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Marathon High School  
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## Go Fish!!

By Josh Frank

In Marathon High School's brand new gym the sounds of sprinting and dribbling are echoing off the walls. The new Marathon Dolphin's boys basketball team is busy preparing for another challenging season of competition and teamwork. Eric Carey, junior on the varsity basketball team, describes the team as, "small and fast." John Porter is the tallest person on the team at only 6 ft. 2 in. in height. Carey also says, "lack of height will play a huge role in our games."

Speed is something the team definitely doesn't have to worry about. Between Sergio Howard and Adam Ross, the Dolphins will be sure to keep other teams on their toes. Blake Friedman is also expected to help lead the team's offense. Last year, Blake showed other teams that despite being a sophomore he was

still a major threat on the court. As a junior, he is sure to be a key player.

Last year's team created some big shoes to fill. Winning the district title and staying strong in the playoffs, there is a lot of pressure on this year's Dolphins to keep last year's record going. However, when asked if they can live up to last year's expectations, a confident Blake Friedman says, "yes, and more." Head coach Kevin Freeman remarks, "We are a different team from last year." Without play makers like Mac Sheppard and Tyrell Williams, Freeman comments, "This year we have more set plays and rely more on our defense." Freeman also likes this year's team because he calls them "coachable."

The team for the Dolphins to beat this season is Palmer Trinity. Supposedly they have acquired the son of the ex point guard for the Miami Heat, Tim Hardaway. Also, Palmer is playing with a new point guard that could cause

some trouble for the Dolphins. With this in mind, the Dolphins will be practicing extra hard when that game comes around.

The Dolphins have lost a lot of key players from last year; however, keeping main players like Blake Friedman, Adam Ross and adding some new talent like junior Eric Armstrong, the Dolphins may have everything they need for another winning season.



**Kevin Freeman,  
Boys Basketball Coach**

## School Spirit Games 2006



**Seniors win Volleyball Competition**



**Middle School enjoys Field Day**

## Inside This Issue

Jessica Richard.....	2
Academic Athlete.....	2
Ms. Lezcano.....	2
Ms. Balazs.....	2
2007 Resolutions.....	3
Wakeboarding.....	3
What Happens Next?.....	3
Frozen in Time.....	4
How To Avoid Keeney.....	4
Artist's Vibe.....	4

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# PRIDE OF MARATHON HIGH

## Jessica Richard

By Whitney Dunham

Before moving to the Keys, Mrs. Richard lived in Jacksonville. She lived there for over 20 years where she attended Catholic grade and high school. Prior to teaching at MHS, Mrs. Richard taught at a Catholic high school as well. She's a proud Jags fan and she graduated from the University of North Florida with a degree in education. She moved down to the Keys when her husband took a job transfer to Key West. In her spare time she enjoys outside activities, such as running, walking, and biking. She also spends her free time running her three-year-old daughter to dance classes. Her whole family enjoys spending countless hours on their boat. Whenever she gets to the mainland, she is a big fan of shopping.

Teaching middle school is something she hopes to do in the future. She currently teaches Intensive Math, Algebra IA,



and Algebra IB. In her Algebra 1A classes they are working on rational numbers and solving one step and multi-step equations. In the Algebra 1B classes they are working on classifying and solving polynomials. They also are working on factoring trinomials. The 9th graders recently finished a project where each student had to interview every classmate in the class with a survey question. Then they have to display their data in a bar graph and calculate the mean, median, mode, and range. Preparing for the FCAT, the 10th graders are working on problems that will help them with the big test coming up later this school year.

## Ms. Balazs

By Lyia Stuart

Living it up in the Keys, this Marathon Middle School teacher is already getting to enjoy all the wonders of sunny Florida! Like spending time with her daughter and husband, the expensive housing, and the no-see-ums. "I love the weather! And even though the housing is expensive, I wouldn't live anywhere else," says Ms Balazs. Not only is the school a part of her life in the Keys, but so are her students.

Having worked at Marathon High for three years this is the first she is working with middle school students and enjoys it very



much. Ms Balazs stated, "The students are very enthusiastic every day, and put forth a lot of effort." But, one day in the future, she would like to return to work with juniors and seniors.

Originally from Cleveland, Ohio, Ms Balazs is no stranger to a white Christmas. This year she plans on going back to Cleveland to visit her family and for her daughter to see snow for the first time! She also plans on going to Disney World for New Years.

## Academic Athlete

By JP McCabe

Eight pounds of athletic ability was born on Nov 20, 1990 in Key West, Florida. This bundle of joy was named Nicky Bertiaux. He lives with his mother and they both are very active in the community. Nicky plays baseball and basketball for the school and is one of the main players. This year Nicky won't be playing basketball because he is focusing on baseball, for which practices have begun on the side for a few kids. Last year for baseball Nicky was granted the best pitcher award as a 9th grader. This award was voted on by the team and the coaches. In the future Nicky is really looking to go the University of Miami; he says, "I think it's the best college ever, a lot of my cousins have gone there and say they



love it." I also talked to his mom and she said, "he is a very hard worker and is able to make his own decisions." She also mentioned that she would like him to play basketball because he is good, but he will go where his heart is at and he loves baseball. In his spare time Nicky likes to go to the gym with his friends and going on the boat once in a while. As for how he is in school, he said: "I am a good kid and get good grades."

