

# COMMUNICATOR

## MORGANTON DAY SCHOOL'S MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

### MDS is the Place for Education

With enrollment season in full swing, I find myself giving many tours through the school. As we walk through the school, visitors comment on the joyful sounds of learning taking place in classrooms and hallways. But last week, there was an eerie silence throughout the school. Where were the students, where was the learning? Believe it or not, they were right where they needed to be, out in the community connecting with the subjects they were learning. What a better place to learn about our state's legislature than in the state capital with our own district representative, or where better to write nature poetry than outside under the shade of a blossoming tree while feeling the cool breeze of a fresh spring day?

Teachers and students alike realize that learning is not confined to classrooms and that hands-on real world learning experiences help increase inquiry and anchor learning for students. Walking in the stream while doing a stream study or climbing a large granite rock as part of a rocks and minerals unit of inquiry is the ultimate multi-sensory education. Students are able to investigate, research, and experience topics using all their senses in real time and in the real world. This type of learning is not only fun and engaging for students, it also produces results. In a recent study by the authors of *Closing the Achievement Gap*, Liberman and Hoody report that utilizing the environment results in wide-ranging, positive effects on student learning. They found improvement in achievement in social studies, science, language arts and math.

Equally important to test scores and achievement is the love of learning that is fostered by these types of learning experiences. Morganton Day provides these types of opportunities for our students regularly throughout the programme of inquiry and students respond well as evidenced by students' reflection journals, portfolio selections, and achievement test scores.

These valuable learning opportunities for your child are important to keep in mind as you make the important re-enrollment decision to Morganton Day School.

Stay a part of the community, re-enrollment is in process.

*Melanie Mikusa, Head of School*



Placed-Based instruction places the students in the environment they are learning about.



#### Did You Know...

-a dog's nose print is as unique as a human fingerprint?

-George Washington had a Dalmation named Sweet-lips?

-a miniature schnauzer-poodle mix is called a schnoodle?

and finally.....

-the Basenji, a dog from Africa, yodels instead of barks?

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## MDS Rolling Through Raleigh

The fourth grade class recently ventured to Raleigh, NC as part of their study of government. The students were able to see our government in action as they visited the State Capitol and the Legislative Building. They were formally introduced during a House session as a guest of Representative Hugh Blackwell. After the session, the students were invited down on the chamber floor for a personal tour. Representative Blackwell spent time with the children answering questions and helping them to understand how our state government works. They gained insight about how they can be involved as children and how they may later become influential adult citizens.

In addition to learning about our government, the trip included aspects of their ecosystems unit through a visit to the North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences and a hands-on program. The children also plunged under the sea in an I-Max movie featuring the ocean ecosystem. The unit began to take shape with student explorations and inquiries. Both the science and history museums were great learning tools to support their overall study of North Carolina. Finally, the students visited Historic Oakview County Park to explore the history and significance of farming in the Piedmont.

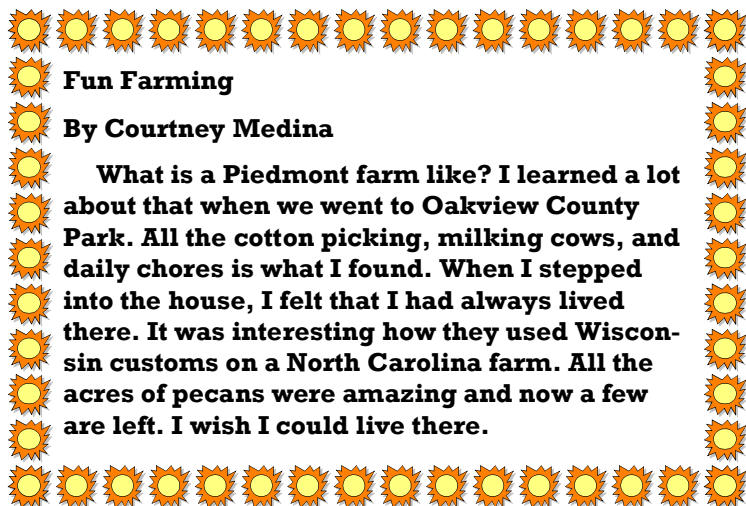
The journey to Raleigh was educational and fun-filled. It was full of opportunities for the students to become more knowledgeable, use thinking skills, inquire, and excel. The children were able to take time to absorb the information and apply it to their daily lives. Of course, when asked about their expedition, the children just might mention a game of laser tag, too!



