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Welcome Back, Mrs. Mikusa!

Head of School

I guess you *can* come home again. Morganton Day School has always held a very special place in my heart. It is a school where students love learning, staff love teaching, and parents support education both in the school and at home. So you can imagine my joy at the thought of returning to this very special place. I began my first year as Head of School with all the excitement of a new Kinder.

New beginnings are wonderful because everything that lies ahead is yet to be experienced. Learning around every corner and opportunities to grow professionally are available everyday. Little did I know the challenges that MDS would face this year. Like our country, MDS experi-

enced a financial crisis with the potential to end all that the founders, families, staff, and students have worked so hard to create and achieve over the past 30 years. Well, in true MDS form and in keeping with Friedrich



Melanie Mikusa
7th Head of School

Nietzsche's famous quote, "What does not destroy me, makes me strong", the Board,

parents, staff, and friends of the school embarked on the Destiny Campaign. The results of this magnificent drive have been tremendous. In addition to raising needed dollars, there is a renewed sense of commitment and connection to our school. The Board continues to be committed to creating a clear financial vision for the future ensuring that Morganton Day School will continue to offer superior education for years to come.

Morganton Day School is a strong learning community that has been made stronger through adversity. I am proud to be part of this special community and I look forward to many more years of calling MDS home.

MDS Celebrates Founders' Day

On October 16, families, students, past families, alumni, and friends of the school gathered to celebrate our First Annual Founders' Day as we concluded our year long 30th Anniversary celebration. Dr. Richard Rankin of Gaston Day School gave the keynote address, "The Value of an Independent School Education". Fol-

lowing the event, Joyce Ferguson and her husband, Ansley Brown, donated \$500 worth of new books to our library! Attendees enjoyed the evening and renewed their commitment to Morganton Day!



Founders: John Branstrom, Dr. Kevin Kilbride, Dr. Azmi Jarrah, Dr. Ita Kilbride, Dr. Rudy Medina, Board Chair, Joyce Ferguson, and Mrs. Mikusa, Head of School

Destiny Campaign 2008-09



Mrs. Johnson, Kinder teacher, with her daughter, Emma, during a Colonial Christmas Celebration

As many of you may now know, the school faced a large budget deficit for the current fiscal year. A capital campaign was necessary to meet our expenses for this year. On October 25, the Board of Trustees launched the Destiny Campaign with a goal of raising \$350,000. To date, we have raised \$208,000 in gifts and salary concessions. Mr. Fred Copeland, grandparent and Legacy Parent, made a \$10,000 challenge pledge and will match dollar for dollar up to \$10,000 received through April 15. The

campaign officially concluded March 31, but we are still accepting gifts to this campaign.

We are happy to report that we received 100% participation by parents, faculty, and the Board of Trustees. An anonymous gift of \$20,000 was received in January from a donor-advised fund at the Burke Community Foundation, and lead gifts have been received from four current families, two grandparents, and alumni, Kylie Edwards Harris.

Going forward, the finance committee, led by Kurt Reid and Mrs. Mikusa, has produced a balanced budget for 2009-10. This was made possible by cutting our current budget by 31%. Each look backward and outward during our 30th anniversary year intensified our determination to meet our current and future challenges while still providing the superior programs expected at MDS. Thanks for your support!

Highlights of the School Year

Life at Morganton Day is a dynamic one, filled with superior academics, meaningful service projects, and leadership training opportunities. This past year, a Student Government Association (SGA) was created and led by Ms. Gramer, Middle School Social Studies instructor. The SGA coordinated a winter service project, created a "mock voting" program for all students, and sponsored two dances for

the students. Also new this year was the school's participation in the National Geographic Geography Bee. Students in grades 4—8 competed for the school's winner. Evan Wisniewski, 6th Grader, won the contest and moved on to the state competition. Our school also participated in the Young Authors Competition earning four state winners (see article on page 5). The entire Middle School participated in the Science Olympiad

and came home with 3 first place and 4 second place awards. In April, our 5th grade students delivered their IB PYP Exhibition to the MDS community. This year the class wrote a unit of inquiry on communication through technology. Lastly, our Middle School students are participating in the National Stock Market Simulation contests. Several team members are ranked in the top 10% in North Carolina. Congratulations to all!

