



MSA Weekly News

November 6, 2009

Volume 3, Number 13

"if a student can't learn the way
we teach ...
we should teach the way a
student can learn."

–Twee L. Moore, Founder

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Web Links of Interest

[Current Issue of Kickin' It](#)
Read the magazine written
by Upper School students

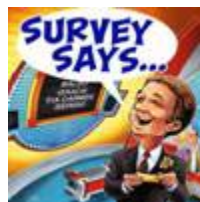
Whew!

Can you believe it? Another week has flown by! The kids were not at school on Monday, in fact some of us were not at school on Monday as well. I attended the Georgia Independent School Association Annual Conference which was held in Rome, GA at the Darlington School. I participated in workshops about Web 2.0 and Green Schools – both very interesting. It's good to take advantage of these kind of things to keep up with the current trends and to expose yourself (yikes!) to new things. It helps you be open-minded and think of the possibilities out there ... that maybe should be in here (if you know what I mean)!

Anyway, we have some GREAT news to share and LOTS of it – so let's get to it!

From the Desk of the Headmaster

Thank you for your feedback on the September 1, 2010 start of school date question. Some responses were short, some long and some creative! All were appreciated.



Most responses were for an earlier start date; however, nearly all responses were for a coordinated calendar with public schools.

As some of you already know Fulton has moved up to the 23rd of August. This year we started after Fulton County, next year we will be close to Fulton County's start date also. Other counties start much earlier, for example – Cherokee County starts on August 2nd.

Our committee will try to match Fulton, and for most holidays, beginning and end of year dates we will be the same or very close. More on this next week – thanks for your responses! Robert W. Moore, Headmaster

College Acceptances for the Class of 2010



Please congratulate **Jason Rosenberg** on his acceptance to Jacksonville State University in Jacksonville, AL.

Cassie Kanelos has been accepted to the New York Conservatory of Dramatic Arts – Way to Go!

Upper School Level "L" Retreat

[SOAR Adventure Camp](#)
Learn more about this organization

[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



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This is the "Acid River" exercise

The Upper School Leadership Level students went on a leadership retreat on October 21 – 23. John Wilson from [SOAR in North Carolina](#) conducted an all day workshop on developing trust and working as a group/team. John is the director at SOAR for LD/ADHD services. Skill building exercises included a "free-fall" exercise, a "ping pong" fall which involved three students at a time, one exercise involving the whole group at the same time rotating who was in the center, a problem solving exercise with the whole group on two beams a foot off the ground, and a "crossing an acid river" exercise where the group had to work together to get the whole group across without touching the ground (uh ... acid river) below. After each exercise the group processed what had happened and what strategies they used to be successful. They utilized these strategies in developing a Plan of Action (POA) for several school projects. Friday morning's levels time was spend in a two-hour feedback and discussion time before lunch and returning to MSA.

For fun and relaxation, after a quick tour of the Jane Hurt Yarn Interpretive Center at Tallulah Gorge the group climbed down into the gorge, played in the sand down at the lake, made smores around a fire, and pigged-out at the Dillard House. (Bruce Brownlow, Principal and Diane Lewis, Teacher – Upper School)

You're Going to Love It!

Mark it on your calendar. Friday, **November 13** is our special **Cabaret and Art Show** evening designed just for you. Every semester our wonderfully talented and creative MSA students give of their energy and skills so we can all receive the benefits of their spirited performances and fantastic visual presentations. Come See. Come Hear. This will be an evening to remember. Comedy, dance, song, fun, drawing, painting, sculpture and more ... it's all here to entertain you and captivate your senses.

The Art Exhibit opens at 6:30pm in the Gymnasium. The Cabaret curtain goes up at 7:00pm in the Student Activity Center. Come and enjoy a fun-filled evening and help support your MSA Fine Arts Department. (Janet Ford, Fine Arts Director)



Admission: \$8.00 for Students and Arts Alliance Members
\$10.00 General Admission
\$25.00 Family Rate

On Your Mark, Get Set, Go!



Which one is YOUR daughter?

The Girls on the Run (GOTR) team has been running and working hard since the first day of practice in late August. The girls have one more week of practice before the end of season 5K event. GOTR Atlanta and the Atlanta Youth Soccer Association will host the 5K at the Arizona Soccer Complex on Sunday, **November 15**. The MSA team will participate in the 5K along with the other GOTR teams in the Atlanta area, and we expect a few hundred girls to be at the race. All of the girls will have an opportunity to visit the Team Photo area and the Goody Hair Station before completing the 5K. Following the race, the girls will enjoy after-race festivities which include awards, hot apple cider and delicious food! We are also thrilled that Molly Barker, GOTR Founder, will be at the race to offer inspiration while talking with the girls and their families. Please be on the lookout for an update about the 5K event! MSA GOTR Team: **Ashtyn Ayres, Gracie Bernstein, Steffi Schneider, Mia Hummel-Levy, Maridy Moore, Caroline Berman, Emily Pearman, Erin Welch, Jasmine McDow** (Coaches Shannon Koch, Susan Day, Anne Holland)

