



School Update
October 15, 2010

The school year is moving along faster than any of us can imagine... we are almost at the end of the first quarter!! Report cards will be mailed out early on the week of October 25th. Make sure to check the mail, and if you don't receive your child's report card, let us know. Please read on to find out what is going on here at MSA:

- In case you didn't see it, attached is an article from the North River News which highlights Mr. Oliva, Mr. Kennedy and the Student Council for their recent highway clean up. Great job to the team, and thank you for helping make our community a better place!!
- Did you know you can receive emergency text alerts on your cell phone through our school's website? This feature is available in your user profile (when you sign up on www.msfta.org – not edline) if you put your cell phone number on the registration form. You can update your information at any time. This would be used only in the case of an emergency during the school day. It has not been used to this point, but if you are interested, it is a service that would be available to you as an option for getting more information quickly.
- Attention parents of Juniors and Seniors – Don't miss the Post Secondary Night on October 25th, held right down the street at the Manatee Convention Center. The event will be held from 6:30-8:30, and will be a great opportunity for you to meet some college admissions personnel, gather some great information and look at the options that lie ahead for you. Please see the attached flyer for more information.
- Don't forget the upcoming election day on November 2nd. As always, we encourage everyone to get out and exercise your right to vote. Important to all of us during this election is the vote on Amendment 8 – the class size amendment. Please see the attached information regarding this issue, and please let your voice be heard on election day!!
- Congratulations to Mrs. Stahl for receiving a Sea Grass grant called "Grasses in the Classes" where our Marine Biology students will be growing sea grasses to be planted in local estuaries, and to Mrs. Whiting for being awarded a grant to

grow Florida native plants. There is going to be a lot of growing going on around here this year...

- **Middle School Parents** – Don't forget the upcoming registration deadline for Payback Night on November 5th from 6-30-9:00. This is going to be a great opportunity for you to come out to the school, have a good time and a chance to gather some important information about your child's schooling, growth, and learning. Any parent interested in coming must pre-register. The deadline is October 22nd. We will have a dinner for everyone, babysitting for kids ages 4-10, a dance for middle school students and workshops for parents. To top it all off, every parent who comes in will receive 5 raffle tickets to enter into your choice of prize raffles. We have some GREAT prizes from gift certificates to gift baskets donated by local businesses. Come and check out what's going on here at MSA!! Remember – there is only a week left to register!! For more information, check out the link on our web site (www.msfta.org).
- Congratulations to our Jazz Band which was selected to perform at the opening reception at the Florida State Charter School Conference in Orlando on November 8th!! We are excited about their acceptance to perform at the conference, and are looking forward to a GREAT show. Good Luck!!

- **PUT IN SOME MSA VOLUNTEER TIME AND HELP CREATE SOMETHING WONDERFUL AT THE SAME TIME!**

HELP THE EARTH CLUB DIG UP THE AREA FOR OUR NEW BUTTERFLY WILDFLOWER GARDEN

WE ARE REMOVING GRASS FROM AN AREA 125' X 5' NEXT TO OUR POND.

PLEASE BRING A SHOVEL, GARDEN GLOVES, AND A BOTTLE OF DRINKING WATER FOR YOURSELF.

COME NEXT THURSDAY, 10/21 FROM 4:45-5:45pm AND MEET US THERE FOR AN HOUR OF FUN, CREATIVE COMMUNITY SERVICE.

(PLEASE PARK IN THE STUDENT PARKING LOT)

When you arrive, please contact Rosa Whiting or Becky Lentz to sign in and register for your community service time.

Everyone here at MSA is here to help – so if you ever need, please feel free to contact us. Thank you for all your continued support and we are excited about a great rest of the school year!!

Guidance Corner

- FCAT Retakes for 11th and 12th grade students are schedule for October 19th (reading) and 20th (math). If you are scheduled to take these exams, make sure you are at school on these days, well rested, and that you eat a GREAT breakfast. We all want you to do your best on the test!!
- For Juniors and Seniors, please note the following upcoming college visits and information:
 - College Visits:
 - October 26th – Syracuse University
 - October 28th – Florida Atlantic University (Boca Raton, FL)
 - October 23 and 29 – USF Stampede to Success (at USF)
(This is a program designed for high school Juniors and Seniors and their families to come visit the campus. There will be information sessions on academics, campus life, and other opportunities available at USF. For more information, go to www.usf.edu/stampede)
- Seniors – make sure to check out the guidance web site (www.msfta.org) and find many scholarship opportunities. The deadlines vary and some are coming up soon, so check it out TODAY. If you have any questions, see your counselor right away.
- Any student interested in attending college after high school is invited to join CollegeWeekLive Virtual College Fair, November 3-4 between 10 AM and 10 PM. The event is an on-line national and international college fair that is free to parents and students. For more information, go to www.collegeweeklive.com.

Ms. Brianne Nickelsberg
Guidance Counselor
Last names beginning A-L

Ms. Laura Swinsburg
Guidance Counselor
Last names beginning M-Z

Upcoming Events

October

- 15 No School – Teacher In-service Day
South Florida Museum “World Day” – 6:30 PM
- 21 A Night of Opera – 7:00
- 22 End of the First Quarter
Middle School Fall Fling – 6:30
- 23 High School Fall Fling – 6:30
- 25 No School – Records Day
- 26 Report Cards Mailed Home
- 27-29 Cheesecake Pickup Days

November

- 5 Payback Night – 6:30 – MS students and parents ONLY
- 8 Jazz Band Performs at State Charter School Conference
- 11 No School – Veterans Day
- 17-20 Footloose – 7PM
- 24-27 Thanksgiving Vacation – No School
- 29 Progress Reports sent home with students

Please check the website for more dates and times

www.msfta.org