

DOLPHIN PRIDE

February, 2009

Vol. 1 Issue 6

MHS Digital Design

Happy Valentine's Day!

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*If music be the food
of life...play on!*

Congratulations to our MHS Band for their outstanding performance in the All-County Band Competition on Jan. 31, 2009 at Coral Shores H.S. Seated L-R 1st – Valarie Munoz, Audra McKinney, Xavier McKnight, RJ Turner. 2nd row (seated)- Jesse Bonilla, Jonathan Rios, Trever Helms, Joey Dorl 3rd row – Matt Wilson, Bryce Roberts, Audie Lekeu, Matt DeFilips. 4th Row – Jonnie Lancaster, MJ Perez, William Clarke, Blake McCarthy.

Photo courtesy of Dr. Kathy Lancaster

Hello to Romance at MHS

By Michelle Saunders

Love is in the air! Throughout the halls of Marathon High you will see couples everywhere. Holding hands, hugging, sitting together, flirting, giggling, and joking are all the signs of romantic couples at Marathon High School. MHS Valentine's Day traditions include presenting your loved one with flowers, candy, giant stuffed animals, balloons, cards, and even articles of clothing.

Valentine's Day also includes taking your loved one out for the day. Whether it's going to a fancy restaurant, to the movies, or watching a sunset; Marathon High definitely has the Valentine's Day traditions down. Marathon High also has a tradition known as the Queen of Hearts. Every year, our students participate in an activity held by our Leadership class. The guys wear the hearts and if the girls can get the guys to talk to them, the guys have to "give their hearts away" to our Marathon High ladies.

Another tradition here at MHS includes a fund-raiser led by the Sophomore class called "Match Maker Service" or "Computer Fun." This is a survey taken by our students. These surveys are then turned in and results are calculated. The students are given their secret match in an envelope. The matches can include who your perfect match is in the whole school and/or in your whole grade. The matches also include who your best friends are and who you might not get along with so well. So as you can see, MHS is full of love and romance. Here pictured right are two of our campus couples posing for the camera. Turn to page 4 for more photos of our campus couples for Valentine's Day 2009:

**Pictured top far right: Annabelle and Kelsey loaded down with Valentine gifts.
Pictured bottom far right: Anna Scott won the crown for Queen of Hearts.**



Photos courtesy of Michelle Saunders

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To See Our Issue online go to <http://mhs.monroe.k12.fl.us/dp>



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A Legacy of Excellence and Determination

For decades, African Americans have influenced the American culture. Our dedication and perseverance has become an icon for the multi-cultural youth. We are strong, proud, and adaptive. This is why African American citizens have the entire month of February dedicated to recognizing their innovating and ground-breaking contributions to our society.

During the historic fight for African American rights in the 1860's, forty thousand black soldiers died. Every 3 out of 4 deceased black soldiers died from death and disease. They were not given proper medical care,

uniforms, or respect. The only comfort these brave fighters had during those unfair times was the glimmer of hope that they would be free one day, and that they were contributing to this seemingly far off possibility. However, thanks to the compassion of Abraham Lincoln, all slaves were freed by the Emancipation Proclamation. This gave cause for rejoice among many slaves in Southern states. However, this didn't mean that slaves would be treated equally throughout the nation. As always, nothing would be given to them, they had to earn it. Before African Americans had

their own week or even month, they contributed so much to American society. People such as Fredrick Douglass and John Brown fought not only for the slave, but for the acceptance of the African American free man. It wasn't until 1926 that Carter G. Woodson organized Negro History Week. Woodson chose the second week of February because it included Fredrick Douglass' and Abraham Lincoln's birthdays. It wasn't until the middle 1900's that Black History Month was officially started and recognized. Since then, African Americans have continued to contribute so much to the American dream.

All teachers in MHS recognize Black History Month, but I would like to recognize one in particular. Dr. Kathy Lancaster greatly appreciates our African American students during our regular

By TaKara Coleman
 schooldays and during Black History Month as well. She and her classes have organized a bulletin board celebrating many contributions made by Black people. She says, "I actually try to support the vast and varied contributions of many people in both my personal life and professional life, mainly because it is very enriching to me and I want to convey that enriched feeling to my students." It's obvious that Dr. Lancaster has been successful at enriching her students and showing them how appreciated they are.

