



# MSA Weekly News

November 13, 2009

Volume 3, Number 14

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

-Tweeie L. Moore, Founder

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## This Week at a Glance

**Monday:** It's a boy, a girl, a girl, another boy, a girl – heck it's an entire flock of chickens! Look for this **article below** to get ALL the details. Lower and CommArts had a visit with Mustang Dave and his wild Mustangs. He brought them to campus to share with us.

**Tuesday:** As you know, we had rain continuously all day and we canceled our afternoon activities. This included our Parent Workshop titled "SAT vs. ACT: What are the Differences? This workshop will be rescheduled for after the winter holiday

**Wednesday:** We held an Open House and our wonderful band was showcased for those prospective families – very impressive, they did a terrific job.

**Thursday:** You may have heard we held a Severe Weather Drill yesterday. For some this means getting to an interior room without windows, for others it might mean walking to a permanent building. In any case it is practice for all of us in case we have a tornado or some such weather.

All of that in one week along with a birthday for Sesame Street which turned 40! OMG I am older than Bert and Ernie. Elmo claims to be three and a half – I think he lies (ha, ha, ha, that tickles). AND a Friday the 13<sup>th</sup>!

Thank you to all my wonderful Guest Journalist's this week – everyone did a terrific job. Hope you have a terrific weekend!

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## The Holiday Market



Can you believe the holiday season is around the corner? This year the PVA is offering the kids an opportunity to shop for their family and friends at **The Holiday Market** from November 30 – December 2. We are partnering with John's Creek Hallmark and a portion of the proceeds will be coming right back to MSA. Please keep an eye out for more information.

To volunteer to help with The Holiday Market, please contact Donna Foster at [foster-family@comcast.net](mailto:foster-family@comcast.net) your Holiday Market Chair.

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## Boys Basketball Scores Victory @ Season Opener!

## 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*



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## 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



Please congratulate the Varsity Basketball Team for their 43-33 victory against Horizon in the first game of the season Monday evening! The Mustangs looked great as a team and are extremely excited about the win. The team will continue to work on their game during practice and look forward to facing Crowns Academy on Saturday at 3pm. GO MUSTANGS! Pictured: **Tim Broadwell** (Upper) taking a free throw (Phil Hanson & Anne Holland, Coach)

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## Frank the “Scary” Monster

Guest Journalist – **Andrew Asher**, Middle School

Frank is a moderately scary monster. Well, not that scary. I saw him living in a pretty cozy home with a TV, radio, bed, kitchen, and all that fun stuff. The only problem is that my dad really wanted a pet frog. My mom always said no. I really want one too. I want it to jump around the house so I can squish him in his tracks. I don't think I'll do that to a frog monster. I walked into his house. It was nicely decorated. I saw him sitting on a fancy leather chair in front of a warm fireplace. I jumped forward at him. He turned around and made a weird, scratchy noise. “Achlooofilchah!” he screamed. Tears ran down his face. I landed on him. I knew that the battle was on. Fists were flying. “Ow!” I yelled. “Achlooofilchah!” he yelled. The monster jumped onto the ceiling. The green goo on his feet kept him from falling. “Come back here,” I demanded. “Achlooofilchah!” he said. I had no choice but to painfully scrape the goo off his feet. I leaped up onto him and pulled. We both fell onto the ground. THUD! The green goo was all over the place. I got the cage I brought from home and forcefully stuffed him in there. He screamed again and again. He showed his threatening gums at me. I threw the cage against the wall as hard as I could to make him be quiet. It just made him louder. “If you want to go home with me, you need to be quiet!” I yelled. “Oh. You speak English? I'm so sorry for my destructive behavior. It's how my species communicate. I meant to say, I'd be happy to move in to your house,” he told me. It was kind of a weird moment to see a monster talking my language. I took the crazy frog monster home and called him Frank. Now Frank lives in a jar and plays his harmonica I gave him all day and night. That is how Frank got to move from a good home to a bad home and a loving family to a careless family. That is the end of my wondrous tale.



This is Andrew's  
project

## All the Egg-citement is true!



Still under the warming lamp

Lower School has hatched six (6) bouncing baby chicks. The first chick to arrive was Uno at 10:01am Monday. Uno is already developing feathers on its wings. Two chicks still have an egg tooth on their beaks. We expect them to be Buff Orpingtons and Black Copper Maran Chickens. They will be with us until Thanksgiving at which time they will return to live at the farm that supplied the eggs. So please stop by and see the chirping cuties.