KSU Students Visit Campus



On Thursday, October 28, twelve Kennesaw State University students studying to be regular and special education teachers came to spend the morning at MSA. These soon-to-be teachers are enrolled in a class entitled, *Education of Exceptional Students*. Margaret Brito, Laurie Jones and Robert Moore discussed our school's philosophy, mission, student population, the community structure and answered any questions they had. Several of their questions had to do with, "How can we best be prepared for our interviews during our job search?" They were toured around the entire campus and then given time to observe the grade levels of interest to them. As we were touring some of their comments were, "Is this school for real?" "This school is the coolest!", and "Do you have internships?" In following up with the field coordinator at KSU, she said the students thoroughly enjoyed their time spent at MSA. She looks forward to continuing this partnership in the Spring Semester. (Margaret Brito, Middle Principal)

"Lions and Tigers and GIRLS – Oh My!!"

The buzz at my house is that there are GIRLS at MSA! My 7th grade son is acting as if they have just come into existence. He talks about them, but confesses he doesn't know how to talk to them. After all, girls don't have air soft battles and burping contests and boys don't flat iron their hair or text while they're sitting right next to each other.

Once I mastered keeping my car on the road when asked questions like, "Did you know that

Steve and Mary broke up? Now that she's single, Juan says he's going to ask her out." I called other parents to see if they were experiencing similar behavior. I learned that there are others.

A few of us parents decided the best strategy would be to bring the genders together socially. Under the pretense of helping them with activities, we could encourage them to talk to each other. So far, we've been bowling, collected donations for Atlanta flood victims, and carved pumpkins. The idea seems to have been a good one.

We try to get together about once a month. Parents are encouraged to stay in the vicinity, so we can lend direction when needed. It's fun, informal, and a great way to make sure our boys and girls build healthy friendships. If interested, e-mail me [HERE](#).

P.S. Names have been changed to protect the innocent. (Jenny Ertle, PreUpper Mom)



Pictured: Quint Foster (PU), Nadia Bergeson (CA), Claire Sims (PU), non- MSA student, Conor Crouse (PU)

One-Act Play Competition



Congratulations to the Dynamic Mill Springs Players for doing a fantastic job representing MSA at the GISA One-Act Play Competition in LaGrange, GA. Their performance of JUVIE was well received! No trophy this time, but no worries!!! Three MSA performers were honored: Honorable Mention for Outstanding Performer awards went to **Peyton Lockwood** (PU) and **Jordan Swartz** (U), Outstanding Performer award went to **Cassie Kanelos** (U). Whoo-hoo! AND the entire cast won friends, inspiration, recognition, experience and grew as artists! Everyone had a blast watching a full-day of performances and then hopping on the stage with students from all schools to play theatre games. It was a grand day!! (Lynn Stallings, Drama Teacher)

p.s. there is a great article in the [latest issue of Kickin'](#) It with terrific photos from the play!

Alien vs. Predator

Guest Journalist - **Alan McDonald**, Middle



Alan's project – this story is written in the white shape above

The Predator stood outside his ship. He was six feet tall with gray armor and a cloaking device. He had blaster cannon, twin hand blades, and several throwing saw blades. When the Predator began his hunt he discovered the green acid blood of the alien. He readied his weapons for the perfect hunt. He turned on his thermal vision on his mask and discovered the alien 200 yards away. It was black with a long cranium size. It was eight feet tall, had six legs and a long serrated tail. He climbed into the tree and set his traps. As the alien approached it scented him and the fight began. He fired his cannon and then dug his blade into the creature's abdomen. Then out of nowhere a purple blast trapped him inside his container of dissolvent with the alien. The Predator and alien are to forever to fight inside the jar.

CommArts Travels to Tennessee

Seventeen CommArts students traveled to Northeast GA and Chattanooga, TN for their annual Camp Lookout trip. The first day they hiked to a waterfall in Cloudland Canyon to study the geological formations of the surrounding cliffs. Then they went caving in John's Waterfall cave in Trenton, GA. **Ace Webber** said, "It's so cool to see all the stalactites and stalagmites dripping with water, and I loved getting so muddy." Lead naturalist, Kyle Waggener, gave a demonstration with a Great Horned Owl at the Chattanooga Nature Center. There the students saw 30 other species common to the Tennessee woods, including red wolves, bobcats and the timber rattlesnake. They took a 15-mile trip down the Tennessee River Gorge on the Chattanooga Aquarium's catamaran boat. The naturalist on board helped them spot egrets, river otters, herons and wild turkeys. Then they went to Chattanooga's Bluff View art district, where **Carly Reynolds** liked the River Gallery Sculpture Garden: "I like the fact that you could touch everything", she stated. The students saw 7 states from Lover's Leap at Rock City, and then spent a day kayaking the Hiwassee River. "I wish we could have kayaked down to Florida", exclaimed **Mason Taylor**. Student **Yaakov Drukman** put it best when he said, "A whole week without electronics ... and I didn't even miss them." (Kay Morrison, Principal CA)



Get Your Custom Fine Arts T-Shirts Here



Design by **Maura Stephenson**
Upper Student

For the third glorious year, MSA Fine Arts will be selling custom printed t-shirts designed by our fabulous art students! You choose the design(s) you like, the color of your design to be printed on your shirt, and if you would like the artist to sign your shirt. Short sleeve are \$10 and long sleeve are \$15. Great gift ideas for family and friends! And you can say you know the artist and/or that the artist attends your awesome school!

