
Montessori Monitor



Spring 2003

Grow Up at MMS

Florida Council of Independent School's and the Florida Kindergarten Council's Re-evaluation of our School

by Christina J. Miller

I want to share with you the results of our five-year accreditation review through the Florida Council of Independent Schools (FCIS). The FCIS accreditation team consisted of six representatives from other private independent schools in Florida. Of the six, two were Heads of Montessori schools. The team arrived on the evening of Wednesday, March 12th, and stayed until the afternoon of Friday, March 14th. Every aspect of our school's operation was reviewed including our written self-study in which the lead and subject-area teachers participated as well as the administrative team. We plan to use aspects and sections of the self-study document when we update our Parent Handbook. The self-study process and peer review provides MMS with the professional growth that continues to ensure a quality program for your children.

Our Montessori curriculum received commendations across the board. Your children were complimented on their behavior, manners, and love of learning. They were eager to talk to the accreditation team and were proud to show their work. The FCIS team was also impressed with the enthusiasm that our teachers demonstrated when working with your children.

One specific area of commendation was our Phono-Graphix reading program. In the lower elementary grades, Phono-Graphix yearly one-on-one assessment is followed by precise phonetic instruction in ability-level groups and a rich literature-based program in our upper elementary grades. We will have Elaine Manion, our reading therapist, provides in-service training for our early childhood teachers so that all of our early readers will benefit from this outstanding program as well.

Our abundant Montessori hands-on materials and instructional aids were noteworthy along with how our upper elementary and middle school students' transition from the materials to abstract learning. Of course the entire team raved about the grounds and the emphasis we place on issues of safety. They were especially impressed by our Safety Patrol!

The FCIS team recommended that we upgrade some of our equipment on the early childhood playground. These upgrades have been completed. They also suggested we think about installing an intercom/radio for communication between the three buildings.

Florida Council of Independent School's and the Florida Kindergarten Council's Re-evaluation of our School, cont.

James McGhee II, Head of the Alexander Montessori School in Miami, Florida, recommended that our long-range plan accommodate as many of our committed, long-term families as possible. This will create a broader base of lower elementary students which, in turn, will ensure that our upper elementary and middle school program has a larger group of returning Montessori students. To achieve this, we have selected a class arrangement model that we used for many years. This model consists of one first/second grade combination class, one second/third combination class, one fourth/fifth/sixth combined (the traditional Montessori model for upper elementary) and one seventh/eighth middle school class. For the 2003-04 school year, the first/second grade class will be predominantly first grade. This will enable the numbers in the second grade to expand in 2004-05, allowing for our upper elementary and middle school program to maintain a healthy number of returning Montessori students.

The basic and unique elements of a Montessori education will continue in all of our classes at MMS. These elements are: the developmental framework, multi-ability cooperative learning and peer teaching, flexible pacing, visual aids and hands-on learning, and individualized instruction.

I am available to answer any questions you may have regarding the FCIS review. Please feel free to contact the school to make an appointment with me if you would like to discuss the FCIS commendations and recommendations and the subsequent actions we have taken.

Class Notes!

Ms. Crystal Sorrow's Class (Ages 2, 3, & 4)

As the year draws to a close, we have had several exciting units and terrific events in class. The month of March consisted of our gardening and flower unit. One of our wonderfully supportive parents, Brian Owens, plowed our garden area for us and ridded it of grass and weeds. The children thoroughly enjoyed every minute of planting the flowers they picked out with their parents. Name stakes helped children continue to identify and locate their individual flowers after planting. Flowers from the garden were used in an abundance of works and art projects in the classroom including fresh flower arranging and flower smashing. The garden, despite an abundance of rain, and a spring break interruption, did very well. We also set our class pets, earthworms, free to be our natural helpers in the garden. Much time was spent discussing garden "friends" and pests.

In the month of April our unit study was the Rainforest, with a concentration on animals in the rainforest. The children's art projects during April were stellar. The children are very attracted to unit studies incorporating animals, and the rainforest animals are so unique and inviting that the children were mesmerized by all information, examples, and work presented in April. By the end of the month, each child was able to name a majority of the animals we had discussed and place them in the correct strata of the rainforest. Also represented in the class in April were Easter works. We had a marvelous egg hunt in April to celebrate. The children cleared our playground of stuffed eggs in 3 minutes flat! Now there is a practical life skill. Our Parent Appreciation Picnic in April was well-attended and we loved having the class parents visit for lunch.

Class Notes!

Ms. Crystal Sorrow's Class (Ages 2, 3, & 4), Cont.

In May, we have begun discussing artists, art mediums, and various types of art. The children are choosing rubbing plates of "American Gothic" and the "Mona Lisa", are examining folding cubes of impressionist paintings, and are exploring many color mixing and transferring works in accordance with this unit. We will also enjoy Spirit Week in May with an abundance of fun dress-up days culminating in Splash Day. What a stupendous way to round out the year!

Many of our students will be beginning new classes at MMS in the fall. As teachers, we look forward to hearing about their new adventures and explorations into learning. We wish everyone who has attended our class this year all the best.

Class Notes!

Ms. Jackie Johnson's Class (Ages 3, 4, & 5)

In March, our class studied nutrition. The children learned to categorize food into food groups, learned the function of different food types for promoting healthy bodies, and learned the importance of eating a variety of foods both within and across food groups. Learning these concepts and following them can be separate matters for the oft finicky 3-5 year old, so to stretch their palates, we introduced them to a lot of different healthful foods throughout the month. For the protein group, the children ate tofu and a variety of nuts. For the fruit and vegetable group, they ate dried apricots, pineapple and bananas, and raw zucchini dipped in ranch dressing, and for the grain group with a whole grain focus, they tried Triscuit crackers and whole wheat macaroni noodles. Over the month, they also prepared and ate tuna fish on whole wheat crackers, vegetable ("stone") soup, shake-a-salad, and yogurt fruit shakes. The food sampling throughout the month was a big hit; on virtually everything, the children eagerly requested second helpings. In addition to nutrition, we also talked about other healthful habits, such as getting a full night's sleep, exercising, washing our hands, and brushing our teeth.

In April, we had a delightful month studying birds. We began this unit by studying the properties and parts of birds—what all birds have in common. In the next week, we studied how bird species vary from each other, focusing specifically on the adaptations of bird feet and beaks. The specificity of beaks was demonstrated with various tools and food types; some tools were better at extracting some food types than others. For example, an eyedropper proved to be useful at extracting water out of a test tube (similar to nectar in a flower), whereas tweezers proved to be useful at picking off (plastic) insects from a log. The third week of this unit, we began studying nests, eggs, and chick development. The children were introduced to many different types of nests that birds build. They also made nests of their own, both edible and non-edible. The children developed a new appreciation for nest building after they tried their own hands at it. The children were introduced to the terms altricial and precocial during their lessons on bird development. They marveled at how homely and slow to develop the owl chick is compared to the duckling. We continued our unit on birds the first two weeks of May so as to include birds of prey. We enjoyed guest speaker, Tina Brannan, who brought in live owls and hawks for the children to see.

We have had a great time studying birds. For me, the most fun has been to go on bird watching expeditions in the afternoon with small groups of children. They have made some remarkable observations. These expeditions have really brought out the natural scientist in them. As we hoped, this unit at a more general level encouraged the children to observe, appreciate and inquire more about our natural environment.

Class Notes!

Ms. Jackie Johnson's Class (Ages 3, 4, & 5), Cont.

We had many art, cooking and craft projects throughout March and April, too many to list in this short space. The projects for the most part were related to food (e.g., still life paintings), a story that we read (e.g., Eric Carle's books provided a lot of inspiration for some painting-collages that we did), Easter (e.g., "basket" weaving and egg paper mosaics), and birds (e.g., bird mobiles and feather collages). We have also done some very intricate beading for our mother's for Mother's Day.

