



MSA Weekly News

December 12, 2008

Volume 2, Number 18

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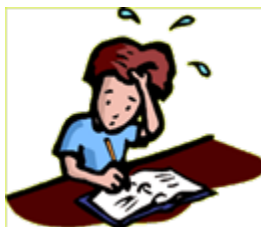
Rush, Rush, Rush ...



The frantic rush to get everything done before we go out for the December Holiday Break has begun. The kids are fully aware that a vacation is on the horizon. The decorations are all strewn around the house awaiting their brief resting spot. There are gifts to buy/wrap and parties to attend/host. Even our pets seem to know something is afoot!

In all the rush make sure to actually spend time with your family during this holiday. Enjoy each other, play a family game, decorate cookies, or just sit around with a cup of hot cocoa (with big marshmallows) and talk. We don't do enough of that and it is more important than any gift we could ever give or get.

The Exam Fairy & Elf Michael



As most of you know, the PU, CA and Upper Schools have begun final exams today and will continue through next week. Here is a cute little something that was shared with the PreUpper Students to ease the stress level a bit. Your student may have mentioned it to you, but nothing can take the place of actually seeing. So make sure to watch **THIS** video from our very own Exam Fairy and I know that once you have seen the video, you too will want to join the Elf Michael Fan Club **HERE!** The Club has no known benefits, but has a great following AND I am the self-proclaimed president! Givem' a hug and a pencil and send 'em to school! Good luck at the Finals!

The Annual Fund



A BIG thanks to the many families who have responded to the call for participation in Mill Springs' Annual Fund. Over the past two weeks we have seen many parents making gifts which have brought our parent participation up to 62%. However, we would like to ask all of our parents to please join MSA's Faculty/Staff and Board who have already reached 100% participation.

If you have not yet made your gift to this year's Annual Fund, please click **HERE** to download a

website

Contact Us

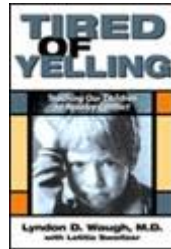
http://www.millsprings.org

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770-360-1336

pledge form today. (from Mary Ramirez Development)

Lower School Parent Book Club



The Lower School Parent Book Club will meet again on Thursday, January 22. The meeting time and location will be announced in early January. We will discuss *Tired of Yelling: Teaching our Children to Resolve Conflict* by Lyndon D. Waugh, M.D. with Letitia Sweitzer. Please feel free to check out the book club blog [HERE](#). I wish you all a happy holiday season and hope to see many of you next year at the book club! (from Anne Holland, Guidance Counselor)

We are in the Bee!!!



The annual National Geographic Bee, sponsored by the National Geographic Society, is a contest testing a student's knowledge of geography, was a great success with thirty PreUpper students participating in the qualifying rounds. The preliminary competition consisted of seven rounds of questions with the top ten finalists going on to the final competition. Participants are then narrowed down to the two finalists. Our runner-up this year is **Logan Singleton** and the winner who will move to the next level is eighth grader **Alec Schulman**. Alec will now take a test given to all the National Geographic Bee school winners. Those contestants with the highest scores then compete on the state level on April 3, 2009. The finalists from each state and United States territories will then go to Washington, DC for the national competition which will be hosted by Alex Trebek on May 19 and 20, 2009. Congratulations to all PreUpper students who participated in the rounds and to our winner, Alec Schulman, son of Mr. and Mrs. David Schulman of Atlanta. MSA's National Geographic Bee is coordinated and conducted by World Cultures instructor Karen Bradley. (from Susan Sanders, PU Principal) *Pictured: Karen Bradley and Alec Schulman*

Holiday Concert!

This week the MSA Fine Arts Department presented their 9th annual Holiday Concert. Songs from around the World were sung by the **Lower School** students directed by Lexi Klupchak and Elizabeth Plastiak. The band and chorus alternated playing and singing throughout the program. The pieces performed ranged from *Chanukah in G Minor*, band, to “*Baby, It’s Cold Outside*” by the chorus. Beth led the chorus and Elizabeth the band.



What a magnificent way to start the Holiday Season!! (from Beth Sawyer, Fine Arts Director) *Pictured: **Lower School** performing with the band in the background (I know it’s small, sorry, there are a lot of them!)*

Speech/Language Pathologist on Board as Consultant



Suzanne Van De Mark will be on campus several days a week to offer speech/language therapy sessions. Suzanne is licensed in Georgia, holds the Certificate of Clinical Competency from the American Speech Language Hearing Association, and has over 30 years experience with speech/language disordered children. Previously she served as the speech/language pathologist for MSA when the school was located in Sandy Springs. She has worked in DeKalb County and recently retired after 15 years as the speech/language pathologist at High Point Elementary. She is looking forward to working with Robert, his staff and teachers and also with students at Mill Springs. Please **EMAIL** or call Suzanne (404-313-0434) for additional information.

Successful College Day!



