

February 26, 2007

## **Mark Tauscher provides grant to MPS teacher *Visits Carleton Elementary School to surprise winner***



In September, Tauscher visited Pierce Elementary School to challenge students to read.

On Wednesday, February 28, Carleton Elementary School students and staff will be excited to see Mark Tauscher, the starting right tackle for the Green Bay Packers, walk through the Carleton doors with balloons and a plaque in hand. Tauscher will arrive at Carleton, 4116 W. Silver Spring Drive, at 11:30 a.m. to present Ms. Diane Johnson, a social studies teacher, with an EXCEL grant for \$750. He will also take some time to read to Johnson's students and stress how important it is to stay focused in school.

Johnson will be the first of 50 MPS teachers to receive a mini-grant up to \$750. These EXCEL grants are partly funded by the TRIFECTA Foundation (Tauscher's Reading Initiative for Every Child to Achieve). TRIFECTA is Tauscher's non-profit foundation established to promote children's literacy in Wisconsin.

The EXCEL grant is awarded to MPS teachers based on projects they designed to enhance student learning. Johnson's project, "Bringing History to Life Under African Skies," will provide K5 – 5<sup>th</sup> grade students with learning experiences about African American life during slavery. The project will culminate with a field trip to America's Black Holocaust Museum in Milwaukee. The grant money will fund supplementary materials for the classroom's literacy center and allow Johnson to implement her project.

Members of the Milwaukee community also have the opportunity to join Tauscher's literacy team. In the fall of 2005, Paul Beideman, Chairman and CEO of

Associated Banc-Corp, announced that Associated Bank is a partner with TRIFECTA. Associated made a contribution to TRIFECTA based on the number of customers who opened Packers Checking accounts during a set period of time. Associated also sponsors and hosts TRIFECTA's web site, [www.trifectafoundation.com](http://www.trifectafoundation.com), and during last fall's Reading Challenge, donated dozens of footballs, erasers and coloring books to MPS schools.

School districts and programs that help children read are eligible for foundation grants through TRIFECTA. TRIFECTA supports the Teacher EXCEL Grant Program of the Milwaukee Public Schools Foundation, a program in which teachers apply for grants to fund creative classroom projects or activities that enrich student learning experiences. Nearly all of this year's EXCEL grant award projects focused on improving literacy.

For more information contact Roseann St. Aubin, Director, Office of Communications and Public Affairs, at (414) 475-8237.

###