IB PYP Program Review

Beginning this fall, the faculty led by Susan Searcy, IB Coordinator, will begin the process of preparing for an evaluation visit by the IB organization. Morganton Day's initial authorization

was approved in July 2007 for 3 years. As 2009-10 approaches, the faculty will conduct a 6-12 month self-study for the second review which will approve our program for 5 years. Faculty must demonstrate that the units of inquiry follow the IBO guidelines and show that implementation is

consistent with the teaching methodology set forth by the International Baccalaureate Organization.

Morganton Day School is one of only 12 PYP programs in North Carolina and one of only two in western North Carolina.

**Invest in
teachers,
they will
do the
rest**

Carlos Batz and Sam Gramer enjoying an IB Unit





Alumni Updates

Jacob Moir, Class of 2009, gives Mr. Clough a hug good bye

ture major. **Sarah Griffin, '05**, a senior at East Burke High was named a Park Scholar nominee and is planning to attend NC State this fall where she plans to major in Biological Sciences with a concentration in Human Biology in preparation for Pharmacy school.

McKenzie Mull, '05, will graduate from East Burke High School and will attend UNC-Wilmington this fall.

Dorothy Smith, '05 will graduate from Freedom High School and will study literature at Mount Holyoke where she also received the Leadership Scholarship valued at \$15,000 per year. Dorothy returned to MDS to participate in the 2009 MDS Middle School Open House panel discussion.

Miller Stephanides, '05, will graduate from The Asheville High School and will attend the College of Charleston this fall. She plans to study business, languages, and possibly medicine.

Marcus Stephanides, social class '08, is currently a 9th grader at Christ School, Asheville. He con-

tinues to love rock climbing and mountain biking. He finished 10th in the high school snowboarding finals this past winter.

Tal Stephanides, social class of '10, is currently a 7th grader at Carolina Day School. He continues to play soccer and the drums! He will be attending Christ School next fall.

Molly Bumgarner, '05, will graduate from Freedom High with her CNA degree and will continue her studies for RN upon graduation.

Tom Randolph, '06, junior at Patton HS, will attend the Governor's School in English this summer. Congratulations Tom! He will travel to Chile as an AFS student from July-January.

Elle Fulenwider, '05, will graduate from St. Mary's High School, Raleigh. This April, she will complete her senior internship at the Diplomat Magazine in London. She was nominated for the Beacon Club, the highest academic award at the school. She has been accepted to several colleges: Auburn, OI' Miss, University of Alabama, and NC State. At press time, she has not decided which school to attend.

Adam Carey, social class '07, is

2009 High Schools:

- Freedom High School
- McCallie School
- Patton High School
- Draughn High School

2009 Colleges

- NC State University
- UNC-Wilmington
- Mt. Holyoke College
- College of Charleston
- Western Piedmont

currently a sophomore at Patton High School. He has been accepted to the NC School of Math and Science and will enroll this fall, 2009. Congratulations, Adam!

Ivey Griffin, '08, is a 9th grader at Draughn High School where he is active on the swim team, track team, and in the Spanish and Interact Club. He is also on the Valdese Youth Town Council.

First Summer Camp a Success

Last summer, over 50 students attended the inaugural summer camp at MDS, the *Young Explorers Academy*. Classes in visual arts, science, imaginative play, reading, skateboarding, and cooking were offered to students. Ms. Britta Gramer, Morganton Day School social studies teacher, directed the camp and reported that the success of the camp was due in part to our

current teachers who came back to teach during the summer week long camp. Plans for this summer are underway. The 2009 YEA will be held June 15-19 and will feature the popular Scienstational classes along with additional course offerings for the preschool age. For more information about the camp and registration materials, visit our website at www.morgantondayschool.com.



YEA students participating in a cooking class and a pottery class during the 2008 MDS summer camp.



YEA

8th Grade Attends the Inauguration



MDS Class of 2009 at the Washington, DC Newseum.

