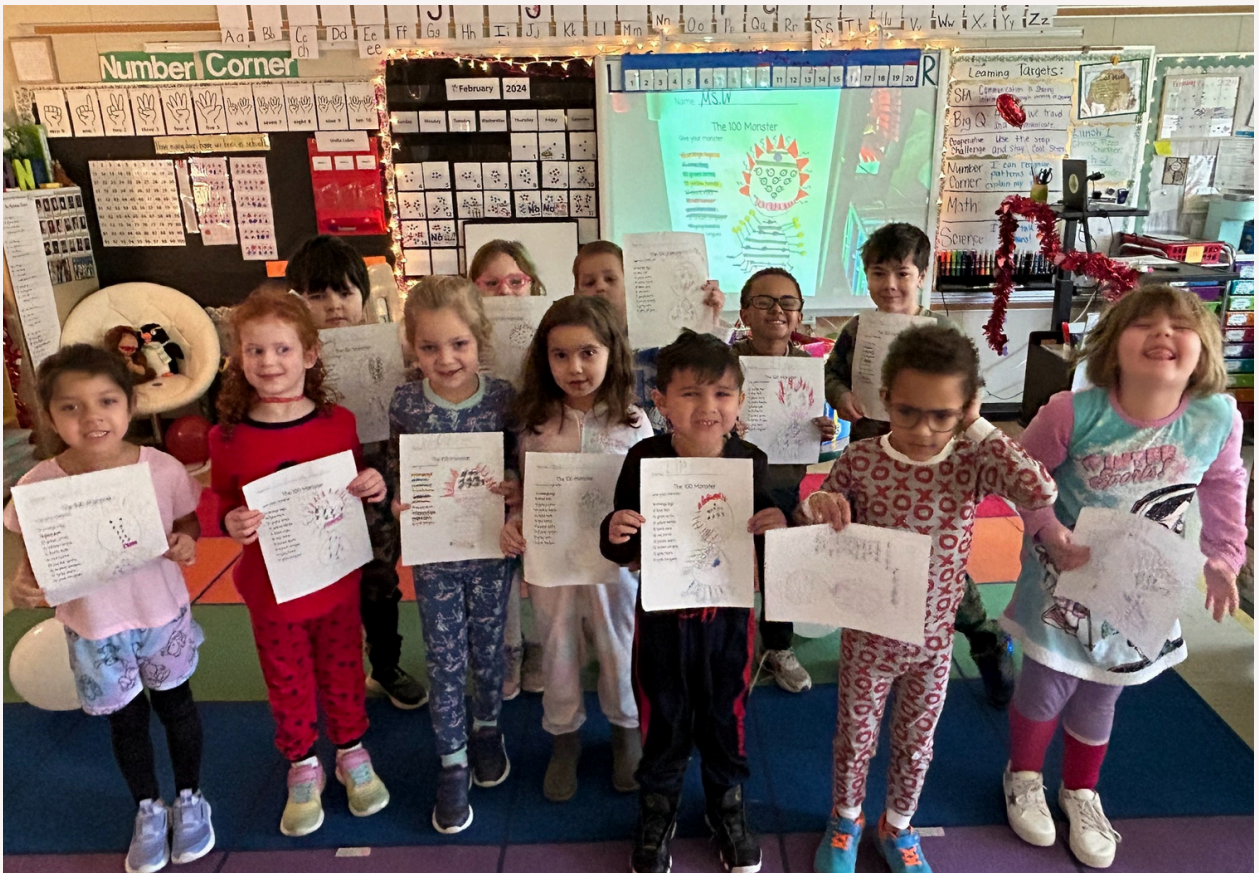


CELEBRATIONS & TRADITIONS





CELEBRATIONS & TRADITIONS

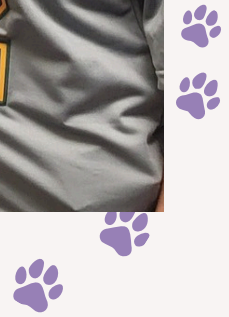






THE PEOPLE OF MADISON

THE PEOPLE OF MADISON





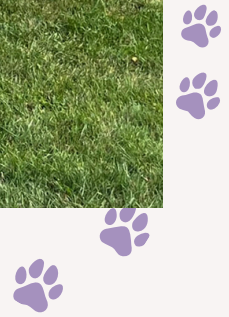


THE PEOPLE OF MADISON



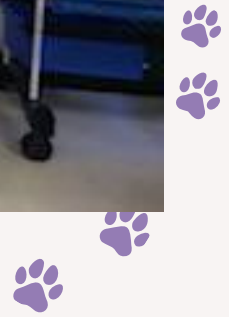


THE PEOPLE OF MADISON





THE PEOPLE OF MADISON





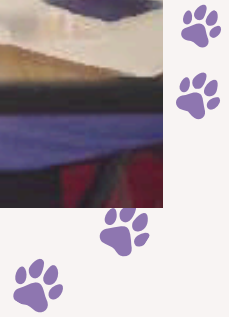


THE PEOPLE OF MADISON





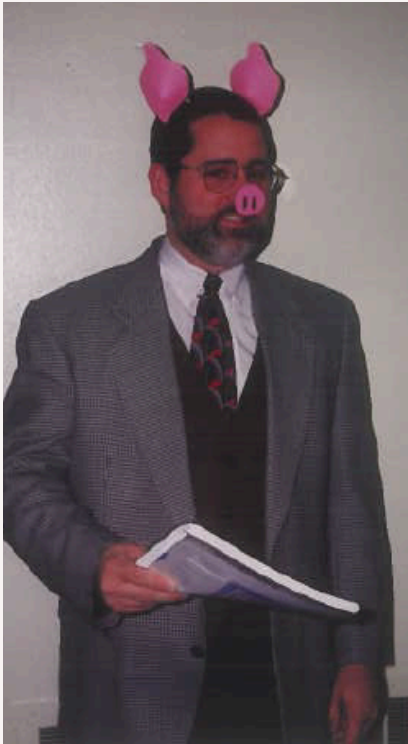
THE PEOPLE OF MADISON

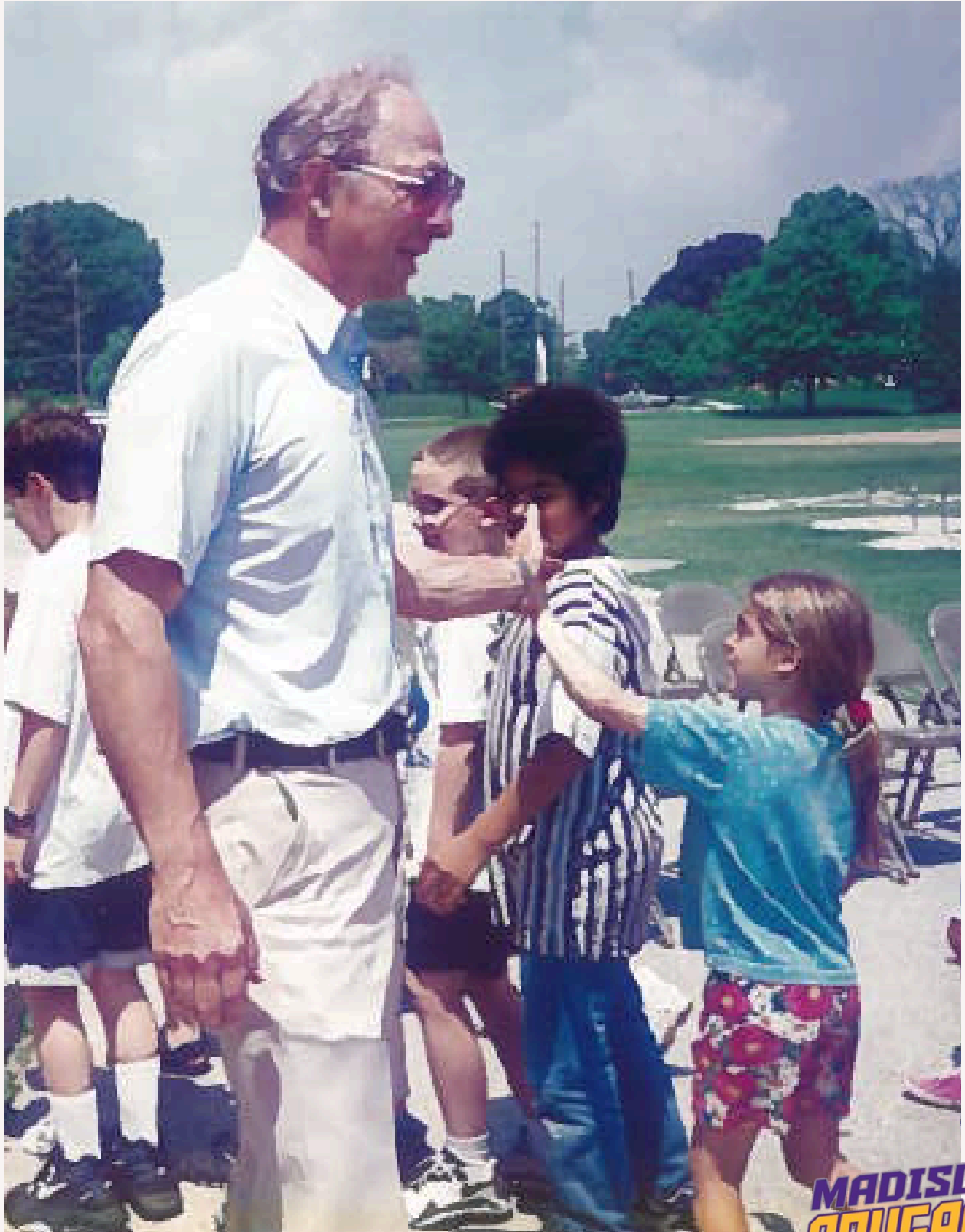




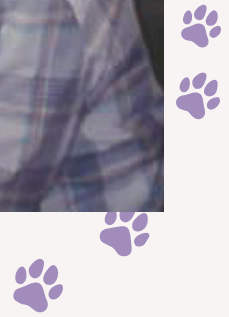


THE PEOPLE OF MADISON





THE PEOPLE OF MADISON





MADISON SCHOOL SONG

A song that brought generations of Madison students together.

Madison, Madison, we will cheer for you,
for we know that you'll always be true.

We are for you, we are for you.

If you win or lose, we'll be true
to whatever we do.

To uphold the honor of our school,
we'll always try.

Let the echoes of song reach the sky.

Here, forgetting self or trouble,
all may claim a share
of our joy, hope, and courage there.

FOREVER A COUGAR

Madison Elementary School has been more than a building; it has been a place of belonging, growth, and connection for generations of students, families, and staff.

Within these walls, friendships were formed, lessons were learned, and memories were made. While this chapter comes to a close, the impact of Madison will continue to live on in every student, every family, and every story shared.

No matter where the future leads, Madison will always be a part of who we are.

THANK YOU

Thank you to all of the students, families, staff, and community members who shared photos and memories for this book. Your contributions helped capture the spirit of Madison and ensure its story will be remembered for years to come.





ONCE A COUGAR, ALWAYS A COUGAR

Madison Elementary School
Manitowoc, WI

