



Milwaukee Public Schools

Immediate Release
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Mark Tauscher to surprise MPS teachers with grant *Launches grant distribution by presenting check to a classroom*



Mark Tauscher, starting right tackle for the Green Bay Packers, will visit Dr. Benjamin Carson Academy of Science to surprise two teachers with an EXCEL grant award at 10:30 a.m. on Monday, February 13. These teachers will be the first of 50 to receive surprise news of a mini-grant up to \$750 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. Carson Academy, the only school Tauscher will visit, is located at 4920 W. Capitol Drive.

Tauscher will provide the selected teachers with the grant, a plaque and balloons. He will read the book Clifford's First Valentine's Day to the students in the classroom he visits. Each student will receive a copy of a book to take home. The grant will fund supplementary materials for the classroom's literacy center and provide two field trip experiences for 30 first grade students. The project will encourage families to become more involved with their children's reading at home.

"Growing up, reading was a challenge for me, but with guidance I was able to overcome the difficulties. Rather than giving up, I learned to enjoy reading and I hope TRIFECTA will inspire children to read the way my family and teachers inspired me," said Tauscher, who earned a master's degree in educational administration from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

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Members of the Milwaukee community also have the opportunity to join Tauscher's literacy team. Last fall, Paul Beideman, president and CEO of Associated Banc-Corp, announced that Associated Bank is partnering with TRIFECTA. Associated said it would contribute \$10 to TRIFECTA every time a customer opened a Packers Checking account during the past few months, and guaranteed a minimum \$50,000 contribution.

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.

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