The year has gone by too fast. It has been a special pleasure watching, and taking part, in the children's growth. We wish everyone a happy and safe summer, and look forward to seeing most of you next year at MMS.

We would like to give special thanks to Ms. Patricia Kemp and Dr. Helen Ross for doing food preparation with the children every Wednesday, Ms. Stephanie Spence for her help on any and all afternoon projects once a week for the year, and Ms. Seung Hee Koh for her help with afternoon art. Many, many other parents helped with projects throughout the year: project preparation, cutting laminate, giving presentations, bringing food for our weekly food prep, and donating books and other items to the classroom—we thank-you so much for your support and generosity.

Class Notes!

Ms. Kris McCord's Class (Ages 3, 4, & 5)

It's amazing how fast the good times fly by! Our class has become a close working team of learners, explorers and friends! Older children have been so good at helping their younger classmates with everything from tying shoes to learning their "sounds". It is a real pleasure to see this aspect of a Montessori classroom in action.

I have worked in "traditional" classrooms where a full group of students begin in the fall, many classmates come and go throughout the year, and everyone "graduates" to the next level again in September. If the environment was rich and the teacher dedicated, of course the children learned. However, the amount of their learning was limited, the strength of their recall was compromised, and they never reached the levels I see here in a multi-age classroom.

In Montessori, newly enrolled children customarily enter a classroom as the youngest in the group (along with half of the other students). Returning students are the "experts". They know where the materials are kept, what the teacher expects, how to sit at circle, how to get along in this classroom environment. They know how to "do the work". The younger children quickly learn what is expected, not only by following teacher directions, but also (and primarily) by observing and copying the behavior of their older, seasoned peers. The older children have the opportunity to be leaders and gain in self-confidence. With repetition, they also retain what they have learned previously. Of course, they gain new knowledge, continuing to learn new things and work with more complex and abstract materials.

For the past three years, it has been a pleasure to watch this process unfold.

The topics we have been studying during the months of February, March, and April include:

1. Biology: Similarities and Differences between Reptiles and Amphibians. Focus on Frogs (camouflage vs.

Class Notes!

Ms. Kris McCord's Class (Ages 3, 4, & 5, cont.)

color warning; lifecycle with live tadpoles). Birds (in our backyard; beaks and bills, webbed feet and claws; how birds help humans).

2. Geography: Maps and Map making Florida land forms (gulf/peninsula), the United States is a "big old place".

3. Holidays: Valentine's Day (our friends are special; how do we show our love?), St. Patrick's Day (counting our pots of gold; graphing and "Lucky Charms") Spring Celebrations (eggs, chicks and baby animals)

A BIG THANK YOU to all the parents who have been so helpful in the classroom, behind the scenes doing "home-work", and with the parties: Addie and Michael Atkins, Jacqueline Baltunis, Xanthe Blakeney, Jenna Bolton, Christie Boria, Jennine Brandt, Betsy Justice, Julie and Blake Frye, Larkin Kieffer, Aurelia Matthews, Ruth Ann Nettleton, Donna Niehaus, Cindy Wang, Liz Peoples, and Caitlin Trunell.

Ms. Kris is moving to Atlanta - she will be missed! We are excited to announce that Alexandra Venier (Assistant Teacher in our 4.5-6 year old class) has completed her training and is taking the class over in the fall.

Class Notes!

Ms. Elizabeth Hamilton's Class (Ages 4.5, 5, & 6)

We have been very busy in the classroom since our return from Winter Break! It is so hard to believe that the end of another wonderful school year is almost upon us!

We would like to welcome a new student, Master Addison Foli and his family to our class and to our Millhopper Montessori family!

In February, our Kindergartners took the IOWA Standard Test. All the students did very well; scoring higher than their actual grade level!

The children recently enjoyed listening to several stories and songs performed by Ms. Vivian Filer, a storyteller. We would like to thank Dr. Marie Kima (Camille's mother) for arranging her visit, for setting up the beautiful African art display, and for telling the children about some very important people during Black History month.

Chinese New Year this year was celebrated by a visit from Mr. and Mrs. Lee (Michael's mother and father). The children learned how to count from one to ten in Chinese, enjoyed a story read by Ms. Lise Ann, tried on some traditional clothing and enjoyed some delicious fried rice and cookies. Thank you both so much!

"Health and Safety Week" is an annual event here at Millhopper Montessori. The children learned some very important facts during this special week. The children enjoyed visits from: Dr. Dinopoulos; "Officer Friendly"; the police helicopter flown by Officer John Rouse; "Stuffee" - who taught the children about nutritious food and some interesting facts about how their bodies work; a visit from the Fire Department; the Sun Country Fitness Bus; Ms. Kilgore who talked about Poison Prevention and the children learned how to make a nutritious smoothie! Thank you all very much for visiting us!

Class Notes!

Ms. Elizabeth Hamilton's Class (Ages 4.5, 5, & 6), Cont.

We all welcomed the coming of Spring by our Annual Spring Fling and Egg Hunt/Spring Celebrations. This year's theme, "America", Spring Fling was extra special in light of what is happening in our world today! The children really enjoyed singing the songs and we know how much the parents enjoyed the show!

In the classroom, the children's continued academic/social development continues to grow! In Math, younger students are working with the tens and teens boards as well as the 100 board. Many children are learning more complex addition, subtraction, division and multiplication work (3 and 4; and sometimes 5 digit!) as well as learning about fractions. Many children are enjoying learning how to write to 1,000 and "playing" the Bank Exchange and Fetch Games. These teach the children place value and the concept of exchanging.

In Language, continual growth in building vocabulary for both the new and older students continue. The children enjoy working with our "mini" environment (theme - outdoors/gardening). The initial lesson is to lay out the objects and then match the written name (label). Some extensions for this activity is to then write the name of the object; introduction to prepositions; and composing sentences. For the older student, "function of words" has begun - this includes nouns, verbs, and prepositions as well as introductory work with reading comprehension. Our kindergartners have enjoyed working on SRA reading programs - this program encourages independent reading/comprehension. After a student reads a short paragraph/story, they answer short questions pertaining to what they have just read. Through our "Book Buddy" program with Ms. Crystal's class, our kindergartners have the opportunity to read to the younger children twice a week. This has been extremely popular with the students in both classes!

In our cultural areas, Science: our last two unit studies have concentrated on Dinosaurs/Prehistoric Mammals and the Solar System. The children have learned about how "research" is done and will be presenting their own dinosaur "research". The children are looking forward to sharing what they have learned. To integrate with our unit study of the Solar System, our class play this year is entitled, "Interplanetary Jammin". This play is full of factual information on the Solar System. Learning through music and movement is a wonderful way to integrate the Fine Arts into our curriculum. The play was presented at our Parent Appreciation Night, Thursday, May 15th. Following our play, a pot luck supper was enjoyed!

Our "Science Buddies" have worked on projects involving our Dinosaur Unit (making skeleton puzzles) and Solar System (Solar System charts). We have thoroughly enjoyed being "Science Buddies" with Ms. Stephanie's class this year!

In the area of Art/Mixed Media, the children have enjoyed many projects. Fabric pieces and dollies became laminated "coasters" which were then placed in a paper plate "basket" for Spring parent gifts. We learned about the process a tree goes through to become paper. We took this knowledge and clay cookie molds and created beautiful Mother's Day pictures. Two extremely beautiful art projects have been completed: an "Impressionist Reproduction Print" (a Monet which the children have reproduced using their finger tips - with the wonderful help of Ms. Chris Pinks, Morgan's mother) and a class, space-theme quilt "Our Future Astronauts" pieced and sewn by Ms. Susie - truly a beautiful piece of artwork and would not have been possible if it was not for Ms. Susie's talent! We thank you both so very much!

We want to wish our graduates the best of luck - we will miss you all very much! And to all our families, a very nice and safe summer! Thank you all so much for a wonderful school year - without you, it would not have been possible!

