

dolphin PRIDE

Marathon High School
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DOLPHIN PRIDE STAFF 2007-2008

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Dolphin Days

By: Rusana Rassokhina

Juniors and Seniors enjoy special activities on FCAT days

During the FCAT days when freshmen and sophomores were testing, juniors and seniors took a break from studying, participating in two full days of career planning events. Principal Harry Russell, Career and Technical Education Coordinator Mark Hooper and College Advisor Robin Lynne planned many thought-provoking events for the students. These events ranged from students job shadowing professionals in the community, to hearing a variety of guest speakers. Eight guest speakers from different career fields were invited to talk to students. People like Mike Henriquez, executive director of the Monroe County School District, culinary instructor Anthony Green, and previous graduates from Mara-



One of the many job shadowing opportunities for MHS students was with the Sheriff's department

thon High were sharing their life stories and experiences.

More than 70 students chose to participate in the job shadowing event. They had an opportunity to explore careers in medical, hospitality, aeronautical, engineering, police, and many other fields. Thanks to organizations such as the Chamber of Commerce, the Sheriff's Department, Fishermen's Hospital, Zonta Clubs and others, the students had experiences they will not soon forget.

Juniors and seniors also were treated to a college preparatory presentation given by the "Making It Count" Corporation and their presenter Kendall Clark. This successful speaker and entrepreneur spoke on such topics as career research, college choices and other questions that concerned students.

The part of the event most students loved the best was the famous motivational speaker, Daniel Davison. Mr. Davison, who since a young age was a drug dealer, and ended up becoming a quadriplegic, was telling and showing the results of his bad choices. His shocking life story made everybody reflect about the importance and responsibility of every step and decision they are



Students Rusana Rassokhina, Pawee Sae-chua, Linda Lebo, Mandy Ibsen, and Josh Frank pose with presenter Kendall Clark

making. "You are your choices" was the main message of his speech.

Lastly, the tastiest moments of Dolphin Days were prepared by Chef Green and our culinary students. The food was delicious with a large variety of choices. The next day students had a nice donut break in morning and lunch provided by Quiznos.

Dolphin Days at Marathon High was a great success for the whole school. Each student learned something new and had a lot of fun together at the same time. A new tradition in Marathon High School has begun.



Pawee enjoys a Quiznos lunch

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PRIDE OF MARATHON HIGH

Local Student Goes Big To The Next Level

By: Josh Frank



What's next? That's a question that MHS senior Waymon Ross doesn't have to answer. Waymon has already committed to Western Michigan University to play Division I football. Studies show that only 5.7% of high school football players advance to play in the NCAA.

The Ross family is well known in our small town for their exceptional athletic ability, mainly in football. Adam Ross, Waymon's older brother, received the Athlete of the Year award for his outstanding performance on the football field, and is now attending a Junior college in Minnesota. Also continuing the tradition is Nyran Ross, Waymon's

younger brother, who started at quarterback for the Marathon Dolphins for most of his sophomore year.

After hearing the news, Waymon says "it was one of the happiest days of my life." Playing Division I football is the chance of a lifetime. Western Michigan is a long way from home for Waymon. He said, "I would have rather gone to a Florida school, but I gotta do what I gotta do."

Having many chances to meet and get to know the head coach, Bill Cubit, Waymon appreciates that he doesn't try to sugar coat everything. "He is very straight-forward," says Waymon, "he keeps it real."

Waymon also looks forward to the strong possibility of playing time as a linebacker that he will have as

a freshman. "The coach keeps calling me and telling me that he wants me to get in shape because I will have a fair share of opportunities to get in the game," he explained.

The drastic climate change Waymon will face in Michigan doesn't really worry him. He says it wasn't nearly as bad as he thought when he went to visit the campus in late October, which he says is "nice and big."

Waymon's first game with Western Michigan is against Nebraska on August 30th. "They're a pretty good school," he says. Waymon also appreciates the support he is getting from our town. He has felt like a local celebrity among the people he knows. "It makes me realize how tight-knit Marathon really is," says Waymon.

Guidance with Kindness

By: Cody Stricklin



These days it is hard to find someone as dedicated to their work as Dr. Simpson. Simpson is one of our two counselors at Marathon High. Dr. Simpson doesn't just counsel on students' worries but also prepares schedules and keeps the students on track for future plans.

While in college, she worked as a Research Tech to gain experience. She is a graduate of McGill University in Montreal, Canada. She has been at Marathon High for five years now and says she is very happy where she is. I asked Dr. Simpson if she enjoys the new facilities and programs of our new school and she said, "The new programs and facilities are wonderful. The technology enhancement is great for the kids and the projection screens are a major advantage."

