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MHS Digital Design

Happy New Year!

Recognizing Our Veterans

By TaKara Coleman

The United States Veterans of Foreign Wars have contributed so much to our country. They've worked hard and ensured our rights to freedom and happiness. To help acknowledge these amazing soldiers, the Veterans of Foreign Wars organization put together an essay contest every year for students to show their patriotism and gratitude for those who fought to ensure their security. These contests are open to grades 9-12 and Mrs. Balazs required that all students in her AP Government class write an essay for the contest. The year's topic asked why the American youth should be grateful for veterans. This topic inspired senior Shannon Aument to write the winning essay. Shannon Aument's family has been involved in military operations for generations.



Above: Shannon Aument
Below: VFW Symbol



Her grandfather was a tank commander in World War I and both her dad and uncle were in the Navy. She admits that her strong military background heavily influenced her paper. Ms. Aument also admits that Mr. Sutton played a huge role in the forming of her paper not just as a great teacher, but a former fighter pilot as well. When asked what her essay's major point was, she simply said, "I just wrote about what I am grateful for." Shannon was shocked to discover that she'd won such a prestigious contest. It is truly a phenomenal accomplishment and Marathon High School is proud to claim such a dynamic student.

Congratulations Shannon Aument, we hope to see you reach even bigger goals in the future.

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The Art of Teaching: MHS 2009 T.O.Y.

By Layne Doyle

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"Lourdes Dick's talents in teaching, inspiring, and motivating all levels of students and her supportive roles in faculty leadership make her an excellent candidate for teacher of the year. She is very deserving of this award," says a fellow colleague of our new 2009 Teacher of the Year.

Lourdes Dick has been teaching at Marathon High School for over sixteen years and has taught everything from Language Arts to the Fine Arts

in which she earned National Board Certification several years ago. She also leads a journalism class that puts out this short but sweet four page monthly newspaper, the Dolphin Pride, published monthly in the Marathon Weekly. After all of her years of hard work she has received the influential award of Teacher of the Year.

Mrs. Dick graduated from Queens College in New York with a BA degree in the Humanities and a minor in Secondary Education. She earned an MS degree in Educational

Leadership and Policy Studies from Florida State University. In her spare time she serves as president of Alpha Delta Kappa or ADK, a local benevolent sorority for women educators. She also serves in a district level position for the local teacher's union, United Teachers of Monroe.

However, here at MHS, everyone knows her as the art teacher who enjoys showing students how to create and express themselves through drawing and painting.

After realizing she had even been nominated, Mrs. Dick was honored. "I just love to teach and see my kids express their creativity and see how happy they are when they finish a painting or drawing that they thought they never could do. For me all their work is beautiful." When she heard her name over the loudspeaker, however, her bliss was much greater. She, first, enthusiastically said, "Oh My Gosh! I am touched to have received this, I can't believe it." Mrs. Dick was thrilled with the winning of this award. Being recognized by her peers is a great honor and one she values deeply and now is one of the highlights of her career. Afterwards, her name will be added to a plaque in the front office of past teachers of the year for everyone to see.

As one of her students, I sincerely believe that she deserves this award and has done a great job of inspiring her students throughout her career. I trust and know that she will continue to be a great person and inspire many others throughout the coming years.

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

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Senior To-do List

By Alicia Young

Wake up seniors! It's time to get proactive. Senior year is half way over and you're two quarters away from that big graduation day. As you may know, Ms. Lynn is the school's CCAPS counselor who helps seniors with finishing the year the right way. Ms. Lynn feels that seniors should be satisfied with their SAT or ACT scores before May. She also wants to remind students who are planning to attend a 4 year university that they need to bring her a copy of the acceptance letter for her files once they have been accepted to attend. This way she will have the names to be put up on the walls in the library. If you have community service hours that you haven't yet turned in, you need to do that as soon as possible so they can be counted.

