

COMMUNICATOR

MORGANTON DAY SCHOOL'S MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Seasons of Education

Spring is a wonderful season at Morganton Day School. Perennial flowers spring forth from the safety of the ground that has nurtured them all winter long, students dream of summer and the adventures that await them, and there is a mixed sense of excitement and trepidation as our eighth grade students prepare for graduation.

For our ten graduates, Morganton Day School has been like the earth for our spring flowers, offering each student what they needed in order to grow and develop as learners. Just as the seasons of a plant bring about different opportunities, so have their years at MDS. Many of these students experienced the joy of life and the life cycle while hatching chicks and butterflies in Kindergarten and also experienced what it would be like walking on the moon in a gravity simulation in first grade. Second grade found the students experiencing the past as they visited Old Salem to gain a greater understanding of the present while dreaming of the future.

Continuing through the seasons of their education, these students, during their upper elementary years, experienced a nor'easter while learning about ecosystems at the beach and the ghosts of Charleston joined them as they experienced that historic city. Through the learning, students challenged themselves by going deeper into each unit of inquiry, not settling for rote knowledge but asking questions to reap all the benefits of each and every learning opportunity.

Middle School was another opportunity for our soon-to-be graduates to stretch and grow, reaching higher as they prepared for peak blooming season at MDS. No challenge too great, no opportunity left untaken. These ten incredible students competed in academic endeavors such as Science Olympiad, National Geographic GeoBee, and the Stock Market simulation to name a few. They traveled on many learning expeditions and gained incredible knowledge and proved to themselves and others that they are ready to take their knowledge, confidence, and love of learning and embark on the next season of their life, High School.

And as with any season, there was good weather and bad, but through it all, the flame of the love of learning remained ignited and glowed brightly. Please join us on Sunday, June 7 at 3:00 to celebrate the graduation of this incredible class.

With respect and pride for our graduates,

Melanie Mikusa, Head of School



Did You Know...

....the 50 tallest mountains in the world are in Asia?

....that popcorn can pop up to 3 feet into the air?

....a camel can drink 500 cups of water in ten minutes?

and that...

....the record for omelet flipping is 30 flips in 34 seconds!

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Destination 1840!

The fifth grade students went on a bold and daring journey into the past as they visited the 1840's. Their mission was to relive history by signing on as apprentices at an early settlement in the Blue Ridge Mountains of North Carolina. The students lived as Pioneers and Cherokees during the 1840's after the order of the removal of the Cherokees. They discovered how to solve conflicts in a peaceful way by rising above cultural and economic differences. Living as Cherokee, the students learned how to tend to fire, grind corn, prepare vegetables, throw tomahawks, and clean fish. Pioneer life included working with wool, caring for farm animals, making candles, cooking using Dutch ovens, and black-smithing. The students ended the trip by participating in a trade simulation with the other students, and then celebrated their success with a square dance.

When students returned to class, they had an opportunity to reflect on the events at Earthshine and their feelings about their time spent walking through the past.



Molly, Will, Zach, Lee, and Albert take time out from their pioneer life to pose for a picture (and not the tin type kind).

"[During the simulation] The first thing that happened was Red-Tail and Ms.



Using art, Eli depicts a scene common during the removal of the Cherokee nation through the Trail of Tears in the 1840's.

Mabel traded with each other. Mr. Beans and Hungry Coyote came and started a fight. That was a problem and I was already thinking how it could be solved. I was an [IB] thinker" -Will Kirk

"I am thankful for what I have. The pioneers are lucky they use metal to eat. The Cherokee have carrots and vegetables. I was trying not to waste my food. People spent time making it for you, and you just waste it. It would make me sad if somebody wasted my food. It would be sad because somebody took time out of their day to make that for you. I am not going to waste my food ever again. I am only going to take what I need." -Albert Cecchini

"I have skills! We all got two chances to throw the tomahawk. The Cherokee threw tomahawks to hunt. At certain times they fought with them, not to be silly but to protect themselves. I am a risk-taker." -Molly Fitzgerald

"Earthshine was a great experience. I learned that the Cherokee's didn't waste any food and you had to eat everything you take. They had to go hunting or find food out in the wild. We can just go to the store. I now appreciate what I have. When you have to use a carrot as a spoon, you really appreciate things like spoons." -Zach Ayotte

