



MSA Weekly News

February 8, 2008

Volume 1, Number 16

In This Issue

- Sally Foster Fundraiser a Success!!
- Internet Safety Parent Seminar
- Cross Country News
- Art Department is looking for...
- Helping Parents Understand Dyslexia
- Soccer Team Qualifies for Tournament
- It's SHOWTIME!!!
- School Picture Retakes
- Important Dates to Remember

Web Links of Interest

Georgia Independent School Association - GISA
If you missed the seminars on campus here are off-campus offerings

Galapagos Islands
See what they do with the donations

Play IT Safe Seminar
If you missed the seminars on campus here are off-campus offerings

Georgia ETA
Other parent workshops

Georgia Family Council
Learn about the grant GFC received for the internet safety campaign

MSA Home Page
Find everything you need to find about MSA is here

Love is in the Air

Everyone is gearing up for **Valentine's Day** here at Mill Springs. The **Booster Club is selling flowers** (you may want to get into that action), Elmo is wearing his Valentine's racing outfit ("you make my heart race") and of course we will all wear red on the 14th. That's advance warning in case you don't own any red – GO SHOPPING! And while you are shopping for something red to wear, know this factoid from the **National Retail Federation**: "the average consumer plans to spend \$122.98 on **Valentine's Day**, up from \$119.67 in 2007. Men will spend the most, on average about \$163.67 on gifts and cards. Women will spend just \$84.72." Now you know how much you should be spending to hold up your end of the bargain – excuse me I need to forward this information to my husband....

p.s. we shop for our pets, too! Don't tell my dogs.

GISA Middle School All-Select Band



This past weekend three students **Alex Davis** (PU) **Andrew Gray** (PU), and **Lauren Dunlop** (M), participated in the very first GISA Middle School All-Select Band. These students were nominated and selected to take part in this event because of their talent and hard work in pursuing musical excellence. Two bands performed, comprised of the finest 5th through 8th grade musicians from Georgia's independent schools. The students met for rehearsals on Saturday and put together an impressive concert in less than 36 hours. Congratulations to those students for their dedication and willingness to share with others their love of music. (from Elizabeth Plastiak)

Calendar Change for Monday!!

Just in case you still haven't heard, please note that we have had a **change to the calendar**. There will be **early dismissal on Monday, February 11th** due to a teacher workshop. Lower and Middle Schools will be dismissed at 12:15pm. PreUpper, CommArts and

MSA PVA Web Site
*Learn what is going on with
your PVA*

MSA Winter Sports
Schedule
At-a-Glance sports calendar

MSA November Calendar
*School Calendar on the MSA
website*

Contact Us

<http://www.millsprings.org>
charwood@millsprings.org

Mill Springs Academy
13660 New Providence Rd
Alpharetta, GA 30004
770-360-1336

Upper will dismiss at 12:30pm. The **buses will leave campus at approximately 12:45pm**. This is the only day that the presenter could squeeze us into his busy travel schedule. Thank you for understanding.



A Trip of a Lifetime – Winter Learning Highlights

Several of the PreUpper students had the opportunity to go to the Galapagos Islands during the weeks of Winter Learning. With the help of the internet (ahhh...the modern conveniences of life) I found out that the GI is a cluster of islands, or an archipelago, of roughly 125 volcanic islands that straddle the equator about 600 miles off the west coast of Ecuador. Who knew the Galapagos Islands were a part of Ecuador? Let's face facts here, I didn't even know where Ecuador was, chalk that up to my public school education. Anyway, the Galapagos Islands can lay claim to being the "laboratory" in which Darwin's theories were developed. They boast 5,000 unique species of flora and fauna and many of these species are native to these islands. The students were able to see the wonderful sights and creatures of this one of a kind place. What a wonderful experience. *Picture 1: **Lauren Hayes** hangs out with her two bird friends in the foreground. Picture 2: **Evan Martin** with his friend the seal in the back. Picture 3: **Jakey Northrup, Andrew Hart** playing checkers, **and Kevin Bente** watching, while on board the Coral I. Picture 4: **Buddies Connor Dimick and Jesse Rhodes** on the shore.* (pictures courtesy of Will Turner)



Studio Day Coming Soon



On Saturday, March 15th we will be holding our final STUDIO DAY before the auction! If you have not heard, the auction will be raising money for the Fine Arts Challenge Grant. The E.E. Ford Foundation will be matching the \$50,000 that we raise, but only if we raise \$50,000! We have plenty to still be working on in the studio from 9:00am – 3:00pm . Please **RSVP to Janet Ford** that you will be attending on the 15th. Pictured are Angel and **Matthew Murr** from Middle (from Janet Ford)

Basketball Season Ends Well!



