



# MSA Weekly News

May 14, 2010

Volume 3, Number 36

"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

[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*

## This is it!

Tonight is the Baccalaureate service and tomorrow is Graduation – THIS is it! This is one of the things that kids look forward to, graduating from high school so they can go on and live their 'real lives', lives where we don't use algebra or biology (why did we ever learn those, we'll never use that again).

As parents we know that this is a very exciting time for them and we want the very best for our children. I, too, had a graduate this year, my oldest son (27) has graduated. These are the bittersweet moments that we want to last forever, but we know won't and can't. They are at the threshold of the next phase in their lives waiting to see what is on the other side of the door. As parents and educators, we have prepared them the best we know how for whatever might come up. They will survive and they will thrive. We just need to give them the chance. It won't be easy, but we have to step back and let them cross that threshold into tomorrow.

Congratulations to the Class of 2010!

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## Feature Teacher – Meet Shannon Koch, Lower

Shannon Koch has just finished her second year in Lower School teaching 4<sup>th</sup> grade Phonics/Word Study, Reading, and Social Studies. Shannon has a background in reading and phonics instruction. She taught in another private school before MSA, and prior to becoming a classroom teacher she was a tutor at Syllables Reading Center. Shannon has training in Orton-Gillingham and Wilson.



My all time favorite food is **lobster**.

Shannon enjoys going to concerts, reading by the pool, and traveling. She just returned from a cruise to the Caribbean where she went to Puerto Rico, St. Thomas, Tortola, Antigua, Barbados, and St. Lucia. She often visits family in Tampa and St. Louis.

She loves to hang out at the beach in Tybee Island with her husband of 9 years, Patrick. They have an 8 year old Beagle named Bailey.

She has been busy working on her Masters in Elementary Education at Grand Canyon University, having just completed courses in Educational Philosophy, Classroom Management, and Teaching Diverse Learners.

MSA Weekly News  
Archives

*Catch up on past news*

MSA Current Calendar

*School Calendar on the MSA website*



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<http://www.millsprings.org>

[charwood@millsprings.org](mailto:charwood@millsprings.org)

**Mill Springs Academy**

13660 New Providence Rd

Alpharetta, GA 30004

770-360-1336

Shannon is so happy to come to school each day to work with these amazing kids, because she truly believes in the mission of Mill Springs Academy. She feels that it is important to understand the individual needs of every student in order to help them succeed in school.

Laurie says that Shannon is "such a delight to have in Lower School and she has such a wonderful sense of humor. Shannon loves MSA so much that when she was signing her contract for next year she said 'You might as well sign me up for life!'" We hope Shannon does stay "for life" in Lower School, the students really enjoy being in her class.

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## Congratulations Class of 2010

The **Class of 2010** graduates this weekend. Congratulations and good luck in the future, keep us posted on all the wonderful things you do. Here is a list of our Graduates:

Thomas Elliott Austin-Keating  
Adam Martin Bramski  
Jonathan Ross Freeman  
David Benjamin Friedland  
Marc Spencer Glenn  
William Cullen Jacob  
Cassandra Marie Kanelos  
Alex Jared Kaplan  
Elizabeth Catherine Kleiber  
Melissa Nicole Litow  
Alexandra Mariette Mail-Lopez  
Christina Louise Manna  
Paul Edward Manners  
Brett Michael Miller  
Zachary William Moore  
Garett Thompson Moss  
Jason William Rosenberg  
Jared Tyler Sherman  
Catherine Susan Jane Simpson  
Kirsten Elizabeth Smith  
John Andrew Smoltz, Jr.  
Maura Elise Stevenson  
Christopher Rollin Thorne  
Joshua Samuel Turner  
Jessica Leigh Vosburgh

## My Mill Springs Experience



As we close out a school year, we would like to have parents provide feedback about MSA. On the website, [HERE](#), there is a place where you can tell us about your Mill Springs Experience. We hope you will share some of your wonderful stories there, they can be left anonymously if you choose. Prospective families love to hear from existing families, and we think this is a great way to get the word out about how you feel about your school. Like Robert always says, "I'm paid to say good things about the school." It is more meaningful when it comes from you. Thank you in advance.

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## Really? A Fossil Dig? YEP!



