MSA Weekly News

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

–Tweetie L. Moore, Founder

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Valentine's Day Gifts

I shared many facts in previous issues about Valentine's Day like how much chocolate is consumed, how much is spent on VD gifts, and why Hershey kisses are shaped that way. But did you know that *teachers receive the most Valentine's Day cards, followed by children, mothers, wives, and then sweethearts (in that order). Children between ages 6 to 10 exchange more than 650 million Valentine's cards with teachers, classmates, and family members.** I remember each year we would decorate our shoebox and put a slot in the lid so others could put a valentine in there. It was always the highlight of the month to open that shoebox, pull each card from its little envelope and read them one at a time . . . over and over and over. Remember your Valentine this year (you still have time).

Happy Valentine's Day!

This has been a busy week with open house, basketball tournaments, student/parent conferences and whatnot. Even though the students were in and out this week, it was still crazy. I did want to tell you that yes, it was a fact that your student saw police cars on campus a couple times this week. With tournaments come lots of people that are not normally on our campus during the day, so we had the presence of Milton's Finest on campus to deter anything unusual.

See you TUESDAY (School is CLOSED Monday)!

*http://www.mydearvalentine.com/valentines-day-facts/

Today's Cancelations

Students are being released for Carpool at 2:15pm and the Buses will depart at 2:30pm.

Today's Archery Tournament in Perry was canceled.

AAC Basketball Tournament on MSA's campus has been canceled.

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 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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Give to the
Annual Fund TODAY!

Contact Us

http://www.millsprings.org

charwood@millsprings.org

Mill Springs Academy
13660 New Providence Rd
Alpharetta, GA 30004

MSA Boys Basketball Team

Boys Basketball has wrapped up their season with an overall season record of 9-11. Their Atlanta Area Conference record is 6-7. They placed 4th during the regular season and 5th during the AAC tournament. Congratulations go to the entire team which includes:

Kaan Acarkan, **Austin Coleman**, **Chandler Holt**, **Jake Lipsitz**, **Douglas Marcotte**, **Michael Palmer**, **Jake Northrup**, **Jesse Rhodes**, **Andrew Smoltz**, **Jack Thomas**, **Chris Thorne** and **Chris White**.

Go Mustangs!

Middle School All Select Band

Paul, Craig, Jared – all that hard work and they are still smiling!

This past weekend, MSA had the opportunity to participate in the GISA All Select Middle School Band. Over 100 of the best musicians in grades 5-8 from Georgia's independent schools gathered together at The Atlanta Academy for a weekend of music, friends and fun! The musicians were divided up into two different bands, and over the course of Saturday and Sunday, they selected, rehearsed and performed a full concert for their friends and families. Congratulations go out to PreUpper students **Paul Bain**, **Jared Brigito** and **Craig Tillison** for being selected to participate and for putting on an impressive performance on Sunday afternoon! (Elizabeth Plastiak, Music Director)

Mustang Wrestling

The Mill Springs Mustangs wrestling team finished out the 2009-2010 season with the state finals held at the Georgia Fairgrounds in Perry, GA. All wrestlers have made great strides and demonstrated enormous determination during the season. Four of the wrestlers qualified for the state finals. These boys attended the finals: **Jason Maza** – 125 lb. weight class, **Adam Bramski** – 140

770-360-1336

lb. weight class, **Spencer Murphy** – 150 lb. weight class, **Brent Shephard** – 215 lb. weight class, and **Marc Glenn** – heavy weight class. Murphy won the first round of the quarter finals qualifying for the semi-finals. The Mustang Team garnered a total of 17 points. GO MUSTANGS! (Coach John Hanrahan and Asst. Coach Hank Jones)

Financial Aid for College Workshop

Hal J. Wilkinson, Regional Representative for the Georgia Student Finance Commission will be giving a presentation on financial aid on March 9th at 7:00pm in the Upper School Great Room. He will cover HOPE, FAFSA, loans and scholarship resources. This should be a very helpful and informative session. All parents are invited. Please **RSVP HERE**. (Susan Day, Counseling Director)

MSA Family Dinner & Auction

March 20th at 4:30pm

Dinner reservation forms and raffle tickets for sale/purchase are on their way to you! Be sure to complete your form, fill out your check, and mail them back to us in the enclosed stamped envelope as soon as you can – but *no later than March 2nd*.

You want a seat at the table, don't you?

Re-Enrollment Contracts

Please Don't Forget!

Re-enrollment contracts for the 2010-2011 school year are due by Monday, February 22, 2010.

If you have questions or have not gotten your contract unexpectedly,

please contact **Sheila FitzGerald** immediately.

Meet YOUR Counseling Department

The Counseling Department had a productive first semester and would like to spread the word about our services. College Counseling primarily begins in ninth grade. We encourage students to participate in extracurricular activities and clarify knowledge of personal strengths, challenges, and values. Transitions classes are taken in the Spring semester of Junior year and Fall semester of Senior year. The College Counselor diligently works with students to find a college that matches their needs, goals, and interests. The Counseling Department coordinates College Day, organizes parent workshops, and coordinates ACT/SAT tutoring services.

Short term individual counseling is accessible to all students. Small groups are offered for students to discuss developmentally appropriate topics in a safe, supportive environment.

