



dolphin PRIDE



Marathon High School

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TEACHER OF THE YEAR

By: Vanessa Sardiña

"I love to teach, I love to learn, I love to see students' understanding blossom," are the words of the enthusiastic and hardworking Teacher of the Year of Marathon High. Suzanne Ryals has been teaching for thirty-six years, and has served Marathon High for eight. After many years of dedication and determination, Ms. Ryals has earned the prestigious award of Teacher of the Year!

Ms. Ryals has had major accomplishments, such as receiving National Board certification in 2007, which recognizes teachers that continue advancing the quality of teaching and learning. She has also received the ESE Inclusion Teacher of the Year at Marathon High school, Environmental Educator of the Year in Monroe County, and others too numerous to mention.

Ms. Ryals enjoys traveling to other countries to provide them with an optimistic view of education in the United States. She says, "I have begun to travel to share with others my love and excitement in teaching. I enjoy talking with people from other parts of the country and the world concerning teaching." Ms. Ryals also hopes to finish her Ph.D. or Ed.D. She wants the best for Marathon, and hopes that the school stands out in academics, athlet-

ics, and community service. "I believe I have already seen a turn in that direction," she proudly says.

Ms. Ryals is always willing to go that extra mile to help students achieve their goals and dreams. She is always happy to write recommendations, arrange internships, stay after school, and help students on weekends. She will do "whatever it takes for student success!" Student success may seem as simple as a student getting good grades or having good behavior, but Ms. Ryals states, "I do not define a student's success; the student defines what is and is not success for him or her."

After all the years of teaching, watching students graduate, and earning awards, Suzanne Ryals' greatest accomplishment seems small, but is actually much greater than being Teacher of the Year. "When I hear a student say, 'I get it,' or see a student's eyes light up while participating in laboratory," Ms. Ryals says, "those words and the actions behind them are my greatest accomplishment." She never expects thanks, because she chose this career to see student success, not for its reputation or income.

Marathon High School salutes Ms. Ryals and congratulates her on being named this year's Teacher of the Year!



A Writer with a Purpose

By: Jade Holroyd

Renowned author Lois Wolfe returned to Marathon High on February 5th to get reacquainted with the faces of students she had helped two years ago. She is a fiction writer as well as a journalist, whose articles have appeared in newspapers like USA Today and the Miami Herald. Her first visit resulted in an anthology of short stories entitled "Chicken Tastes Good with Language Arts." Dr. Kathy Lancaster, an MHS English teacher, was the main motivation behind the completion of the anthology and is responsible for bringing Ms. Wolfe back again.

After a reception, everyone took a short walk to the library for an interactive writing workshop. Ms. Wolfe started by saying that "when I talk to students I don't see a group, I see each individual on a road less traveled but worn the same," an allusion to Robert Frost's famous poem. She inspired the young writers to "move mountains" with each word, and guided them in writing with tips and encouragement. At the end of the workshop, many of the sophomores felt that they had learned a good deal about themselves and their writing.



Lois Wolfe talking to a group of sophomores

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P R I D E O F MARATHON HIGH

BIG SHOT FROM A SMALL BAND

By: Nicky Smith



Coming from a small town, being a part of something big is simply amazing, yet seventeen-year-old Ricardo Dominguez has gotten that chance—twice! Dominguez is a trumpet player, and junior here at Marathon High School. He has been playing the trumpet since the third grade when he was inspired by his father's interest in Latin music and a past band member. "The trumpet had three buttons, and that was always a plus," jokes Dominguez. Growing up, music was a big part in his father's life, who passed that onto Ricardo.

Since the day he began playing, music has been a huge part in his life. Recently he was able to return to an event called The Small Schools Honor Band. This event is

a big thing for a small town band member. It is held in the Tampa Convention Center. The best band members from small schools around Florida are grouped together to form one huge band. This was Dominguez's second year attending in a row. Last year there were a few members from Coral Shores and only two members from MHS that were able to go; this year only Ricardo was given the opportunity to return. Dominguez explained the experience, "It was a nice change from a fourteen person band, a great opportunity!"

Music is something that Dominguez plans on keeping with him through college, and says maybe a little after. "Music is always going to be a big part of my life, maybe not always the biggest part, but I will take it with me," he said.

Goodbye Marathon

By: Michelle Sardiña

Language Arts will never be the same at Marathon Middle School as teacher Adam Pfeiffer, prepares to say his good-byes. He is moving to New Orleans "to be with the love of [his] life." Mr. Pfeiffer has also made plans to go back to school and get his master's degree in education before returning to teaching.

