



# MSA Weekly News

March 11, 2010

Volume 3, Number 27

"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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## Web Links of Interest

### [Invisible Children](#)

*Learn more about the topic of Cassie's Senior Presentation*

### [Golf Tournament](#)

*Mark your calendar and sign up today*

### [MSA Sports Calendar](#)

*The most current information when it comes to MSA Sports Schedules*

## Short, but Busy!

Well we have had a great week, albeit short. We held a fire drill on Tuesday and an open house on Wednesday. We have hosted and attended sports like crazy: Golf, tennis, track and on more than one occasion in some cases. Several things were rained out, but will be rescheduled later (keep your eye on the calendar). The presentation on College Financing Tuesday evening, was well attended AND informative. So for a short week, it has been busy.

There is a new segment in the newsletter this week – **Teacher Feature** - it will feature one of our Mill Springs teachers. The goal is to try and do this weekly. This is an opportunity for you to get to know the wonderful teachers with whom your students spend their day. I hope you will look for it regularly and get to know them too.

### **Early Dismissal Thursday and No School Friday**

Lower/Middle – 12:15      PreUpper/CommArts/Upper – 12:30      Bus departs 12:45

Thank you – the extra day for the Mid-Winter Break was earned due to our participation in the Canned Food Drive that benefited the Atlanta Community Food Bank.

## Teacher Feature – Meet Victoria Jones, PreUpper



My favorite colors are red and brown, but there is more to me than that!

Victoria works with the kids in PU who need the most reading support in literature, which she says, "does not mean that they are not also gifted. We do a lot of enrichment activities that explore authors' motivation, current events and how different themes apply to our daily lives." She likes to support their weaknesses while emphasizing the strengths. "I also want to make sure that I am providing the type of support that encourages the kids to use strategies independently and still hold them accountable for their own learning." Susan Sanders, PreUpper Principal states: "For the past twelve years, the PreUpper students have benefitted from her guidance and instruction as they work to improve their reading skills and comprehension. Victoria has helped many of our students move from "I can't" to "I did it"! She performs the "MSA miracle" every day."

Victoria's hobbies include anything related to outdoor adventure: running (she coaches track), rock climbing, mountain biking, canoeing, fishing, hunting, camping. Her and

[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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**Mill Springs Academy**

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her husband Dave spent a week on a 92-mile canoe trip to raise money to protect the rivers. They also try to participate in a 150-mile bike ride to raise awareness for MS each year.

In her spare time Victoria focuses on completing her dissertation. "I will be proposing over Spring Break and defending in early Fall so that I can graduate in December with a Doctorate of Education in Instructional Leadership/Staff Development from the University of Alabama." And she will be presenting at the Council on Exceptional Children convention in April on the need to recognize the gifted side of kids with dual-exceptionalities (gifted and LD) which she says, "is pretty much my teaching philosophy here."

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## Read All About It!!



**Class of 2010:** Congratulations to **Elliott Keating** who has been accepted to Southern Union State Community College in Alabama.

**Alumni:** Doug Ceto, Class of 1990, visited campus for the Open House – to which he brought a prospective family! Thanks Doug and it was good to see you. Glad things are going well.

**Alumni:** Patrick Marco, Class of 2009, former track team captain made a surprise visit and pitched in and helped run the track meet on Tuesday. Thanks Patrick.

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## Family Dinner and Auction

**March 20**

**4:30 – 9:00pm**



Come on,  
wear your Tye-Dye ☺

The Family Dinner and Auction is fast approaching and our team has been working very hard to make this an occasion you won't forget. We have some terrific items for auction – with more coming! So take a look at the attached list of over 130 live and silent auction items we will have up for bid. We will also have raffle baskets that contains items such as an Xbox 360, Sony Bravia Television with BlueRay disc player, iTouch, Kindle, Wine Basket and more. There will also be a collection of sports memorabilia for bid, so make sure you check out that section for that "must have" item for yourself or someone special. Get your dinner

forms in today and come hungry and anxious to bid!

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## Web 2.0 Tools

World History and Political Science classes in Upper School are utilizing Web 2.0 tools as a part of their class work. Social Studies teacher, Carolina Ayerbe has implemented a wiki tool for her these classes. The **SITE** holds PowerPoint presentations with lectures, as well as assignments that need to be completed in groups and posted online. Most assignments require the use of other Web 2.0 tools such as YouTube, Flickr, and TeAchnology. Students are required use these tools and comment on each others' posts as part of the collaborative and cooperative structure of the 21st century classroom.



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## Everyone Does It!



On Thursday, March 4, Kimberly Milka of the Georgia Bureau of Investigation presented an assembly to the Upper School students on sexting, computer pornography, internet bullying child exploitation and the law. Ms. Milka gave practical steps someone could take to stop such activity and to not get caught-up in it. The topic was very timely considering a recent incident in the local news this past week.

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## Bookfair is Coming to Barnes & Noble

Our Barnes & Noble Bookfair will be held on Monday, March 22, 2010 from 4:00 – 8:00pm at the Barnes & Noble on North Point Parkway. Activities that evening will include:

5:00pm – Book signing by *Gail Kreher*, Upper Teacher

6:45pm – *MSA Chorus* Performance

7:15pm – Storytelling with *Lexi Klupchak*, Fine Arts Teacher

*MSA Student Art Exhibit* in the storytelling area (featuring murals designed by Lower School)

If you can't attend that evening, you can support us by shopping at any Barnes & Noble or **online** between March 22 – 28<sup>th</sup>. Enter our Bookfair ID: 10155356, and a percentage of your purchase will benefit the MSA Library.



