



MSA Weekly News

December 11, 2009

Volume 3, Number 17

"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

Georgia GOAL

Find out more about the tax credit opportunity before it's too late

IDA Georgia

Get more info on the International Dyslexia Association

MSA Sports Calendar

The most current information when it comes to MSA Sports Schedules

Be Extra Nice, Won't You?



This is the time of year when everyone gets a little restless. We see it in students, parents, and even the teachers/staff. Everyone is anxious about the upcoming vacation and are ready to get that started. Add to that the stress of final exams for the 7-12th graders and report cards. We get out of our routines a little with all the shopping that is being done, the exam schedule for the students and potentially holiday visitors. All of that sets everyone on edge and makes for frayed nerves all around. So

remember that when you are dealing with unhappy people – we don't know what is going on in their world, nor they in ours. Just be extra nice over the next few weeks. If nothing else, it will make your world a little nicer.

This week has been busy with all the activity in Fine Arts. The Band & Chorus presented a Holiday Concert twice and held rehearsals in between. You also may have heard that there was a fire drill earlier this week and we have had teachers from another school visit in the Lower school. Final Exams have begun for PU/CA/U and will continue through next week. Oh and we have had some basketball and wrestling going on as well. It's all good!

May your candles burn throughout Hanukkah!

A Message from your PVA

2009 Holiday Gift Collection for Teachers and Staff

With the holiday season fast approaching, we would like to give thanks for the wonderful teachers and staff that we are all so blessed to have working with our children every day.

The PVA facilitates a cash gift collection each year in lieu of every family giving individual gifts to each teacher/staff member associated with their student. In past years each teacher and staff member has received a nice sized check from this collection. This is usually more useful to them than 35 small items and it saves you a trip to the mall!!! Yippee, one less thing to do!



The recommended amount is about \$10 per teacher connected with your child. This includes primary teachers and art, PE, drama, music, etc. Of course larger donations are welcomed! The total amount collected is divided equally among teachers and staff and given out at their holiday luncheon.

Giving is entirely voluntary, but PLEASE consider participating! This is a wonderful way to show your thanks. The faculty has been so appreciative of these gifts each year.

Please make your checks payable to MSA PVA and we will tally,

[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



Donate to the Annual Fund TODAY!

Contact Us

<http://www.millsprings.org>

charwood@millsprings.org

Mill Springs Academy

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

divide and pass along your contributions. You can mail them to me in the envelope provided (address below) or personally put them in the PVA box in the administration building. I need to collect all the money by December 15th to be prepared for the holiday luncheon December 18th. Thank you for your participation!

Deborah Goodelman, 9640 Nesbit Lakes Drive, Alpharetta, GA 30022

Questions? Email Deborah [HERE](#).

Lots of College Acceptances!!



Emory University.
Picture by Andrew Harwood

The Hallowed Halls of many colleges will be graced by the presence of the following individuals as they make their decisions about which college to attend. Here are the acceptances for this week.

Melissa Litow – Accepted to Kennesaw University

Jason Rosenberg – University of West Georgia and Valdosta State have both sent acceptance letters

Andrew Smoltz – Accepted to Michigan State and St. John's University

Chris Thorne – Received acceptances from Armstrong Atlantic State University, GA; Fort Valley State University, GA; Johnson C. Smith University, NC; St. Augustine's College, NC; St. Paul's College, VA; and Savannah State University, GA

Congratulations to everyone!

Lower School Sends Cards to Special People



Lower School is responding to a request from a newspaper asking everyone to remember "Special People" during the holiday season. *"The holidays are a time of joy and celebration; however, many people, especially the elderly and shut-in, often find themselves without loved ones to share the holidays."* The newspaper went on to provide a list of individuals that would enjoy receiving cards and our Lower School children handmade cards and included a personal note in response to that article. Here are two samples from the letters that were written:

Dear Sara,

My name is David. I am 8 years old and I am a student at Mill Springs Academy. I wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. I hope you feel happy inside. It is okay if you are in a nursing home, you can still make friends.

