

DOLPHIN PRIDE

Happy Holidays!

Farewell 2008: MHS Moments in Time

Photo Composition by TaKara Coleman & Lorayne Garcia



1. January: Suzanne Ryals begins her reign as 2008 MHS Teacher of the Year.
2. February: Lois Wolfe instructs 10th grade students on effective writing techniques for FCAT.
3. March: Justice Quince visits with MHS students.
4. April: Middle school field day tug of war.
5. New School ribbon cutting and celebration.
6. Students get close look at Trauma Star Helicopter.
7. May: 2008 Prom King, Andrew and Queen, Elizabeth
8. August: First day of school - seniors arrive with sirens blasting.
9. September: Serving smiles along with dinner at MHS Open House.
10. Oct: Homecoming King, Daric and Queen, Bianca.
11. November: Former MHS athlete, Tony Bryant's number retired.
12. December: Middle school students visit traveling Viet Nam Wall Memorial on Dec. 12th in Key West.
13. Cherin and Megan ready to spread holiday cheer on MHS's DTV.
14. Holiday tidings greet students at Ms. Alexander's classroom door.

Farewell To Final Exam Exemptions

Over the years at MHS or at any other school here in Florida, seniors who had good attendance and an A in their class were exempt from taking the final exam. Final exam exemptions have been a tradition at Marathon High School for many years. It was always a privilege that all underclassmen would look forward to going into their senior year. Seniors who worked hard in all their classes and had very good attendance were candidates for exemption. By the time finals came around it was an easy ride to graduation because they did not have to take exams. Sadly in the past few months our state has passed a law saying that all seniors have to take a final in some way or another. There are no more exemptions allowed. Many staff and students were surprised at this new law.

This dolphin reporter decided it would be a good idea to investigate this issue further by interviewing former MHS graduates, current seniors, and underclassmen. These are the results from this inquiry.

Ms. Michelle Pinkus, MHS graduate, class of 2003 stated, "It was a nice incentive to keep my grades up and good attendance, I was exempt



Joey O'Connor gets a headstart on studying. Photo by A. Young

from all my exams except A.P. When I found out I was surprised by this new law. I think it's really up to administration as to what they want to do. Back then, to me, it was a nice senior privilege."

John Keeny, MHS graduate, class of 1996 responded, "It was a great privilege to have when I was a senior, but I finished all my core course work during my junior year. All my classes were electives when I was a senior, so, I wasn't really affected. I think it would be good to give a generalized test. Students should be able to pass the test if they came to school and got an A in the class."

Danny Valerdi & Joel Torres (MHS seniors) remarked, "It's unfair! It's a senior privilege that shouldn't be taken away we have worked hard and came to school every day. Why shouldn't we get a treat like being exempt? If we have A's then we should be rewarded."

Takara Coleman & Judeleys Valladares (underclassmen) responded, "This new law is terrible and has ruined many underclassmen's incentive, we should be exempt, we are working hard to not have to take the exams."

Apparently this may become a heated issue with our seniors but change is difficult. On a brighter note, this may help students prepare for college; there are usually no exam exemptions in college.

By Alicia Young

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Breakfast in Class?

By Michelle Saunders

Every morning there's a mad dash to the breakfast line in Marathon High School's cafeteria and every morning students complain about not having enough time to eat. Some explanations are the buses. Some buses don't get to the school until 7:30 a.m. while school starts at 7:35 a.m. That gives students only 5 minutes to get breakfast from the long line, eat, and head to class. I asked students and faculty what they think about letting students eat breakfast in the classrooms:

Mr. Murphy- "Yes, as long as they clean up after themselves"

Mrs. Denny- "No."

Layne Doyle- "Yes, it breaks your fast, and stimulates your brain."

Stormy Bezanis- "Yes, because it helps students think better."

Ms. Cox- "Not at all."

Mrs. Sanborn- "No."

So, as you can see by some of the responses above, a majority of the faculty said "no" and a majority of the students said "yes".