Dr. Simpson says, "I've always loved education and thought about teaching, maybe a science course or two at the community college." She doesn't want anything to do with retirement either. "[Working] is part of what we do, a part of who we are." She isn't going anywhere soon she says and even if she does she won't be taking it easy. Bill Simpson, her husband, is retired but he was our faithful athletic director for many years at Marathon High.

Dr. Simpson enjoys outdoor activities like bird watching, photography, and biking. She also likes reading very much. One of her most memorable moments she says was visiting the Grand Canyon. "It was amazing; the pictures just can't do justice for the sight." One of Dr. Simpson's most enjoyable events at Marathon High are the football games that she regularly attends. She also loves attending graduation ceremonies.

A Unique Teacher

By: Michael Koppel



"The support from the Marathon community and the school board to keep the PACE program at Marathon High has been amazing." Both Mrs. Teresa Thorne, teacher of the students of the program formerly called PACE, and Mrs. Rebecca Winter, counselor for these students, expressed the same reaction after the PACE program was recently pulled from the school district by the state. Fortunately for the girls in the program formerly known as PACE, the school district agreed to provide funding until the end of the year.

According to its Web site, the PACE Center for Girls' purpose is "to intervene and prevent school withdrawal, juvenile delinquency, teen pregnancy, substance abuse and welfare dependency in a safe

and nurturing environment." However, Mrs. Thorne and Mrs. Winter say that this program is much more, namely, it is a "program for a variety of unique girls in various situations and backgrounds, who need help with their schoolwork or finding a job." The majority of the students in the program are actually doing very well academically, and function well on a one-on-one basis, in what Mrs. Thorne and Mrs. Winter call a "holistic approach to education."

Since the district has picked up the PACE program, they are unable to call it PACE. The main Keys hub has been renamed the "Keys Center" and is located at FKCC in Key West. Mrs. Thorne, Mrs. Winter, and the girls at the former PACE are excited to rename the program to something that more appropriately describes it at Marathon.

Mrs. Thorne has not always been a PACE teacher. Before moving to Florida, Mrs. Thorne taught

in two different school districts in Ohio, including the district where she attended kindergarten through twelfth grade. She received her education at Bluffton University in Ohio, earning a bachelor's degree in Elementary Education and Special Education in 2001.

She has also had a few life changing events in the past year. "I had my baby girl on February 7th at the Lower Keys Medical Center in Key West. She is the light of our lives, my husband Harvey and I. I can't imagine my life without her. She is absolutely perfect. My husband and I were married last March [2007] and are so happy to have little Lucy in our lives."

Mrs. Thorne says "I am a very, very lucky teacher to be with the PACE Program. I started teaching at Marathon within ESE, then the opportunity to teach PACE opened up. I was so excited for the opportunity to work with a small group of students that were willing to enroll in the program."

Helping the Community

By: Paola Castañeda

Service in a community is not only a good way to get accepted into college but also a way to gain a respectful name in the community. If you want to get involved in your community and gain valuable work experience then you should participate in student community service projects. Community service is a rewarding experience. It may not pay you with money, but it can help you develop the social skills and experience needed to get a good job. Mrs. Lynne, Marathon High's Guidance Counselor is flexible with what she considers community service; as long as you're not getting a grade or being paid a salary. Community service hours are better if taken care of at the beginning of your high school years, meaning you should not wait until your senior year to cram them into your already busy schedule.

We asked a couple of students, how volunteering for community service hours influences their lives, and the people around them. Morgan Roberts says that "it is a great way to improve your community's

image and your own at the same time." Josh Frank stated, "I did most of my community service in one summer, where I met a lot of cool people."

Community service hours are not necessarily required to graduate from Marathon High School, but they look great for college applications and local scholarships. Bright Futures is a Florida lottery-funded scholarship that requires 75 hours of community service. There are many community service projects that students can participate in, whether it is with a structured organization or helping out your elderly neighbor.

Opportunities to help your community are everywhere. You could help at the animal shelter, walk a dog Saturday morning, go to Crane Point Hammock and mentor students, go to Habitat for Humanity in Big Pine, you can also go to Grace Jones to help and tutor younger students, etc. Listen for announcements and go see Mrs. Lynne for any questions about your hours.

Where Are YOU Going?

By: Jade Holroyd

As the school year enters the fourth quarter, it's time for seniors to make an important decision: where am I going? What will I do with my life? Many of our seniors here at Marathon have come to a decision; they have set their sights on college. The most common college and university choices are, UCF, Valencia, FSU and FKCC. Although it is still a bit too early to give a definite answer FKCC seems to be the most popular college with at least 14 seniors getting ready to go there. There are however a few students who have made unique decisions regarding their futures: seniors like Waymon Ross, Pawee Sae Chua and Marcus Mendoza. Pawee is following her passion for the restaurant business by going to Johnson and Wales to study food and beverage management; in this position she would be

able to completely manage a restaurant of her choosing, doing what she loves. Marcus Mendoza made another distinctive choice by applying to Devry University where he will study game design and engineering, a career he says "is what he is interested in." In a few years we'll look on a Blockbuster shelf for a great game and Marcus's game will be the first one we pick up. Another student we should all be proud of is Waymon Ross; Waymon is going to play for Western Michigan University as a linebacker.