Lower School visited The Tellus Museum in Cartersville on Monday. The kids began with a fossil dig entitled "Fossiliferous". The students dug for fossils and made their own fossil imprint. **Taylor Bunker** shared that "the best thing was the full size skeleton of a T-Rex named Stan". The students also enjoyed a visit to the Planetarium. "We saw a movie about the planets called Oasis in Space. It was neat watching the movie on the ceiling" **Noah Terpstra** said. (Laurie Jones, Principal, Lower)

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## PM Program Ends



Please make sure you have appropriate carpool arrangements for next week as there will be no supervision or activities available on campus after 3:30pm. New programs will begin again in the Fall so go ahead and **send me your suggestions**. I am always looking for new things to add to the program. Be on the lookout for registration materials in your summer packets. (Victoria Jones, PreUpper)

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## Track and Field



We had a fantastic end to the track and field season with 3 athletes qualifying for the GISA State Championship in Albany. **Chris Thorne** placed 3<sup>rd</sup> in the high jump; **Jake Lipsitz** placed 7<sup>th</sup> in the 300m hurdles and 8<sup>th</sup> in the 110m hurdles; **Peyton Lockwood** placed 7<sup>th</sup> in the 3200m run. At the AAC Tournament the varsity team earned second place as the Conference Runner-Ups. We are so proud of all of our track and field athletes! As we head into summer, many of our athletes will continue to compete in the summer competitions through PT Elite track club, which is the group that handled our timing equipment and hosted the Middle School State Meet. Athletes participating in summer track are eligible to compete in the Junior Olympics. Please let me know if you need any information about this or any of the other running camps for track or cross country. (**Victoria Jones**, PreUpper)

**\*\*\*\*All sports uniforms must be turned in right away!  
Parents will be billed for missing uniforms! \*\*\*\***

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## MSA Teacher Presents at CEC Conference



All MSA teachers are members of the CEC.

Victoria Jones of PreUpper travelled to Nashville, TN in April for the Council for Exceptional Children National Convention to present a lecture concerning the education of children with “dual-exceptionalities”. These are students who fit under both the “gifted” and “learning disabled” exceptionalities. Victoria based her lecture on current research and her experience at Mill Springs where all of the students are recognized for their

gifts while receiving support for all kinds of learning issues. The many lectures and display booths at the conference were packed with information and Victoria brought back loads of information to share.

The conference was held in the famous Gaylord Opryland Hotel and Convention Center. The hotel and gardens were unbelievable beautiful. Victoria very much enjoyed wandering the gardens between lectures and having dinner near the 1.5 mile long indoor river that contains waters from around the world (including the River Jordan). Just five days after leaving, heavy rains flooded the nearby Cumberland River and the Nashville area was devastated.

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## The PVA Needs YOU!!

**Monday, May 17, 2010 8:30-10:00a**



The last PVA meeting of 2009/2010 will include:

- Election of Officers for 2010/2011
- Presentation of By-Law changes
- Planning for next year

### **PVA NEEDS YOU!**

Please plan to attend the meeting on 5/17 or **email Jacki Gass** for more information at or 678-438-7183.

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## Save the Date – MOMs Sponsor Family Picnic

**Saturday night, June 5<sup>th</sup> from 6ish – 9ish**



MSA MOMs Family Picnic will be at the Roswell Riverside Park for the Riverside Summer Concerts. We did this a couple of times last year and both parents and kids had a great time! I encourage our new families to come and join us too!

We usually arrive around 5:30pm. This is a very popular FREE event so the earlier the better. Plus we have more time to visit before the music starts at 7pm. Bring blankets, chairs, food and beverages for just your

family or to share.

Mark your calendars now to join. Also spread the word to any who might not hear, we want to include everyone!

For more info check out **THIS** or contact Sheree Crowe at 770-354-3657.

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## Looking for a Summer Program?



Can I interest you in some Summer Camp, Sports Camp or maybe Summer School? We will have all of those activities here on campus this summer. This year we have added a second session to our Summer School to help accommodate the local community. Mark Trail Camp will be just as fun as ever. And Sports Camp? Well let me tell you, we currently have Basketball Camp, Volleyball Camp and Lacrosse Camp all scheduled. So don't wait until the last moment to **sign up for Camp** or Summer School – it's going to be fun!

