



MSA Weekly News

November 14, 2008

Volume 2, Number 15

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The most current information when it comes to MSA Sports Schedules

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

Turkey Day is Coming!



There are only two weeks until Thanksgiving Day – it's time to watch for the turkey and trimmings to go on sale at the grocery store, invite the friends and family, and stimulate the economy by buying the big screen TV so we can watch the football games (that's my husband's thought process) - [HERE](#) is the NFL schedule so you can see if your team is playing. That way if you need to make a run to Best Buy, you have time. My team is not playing, but I could still wear my game face – I'll leave the Cheese Head at home, it gives me serious hat hair and static electricity. The Cheese Heads one redeeming quality is if you are at Lambeau Field in the dead of winter and snow, the cheese head will keep your head warm! Those people in Wisconsin have thought of everything! Have a great weekend!

Congratulations, Class of 2009!

Great News on the College front!

Seth Paul has been accepted to **Oglethorpe University** - Home of the Stormy Petrels! Congratulations Seth.



We discovered earlier this week that Upper School student **Jenna Nurik** has been accepted to **University of Tennessee in Chattanooga** with a tennis scholarship. "Nurik is a senior at Mill Springs Academy in Alpharetta, GA. She is currently rated No. 7 in the state of Georgia and 37th in the Southeast by TennisRecruiting.net which also lists her as a 'four-star' recruit." According to an article from GoMocs.com – the official website of the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga Athletics. You should read the entire article [HERE](#) for more details.

And Celebrate We Did!

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

MSA Weekly News
Archives
Catch up on past news

MSA Current 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



The Cabaret Show and Art Exhibit on November 8th both lived up to their billing. The students were ... phenomenal! Their work, by way of song and dance, comedy or visual arts proved once again that there is something special indeed about the creative hearts and spirits of our awesome MSA students. Onlookers were treated to an exciting evening of sights and sounds that could come only from this exceptional group of students. Thanks to all of the talented students whose skills helped to paint an ever brighter picture for the future of MSA Fine Arts. Pictured: *Art by Alaina Macke, Alumni Class of 2008.* (from Janet Ford and Brian Buxton)

Remember Hunger Doesn't Take a Holiday

The canned food drive is in full swing – I have heard rumors that there are already homerooms that are at 100% participation. So some of our homerooms need to get to it!



The food you send in will be distributed among 700 not-for-profit agencies. Some help seniors on a fixed budget make ends meet. Others provide groceries for the working poor. Still others provide meals to the homeless.

Our goal is to collect over two tons of food for the Atlanta Community food bank. If every MSA student, staff and faculty member brings in 15 items, we will reach our goal and help others at the same time. If everyone joins in, we **CAN** do it!!! Please be a part of the solution and send your student in with 15 items or more of the items so we can get to 100% participation!

Presenting: A Night in New Orleans!



Mill Springs Academy's PVA presents

"A Night in New Orleans"

Saturday, February 7th, 2009

7:00pm – 11:00pm

The Metropolitan Club

Alpharetta, GA

Black Tie Optional

Come enjoy all the mystic New Orleans has to offer. The night will feature a silent and live auction, dinner, dancing and live entertainment. So take a walk through the garden district, enjoy a saxophone player belt out fabulous tunes on Bourbon Street and indulge in gourmet treats from the French Quarter.

Tickets are \$100 per person and include New Orleans style buffet dinner, 2 drink tokens, dessert/coffee bar and live entertainment by Zydefunk, a true New Orleans Jazz Band! Table sponsorships, auction donations and other contribution opportunities are available. See the [PVA website](#) for more details. Wear the fanciest mask you can find, for there will be wonderful prizes for the best "HIS" and "HERS". You'll want to buy your tickets early for this **EVENT OF THE YEAR**, as limited seating is available. Your invitation to this signature event is in the mail!!

Time to Get your T-Shirts

It's "Style'n Time" again...and just what you've been waiting for. Our new T-shirt designs and colors are available to add power to your "Style'n" wardrobe. This year we've also included both adult and youth long sleeve T-shirts in a great selection of sizes and colors. They're awesome!