"I was knowledgeable [at Earthshine] by cooking dinner and using the apple press to make dessert. ... the most important thing I learned was how to be waste free. While we were there you had to eat what you got. I still want to do that at home too." -Lee Collett

The Wonders of North Carolina



Where can you go to hear the ocean breeze whisper lessons of animal adaptations and balance within ecosystems, walk the paths of lifesaving heroes, learn of the wonders of mighty Mother Nature, and see the history of our great state come to life? All of this can be found at the Outer Banks of North Carolina. So, to the Outer Banks the fourth graders of Morganton Day School ventured for a week of educational experiences. The week began with a visit to Currituck Beach Lighthouse. We were able to spend time with the lighthouse keeper as he shared stories and gave a glimpse into the hard work and dedication of his profession. This was the first of four lighthouse visits, including the famous Cape Hatteras Lighthouse. The students then spent the afternoon at the Wright Brothers Memorial. They were able to make connections about the importance of perseverance, goal-setting, risk-taking, and creative problem solving. With a visit to Festival Park, history continued to come to life as the children learned about the first attempts of English colonization and drew their own conclusions about the mystery of the Lost Colony.

Much of the trip supported our current unit of inquiry entitled, "The Delicate Balance." The central idea of this unit is how biodiversity relies on the interdependent balance within systems. The students were really able to explore this idea through a variety of experiences within several ecosystems, including the ocean, the sound, freshwater ponds, Jockey's Ridge Sand Dune, and a swamp. Hands on activities included a sound-side investigation, a squid dissection, a marsh walk, and a day at the aquarium with several experts to guide student inquiry.



Other highlights of the trip included an opportunity to talk with John Gaskill, a 93 year old source of wisdom who was the son of the last lighthouse keeper of Bodie Island Lighthouse, to attend an informational story-telling session with Blackbeard expert, Rob Temple, and take a boat tour around Ocracoke Island, including Portsmouth Island. Perhaps one of the most memorable experiences for the children was the opportunity to spend a day with the students of Ocracoke School. The children spent time sharing stories of their every day lives. It was great to hear them giggling about things they had in common and they were amazed at some of the differences. Each class contributed to a quilt representing various aspects of North Carolina. The quilt was presented to the students of Ocracoke School and will be hung in their Common Room. Through this learning expedition, these students were really able to experience and see first-hand the unique features and cultural aspects that make North Carolina such a diverse and remarkable state.



Cray, Sam, and Aiman search for signs of life during a sound-side investigation.



MDS 4th grade presents the class quilt to their sister class of Ocracoke School.



Together with students from the Ocracoke School.

From the Development



GRAND FRIEND'S DAY AT MDS

Last Wednesday, we welcomed over 30 grandparents and grand friends to campus to celebrate Grand Friend's Day and our annual Art Fair in the MDS Armory. Visitors toured the campus, visited classrooms, and participated in the Living History Timeline as moderated by Ms. Gramer and the middle school students. Mrs. Mikusa recognized each visitor at lunch and awarded special recognition to the grandparents who traveled the farthest distance, had the most grandchildren at the school, had the most years involved at the school, and grandparent volunteer of the year. The task of educating our students includes a partnership between teachers, students, parents, and extended family! We enjoyed celebrating the role of grand parents and grand friends in the education of our students. The success of our students depends on family involvement and we thank each of you for sharing that support with us!



Elizabeth Norvell with her Grandparents, Mr. & Mrs. Jerry Enos.

- *Greatest Traveling Distance:* Mr. & Mrs. G.C. Huddle, Martinsville, VA (Annie Grace Payne)
- *Mr. & Mrs. Jerry Enos: New Bern, NC (Elizabeth Norvell)*
- *Most Grandchildren:* Mr. & Mrs. Jerry Norvell & Mrs. Mary Ann Antley
- *Most Years At MDS:* Mrs. Laura Smith (Nick, Matt, & Sam Corn)
- *Volunteer of the Year:* Mrs. Annelle Mulwee (Jack Mulwee)

Auction 2009



Planning is underway for the 2009 Annual Auction, "Celebrating Learning Everyday" set for February 12 at the MDS Armory. The event will include a silent and live auction along with some fun entertainment following the live auction. Reserved seating will be limited to 275 guests! You may reserve your ticket now by sending an email to lantley@morgantondayschool.com. Ticket prices will remain the same as the past two years: \$50/single and \$100/couple. Sponsorships will be available beginning at the \$500 level. Procurement packets will be shared with families at the start of the 2009-10 school year and the procurement committee will be working on soliciting gifts beginning this summer. If you

have an item which you are planning to donate, you may make that donation now! Thank you for participating in this annual all school event. Your involvement is valued! Our goal for this auction is \$75,000! With your help, we can meet this goal and continue delivering the superior academic programs you expect at MDS.

