



MSA Weekly News

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Volume 2, Number 28

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Contact Us

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MSA Secret Handshake

I just wanted to take a moment to say “Welcome” to our new families. When there are changes to the distribution list for the newsletter, it doesn’t really effect you unless you were the one who initiated the change. But there have been changes to the distribution because we have added many email addresses of parents who have children that have either started in recent months or have turned in contracts and are waiting in the wings to come in the fall. So welcome to Mill Springs!



Secret Handshake

Now that you are here, you will need to know a few important things - like the secret handshake for instance! Oh alright, there’s no secret handshake. (Maybe we should start one.)

Anyway, this newsletter is a good place to find out those important things and what is going on around campus. Besides if you ask your child what they did at school today they are going to tell you “Nothing”. So you gotta get it somewhere, might as well be here!

This week revolved around a fire drill on Wednesday and today’s Muffins for Moms (I heard they’d rather have massages and margaritas). Don’t forget to set your clocks ahead this weekend and NO SCHOOL on **Friday the 13th**.

Great Opportunity for Science Students

PreUpper Physical Science teacher Martha Muir is pleased to announce that Upper School students **Allison Ashlock** and **Michael Palmer** have been accepted to Oklahoma State University’s NASA INSPIRE 2008-2009 Online Community (OLC) program. In the OLC, **NASA INSPIRE** students will interact with their peers, NASA experts and education specialists. Through this program, students will be exposed to the many careers and opportunities at NASA. As an OLC participant, students will be involved in video teleconferences with NASA as well as direct contact with NASA speakers and role-models. Open only to Upper School students, both Allison and Michael were nominated by Martha Muir based on their interest in science and possible science careers. While students in the PreUpper school, Allison served as a Physical Science lab assistant and Michael was a



Pictured: Martha Muir, Allison Ashlock, and Michael Palmer

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All the cool school news
that is fit to print

founding member of the ACE class (Academic Competition Enrichment) which has a strong science technology and engineering focus. Both students are also applying to be considered for NASA's Summer STEM experience.

Annual Fund Update



Without a doubt these are challenging times both in our country and abroad. But the good news is, despite this time of financial uncertainty, participation in Mill Springs Annual Fund is at an all time high with 81% of our parents and 100% of our Staff/Faculty and Board making gifts to this year's campaign.

On another note, our monetary goal has slipped some and we are now beginning to project that we may not meet our goal of raising \$250,000. Therefore, our drive must continue until we meet our goal of receiving participation from every family with a child at Mill Springs. If you are reading this message and have not yet participated, please do so today by contacting our Development Office or clicking [HERE](#) to download a pledge/gift form today.

Alumni in the National Guard



Matthew Judy - Class of 2007 – is excited to announce that he has enlisted in the **Georgia Army National Guard** as an E2 Private. In the fall, he will report to basic training at Fort Benning, where he will also receive training in his specialized area (the infantry) until early December. His unit is the 2/121st infantry division. Matthew is a Sophomore at North Georgia College and State University with a major in criminal justice. He says, “Now that I am taking classes in my field, I am enjoying school a lot more.” Next spring he will return to NGCSU as a student. He won't deploy until he graduates.

Matthew is proud that he will already have two years Army experience when he commissions in another five semesters. Eventually Matthew wants to become a combat engineer. “I would deal with explosives, clearing paths, and scouting areas. We come and save the day.” (from Gail Kreher, Upper Teacher) *Pictured: Matthew Judy*

Georgia's Barrier Islands & the Trembling Earth

Twelve adventurous PreUpper students explored Georgia's barrier islands during the second week of Winter Learning to learn about their geography, history and ecology. Visiting the Jekyll Island 4-H Center they took part in marine biology classes which included topics like sea turtles, beach, maritime and freshwater ecology. Very little time is spent in a classroom, the majority of the time was used to explore the dunes, freshwater sloughs, north end beach or to visit the Georgia Sea Turtle Center and Cumberland Island.



The last stop was the Okefenokee Swamp. Starting with a lesson on canoeing, we then took off into the black water and the cypress trees. Our guide gave the science and history of it all as we made our way to a platform at the edge of the swamp prairie for lunch. Along the way we encountered small flocks of white wood storks nesting for the winter. A favorite sight were the carnivorous pitcher plants, sundews and bloodworts. We experienced the "Trembling Earth" first hand, small floating islands of peat with plant life growing on top that you could move with your paddle along the five mile trip. The Spanish moss hanging from the tall cypress trees reflecting in the black water is a sight to remember.

We are thankful for the generous support that makes these experiences possible for our students. Participating students were **Philip Early, Michael Mitropoulos, Doug Marcotte, Scott Marable, Michael Matthews, Craig Tillison, Brett Jackson, Christopher Butters, Josh Haughton, Jasmine Steinway, Hanna Bowler and Shivani Patel** who traveled with Victoria Jones and Judy Martin. (from Judy Martin, PreUpper Teacher)
Pictured: Michael Matthews

Spring Sports



This month begins all of our spring sports and our first season home match/game/meet for all of them just happen to be on Tuesday, March 10 on OUR turf!

Tennis @ 4:00 vs. Brandon Hall

Baseball @ 4:00 vs. CEA

Track and Field @ 4:30

Go Mustangs!

Do You Know ... Paraskevidekatriaphobics?

Don't ask me to pronounce it, but they are those who are afflicted with the irrational fear of Friday the 13th.



Or triskaidekaphobes which are individuals who have a fear of the number 13.

Well 13 is not always a bad thing. What about a Baker's Dozen? As children we would go to the neighborhood bakery with my grandmother, we would always get a dozen something or others, and come home with 13! That can't be bad.

Apparently our fear of Friday the 13th is rooted in ancient history! Who knew? Read more about it [HERE](#).

The Bulletin Board

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

If you haven't already turned in your re-enrollment contract don't wait too long some of the schools are filling up.

Sun, Mar 8 – **Daylight Saving Time** – Set your clocks ahead one hour – DON'T FORGET

Wed, Mar 11 – **Public Open House** – This is a great opportunity for anyone you know to get information on Mill Springs Academy for their student.

Fri, Mar 13 – **SCHOOL CLOSED** – Mid-Winter Break

Mon, Mar 16 – **Coke Sale ends**

Fri, Mar 20 – Middle School Spring Dance

Mon, April 13 – ****SCHOOL CLOSED****
Travel Day after Easter - Extending Spring Break
****This is a change to the school calendar****

Sat, Aug 1 – ****Technology Day****
This is the day that new students pick up their laptops, it was previously posted as July 18th, so



this is a change to the calendar.

Cares and Concerns of our Community

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



The Allen Family

The Hetzel Family

The Ramirez Family

The Swartz 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



Truthfulness is a cornerstone in character, and if it be not firmly laid in youth, there will ever after be a weak spot in the foundation.

- Jefferson Davis



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