However, this issue has become a topic for conversation in school districts across the country. According to an article printed in the Washington Post dated 11/17, a school related survey came up by Jay Mathews who questions "the value of rating teacher performance on student achievement." He states that we must consider "variables when it comes to individual students." He also stated that students coming to school hungry certainly affects both student and teacher performance. In another school related survey written in the New York Times dated 11/17, states that a New York City school, P.S. 70 is handing out free breakfast to students when they enter the school. The school board says that "students will take advantage of the free meals if they can eat it in the classrooms." The teachers in New York say that "it's helpful to have students who are awake, fed, and ready to learn." They also say that "It improves their grades, reduces tardiness, and keeps them awake."

With these facts in mind, maybe our school should re-consider their positions on eating breakfast in the classrooms. Maybe at MHS,



Sterlyne Jean Charles hurries to class before the bell to finish her breakfast.

we can set up an experimental program during the FCAT months so that our students can benefit from eating breakfast and perform better on the FCAT.

Fans Sink Their Teeth into Twilight by Stormy Bezanis

The best-seller, *Twilight* by Stephanie Meyer finally made it to the big screen. The highly anticipated movie made 70 million dollars opening night (November 21st). The movie is based on the novel about an average 17 year old girl who moves to Forks, Washington to live with her dad. She soon comes to meet the infamous, mysterious, and breathe taking Edward Cullen. They, of course, fall madly in love. The irony is he's a vampire. A vampire who is extremely tempted by the scent of her blood.

Stephanie Meyer does a magnificent job of telling the story of a young love that will never die (no pun intended). Stephanie graduated from Brigham Young University. The idea for *Twilight* came to her after she had a very vivid dream. She awoke and immediately began writing. *Twilight* is the first book of the series. It's followed by *New Moon*, *Eclipse*, and *Breaking Dawn*, along with a separate novel, *The Host*. There is also supposedly a book in the making called *Midnight Sun* which is from Edward's point of view.

Since Marathon High is full of fanlights (that means twilight fans for those who didn't know), I knew we had all seen the movie and read the book. So I walked around and asked 30 people the obvious question of which was better, the book or the movie. Of course 30 out of 30 people said the book but every single one of them said they adored the movie also. So if you weren't one of the ones who couldn't put the book down or was first in line on opening night. I highly recommend you to buy a ticket or head to Borders. Trust me you'll fall in love with the story, just like the rest of the world.

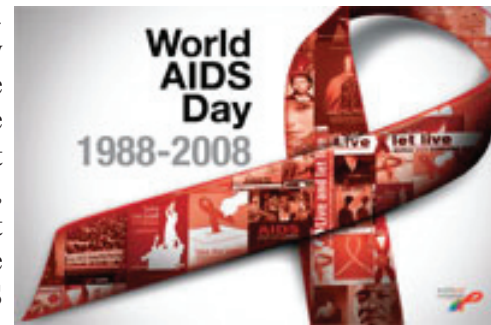
The Red Ribbon Across the World

By Nicholette Smith

December 1, 2008 was the 20th anniversary of World AIDS day. The first was on December 1st, 1988 declared by the World Health Organization. The purpose? To raise awareness all over our world of HIV/AIDS. To this day over 190 countries recognize and participate in the day. Those who support and celebrate it believe it is of utmost importance to inform people everywhere about prevention, spreading, and understanding of this Sexually Transmitted Disease. The world recognized symbol of the hope for society against HIV and AIDS is the red ribbon.

"The Red ribbon was chosen to represent the disease because the red symbolizes blood, and the danger and the idea of passion - including love and anger, while the tails of the ribbon were designed to point down to symbolize life flowing away" [worldaidsday.org] The ribbon, however can be a simple design representing hope for those who have the disease or have suffered because of this tragic monster.

by the monstrosity the word out to the so that maybe, one be free or at least by it. Today, is one of the most all over the entire because AIDS and knowledge



Those affected only hope to get rest of the world day our world will barely corrupted World AIDS Day celebrated days world. This is is preventable is power in that

case. Abstinence, protected sex, not sharing needles, and being careful about others' blood are just some of the ways to keep yourself from getting HIV or AIDS. HIV is one of the most destructive epidemics in recorded history. With 33 million people [reported] infected with the disease as of 2007 and even more now. World AIDS Day is a huge success throughout countries everywhere and everyone can participate in spreading the word.

