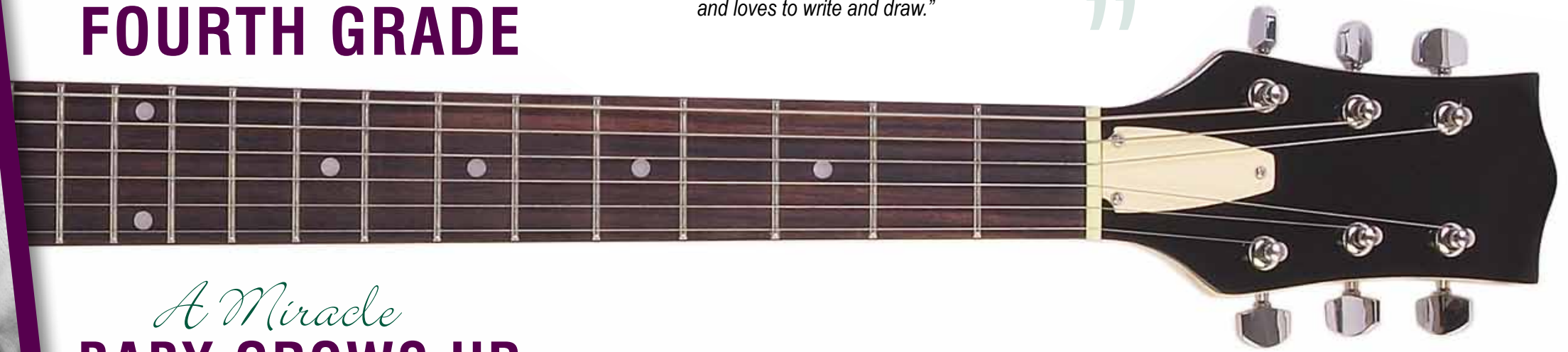




From
**1 POUND to
FOURTH GRADE**

A Miracle
BABY GROWS UP

“Kyle is so full of life with the most amazing sense of humor,” says Kyle’s mother Sue. “Since he was four years old, he’s had the Hollywood dream – he wants to be an entertainer. He plays electric guitar, and loves to write and draw.”



As any family knows who’s had a child born prematurely, it’s a constant dance of emotions that sways in all directions as the hours, days, weeks, months and even years pass by.

For Sue Michels of Oconomowoc, it’s a story that still brings her to the edge and back as she shares how her son, Kyle, who weighed 1 pound, 13 ounces at birth, can today water ski, and play basketball and baseball like any other 10-year-old, fourth-grade boy who attends Summit Elementary School.

Born 14 weeks premature in March 1998 at Waukesha Memorial Hospital, the physicians in the Newborn Intensive Care Unit gave Kyle a 20 percent chance of survival.

“My husband Mike and me couldn’t touch or hold him for six weeks because he was so critical and not yet

fully formed,” says Sue. “I remember how transparent his skin was. The worst part was how we were called in three times in the middle of the night because the doctors thought they couldn’t save him.”

HIS UNSUNG HERO

Sue found out years later that it was a nurse practitioner at Waukesha Memorial Hospital who was Kyle’s angel during one of those close calls. After the neonatologist tried to revive Kyle for 20 minutes, his nurse saw Kyle open one eye.

“Your son’s alive,’ the doctor told us that night,” says Sue. “It wasn’t until years later that we found out what a close call it was.”

That particular nurse remained uniquely bonded to Kyle in the months of struggles that still lay ahead. “Now I know why she took such a strong interest in Kyle. She

was his unsung hero. But that’s just how the nurses at Waukesha Memorial are and why we kept bringing Kyle back through the years.”

ONE OBSTACLE AFTER ANOTHER

Kyle was able to overcome many complications, including lung collapses and lung surgeries. “We transferred him to Children’s Hospital in Milwaukee where they had to paralyze him for a month to control the infection and to remove one lung,” says Sue. “With the infected lung removed, he finally started improving.”

After he was strong enough, the Michels decided to return Kyle to Waukesha Memorial Hospital because the family had established such strong bonds with the staff and just felt better about having him continue to gain strength in that special environment. At 4 pounds, 11 ounces, Kyle could finally suck, swallow and breathe on his own.

One hundred and nine was the magic number: the day Kyle was finally healthy enough to see his home for the first time.

LIVING THE BIG LIFE

Looking at Kyle today, you wouldn’t have a clue about the endless obstacles he had to overcome from day one. Besides living with chronic lung disease and asthma, he’s enjoying a full life today with his older brother, Shawn and younger brother, Josh. He does, however, carry symbols of his struggles on his chest. “Kyle calls one of the marks his Harry Potter scar and the other his gecko,” says Sue. “He’s proud of them!”

If you walk the halls of the Birthing Center at Waukesha Memorial Hospital, you’ll see Kyle’s smiling face on the wall, among other amazing survivors who join him on this wall of fame and hope. Learn about our Birthing Centers and NICU at www.prohealthybaby.org.