On the MSA website, counseling information may be found in the Upper School section, Parents section, and a recommended resource list is in News/ Publications section.

We wish you a successful second semester! Thank you for supporting the Counseling Department! (Susan Day, Director of Counseling and Anne Holland, Counselor)

Moms on a Mission Guest Speaker

Wednesday, February 17 at 8:30am in the CommArts Great Room.

We will have a special guest speaker, **Suzanne Van De Mark, Speech Therapist**.

She would like to share tips for moms to use at home pertaining to speech and language issues as well as share what she does at Mill Springs and

when she is available if you are interested in her services.

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.

For more information, contact Paulette Solis (PreUpper mom) at **plettes@yahoo.com** or 678.267.0362 or Sheree Crowe (Middle mom) at 770.354.3657 or **shereesc@gmail.com**.

Bake Sale for Haiti

The students of Communication Arts held a bake sale to benefit the victims of the earthquake in Haiti. Students baked the treats themselves, and raised $274.27. They are researching charitable organizations to determine which group will make the best use of their donation.

Annual IDA Conference

International Dyslexia Association of Georgia presents:

20th Annual IDA Conference

Saturday, February 20, 2010

8:00am – 4:00pm

Dimensions of Dyslexia

The Loudermilk Conference Center

Registration opens January 5th

Lacrosse Practice is Soon!

Mustang Jr. Lacrosse Practice
Starts February 20, 2010
Sign Up NOW
Forms are available **HERE.**

Fine Arts Spirit Wear Available

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 sweatshirt is being modeled by PreUpper student, **Max Trivers,** in the picture.

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!

Project SOAR

To learn more about this **outdoor wilderness experience** for youth with ADHD or LD, contact MSA PreUpper Parent Carmen Allen, she is hosting an informational session on February 25. Email her **HERE** for time, directions and questions.

Get Your Cokes Here!

Coke Sale Flyer **Coke Sale Order Form**

Hunger Walk/Run 2010

Matthew Murr (PU) and **Trevor Murr** (M) are organizing a group of students/parents/faculty who would like to participate as a team to walk or run in the Hunger Walk/Run 5K benefiting The Atlanta Community Food Bank. The event is held at Turner Field and last year there were more than 11, 000 participants. Mr. and Mrs. Murr will provide transportation for up to 10 students. If we build a larger team we will coordinate with some other parents to arrange for carpooling.

March 14, 2010
Turner Field
12:00 – 4:00pm
Register online **HERE**
Benefiting Partner: Atlanta Community Food Bank
Team Name: Mill Springs Academy
Questions: Angel Murr **via EMAIL**

This is a volunteer service project for MSA students, their hours spent on the event will apply towards their service hour requirements for the semester.

The Wish List for Band

If you are looking for an opportunity to support something that directly related to your child or school here are a few things the Band Department would just LOVE to have:

- Sony Portable Digital Recorder for daily recording use (1)
- Shure Condenser Microphone for audio performance recording (1)
- Studio Boom Microphone Stand (1)
- Casio Privia PX-330 Digital Keyboard portable electric piano with padded case (1)
- On-Stage Heavy Duty Piano Stands (3)
- Sustain Pedals for the pianos (3)
- Tunable Bongos with stands (2 sets)
- Drum Thrones special seats for drummers (2)
- Peavey Bass Guitar Amplifier (1)
- Mighty Bright LED Stand Lights to allow the band to see their music, even during a fun light show (40)

Any donation would be greatly appreciated. For further information contact either **Susan Holmgren** (PVA President) or **Elizabeth Plastiak** (Band Director).

Calendar Change

Please note that there is a change to the calendar. The Mid-Winter Break is being extended by a full day. We will have Early Dismissal on Thursday, March 11th and a full day off on Friday, March 12th. Please adjust your calendars. Thanks.

The Scoreboard

There are still a day of tournaments to be played so we don't have the final rankings for the Mustang Girls – they are still in the running. They will have practice on Monday at 10:00am. The last day of the tournament will be Wednesday, February 17 and sticking with the same time slots.

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: Today's ***BASKETBALL*** tournament games have all been CANCELED. They will be rescheduled so watch for further information.

The ***ARCHERY*** tournament that was to be in Perry today has also been CANCELED.

Mon, Feb 15 – **School Closed** – Presidents Day

Tue, Feb 16 – Spring **PM Programs** begin today

Tue, Feb 16 – Spring **Sports** begin

Thur, Feb 18 – 7:00pm – **Transition Night** – for Parents of Rising 5, 7, 9 grade students – PreUpper Great Room

Sat, Feb 20 – **Basketball All-Star Game** @ Cottage School

Sat, Feb 20 – **International Dyslexia Association Conference** – Loudermilk Conference Center, Atlanta

Mon, Feb 22 – 2010-2011 **Re-enrollment Contracts Due**

Mon, Feb 22 – 1:30p – **PVA Meeting** – CA Great Room

Thur, Feb 25 – Turn in all your **Box Tops for Education**

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.

Haitian Families

Jobless Families

Nancy and Family

The Walker Family

Contact me **HERE**.

Character Quote of the Week

Outside show is a poor substitute for inner worth.

- Aesop

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

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