PAC News

The 2008-09 PAC has finished another great year of service to the MDS community. Thank you Dawn Collett for chairing this committee for the year. Thank you also to the classroom parent reps who offered the much appreciated classroom support throughout the year. The 2009-10 PAC chair is Erica Schwarting. Serving with her will be Vice-Chair, Renee Wilson; Secretary, Lisa Antley; and Treasurer, Denise Pitts. Classroom parent reps for next year have been confirmed and we want to thank each of you for volunteering to serve in these important roles. Look for an announcement from Erica regarding meeting dates and times for next year! Here's to a great summer and a successful PAC program next year!

2nd Annual Art Show a Great Success

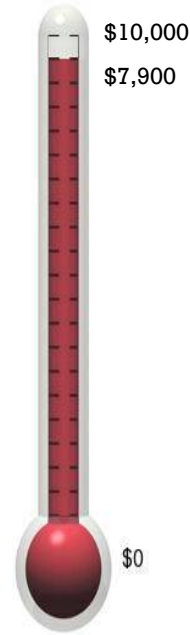
It was exciting to see all the fantastic art displayed last week at the 2nd Annual MDS Art Show. This year's show was extremely well-attended with parents, students, grandparents, and prospective families all in attendance. Participants had the opportunity to see the variety of media the students work with during their art class as well as experience some clay and water colors first hand.

This year, Mrs. Wisniewski had process boards outlining the steps students took in the creation of the specific projects. Using the boards as prompts, the students were able to act as docents to describe and discuss the work as they escorted their parents through this exciting show.

It was wonderful to see all the creativity and artistic ability of our students when given the opportunity.



Mrs. Reid enjoying some of the Middle School Art.



Destiny Campaign Challenge Gift Update: We continue to receive pledges and gifts to the Fred Copeland \$10,000 challenge. To date, we have received \$7,900 in gifts and are just \$2,100 away from meeting our \$10,000 goal. Mr. Copeland has extended the deadline to June 30. Thank you parents, grandparents, and friends for your continued support!

Meet the Graduates

As we say good bye to our 2009 MDS graduates, I would like to wish each one good luck as they move to the next season of their educational journey.

Eric Antley, Freedom High School; **Michael Brazinski**, Patton High School; **Demetri Broadbent**, Patton High School; **Thomas Chimiak**, Freedom High School; **Matt Corn**, Patton High School; **Elizabeth Fisher**, Freedom High School; **Henry Johnson**, Draughn High School; **Paul Hogan**, Hibriten High School; **Dexter Rowland**, Patton High School. We would also like to recognize two students from the 2009 social class: *Dorian Rutherford*, Asheville School and *Chris Reid*, McCallie School.

This is an important milestone for these students and their families. I invite all of the Morganton Day School community to join in celebrating their accomplishments. See you Sunday, June 7, 3:00.

Welcome New Board Members

Looking forward to the 2009-2010 school year, the Board of Trustees is pleased to announce the appointment of three new Board members who will begin their term on May 30. Each board member agrees to serve the school for a three year term. Thank you to *Allen VanNoppen*, President of VanNoppen Marketing, *Candace Payne*, President and Owner of Shenandoah Furniture Inc., and *Lisa Buff*, partner in Miller, Buff, and Smith CPA firm. We are confident they will support the school on its quest to offer superior education for our students.



Lisa Buff



Candace Payne



Allen VanNoppen

June Birthdays

- 1 Matt Corn
- 3 Jordan Harshaw
- 12 Jonatan Batz
- 13 Sam Gramer
- 15 Sana Mohiuddin
- 22 James Collett
- 24 James Antley
- 25 Mrs. Wisniewski

July Birthdays

- 2 Mrs. Carpenter
- 13 Novena Persico
- 15 Connor Brazinski
- 17 Jack Mulwee
- 24 Douglas Coley
- 28 Luke Brazinski
- 29 Mrs. Mikusa