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## This Day in History – May 14, 1804

If this newsletter were written in 1804, the headline would read “Lewis and Clark Depart”.

One year after the United States doubled its territory with the Louisiana Purchase, the Lewis and Clark expedition leaves St. Louis, Missouri, on a mission to explore the Northwest from the Mississippi River to the Pacific Ocean.

Even before the U.S. government concluded purchase negotiations with France, President Thomas Jefferson commissioned his private secretary Meriwether Lewis and William Clark, an army captain, to lead an expedition into what is now the U.S. Northwest. On May 14, the "Corps of Discovery"--featuring approximately 45 men (although only an approximate 33 men would make the full journey)--left St. Louis for the American interior.

The expedition traveled up the Missouri River in a 55-foot long keelboat and two smaller boats. In November, Toussaint Charbonneau, a French-Canadian fur trader accompanied by his young Native American wife Sacagawea, joined the expedition as an interpreter. The group wintered in present-day North Dakota before crossing into present-day Montana, where they first saw the Rocky Mountains. On the other side of the Continental Divide, they were met by Sacagawea's tribe, the Shoshone Indians, who sold them horses for their journey down through the Bitterroot Mountains. After passing through the dangerous rapids of the Clearwater and Snake rivers in canoes, the explorers reached the calm of the Columbia River, which led them to the sea. On November 8, 1805, the expedition arrived at the Pacific Ocean, the first European explorers to do so by an overland route from the east. After pausing there for the winter, the explorers began their long journey back to St.

Louis.

On September 23, 1806, after almost two and a half years, the expedition returned to the city, bringing back a wealth of information about the largely unexplored region, as well as valuable U.S. claims to Oregon Territory.

From: <http://www.history.com/this-day-in-history>



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## Old School Uniforms Taking Over?



Has your MSA student grown three feet this year or graduating and have a plethora of MSA wear taking up valuable closet space?? The Gently Used Uniform store is interested in your hand-me-downs!

The MSA Uniform Store is open year-round and our shelves could use some plumping. Please feel free to drop your MSA uniform donations for the store in the administration office throughout the summer.

The Mill Springs students of 2010-2011 will thank you (so will their parents)!

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## Calling all MSA Eagle Scouts



If you have a student that has attained the rank of Eagle Scout while attending MSA or if they did their Eagle project at MSA, please email your name and the year of the Eagle project to **Cindy Thorne**. We are compiling a list for a commemorative plaque. Thanks for your help. Happy 100<sup>th</sup> year of Scouting.

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## The Bulletin Board

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

Fri, May 14 – 7:00pm – **Baccalaureate** – SAC

Sat, May 15 – 10:00am – **Graduation** – SAC

### **Congratulations Class of 2010**

Tue, May 18 – **1<sup>st</sup> Period Final Exam** – PU/CA/U

Wed, May 19 – 8:30am – **Moms on a Mission** – CA  
Great Room (Last meeting of the year)

Wed, May 19 – **2<sup>nd</sup> Period Final Exam** – PU/CA/U

Thur, May 20 – **3<sup>rd</sup> Period Final Exam** – PU/CA/U

Fri, May 21 – **4<sup>th</sup> Period Final Exam** – PU/CA/U

Fri, May 21 – 7:00pm – **Middle School Performance**  
of *“Bridge to Teribithia”*

Mon, May 24 – **5<sup>th</sup> Period Final Exam** – PU/CA/U

Mon, May 24 – **Luau Picnic** – Middle School

Tue, May 25 – **6<sup>th</sup> Period Final Exam** – PU/CA/U

Wed, May 26 – 10:00am – **Honors Day** (check with  
individual school for Pre-Honors Day activity)

Early Dismissal after Honors Day program

Last Day of School - Have a Terrific Summer

Mon, May 31 – **Memorial Day** – School Closed

Monday, August 23 – **First Day of School** ☺ (just  
thought you might like to know)



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## Cares and Concerns of our Community

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



**Flood Victims**

**Unemployed Families**

**Unnamed 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



**“No one knows what it is  
that he can do until he  
tries.”**

**- Publilius Syrus**

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