You can check out [Twitter.com](https://twitter.com) for other pictures that were taken during the week.

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## Medieval Times is Visited by 9 – 12 Grades

Guest Journalist – **Morgan Friedman**, Upper



Costumed Bruce Brownlow, Principal in the foreground of picture.

On Friday, November 6<sup>th</sup>, the Upper and Communication Arts Schools experienced the lifestyles and luxuries of the Medieval Era. We left the school at 8:45, and arrived at Discover Mills, where Medieval Times is located, at 10:15. The show started at 10:30. We were grouped in 1 of 3 sections, red, yellow, and blue. We enjoyed traditional foods for that era and even ate with our fingers! The show began with an introductory speech of what took place during the Medieval Era. Soon after we watched the release of a young hawk, sword fighting, and jousting. By the middle of the show, students, staff, and even Bruce himself, were screaming, and cheering on the knight that represented their section. It was a great bonding experience between the students and teachers, and above all taught us of how the cultures and lifestyle of people and society in general has changed since then. I will definitely be going back next year!

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## News from the Class of 2010



Our seniors are getting school acceptances left and right here are the most recent ones:

- **Dave Friedland** from CommArts has been accepted at **The Horizons School** in Birmingham, AL.
- Upper School's **Cullen Jacob** will be attending the **NASCAR Technical Institute** in Charlotte, NC.
- **Paul Manners**, Upper School, who has been

accepted to **Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College**.

- **Marc Glenn**, also from Upper School, has been accepted to **Andrew College**.

Congratulations Guys!

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## Custom Fine Arts Shirts Available



Design by **Shivani Patel**,  
PreUpper 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! Please note that these shirts are NOT a uniform item. Questions **contact Janet Ford**.

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## Learning about the Supreme Court



Upper School students in Political Science class created videos and slide shows of Supreme Court rulings on cases dealing with constitutional rights. From freedom of speech to freedom of assembly and religion, students were able to illustrate the cases using video cameras, Windows MovieMaker, PowerPoint and other resources. This activity was used as a class project and as a way for students to use technology in different ways. *Pictured: **Holly Thillet** working on a case of Native Americans and their traditions.*

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You're Gonna Love It!

TONIGHT, 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



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## Grandfather and Grandmothers' Day

Guest Journalist – **Alex Beasley**, Middle School

My grandparents are very nice. They are always thoughtful, and they never say or do anything to hurt someone's feelings. My favorite thing about them is that they are always doing things for my brother and me, no matter what it is. They live in a very nice town in Alabama. I call them Nana and Papa. They should know that MSA is the first school that actually tries to help me learn and always succeeds.



(Alex wrote the article and created the picture on his computer)

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## Get Your Fine Arts Spirit Wear



MSA Fine Arts is now selling sweatshirts for students to wear! They are uniform approved sweatshirts – green and hooded with an MSA Fine Arts logo on the front designed by our art teacher Brian Buxton. Students can have one or more of the following “labels” on the back of the sweatshirt: Artist, Actor, Musician, Vocalist, Technician. We are also offering MSA Fine Arts sweatpants that can be worn for drama rehearsals.

Parent “MSA Art Alliance” t-shirts are now available as well. The design for this shirt was created by Upper School student Brogan Guyton.

Click on **THIS LINK** to view the order form. Please print it out

and mail it in with your payment to Janet Ford. Thank you!

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## 15 Cans For Two Tons



It is time for our annual canned food drive for the Atlanta Community Food Bank. Our goal is to collect over two tons of food. If every MSA student, staff and faculty member brings in 15 items, we will reach our goal and help others at the same tie. If everyone joins in, we can do it!!! Please be a part of the solution and fill your bag with 15 or more of the needed food items. **Let's be 100% in participation!**

Here is a list of the most needed food items:

Box of Cereal or Oatmeal, Whole Grain, Low Sugar Cereal  
Dried Fruit  
Powdered Milk  
100% Fruit Juice  
Tuna, Peanut Butter or Soup  
Canned Veggies or Fruit  
Canned Meats, Beef Stew, Meat Sauce, Soup and Pastas  
Canned Chicken and Dumplings  
Macaroni and Cheese Dinners, Pasta, Rice or Dried Beans  
Applesauce

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## Spanish Class uses an Apple Computer

Guest Journalist – **Jason Maza**, Upper

In Spanish class, we use the Apple Mac computer located in Jaime Gutierrez's Spanish classroom.