Class Notes!

Ms. Karen Ramey's Class (Ages 4.5, 5, & 6)

February was an exciting and busy month. It came and went like a Blizzard. Miss Alex started her unit project. This is a requirement for the Montessori training and lasts for three months. She chose the topic of mountains and Austria. The children were shown how mountains form. We talked about fold, fault/block Mountains, volcanoes and Dome Mountains. The students also created a model of a fold-mountain on a paper plate and they modeled a volcano. We learned about "the roof of the world", the Himalaya mountain range, and the people (Sherpa and Tibetans) who live on the foot of the mountains and their way of living. We also found out where some of the most impressive mountain ranges can be located on the world map. The children were able to place the 7 Summits (The highest mountain on each continent) on their corresponding spot. Mountains also have a different appearance and we talked about peak, ridge, needle and dome Mountaintop forms.

The third week of February was health and safety week and we had several presenters come and talk to the children about health and safety issues. Dr. Cindy Dinopoulos came and talked with the children about her job and some of the instruments she uses in her practice. We had a Gainesville Police officer come and share his job experiences with the children. He taught them ways they can keep themselves safe. The Gainesville Firefighters came with their fire truck and talked with the children about fire safety and the Sun Country Fit and Fun Bus gave a presentation about exercising and they allowed the children to use various equipment.

The last week of February Miss Alex taught the children about the Fasching tradition (Carnival) in Austria. We made masks, decorated them and had a little Faschingsparty on "Faschingsdienstag" (Fat Tuesday) afternoon with games and Faschingskrapfen. We have been learning an Austrian folksong and dance "Bruederchen komm tanz mit mir". The children have done a good job picking up the German words and motions.

During the month of March we continued our study on mountains and focused on the Alps. The children learned more about the alpine region and Austria. We started reading the chapter book "Heidi", an old classic about a little girl's adventures and her life in the Alps. The children were also introduced to a few alpine animals. We talked about the Ibex, Chamois and the Marmot, to name the most distinct ones of the region. The students have learned how to count in German up to twenty and some of them know how to greet "Guten Tag!" or they come and say "Guten Morgen!" when they start their day.

The children have been learning about the history of salt in Austria. We talked about mineral salt and how it came all the way from the ocean and into the mountains, and how people in Austria mined salt and what they needed it for. They called it white gold and many cities became rich by trading salt.

For St. Patrick's Day, we learned who St. Patrick was. The children were told the story of the snake infested island of Ireland, and how St. Patrick drove the snakes away. We read an Irish folk tale and talked about Irish symbols and the color green.

Miss Alex taught the children about Austria's eight neighboring countries and the children located the countries on a map of Europe. Hungary was one of the neighboring countries everybody remembered. We also learned about the history of the Austrian flag and colored the flag. We also talked about the currency used in Austria and currently in 11 other European Countries. The children used lessons regarding the EURO and we talked about the images on the Austrian coin; e.g. Mozart on the 1 Euro; and also some famous buildings like the Belvedere castle in Vienna, the Stefan's Dome in Vienna and the alpine flowers on the 10, 5, and 1-cent coins.

CJ's mom, Mrs. Kilgore, and her work colleague came to talk to the children about poison prevention. It was interesting and helpful for the children to see how similar medication and candy can look. The appearance could fool anyone. WE ASK FIRST! That was the motto, which hopefully stuck with the children.

Class Notes!

Ms. Karen Ramey's Class (Ages 4.5, 5, & 6), Cont.

On the 24th of March we had our Spring Fling performance and the children did a wonderful job.

The children came back from spring break and seemed to bring back new energy and curiosity for new lessons. We have been talking about Alpine Flowers; to name a few, Edelweiss, Gentian and Alpine Rose. The children made felt out of sheep wool and we crafted an Edelweiss. We also planted grass seeds into a little clay flower pot. Ms. Lassie came and brought some hand painted Easter Eggs from Austria. The children also got to paint their own. We used the delicate hand painted eggs to decorate our Egg tree which is an imitation pussy willow. The children rolled little furry balls with gray lambs wool and glued it onto some leaf stripped twigs, only a very close look of a very experienced professional could have noticed the difference between the real pussy willow and our imitation. We have watched part of the movie "Sound of Music" and the children enjoyed the Austrian scenery and the story of the Von Trapp Family.

During the month of April we learned about alpine farms; how they are smaller than farms in the US. The farms in the Alps are also more difficult to work since the farmer has to mow the steep slopes and sometimes they cannot use machines and it has to be done by hand. We talked about the farm animals and their families and learned that a mother horse is called a mare and a boar is a male pig. The children have been very interested in the products we consume that farm animals give us. We learned that the egg has a shell, membrane, albumen and a yolk, and also talked about the different animals which come from eggs. In regard to the short farm unit, the children made their own butter, buttermilk and whole grain bread. They were eager to spread their butter on their homemade bread and taste their buttermilk.

In the month of April we had been doing lots of crafts. Everybody made a sheep with real lambs wool, mosaic egg with tissue paper and the children decorated their Easter bags. The Easter egg hunt was a success and the children had a lot of fun.

We also talked about the famous Austrian, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, composer and child prodigy. We listened to some of his music and read a book about scenes out of his childhood. The children heard about the travels Wolfi and his sister Nannerl made to the different palaces around Europe and that they performed before Emperors and Empresses. Ms. Alex finished her unit project with the Austrian native Gustav Klimt. He is one of the most famous Austrian artists and the children got to see some of his paintings and different style artwork. His commonly known art piece is "The Kiss".

During the months of April and May, we also celebrated and talked about the origin of Earth Day! The students had a lesson on the 3 R's. These are reduce, reuse and recycle. The children are very interested in learning about what they can recycle! We have had several speakers come and present information about the Earth and recycling. We have had Compost Kid, Litter Pal and Big Blue. We read several books about ways to take care of the Earth and had many discussions about how we can make a difference. Lessons were presented about the things that can be recycled.

It has been a very busy and productive few months! We hope everyone has a great summer!

Class Notes!

Ms. Stephanie Hogle's Class (1st & 2nd Grade)

We have been very busy this spring! Our class garden had a rough start-hail and freezing temperatures. The marigolds have been struggling, but the children added some plant food to them last week. The children have taken home radishes from our garden the past few weeks. All of the children have been busy weeding our garden and identifying bugs. They are learning the difference between harmful and beneficial bugs. A BIG THANK YOU TO KARIN HYLER for organizing and helping with our class garden.

The children have been busy preparing for "The Wiz". The Storm dancers are doing very well with their dance. The Munchkins are doing well with their song and dance. We also have Dorothy #1 and Toto in our classroom.

In August, I challenged my class to read 1000 books this school year. They far exceeded my expectations and when we stopped counting a few weeks ago, the class had read 1225 books! I am very proud of them. To celebrate, we had a Harry Potter party. The children put on black capes and made wooden magic wands. They made black glasses out of pipe cleaners. They decorated book marks with stickers and beads. They made edible wands from large pretzel sticks, frosting, and sprinkles. Each child also created a magic potion with colored juices.

The children each chose a necklace from the wizard's hat. Each necklace had a different "house" sticker. These stickers were used to divide the class into teams. The teams participated in a broom flying relay. They also played a game called "Dobby's socks". Each team tried to put as many socks on a chosen person as they could in an allotted amount of time. We had a concentration-type game using wizard hats. The party was a great success!

We were very busy until the end of the year as we finished up our units of study and prepared for our end-of-the-year activities. Our Mother's Day Tea, end-of-the-year play, class party, and Portfolio Picnic were great fun.

My class has had a wonderful year! I am proud of all the students in my class. They will do well next year. I am sad to be moving to another school and I will miss all of you. I am happy that I was able to spend the past six years at this school and that I have gotten to know many of the wonderful families at our school.