When you are ready to make those all important college visits please notify Ms. Lynn for the form. Remember you only get 5 days during your junior to senior year to visit any potential colleges. If you or your parents ever have any questions please call Ms. Lynn at 305-

Editorial

By: Michelle Saunders

It's the beginning of a new year! Many things have happened in the past year in 2008. For example, our school was designated as a FRI school that focuses on reading throughout the curriculum. Looking ahead to 2009, we have many new things to report and issues to resolve. In this January issue, we'll take you through articles about budget cuts, an interview with Ms. Dodamead, a senior to do list, an update on our Marathon Dolphin sports teams and banquet, plus a travel journal about Spain and France. For the art lovers and word game addicts, we have included an art review and a crossword puzzle for our Marathon community.

Our front page celebrated the winner of the Veterans of Foreign Wars essay, and an article about our 2009 Teacher of the Year.

We finished our Mid-terms and are

289-2480 extension 55307. There will be a meeting on Thursday, February 5th at 6 p.m. about local scholarships and how to access and apply for them. Also, included in the discussion will be news on applying for Financial Aid and pre-registering for Bright Futures Scholarships. When talking to Ms. Lynn, she tells students to be proactive, don't count on other people, and always ask questions.



Photo courtesy of Alicia Young

Here are a few important dates you may want to put in your calendar: Baccalaureate, Sunday, June 7th, Class Night, Tuesday, June 9th and Graduation, Thursday, June 11th.

The Newest Slim Cut

By Nicholette Smith

Florida's budget will experience deep cuts resulting in possible dollar reductions state-wide. January 5th-16th, 2009, the Florida Legislature was having special sessions to decide budget cuts throughout the state. They want to eliminate \$2.3 billion dollars spent by the state. These cuts are going to hit Education and Health Care the hardest.

Lawmakers are presenting a plan to slash millions of dollars in health related spending for the senior citizens of Florida. Nursing homes and help giving caregivers for Alzheimer's patients will especially be reduced in funding. The state's senate is proposing a 10% [or \$73.5 million] Medicaid rate cut from now until the end of the fiscal year, June 30th, 2009. Another aspect of Florida that will be strongly affected is education. A 4% cut to the educational programs state

funds is expected. Specifically, a 1.93% cut to public schools overall as part of the current '08-'09 budget. However, only 2% may not seem like much, but even here in Marathon we can feel it. Our paper allowance and use has decreased dramatically.

Next year, if this continues, MHS may not have all the classes and programs available now. In Miami, fine arts programs [such as music, band, choir, etc.] are being completely eliminated from some public schools. Although final decisions have not been made as the sessions continue, Florida and our local schools will be sure to feel the change.



Q & A With Mrs. Dodamead

By Stormy Bezanis

I walked into the library and she had a warm smile on her face like always. I informed her that I would be interviewing her and the already huge smile grew wider. The infamous Mrs. Dodamead led me to a table and we sat down, eagerly jumping into a quick game of Q & A:

Have you always been a librarian?

"No, I was an elementary school teacher, a scuba instructor, a business partner, and I was in the boating industry for a while."

What's your favorite thing about working at MHS?

"I love working with the kids. I'll be around the community and I'll be able to say hello to everyone; which is nice."

What's your all time favorite book?

"A Tale of Two Cities by Charles Dickens."

Are you happy you get to be a librarian at such a wonderful school?

"Absolutely, I couldn't think of a better job. See, when I was little I daydreamed of living on an island. So I started working on the water so I could be able to move to an island. While doing all these jobs I somehow acquired a job as a librarian and I loved it. So I got to do my two favorite things it came together in perfect harmony."



Javi Rodriguez and Ms. Dodamead beam for the camera. Photo Courtesy of Sasha Sosa

headed towards the FCAT exams in February and March. We're looking forward to a busy second semester. We have spring sports beginning soon such as baseball, softball, and tennis. In February, our Marathon High School basketball teams end their season with a sports banquet. After many successful Community blood drives we have others scheduled for spring right here at MHS. Middle school and High school field days will be ready for competition in just two short months as well. But one of the most exciting events is happening in February, our senior class will host a Movie Night fund-raiser held under the stars in our MHS courtyard. We also have our Relay for Life coordinated by Ms. Denny, our health teacher and Dolphin Days coordinated by Ms. Lynn, our CCAPS counselor.