The MDS Class of 2009 traveled to Washington, DC for the historic inauguration of Barack Obama. Eight MDS students, one alumna, and Mrs. Gramer's daughter, attended the event along with five chaperones. The group chartered a small van and was led by an experienced DC tour guide. Students attended the opening concert at the Lincoln Memorial and toured historic sites including the Newseum, the Smithsonian's Air and Space Museum, the Lincoln Memorial, the Korean Memorial, the Vietnam Wall, and Mount

Vernon. The journey to the inauguration began at 4:30 AM on January 18. Just as you observed on television or read about the event in the papers, the crowds were in the millions! Despite the cold temperatures and the numbers of attendees, the students and chaperones were thrilled to be on the Mall to witness the swearing in of our 44th President. A chance to tour historic sites, navigate the city, and be a part of history will never be forgotten.



"The world is a book and those who do not travel, read only one page"
- St. Augustine

6th and 7th Grades Visit Space Academy

Last fall, the 6th and 7th graders attended a week long camp at the Space Academy in Huntsville, AL. During the week, the students participated in a variety of team building exercises as they learned the science behind missions, studied the planets, and learned what it takes to be a pilot and astronaut. The week long adventure also allowed students to get up close and

personal with an F-14, F-16 and more as they learned about the principles of flight. Student teams also competed against each other as they completed a mission. Our students were awarded "Most Outstanding Team" during the Academy beating 10 other schools. MDS will take the next group of 6th & 7th graders to Space Academy in 2010!



4th Grade Visits NC Capitol



As part of their IB Unit of Inquiry, *We the People*, the 4th graders traveled to Raleigh and visited the Capitol building, toured several museums including the Natural History and Science Museums, and visited Oak Brook

Farm. Students attended a Legislative session and met with our state House representative, the Honorable Hugh Blackwell. Mr. Blackwell met with the students following the session and shared with them how bills are introduced to the Legislature and passed into laws. While touring Oak

Brook Farm, students learned about the early farmer's way of life in the Piedmont during the 17th & 18th centuries.



MDS 2006-2011 Strategic Plan Update



Hannah Seagle, '13 and Elizabeth Norvell, '13 at Oak Brook Farm, Raleigh

- Completed comprehensive Language Arts curriculum scope and sequence
- Offered three levels of Spanish for Middle School
- Established student government at Middle School level with inclusion of upper elementary students
- Increased technology opportunities through the addition of new hardware
- Expanded press coverage
- Hosted 1st annual Founder's Day
- Participated in community literacy event for young children
- Hosted MDS Meet and Greets in Lenoir
- Completed Destiny Campaign and raised \$208,000
- Applied for seven grants to support programming, enhance curriculum, and aid facilities
- Three new members join the Board of Trustees

"Education is not the filling of a pail, but the lighting of a fire"

~ William Butler
Yates

Student Outcomes

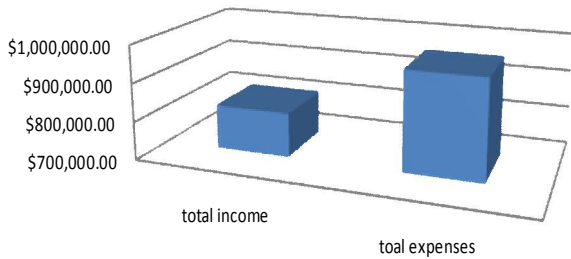
- 100% of K-8 students participate in community service projects
- 100% of 8th grade students passed the NC Computer Competency test
- 100% of the 8th grade students who took the NC End of Course Algebra test passed the exam.
- K-5 Students completed six Units of Inquiry
- Each year, students in Grades K-8 make a commitment to demonstrate the attributes of the IB Learner Profile: *inquirer, thinker, communicator, knowledgeable, risk-taker, principled, caring, open-minded, balanced, reflective*
- TERRA NOVA CAT ACHIEVEMENT TEST. The following results reflect the performance of students in grades 3—8. This test compares students from across the US who attend public and/or independent schools. Morganton Day School student scores, when averaged together, were **ABOVE AVERAGE** in each of the areas tested by the exam: *Reading, Language, Math, Science & Spelling!* Congratulations students and faculty!
- This past year, MDS administered the ERB WRITING test, a nationally normed test, to all students in grades 3—8. The norms on this test compare our students to other students who attend independent schools in the U.S. Previously, MDS administered the NC Writing Test to 4th & 7th grade students. We are pleased to announce, that when averaged together, our students scored at or above average on this exam!