WHEN YOU'RE MAKING YOUR LIST... TIPS FOR HOLIDAY SHOPPING

By Sarah Bradshaw

This year, with spending down and unemployment up, the economic climate is not looking good for holiday shopping. Although the economy is bad, more than 172 million shoppers visited stores and sites over Black Friday weekend this year which was up from 147 million shoppers last year. This is logical though because people don't have that much money so they are searching for the best deals. Consumers are becoming more thrifty and careful about their shopping decisions by researching their purchases ahead of time and trying to get the most for their money. The tactic that retailers are using to try to snap customers out of their funk is deep discounts – on almost everything. Being that we live in the Keys, and the closest mall is a good drive away, many of us will be doing our holiday shopping online. There are many good holiday deals online, including free shipping. Shopping this way also saves gas money. Some parents are shortening the list of friends and family and they are buying fewer gifts this year and are also trying to be more creative with items such as making crafts and baked goods. It appears Santas across the U.S. are tightening their belts this holiday season as over half (56.7%) of Americans say they will be spending less due to the economic environment, according to the American Pulse(TM) Survey of 4,348 respondents. A good alternative this holiday season, as far as gift giving, is purchasing a gift card. Gift cards are a good way to be financially smart, and you give the receiver a chance to get what he or she wants.

With all this uncertainty going on, some religious people are not worrying too much about how the economy is affecting holiday shopping; they believe that something else is more important. "It seems that most have forgotten the meaning of why we celebrate this holiday. Everyone is so worried about the economy and people seem to forget about celebrating the religious meaning of the holiday. We need to stop worrying about money and time to shop and finding that perfect gift and spend more time with family and friends."

Whatever your opinion may be on this soon to be global issue, spend wisely. Think austere before you spend and hopefully we will be able to get out of this mess soon.

Star Signs According to Dolphin Pride Style

By Paul Acosta & Lucy Agababian

Here are the horoscopes for December 27th with only four more days to New Years Eve. We looked to the stars to retrieve your heavenly forecast. So our oracles have taken out the guess work by personalizing it for all you MHS dolphins. So beware the movements of the stars.



Aries (March 21st- April 20th) – You are distracted today; slow down and focus on your work. So to all you rams out there be sure to take it slow and easy, nothing good came from rushing anything, including your end of the year projects. Remember the turtle and the hare.



Taurus (April 21st- May 22nd) – Finances are tight, but that doesn't stop you from getting what you want. Take a little time to invest your earnings in smarter things, remember, money can't buy happiness. Keep on top of your money so that you don't get left high and dry by gas economics.



Gemini (May 21st- June 21st) – If you are planning to make a MAJOR purchase with money that you and your friend had been holding on to, be sure that both of you are in a complete agreement.



Cancer (June 23rd- July 23rd) – You are feeling a little sensitive this morning, but by this afternoon you will feel more energetic. Today you feel that you need to take charge, and you will do anything to do just that. So go ahead, go grab that iced coffee you know you'll be wanting before second period has seen its end.



Leo (July 23rd- August 23rd) – As the moon passes through your sign today, you might feel a bit moody. But don't let that sour the mood of the people around you; everyone just wants to see you happy.



Virgo (August 23rd- September 23rd) – Today your friends will look to you for advice. They will be asking you, in a way, to be their leader. So be the public speaker your English teacher is trying to get you to be when you have to speak in front of the entire class, and lead the way.



Libra (September 23rd- October 23rd) – Take a deep breath and look at the big picture, all the things you were complaining about are a "no need to worry" because school's out, blow that worry away and relax into the winter.



Scorpio (October 24th- November 22nd) – You're being pressured today to do something you don't want to do. You might have the feeling of "stage fright." This is not a good time to act without thinking.



Sagittarius (November 23rd- December 21st) – You are focused on your long-term plans. But yet you are getting out of control today. Fortunately you have your friends to help you get more in control.



Capricorn (December 22nd- January 20th) – You have reached your limit dealing with people who are not willing to acknowledge their feelings. But don't jump to any conclusions, for it's possible that you misinterpreted someone's attempt to reach out to you, maybe during lunch. Sometimes, you can be so goal-oriented that you miss a more subtle communication. Take the time to sink into your emotions before accusing others of avoiding theirs.