The choices for college are endless and whatever our seniors do they will choose what suits them best. All of the seniors of 2008 are deciding their futures with great care, with so many great minds going out into the world, our country is set for the future.

School Shootings

By: Nicky Smith

In the last four years alone, there have been over 14 school shootings throughout the nation, and over 17 school shootings worldwide. Year by year, the numbers rise as do the number of deaths caused by these shootings. These numbers may not seem very big, but put into context it is huge. High school students across the nation feel the heat of the subject. Seniors especially, who will be going off to a college where everyone doesn't know everyone, can make them a little frightened.

Recently a poll was taken at Marathon High School asking how the students felt about their safety and security in high school and about going to college. Fifty random students were questioned for our poll from each class. Out of the students asked, 72% of them said that even with the increased frequency of school shootings they feel neither more nor less safe here at MHS, they feel the shootings have no change on their level of safety here. About 26% of those questioned said they felt less safe here, and about 2% said they actually feel safer. Tayla Torna, a Junior explained why she feels less safe at MHS, "Knowing that if guns managed to get on campus there, it could probably happen here too." One Freshman, Kelsey

Wonderlin, told us why she too feels just a little less safe here at MHS; "I feel a little less safe at school, but since we have such a small school and I know almost everyone, I don't worry too much about there being a shooting here."

48% of the two hundred students questioned responded that they feel more worried about going to college with more shootings taking place like Virginia Tech, and more recently, the shooting at NIU (Northern Illinois University). Senior Reggie Paros enlightened us with his reasoning for worry, "With me going to college soon on a 40,000+ person campus, yes I do worry more about safety and shootings on college campuses. Campuses are so open nowadays that anyone can just walk in and start shooting. It's extremely scary."

52% of the students polled said they don't worry more about going off to college. Junior Javier Rodriguez said, "I feel just as safe as I used to, there have always been opportunities for shootings at schools" to explain why he doesn't worry.

School shootings are a big deal across the country. Many take place in big cities, or large colleges, but even kids in a small town like Marathon can relate to what is going on.

When in Rome...

By: Jeanette Betancourt

Venice, Rome, Florence, pasta, and homemade ice cream; who wouldn't want to go to Italy? This year, Mrs. Robin Lynne, the CCAPS counselor, at Marathon High School, took 19 students with her to Italy. "The trip was an unforgettable life experience" says junior Blake McCarthy, "I had the time of my life." Many students had similar responses.

They did many different things from visiting the Sistine Chapel in Rome to going on gondola rides in Venice. One of the most stunning things they saw was the Trevi Fountain in Ciao Rome. They also did some interesting things such as going to a leather workshop in Flor-

ence and a glass blowing demonstration in Venice. In addition, they even visited the Romeo and Juliet balcony. For all these excursions, they had a local tour guide that did a great job, Mrs. Lynne commented.

Mrs. Lynne took these students on this trip through a program called Explorica. This company is known for creating educational trips for students all across America. The students enjoyed this trip so much that Mrs. Lynne is planning to go on another trip through this company next Spring Break to Costa Rica. "The trip was a great bonding experience" says Mrs. Lynne, "the memories we shared will stay with us forever."

Let's Play Ball!

By: Michelle Sardiña

Using hard work and determination, the Marathon High School Dolphins baseball team has worked their way out of a rough season. Recent victories show that the team has come a long way from their early defeats. Coach Luis Leal, who has been working with the team for five years said, "It was very frustrating in the beginning, but now they are starting to turn things around and play to their potential."

Leading the team in stolen bases and runs scored, senior Sean O'Connor proved to be a strong asset to the team. He is one of the team's star hitters, also leading the team in home runs. "He is a very

disciplined hitter that hits for power as well as average," said Coach Leal. Senior JP McCabe, another star hitter, has been known to protect the plate, as he currently holds the highest batting average for the team. Coach Leal also recognized seniors Chris Garrett and Jay Hegland, and sophomore Jake Sjursen as some of the team's more dependable hitters.



Toby Eigner winding up for a pitch

When it comes to defense, the Dolphins have reliable pitchers along with a strong outfield. Toby

Eigner, George Hoffman, and JP McCabe are key players on the mound. Starting in the outfield O'Connor, Sjursen, and junior Nick Bertiaux "can chase down just about any ball hit out to them," says Coach Leal. "We probably have one of the best outfields in terms of range and catching skill that I have seen here in a while." Hegland and McCabe are two of the Dolphins starting infielders. Hegland is a solid

fielder at shortstop, making minimal errors. The same goes for McCabe at first base.

