



# MSA Weekly News

December 19, 2008

Volume 2, Number 19

## In This Issue

The Halfway Point  
Read for 15 Hours!  
Class of 2009  
Tennis Anyone?  
Meet & Greet  
Lower School Inventors  
Basketball's Strong Finish  
Kickin' It  
Report Cards  
Reading Corner  
Guess Who??  
The Scoreboard  
Share the News  
The Bulletin Board  
Cares and Concerns  
Character Quote of the Week

## Web Links of Interest

[MSA Sports Calendar](#)  
*The most current information when it comes to MSA Sports Schedules*

[MSA Home Page](#)  
*Find everything you need to find about MSA is here*

[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*

## The Halfway Point



Can you believe it?!? This school year is already half over and the Winter Holiday is upon us. When my children were home this would be the time of year for presents. Nothing would go under the tree unless it came in the mail, because, of course we all know that Santa doesn't come until Christmas Eve. That evening my husband and I would stay up to help Santa put things together and wrap everything until it was all done – and we had to remind Santa to eat the cookie and drink the milk before he leaves. Then we would go to bed knowing that it would be an early morning. I would wake up earlier than the boys and turn on the Christmas lights so the tree would be lit when they got up. On Christmas morning no wrapping paper could be removed until we – Mom & Dad - were actually out of bed. Fifteen minutes later, Dad would make everyone breakfast. This year will be different since the kids no longer live at home. BUT we will still gather, share gifts and be together – that is the most important part! I hope that your traditions, whatever they are, are sweet and family filled!

## Lower School Reads - A LOT!!



Lower School students are reading up a storm! They are required to read 400 minutes each month and some students read into the thousands! The students combined total minutes for this school year so far are as follows: September 21,374 minutes (almost 15 DAYS straight to give perspective), October 21,420, and November 22,356. Some really inspired readers who read over 800 minutes each month are: **Eric Schrock**, **Gracie Bernstein**, **Noah Terpstra**, and **Andrea Erb**. **Bryan Chamberlain** has read more than 2,000 each month! Congratulations to *ALL* Lower School students. We are so proud of you for your hard work! (from Laurie Jones, Lower School Principal)

## College Acceptances & Scholarships

## Contact Us

<http://www.millsprings.org>

[charwood@millsprings.org](mailto:charwood@millsprings.org)

### Mill Springs Academy

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



We have some wonderful College news that has been received so be certain to congratulate these individuals if you see them!

**Sam Coil** has been accepted to Georgia College and State University.

**Emily Elkind** has received a scholarship to the University of Evansville in Indiana.

**Chris Magill** has been accepted to Valdosta State, Indiana University, University of West GA and Stetson University which has also offered a scholarship!

**Jack Trantham** received a scholarship to Webster University in St. Louis, Missouri.

Congratulations to all of you!

---

## Varsity Tennis Team Gearing Up



Remember to ensure that your student's physical is up-to-date and get all of their paperwork and money in as soon as possible. If you are unsure of the status of the physical, you can check with **Jennifer Kramer**. Open Tennis Play Time is scheduled for January when weather permits and official practice will begin February 17. Get additional information **HERE** and the registration form **HERE**. (Coach James Sampson)

*AAC Division Champions 2007 & 2008*

*AAC Girls Division Champions 2008*

---

## Meet our Speech/Language Consultant

If you have questions or are interested in speech/language therapy to be provided on campus you are cordially invited to have coffee and meet Suzanne Van De Mark.



Wednesday, January 14

8:30am

MSA Library

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 (some of which are with MSA).

---

## Lower School Inventors

After an extensive study of the Simple Machines, Lower School science students invented machines of their own!

During their studies, students experimented with Inclined Planes to determine which type of materials would create friction for a car. They also learned to use a lever to lift their teacher (Ms. Shelley) off the ground, practiced using screws to secure items together, learned about the forces of gravity and inertia, and experimented with different types of wedges and pulleys.

