



MSA Weekly News

December 18, 2009

Volume 3, Number 18

"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

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

Don't be a Grinch!



Grinch (a.k.a Keith Muma, Upper teacher) with James Torrance, Lower student

← Apparently it is too late for some – but the rest of us can do something about it. This photo was taken at the Holiday Concert from a piece out of *Suessical the Musical*. The students (and teacher) did a fantastic job last week.

If you know the Grinch story, you know that he comes around and changes his ways. It's a state of mind and heart. We all can do the same.

Make sure to check out the **latest edition of Kickin' It**, there is a well written article about Social Anxiety by **Brett Miller**, some movie reviews from **Hannah Twery**, along with some alumni information. Don't miss out.

Have a Safe Holiday – see you Jan 4th!

Mill Springs Glee Club will Begin Next Semester

If your student wants to sing and dance but can't fit it in their schedule, or they just want to try something new and fun, here is their chance. Mill Springs Glee Club will begin next semester! Music teacher Kate McElliott will work with interested 7-12 graders. They will meet to learn a few songs and dances that the group will pick together to perform for the Spring Concert on Tuesdays during lunch and values. All they need to do is tell their advisor or **email Kate** to get involved.



Class of 2010 and Alumni Visits

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](#)



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



Class of 2010 college acceptance list has grown again, here are the latest acceptances:

Melissa Litow – Georgia Southern University

Christina Manna – Belmont University (her first choice school!)

Zach Moore – Reinhardt College

Catherine Simpson – Georgia Perimeter College

Chris Thorne – Benedict College, SC

This is one of those weeks where we get to see a lot of alumni because they are home on break. It's great to see all of you and we love that you come visit when you can. Keep in touch. Top picture: Max Holt '09 under his retired basketball jersey and his brother **Chandler Holt**, PreUpper student. Bottom picture: Alumni Jim Verner '05, Philip Meehan '05, and Michael Greco '07 visited for the basketball game earlier this week.

Cynthia Moves Mountains

On December 3-5, I attended the 22nd National Association of Independent Schools Diversity Conference in Denver, Colorado.

During this conference I also attended and participated in the Student Diversity Leadership Conference which was held simultaneously.

The theme was about "*Moving Mountains: Mining Within*" reflecting the historical efforts of the many people who have worked to help this nation live upon to its highest ideals. Our work in independent schools has the potential to change the way in which the next generation of Americans respond.

In reflecting on the pioneers who were influential in changing independent schools, it inspired me to initiate a diversity program at MSA and to be involved in the next generation. The conference helped me to focus on the various ways to be inclusive and diverse in my school environment and the community.

As a leader of this community, I will bring awareness to inclusiveness and diversity, justice and friendship and lead the future generation of students to a conference in San Diego, California next year. (Cynthia Traylor,



Asst. Principal Upper School)

GISA's All-Select Symphonic Band Chosen



Congratulations to **Paul Bain** (PU), **Jared Brito** (PU), and **Craig Tillison** (PU) for being accepted to participate in GISA's Middle School All-Select Symphonic Band in the spring. The All-Select bands represent the best musicians from independent schools throughout the state of Georgia. We are very proud of these students and are excited to have them represent Mill Springs Academy. (Elizabeth Plastiak, Music Director)

Get a Sneak Peek!



On Wednesday I gave a Sneak Peek to the **new MSA website** via Twitter. So if you are not following us on **Twitter** you should know that when we come back from the holiday we will prepare to launch our new website. But we wanted you to get a Sneak Peek before we do. We would love to have your **feedback**. Please keep in mind that it is a work in progress, although a lot of work has already gone into it.

We hope you like what you see!

Jr. Mustang Lacrosse is Coming!



We are planning a meet & greet in January for our Jr. Lacrosse program for parents and students. Information and specifics will go out in January. (James Sampson, Athletic Director)

MSA Annual Fund Update

Check out this **GREAT VIDEO** about the Mill Springs Annual Fund and click on the link to **donate today!**

Remember ... "Participation" means a gift of any size!

Currently the Annual Fund Stats are as follows:



	<u>Financial</u>	<u>Participation</u>
GOALS	\$250,000	100% -Parents 100% - Board 100% - Staff/Faculty
ACTUALS	\$175,574	67% -Parents 100% - Board 100% - Staff/Faculty

Canned Food Drive Results!



Pictured: **Michael Matthews, Willie Ballard, Addison Reed**

MSA collected
11, 232 Pounds
of canned food for the
Atlanta Community
Food Bank!

Thank you
Mill Springs Academy!!!
Your contribution will make a
difference in someone's life.