Aquarius (January 20th- February 19th) – When a close friend of yours confronts you with a problem, you really shouldn't compare their reaction with yours. Be a good friend and don't criticize them; just listen now and give your support to those who need it.



Pisces (February 19th- March 21st) – You are being very productive today and you want everyone to know that. Some of the things you are being productive about might not impress others as you want them to. It may be a smart idea if you just lay low and let the day pass on by.

These horoscopes were taken and reinterpreted from www.igoogole.com. They are for December 27th Publication Date. Disclaimer: These horoscopes are for entertainment purposes only.



A few of Mr. Green's students' creations.



Above: Chef Green poses.

High Hopes for the New Year

By TaKara Coleman

With the New Year approaching, the Dolphin students, faculty, and staff have high hopes for achieving their resolutions. These are a few of the goals they hope to accomplish.

"To get an A in Mr. Schubert's class"- Alyssa Fenech

"To stop wearing pink and green all the time!" –Cynthia Garcia

"To get all A's this quarter"- Stephanie Cadwell

"To achieve my goals and work harder at what I do"- Trevell Beckford

"To pay attention during class"- Victoria Arnett

"To come back from Spain alive!"- Paul Acosta

"To go to Grand Cayman Island"- Mrs. Watler

"To go back to the gym"- Ms. Morgan

"To lose the baby weight and start my masters"- Ms. Doney

"To further my education and maintain a high GPA"- Ms. Denny

We know that our Dolphins will complete their objectives during the New Year and we look forward to seeing all the other amazing things they will get done. Good luck Dolphins!

For a Good Laugh... Movie Review

By Lucy Agababian

Quirky and spontaneous with reminders of *Dude, Where's My Car?* strewn throughout, *Pineapple Express*, rated PG 13 may be the best comedy movie of the year. Showing the stupid humor of the drug sub culture, *Pineapple Express* is a technicolor gem of strange happenstance and awkward silences between the characters that speak more about each other than the actual words they use. Such as when Saul (James Franco) and Dale Denton (Seth Rogen) are trying to figure out what to do about the fact that they have a drug lord after their hides. The silence between them is the comedic awkward silence before you know something silly is about to happen. The movie doesn't disappoint as it is strewn with hilarity that only a person who does not mind slap stick or so called "stupid humor" can appreciate. While the plot in the movie is flimsy and a bit ridiculous at best, the actors play their roles so well that the plot becomes secondary and you focus more on the characters than the actual storyline.

In the end, I enjoyed this film and would recommend it to anyone who doesn't want a movie that's too serious but just wants to zone out and watch something funny unfold in front of them. I give it an 8 out of 10, for its funny lines and wacky characters which make the movie enjoyable and perfect for a group movie night.

Marathon's Culinary Academy

By Layne Doyle

The Culinary Arts program at Marathon is only two years old. Most people wouldn't expect our school to be hosting business luncheons or creating a restaurant. Well, we are.

Mr. Harry Russell has said that with our plans our culinary program will have their own restaurant by next year. The plans are to transform the adjoining room next to the kitchen into MHS' very own restaurant. Amadeo D'Ascanio and his D'Asign Source crew are going to help with the design. They are aiming for a "bistro" feel with wooden floors, booths and tables. They are taking a regular classroom and turning it into a nice presentable restaurant. They will also change the lighting to make it feel more comfortable. Meals for the restaurant will be made by Chef Anthony Green and the students in his classes. The kids already have experience with catering and serving when they work the football games, luncheons and dinners. Many people are anticipating its creation and opening. Expect it in 2009!

Photos courtesy of Paul Acosta and TaKara Coleman

DOLPHIN SPORTS

Fall Sports

Dolphins Dominate December

By Joey O'Connor



So far this year, the Marathon Boys' Varsity Soccer team has had a rocky start to their season, only winning one of their previous games. December seems to be shining brightly on the Dolphins, already winning two games this month.

