

Kiwanis

GREEN BAY – DOWNTOWN, Founded 1917



KIWANIS KEY

Weekly Newsletter of the Kiwanis Club of Green Bay – Downtown

KIWANIS MEETING OF OCTOBER 19, 2015

Today was our annual club lunch with the 3rd grade classes at Nicolet School. Thanks to the 14 members who made their way through the school security check points to dine on Jimmy John's sub sandwiches with the kids (and thanks to Ole for picking up our meals!).

We split up our group and went to five different classrooms. Matt Haney brought his video camera and caught some of the wonderful interaction between club members and students. Matt said it will one day be on our website for viewing by all. I hope the video will include Adan from room 218 singing "Happy Birthday" to Rick (even though I'm a July birthday boy). Adan definitely has a future on the stage!

When the kids went out for recess, the teachers and new Principal Matt Heller joined club members in the library for a question and answer session. We learned much about Matt, who is in his first year in the Green Bay school district. He came from the Chicago School District. Matt said there isn't much difference between the kids in the two cities, but he does appreciate that there is much more money available to the Green Bay schools (and, as we learned, even that is not enough to cover all the basic educational needs).

Our five teachers and one student teacher discussed the challenges they face daily at Nicolet School. Almost 98% of the kids come from low income families. "Mobility rate" for the students is very high, meaning over 20% of them move into or out of the district during the school year. It's hard for the school district to budget for extracurricular activities, so the teachers often reach into their own pockets for art supplies and playground items.

On the positive side, the school has a very successful and popular bilingual program (English and Spanish languages). Classroom sizes average a very manageable 14 students. And the district has upgraded the school building recently (the teachers mentioned much more reliable heating and air conditioning systems).

We thanked Matt and his staff for their wonderful service and said we looked forward to seeing them all again during the holiday season!

Next up for Kiwanis – Sconniewood at the Meyer Theatre on Sunday the 25th and our regular Monday noon meeting at the Black & Tan Grille on the 26th. Please try to attend both!

**Late note. The Sconniewood program on Sunday evening, October 25, starts at 6:00 PM at the Meyer, not 7:00 PM as previously reported.

by Rick Satterlee

