

# DOLPHIN PRIDE

## Happy Holidays MHS

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Digital Design Class

**"Another year over... a new one just begun." John Lennon**

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2010-2011

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"In Roman mythology, Janus is the god of gates, doors, doorways, beginnings, endings and time. His most prominent remnant in modern culture is his namesake, the month of January, which begins the new year. Most often he is depicted as having two heads, facing opposite directions; one head looks back at the last year while the other looks forward to the new, simultaneously into the future and the past."

Just like Janus, may this time mark what has been and remind us of the possibilities of what is yet to be.

A special congratulations to Ms. Mary Coleman, MHS Teacher of the Year! *Editor, Dolphin Pride Staff*

## What's Your Perspective? Editorial Tidbits

### Too Cold for Comfort...

By Daniela Ortiz

"FINALLY! It's cold." "There's a cold front coming in! Everyone was excited for the long awaited cold. Now, the story is quite different. It's a little bit too cold. With temperatures in the low 50s people are bundling up and carrying their blankets around. Some people would agree that the drop in degrees is a great thing but I beg to differ. Snow birds come to Florida expecting the warm tropical weather and now with this, could it affect tourism? Also, animals native to Florida can't handle this weather. Iguanas are dropping from the trees, fish are floating to the top, and this isn't how it should be. Now don't get me wrong I love the cold but this is a bit too much. It wouldn't be that bad if I could turn on a heater, but honestly in this economy it can be expensive to have one on all day. I'm pretty sure that I'm not the only one with this issue. Three blankets, two shirts, one sweater and a cup of hot cocoa would add up to one perfect school day and night!

### Say Yes to Uniforms

By Ady Hernandez

How much money do you spend every year buying your children's clothes for a new school year or even during the school year? Every year many parents spend lots of money buying their child clothes for the new school year, and personally my parent is one of them. But, not all parents are in the same situation as others, some can and some can't buy clothes every year for their children. Today many students in the U.S. have low self-esteem and one of the reasons could be because students make fun of each other in the way they dress creating the opposite effect of what self esteem means (how much we feel valued, loved, accepted, and thought well of by others — and how much we value, love, and accept ourselves). Also, many students are being pulled out of class to change their clothes because of what they are wearing. The time it takes to pull students out class results in loss of learning.

Now imagine, if everyone wore uniforms, there would be more discipline and education. All the troubles caused by students wearing short shorts, skirts, and low shirts would go away. It would make every student equal. No more making fun of each other, no more parents worrying about buying school clothes every year, no more extra spending (economically the nation isn't doing too well). Uniforms are a great way to bring order into our schools.



### Lather, Rinse & Repeat

By Kelsey Wonderlin

"Lather, rinse, repeat." This phrase is commonly found on the bottles of shampoo products, as it instructs one to repeat a cycle until an overt or implied goal is reached. The cycle is endless, unchanging, and ever-present each day. Subconsciously, the sequence becomes habitual and routine, never swaying from its distinct commands.

I have observed that in my life and in the lives of others, we go through the same monotonous routines each day. Granted, we each have our own daily activities, but within an individual's cycle there is virtually no variation. Whether it is school, work, sports practice, working out, studying, doing homework, or a combination of all of these, people do the same general activities day in and day out.

Let's be honest: most students do not look forward to school at all. They resent it, in fact. I find myself surrounded by adolescents that are just trying to make it through the school week. And for what? Two days that they do not have to be in school. It's a cycle, repeating itself daily and monthly; five days of what some think of as torture, then two days of relaxation, fun, and freedom. Students that participate in sports or work a part-time job undergo an extended but even more unchanging cycle. School, practice, work, homework, dinner, sleep, repeat. Every now and then a variation from the norm is thrown into this cycle, but the true variation lies in weekend plans or big events coming up, like a holiday break or a planned vacation. For high school seniors the countdown until graduation seems to be ever-present in their minds. It seems to me that everyone is merely getting through their days just to reach one of these breaks in work or school. But do they know that these days, though dull and banal, are numbered? Everyone appears to be constantly looking forward to the next thing, the next event, the next holiday break or weekend, rather than enjoying their day that day. So if you're reading this, try something new today; deviate away from your routine. Remember it is important to lather and rinse, but don't always repeat.

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## November is just a memory...

### Veterans Day By Jasmine Escobar

Veterans Day has come and gone, and my neighbor made sure to tell my mom "Happy Veterans Day." Did you tell any relatives in the military "Happy Veterans Day"? Or did you think of this day as a regular day that you just happened to have off? Where did Veterans Day even come from?

On November 11, 1918, in a railroad car, the armistice to end World War 1 was signed. News of the armistice got out and celebrations began. More than a million Americans jammed Broadway and danced in the streets. The armistice became an observance to both sides of the Atlantic in the 1920's, and in Canada and England, it was known as "Remembrance Day." In the United States, it was known as "Armistice Day" or "Victory Day." (This is where the term "V Day" and making "V" signs with fingers comes from.) Then in 1921, the U.S. began honoring its war dead, but November 11th did not become a federal holiday until 1938.