Following that is our week long spring break! So much to look forward to!

Our other exciting events for spring include prom, class night, and graduation for our moving up eighth graders and our seniors. But, unfortunately, before graduation the entire student body has their last final exams to complete. So, on a last note MHS, study and work hard. Let's hope that 2009 is good to us.



Artist Corner: Reflections

By Lucy Agababian



Growing Passion by Denise Sosa
9" x 12" acrylic on canvas.

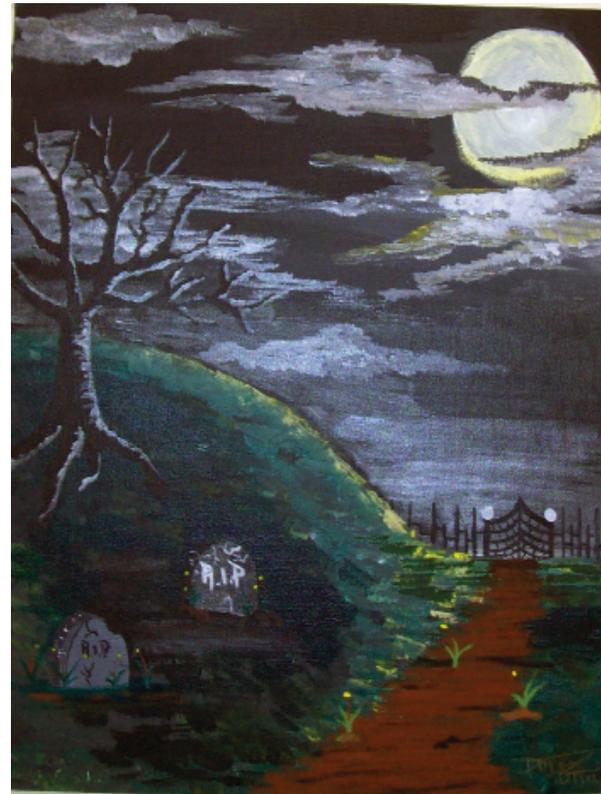
A vibrant flower in reds, pinks, blues and white can liven up even the darkest room. And after looking at this image it even brightens up its dark crimson background like only a flower can. With differing paint edges both hard and soft, it creates a striking image of a flower worthy enough for any Hawaiian princess.

Steal Your Face by Sasha Sosa

This work reflects an iconic symbol of an age past. One where our parents wore long hair and tie-dye shirts. With a resemblance to stain glass fittingly reminiscent of some cathedral for the God of Rock. The work uses hard bold interconnected lines and stark bright, vibrant colors straight out of a crayon box. The symbol is accurately portrayed and its artistic interpretation would make any Deadhead proud.
9"x12" black glue, aluminum foil and acrylics.



Ominous Beauty by Deysi Delgado
14"x18" acrylic on canvas board.