Your new friend,
David Cicco

~~~~~

Dear Lavon,

My name is Maridy. I am eight years old and a student at Mill Springs Academy. I hope all of your wishes come true this year. I wish you a Happy Holiday. May this year bring you peace, care, and happiness. I just want you, Lavon, to have a great holiday this year. I hope you have a great time.

Love your new friend,  
Maridy Moore

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## Save the Date



### International Dyslexia Association of Georgia presents:

20<sup>th</sup> Annual IDA Conference

Saturday, February 20, 2010

8:00am – 4:00pm

Dimensions of Dyslexia

The Loudermilk Conference Center

Registration opens January 5<sup>th</sup>

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## T-Shirts – Hot off the Presses



Design by **Elizabeth Kleiber**,

For the third glorious year, MSA Fine Arts is 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

Upper Student

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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## Moms on a Mission Guest Speaker

Wednesday, December 16  
8:30am – CommArts Great Room  
Last meeting of 2009!

We will have a special guest speaker, Shelley Brenner Yedvarb, MS from The Parent Coaching Academy to speak again!! Parent coaching is about building relationships with your children.



Come join us to discuss:

- Action plans to deal with specific situations
- Creative solutions with helpful and meaningful information
- Support and understanding needed to help with children who have special needs
- Ways to reduce stress over the holidays

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.

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## MSA Hosts SAT 101 Course

Prepare for the Spring 2010 SATs with Appelrouth Tutoring Services and get ahead of the game with a thorough review of content and strategies for the exam!

**To Register:**

1. Go to <http://www.appletutors.com/signup>
2. Enter Event Code SAT384 on the top left of the page
3. Click Go

**Cost:** \$499

**Location:** Mill Springs Academy

**Included Materials:** The Official Guide to the SAT, the ATS Fabulous Guide to the SAT, ATS Math and Vocabulary flash cards.

In addition to 20 hours of in-class content and 2 individual tutoring hours, ATS is including 3 proctored, fully analyzed mock tests for enrolled students. Eleven Saturdays beginning January 23.



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## Latest News from Lovable Foods

Dear Lovable Ones –

It's time to renew your student's lunch service for the 2<sup>nd</sup> semester. We've simplified our order process and are debuting some great healthy new lunch offerings. You'll find all your supporting documents and menus [HERE](#).



Our new menus will also be available online Monday, December 14, but please get your orders in early and take advantage of our \$35 semester discount! Feel free to give us a call with any questions and to place your order. Thank you for choosing Lovable Foods.

Love Your body ... Eat Real Food

The **Lovable Foods** Team – Food Love Life  
770-577-5365  
Fax: 1-888-319-2741

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## Wrestling Mustangs Win!



Here are the results from the *December 8<sup>th</sup> Duels*:  
Mill Springs (42) vs. Unity Christian (30)  
Mill Springs (42) vs. Weber (36)  
Mill Springs (42) vs. Mt. Vernon (34)

See the great picture of **Brett Miller** on **Twitter**, but only if you sign up!

*December 5<sup>th</sup> GWA Tournament* – 3 medal winners  
**Brent Shephard** – Silver  
**Spencer Murphy** – Bronze  
**West Connor** – Bronze

**CONGRATULATIONS!**

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## Let it Snow, Let it Snow, Let it Snow ...

When there is bad weather, do you know how to find out if there is no school?

The MSA Handbook says (p.12), “In case severe winter weather forces us to close the school, such notices will be given on the school voicemail system, via your homeroom advisor and on the following radio/TV stations:



|                        |                          |
|------------------------|--------------------------|
| Star 94 FM (WQXI 94.1) | WSB Channel 2            |
| 95.5 FM                | WXIA TV Channel 11 Alive |
| 97.1 FM                | Fox 5 Atlanta            |
| 98.5 FM                | WGST 640 AM              |
| 104.1 FM               | WSB 750 AM               |

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## Don't Miss Out on this Opportunity



You are already paying income taxes to the state. Why not re-direct some of those taxes to provide Georgia children with **Greater Opportunities for Access to Learning (GOAL)**?

When you re-direct your Georgia income taxes to GOAL, you can designate that the contribution be

used to provide scholarships at **Mill Springs Academy**. Thus, the school is able to:

1. Increase the financial aid that it can offer new students;
2. Increase school enrollment; and
3. Increase the funds available to improve educational offerings.

We want to make it as easy as possible for you to contribute before the end of 2009, so that you may take this credit on your 2009 Georgia income tax return. Please see the **GOAL Scholarship Contribution Form** for the simple process to make a contribution before December 18<sup>th</sup>.

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## The Scoreboard

### Basketball –Boys

Fri, Dec 4 – MSA (35) @ Howard (**50**)

Tue, Dec 8 – MSA (30) @ Cottage (**31**)

Fri, Dec 11 – MSA vs. Brandon Hall 5:00pm

Mon, Dec 14 – MSA vs. North GA Falcons 5:00pm



### Basketball –Girls

Fri, Dec 4 – MSA (**41**) @ Howard (31)

Tue, Dec 8 – MSA (**29**) @ Cottage (10)

### Wrestling

Tue, Dec 1 – MSA @ Weber School (See **Twitter** for a picture 12/9)

Sat, Dec 12 – Battle of the Boro Tournament @ Bulloch (JV/V), Statesboro, GA

Sat, Dec 19 – Quad Meet @ Unity Christian, Rome, GA

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## The Bulletin Board



**PM Program Note:** The only PM Program that will NOT be happening the week of December 14<sup>th</sup> is Archery. All of the other PM Programs will meet as scheduled. Archery will make up the day during the state meet.

**Late Bus Notice:** The Late Bus will not be running the week of December 14<sup>th</sup>, any questions contact **Will Turner**.

Fri, Dec 11 – **Hanukkah** begins at sundown

Sat, Dec 12 – **ACT Test**

Mon, Dec 14 – **2<sup>nd</sup> Period Final Exam** – PU/CA/U

Tue, Dec 15 – **3<sup>rd</sup> Period Final Exam** – PU/CA/U

Tue, Dec 15 – 8:30am – **Parent Breakfast for Rising 9<sup>th</sup> Graders** – Upper School Great Room – **RSVP HERE**

Wed, Dec 16 – **4<sup>th</sup> Period Final Exam** – PU/CA/U

Thur, Dec 17 – **5<sup>th</sup> Period Final Exam** – PU/CA/U

Fri, Dec 18 – **6<sup>th</sup> Period Final Exam** – PU/CA/U

Fri, Dec 18 – **Early Dismissal**

12:15 – *Lower/Middle* Carpool

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

12:45 – Buses Depart

Dec 21 thru Jan 1 – **Winter Holiday** – SCHOOL CLOSED

**Uniform Sale:** Buckhead Uniforms will be having a sale during the month of January!

Mon, Jan 4 – Classes Resume after holiday

Mon, Jan 4 – **Winter Learning Program** begins – PU/CA/U

Sat, Feb 20 – **International Dyslexia Association Conference** – Loudermilk Conference Center, Atlanta – registration opens Jan. 5

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## Cares and Concerns of our Community



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

### **The Hardin Family**

### **Homeless & Jobless Families**

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



**There is no security in this  
life, only opportunity.**

**- Gen. Douglas MacArthur**

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

*Please follow us on Facebook and Twitter for up to the minute information.*



*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)

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