




School Update  
February 11, 2011

It is hard to believe it is the middle of February already! MSA has been a busy place, so here are the updates!!

- Congratulations to the dance department on a great week and a half of productions. From the 6<sup>th</sup> grade dance to the production of Alice's Wonderland and everything in-between, it was a great week of outstanding performances!! Great job, and thank you to everyone who came out to support our students.
- 
- Don't miss out on math SAT/ACT math tutoring sessions are on Monday and Friday mornings starting at 8:45 in room 904 and upcoming FCAT/End of Course (Algebra I) test prep. See your math teacher for more information.
  - Attention Parents of Seniors – mark your calendars now. **February 17<sup>th</sup> at 6:30** we will be holding an event for the parents of seniors. This is an important night for you to come and find out information regarding the upcoming year-end events.
  - Parents of students in grades 6-11 – please note: The Florida Writes will be held on March 1, 2011 (for 8<sup>th</sup> grade and 10<sup>th</sup> grade students ONLY) and the FCAT will be administered to all 6-10<sup>th</sup> grade students for Math and Reading on April 12-13. 8<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> grades on April 14<sup>th</sup> for Science. 9<sup>th</sup> grade students do not take a math FCAT, but will be taking the End of Course test in Algebra later in May. Please watch for more info to follow.
  - Good Luck to Maria Wirries and Renee Thompson who are competing in the Florida State Junior Thespians competition this weekend. They are representing MSA and our thespian district!!

- MSA Strikers and Heat will be participating in the Yes! We Can Dance recital at the State College of Florida on Saturday at 7:30 in the Neel Auditorium. Good luck, teams!!
- More Free Tutoring – During the month of February, the I Can Do It! Tutoring Center is providing free tutoring to any Manatee County student. High School Clinics are on Tuesdays between 7-9PM. Middle School tutoring is on Wednesdays between 6-8 PM. No reservations are required. They are located on 27<sup>th</sup> Street West in Bradenton. For more information, please call 941-739-8886 or catch them on the web at [www.ICanDoItTutors.com](http://www.ICanDoItTutors.com).

- One of our Florida History students went last weekend on an overnight camping trip to Paynes Prairie, north of Gainesville. Students had a great time, got a little wet, and learned a lot about Florida and our ecology. They saw a lot of wildlife they don't normally see, due to the weather!! A great time was had by all!! There is another trip planed for the other half of FL. History students later in the spring.



- Our 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade classes have gone over the past month to see the production, “12 Angry Men” at the Asolo Theatre. Students had a great time and were treated to a wonderful show!!
- In case you missed it, the dance department held their dance recitals in mid-January to rave reviews. All students did an amazing job!!
- Congratulations to all the new members of the National Junior Honor Society who were inducted on January 27, 2011. The ceremony was very nice, with guest speaker, Palmetto Police Chief, Rick Wells giving a highly motivational speech about volunteerism. The ceremony was followed by a nice reception in the cafeteria.



- Congratulations to the Math Counts team who competed in a regional competition on February 4<sup>th</sup>. Our students placed 9<sup>th</sup> out of 14 teams. They represented the school very well!! Special congratulations go out to Evan Ward who placed 13<sup>th</sup> out of 100 students.
- Two MSA students are making waves in the photography world. Congratulations to Kevin Thomas with the picture called “Fireman” & Kaitlyn Kelly with her picture called “Falling Beauty” which will both be published in “The Best of College Photography 2011” produced by Photographer’s Forum Magazine. Kevin’s and Kaitlyn’s photos were selected from thousands submitted world-wide, a vast majority of which were submitted by college students. We are so proud of their accomplishments!!



- Please read on for some Science Department updates:  
Science FCAT tutoring for 11<sup>th</sup> graders will begin the week of February 22<sup>nd</sup> with both morning and afterschool sessions. The times will be from 8:45-9:30 and 4:45- 5:30.