Today, Veterans Day is celebrated to thank all the veterans who are fighting for our country. So next Veterans Day, be sure to thank our soldiers, because without them, there would be no freedom.

### AVID Dinner By Cynthia Garcia

The dinner and production held on November 17, 2010 by AVID students of Marathon High School was a success. AVID (Advanced Via Individual Determination) is a class offered at Marathon High School for both the high school and the middle school students for college preparation. The AVID Mission is: "... to close the achievement gap by preparing all students for readiness and success in a global society." To show how the AVID class works the students put on a production. Some students sang while others pretended that it was a live broadcast. The students gathered in groups over the last few weeks and put together skits about how they learn, what is needed for the class, and a number of ways to achieve success in the classroom.

Thanks to the support of Principal Hammond Gracy, there is an AVID program offered at Marathon High School. Also, thanks to the middle school AVID teacher, Jamie Buhyoff, and the high school AVID teacher, Heather Doney for their support. They help to make the AVID classes successful along with the cooperation of the hardworking students. The AVID program hopes to attract new students and hopes to continue to help students over the coming years.

### Dodging the Bullet By Katy Larson

November 30th marked the official ending of the Atlantic hurricane season. Everyone breathed a sigh of relief. Over the past few seasons we've witnessed and experienced numerous hurricanes, tropical storms, and storm surges in the Florida Keys. Luckily, we seem to have been spared from storms this year. With Hurricane Wilma, 2005, we suffered a major storm surge. The storm destroyed many things in its path and has been a difficult storm to forget.

According to the hurricane predictions for this year, we were expecting eight major storms with a total of 15 named storms.

Thankfully, this hurricane season has been a calm one. With fall already here, and winter quickly approaching, we are enjoying the cool weather and looking forward to a peaceful ending to the year. Hopefully, we will have many more calm, storm-free hurricane seasons to come.

## Stop you're driving me crazy... Auto Pitstops and Pitfalls

### The Value of a Dollar By Kelsey Wonderlin

Gaze out over the Marathon High School student parking lot and you will find an array of vehicles lined up, patiently awaiting the return of their owners. A wide spectrum of cars, trucks, and the occasional van comprise the automobile population here on campus. In an adolescent's high school years, driving, or better yet owning a car, holds great significance in their happiness. Turning that "sweet sixteen" and obtaining a driver's license often is symbolic of freedom to the average student and is highly desired by a majority of teens. It seems most adolescents make driving a priority when their sixteenth birthday is approaching, and while they are educated scholastically, how much do our students really know about the value of a car? What most teens do not realize is that nearly all cars are not good investments. They depreciate in value, and only in rare cases do they survive and remain desirable enough to gain value as a collectible. In most cases, the money spent on the purchase of a vehicle will never be gained back. New cars depreciate at a much faster rate than do used cars. As soon as the new owner drives their new vehicle off of the dealer's lot, it loses the value of never being owned. It immediately becomes "used," and that extra few thousand dollars spent on getting the brand new model of the car goes to waste. The now-used car must be sold at a used price rather than the "new" price. Granted, most teens, their first car is not brand new. The typical first car for a teenager is a used, out-dated model, bought at a cheap price or often passed down from a family member. While these disappointing vehicles are undesired by the teens who receive them, they are actually the better investment. Cars of low value make good first cars because they serve a purpose of lasting only a few short years, usually until the student goes to college and a car may no longer be a necessity. The car can be bought for a generally small amount of money and discarded or passed down to other siblings after use.

Regardless of what value a vehicle may hold, they all depreciate more rapidly than most other forms of investments. When searching for a car, it is best to find one that meets your minimum requirements and simply gets you from Point A to Point B. Saving on a car allows you to splurge on other items that will, in fact, prove to be good investments.



### Holiday Driving

By Sahalie Smythe

Whoever thought something we do every day could be so dangerous. Most of us ride in a car or drive a car at least once a day. For those in the age group of 1 to 30 years, the leading cause of death is due to being involved in a car accident. People who are between 15 to 24 years or who are above 75 years of age are the people who are most severely affected by car accidents. Annually there are about 6 million accidents on the U. S. roads. Many car accidents could be avoided if drivers took driving more seriously. Forty percent of car accident fatalities occur due to drunk drivers, thirty percent are due to driving above the speed limits, and the remaining 33 percent are due to reckless driving that causes drivers to lose control of the vehicle. Although there are many other contributors, driving under the influence is the leading cause of most car accident fatalities. Each year in Florida 61,852 people get arrested for DUI's. It is a shame to think so many people would put their lives at risk every day. It only takes a split second of bad judgment to create a lifetime of regret. For instance just this past month there was a accident in our own home town, Marathon, FL that led to one fatality. There were reports earlier that evening of a reckless driver with the description of his car, and moments later the crash was reported.