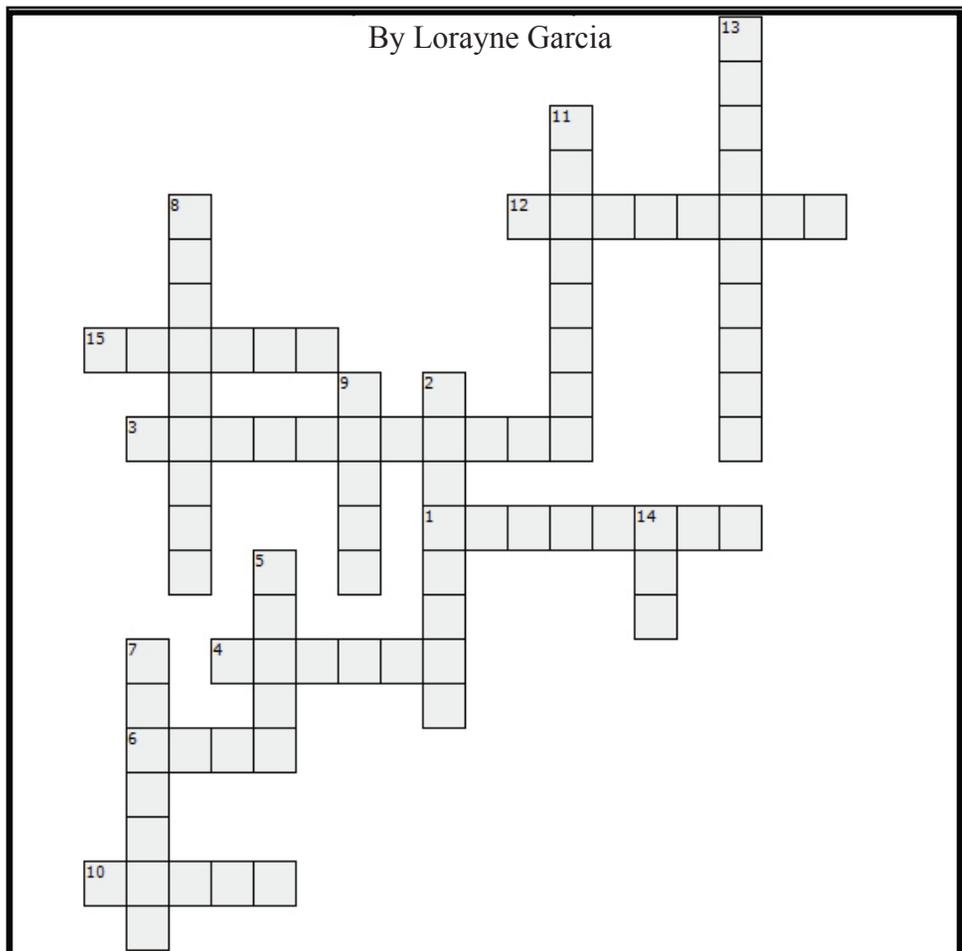


Utilizing the negative space of the dark background Deysi creates a moody haunting image. Painted late last fall it sets the mood for a mystery filled Halloween. A traditional spooky image to the nth degree complete with the harvest moon, dead tree and tombstones, all that's missing is the silhouetted witch or bats on the moon's baleful face.

And all Deysi has to say about her painting is "I like dead trees."

Say Where? What? Who? MHS Crossword

By Lorayne Garcia



- Across:
- Edward Cullen is in...
 - Are only allowed before and after school and at lunch
 - Principal
 - One of our school colors. Go big...
 - He'll cook you some food MON!
 - Students can't use this unless injured
 - Our macho hall monitor

- Down:
- Let's get fired up for some...
 - The name of our bouncy mascot
 - Shh, you got to be quiet in the ...
 - There's always a long line in this room
 - Are not permitted at any time during school
 - We are the ...
 - Where we go for class meetings
 - Freeman and Doll run this room



EUROPEAN JOURNAL

By Paul Acosta

Going to Europe was a very fascinating experience for me and my family. For one thing, European time is about 6 hours ahead of U.S. time and the plane flight took 9 hours from Miami to Madrid, the capital of Spain. But other than the long time it took to get there, Spain and France were a wonderful sight once we arrived.

When we, meaning my family and I, had arrived in Madrid, we expected to see some parts of the city at the very least but for the first hour or two we went from the airport directly to the Metro, the city's subway system. Sometimes it travels above the ground and other times underground since it's kind of like a subway. You don't see much of the city this way. The Metro took us directly to my cousin's apartment. But it had limited room for six people having only one bedroom. We all had a good visit.

In France, we had the chance to visit a few churches that were centuries old. In the town of Lyon, one of them was made out of gold. The paintings had gold in them, the statues were solid gold, and even the crosses were gold. On top of that church outside, there was a statue of Mother Mary made of solid gold. According to the history of the church in 1865, she came to save the people of Lyon from a disease that was killing almost all of the population. Mother Mary had told the rich to give enough gold to the sick and the dying to make a church.

