



dolphin PRIDE

Marathon High School
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Honoring the Vets

By: Nicky Smith

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Veteran's Day is a time to remember and honor all of our nation's veterans. We honor the men and women who have served our country and have fought for us. On October 25, 2007, four veterans came to visit and talk to the freshmen class here at Marathon High School. Their objective was to talk about their sights, sounds and experiences in World War II. One of the veterans, Alex Laskis, served in WWII. Victor Rendo, served in World War II, Vietnam, and Korea. Along with them were Gary Johnson and John Dick, who also served in Vietnam. They had to face cold, gunfire, death, hunger, and possible injury while over in other countries fighting for us. Rendo suffered from an extremely



Alex Laskis former member of the 1277th
Combat Engineer Battalion
Photo by: Dr. Kathy Lancaster

painful knee injury, and received the Purple Heart Award because of it. Even after all of that, Rendo explained to the freshmen class, "I do not regret anything at all. In fact, I want to go back (to fight) now more than ever." The men had different, but similar stories of their lives in war. The men all joined the United States Armed Forces for different reasons, but they fought for the same thing: The United States of America.

Not just veterans from past wars should be remembered, but also the people who have recently fought. Men and women all over the nation who have served in the Armed Forces have had similar experiences and are our nation's real heroes. Veterans are inspiring; they deserve all of our thanks not only on November 11, 2007, but all year long.

What are you thankful for?

By: Alex Hoffman

It's getting closer to Thanksgiving so I have to ask: What are Marathon students most thankful for? When asked this question, most people will say family or friends, but not everyone responds in the same manner. To find out we had a group of juniors take a survey during one of their classes. The results of the survey showed that the most popular response was friends, with family in a very close second. Some people chose friends because they are like family to them. Lauren Green said, "Without my friends I would not be able to get through everyday." Students spend most of their day together and it is no wonder that so many people chose friends.

Family is a big part of people's lives. Out of all the students who chose family, the most common reason was that their family would support them no matter what. Vanessa Sardiña had this to say, "I am thankful for my family because friends can come and go, but your family is always by your side." Without their families, some students don't know where they would be. The answer "material possessions" was not chosen by a single student - everyone who took the survey considered either family or friends to be what they are most thankful for. Thanksgiving is a time to be thankful for what they have, and everybody should ask themselves this question.

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PRIDE OF MARATHON HIGH

She's Back Middle School Scholar

By: Annabelle Walker

By: Michelle Sardiña

Marathon High School welcomes back our admired bookkeeper, Mrs. Patti Clark. Living in the Keys for seven years and working in the office at MHS for six years, Mrs. Clark left for



some time off. No matter the reason, she is back and better than ever. She says, "Both me and my husband knew it was a temporary move." Mrs. Clark was born and raised in Wakefield, Massachusetts, and then got married and bought a home in Plymouth, Massachusetts. Her husband is Mr. Curtis Clark, a sailing and snorkeling charter captain. Mr. and Mrs. Clark have one son, Garrett Clark, who is now studying Marine Biology at the Florida Institute of Technology in Melbourne.

While living in Massachusetts, Mrs. Clark was an analyst for Ocean Spray

Cranberries corporate office in Massachusetts. After Massachusetts, the family sailed to the Bahamas for two years while home-schooling Garrett and

working. The Clark family eventually came to Marathon to settle down so Garrett could enter middle school.

Mrs. Clark's duties as Marathon High's bookkeeper are keeping track of internal school accounts (from athletics to clubs and scholarships), as well as District purchasing and payments, school textbooks, etc. The only regular students that Mrs. Clark sees are the representatives of the internal accounts. Mrs. Clark's coming back was definitely a sight for some sore eyes. The best way to phrase it is..."She's Back!"

The Stats Man

By: Jade Holroyd

Math teacher, Mr. Lenning, saved the day last year when another teacher left half way through the year. This extraordinary teacher teaches



everything from statistics to algebra to intensive math. And he is willing to help anywhere he can; I found this out when another student walked in and asked for help and without hesitation, Mr. Lenning was right there for them. Mr. Lenning started out in forestry, turned to surveying, and finally

went into teaching with a certification from Wisconsin. His saying for his students is: "Be all you can be; math isn't a spectator sport." This motto also holds true to his love

of our sports here at Marathon. He told me that doing your work and putting in some effort is integral to learning. When I asked him whether he liked living and teaching here, he told me that it doesn't really matter where he works; all that really matters is just having the opportunity to work with the students.