Class Notes!

Mr. Richard Aslanian's Class (3rd & 4th Grade)

We have been extremely busy during the first few months of Spring! The Math-a-Thon that we participated in for St. Jude's Children's Hospital was a huge success. Our class raised over \$1,700 and practiced our math facts too. Last month, our fourth grade joined the fifth and sixth grades to travel to St. Augustine. The fourth grade was quite busy last month studying Florida History. They also had a Personification Project where they researched and dressed up as historical Floridians and presented this information in a creative and dramatic way to the third grade.

On a science note: As we finish up our study of Plate Tectonics and Volcanic Research, we have been busily making volcanoes out of wood and paper mache. We had a lot of fun exploding them. Our botany lessons have included mosses, parts of the flower, and the flowering plant. We have talked about pollution, conservation, the green house effect, and erosion. We did a science project in class which was a wonderful experience for the children.

Class Notes!

Mr. Richard Aslanian's Class (3rd & 4th Grade)

As we continue to study South America, our most recent country studied was Brasil. In order to learn about the rain forests' importance we created our own mini rain forests out of two liter bottles, soil, and seeds. We watched beans and other plants grow inside them. The third grade just completed their first large research project. They were all assigned a country in South America to research. They presented their findings to the class as well as posters, geographical maps, and product maps (industrial and agricultural). They all did a fantastic job on their first large project! We are almost finished studying Peru and the Incas and will begin to look at the countries of Chile and Argentina.

As we delve into the spring we have also focused on its highlights. One morning, the class made a dessert. They were Easter Egg nests made of chocolate, rice crispies, chow mein noodles and coconut topped with egg shaped candies. They did a wonderful job in the kitchen. We also had a lesson on Passover where we learned the history, read different books, and tasted different types of Matzah.

The third grade has recently begun to learn about poetry. We began with Haikus and wrote some beautiful poetry about nature and illustrated the Haikus also.

Thanks to all the Dads who came to Father's Field Day! Congratulations to Stephen Lee for being our class's March Student of the Month. Congratulations to Andrew Russell for coming in first place in our Geography Bee and to Lee Ann Zies for being the runner up! We also have a special new addition to our class- a brand new Dell computer. We are just beginning to study for the Spelling Bee - We'll keep you posted! A final congratulations goes to Lee Ann Zies for being awarded the April Student of the Month!

Class Notes!

Ms. Christina Miller's Class (5th & 6th Grade)

On Tuesday, March 18, the fourth, fifth and sixth graders took a field trip to St. Augustine. In the morning, the group toured the Colonial Spanish Quarter. Here, the students learned about the arts of candle making, wood-working, and housekeeping. Students were also impressed, particularly CJ Francis, with the metal working shop. Here, CJ was chosen to participate in heating and shaping a rod of iron, which he eventually was allowed to keep.

In the afternoon, students were given a guided tour of the Castillo de San Marcos. Here, they learned of both the Fort's structure as well as its history. With the remaining time, the groups set out to explore all the rooms and walk the rooftop.

The sunshine and great company made for a memorable and refreshing day. Special thanks to all the parents who took double time out of their schedules to drive after our first scheduled trip was postponed due to rain.

Class Notes!

Ms. Sherilyn Farris' Class (7th & 8th Grade)

UF Track fieldtrip

The middle school students had a special treat of running their Presidential Fitness mile at the University of Florida's track. The students had been working hard on building up their endurance before the run and they all did a great job!

Mother's Day Tea

It is always nice to show our appreciation to our Moms and celebrate all the wonderful things they do for us. The annual Mother's Day Tea was one way we were able to say "THANKS!" to those special ladies.

Prior to the tea, the students decided to go to Do Art and create special, one of a kind, presents. Some painted bowls while others worked on vases, teacups, or plates. The outcome was some very beautiful artwork.

On the day of the tea, the students made the always-enjoyed cucumber sandwiches and dipped strawberries in chocolate. They arranged the tables and set them with all sorts of finery. Soon the Mothers arrived and tea, sandwiches, and desserts were served. A highlight to the tea was entertainment provided by several students. Christa Marzak, Cole Langford, Brian Long, Shane Semegon, and Ryan Harrington recited a poem. Alex and Megan Lee Pack performed pieces of music on the piano. Chloe Christian, Logan Mims, and Jessica Kilgore choreographed a special dance dedicated to all the Mothers.

The Mother's Day Tea was a wonderful way to celebrate our Moms and tell how much we love them.

Middle School Graduation

Another year was swiftly passed by and we are in the homestretch to summer break. As always it has been a wonderful year and I have enjoyed the times that my students and I have spent together.

The middle school students are currently working on their graduation ceremony. It is an event that requires all of their involvement. Each seventh grade student has written a speech introducing an eighth grade student. Each eighth grade student has written a speech about their time at MMS and their plans for their future. I have always enjoyed this event because the students' speeches remind me of so many fond memories I have had with my students over the years.

I wish my eighth grade students the best of luck in high school and hope they will strive to realize the potential that exists in all of them.

Excerpts from the eighth grade graduation speeches

"One thing about MMS that I really liked was the encouragement that I've always felt from all of my teachers. This has given me the confidence to accomplish my goals in high school, which include keeping high grades, staying organized, having tolerance toward others, and meeting new people. "

Dan Bruney

Class Notes!

Ms. Sherilyn Farris' Class (7th & 8th Grade), Cont.

“The staff at MMS is different from other schools. They won’t only help you academically but they will also help you with personal matters or troubles outside of school. This makes for a very comfortable and nice atmosphere.”

Shane Semegon

“Something else I will always remember is how Mrs. Sherilyn has provided me with, not only a great education, but also with many great opportunities for me to see what I can do. Such as, ROPES. Last I didn’t participate in the high obstacles. I was terrified of heights, but this year I concord my fear. I showed myself I could do it.”

Jake Sledge

“I want to study to become a nurse and I am going to stick with that dream and follow that dream right to the finish line. What inspired me to become a nurse was working in Mrs. Crystal’s class during internships. I got to interact with the small children. This is why I think I would be a good nurse. “

Christa Marzak

“I would like to thank a special teacher who has taught me during my years at Millhopper Montessori School. She has helped me strengthen my vocabulary, as well as my reading. She has planned so many events for our school. Mainly, she supported the LEGO League, which I was in. Ms. Martha, thank you so much for being there for me through all these years.”

Brian Long

P.E. AT MMS

by Coach Chris Wirth

Welcome to our last installment of this month in PE. As we finish up another year it will be sad to see our Eighth graders move on, but at the same time they have helped set in place a basis for which to continue to build our PE program. The seventh and eighth grade classes have been immersed in a basketball unit in which they have created their own sports microcosm. Each student plays the role of a player as well as many other various team duties These include: statistician, reporter, referee, coaches, scorekeepers, managers as well as many others. The students have done a great job during the preseason, and all teams (Ghetto Magic, Fuego, & TNT) look prepared as they enter the regular season. A big thanks goes out to Mrs. Sherilyn for allowing teams to use her facilities, materials, and class time for all the teams to design the jerseys. They all did a great job! This should be our last unit with this group, however, expect all the activities next year to follow the same format. I won’t be surprised if the seventh graders start scouting the upcoming sixth graders. We might have to instate a rule for no recruiting over the summer.