Design by **Amy Karschner**
Upper School

All designs are created by MSA Art students and hand printed in the color of your choice. From youth extra small to adult extra, extra large, these are great looking T's. Regular T's are just \$10 each. Long sleeve T's are \$15. And, if you like, you can have the artist sign your shirt.

What a deal! You get a fabulous looking T-shirt and, at the same time, support your MSA Fine Arts Department. It's a "Win-Win" situation. Keep in mind all of the holiday gifts you need to purchase...custom created shirts make perfect gifts!

If you are considering t-shirts as gifts for the holidays, get your order in no later than November 25th so they are printed before we go on Winter Break.

Click on Link to view and print order forms. Send money and order forms to Janet or Brian in the Art Studio. (from Janet Ford and Brian Buxton)

The Holiday Season is Upon Us!



In the spirit of giving, please consider using Honey Baked Ham gift certificates this year. This is a wonderful way to help our school's fundraising efforts, as well as, take care of your shopping list. They are easy to mail and don't expire. If you have not received an order form, the **LINK** provided will pull one up for you to print off. Simply send in the form with a check (made out to MSA PCA) to school and we will send home the certificates. The last day to order will be December 12th. Don't wait, be thinking who would enjoy their delicious food and appreciate your thoughtfulness! (from your PVA)

Guess Who is Behind that Gala Mask????

The **winner** of last week's Mask contest was band teacher extraordinaire, Elizabeth Plastiak, she correctly guessed that behind the mask was Coach Phil Hanson. All the correct answers were put into a hat and one name was drawn. She is the recipient of \$5 Gala Bucks that she can put toward her ticket.

(Hint: Parents if you aren't sure who a teacher is you might try asking your student!)



Guess Who?

Each week between now and the February 7th "A Night in New Orleans" Gala, you will be given the chance to guess which MSA staff member is behind the Gala mask! All MSA Parents are eligible. If there are multiple winners any given week, there will be a drawing of one name from all of the winners. The lucky winner will receive \$5.00 in Gala Bucks which can be used towards the purchase of a Gala ticket! Email **Your PVA President** with your guess today! (from Michelle Bergeson) *Pictured: GUESS WHO?*

Moms on a Mission Meet!



Next meeting

Wednesday, November 19th at 1:30pm

Our new MOM group is now off and running! October has been an exciting month as MSA moms met to get to know each other and share. Come join us on Wednesdays in a supportive, confidential environment. We all need friends

for the journey and look forward to meeting you!

Our MOMs support group will meet the first Wednesday at 8:30a (after carpool) and the third Wednesday at 1:30p (before carpool) of each month in the CommArts Great Room. If you are interested in participating but these times are not convenient, contact Paulette Solis (Pre-Upper mom) at plettes@yahoo.com or 678.267.0362 or Sheree Crowe (Middle mom) at 770.354.3657 or shereesc@mindspring.com. We are flexible and want to accommodate as many busy moms as possible! We are also starting an email list for other events scheduled throughout the month.

Parent View of Parent Workshop

Parents from every level at MSA had the great privilege of attending Brenda Fitzgerald's parent workshop on Helping Boys Succeed in School. When I signed up to attend the workshop, I was expecting to hear variations of familiar information about how boys just can't sit still. Instead, my expectations were not only exceeded – but completely blown away.

I came away from the workshop with a new understanding and appreciation of boys in general. In addition to hearing about what they need to succeed in school, I have a clearer picture of some of the things that I can do as a parent to maximize both their academic and social potential.

I got a better understanding of the behaviors I thought I needed to correct in the past, biological explanations of what and why boys do the things they do, and advice on ways to allow them what they need to in order to thrive - and how to best guide them.

The speaker, Brenda Fitzgerald, was an outstanding, engaging and skilled presenter. She was humorous and entertaining, offering funny observations to which we all could relate. Ms. Fitzgerald was well-organized and her material was presented in an easy format to follow. She was extremely knowledgeable and qualified, evidenced by her vast teaching experience combined with the latest research. Ms. Fitzgerald was very relatable and often interjected personal anecdotes to illustrate a point she was making.