The Dolphins regular season has come to an end, finishing with 3 victories under their belt. Overall, the team has progressed throughout the season and Coach Leal also stated, "I couldn't be more proud of them, the way they have been battling to the very end to give it their all." The team has turned things around just in time for districts, and came out with a victory after the first district game against Palmer. "Everything is coming together at the right time," says coach Leal. The team also faced Westminster this week for districts. The game determines whether or not they advance, but results were not available at press time.

One Last Point

By: Annabelle Walker

The 2008 Varsity Tennis team went out with a bang. On April 7th, the entire team attended Districts at Continental Park in Miami. At the tournament, each match is scored best 2 out of 3 with a 10 point tie breaker. For every match won, your team receives 1 point and the team with the most points wins. Marathon earned 11 points, making this year the first time that they have ever had a chance to advance to Regionals. They were one point away from advancing. With that one point loss, our girls placed third at districts. Marisa Brossard, Kerry Wonderlin, and John Danaher received a bye in the first round singles and the number one girls' doubles team, Marisa Brossard and Angela Farello, received a bye in the first round which automatically put them in round two.

Our ladies did extremely well this year compared to previous seasons. Marisa Brossard, our number 1 girl, automatically advanced to the second round and played Westminster Christian with an amazing 6/0-6/0 win. Angela Farello, the number 2 girl, immediately played Carrolton and lost 0/6-1/6. Michaelle Bellevue, our number three, walked off the court with a 6/2-6/2 victory against Westminster Christian. Then, she lost the second round to Carrolton with a 0/6-3/6 loss. Michelle Bellevue, our number 4 girl, played MAST

Academy in the first round and won with a 6/2-6/0 win. In the second round she played Palmer Trinity and lost 0/6-3/6. Our number 5 girl, Kelsey Wonderlin, played MAST Academy in the first round and easily won with a score of 6/2-6/0. In the second round she played Ransom, the 2007 District Champs, and lost 0/6-1/6.

Our boys tried their best, but they had to play some of the best schools in the state, and there wasn't much they could do but play their hearts out. Our number 1 boy, John Danaher, got a first round bye and then faced Palmer



John Danaher prepares for his match

Trinity in the second round; he lost 3/6-0/6. The number 2 boy, Kerry Wonderlin, like Danaher, got a first round bye and played Palmer in the second round, he ended with a 0/6-0/6 loss. Alex Cherniavsky, our number 3, played MAST Academy in the first round and lost in a 10 point tiebreaker; 11/13. Number 4,

Jonnie Lancaster, played Westminster Christian in the first round and lost 0/6-2/6. Ricardo Dominguez, number 5 boy, lost to Palmer Trinity in the first round, 0/6-3/6.

Our doubles pairs were stronger than ever during districts. Our number 1 girl's doubles team consisted of Marisa Brossard and Angela

Farello. They got a first round bye, automatically advancing them to the second day. Michaelle Bellevue and Kelsey Wonderlin, our number 2 doubles team, won their first round match against Westminster Christian, 6/0-6/2. Our boy's number 1 doubles team, Kerry Wonderlin and John Dana-

her, played Westminster Christian in the first round and lost 2/6-1/6. Our usual number 2 doubles team was Riley Durkin, 7th grade, and Steven Nelson, 8th grade. That team was not in Districts because Nelson was out sick. Jonnie Lancaster played with Durkin against Westminster Christian, taking Nelson's place.

They lost 4/6-0/6.

Marisa Brossard, Angela Farello, Kelsey Wonderlin, and Michaelle Bellevue advanced to the second day in a 3 way tie for second place. In the number 1 singles finals, Brossard played Ransoms' number 1 girl who is ranked 10th in the National 18's division and 3rd in the state of Florida. Brossard lost 2/6-1/6, getting her second place in the number 1 singles category. Brossard was the only singles match to be played in the second day for Marathon, but doubles were still to be played. Brossard and Farello played Palmer Trinity in the second round of number 1 doubles and won 6/4-6/3 putting them in the number 1 doubles finals. They played Ransom in the finals, and lost 0/6-0/6, placing them 2nd overall in number 1 doubles. The Ransom girls were ranked 3rd and 7th in the state of Florida. Wonderlin and Bellevue played Carrolton in the second round of number 2 doubles and lost 2/6-0/6.

The Marathon Varsity Tennis Team of 2008 played a total of 18 matches before advancing to districts; it was the most matches ever in one tennis season. Coach Mark Hooper's goal for next season is to get us a definite spot in Regionals. Overall Coach Hooper is "pleased with the nucleus of our team," and he "can't wait to see who steps up next year."