All of the other grades have been working on basketball skills as well. 5th and 6th grade has done a wonderful job getting their shooting skills down. Parents, please continue to reinforce that they only shoot with one hand. If you see them pushing with two, tell them they have to put one behind their back. I encourage you to try that yourself! The 3rd and 4th grade have continued developing their teamwork as well as moving to open space while using modified basketball activities. This group has really come along way this year, keep up the great work! The 1st and 2nd graders have been doing a lot of dribbling activities and have really developed good ball control. They also moved into some keep away activities and have been working well as a team. We have also included some

P.E. AT MMS, cont.

problem solving activities that have really sparked some great creativity. They were asked to perform a cooperation activity that they've done all year, however, this time they were not allowed to talk. The students didn't miss a beat! Great work! Last but as always not least, the kindergarten program has absolutely amazed me. They grasped their dribbling skills so quickly that we moved right into some passing activities. They have gained so much control of their movement throughout the year; they deserve a huge pat on the back. I encourage all students to give them a high-five or tell them good job when you see them in the mornings. All grades, excluding kindergarten, have successfully assessed their peers. Not only have all the students demonstrated that they know skill cues, but they can tell you if you are doing the skill right or wrong, I dare you to try to pull one over on them. In closing it has been a great year and I'm excited about getting the opportunity to return next fall for another year. A big thanks goes out to the parents as well as the Montessori staff for being so supportive throughout the year. Students, keep your parents active through the summer and make sure I get plenty of pictures of your smiles.

Elementary/Middle School Art Corner

by Jodee Rose

Mosaics

All Grades

For Valentine's Day, students were asked to create simple paper mosaics. They were introduced to the terms associated with mosaic making and shown examples from ancient Rome.

On the first day of this lesson, students made thumbnail sketches of their designs, and prepared the materials for construction. Emphasis was placed on good composition while using a limited palette. On the second day of the lesson, students constructed their mosaic cards. Emphasis was placed on working quickly and neatly while staying true to their original sketches. This project resulted in many beautiful pieces of art.

Drawing from Observation and Imagination

All Grades

In preparation for the next project, the students were asked to draw observational drawings of their schoolyard. Classes were taken outside to work. To retain interest in the study, students were asked to add to the surroundings from their imagination. They were given the prompt: I went out onto the playground and I saw the coolest thing. The emphasis of this project was to gauge the students' familiarity with the illusion of depth and visual space. Students were encouraged to overlap objects and use perspective-drawing techniques.

Illusion of Depth

All Grades

Students were asked in the previous class to choose their favorite zoo animals. Classes were shown examples of Chinese scroll paintings and carvings to learn about the illusion of depth. Classes discussed the various different techniques used to achieve the illusion of three dimensions in a piece of art. The placement of the foreground, middle ground and background was emphasized.

1st and 2nd Grade

Students drew their chosen animal on three different pieces of construction paper. They were to make one large, one medium and one small. Students were then asked to cut out their drawings carefully and place the animals on another page, using a hierarchical composition; i.e. foreground at bottom of the page and background at top. They then drew and colored their backgrounds. Emphasis was placed on using tools carefully and following directions. These pieces came out very well. In the following two class periods, students practiced further with the illusion of depth by drawing their Bogart, a shape shifting character from Harry Potter Year III, which takes the shape of one's biggest fear, and illustrating poems by Shel Silverstein. Emphasis was placed on creativity, following directions, attempting definite grounds and careful use of tools.

Art Corner, cont.

3rd-8th Grade

Students were asked to research their chosen animals. They were to know the animal's habitat and diet. The student would be constructing 2D animals out of paper and placing them convincingly into a zoo background to make a personal message board. The foreground was for a pocket into which notes could be placed. On the first day of this lesson, students made thumbnail sketches of the message boards that they would be making. Some began construction. Students were instructed to start with the background and work to the foreground to ensure that an illusion of depth was created convincingly. Emphasis was placed on composition, strong use of fore, middle and background and following directions. Students continued to construct boards for the next two class periods. Those finished were encouraged to free draw within the scope of several suggested themes.

Shapes

All Grades

Students were introduced to the different types of shapes used in art. The difference between amorphic and geometric shapes was explained. Students were then asked to grid a paper and draw 40-50 different shapes, half of which to be amorphic (free form), the other half geometric (measurable with math). Once done, students were asked to pick their favorite 10% of their total to create cartoon characters by adding facial features. The students were asked to come up with stories about their characters and the relationships between them and create backgrounds on which to put their creations.

Shapes Continued

1st and 2nd Grade

To celebrate the Hogwarts Party this day, students drew their favorite Harry Potter characters and scenes.

3rd-8th Grades

Students shared their character stories and continued working on backgrounds for their characters. Emphasis was placed on repetition of form and composition.

Pattern

1st and 2nd Grade

To celebrate the Easter and Passover holiday, the classes talked about the significance of the egg as a holiday symbol. They then were given pre-drawn templates and asked to decorate eggs using repetition of lines, shapes and colors to create patterns. Emphasis was placed on careful use of tools and following directions.

3rd – 8th Grades

Students discussed the symbol of the egg in spring holidays and drew and decorated a dozen eggs using repetition of lines, shapes and color to create patterns. Emphasis was placed on composition, use of medium, and aesthetics.

Art Contest

All Grades

Students were asked to create illustrations to be chosen for the covers of "The Wiz" program. Emphasis was placed on creativity, composition and working within a short time frame.

Spanish Corner!

Elementary-Middle School Spanish by Ms. Bethany

¡Hola! Spanish continues to keep the students at Millhopper busy as the school year winds down! The elementary students began their study of Spanish verbs after the first of the year. They have done extremely well learning how to conjugate verbs in Spanish and have had a wonderful attitude as well. They also explored Spanish vocabulary for sports, the five senses and many foods. We discussed Mexico along with its people, animals and customs and rounded out these last few weeks with a study of Easter traditions in Spanish-speaking

Spanish Corner! Cont.

countries. The middle school students have worked hard on the last unit of their textbook. With their eagerness to learn and their determination to understand the language, they are showing remarkable progress! We had a great time celebrating Mexico's Independence Day with Cinco de Mayo activities! Ms. Bethany is extremely proud of all her students and has thoroughly enjoyed teaching Spanish this year!

Early Childhood/Kindergarten Spanish by Ms. Irma

Hola y Adios

I agreed to take on the role of Spanish teacher in October of last year thinking this would be a fun opportunity to finally do something I had contemplated for quite a while. Well, fun it was, but also, quite a challenge! Although I am fluent in Spanish (I was born in Puerto Rico and frequently travel to Spain) I had a lot of learning to do with respect to keeping a group of active and inquisitive 4, 5 and 6-year olds interested in learning a new language. I soon discovered the great didactic value of music and I rearranged the lessons to include games and stories. I even wrote some simple songs, which to my delight, they ask to sing whenever we get together. Have they sung their "Good Morning, Good Morning, Buenos Dias" song at home? Your children have been quite an inspiration and they still surprise me by bringing up vocabulary words that they may have learned several lessons prior. I will miss them next year and I hope that they will continue to practice their Spanish words and grow in their knowledge of the language and its related cultures. ¡Gracias amigos!

Early Childhood Spanish by Ms. Beth

We have had a wonderful time talking about the parts of the body in spanish using songs and labels. We have also studied the weather, seasons and the calendar. We celebrated Cinco de Mayo, made maracas, and made Valentine cards.

Alachua County 4-H Program & the Lower Elementary Class' Garden

by Karin Hylar

This Spring, the children in Ms. Stephanie's class put on their gardening gloves and headed outdoors for some hands-on learning! Beginning on March 10th with a presentation by Lorraine Williams, 4-H Coordinator for Alachua County, the children in Ms. Stephanie's class have been spending every Tuesday afternoon learning the basics of gardening – from soil preparation, planting, weeding, watering, fertilizing, to the final harvest. Master Gardeners Laurie Sheldon and Karin Hylar (Carl's mom) have been guiding the children along the way. Despite temperature extremes, alternating periods of excessive rainfall then drought, and some unfriendly bugs, the children are excited to have produced a bounty of radishes, yellow squash, cucumbers and green beans. They will be exhibiting the fruits of their labor at the 4-H Garden Fair on May 31st at the Alachua County Extension Office (next to the Alachua County Fairgrounds). Many thanks to the Alachua County 4-H program for providing seeds, educational materials, and tools for the garden, and to Coach Paul and Ms. Tammy for looking after the garden when school was not in session.