Mr. Pfeiffer has lived in the Keys for about four years, but has been visiting the area all his life. He has been teaching at Marathon for two and a half years and was coach of the Junior Varsity boys' basketball team here at Marathon. This teacher and coach will be greatly missed by the students as well as the faculty of Marathon High.



The relaxing atmosphere of Keys living is just one of the many things Mr. Pfeiffer will miss. "I have made life-long friends here that I will truly miss," Mr. Pfeiffer says, "and I will also miss the great staff and support that Marathon gave me." Mr. Pfeiffer also made many friends in the classroom and stated that he will miss his students, "present and past."

Although Mr. Pfeiffer is leaving the Florida Keys, that doesn't mean he didn't enjoy his time here. "My Keys experience was absolutely fantastic" said Mr. Pfeiffer. "I love this town and definitely am taking a slew of great memories and great moments with me."

Keeney the Enforcer

By: Cody Stricklin

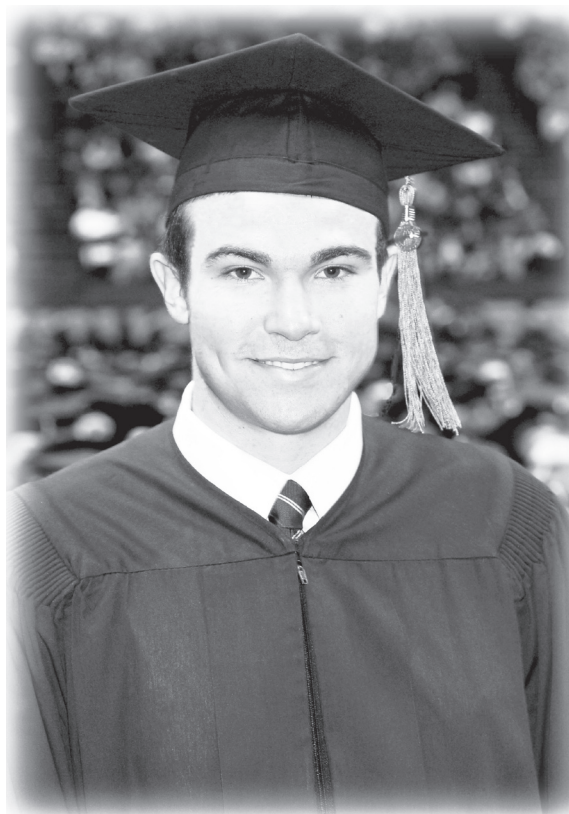
Jim Keeney. If you do not recognize this name then you have probably had your head in the clouds for the last thirty-five years. That's how long Mr. Keeney has

been serving Marathon High and its students, as a teacher and now as the Dean of Discipline. Mr. Keeney says the biggest impact working for the school system is the young people he gets to be involved with, and showing them that school is for learning and not for distractions. "I want the kids to succeed both in the classroom and in life," says Keeney. He is modest about his work and says after all this time he still loves coming to work every-day and enjoys being at the school with the students. Mr. Keeney has



one son, John Keeney, who is also currently working in our school as Security and 21st Century Grant Site Administrator. Mr. Keeney's wife, Arlene Keeney, also worked in the Monroe County School District for thirty years. Mr. Keeney enjoys life and has been through many hard times serving in the Army as an officer before he began his teaching career. Some of his favorite hobbies include body surfing, lifting, and jogging. Keeney's long years of service will unfortunately come to an end this year in June. All of Marathon High will be sad to see him go but his commitment and hard work will live on in the halls of our school.

Alumnus Makes MHS Proud



Marathon High School's Class Valedictorian, Jared Tyler Roche, Class of 2004, graduated from Florida State University in December. Jared earned his Bachelor of Science degree with majors in Accounting and Business Finance. Jared accepted a position as an Investment Representative with Fidelity Investments in Jacksonville, FL.

LIGHTS, CAMERA, ACTION!

By: Annabelle Walker

Marathon High School's new facelift is almost complete. Principal Harry Russell is ecstatic about the new auditorium. He says that it is going to be "an absolutely awesome facility." The building is due to open sometime in February.

On April 27th, the School Board will be visiting Marathon High School to check out the new facility and celebrate the grand opening. Mr. Russell is also considering an open house to show off the auditorium to students and parents. When asked whether the auditorium would have a dedication like the Marathon High School gymnasium, Mr. Russell responded with, "We do not have one yet, but maybe in time."

The auditorium will not only be used by the school, but also by the Marathon community. Mr. Russell also added that Marathon High School is going to reach out to the Community Theatre and try

to partner in some productions. Organizations will be allowed to use the Auditorium to present their productions. Other than school and community productions, the auditorium will also hold school assemblies. Pep rallies will be kept in the gym.