The 4th grade students were very excited to have the opportunity to personally meet Representative Blackwell.



Hannah had the opportunity to experience picking cotton during the visit to Historic Oak County Park.


**Fun Farming**  
**By Courtney Medina**  
**What is a Piedmont farm like? I learned a lot about that when we went to Oakview County Park. All the cotton picking, milking cows, and daily chores is what I found. When I stepped into the house, I felt that I had always lived there. It was interesting how they used Wisconsin customs on a North Carolina farm. All the acres of pecans were amazing and now a few are left. I wish I could live there.**

Reflection is always part of any learning expedition. Students created mini-newspapers with their reflections.

## From the Development Desk

By Lisa Antley

### Destiny Campaign Fast Facts:

- Campaign Closes March 31. Pledge balances due please.
- \$190,000 total gifts
- \$10,000 Challenge Gift from Mr. Fred Copeland will help us hit the \$200,000 level!
- 88 total Gifts

On behalf of the Destiny Capital Campaign Committee and the Board of Trustees, I want to thank each of you for your assistance. Throughout every step of this campaign, we appreciated your support and have been renewed by your commitment to the school and encouraged to provide the excellent academic programs you expect at MDS.

**The Edible Books** contest is just 2 weeks away and we hope that you are planning to participate in this fun activity. Remember that all parts of your creation need to be edible as you pay tribute to a literary piece of work! Registration forms are available in the office or by emailing a request to [lantley@morgantondayschool.com](mailto:lantley@morgantondayschool.com). Join the fun and vote for the Most Edible Looking, Best in Middle School, Best Binding, Best in Elementary, Most Beautiful, and Most Amusing. Need some ideas, email me for pictures from last year's events. Here's to a yummy April Fool's Day!



Hold onto your procurement forms! We're moving the auction to February 12, 2010 and moving our Annual Fund Campaign to the fall. We believe this calendar change will allow for a smoother start to the academic year, allow for a more enjoyable Feast event, and facilitate new parents' transition to the Morganton Day School community. Save the date and plan to join us for the "Have A Heart" for Morganton Day. We are looking for a new Chair so if you are interested in chairing this event, please contact the Development Office.

The **April PAC** meeting is set for April 1<sup>st</sup>, no kidding! We want you to attend so that we may plan the 2009-10 Parent Action Council events with your input. We would like to identify next year's parent reps and choose PAC leadership (Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer) for next year. This volunteer group offers important support to the community building activities at the school and lends assistance to the faculty as we merge academic and social activities for the entire MDS community. Description of PAC volunteer activities can be found on our web site or by emailing your question to [lantley@morgantondayschool.com](mailto:lantley@morgantondayschool.com).

**Giving Without Paying:** Hey Target shoppers, we want to thank you for your recent gift of \$95.73. Proceeds from this program are mailed out quarterly. This quarter, the school purchased those pricey ink cartridges with the cash we received from Target. Did you know that we buy at least 4 new ink cartridges a month! This was a big help! If you have a Target credit but don't have it linked to the school, visit the Target web site. Our school is already registered with them and all you need to do is link your card! THANK YOU!

**Art Show & Grandparent's Day** Our third Annual Art Show will be held in conjunction with Grandparents' and Grandfriends' Day. Now that we have the Armory, we can set up our Art Show and keep it open longer for our visitors. This year, we'll hold these events on the same day, May 13. Grandparent's and Grandfriends' Day will be held in the morning from 8:30 AM to Noon. The Armory will be open for tours in the morning. On the evening of May 13, the Art Gallery will reopen as our student docents provide tours to our families from 5:45 – 7:15 PM. Light refreshments will be served that evening. If you are new to the school, Grandparent's/Grandfriends' Day is a morning set aside for our students to invite their grandparents to the school. Visitors are welcome to attend a class, tour the campus, enjoy lunch with their grandchild, and visit the Art show. Grandparents will also have the opportunity to participate in a Living History Timeline coordinated by the Middle School Social Studies Department. The timeline will begin at 10 AM and last for approximately 30 minutes. If your grandparent is not available but you have a "grandfriend" in the community, please feel free to invite them to the school on May 13. Postcard invitations will be mailed in early April. Please make sure the Development Office has these "grand" addresses. Thanks!



7th grade Face Jugs to be displayed at the Art Show.