Bits & Pieces

Emerald Ink Cartridge Recycling Program

Thank you parents for bringing in your used ink jet cartridges!!!! We sent off our first box to the Emerald Recycling company and received a check for \$42.00. This program will be an on-going program, so keep bringing in your cartridges!

Workshop Attended

On May 2, Christina Miller and Amilda Clark attend a workshop by FCIS on Admission & Development that took place at the Berkeley Preparatory School in Tampa.

SCHOOLPOP.COM

All of us at the Millhopper Montessori School would like to thank Irma Alvarez, Minako Nakagawa and Kathleen Teal for logging on to Schoolpop.com to do any kind of online ordering. Some vendors include 1-800 Flowers, Ann Taylor, Amazon.com, Best Buy, Coldwater Creek, JC Penny, Land's End and MANY more.

Boy Scout News

Boy Scout Troop 432 is proud to announce that Joseph Pauly and Patrick Gauvin have received the Arrow of Light award from their Webelos Pack. This award is the highest award of the Cub Scout program and they worked very hard for two years to achieve this goal. They have both joined Boy Scout Troop 432 along with fellow scouts Johnny Horter and CJ Francis.

Boy Scout Troop 432 is also proud to announce that at the last Court of Honor, CJ Francis and Johnny Horter achieved the rank of First Class Scout (the fourth level in the Scouting program). They have accomplished many merit badges and camp outs to achieve this award.

MMS students help the family members of Columbia

We realize the great loss that was experienced when the astronauts of the Columbia were lost. The students of MMS also felt great sadness for the children of the astronauts. As usual, they rose to the occasion to help out. For Valentine's Day, the middle school students sold chocolate kisses in gift bags with notes to the other students and faculty. The project raised \$134.75 which has been donated to the Children's Trust Fund to help with expenses of the children for college or other projects. Thank you to all who participated in the program.

Bits & Pieces, cont.

BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION

Thank you to all of the families that helped contribute to our first Box Tops for Education collection. A total of \$323.00 was raised by simply clipping and collecting Box Tops for Education coupons! Be sure to save your Box Tops over the summer and return them to the front office when you return to school for the fall.

Clip, Shop and Charge all Summer

Summer's nearly here and school is probably the last thing on your mind! There's one thing you can do for your school that won't take a moment away from your summer enjoyment—try these new ideas to keep earning with Box Tops! By the time school rolls around again, you'll have earned enough through Clip, Shop and Charge to get your school off to a running start—which means your school will earn more cash all year long.

Try these easy ideas to help your school get more cash with Box Tops:

- Lots of delicious Box Tops products make for perfect summer fare and easy coupon collecting. Toss some Dunkaroos® cookies in a backpack for a quick hiking snack. Butter up some Green Giant® Corn on the Cob and add a helping of Pasta Accents® pasta and vegetables as tasty side dishes for grilling season.
- Find a spot to tuck away the Box Tops coupons as they're clipped. For an entertaining rainy day project, break out the construction paper and crayons and let the kids decorate a Box Tops collection bin. Display it on the kitchen counter and they'll love helping you to fill it up.
- Save time by shopping online with Box Tops Marketplace at boxtops4education.com for all your warm-weather gear! Summer clothes for the kids, the perfect poolside book, beach blankets or a grill any dad would be proud of—and every purchase earns cash for your school!
- Apply now for the Box Tops Visa® card and use it this summer for a trip to the amusement park or even that family vacation you've been dreaming of. Your school earns a full 1% back on every charge. Just think of the possibilities!

No matter how you look at it—summer earning is a snap and lets your family make a difference for your school!

Book-It!

Congratulations to the following 5th/6th grade students for achieving their reading goal for the month of March: Patrick Gauvin, Joseph Pauly, Johnny Horter, Brooke Horn, and Angela Marzak.

A special recognition is in order for Angela Marzak and Joseph Pauly for being the only 5th/6th grade students to have achieved their Book-It reading goals for all six months of the program. Great reading!!!

Bits & Pieces, Cont.

*by Martha Horter (Reading & Literature
Teacher for Upper Elementary)*

Florida Writes Results

As part of the fourth grade curriculum, our fourth grade students participate in completing the Florida Writes exam every year. This is a state-wide test which attempts to assess the ability of the student to write a complete, organized and focused essay on a given topic. Students are given a prompt for either an expository or narrative essay and have 45 minutes to complete their writing. Our students worked hard all year to prepare for the test and the results show their efforts. All writings are scored on a scale of 0-6 based on the four categories; focus, organization, support and conventions. Our student's scores ranged from a 4 to a 5.5. Considering that a 3 is considered an average score, we are proud of our students for all scoring above average. Congratulations, fourth graders!!

Health & Safety Corner

by Teresa Bruney, Nurse Practitioner

As we head into summer, I always take stock of what sun-protective clothes and sunscreens we have from last year, and what I am going to need for this year. As Floridians, we receive incredibly strong UV rays all year long, and need to plan skin protection as we shed our winter layers.

Parents of young children know that commercial sunscreens should not be applied to children much younger than 6 months of age. Instead, you should keep young infants shaded, and use sun protective hats and clothes to keep their skin protected.

Older children need special protection, as well. All children older than 6 months should wear sunscreen when outdoors for longer than a few minutes. The fairer the skin, the more important this becomes. A sunscreen that is water resistant, with an SPF of at least 15 is recommended for all exposed skin. When around water or other reflective surfaces, children should also wear sunglasses that protect against UVA and UVB radiation.

Re-applying sunscreen is vitally important. Even if a product is marketed as "waterproof" or "sweat-proof", this doesn't mean it will stay on for several hours. Swimming, sweating, or toweling off all remove protective sunscreen, and mean that you will need to re-apply the sunscreen throughout the day.

If applying and re-applying sunscreen tries your patience, or you have grown weary of trying to slather a moving target, consider investing in sun-protective clothing. Using these medical devices will reduce the areas you need to coat with sunscreen, and may even make the summer more pleasant. Many such products are available. My children and I currently use shirts and hats from Sun Precautions. This company (website www.sunprecautions.com) produces sun-protective shirts, pants, hats, wetsuits, etc, which have an SPF of 30+ even when wet. Compared to the average thick cotton tee shirt, which has an SPF of less than 8 when wet, these products are wonderful.

Whether you use sun-protective clothing or not, you will still need sunscreen. Be sure to throw away unused sunscreen if it is more than one year old, unless it has a clearly printed expiration date on the container. Enjoy the pleasures of being outside, the sun on your shoulders, the beach, the lake, the pool . . .

Have a wonderful summer!

BASKETBALL AT MMS

by Karin Hylar

For the second consecutive year, MMS fielded two coed basketball teams that participated in the league coordinated by Oak Hall School. Each MMS team played 8 games against teams from Oak Hall Lower School, Cornerstone Academy, and The Rock School.

Our teams practiced after school on the MMS court and then played their games at the Oak Hall gym on Saturday mornings. Many thanks to the volunteer coaches who made the season possible:

Richard Aslanian and Ladd Tomlin, coaches for the K-1st grade team.

Larry Hylar and Peter Kima, coaches for the 2nd/3rd grade team.

Special thanks to the parents/families who made sure the kids made it to practice, games, and cheered from the sidelines! Most of all, thanks to our players who had fun, improved their skills, and displayed good sportsmanship throughout the season:

K-1st grade team: Dominick Aslanian, Camille Kima, Michael Lee, Garrett Lucey, Stefan Maillart, Cree Nettleton, Ty Perdue, Amber Sledge and Ilie Tomlin.

2nd-3rd grade team: Alex Carter, Manuel de la Puerta, Andreas Dinopoulos, Carl Hylar, Tabong Kima, Stephen Lee, Mason McCord, Marguerite Mills and Victor Ng.