[T-Shirt Order Form](#)

Please have each order on a separate form --- it is not very 'green' but it ensures that the t-shirts are created EXACTLY how you want them to be created! Questions [contact Janet Ford](#).

Lower School Visits the Farm

Guest Journalists **Carly Swanson** and **Katie Golden** – Lower School

The Lower School recently visited Pettit Creek Farm in Cartersville, GA. At the farm, we saw all types of animals. On the hay ride, we saw a lot of animals like camels, ostriches, chickens, and some zebras. There were various types of games like scarecrow building, a corn-maze, and jumpies! Under the pavilion, we saw other animals like snakes. At the petting zoo, we saw goats, a cow, and lambs! Last but not least, we ate lunch at some picnic tables. At the end of the day, everyone got a pumpkin to take home!



Carly Swanson, Mia Hummel-Levy
and Abby Hayman



Up close and personal with the Camel

A Hair Raising Experience



Van de Graff Generator (stock
photo)

On Thursday, November 5th, PreUpper students in Martha's Physical Science classes along with a group of Upper School students went to the **American Physical Society's Division of Plasma Physics Student Expo**. Held in the Hyatt Regency downtown, this was a football field-sized space filled with various exhibits from businesses and colleges that do work with plasma. Plasma is the fourth state of matter consisting of charged particles at very high energy. Lightning, fire, fluorescent bulbs, 'plasma screens' and lasers are but a few examples of plasma in our lives. Many of the scientists are working towards achieving fusion as a potential means of

supplying energy in the future.

Students went from exhibit to exhibit, interacting with the scientists at each station as they handled and experienced their exhibits of plasmas and other principles of physics. The van de Graff generator was shocking. The plasma balls and plasma plates responded to our fingers and hands. Giant sized magnets attracted and repelled. (Martha Muir, PreUpper Teacher)

GISA All-Select Band & Chorus

Mill Springs had four students represent our school at All-Select this year, which was held at the Darlington School in Rome, GA October 31 – November 1. **Alex Fountain** (U) and **Eleni Tsarouhas** (U) were selected for the chorus. **Alex Davis** (U) for the band and **Alexandra Mail-Lopez** (CA) for the orchestra. All the students had a great time and learned a lot! They spent all of Saturday learning five new pieces per performing group and then performed on Sunday for family and friends. The pieces were challenging and the performances were spectacular. All were on their best behavior and the clinicians couldn't brag about them enough. Already looking forward to next year! (Kate McElliott, Chorus Teacher and Elizabeth Plastiak, Band Teacher)



All-Select Band –Alex Davis on Trombone



All Select Chorus = Eleni 2nd row on left, Alex is front center.

Parent Resources



Dr. Jane Nelson, author of *Positive Discipline* will be providing a parent workshop in Atlanta next month. [HERE](#) is the link for more information.

The Bulletin Board

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

*Latest Edition of **Kickin' It** is Available [HERE](#)*

NOTICE: We would love for you to use the Red/Green Recycling bin at the end of the large parking lot, but please [DO NOT put any kind of plastic or corrugated cardboard](#) into it. They recycle the paper in their paper mill to make newsprint and these items do not help that process.

Sat, Nov 7 – **SAT Testing**

Tue, Nov 10 – 7:00pm – **Parent Workshop: SAT vs. ACT – What are the Differences?** - Upper Great Room – [RSVP HERE](#)

Wed, Nov 11 – **Veteran's Day**

Wed, Nov 11 – 9:00am – **Public Open House** – Do you know someone that could benefit from MSA? Invite them to the Open House!

Fri, Nov 13 – 6:30pm – **Art Exhibit** – SAC (stay for the Cabaret)

Fri, Nov 13 – 7:00pm – **Cabaret Talent Show** – SAC (come early for the Art Exhibit)

Sun, Nov 15 – 9:00am - **Girls on the Run 5K Event** – 161 Arizona Avenue Soccer Complex, Atlanta, 30307 in historic Kirkwood

Wed, Nov 18 – 8:30am – **MSA Moms on a Mission** – CA Great Room

Fri, Nov 20 – 9:00am - **Grandparents Day** – SAC – if your child does not have a local grandparent, please feel free to send a stand in.

Fri, Nov 20 – **Early Dismissal**

12:15 – *Lower/Middle* Carpool

12:30 – *PreUpper/CommArts/Upper* Carpool

12:45 – Buses Depart

Nov 23 – 27 – Thanksgiving Holiday – **SCHOOL CLOSED**



Community Cares and Concerns

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.



The Day Family

The FitzGerald Family

Jobless Families

Contact me [HERE](#).

Character Quote of the Week



I don't think there's anything as wonderful in life as being able to help someone else.

- Betty Ford

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

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