In Marathon Middle School there is an honorable and determined eighth grader, with quite a future ahead of her. Thirteen-year-old Marina Kay Wiatt is president of the National Junior Honor Society and a straight "A"



student. She is also a recipient of the American Legion Award, which is given to those who show courage, honor, leadership, patriotism, scholastic achievement, and unselfishness. As an eighth grader, Marina Kay will soon be moving up to high school. This high achiever's goals for her future years include being president of her class and to be nominated into the National Honor Society. Marina Kay also has plans to work towards her goal of graduating with the high honor of being valedictorian. For Marina Kay, it's not only about academics. She is also active in sports. This is her second year as a player on the Marathon High School Varsity Soccer team; she is also planning on trying out for the MHS Tennis team, this upcoming season. "I just love being outdoors." says Marina Kay. It

doesn't stop there. Playing the piano is also one of Marina Kay's many talents; additionally, she is currently learning to play the guitar. Aside from

everything else, Marina Kay enjoys hanging out with her friends, wakeboarding, being on the water, and especially seeing new things through traveling. When asked what some of her goals in life were, she responded: "I have always wanted to visit all seven continents. So far I have been to North America, Australia, Europe, and Africa. It is my goal to visit the rest of them, even Antarctica." As you can tell, Marina Kay is not your average student. She is an eighth grader who already has a high school credit and is working on two more. This includes a 10th grade level Geometry Honors class. She is also self motivated and determined to accomplish her high school goals. As said by Mrs. Moodley: "Marina Kay is the student that all teachers dream of."

March-Off

By: Kelsey Wonderlin

The band students have practiced long and hard to get ready for the Florida Bandmaster's Association (FBA) marching competition. The FBA was held in Fort Lauderdale on November 3, 2007. Twenty-six other schools were involved in the competition. This was a great event for our band students to perform in a different area, as well as to see other marching bands from around Florida perform. The band members were assessed by judges in the areas of musical presentation, marching ability, percussion, and over-all effect. Our band students went to the

competition, but did not actually compete. They performed, but only "for comments," which means they performed to receive criticism by the judges and to learn what they need to improve on. Band Director Stephen Whitfield expected his students to perform to the best of their ability, and they did. Band student, Ricardo Dominguez, says, "Mr. Whitfield said we played the best he's ever heard us!" He noticed that this event had a positive effect on our music students, and motivated them to achieve their best in the future.

I Don't Think I'm In Texas Anymore

By: Paola Castañeda

I recently moved to the Keys from Texas. Not only am I experiencing a new school, but new everything: different people, food, houses, the beaches, all of which come together for a completely different atmosphere. Tuloso Midway High School, my Texas School is very different from, Marathon High: This includes the lunch, the library, the classes, and especially the students. The cafeteria in Tuloso was huge, it had four lines and the food included a variety of food to choose from, like subway, individually boxed pizza, curly fries, fruit bowls, wrapped cheese burgers, and you could even make your own salad. The library was bigger; it had a huge room just for the wide screen computers, we were allowed to save our unfinished work in flash drives, floppy disks, and CD-ROMs. In Marathon High, the library is a decent size, but we can only save our files in the computer or print. The classrooms in Marathon are more organized than in Tuloso. The hallways are outside while the hallways in Tuloso were inside. In Tuloso, we weren't allowed to wear shorts, but seeing that we're in the Keys, in Marathon we are. Most importantly the people are different too. Students in Marathon are more outgoing and friendly. Students are also more involved in school activities, and have more school spirit that I have ever seen, bringing the whole student body together as a whole.

I like Tuloso because of its size and because I was used to the classes, but I like Marathon High School better because it's a more integrated school, where there is a better teacher to student ratio. Of course Marathon is not as "glamorous" as Tuloso, but there are various advantages being here. Marathon is a better place to learn and focus on your studies; it is a place where many doors can open for you, and where opportunities are always in the vicinity of the student.