Keep practicing this summer, and hope to see you next season!

Student
Corner

Memorial for the Challenger

It was with great sadness that our nation learned of the ill-fated trip of the Challenger space shuttle mission. The students in the 5th/6th grade were quite affected by the event and discussed it in composition class. It was throughout this discussion that they decided they wanted to write their feelings and ideas about the disaster. Here are a few of their poems:

The Paper

One test paper is all it can be because all year I've gotten C's.
Hopefully an A or a B, but not a C, oh please!
Oh please! I've worked so hard but not again.
I hope I pray, to get an A, a B would be fine. Oh!
Yes! Here it comes –oh no!
Not another C for me!

By Kelly Wright

Student Corner

The Sea

The sea, the sea, is calling me.
As I sail upon the mighty sea.
I watch the waves and then I sigh,
Hearing the gull's eerie cry.
I climb the mast that towers tall
And suddenly feel so small
Now I feel a sensation I never knew
As I sail across the ocean blue

The sea, the sea, is fierce to me.
Rocking the boat as if it were a flea.
Waves crashing against the mighty bow,
As I wipe cold sweat from my brow.
Then the sun comes out, and we gladly shout,
For we have survived the sea.
And the sea is still calling me.

By Brooke Horn

The Shadow

The moon has risen, bright and red
Filling hearts with deepening dread
For now thy shadow has come. Alas!
They fear this time it will not pass
Darkening hay and field and grass
But still there is a gleam of hope
And it does not come from thy Pope
It comes from hearts of courageous men
Who trudge willingly through fog and fen
Perhaps never to be seen again.
So stand still, tall and stout of heart
Hence comes a shower of evil darts
For these men were made to last
Until this shadow shall pass.

Brooke Horn

Columbia

The endless journey through outer space has taken us
to uncharted worlds, to unbelievable planets and
to outstanding wonders. But what happens when
things go wrong? Or when people start dying
because they want to find these magical places?

-Paul Bruney

To NASA

Just when you thought your day was done,
your ship Columbia lost its
pieces one by one.
I'm so sorry you lost some friends
but this is not where your company ends.
You need to finish the International Space Station,
get to Mars and even further out in the universe.
Even though you made a mistake, and found that flying
shuttles was not a piece of cake, you will learn from
it, and the dreams, goals, and ideas of your fellow astronauts will
live on.

-Johnny Horter

Student Corner

Space Shuttle Columbia
Over the years you've
flown the sky, soaring,
soaring, so, so high,
discovering things never thought
possible, during lift-off
we knew you had done it,
you spent two weeks experimenting,
then that tragic day
had come, during re-entry
you broke apart, pieces,
pieces fell from the start,
then it was over, all of us
terrified, we will never
forget that tragic day,
when space shuttle Columbia
blew away.

-Cullen Schiele

Columbia

We all saw the shuttle go up,
We all saw it go down,
When Houston lost contact,
Many worries were found,
Kids were asking, "What happened, tell me now!"
But they soon found out.

The country cried and cried,
until no more tears came out,
We finally knew what happened
Without a doubt.

Some lives were lost and courage found,
"Reach for the stars!" Sally Ride called out,
The worst has finally gone and that's the end.

-Kelly Wright

The Columbia

The Columbia was very proud
Its blast-off was very loud,
as it went soaring up into space
carrying members of the human race.
Alas, that it should fall to doom
Leaving children alone all too soon
Hurling down like a bullet it came
Showering us with a fiery rain
with bits and pieces of our dreams
but hopeless is only what it seems
The Astronauts were very brave
the commentators rave to find the facts
the families wish to bring them back
but now it's over, our grief has struck
at least there's courage, and our luck
We'll keep on trying, keep on prying to
outer limits of space.

-Brooke Horn

MMS Elementary Spelling Bee

Third Grade

First Place Winner
Stephen Lee

Second Place Winner
Kathryn Ramey

Fourth Grade

First Place Winner
Stephen Lee

Second Place Winner
Anna Marzak

Fifth Grade

First Place Winner
Paul Bruney

Second Place Winner
Jacob Eskridge

Sixth Grade

First Place Winner
Johnny Horter

Second Place Winner
Angela Marzak

MMS The Wiz Art Contest

First Place Winner
Jacob Hogle

Second Place Winner
Cullen Schiele

Third Place Winner
Meghan Verne

Fourth Place Winner
Dan Bruney

The art contest winners had their art work displayed on the playbill.

2002-2003 School Year IOWA Test Averages

	Grade Equivilant	Percentile	Stanines
Kindergarten			
Language Total	1.6	88	8
Math Total	1.7	90	8
Reading Total	1.7	-	-
Core Total	1.6	91	8
First Grade			
Language Total	2.8	89	8
Math Total	2.7	88	8
Reading Total	3.4	93	8
Science	2.6	72	7
Core Total	2.9	91	8
Second Grade			
Language Total	3.7	81	7
Math Total	3.8	85	7
Reading Total	4.2	85	7
Science	3.4	68	6
Core Total	3.9	86	7
Third Grade			
Language Total	5.6	80	7
Math Total	5.1	75	7
Reading Total	5.1	74	6
Science	5.4	70	6
Core Total	5.5	79	7
Fourth Grade			
Language Total	5.3	56	5
Math Total	5.5	66	6
Reading Total	5.8	71	6
Science	6.2	73	6
Core Total	5.4	63	6
Fifth Grade			
Language Total	11.4	93	8
Math Total	10.5	98	9
Reading Total	8.8	89	8
Science	11.9	94	8
Core Total	10.1	96	9

2002-2003 School Year IOWA Test Averages, cont.

	Grade Equivilant	Percentile	Stanines
Sixth Grade			
Language Total	11.8	85	7
Math Total	9.9	84	7
Reading Total	10.2	87	7
Science	11.7	85	7
Core Total	10.5	88	7
Seventh Grade			
Language Total	10	64	6
Math Total	10	70	6
Reading Total	11	80	7
Science	11	76	7
Core Total	11	75	6
Eighth Grade			
Language Total	15	83	8
Math Total	13	83	7
Reading Total	11	66	6
Science	11	70	6
Core Total	12	80	7

Honor Roll

Fifth through Eighth Grade
Third grading period

All A's

6th Grade

Angela Marzak
Brook Horn
Denis Balaban

8th Grade

Shane Semegon
Logan Mims
Alex Lee Pack
Chloe Christian
Dan Bruney

All A's and B's

5th Grade

Rich Hatch
Cullen Schiele
Joseph Pauly
Kelly Wright
Kyle Dorsey
Patrick Gauvin
Anna Long

6th Grade

Vladimir Horowitz
Becca Hogle
Cody Sledge
Johnny Horter
Molly Cellon

7th Grade

Cole Langford
Jacob Hogle
Patrick Matchen

8th Grade

Megan Lee Pack
Jessica Kilgore
Brian Long

Correction Note

Denis Balaban should
have been listed under
the Sixth Grade
All A's Honor Roll List in
the last newsletter.
Congratulations Denis.

Honor Roll

Fifth through Eighth Grade
Fourth grading period

All A's

5th Grade

Cullen Schiele
Paul Bruney
Patrick Gauvin

6th Grade

Denis Balaban

8th Grade

Dan Bruney
Chloe Christian
Alex Lee Pack
Megan Lee Pack
Logan Mims
Shane Semegon

All A's and B's

5th Grade

Anna Long
Joseph Pauly
Richard Hatch
Kyle Dorsey

6th Grade

Vladimir Horowitz
Angela Marzak
Rebecca Hogle
Brooke Horn
Cody Sledge
Johnny Horter

7th Grade

David Ketchel
JJ Mitchell
Patrick Matchen

8th Grade

Jacob Hogle
Jessica Kilgore
Brian Long

Chess Club

by Lise Youngblade

Chess club has come to end for the 2002/2003 school year. And what an end it was! We finished the year with a month-long tournament. Students played for points (1 point for a win, 0 points for a loss, ½ a point for a draw) throughout the tournament. Points were summarized at the end of the tournament, and 1st and 2nd place winners got special trophies. All players received trophies for participating. Players competed within age groups, and then we also awarded 1st and 2nd place overall trophies, for the highest total points in the whole club.

