



Parent Update
April 28, 2011

From everyone at MSA, we would like to extend our thanks for your support always, but especially during this past month!! It has been a whirlwind of activities and events, and without your support, we could not have made it through the storm. Here's what is going on at MSA:

- On Friday April 15th, after a week filled with FCAT and other arduous tasks, the 6th grade team packed up their charges and took the students on a field trip to the Palmetto Estuary Park. The students arrived at school and after attendance was taken the students were divided into groups and taken with faculty and chaperones to Palmetto Estuary Preserve.

As the park is only 3/8th of a mile from the school it was decided that we would walk over. So, with the assistance of the Palmetto Police Department, we left the school and proceeded down Haben Boulevard and into the park. As we walked along, elements of the local ecosystems were pointed out. Upon arrival the students were divided into study groups and directed to one of the four study stations which had been set up. At one station the students looked for and modeled food webs. At another, students discussed and made observations of animals that make their home in our estuary. There was also a station where students explored "carrying capacity" for organisms and lastly a discussion and an opportunity for the students to observe and photograph the effects of man on the Estuary.

All of the students had an opportunity to visit all of the learning centers and, with a lovely picnic lunch thrown in, we had a busy day. At the end of the day we walked back to the school where the children were met with popsicles which made a nice ending for what had been a great day.

- For anyone interested in taking the College Placement Test, which qualifies a student for Dual Enrollment classes, please note: (*for students not signed up to go on the school field trip already*)

The testing spots for the College Placement Test are filling up rapidly and any student wishing to take Dual Enrollment in the fall must sign up through the State College of Florida ASAP!! Currently, the only slots that are available are May 21st at the Venice campus, or June 4th at either campus. This is your last opportunity to sign up to take the class before the fall term. The college does not offer CPT testing for high school students over the summer, and the fall date for testing is too late to take classes for the fall term. If you are interested in this program, CALL NOW.

- As of May 9, 2011, no charges will be permitted in the cafeteria. Please be sure to send students to school with cash or check, or make sure they have money in their account to pay for lunch.

- Tickets are now on sale for our two upcoming theatre performances:

15 Reasons Not to be in a Play – April 28 and 29 – 7:00
Into the Woods, Jr. - May 5, 6, and 7 – 7:00

Our students have been working hard on preparing these productions, so don't miss out on the opportunity to see a GREAT show (or two). Into the Woods is in the Small Theatre, and seating is limited. All tickets are \$5.00. Into the Woods is a "fairy tale musical" and is suitable for children of all ages. Tickets are available prior to the performances by contacting the front desk. Get your tickets

today!!

- MSA is being evaluated this week (Wednesday and Thursday) for the Charter School Gold Seal of Excellence Award. This award is similar to the Blue Ribbon program, and acknowledges outstanding schools. We will send an update after the evaluation is complete.
 - Elective sign ups will be continuing soon. Due to the late FCAT and other factors, we are a little behind in getting students signed up for classes for 2011-2012. We will be working hard over the next month to assure all the students get signed up for their choice of classes for next year. Please be aware, we do everything in our power to get the students their top choices for electives every year, but due to a variety of reasons, students do not always get their top choices. That is why we have students pick 7 elective choices every year. It is critical that the 7 classes that students choose are classes they want to take. Students may be placed in their lower choice classes, so it is important that these are classes they want to take for the next school year.
 - Please check the calendar to keep up with the many events that are going on at MSA for the rest of the school year. Starting this week and going to the end of the year, something is going on almost every night at the school. The performances are guaranteed to be outstanding – come out, bring your friends, and have a great time!!
 - MSA is still collecting funds for the “Raise the Reward” program, helping to raise additional funds for information that leads to the capture of whomever is responsible for the tragic death of Master Ellis. If you are able, you can send a donation in to the school (attention Kelly Hillman) or you can make a donation via PayPal from the homepage of our website!!
 - The last day of school for students is June 9, 2011.
 - High School final exams will be held on June 3, 4, 7, and 8 – More information will come home with your children. It is important to note that final exams count for 20% of a high school student's grade in a class. Please encourage your child to be prepared for these exams!!
 - We will be having a meeting for those that will be going on the London and Paris trip in December on Tuesday, May 10 at 5pm in room 101. It is very important that everyone be in attendance and that students bring a parent with them as we will be discussing those things that need to be done over the summer as well as activities on the trip. Please e-mail Mme Turner at mturner@msfta.org to let her know you will be in attendance.
 - A reminder to Mr. Bennett's 7th Grade students' parents that students need to complete their secondary drafts of their Colonial Representation Essays and that students will be doing their Choices and ePep profiles this week, so parents will be able to view them beginning next week.
 - Dance Showcases are May 18-20 – Make sure to check your specific dates and times of performances. Tickets are \$3.00 and will be available at the door. Seating is limited, so please be early!!
 - We're having the spring Scholastic Book Fair from Friday, May 13th at 1:05 (beginning of 3rd period) until Friday, May 20th at the end of 1st period.
 - HEAT try-outs will be held on Tuesday, May 3rd-4:45-6:30 followed by a parent meeting from 6:30-7:00 in the cafeteria, Wednesday, May 4th-4:45-6:30 followed by a parent meeting from 6:30-7:00 in the cafeteria, and Thursday, May 5th 4:45-7:00 (Audition day)
- All try-out dates are mandatory. Parents must be in attendance for one of the above mentioned

parent meetings. Try-outs are held in room 402. In order to audition, students need to fill out the application and the teacher recommendation form (obtain from Ms. Castner or Ms. Born) and return prior to try-outs.

From everyone at MSA, thank you for all you do for the school and for your children. Have a GREAT week!!

Upcoming Events

April

28-29 "15 Reasons Not to be in A Play" - 7:00 PM

29 Senior Grad Night

May

2 Band Concert – 7:00 PM

3 Orchestra Concert – 7:00 PM

4 Chorus Concert – 7:30 PM

5 Show Choir/Jazz Band Concert – 7:00 PM

6 Piano Recital – 7:00 PM

5-7 "Into the Woods" Jr. - 7:00 PM

7 Jr./Sr. Prom – 7:00 PM

9-10 Piano Recital – 7:00 PM

11-12 Guitar Recital – 7:00 PM

19-21 Dance Showcases – 7:00 PM

May 19 - 6th Grade Dance Showcase – 6:30
Dance Showcase – 8:00

May 19 - Dance Showcase 1 – 6:30
Dance Showcase 2 – 8:00

May 20 - Dance Showcase 1 – 1:00
Dance Showcase 2 – 3:00
Dance Showcase 3 – 5:00

Make sure to check with your dance teacher on the specific days/times of your performances

26 Senior Awards – 7:00 PM

30 No School – Memorial Day

June

1 Graduation – 7:00 PM

1-3 "Dear Edwina" Jr. - 7:00 PM

3 School-wide Barbeque

4 Etiquette Dance – 7:00 PM

9 Last Day for Students

August

22 First Day of School

For more information check out the website at www.msfta.org