"Small schools can do big things"
Robert W. Moore, Headmaster

2010-2011 Calendar Highlights



After much deliberation, we have put together the highlights for next year's school calendar. So start penciling in the vacation days for the **2010-2011 School Calendar.**

Fire Safety for Families

Last Tuesday around 10AM, a large shrill buzzing sound burst through the PreUpper building. Simultaneously, strobe lights began flashing, immediately, students got up from their chairs and calmly walked out of the building and proceeded down to the tennis courts. Laughter but no fear, chatting but no screaming. Students knew what to do and what to expect. Just another fire drill. Once principals on walkie-talkies confirmed that all students were accounted for in their designated evacuation places, this month's fire drill was concluded and classes resumed.

Mill Springs conducts fire and other emergency drills at least once a month, on different days, at different times of the day. Students have practiced how to respond in case of any emergency, at any time, at any location on campus. It is routine. It is so routine that when errant signal to a heating unit tripped the alarm early one morning, the dozen or so students already gathered in the Great Room in the pre-dawn hour, simply left out the back door and headed down to the tennis courts – again with no panic.



How about at your house? Have you practiced any fire evacuation plans? Have you talked about it with your children? Where should everyone gather to make sure everyone is out? This week a very young child died in a house fire, apparently 'hiding' in a closet to get away from the flames. Don't let this happen to your family. Discuss what should be done in case of emergency. Identify all of the potential exits from your house, not just the usual ones. Make it known that everyone should meet at a designated place after evacuating. How about at the mailbox or at a particular neighbor's house? Practice your plans, make it as routine as it is here at school. Younger siblings who don't have the benefit of regular school fire drills will soon catch on to the routine and will be more likely to be calm in the face of emergencies. (Martha Muir, PreUpper Teacher)

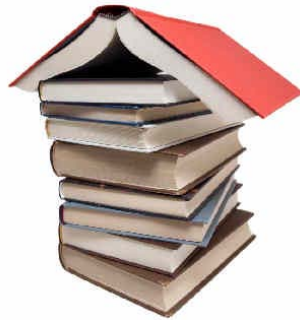
FREE Seminar – Everything College Admissions!

January 13, 2009

7:00pm – 8:30pm

@ MSA

Learn from the best!



With 9 years experience helping students navigate the testing and college admissions process, Jed Appelrouth, MS, NCC, will guide you through all the steps necessary to help your child achieve his or her best scores on the admissions exams (SAT or ACT) and submit more competitive college applications.

Don't miss this FREE opportunity to help your child get ahead.

To Register:

1. Go to <http://www.appletutors.com/signup>
2. Enter Event Code M030553 on the top left of the page
3. Click "Go"

GA History Students see the "Unseen Underground"



Standing at the intersection of Fairlie and Wall Streets, just yards away from where the historic zero mile post is housed. Behind them is the Spring Street viaduct and further back is the CNN Ctr. In the early 1800's this was a bustling railroad center bringing people, goods, and progress to a city once named Marthasville.

Last Saturday, PreUpper Georgia History students took a unique 2.5 hour walking tour in the area of downtown Atlanta known as the "railroad gulch". The tour hosted by Atlanta architect and historian, Jeff Morrison, included the railroad junction that was the very reason for Atlanta's existence ... including the **zero mile post** at the center of it all and the elevated viaducts that allowed the streets to span over the tracks, creating the "underground" condition. The group also explored the surreal network of spaces concealed beneath city streets and Phillips Arena ... and along the way learned some history about how this area has shaped the growth of our city from the beginning.

Max Trivers said, "Seeing the viaducts and the old underground area helped me better understand the history of Atlanta." **Peyton Lockwood** commented, "To see some sites that haven't changed much in over 150

years was really interesting. I'm grateful for the people who developed Atlanta and the hard work and lives they led." Seeing where history and modern day sports collide excited **Christopher Butters**. "I had no idea there were so many streets, and even parking lots, under Phillips Arena. So much railroad history is out of site, but you can still walk to see it." (Todd Sentell, PreUpper Teacher)

Baby, it's Cold Outside ...

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:



Let it Snow, Let it Snow,
Let it Snow

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

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](#)*

Fri, Dec 18 – **6th 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 19 – 20 **Publix Partners Rewards are DOUBLED** this weekend – make sure to have Publix scan your rewards card or they can manually enter the school code of 888-1150-10

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

Uniform Sale: Buckhead Uniforms will be having a sale during the month of January! All school uniforms 20% discount – in store, fax, phone, **internet** and mail orders.

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

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 Culerton Family

The Dolan Family

The Gonzales Family

The Homeless & Jobless Families

The Power Family

Contact me **HERE**.

Character Quote of the Week

“
”

We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give.

- Winston Churchill

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

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



Please consider the environment before printing.

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