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## Senior Project – Invisible Children



I am doing a book drive in the Upper School. It will be going on throughout this month and ends April 1. I would like all of the students to participate if they can. Just bring your used books to school; I have a big box in front of Mrs. Cynthia's office where they can be dropped off. The books will be shipped to Africa and used in the schools, or sold and the money put towards rebuilding schools in Africa. All books will be useful: children's books, novels, biographies, or textbooks. I have started this book drive at school because my senior presentation is about the "Invisible Children" in war torn northern Uganda. If you would like more information about his cause, please come to my senior presentation or go online **HERE**. Thank you very much. **Cassie Kanelos**, Senior.

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## Nike ReUse a Shoe Program a Success!



The MSA community collected a total of **62 pairs of athletic shoes** for the Nike ReUse a Shoe Program. They will ultimately be sent to a recycling center in Wilsonville, Oregon. The facility uses a "slice-and-grind" technique, cutting each shoe into three slices – rubber outsole, foam midsole and fiber upper. These slices are then fed through grinders and purified. No matter how the shoes are processed, the end result is the same – three high-quality Nike Grind materials ready to be put back in the game:

- Nike Grind Rubber, from the shoe's outsole, is used

in track surfaces, interlocking gym flooring tiles, playground surfacing and even new Nike products. It's also used in trim items like buttons and zipper pulls.

- Nike Grind Foam, from the shoe's midsole, is used as a cushion for outdoor basketball and tennis courts, as well as futsal fields.
- Nike Grind Fiber, from the shoe's fabric upper, is used to create cushioning pads for facilities like indoor synthetic courts and wood courts.

Thanks so much for your help on this program.

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## Track Team Highlights



Go Running Mustangs!

The first track meet of the season was a huge success! Our boys placed 4<sup>th</sup> and our girls – make that girl (just one) represented as an individual rather than a team.

- **Chris Thorne** placed 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Long Jump (action picture posted on **Twitter** earlier this week) and 3<sup>rd</sup> in the 120m hurdles
  - **Philip Early** placed 2<sup>nd</sup> in the 120m hurdles
  - **Michael Palmer** placed 1<sup>st</sup> in the 200m run
  - **Hannah Bowler** placed 2<sup>nd</sup> in the 200m and 3<sup>rd</sup> in the 400m
  - The boys relay teams placed 3<sup>rd</sup> in the 400m relay
- Our next Varsity meet will be on Tuesday with 8 visiting teams. Then the JV and youth teams will host 4 visiting teams on Thursday. Join us and cheer on the events!

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## Moms on a Mission

**Wednesday, March 17 at 8:30am – CommArts Great Room**

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!

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** (PU Mom) at 678-267-0362 or **Sheree Crowe** (M Mom) at 770-354-3657.

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## Golf & Tennis This Week



Mustang Tennis Courts

**GOLF:** Tuesday the MSA Mustangs were edged out by the Weber School in our match at Steel Canyon. Our golfers played well, led by **Austin Coleman** and **Brett Jackson** at nine and ten over par, respectively, but it wasn't quite enough for the victory. Our next match will be today against the Howard School at Charlie Yates golf course.

**TENNIS:** Congratulations are in order for the Varsity Boys Tennis Team for their 36-7 victory over The Cottage School. The weather was beautiful Tuesday afternoon, and the Mustangs played amazing tennis on our home courts. The #2 Singles match was a nail biter, but MSA ended up with the win! Way to go! Next home match is March 16 @ 4pm. Join us!

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## Did You Know???



*"Alexander Graham Bell's notebook entry of 10 March 1876 describes his successful experiment with the telephone. Speaking through the instrument to his assistant, Thomas A. Watson, in the next room, Bell utters these famous first words, 'Mr. Watson -- come here -- I want to see you.'"*\*\* A TELEPHONE, think how far we have come in 134 years. They no longer hang on the wall in only one room of the house tethered to a cable and you can have it in your pocket everywhere you go! Most of our kids have never even seen a phone with a rotary dial. I wonder what Mr. Bell would think about the direction this technology took?

\*\*<http://inventors.about.com/od/bstartinventors/a/telephone.htm>

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## The Bulletin Board

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

Thur, Mar 11 – **Early Dismissal**

12:15 – *Lower/Middle* Carpool

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

12:45 – Buses Depart

Fri, Mar 12 – **Mid-Winter Break** – School CLOSED

Sun, Mar 14 – **Daylight Saving Time** BEGINS – don't forget to set your clocks ahead one hour

Sun, Mar 14 – **Hunger Walk/Run 2010** – Turner Field – donate or sign up **TODAY!**

Tue, Mar 16 – Thur, Mar 18 – **Achievement Testing** for *Lower and Middle* only

Wed, Mar 17 – 8:30am – **MOMs Meeting** – CA Great Room

Sat, Mar 20 – 4:30pm – **PVA Family Dinner and Auction** – Student Activity Center

Sat, Mar 20 – **Coke Sale Pick Up** – during the dinner @ PreUpper School

Mon, Mar 22 – **Spring Book Fair** begins @ Barnes & Noble North Point

Tue, Mar 30 – **Senior Presentations** – Upper School Great Room

Wed, Mar 31 – **Senior Presentations** – Upper School Great Room



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## Cares and Concerns of our Community



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

**Earthquake Victims**

**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 limit to the good a man can do if he doesn't care who gets the credit.**

**- Robert Woodruff**



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