King Kamehameha Pigskin Classic

By: Cody Stricklin

Next July Elite Sports International is hosting the "Pro-Bowl" of High School that will be held in Hawaii. Six of Marathon High's senior football players have been invited to take part in this prestigious event. We will be able to take part in a football game, tour the islands of Hawaii, stay in the Hilton Hotel, and meet new friends, all while having the experience of a lifetime. The players going from our team are Josh Frank, Daric Hunt, and Cody Stricklin. The total cost of the trip is \$2,295 and is due by April of 2008. We have set up some fundraisers such as bagging groceries at Publix on November 17. It would be greatly appreciated if you could stop by and help us out with our fundraising.

If you would like to make a donation you can contact Cody Stricklin at 786-975-7986. Any help is more than appreciated because this is a once in a lifetime event.



The three football players hoping to go to Hawaii: Cody Stricklin, Josh Frank, Daric Hunt.

The Rotarians Of Tomorrow

By: Vanessa Sardiña



Above: Members of Interact and Youth Act

Service, determination, and the will to help those in need are the main aspects that stands out at Marathon High School. This club has been involved with the school for several years, and this year the tradition is not going to change. President Katie Greenman proudly says, "I have been involved with Interact since my freshmen year, so I want to have an amazing senior year, and leave the club in hands of good leadership."

The first thing on Interact's task list is to obtain a Thanksgiving project, which benefits families without a Thanksgiving dinner. Senior member Pawee Sae-chua says, "We have put up boxes in local businesses, like banks, insurance agencies, etc., to collect canned food for the project. I want to make sure that this project is a success, since I believe every family deserves a nutritional Thanksgiving dinner." Another addition to this project was a bake sale that was held in front of Publix Saturday, October 27th. Freshmen Secretary Marcy Brandjes says, "The bake sale was a huge success, and the community was really willing to help. Some people really didn't want any baked goods, but they wanted to just chip in to help out our project."

The Interact club works closely with Rotary. They are considered to be the

big brothers and sisters of the Interact students. Another senior, Justin Howe, got a chance to work with the Rotarians. "During the Veteran's Day Bivouac, I helped barbeque hotdogs at our stand. I had a good time working with Rotary; they are very good role models for Interact." Interact has just made an addition to their club members by including 'Youth Act,' which is the Interact of the middle school. Interact members are now their role models as Rotary is for Interact. "I like how we are getting the middle school students involved, because this allows us to accomplish more as a group."

Another tradition to the club is to complete one 'big' project under the hands of Rotary. This project could also involve Hands on Hands organization, Kair, etc. In other years Interact and the Seasons of Service club, raised money to build a school in Kenya. All the student members funded for school supplies to help these kids get a proper education.

Interact has been very busy with their plans of trying to make a difference in their school and community. Interact and Youth Act has a long road full of service to complete. "So what are we waiting for, let's help out the community!" says Vice President Vanessa Sardiña.

A Frank Act Of Kindness

By: Josh Frank

Frank Ferella, owner of Frank's Grill, is doing his part to promote education. He has donated free lunch passes to Marathon High School teacher Robert Lalena. In doing this, a contest is held weekly by Lalena for the students to try and win one of these passes.

Winning, however, is no simple task. Each student participating must write a read and respond essay. "If we read about needy families, they write about needy families," says Lalena. The winning student receives a free lunch pass on Friday for themselves, and a teacher of their choice. The first week's winner was Brittany Disdgiertt. She decided to invite Principal Harry Russell to lunch.

Death Of A Salesman

By: *Nicole Irwin*

The MHS Dual Enrollment (DE) Humanities class, taught by Dr. Elizabeth Bayerl, recently performed *Death of a Salesman* for the DE/Honors English III class, who read and discussed the play. As a literature and drama assignment, the students studied and performed this classic American drama. When asked why her class performed the play, Dr. Bayerl replied that she felt it gave the students a chance to expand their understanding of their selves and the play. Bayerl gave the students a real opportunity for self expression and self guidance by allowing them to conduct the play virtually by themselves. The pupils were given the chance to select which scenes they wanted to perform, pick who they wanted to perform, and even improvise. Dr. Bayerl believes that through this amount of freedom, the students really got to know themselves as actors as opposed to how conducting a play would

be through a more traditional approach.