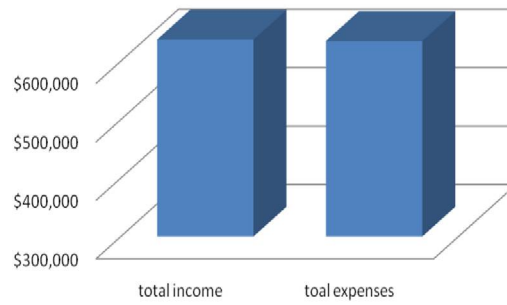
Demetri Broadbent, '09, Visual Arts Class

MDS Financial Snapshot

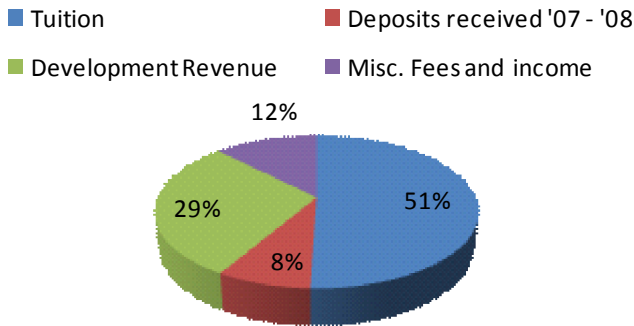
2008-2009 Income vs Expenses



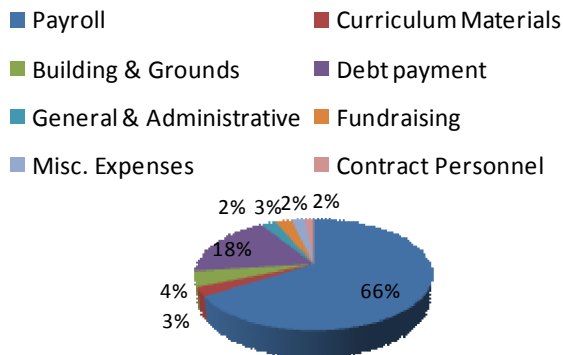
2009-2010 Proforma Budget



Income Sources for 2008-2009



Expenditures for 2008-2009



Financial reports prepared by MDS Finance Committee & Mrs. Mikusa - presented at the 2009 Annual School Meeting January 2009.

ANNUAL FUND & DESTINY CAMPAIGN HONOR ROLL

Current Parents

Dr. & Mrs. R. Mills Antley
 Mr. & Mrs. Mike Ayotte
 Dr. & Mrs. Mark Brazinski
 Mr. & Mrs. Kyle Broadbent
 Mr. & Mrs. Mark Buff
 Mr. & Mrs. Greg Carpenter
 Dr. & Mrs. Albert Cecchini
 Dr. & Mrs. James Chimiak
 Mr. & Mrs. Scott Coley
 Mr. & Mrs. Robert Collett
 Mr. Rountree & Dr. Ellen Collett
 Mr. & Mrs. Ken Corn
 Dr. & Mrs. John Dembski
 Mr. & Mrs. Buddy Fisher
 Ms. Kate Filemyr
 Mr. & Mrs. Mark Harshaw
 Ms. Dorothea Johnson
 Mr. & Mrs. Eric Gramer
 Ms. Tabitha Gwynn
 Dr. & Mrs. Dia Hussein
 Mr. & Mrs. Tim Johnson
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 Ms. Kristin Milligan
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 Ms. Libby Norvell
 Mr. Brad Norvell
 Mr. & Mrs. Phil Payne
 Dr. & Mrs. Jason Potocki
 Mr. & Mrs. Kurt Reid
 Mr. & Mrs. Casey Rogers

Ms. Susan Rowe
 Ms. Erica Schwarting
 Mr. & Mrs. Peter Schlosser
 Mr. & Mrs. Don Sheets
 Dr. & Mrs. Roger Seagle
 Mr. & Mrs. Mark Wilson
 Mr. & Mrs. Gary Wisniewski