The JV Mustang Basketball team has ended their regular season in the number one position! Wednesday they began their journey to compete for the Championship traveling to Brandon Hall School to play the #4 seed, the Howard School in the first round of the tournament. They travel today to play Eagle Woods for third place, again at Brandon Hall School. (from James Sampson)

GO MUSTANGS!

Parent Workshop – Understanding Autism



On Tuesday, March 4th at 8:30am – 11:30am in the PU Great Room, there will be a workshop for parents who are interested in understanding autism. This workshop is designed to help parents understand the nature of Autism and how they can structure the home environment to facilitate language skills, social skills, behavior skills, and independence. This program will give examples to assist parents with children ages' pre-K through high school.

Dr. Kelle Laushey holds a BS in Education- MR- K-12, a Masters of Education in MiMH, and a Doctor of Philosophy- Education of Students with Exceptionalities with a focus on Autism and a cognate in child development. Kelle is an Autism/ABA Trainer for Cobb County School Systems.

Please call or email **Cheri Harwood** to sign up to attend. Light breakfast and coffee will be served. (from Janet Ford)

Miscellaneous, But Newsworthy

This afternoon our wrestling team has headed to Riverside Military Academy for their State Tournament. Hope you have great matches!

Rumor has it that since we have a brand new track there is a possibility of holding a track and field program for Lower and Middle schools. More news as it becomes available.



Thursday **Jakey Northrup** and **Michael Palmer** traveled to Walker School to represent MSA in the GISA regional Spelling Bee.

PM program registrations should go home in Friday folders this week if you don't get it you can find it [HERE](#).

Don't forget, the Booster Club is still having a Spirit Wear sale. You can find the flyer and information [HERE](#).

On Saturday the MSA Archery Club will be going to the State competition in Perry, Georgia – Good Luck!

Due to an overwhelming response the Booster Club is switching Tuesday breakfast back to Chic-Fil-A. You can get a chicken or sausage biscuit for \$2.50 and plain biscuits will be \$1.50.

Get it? Got it? Good!

Parent/Teacher Workshop – Dyslexia Strategies

On Saturdays March 8th and 15th at 8:30am – 2:30 pm each (lunch will be served) a parent/teacher workshop on Dyslexia will take place. This course is designed to equip the classroom teacher and special education teachers with skills and techniques to identify, assess and successfully teach children who struggle to read. This course has been approved by the Georgia Department of Education for one (1) Professional Learning Unit.



Jean DeRosa holds a BS in Visual Arts and a Master of Education in Inter-Related Special Education. She is a Level 2 Wilson certified Trainer. Jean is a former public and private school teacher who now serves as a tutor and advocate for students who struggle to read.

To register for this workshop, go to the [Georgia Educational Training Agency website](#) and select Identification and Assessment Strategies for Students with Dyslexia. (from Janet Ford)

Important Dates to Remember

February 11th is an **Early Dismissal** day for **ALL students** due to a teacher workshop that has been scheduled – **this is a change**. L/M leave at 12:15, PU/CA/U dismiss at 12:30 and the buses depart at 12:45pm.



We are holding a public **Open House** on **Wednesday, February 13th at 9:00am**. If you know of anyone that might possibly be a candidate for MSA feel free to share that information with them.

The school will be **CLOSED** on **February 18th** in observance of President's Day.

PreUpper/Comm. Arts/Upper ONLY have **Student Conferences** on **February 28th & 29th** and therefore **PU/CA/U** will have **no school**.

See the entire calendar by clicking [HERE](#).