College Day was the biggest MSA College Fair yet with 32 colleges in attendance. We also had Mr. Charles Bernath, a tax specialist from H&R Block, who was available to give advice on filling out the Free Application for Student Aid (FAFSA) and other financial aid issues. All high school students and many parents attended the fair. Some of the schools represented include: Andrew College, Berry College, Georgia State, Georgia Tech, North Georgia College

and State Univ., Reinhardt, SCAD, Young Harris, and University of West GA. (Susan Day, Counselor)

2009 MSA PVA Signature Fundraiser

A Night in New Orleans!

The PVA would like to extend a special invitation to all parents, faculty, staff and special supports to join us Saturday, February 7th from 7pm to 11pm at the Metropolitan Club in Alpharetta. Attendance and support of this event will raise money to enhance our SmartBoard technology. Our Gala committee has worked hard to create a New Orleans jazz infused atmosphere for everyone to enjoy while raising money to benefit our children. The night will feature a silent and live auction, dinner, dancing, and live entertainment. Table sponsorships, auction donations and other contribution opportunities are available. See the [PVA Gala website](#) for more details on how you can help support the 2009 PVA signature fundraising event. If you did not already receive your invitation in the mail, please contact Michelle Bergeson at 404-931-4088. (from Michelle Bergeson, PVA President)



Homecoming Day Wins!

Thank you to everyone who participated and supported the Mustangs during Homecoming last week! Don't forget to congratulate your Mustang Basketball and Wrestling teams for their wins on Friday. The girls team played an outstanding game versus Howard School. They worked very hard and played with a lot of heart and never gave up. The boys team did a terrific job against Howard as well. They dominated the entire game and played well as a team. The Wrestling team did very well on Saturday too and their record this year is 5:1. This is their best start yet!



We also crowned our King's and Queen's for Homecoming:

PU: **Michelle Bonin** and **Skyler Toney**

CA: **Liza Weichbrodt** and **Patrick Marco**

U: **Brooke Woolf** and **Mason Pritchard**

Congratulations and great job everyone! (from Jennifer Kramer, Asst. Athletic Director)

Guess Who is Behind that Gala Mask????



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?*

Technology @ MSA

Online Report Cards

At Mill Springs Academy, we do our bit for saving paper by providing semester report cards online only. This worked great last year. For all you new parents, I want to ensure there are no problems with the online grades. Most of you already receive your Friday Report online through NetClassroom. The procedure for accessing Report Cards is exactly the same. Just log on to NetClassroom, click on the “*Students*” tab, then select “*Report Card*”. Instead of a Friday Report, Your child’s Report Card will load. Please either print the report or save a copy to your computer, as the report will disappear once school starts again in January.

NetClassroom at Mill Springs Academy

Please do not wait until school is out before checking your access to your student’s NetClassroom account. Go to www.millsprings.org and click on the NetClassroom link on the left side of the page. Enter your username and password to open your personalized page. Make sure you can access the Friday Report that is found under the “*Students*” tab as “*Report Card*”. If you have any trouble, call Paul Barkley at 770.360.1336 or email me at

pbarkley@millsprings.org.

Some of the problems I have encountered so far are:

- Using an Apple computer. The site works best with a PC, and has a lot of trouble with the Safari web browser. If you use an Apple, please use FireFox as your web browser.
- You must have Adobe Acrobat Reader installed on your computer. You can download it at adobe.com.
- You cannot click on the NetClassroom link on the home page. This usually means you have your text size set to “largest” in your page settings. There is another link on the “News for Parents” tab on the MSA homepage.



(from Paul Barkley, Director, Technology)

The Scoreboard



Basketball – Girls

11/1	MSA-17	Brandon Hall-19
11/13	MSA-14	Howard School-20
11/18	MSA-38	Cottage School-18
11/24	MSA-18	Brenau-28
12/9	MSA-27	Hidden Lakes-36

Basketball – Boys

12/2	Varsity MSA-40	American Heritage-23
12/3	JV MSA-13	Kings Ridge-31

The Bulletin Board

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

Yearbook Deadline is Monday, December 15th if you want your students name imprinted on it. The price is \$70.00 and checks should be made payable to Mill Springs Academy.



Mon, Dec 15 – PU/CA/U 2nd Period Final Exam day

Tue, Dec 16 – PU/CA/U 3rd Period Final Exam day

Wed, Dec 17 – PU/CA/U 4th Period Final Exam day

Thur, Dec 18 – PU/CA/U 5th Period Final Exam day

Fri, Dec 19 – PU/CA/U 6th Period Final Exam day

Fri, Dec 19 – **Early Dismissal**

12:15 – Lower/Middle carpool

12:30 – PreUpper/CommArts/Upper carpool

12:45 – Bus Departs

Dec 22 – Jan 2 **School Closed** – Winter Holiday

Mon, Jan 5 – School back in session

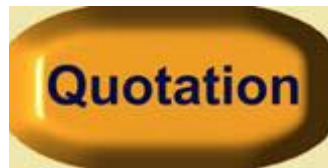
Cares and Concerns of our Community



This section is a place for us to share names of families or individuals in our community that may need our thoughts and prayers.

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 anyone asks me for details.

Character Quote of the Week



Don't find fault. Find a remedy.

- Henry Ford

Wonder what he is thinking today!?!



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