It's good to see that teachers and students are proactive in celebrating their culture because whether you are black or not, Black History Month is a time to remember the strong, different, and proud people who helped shape our country.

Reference:

World Book Encyclopedia Online
<http://www.worldbookonline.com>



Pictured left are notable African Americans who have left their mark on our American landscape through their efforts promoting civil rights for all. Far Left to right: Martin Luther King Jr, Malcom X, Coretta Scott King, and Sojourner Truth.



Crazy Laws



By Alicia Young

In Florida, we have many laws for people to follow. Some may be hard to get around or others are just as simple as wearing your seat belt in a car. However, all of these laws were made for a reason such as to keep people safe and/or preserve justice. There have been some outrageous laws written for people to abide by. Here are a few that we found:

Crazy Laws in Florida

- Women may be fined for falling asleep under a hair dryer, as can the salon owner.
- A special law prohibits unmarried women from parachuting on Sunday or she shall risk arrest, fine, and/or jailing.
- If an elephant is left tied to a parking meter, the parking fee has to be paid just as it would for a vehicle.
- It is illegal to sing in a public place while attired in a swimsuit.
- Men may not be seen publicly in any kind of strapless gown.
- It is illegal to skateboard without a license.
- You may not fart in a public place after 6 P.M. on Thursdays.
- It is considered an offense to shower naked.

Big Pine Key Laws

- It is illegal to molest a Key deer. If caught one will be fined or will have to go to jail.

Cape Coral Laws

- It is against the city ordinance to hang your clothes outside on a clothesline.
- It is illegal to park a pick-up truck in your driveway or in front of your house on the street. This law is limited to only those who do not own the house.

Daytona Beach Laws

- The molestation of trash cans is banned.
- Maintaining a car on your property which is no longer in use is prohibited.

Key West Laws

- Chickens are considered a 'protected species'.
- Miami Beach Laws
- No one may bring a pig with them to the beach.

Here at MHS we have our own Law Studies class that teaches students about the laws in Florida and the restrictions placed upon us by them. I interviewed Ms. Balazs, the Law Studies teacher on what she thinks of Florida laws in general. Ms. Balazs responded with, "pretty good, always room for improvement." When asked how she liked being the Law Studies teacher, she said, "I love it. It is the most practical and meaningful course that you will take. It really helps you in life, in case you may have a run in with the law."

Finally she was asked: What do you think of the crazy laws shown above? "They are even more interesting than the weird laws we already have, just think that people had to do some of these things to make them illegal. I wonder why these laws still exist."

So when you see strange laws on the books, remember that it took a lot of people to create them. They may be crazy and weird but it's the background of why they were made that is interesting.

Ever Wonder About... Outer Space? by Paul Acosta

Everyone all through time has always asked the big question... "Are we truly alone?" Now that question is still trying to be answered today, but our scientists are getting closer to the answer every day and maybe we will find some living things, or at least evidence of them, on a different planet. So stretch out on your back and just look at the stars. Here is a little research on the topic taken from *Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia*. <http://en.wikipedia.org>.

- **The "Big Bang Theory"**

The phrase the Big Bang refers to the suggestion that the Universe is escalating from a primarily hot and dense point in time before our galaxy, or any galaxy for that matter, had formed and is still expanding to this point in time. Fred Hoyle had come up with the phrase during a 1949 radio broadcast.

- **Alien life**

Alien life, or Extraterrestrial (E.T.) life, is a being existing outside of our lovely planet Earth. Because there is no credible evidence of extraterrestrial life, their existence remains hypothetical. Major beliefs on aliens were always a part of the ancient worlds in India, Egypt, China, and other countries, but the idea of aliens is difficult to separate from their gods, demons, and other beings in their religions.