Overall driving a vehicle is a big responsibility and this is just a simple reminder to think twice before you get behind the wheel, especially this holiday season.

Resource: <http://keysnews.com/node/27749>

### Just another danger on the road By Daniela Otiz

Is it really that necessary to reply to a text as soon as you get it? No, but for some reason that seems to be the issue of millions of Americans. About 81 percent of the United States population admits to texting while a driving a vehicle and the number is increasing Admit it, you have probably done it once or twice, but have you taken consideration of the risks? Just by picking up the phone, you raise your chances of causing an accident by 23% Oh, and it's not just teenagers that contribute to this problem but adults are actually more likely to attempt to do this while driving. Also, surprisingly, it's not even illegal in the state of Florida.

Texting and driving is a very serious issue and it's not being brought to attention. Next time you get in a car and receive a text, think about it. Is a text really worth your life?

# MHS 2010 YEAR in REVIEW

**HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO ALL! ¡FELIZ NAVIDAD Y PROSPERO AÑO NUEVO!!**



*MHS: A Year in Review by Kelsey Wonderlin*

*Layout by Dolphin Pride Staff -Photos courtesy of Dolphin Pride archives*

As we say "farewell" to 2010, we reminisce on the memories we have of it. Mike Lettau was Teacher of the Year and MHS female students competed to win the boys' hearts in the Queen of Hearts Competition. Another successful class graduated, and we welcomed the new seniors of the school. College Day, Halloween, Spirit Week and Homecoming; 2010 has held a lot of memories for us here at MHS. From art shows to rainbows to kickball, the fall was full of activities and promise.

Finally, congratulations are in order for Ms. Mary Coleman, MHS 2011 Teacher of the Year.

## January 2011 New Year Advice - **KEEPING YOUR HEAD UP**

By Cindy Zaldivar

Keeping your head up is all about thinking positive and believing in yourself. So many people have been through obstacles in their life, but not everyone reacts the same way towards them. Some just give up while others fight to overcome what's keeping them from getting what they want. You can be on the quitters' side or the optimistic side. I choose the thinking positive and not-giving-up side. It doesn't mean only because you've been going through so many bad things that you are going to give up on your dreams and be a failure. I know it's hard but if you keep thinking that you can't continue and that you're tired of the same things happening to you, you will never succeed in life.

Have you ever asked yourself...

- Why me?
- What did I ever do to deserve this?
- Why keep on trying if I'm going to get the same result?

Instead of asking these questions why not ask yourself...

- What did I do to get this result?
- Did I act responsible towards it?
- Should I do or act differently the next time?

Thinking positive always makes you feel better and it gives you the strength to keep on moving on instead of staying stuck and not doing anything about it. Another thing that people do, including myself, is blaming others for your actions. Taking responsibility changes the way you think and act. For example, if you decide to skip class then later on you get caught by the assistant principal who punishes you for doing so, would you skip class again? If you do then you really want to continue getting in trouble.

Keep your head, don't let anybody bring you down. If people are talking about you, let them talk. Don't worry about what they're saying, just worry about you. Don't let anybody tell you how to act, talk, or do- just be yourself. Always believe in yourself.

# DOLPHIN PRIDE EXTRA! EXTRA!

## Cross Country Wrap-up

By Naomi Valerdi

Congratulations to our MHS girls cross country team and Coach Lettau for making it state bound. The goal for the girls this year was to finish the course before the very last girl from other teams. They did exactly that and they were proud of themselves. A few MHS runners distinguished themselves by breaking past and current records. Kelsey Wonderlin, Marina Kay Wiatt and this humble dolphin reporter also broke past time record ended with a time of 20:08. These students are raising the bar each time they compete. Although Kelsey Wonderlin graduates this year and will leave the team, there are others waiting to take her spot. If this winning attitude continues, next year will be another banner year for girl's cross country.

*Photo courtesy of Naomi Valerdi*



MHS marquis lights up with good news for State Bound Cross Country Girls.

## Basketball Begins

By John Keller

The football season is over and now it's time for basketball to start. Last year basketball did very well making it all the way to the first round of the district play-off's with their coach Mr. Freeman, and hopefully they will make it that far again this year bringing home the state division championship. We all wish the best for the basketball teams, both boys' and girls' teams.

## Faculty and Student Kickball Face-Off -Nov. 23, 2010

Good Fun, Competition and Spirit: A sportsman's afternoon pre-Thanksgiving holiday treat!

*Photos courtesy of Kesi Guishard and Mary Hernandez*



Students enjoy the afternoon antics from their seats in the bleachers as Mr. LaLena calls the plays. Students were the victors with a 22 point score as compared to the faculty's 18 points. Manny Perez (second row left) handles the ball getting ready to kick it while Alex Fantroy waits for the kick and then with ball in hand gets ready to tag the runner. Mr. Freeman (bottom left) takes a deserved rest on the field. Mr. Murphy tries a block. Mr. Lettau and Ms. McPherson show their speed as they run for safe calls at their bases.