Past Parents

Mr. Dave Barnard & Dr. Patti Kirchoff
 Ms. Martha Bumgarner
 Mr. Steve Coates
 Mr. & Mrs. Sterling Collett
 Mr. & Mrs. Cam McNeely
 Mr. & Mrs. James Hogan (Janice)
 Drs. Azmi & Maha Jarrah
 Dr. & Mrs. Luther Clontz
 Drs. Kevin & Ita Kilbride
 Mr. & Mrs. Michael Martin
 Ms. Angie Buchanan-Offe
 Mr. & Mrs. David Stimmel
 Mr. & Mrs. Doc Teele
 Mr. & Mrs. Earl Searcy
 Mr. & Mrs. Bill Swain
 Dr. & Mrs. S. Keith Smith
 Ms. Lisa Loveday & Mr. Skip Sickler
 Mr. & Mrs. Ed Mikusa
 Mr. & Mrs. Ben Succop
Grandparents
 Dr. & Mrs. Ray Antley
 Mr. & Mrs. Gray Carswell
 Dr. & Mrs. C.F. Calhoun
 Mr. & Mrs. Charles Chupick

Mr. Fred Copeland
 Mr. & Mrs. Charles Helms
 Mr. & Mrs. Marcus Davies
 Mr. & Mrs. Gerald Enos
 Mr. & Mrs. Murrell Johnson
 Ms. Judith Marsh
 Mr. & Mrs. Ron Mulwee
 Mr. & Mrs. Andy Pitts
 Mr. & Mrs. Bill Reid
 Ms. Laura Smith
 Mr. & Mrs. Douglas Pigford

Alumni

Ms. Kay Moses Ferris
 Mr. & Mrs. Clint Harris (Kylie)
 Ms. Flannery Mikusa
 Mr. Robert Beaumont & Dr. Rima Jarrah
 Ms. Mary McNeely
 Dr. Katherine Patton

Faculty:

Ms. Mindy Milliron
 Mr. Brad Kendall

Friends

The Portrait Shoppe
 Community Foundation of Burke County, Inc
 Mr. & Mrs. Sam Avery
 Mr. & Mrs. Harper Thayer
 The Ruth Harbison Carr Foundation
 Mr. & Mrs. James Hogan (Marie)

Help Us Live the Dream— Support MDS

Because of the new sliding scale tuition policy, MDS raises less of its annual operating expenses from tuition income. Historically, contributions from parents, alumni, trustees, grandparents, parents of alumni, and other friends and supporters have helped to subsidize the school's operating budget and to provide the critical support necessary to sustain the superior educational programs. Help us continue to live the dream by supporting the future of MDS in any way you can. The following suggestions are ways you can support Morganton Day!

GIVE TO THE ANNUAL FUND

ATTEND THE ANNUAL AUCTION

MAKE AN ENDOWMENT GIFT

Ways of Giving:

- Cash
- Bequests
- Planned (estate) gifts
- Stocks

GIFTS IN KIND

Every year MDS is the recipient of a



**“Intelligence plus character—that is the true goal of education.”
 Martin Luther King, Jr.**

wide range of gifts in kind from members of the MDS community. We want to take this opportunity to thank and acknowledge all of the donors who made such a gift for your support and thoughtfulness.

HONORARIUM

This year, faculty and staff were the recipients of more than \$500 in honorariums which were directed to the Destiny Campaign. Thank you for making a difference in the lives of our students and faculty!



Young Authors Winners

Writing stories and becoming published authors is a dream for many young writers, but the dream has come true for four Morganton Day School students. Recently, Emily Fisher, Sana Mohiuddin, Becca White, and Toddy Collett received word from the Blue Ridge Reading Council that their county level submission won the state competition. Students from across the state submitted essays, poems, and original prose in this year's Young Authors writing competition. The theme of "Bridges" allowed for creativity as students wrote about bridges in friendships, travels, and self-reflection. As a state winner, each

student will be published in the *Young Authors* magazine and will be honored at a reception in Raleigh in May. This is the second consecutive year that MDS students have won county and state awards.



Becca White, '10, Emily Fisher, '10 and Sana Mohiuddin, '11. Not pictured: Toddy Collett, '11

We're on the Web:
www.morgantondayschool.com



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EXPLORE.ACQUIRE.EXCEL.

If your son or daughter receives the Outlook at your address and is no longer living at home or is in college, please let us know of his or her new address so that we may update our records. You may drop us an email at mail@morgantondayschool.com.