On Wednesday Dolphins defeated Shores with a score of 3-2. On Monday, December 8th, the Dolphins travelled to Westwood Academy to win once again. This time with a landslide victory, with a score of 8-0. "In our past games we were making a lot of simple mistakes, which is what we've been focusing on and fixing in practice. I



December 3rd, the Dolphins defeated their rivals, Coral Shores with a score of 3-2. On Monday, December 8th, the Dolphins travelled to Westwood Academy to win once again. This time with a landslide victory, with a score of 8-0. "In our past games we were making a lot of simple mistakes, which is what we've been focusing on and fixing in practice. I think if we continue to stress the importance of the little stuff we will continue to win games," says head coach, Jim Murphy. It seems that if the Dolphins continue on the path that they are currently on we will see an overall successful soccer season.

Boys' Basketball Season Begins

By Shelby Kuck

The Boys' Basketball team kicked off their season with a pre-season classic tournament at Westminster on November 21 and 22nd. On Friday, the 22nd, they played Archbishop Curly, winning 86-85. On Saturday, they played Champagnat Catholic HS, losing 64-70.

They started their regular season with an away game against our rival, Coral Shores High School. "The gym was packed with Coral Shores fan's screaming," stated Patricia Bologna. At the end of the 4th quarter the score was 53-53, which sent the boys into overtime. With a hard fought overtime, the Dolphins came out on top winning 57-53.

The next game was a home game played on Saturday, December 6th against Palmer. They lost 33-36. On Tuesday December 9th, the Dolphins played Miami Country Day. They lost 45-62. Coming off two losses, the boy's next game is Friday, December 12 at home against Westminster Christian. Scores were not available at press time.

A CONVERSATION WITH STATE FINALIST: KELSEY WONDERLIN

By Shelby Kuck



Shelby listens carefully while taking notes during her conversation with Kelsey. Photo courtesy of Angelo Hidalgo

One of our very own Dolphins made it all the way to state, Kelsey Wonderlin. States is where high school kids compete from different regions of the state. If you place in the top 15 of your region, you advance to the State race to compete.

Kelsey Wonderlin is a sophomore and is completing her second year on the Cross-Country running team which is coached by Mr. Mike Lettau and Ms. Becky Winter. "A year ago I was thinking I shouldn't even do cross country because I thought I was never a good runner in elementary school jog-a-thons and such." Now she's happy she did try out for the team because she qualified for States! "I placed 12th in the District race out of 67 girls, so I advanced to the Regional competition individually. I have found that when I know that the top 15 get to advance, I push myself so much harder than I would normally in a regular meet. It feels like I have a purpose for running; an incentive. To be honest, I never even expected myself to make it to Regionals...!" At regionals her time was 22:42 running the 5K (3.1 miles). This is now her personal best. This time qualified her for States.

The 2008 States race was held in Tampa, Florida. "I was very happy to have been able to run at States, and I just had fun with the State race because I knew that was as far as I could go. My time was 22:50, and I placed 142nd out of 179 girls. My goal next year is to place in the top 100 in States." The whole school congratulates Kelsey Wonderlin in this incredible achievement.

2008-2009 Boys' Basketball Schedule

11/21	Archbishop Curley	Away		1/10	Westwood	Home	1:30/3:00
11/22	Preseason Classic	Away		1/13	Miami Christian	Home	5:30
12/2	CSHS	Away	5:00/6:30	1/16	Palmer	Away	5:30/7:00
12/6	Palmer Trinity	Home	2:00/3:30	1/20	Florida Christian	Home	5:00/6:30
12/9	Miami Country Day	Home	4:00/5:30	1/21	Bay Point	Away	6:00
12/12	Westminster Christian	Home	5:30/7:00	1/23	Miami Country Day	Away	4:00/5:30
12/15	Westwood	Away	5:30/7:00	1/26	CSHS	Home	5:00/6:30
12/19	Key West	Home	6:00/7:30	1/30	Miami Christian	Away	5:30
12/20	Baypoint	Home	2:00	2/2	Florida Christian	Away	5:30
1/6	Ronald Regan	Away	4:00/5:30	2/4	Ransom	Away	5:30/7:00
1/9	Westminster Christian	Away	5:30/7:00	2/6	Key West	Away	6:00/7:30
1/12	Ransom	Home	3:30/5:00				



Coca Cola products vending machines help support our programs. Photos Courtesy of Cassidy Burgos