Within the next few years Mr. Russell would like to start a drama club and a choir at Marathon High School that will put on plays and productions for the community. Also, a video production class will be put together within the next couple of years. This class will create movies and shows which can be played in the auditorium which can also be transformed into a movie theater.

The auditorium has a fully functional blacked-out stage with approximately six-hundred comfortable movie theater style seats. About 400 seats are going to be floor seats, and the other 200 are

going to be elevated above the sound and effects room. Other than the performance room, the auditorium holds about eight classrooms. Six of those will be given to the Florida Keys Community College and the others will be used for the band. The FKCC has moved out of the middle school building and into the auditorium to make room for the upcoming sixth grade class.

Mr. Russell wishes to plan events like "Dinner and a Movie" nights. To do this he will need the culinary arts classes and the production crew to work together. Mr. Russell would like to break in the auditorium with a famous entertainer if possible. If anyone has any connections, you should try to hook us up. It would make the auditorium all the more worthwhile. Mr. Russell told the Dolphin Pride, "I hope the community comes out and supports and enjoys all of the school and community productions."

Black History Month

By: Cory Fulcher

Black History Month may be another ordinary February to some; however, but it is full of important dates and historical facts. Americans have recognized black history annually since 1926. It was first known as Negro History Week. Although African Americans have been in America as far back as colonial times, it was not until the 20th century that they gained a respectable presence in the history books.

We owe the celebration of Black History Month to Dr. Carter G. Woodson. His parents were former slaves, and he spent his youth working in the Kentucky coal mines. He enrolled in high school at the age of twenty and quickly graduated within two years. He then went on to attain a Ph.D. from Harvard. Woodson was very disturbed to find in his studies that African Americans were barely mentioned in history books.

Woodson then decided to act on his ambitions and take on the challenge of writing African Americans into history books. He soon established the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History (now called the Association for the Study of Afro-American Life and History) in 1915, and a year later he also founded Journal of Negro History. Then in 1926 Woodson chose the second week of February as Negro History Week. It marked the birthdays of two men who greatly influenced the African American population; Frederick Douglas and Abraham Lincoln.

At Marathon High School, students and teachers alike are recognizing this important month in a variety of ways. Mrs. Loggies's Government classes are working on creating audio/video presentations concerning the historical Brown v. Board of Education case. Also, her Digital Design class will be using Photoshop to place themselves in pictures of a historical event in black history. This year, Dr. Bayerl plans to incorporate a lesson on the diamond trade out of Africa into her economy classes to honor Black History Month.

The FCAT is Coming!

By: Jeanette Betancourt

I'm sure you've all heard about the test students take here in Florida called the FCAT (Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test); but do you really know what it is? The FCAT is a standard-referenced assessment that provides a snap shot of where students stand, not in relation to each other, but in relation to their ability to meet the expectations outlined in the Sunshine State Standards. There is a math and reading section for all grades, but for the 4th, 8th, and 10th grade there is also an FCAT writing test. The format of the questions asked during the FCAT test consists of multiple choice questions, short and extended response, and grid-in answers.

Tenth grade is usually the last year that students have to take the FCAT. Unfortunately, last year in Monroe County only 34% of students passed the reading section and 65% passed the math section, causing students who have not passed to retake this test in their junior year. Of course everyone

would like to see these numbers go up, and there are many different things that can help you prepare for the upcoming FCAT.

For one, there are many websites that you can go to and take practice tests such as FCAT Explorer (www.fcatexplorer.com). FCAT Explorer is a free online educational program for Florida students that reinforce the reading and math skills outlined in the Sunshine State Standards.

Mrs. Costello-Lettau is the CRT (Curriculum Resource Teacher) here at Marathon High School. She states that one thing all students need to do so they can do well on the FCAT is to believe. "They need to know that they can do it and not psych themselves out." Students should also practice endurance reading; this will help greatly when they take the test.

As for teachers, Mrs. Costello

says that "all teachers have the same language and same strategies across the curriculum that provides consistency in every subject." In other words all subjects are related, so the students need to know that a strategy they learn in reading, they can also use in history or math or any other subject. The FCAT is also a personalized test, which means that each teacher should figure out what works for each kid and have them use the strategies they learn on the FCAT.

Last but not least all students need to have a good night sleep and eat breakfast in the morning. The FCAT is a long test and students need to be fully awake and energized. Believe it or not, these two things are very important when taking any long test, such as the FCAT. Also don't forget that passing the FCAT is a graduation requirement so all students need to do their best when taking this test.



The New Murphy's Law

By: Josh Frank

After two fairly successful seasons, consisting of district championship runner-ups and making it to the second round of the state playoffs, Jason Frank has decided to retire from his position as Marathon head softball coach and present the duties to Marathon newcomer, Andrea Murphy. She may be new to Marathon, but to softball she's no tenderfoot.