These are the awards

Kindergarten:

1st Place - Camille Kima

2nd Place - Ryan Dorsey

3-6 Grade:

1st Place - Eric Diehl

2nd Place - Steven Lee

1-2 Grade:

1st Place - Trey DeRochemont

2nd Place - Tabong Kima

OVERALL:

1st Place - Camille Kima

2nd Place - Eric Diehl and Trey DeRochemont (Tie)

I also want to say how proud I was of how everyone played during the tournament. Chess is a competitive game, and a tournament certainly increases the competition that players may feel. I know there were disappointments over lost games, and the very close rankings for the top spots. Despite this, however, ALL the players demonstrated very good sportsmanship and handled themselves as gentlemen.

We had a lot of support for chess club this year, and I want to say a few thank-yous. First, thank you to all of the players for their attitudes, their manners, their sportsmanship, and their commitment. You guys are all great, and I hope to see you back next year! Keep playing over the summer! Second, thank you to Coach Robert, for coming to chess club every week and working with us. Coach Robert has agreed to come back next year, so we are looking forward to that. Third, a VERY BIG thank-you to Mr. Richard for letting us use his classroom every week. We really appreciate it! Fourth, thank you to the parents who helped in many ways – supporting the players, coming to chess club, bringing food for the parties, and others. You guys are great, too, and I hope you'll be involved again next year! Finally, thanks to MMS for supporting chess club!

I will be sending around information for next year at the beginning of the school year. If you have any suggestions, questions, or concerns please feel free to call me (Lise Youngblade) at 335-4001. I had a blast this year, and I am looking forward to next year!

Millhopper Montessori School's Middle School End of the Year Trip

Another year has come to a close and to celebrate the accomplishments of the 7th and 8th grade class the middle school went to Busch Gardens and the Florida Aquarium. Busch Gardens offered the students a unique blend of thrilling rides, a wonderful zoo featuring more than 2,700 animals, live shows, restaurants, shops and games. We spent the day exploring the park, some of us enjoyed the plethora of roller coasters, while others braved the water-rides and checked out the extensive animal reserve. After a fun day at Busch Gardens, we checked in to our hotel rooms for the evening of swimming in the pool and having a poolside pizza party.

Friday was spent at The Florida Aquarium. The 152,000 sq-ft aquarium tells Florida's unique water story as it follows a drop of water from its underground source to the open sea. Over 10,000 aquatic plants and animals, both native to Florida and from all over the globe, were on display. We took a behind the scenes tour of the management of the aquarium and we also watched a 3-D IMAX movie, entitled Into The Deep.

Presidential Physical Fitness Awards

by Chris Wirth

PE teacher Chris Wirth gave out the end of the year physical education awards. Students who had achieved fitness awards, improvement awards and hard work awards were recognized.

Millhopper Montessori School Presidential Award winners

Jacob Hogle, Angie Marzak, Anna Long and Andreas Dinopoulos

Millhopper Montessori School National Award winners

Ryan Harrington, Megan Lee Pack, Chloe Christian, Jessica Kilgore, Logan Mims, Denis Balaban, Patrick Gauvin, Paul Bruney and Kyle Dorsey, Ty Tison, Dane Pinks, Morgan Duong, Kathryn Ramey, Stephen Lee, Mason McCord, Lee Ann Zies, Kate McCarter

Millhopper Montessori School's Most Improved Students and Hard Work and Excellence Award winners

Logan Mims, Chloe Christian, Denis Balaban, Shane Semegon and Brady Belche, Stephen Lee, Molly Cellon, Anna Long, Jacob Eskridge and Lee Ann Zies, Victor Ng, Joscelyn Morton, Ilie Tomlin, Trey Meaut, Morgan Duong and Kathryn Horter

Millhopper Montessori School's Sport Education Team TNT

In its inaugural run a curricular model known as Sport Education was used that allowed participants to develop a sport microcosm. Students were in charge of officiating, score keeping, running practices, and conducting interviews. Team TNT, led by student coach Brian Long came out as basketball champions this spring.

Megan Lee Pack, Logan Mims, Jake Sledge, Brian Long, Dan Bruney and JJ Mitchell

Elementary/Middle School's End of the Year Show

This year's theatrical extravaganza was The Wiz, which was performed by the first through eighth graders at the Oak Hall theater. A theatrical experience has always been an important part of Millhopper Montessori School's complete educational curriculum.

Letter from a Parent

Dear Sherilyn and Jean,

I wanted to thank you for the Mother's Day lunch. I know this is an annual event but out of all the ones I have attended this is the nicest one. I was so impressed with how elegant everything looked. The tables were beautifully set up. The students looked so nice in their dress clothes and they were so diligent about making sure we had enough food and drink. The food was delicious! Infact, I would love to have the recipe for the cake! The atmosphere was so cheery and festive. The various gifts looked like they were professionally done. The entertainment was really impressive! The kids did such a good job. The fact that they wanted to do it and had the courage to get up in front of all the people to perform was more impressive than whether they performed it perfectly. I left there in such a light mood! Thank you so much for a delightful afternoon. It looked like a lot of effort went into this event, both by the teachers and the students. Maybe next year, Sherilyn, you might even get to finish your lunch!

Sincerely,

Carol Belche

2003 Eighth Grade Graduates Congratulations!

We are so proud of our eighth grade graduates and will miss them very much as they start their new journey.

**Dan Bruney, Chloe Christian, Jessica Kilgore, Alex Lee Pack,
Megan Lee Pack, Brian Long, Christa Marzak, Logan Mims,
Shane Semegon, and Jake Sledge**

This year we have eight students going to Buchholz High School, many whom are taking honor's classes, one student attending the International Baccalaureate program at Eastside High School, and one student attending Desoto Charter High School. Good luck graduates!

The Bell Award

The Bell Award is given to a graduating eighth grader who has shown outstanding leadership skills, academic excellence, and is a compassionate and understanding classmate and student.

The name of this award is in honor of the first recipient, Olivia Bell. Last year Kristine Meaut received the Bell Award.

This year is a first - there was a tie between two students, Logan Mims and Jessica Kilgore.

Congratulations!

Thank You Volunteers!!!

On Friday, May 30 the school held a Volunteer Luncheon to thank our volunteers for all of the time that they gave to the school.

Laurie Sheldon
Erin Jaszack
Brittany Honeycutt
Elisabeth Collazo
Greg Trunnell
Caitlin Trunnell
Larkin Kieffer
Elizabeth Justice
Blake Frye
Julie Frye
Christie Boria
Sophia Lucey
Rizwana Kabeer
Kathy Teal
Cynthia Toth
Aurelia Mathews
Donna Bernal
Sharon Bush

Cindy Dinopoulos
Karin Hyler
Patricia Kemp
Lynda Kopkowski
Addie Atkins
Michael Atkins
Jenna Bolton
Lou Kessler
Michelle Kessler
Ruth Ann Nettleton
Chris Pinks
Laurie Schiele
Sue Hatch
Sylvia Aslanian
Teresa Bruney
Cindy Cellon
Kathryn Brantly

Lassie Patterson
Oslem Tanriover
G.B. Edwards
Susana Langlois
Seung He Paek
Helen Ross
Stephanie Spencer
Peter Kima
Marie Kima
Larry Hyler
Jacqueline Baltunis
Xanthe Blakeney
Jennine Brandt
Donna Niehaus
Cindy Wang
Liz Peoples