- **Galaxies**

The definition of the word galaxy is a large, gravitational system that consists of stars, gas, dust, and possibly a few planets. The name is from the

Greek word galaxias, meaning "milky," a reference to the Milky Way. Galaxies have always been categorized by their shape. A common shape for a galaxy is elliptical, which has an ellipse-shaped light profile. Another type of galaxy is the spiral galaxy that is disk-shaped with curving, dusty arms. There are probably more than 100 billion (10¹¹) galaxies in the Universe. The majorities of those galaxies are 1,000 to 100,000 parsecs in diameter and are separated by great distances, measured in megaparsecs. Dark matter covers around 90% of the mass of most galaxies, even though it is still not yet understood. Scientists have suggested that there is a super large black hole in the center of most, if not all, galaxies. A black hole is a region in space that the gravitational field is so great that nothing, not even light, can escape its strong grasp. The fact that a black hole absorbs visible light makes the interior invisible and indistinguishable from the black space around it. A black hole may reveal itself when an object comes into contact with the hole and objects behind it seem to bend over or under the black hole (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Space>; <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Galaxies>).

In order to find a more personal answer to this question, the staff of the Dolphin Pride and I have decided to go around the school to find out what our "dolphins" have to say about life in outer space. The question that we had asked everyone was if they believed that there is life outside of our solar system. Out of 30 persons surveyed: 17 said yes, there is life in outer space, 10 said no, there isn't, and 3 had no opinion. Here are a few quotes on their thoughts:

"Yes, why would there only be life on one planet when there are millions of solar systems." - Mr. Steadham.

"Yes, we are not the only planet out there and it is too big for us to be alone." - Danny Valerdi.

"No, I don't think so. I don't really think about it. It's not a real topic of interest for me." - Ms. Dodamead.

Middle School News

BY PAOLA CASTANEDA

Mrs. Logan is our Marathon Middle School assistant principal. In looking towards the months ahead, we decided to catch up with her and ask her a few questions about our middle school. First question we asked was if she was satisfied with the way things were going on for the middle school

this year. Ms. Logan responded by saying that the school is in great shape and that teachers are excited to try new ideas and take on new challenges. "We have many great teachers in this school who all work very well together and contribute to great teamwork." We asked if there were any hopes and aspirations for the school this year, and said that "the 2009 FCAT is coming up and that all are hoping that the students do better than ever this year." By preparing the students and continuing to try new teaching methods, there is no doubt that this year will be a great, studious and eventful year for our middle school.



Photo courtesy of Paola Castaneda

KOTQ - (KIDS OF THE QUARTER)

BY SARAH BRADSHAW

There is a new tradition taking place at Marathon Middle School. The 'Kids of the Quarter' is a program where all of the middle school teachers nominate two outstanding kids from each of their classes. Now, as you can imagine, there are quite a bit of names that are submitted. But this gives the students a chance to feel special and a motive to work hard and pay attention in class. The nominations are intended to be kept anonymous in that teachers do not tell students who chose them for this honor. By making them uncertain as to whether or not they're being considered for the award, students will continue to behave appropriately in all of their classes. If any student is selected by his/her teachers for all four quarters, they will receive a special reward. So for all of you middle school students- work extra hard and be pleasant in your classes and you just might be nominated!

RELAY FOR LIFE

By Layne Doyle and Nicky Smith

"Celebrate, Remember, Fight back!" is Relay for Life's signature slogan. Relay for Life is an annual 24 hour event that is held all around the country. The relay offers students, teachers, and our community a chance to participate in helping fight cancer and raise money to find a cure. Relay is held at parks, schools, fairgrounds, and any open place with room for booths sponsoring walkers and all the people in attendance.

The relay starts with the first round-track walk of cancer victims and survivors. During the event, groups of 8 to 15 members gather with tents and sleeping bags and man a on the track at all times. to take part in throughout hooping, yoga, and dancing also a luminary lighting in fought the battle of cancer. the night lining the track in who have lost their battle get on a stage and speak to the crowd. There is also live music playing and DJ's attending to the music.



booth with one member There are many activities the night such as hula the Limbo. There is honor of those who have These stay lit throughout remembrance of those to cancer. Many people

Relay for Life started in Tacoma, Washington in the mid-1980's by Dr. Gordy Klatt. During the first relay, Klatt ran around the track by himself and was sponsored twenty-five dollars a lap. He ran a total of 83 miles and raised twenty-seven thousand dollars. After the first relay he had more and more people join him and it gradually turned into what we know today with 3.5 million people involved in the fight against cancer making relay the largest fund-raising event in mankind's history.

