



Parent Update
November 7, 2011

Thank you for all your continued support!! It takes a whole community to make an incredible learning environment. Check out what is going on at MSA:

- We are in the midst of our Cruise Raffle fundraiser. Students are selling raffle tickets for a 4 day, 3 night cruise to the Bahamas. Tickets are \$2.00 each, and students can pick up extra tickets from their A-Period teacher (first period on an A-Day). Everything must be turned into their A-Period teacher as well. There are a lot of great prizes for kids who sell tickets and we have a competition between middle school and high school students. The grade levels (MS vs. HS) that sells the most tickets will get a field day, with the main attraction being “Dunk Mr. Devine” in a dunk tank... Thank you for helping us support this important fundraiser!!
- Attention all parents who pick up your children after school: We have a highly organized and efficient student pick up procedure at MSA. It is our procedure that students are NOT picked up at alternate locations, such as local businesses or other privately owned properties, in respect of our neighbors as well as for the safety of students at dismissal time. We are requesting that all parents who pick their children up at the end of the day get into the car pick-up line at the front of the property, and do not pick your children up at alternative locations.

Remember, bussing is always an option. The school pays for every child to have a seat on the bus to and from school. This is an option available to every student each day.

- The Florida Legislature is in active session now, and one of the items they look at every year is school funding. The initial reports that are coming out of the state is that we could be looking at another reduction of funding for 2012-2013. They are talking about reducing our funding by another 5%, which potentially could be devastating to schools all around the state, but would have an especially large impact on us. With the budget cuts that were imposed this past year, we were able to survive, but the thought of additional cuts to the budget could severely impact programs and what we do at MSA.

It is with this information that we are encouraging you to become active in the political world. Please contact your state and local legislators and let them know what a quality education means to you and your children. Florida is already 49th in state funding for education, and we don't want to be 50th... Please make your voices heard, and let Tallahassee know how you feel about education in Florida.

- Congratulations to the cast and crew of Into the Woods. The show was a great success!! MSA's 2011 production of Into the Woods was the first every produced with students in the first act and adults performing the second act. The writer of the musical, Steven Sondheim, even sent one of his staff to review the show, and will publish this review in his next monthly magazine. Students and faculty performed exceptionally in this production, and we cannot wait to see how

the production faired in this review!!



- We are preparing for our 4th production of Alice's Wonderland Ballet, which will be performed on December 2nd at 7:30 and December 3rd at 2:00 and 7:00. If your child is performing in this production, please note the following important items:

There are mandatory rehearsals for the cast on the following dates:

Sunday, November 13: **Act 1 2-4 pm**
 Act 2 4-6 pm

Friday, November 18: **TBA 5:30-7:30 pm**

Sunday, November 27: **Act 1 2-4 pm**
 Act 2 4-6 pm (we open four days later)

Alice's Wonderland Ballet **Friday, December 2nd 7:30 pm**
 Saturday, December 3rd 2:00 pm and 7:00 pm

Tickets go on sale Nov 7th – All Seats are \$5.00 – Stop by the front desk for pre-sale tickets

- Auditions for our spring production of West Side Story are this Wednesday, November 9, 2011. Please sign up and pick up an audition form if you are interested in performing in this show!!
- 9th Grade Myers-Briggs Type Inventory Guidance Lessons

From November 14 through December 15, 9th grade students will be learning about the Myers-Briggs Type Inventory, a useful tool in helping students to better understand how they get information, make decisions, and learn. Just as most people are born with a preference in using their right or left hand, these guidance lessons demonstrate that people have preferences on how they take in information and make choices. The guidance lessons will assist students in recognizing their strengths and weaknesses in the classroom setting and beyond. Encourage discussion at home about what your child is learning through this valuable tool! It is useful in better understanding family members, too!

- Please make sure that you are communicating with your child, and that you know how they are doing in ALL their classes. There have been many changes to things such as graduation requirements, Bright Futures, and many other areas which have a direct impact on students and

the steps they must take to assure success in school. The most important aspect of student performance at school is your involvement. Students who have involved parents are far more likely to succeed in school and in all they do. Please know what your child is “up to” in school and beyond. Their future depends on it!!

- Please check the calendar for many upcoming events, including concerts and other performances that the students are performing in. It is a great time of year to celebrate the holidays and what the kids have learned, in both the arts classes and academics.

Upcoming Events

November

9-10 Veteran’s Day Assemblies
11 No School
18 Senior Class Meeting – 2:35
21-22 Into the Woods Performances for 5th grade students
23-25 No School – Thanksgiving Break
29 Jr/Sr Seminar- Period 1

December

2 Alice’s Wonderland – 7:30
3 Alice’s Wonderland – 2:00, 7:00
5 Band Concert – 7:00
6 Chorus Concert – 7:00
8 Orchestra Concert – 7:00
9 7th Grade EPCOT trip
Winter Wonderland Dance (HS) – 7:00
13 Jazz Band Concert – 7:00
15 Guitar Recital – 7:00
16 Senior Meeting – 2:35

For more information, check out our website at www.msfta.org