## Ms. Lezcano

By Vanessa Hernandez

Ms. Evelina Lezcano is a person not recognized enough for her hard work and effort at Marathon High School. She has been working as the custodian of MHS for the past eleven years, and her job consists of doing everything, from cleaning the cafeteria to fixing tables. She always comes to work in a good mood and a big smile on her face, making all the students and staff of MHS appreciate her working so hard and diligently here. When asked what is her favorite thing about working at Marathon High she said it is the interaction with the children, she loves talking to them and helping them out with their problems. She moved her from Panama and has four children and a grandchild. I think I speak for everyone when I say this school would not be the same without her.



**Ms. Evelina works hard everyday, and always comes to work in a good mood with a big smile on her face.**



# 2007 Resolutions

By Brianna Packer

This December, the Dolphin Pride wants to know “What’s your New Year’s resolution?” To figure out how you want to improve yourself in the New Year, we interviewed four students at Marathon High School.

Cody Striklin: My 2007 resolution is to do better in football, to do more tackles and get more recognition, to get better grades, attendance, and join clubs so I can get into the University of Arkansas. When it comes to my family, my resolution is to spend more time with them, be a role model for my brother and sister, and help my parents around the house.

Melissa Bennett: I need to try harder to raise my GPA by getting better grades so I can make it into college. College is important in my life and I

need good grades to get there.

Dimitri Bologna: When I graduate I want to have as much fun as I can during the summer. Then I want to start working at my dad’s shop and build a house on 99th street with my dad.

Mason Ellis: I want to work hard so I can make money to get my cell phone back so people can call me about the parties that are going on, because my resolution is to party more.

# What Happens Next?

By Cassie Dickson

As the members of the senior class prepare for college or careers and attempt to juggle all the things in their hectic last year of high school, they can be certain that they’re not the first and certainly not the last students of Marathon High to go through it all. The class of 2007 will soon join the hundreds of students that came before them that call themselves the alumni of MHS.

The past MHS students are a diverse bunch. Some stayed in town, some moved away, some raised families, some traveled the country, and still others pursued other goals. Of those who remained in the Keys, some of their children went on to become MHS alumni as well.

also gone to MHS. A long-time resident of Marathon, she lives in the same home she did then and is now retired. After high school she raised a family of four daughters, two of whom became elementary school teachers and two of whom went into law enforcement. After that she traveled the country for ten years before returning to Marathon. As for high school memories, she remembers the most having to walk a long way to some classes, (nothing new to our current students, of course), her friend Sherrie’s VW bug, and her senior class trip to the Bahamas. (Yes, the Bahamas!)

Other alumni didn’t stick around. Julie Graber of the class of 1986 went to the Western Carolina University to major in marketing. She now lives in Ft. Wayne, Indiana with a second home in Sarasota, Florida. Ms. Graber currently controls marketing and promotions for her husband’s business and is taking care of her two daughters, which, as she says, “is more than a full time job!”

Ms. Graber also recently organized her class’s 20th reunion. It was held in Marathon, and the attendees had a great time catching up with each other.



Mary Ann Piece, Class of '68

One of those people is Mary Ann Piece. A member of the class of 1968, she can name brothers, cousins, children, and grandchildren that have

“Unfortunately,” she said, “only a small percentage of our graduating class was able to attend.” This was mostly due to work and family conflicts, and the fact that so many people have moved out of state.

Both women agree that the best thing students right now can do is take their schoolwork seriously and stay focused on classes and what they want to do after high school.

Because Ms. Pierce has seen many changes at MHS over the years, I asked what she thought the current changes; specifically, does she think our new school will be advantageous to future students? She replied, “Sure, we have needed a new school for some time now, updated and current. It will be able to compete with other schools in the state. But,” she added, “it is just a building. It is up to the teachers and students to make the most of it.”



Julie Graber, '86

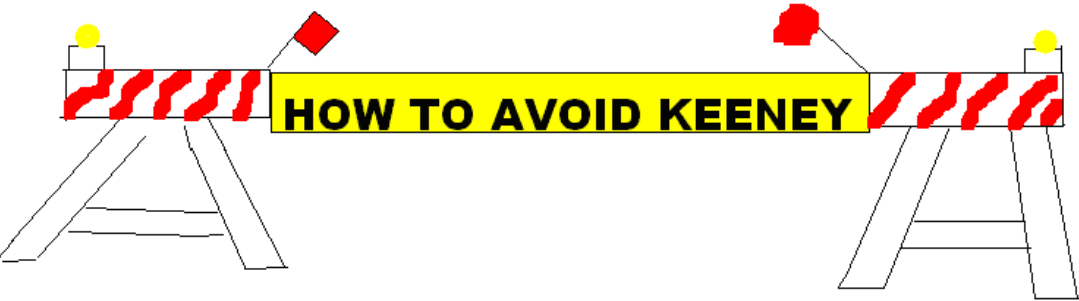
# Wakeboarding

By Anthony Delillo

Combining water skiing, snowboarding, and surfing; wakeboarding started off in the shores of California, and has even gained popularity here in the Florida Keys. This year’s Pro Am Wakeboard competition here at Sombrero Beach inspired many Marathon High School students to take up this challenging water sport. The sport consists of a board with boots called a binding, a rider with balance, and will power. Being pulled between 16-25 mph, the rider must maintain their balance to keep up on top of the water. Even though this sport is fun, it isn’t easy, and it consists of many steps to success. Using this step-by-step guide, your wakeboarding experience will be greatly enhanced.