In Paris, we went to the Eiffel Tower. It was just a wonderful sight to see, especially at night (it was blue). Just to be able to see something so recognizable up close like that will take your breath away. We didn't go up the tower, even though I really wanted to, it was just too tall!

It was a fantastic holiday vacation. I hope that I may be able to go back and spend more time and see some more exciting places.

DOLPHIN SPORTS

Spring Sports

Baseball Season

By Joey O'Connor



With the beginning of the new year, the fall sports season comes to an end and the beginning of the new spring season begins with opening of the baseball season. Tryouts for the new baseball season will begin January 21 at 4 o'clock but conditioning has already begun. This year's returning seniors include Josh Gratton, Toby Eigner, Blaine Connell and Jose Lopez. "I feel this year we will dominate. Nobody's going to stand a chance against us," says senior, Josh Gratton, aka Batman. The baseball and softball team will also host a conjoined fund-raiser on Jan. 31 at 3 p.m. They will also have a cookout during one of the games.



The baseball field is deserted but will soon see plenty of action when the familiar cry, "play ball" is heard at the opening game of the season. *Photo courtesy of Joey O'Connor*

Softball Season

By Shelby Kuck

A long awaited softball season has finally come. The varsity softball team is scheduled to play twenty-five games this season including one tournament in Palm Beach, FL. Last year the team made it all the way to Regional Quarter Finals and placed 2nd in the District. For the first time in the school's history, the team also beat their rival Key West High School, 8-7 in the 7th inning. "This year our first goal will be to go undefeated in the Key's beating out the Coral Shores' Hurricanes and the Key West Conchs," remarks Morgan Longstreth. Although the varsity team lost 3 seniors last year: Alexis Culver, Melanie Boyd and Yari Alpizar, "We will have our top four batters returning to the team, our three pitchers and a lot of experienced players. My expectations are high for the 2009 team." replied Coach Murphy.

Tryouts for the team will be January 29 and 30. If you are participating in any other sports please see Coach Murphy.



The brand new softball field is ready for the games to begin. The softball teams haven't played a game on their home field in three years. *Photo courtesy of Shelby Kuck*

Fall Sports Banquet Awards

By Shelby Kuck

After a sports night assembly with honors and praise for our teams the following athletes were recognized for their sportsmanship and talent on the field.

Football

Most Improved – Trevell Beckford
Coaches Award – Bobby Richardson
Defensive MVP- Thomas Ryan, Hector Vicoiso
Offensive MVP- AJ Freeman
Team MVP- Kenny White
Special Teams MVP- Bobby Richardson
Offensive Line MVP- David Hunt
Defensive Line MVP- Thomas Ryan

Golf

MVP- Josh Gratton
Most Improved- Kody Daniels
Sportsmanship- Alex Hoffman
Sportsmanship- Ariel Moore

Volleyball

MVP- Kelley Struyf
Most Improved- Morgan Longstreth
Sportsmanship- Vanessa Sardina

Cheerleading

MVP- Tayla Torna
Most Improved- Rachel Sanderson
Sportsmanship- Delia Ward

Cross Country

MVP- Jonathon Guzman
MVP- Kelsey Wonderlin
Most Improved- Trevor Helms
Most Improved- Nancy Ceja
Sportsmanship- Virgilio Sanchez
Sportsmanship- Ariel Moore

Swimming

MVP- Blake McCarthy
MVP- Morgan Roberts
Most Improved- Joel Torres
Most Improved- Kyra Simsic-Swanson
Sportsmanship- Alex Wright
Sportsmanship- Acacia Grube



Last Pep Rally Honoring Our Fall Sports Teams- Jan. 26th.



Cheerleaders and fans at work!

Ms. Knight, (above left) our energetic Varsity Cheerleading coach announces the teams as they make their entrance to a cheering audience.