As a demonstration of their knowledge, students completed a project in which they invented their own machines! Their inventions included a "Serve-o-matic", an "Auto-brush", a "Can Crusher" for recycling, and a gigantic Nutcracker. (from Shelley Robinson)



**Luke Sabine** and the "Auto-Brush"



**Emily Pearman** and the "Serve-o-Matic"



**Asher Madans** and the "Asher Smasher"

---

## Mustang's have a Strong Finish



The Mustangs came through an arduous 2-7 November campaign and have posted a 4-2 AAC and 8-8 overall Boys Varsity Basketball record. The Boys are riding a 6-1 December and are beginning to show some real promise. I am very proud of how we hung tough and bounced back from the beginning of the season. Our Senior leadership of **Max Holt, Torri McClain, Bryan Lynn, and Patrick Marco** has been the driving force to our success. In addition, our team chemistry and the acceptance of team roles has been truly instrumental throughout our miraculous run. The installation of **Mike Kline, Chris Thorne, Michael Scott, and Jesse Rhodes** has given us much needed balance and stability. Our guys are working very hard, and it is a true blessing from God to have the opportunity work with these quality people. We would like to give a special appreciation to our administration, faculty, parents, and fantastic student body for all their support.

We look forward to seeing you all in the corral, and get ready to enjoy our Miracle Ride in 2009. We wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a happy and productive new year. (Coach Phil Hanson)

---

## Kickin' It Magazine



The December issue of the Kickin' It Magazine is now available on the MSA Website. Check it out [HERE](#).

---

## Electronic Report Cards

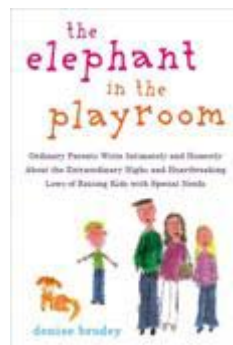


Don't forget that your student report cards can only be found on NetClassroom just like the Friday comments – there will NOT be a paper copy sent home. Just log on to NetClassroom, click on the “*Students*” tab, then select “*Report Card*”. Instead of a Friday Report, Your child's Report Card will load. Please either print the report or save a copy to your computer, as the report will disappear once school starts again in January.

---

## Reading Corner

Here is what Middle School Mom, Brooke Pena is reading:



*The Elephant in the Playroom: Ordinary Parents Write Intimately and Honestly about the Extraordinary Highs and Heartbreaking Lows of Raising Kids with Special Needs* by Denise Brodey.

When Brodey's 4 yr old son was diagnosed with a combination of sensory integration dysfunction and childhood depression she struggled to make sense of her new, often chaotic, often lonely world. She found comfort in talking with other harried, hopeful, and insightful parents of kids with special needs, learning how they coped with the feelings they encountered throughout the day.

Read more or buy it [HERE](#).

---

## Guess Who is Behind that Gala Mask????

The **winner** of last week's Mask contest was Barbara Talbot, Upper School parent of Allison Ashlock. She guessed correctly that behind the mask was Kris Hawksworth Farrell. All the correct answers were put into a hat and one name was drawn.



Each week between now and the February 7<sup>th</sup> “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?*

## The Scoreboard

### Basketball – Girls

12/12 MSA – **20** Brandon Hall – 11

### Basketball – Varsity Boys

12/5 MSA – **53** (Homecoming) Howard – 25  
 12/6 MSA – **48** N Atl Christian – **54**  
 12/9 MSA – **45** Hidden Lake – 31  
 12/12 MSA – **37** Brandon Hall – 28  
 12/13 MSA – **41** Heirway Christian – 38  
 12/16 MSA – **47** N GA Home Sch - 24

### Basketball – JV Boys

12/12 MSA – **31** Brandon Hall – 18  
 12/13 MSA – **48** Howard – 3

### Wrestling

12/6 MSA – **36** Hidden Lake – 18  
 MSA – **12** Unity Christian – **54**  
 MSA – **42** Mt. Vernon – 11  
 12/10 MSA – **42** Westminster – 21  
 MSA – **48** Hidden Lake – 18  
 MSA – **48** Weber – 24  
 12/11 MSA – 24 Brandon Hall – **60**  
 MSA – **36** Mt. Vernon – 12



Share School News with Grandma



The cat's out of the bag. We can no longer keep this newsletter to ourselves. It's only right that we share it. So if there is a grandparent, aunt, uncle, or anyone that might enjoy receiving this newsletter, please feel free to **send me their email** addresses and I will gladly add them to our distribution list.

**\*\*If you have already sent me their email address, then they have begun to receive this newsletter \*\***

---

## The Bulletin Board



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

Fri, Dec 19 – PU/CA/U 6<sup>th</sup> 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

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



**The Barkley Family**

**The Hartley Family**



**The Klupchak Family**

**All MSA Families over the Holiday's**

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 happy person is not a person in a certain set of circumstances, but rather a person with a certain set of attitudes.

- Hugh Downs

---



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](mailto:charwood@millsprings.org)

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