Our own high school Relay for Life team is having a big silent auction on Curriculum Night and a car wash at the Orion Bank to help raise money. The team is also collecting plastic bottle caps and once they reach 2,000 caps, we can pay for a child's chemotherapy.

Relay for Life is an amazing way to support fighters, survivors, and their families. Everyone should get out, join a group and help fight. Go to the community park on March 26th and 27th to take part in the celebration to find a cure and celebrate life.

DOLPHIN SPORTS

Spring Sports

Who makes the rules??



Out with the Old and In with the New.

By Paola Castaneda and Joey O'Connor

By Shelby Kuck

Many student athletes don't know why they have to abide by the rules and regulations of any sports organization. They want to know whose orders they are following whether it be the coaches, the teachers or the referees. Actually, it is a much greater power. The National Federation of High Schools (NFHS) oversees sports and produces more than eight million copies of publications and support materials annually for seventeen sports.

The NFHS publishes case books, officials' manuals, hand books, and simplified and illustrated books in many sports. These help coaches provide a unique student-centered curriculum that creates a healthy and age appropriate sport experience. "Without these pre-designated rules and regulations, I know that there would be chaos out on my field," says Girls' Softball coach, Andrea Murphy.

Here at Marathon High School all the teams are under the leadership of the Athletic Director, Ms. Konrath. The NFHS not only regulates what goes on in sports but determines the school standards that you must abide by in order to be eligible to play sports. The NFHS encourages students to keep a higher

GPA as well as attend class more often in order to abide by the regulations that it sets to be able to play any given sport. "I personally think that it's a great organization only making things easier for the coaches and teachers," says Soccer Coach and Social Studies teacher, Mr. Murphy (pictured left), "I know a lot of my students try harder and come to class more because they don't want to jeopardize getting kicked

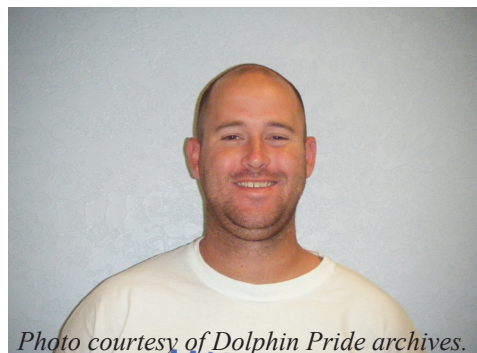


Photo courtesy of Dolphin Pride archives.

out of whatever team they are on."

As you can see, decisions, rules and procedures are not always in the hands of the coaches or the Athletic Director. There is a higher authority they must also answer to.

As the weather turns warmer, the winter sports come to an end. The Girls' Basketball team, coached by Amanda Hirschauer, completed their season and lost 5 seniors. The Boys' Basketball team, coached by Kevin Freeman, did not lose any seniors this year and had a 6-17 record. The Girls' Soccer team, coached by Dennis Doll, didn't lose any seniors and made it all the way to first rounds of regionals. Boys' Soccer, coached by James Murphy, completed their season 5-10-1 and lost 15 seniors.

Hopes are high for all spring sports: softball, baseball, and tennis. The Varsity Softball team is coached by Andrea Murphy. The team has 25 games this season including a Palm Beach tournament. The Varsity Baseball team is coached by Luis Leal. The Girls' and Boys' Tennis teams are coached by Chris Bull and Nichole Burger.

The Football team, coached by Lance Martin, also begins practice in the spring. They play their spring game May 22, 2009 against Chaminade. Good luck teams and let's hope for a strong season.



A start to the season - Girl's softball and Boy's baseball teams pose for the camera for scrimmage held Jan. 31, 2009. Coaches Murphy and Leal joined forces to provide an entertaining coed match between teams. Photo courtesy of MHS website.

Valentine's Day Campus Couples

Photos courtesy of Michelle Saunders