1. Watch your friends ride for a while and let someone tell you the basics while you watch
2. Strap on the board and get wet
3. Pull your knees to your chest, and point the nose of the board up and toward the boat as it begins driving. The board against the water will pull you quickly to your feet
4. Ride straight for a while to get the feel of the board under you
5. Do some small turns to get a feel for your edges against the water
6. Ride over and outside the wake, then go faster and faster
7. Once you have gotten the hang of regular riding, now it's time to start practicing tricks.
8. To do the bunny hop you must lean back and pop up the board so the whole board hops out of the water.
9. Once you have accomplished that, try to jump the wake and practice spinning in the air.
10. Bend your knees and twist your body in the air to get the feel of tweaks and tricks. Then try grabbing the board to stretch out your air time.





- 1) Talk sports or cars when encountering Keeney.
- 2) Avoid suspicious activity or hide it well.
- 3) Respect classmates and teachers during class.
- 4) Keep a shirt on when walking in the hallways to avoid dress code violations.
- 5) Always know where your destination is. (“Ma’am, where’s your destination?”)
- 6) Say “Good morning” to him seven to ten times a day.
- 7) Be confident when talking to him.
- 8) Don’t get in trouble.
- 9) Park where you’re supposed to.
- 10) If confronted, talk to yourself or ask to play checkers and if all else fails, CRY.

# Artist's Vibe

By Alisha Anisko

Whether it be in coloring books, or on paper, or the less parent-pleasing surface, walls, almost all of us have had childhood experiences with some form of art. Much like her artwork, local Marathon High School Junior, Charmayne Shelton, remembers her early inclination vividly. Though she has now shifted to portraying people, she loved to draw animals, and she recalls one painting in particular. Every artist reaches the point where they create that first piece that they are truly proud of, and from that point on, realize that they are a bona fide creator. For Charmayne, this pivotal piece was her elaborate color painting of a group of swans. But of all the sketches and paintings that Charmayne has ever made, she could name her dearest without a moment’s hesitation. It is an anime (Japanese animation)-style pencil work which she took from a photograph of her favorite musician, Miyavi. In her sketch, the singer is well-defined, while a dark city skyline lies in the background. Ms. Shelton adores the style of semi-realism, and notes her chief artistic inspirations as her own vibrant imagination, the encouragement of her parents, and the Japa-



Wind, by Charmayne Shelton  
Medium: Pastel

nese artist, Miki Aihara. The work of another one of Charmayne’s artistic muses, simply called Emi, whom she feels is immensely underrated, can be found at Emi-Art.com. Charmayne is planning to attend a school of art in Minnesota, and hopes to become a respected comic book artist or writer. Though she does not feel that being constantly surrounded by our tropical environment excites her artistic flare in any way, she would like to return to the Keys later in life, mainly to be with her family. With the possible exception of breathing, Charmayne’s number one passion and priority is art, and upon asking her what she would most like to create, given it could be anything in the world, she stated that it would be a “full length graphic novel.”

# Frozen in Time

By Casey Kitchen

Adults smiling, Super Jolly  
All decking the halls With boughs of Holly  
Kids in the corner, Impatiently waiting  
Whining to their parents, It’s known as ‘Baiting.’  
The parents leave, The children cheer  
It’s the most wonderful Time of the year  
The parents return With white plastic sacks  
The children peek to find, No knickknacks  
Just simple Groceries, Nothing special, nothing neat  
Not even a hint of a Christmas treat.  
The parents Sigh sadly ‘Children’ they say,  
‘We’re too poor to buy Christmas things today’  
The children wail ‘You Don’t Love us anymore!’  
We hate you, you’re stupid, and Christmas is a bore!’  
They storm off to their rooms, Their parents share a smile  
‘Good job Hon’ They say, dripping with guile.  
The children sleep in, Not suspecting at all  
But awake sleepily At their parents call  
‘Children, Wake up You must come and see!’  
They go downstairs And look under the tree  
‘Oh wow!’ They exclaim ‘Oh my gosh Mom and Dad!  
Santa came last night, Even though we’ve been bad!’  
Their parents share glances and A small secret cheer  
They’ve preserved their Kids Childhood,  
For at least one more year.

HAPPY  
HOLIDAYS  
FROM THE  
STAFF OF  
THE  
DOLPHIN  
PRIDE!