*Pictured: Jason Maza behind the Apple Computer*

For Spanish I, it is our lab. We do our listening exercises using the recorded materials we have on the hard disk or with internet connection. Jaime also goes onto YouTube to show us videos of topical Spanish readings and to let us hear songs that we are trying to learn so we can hear the correct way of pronouncing the words.

In Spanish II, it is used to enrich our readings by using it to watch videos related to the articles we read in Spanish. Jaime will show us videos as an example of what he is talking about and to help us get a better understanding of the subject. The videos he shows are always topical and educational, but he makes them fun and entertaining as well. It is also used for listening exercises with our songs bank. Jaime will send us a copy of the recordings and word lists so we can review them and learn them for our verbal

tests.

For Spanish III and IV, the Mac computer is used for the above plus as a recording studio (garage band program) for our reading recordings and pronunciation evaluations. We read passages out of the book and record it on the computer so that we can hear ourselves pronouncing the words to help improve our pronunciation.

With all classes, this tool is used for editing videos with students' activities in Spanish class, listening activities, and cultural videos and games.

I think this is a great way of learning and it is also fun. I'm sure many students would rather learn off a computer rather than listen to someone talking during all the class time, so this should be a strongly supported source of learning and recommended for other classes.

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## Mom's on a Mission Meet

Mill Springs Academy – Moms on a Mission!

**Next Meeting** – Wednesday, November 18<sup>th</sup> at 8:30am in the CommArts Great Room



The MSA MOMs group is an informal, confidential group for mothers of students at MSA with learning challenges created to share experiences and resources, enhance the lives of ourselves, our children and our families, and support the mission of MSA. We meet the first and third Wednesdays of each month at 8:30am in the CommArts Great Room. For more information, contact **Paulette Solis** (PreUpper Mom) at 678-267-0362 or **Sheree Crowe** (Middle Mom) at 770-354-3657.

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## Oh Darn!



Last week in the article about the custom fine arts t-shirt I indicated the wrong artist for the picture that I included. So I apologize to Claire Droege who did create the design. And to Maura Stevenson, even though it wasn't her design, I spelled her name incorrectly. Yikes! A double whammy! Here are the correct pictures with the correct artist:



Design by **Maura Stevenson**,  
Upper School



Design by **Claire Droege**,  
Upper School

## Did You Know?



Most frequently there is one month in any given year with a Friday the 13<sup>th</sup>. This year is a year where there have been THREE such Friday's (February, March and November). It will be 2015 before we have another triple trouble year (if you believe in all that superstitious stuff). Watch out for the black cat!

## Parent Resources



### **Parent Workshop: Executive Dysfunction, Memory Deficit, and Slow Processing Speed**

Monday, November 16, 2009

The Cottage School – Reinhardt Community Center

7:00-8:30pm with Q&A to follow

Space is Limited

RSVP to 678-250-5125

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Article: **Helping ADHD Kids Survive the Holidays**

## Bus Safety



Just a reminder about bus safety. Be sure to know what time your bus is scheduled to be at your stop. As you and anyone who drives in and around Atlanta knows, the traffic can be unpredictable – even for bus drivers. The time on our schedule is the earliest time the bus could leave from that location. Once the bus is loaded and begins moving, additional children cannot be added to the bus for safety reasons. The bus parks in a safe location for

loading students and when it gets into the flow of traffic, it is no longer safe. Always arrive at the bus stop before the scheduled time. Then your child will be able to safely get on the bus and you will help the bus driver keep on schedule.

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## 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\*\***

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## The Bulletin Board

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

The **Canned Food Drive** that benefits the Atlanta Community Food Bank goes until **December 3<sup>rd</sup>**.

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**

Mon, Nov 30 – 1:30pm – **PVA Meeting** – Upper School Conference Room – NOTE CHANGE OF VENUE



Mon, Nov 30 – The Holiday Market – CA Great Room

Thur, Dec 3 – **CommArts Festival** celebrating **India** – U Grt Rm

Fri, Dec 4 – **College Day** – Upper Great Room

Sat, Dec 5 – 8:15am – **SAT Test**

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## Cares and Concerns of our Community

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



**The FitzGerald Family**

**Jobless Families**

**The Slayden 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.

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## Character Quote of the Week



The most I can do  
for my friend is simply  
to be his friend.

- Henry David Thoreau

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

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