Graduating from Michigan State University, Murphy has the experience of a Division I player under her belt and says she has much to offer the 2008 Lady Dolphins. "I've coached high school softball before and it's a really fun sport, so I thought I'd give it a try in Marathon." Murphy explained.

After a week of try-outs, Murphy is very enthusiastic about her talented team. "We have a good solid team and I'm very excited about our potential" said Murphy. The team will be led this season by

four seniors: Melanie Boyd, Alexis Culver, Celena Mora, and Yari Alpizar. Also making the team were two freshmen, Kelly Struyff and Samantha Rodamer. Kelly is returning from being the only middle school player on the varsity team.

The Lady Fins started their season with one of the biggest rivalries of the year, Marathon vs. Key West. The game was hosted by Key West February 16. The score was not available at the press time.



Alli Heller practicing pitching at Stanley Switlik Elementary

¿Qué Pasa?

By: Matias Pezzella

Scot Kaye is the Spanish teacher here at Marathon High School, teaching his students about Spanish I and II. Besides learning how to speak Spanish, he has a special project planned for his students. This is a presentation in Spanish that the students have to make by themselves. The presentation, which is due mid-February, can be about anything, such as soccer, food, history, even cars. It can be in any format, such as PowerPoints, posters, or any kind of visual presentation, and, of course, it must be school appropriate. The one catch, according to Señor Kaye, is that the project must be entirely in Spanish. This puts lots of pressure on those students who can't speak Spanish fluently. However, there is also another expectation for

his classes. Mr. Kaye has stated that the project cannot be read from a piece of paper or even index cards. The presentation's content has to be memorized by the presenting students. This means that not only will they have to speak Spanish to the best of their ability, but they will also have to memorize what they are saying.

Apart from the project, his students are studying the Spanish textbook, ¡Buen Viaje!, which means Good Travel in Spanish. Currently, Sr. Kaye is teaching his students how to say certain words at restaurants, such as la orden (the order), and una limonada (a lemonade) to name a few words. Clearly, a lot of things will be happening in his classes this year, so Adios everybody!

Valentine's Day

By: Paola Castañeda

Valentine's Day is that special time of year when everyone gets together and sends mushy love letters and chocolate candies to the people they love. The tradition of sending Valentines started many years ago. Legend has it that St. Valentine was a priest who secretly married couples. He was later imprisoned and fell in love with his jailor's daughter. Before he was put to death he sent the first 'Valentine' himself when he wrote her a letter and signed it 'Your Valentine', which is still used on cards today. Now the tradition has spread around the world. Many millions of people all around the world buy and send Valentines to their favorite people every year. Other people take the time and make special

cards on this day to send to those for whom they feel great affection. While most people go out of their way to celebrate the day of love and romance, there are many that are against this celebration. Some feel there is no reason to celebrate love on one particular day since love is to be cherished on all days of the year. Junior Morgan Roberts feels that "Valentine's Day should be celebrated everyday, because love should not take a holiday." Whether you decide to buy your gifts or to make them, the thought is what matters the most, not the price tag. So this year, if Cupid's arrow happens to find you, spend time with the one you love and make everyday a Valentine's Day.

Love Means Nothing

By: Kelsey Wonderlin

February has arrived, which means it's time to get out your racquets and tennis balls! Tennis season has begun. Our coach this season is Mr. Mark Hooper, who has been coaching the team for 9 years. As a member of the team, I know we have a lot to look forward to. We have some new members, and many more matches than we had last season. Both the boys and the girls have received new uniforms this season, which we are very excited about. Also, as we do every year, we will be going to watch the NASDAQ tournament on Friday, March 28th. This is a tournament where professional tennis players compete. It's a great experience for everyone on the team.

Unfortunately, two key members

of our team graduated last year, which leaves us with no seniors on our team this season. However, we have two new team members that have come from Haiti. We are looking forward to having sisters Michaelle Bellevue, a freshman, and Michelle Bellevue, a junior on the team. We are also happy to welcome freshman Marisa Brossard to the team this season. Junior Kerry Wonderlin, and sophomore Angela Farello, will be leading the team as captains this year. Practice began January 29 and cuts were made after one week. At each practice we run one to two miles, do 25 push-ups, 50 sit-ups, 4 suicide drills, lunges, and practice our tennis skills. Practices on Mondays and Fridays are from



Kelsey Wonderlin executing a forehand stroke

4-6 p.m. and practices on Tuesdays and Thursdays are from 4-7 p.m at the Marathon Community Park. Our next home match is on February 19th at the Marathon Community Park against Carrollton at 4:00 p.m. Please come out to support your MHS tennis team members!