In the three weeks the class took to prepare for their theatrical performance, the students not only read and discussed the play, but they also watched the 1985 film version of *Death of a Salesman*, starring Dustin Hoffmann. This was to help them get a better feeling for the play.

The class was also helped by Ms. Sunny Booker, the current Safe School Coordinator and former drama teacher at MHS, who helped the students with their acting and improvising. They also received help from the Marathon Community Theater, getting the privilege of looking through the theaters' costume room. Unfortunately, the class will be discontinued come next semester, so there will not be any future performances. However, their rendition of *Death of a Salesman* was a spectacular treat to all of those who saw it.

Cast

Alisha Anisko..... Willy Loman (old)
 Melanie Boyd..... The Receptionist, Jenny
 Eric Carey..... Biff Loman (young), Stanley
 Katie Greenman..... Stage Manager
 Jay Hegland..... Biff Loman (old)
 George Hoffman..... Willy Loman (young)
 Sean O'Connor..... Happy Loman
 John Robinson..... Howard
 Katherine Tezanos.... Kinda Loman
 Alex Wolfe..... Willy Loman



Katherine Tezanos, Alisha Anisko, and John Robinson perform

Building To Succeed

By: *Sarah Bradshaw*

Marathon High School has been awarded the SUCCEED Grant from the Florida Department of Education. This grant is for \$75,000 and it is to help the Architectural, Construction, and Engineering Academy (ACE) succeed.

Teacher Glenn Naklicki is constructing, with his construction classes, a Habitat for Humanity house. Habitat for Humanity picks a needy family and ACE builds the house. The final house will be 24 ft. wide and 28 ft. long. It is being built in four modular sections in the construction lab at MHS and then will be taken to the site by a crane and put together. Students are excited because they want to help families in need.

The grant "is going to ensure that we can purchase all the resources we need to make the ACE Academy successful and to successfully complete our first project, the Habitat house" said Naklicki. The Academy is open to juniors and seniors who demonstrate proficiency in tools, and understand and practice safe work procedures. Also, they must demonstrate a proficiency in construction/engineering techniques. The Academy does many construction projects (building a house for Habitat for Humanity being the main project).

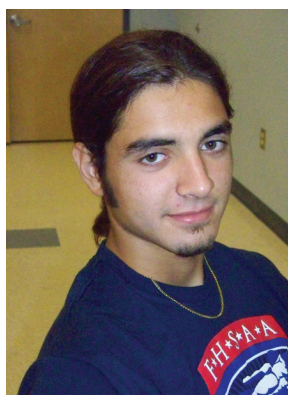


Construction students at work building a demo house for underclassmen to practice on

Ciao, Marathon

By: *Matteo Cuccuru*

Guest columnist and Exchange student from Italy



The Rotary Club was formed in 1905 by the lawyer Paul Harris in Chicago. The Rotary Club provides humanitarian service, encourages high ethical standards in all vocations and helps goodwill and peace in the world. The clubs are non-political, non-religious, and open to all cultures and races.

One important program on which the club relies is the youth exchange: starting from the 1920's more than 8,000 young people each year have experiences like these through Rotary Youth Exchange. As an exchange student, you are an ambassador, teaching people about your country, culture, and ideas. You can help bring the world closer and make some good friends in the process.

When I was in Italy, I really wanted to go and study abroad, learn a new language, make a different life experience and travel. And now here I am in the U.S. I really wanted to come here, maybe because it is the country in which you can find many different cultures, such different people who live together.

The Rotary Club gave me this opportunity and I am so grateful for this. Even though I've already traveled with my family among Europe, this is the first time for me outside of my continent. Everything has been an adventure since I left my city. My new life started about two months ago, and immediately I had to face the total different American school system. At first I had to switch a lot of subjects, because they were too easy for my standards.

In spite of this, American school is better for some reasons, for example here you can take your studies deeper into more practical things, like using labs and choosing a lot of subjects that are totally new for me such as construction, art design and computers. Although the school is easier than the Italian one, here I have more time to enjoy myself.

So in conclusion, for anybody who is thinking about doing a school year abroad I say do it, it will be an experience that will make you open your eyes, you'll meet a lot of new people, you'll have a great time and you'll even learn a new language.