Upcoming Field Trips:

- March 16<sup>th</sup>-> Marine Biology Field trip to Tampa Bay Watch located by Fort Desoto. A day of learning about Tampa Bay, collecting critters using a beach seine, dissecting a squid, and creating a touch tank.
- April 15<sup>th</sup>-> Biology Field Trip to Tampa Bay Watch.
- April 18<sup>th</sup>-> Marine Biology Field trip to Tampa Bay Watch part 2. The students will be snorkeling Tampa Bay's reefs and taking a boat ride to collect various organisms using a trawl net.
- April 29<sup>th</sup>-> Mrs. Stahl's 8<sup>th</sup> graders will be taking a trip to St. Petersburg to attend Marine Quest, which is operated by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission. This is a great "hands-on" trip that will teach our students about all aspects of Marine Science. This is also open to the public on Saturday April 30<sup>th</sup>. It is a FREE event and sure to be a great family day! For additional information you can check out the link below:

[http://research.myfwc.com/education/view\\_article.asp?id=13801](http://research.myfwc.com/education/view_article.asp?id=13801)

- Mr. Charnell put together a wonderful estuary field trip for the entire 6<sup>th</sup> grade class where they will be integrating all subjects.
- The Marine Biology class has been working hard cultivating the Salt Marsh Cord grass plants and will probably be replanting them in Tampa Bay sometime in May. The students have really been doing a wonderful job and we are so proud of them all!



## **Guidance Updates**

- It is imperative that students are aware of graduation requirements. Please go to [www.msfta.org](http://www.msfta.org) under the guidance tab for more information. Continue to visit our website for information on all academic issues.
- FCAT testing will be March 1-3 for 8<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> graders (Writing) and April 12<sup>th</sup> through 15<sup>th</sup> (for all other testing). Make sure you get plenty of sleep and a healthy breakfast the morning of the tests!

### **Juniors and Seniors:**

- Manatee Technical Institute will be coming to MSA February 14, 2011. You must be signed up to attend.
- ASVAB (Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery) testing will be taking place February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2011. You MUST sign up for testing in the guidance office by February 18<sup>th</sup> to be eligible to take the test that day. For more information, please go to the website, [www.asvabprogram.com](http://www.asvabprogram.com).
- It is not too late to sign up for Bright Futures Scholarships. Please go to the Guidance website at [www.msfta.org](http://www.msfta.org) for more information. If you do not apply, you cannot receive this scholarship!

- Students needing money for college are always welcome to visit the guidance page for scholarships... we are continually adding dozens of grant and scholarship opportunities each month. Visit regularly, so you won't miss deadlines!
- Seniors wanting recommendation letters for colleges and post secondary school options must request it a week in advance. It is your responsibility to advise teachers, counselors, and staff of your requests in a timely manner so they can write the best recommendation letter possible for you!
- Transcript request forms are available at the front desk and are processed on a weekly basis. Please fill out the request form completely.

### **Middle School Students:**

#### Middle School Study Tip of the Month:

- Did you know that the last hour before you go to bed, your brain dreams about (and processes) what you do in those last minutes of the day? Study a while and look over tests and quizzes before you go to bed so your brain can remember it more the next day! \*This does not mean wait until the last minute... take time all thought the week to look over information you need to do well on tests and quizzes!

Need to see your guidance counselor? Come pick up a yellow form in the guidance office and complete it.

That's about it for this update. Thanks for your continued support!!

### **Upcoming Events**

#### **February**

- 12 Yes! We Can Dance Performance  
Jr. Thespians State Competition
- 17 Senior Parent Night – 6:30
- 21 No School – President's Day
- 24-26 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee Performances

#### **March**

- 1 Florida Writes (8<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> Grades)
- 7-11 Spring Break
- 14 School Resumes

#### **April**

- 12-14 FCAT Reading, Math, Science

*Please check the website for more dates and times*  
[www.msfta.org](http://www.msfta.org)