The information provided was practical, research-based, helpful, and interesting. It provided a new perspective for parents in their efforts to understand, advocate, and encourage their sons to realize (to quote Ms. Fitzgerald) their "purpose, destiny and gift."

Click [HERE](#) to see Ms. Fitzgerald's Recommended Reading List.

Janet Ford coordinates the workshop program and does an excellent job of bringing insightful speakers to MSA. She would love to hear from parents to find out what other topics are of interest for future presentations. She can be reached by [E-MAIL](#). (from Middle School Mom, Melissa Goldberg)

Did You Know???

Saturday, November 15th is **America Recycles Day!** So make sure you do your part – get out there and recycle.

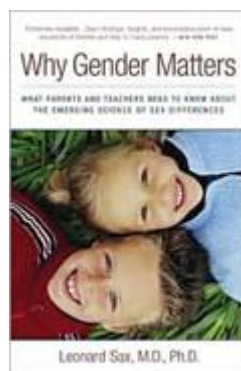
Here is the America Recycles Day Pledge:



- To buy more recycled content products.
- To increase recycling efforts at home, school & work.
- To participate in other recycling-related efforts or community events.

So take your plastic bags back to the grocery store to be recycled and bring your cloth bags with you to carry home your purchases. Buy items that have recycled content in them, they are easier on the environment to recycle a second time. Use the front **AND** back of your office paper.

Brenda Fitzgerald's Recommended Reading



To follow is a list of recommended books that came out of the Helping Boys Succeed parent workshop, there might be something of interest:

Allow your Children to Fail if You Want Them to Succeed by Avril Beckford

Bringing Up Boys by James Dobson

Boys and Girls Learn Differently by Michael Gurian

The Minds of Boys by Michael Gurian

The Wonder of Boys by Michael Guiran

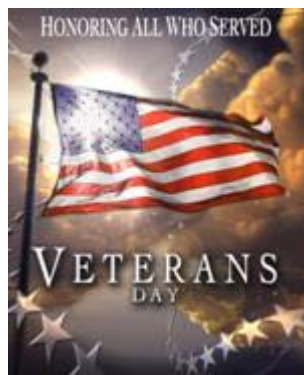
Why Gender Matters by Leonard Sax

The Bulletin Board

If the school had a bulletin board, here is what you would find on it:

Get the November issue of ***Kickin' It*** [HERE](#). This is the Upper School news magazine written, edited and published by your students.

Tue, Nov 11 – Happy Veterans Day and thank you for serving!



Tue, Nov 18 – MSA is hosting the **Atlanta Area Association of Independent Schools (AAAIS)** meeting for their membership Heads of Schools.

Wed, Nov 19 – 1:30pm – **MSA Moms on a Mission**
– CommArts Great Room

Mon, Nov 24 – 8:15am – **PVA Meeting**

Tue, Nov 25 – 9:00am – **Grandparents Day** – SAC

Tue, Nov 25 – **Early Dismissal**
12:15 – Lower/Middle carpool
12:30 – PreUpper/CommArts/Upper carpool
12:45 – Bus Departs

November 26 – 28 Thanksgiving Holiday
SCHOOL CLOSED

Dec 1 – 5 Get Ready! **Homecoming Week** is coming! It will culminate with a basketball game against Howard School on Friday. There are special events each day of the week check out the schedule [HERE](#).

Cares and Concerns of our Community

Please keep the following from our Community in your thoughts and prayers.



The Ayres Family

The Burnes Family

The Carlos Family

The Hartley Family

The Smith Family

Please [email me](#) at any time with individuals you would like to include on our list as their needs arise. For privacy, I will only list names and claim ignorance if you ask me for details.

Character Quote of the Week



A great secret of success is
to go through life as a man
who never gets used up.

- Albert Schweitzer



Please consider the environment before printing.

If at any time you wish to not receive further MSA Weekly News editions please just 'reply' with that information in the email to charwood@millsprings.org

To: Board of Trustees, All Mill Springs Parents, Newsletter Friends, Newsletter Family,
Newsletter Professionals and All Staff/Faculty