



Marathon High School
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Featuring the Freshmen

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New to Marathon High School, the Ninth Grade Academy is working to create better learning for 9th graders. The Academy is a new, nationwide program built to improve school life for freshmen.

Here at Marathon High we have what is called an "action team," made up of parents, faculty, and some students who put their hard work and ideas into this concept. The Academy was "designed so every student in the 9th grade feels as if they are known," says Mrs. Walker, the 9th grade liaison. While talking with Walker, she explained that, "9th grade can be a very hard year for most students, and it's the time when the drop out rate increases." The goals of this program are to improve test scores, build relationships between students and faculty, and reduce the number of failed classes.

The action team hopes to accomplish these goals by making projects that include everyone in the whole class, and incorporating every subject in the project. One project planned this year is a cross-curricular writing project. It will be a book titled, "Living in the Florida Keys, as Told by Teenagers who Live Here," and will consist of poetry, stories, and photography. The project will involve topics including: what it is like to live or move here, geography, cost of living, where the best spots to tan and swim are, and what it's like living in a close-knit community. The writers will be of course, all ninth graders. Mrs. Walker says, "This project

is getting bigger by day, and it is taking a lot of effort."

One way that this project is able to happen is all 9th graders' core classes are hours 2nd through 6th so that teachers can get classes together. When Dr. Lancaster, a 9th grade English teacher, was asked if she noticed any difference in the curriculum or the students' behavior she replied, "Actually, yes. The teaching is more interactive and project-based. The students seem more settled, this type of learning is liked." Both Dr. Lancaster and Mrs. Walker agree that all of the students in the Academy will benefit from this in the future, "They are more engaged in the teaching, personally responsible for more," says Lancaster.

The Academy has been considered for other grade classes, and in selected schools around the nation. Other schools have been furthering the program to the 10th grade. The idea of expanding is liked by most, but it's better to take everything one step at a time. One of the first things teachers want to improve the program would be to have all of the 9th grade core classes in one spot, as opposed to having them

spread throughout the school. It is believed by all that the Academy will help and improve the freshman year and hopefully in the future, all high school grades.

Everyone here in the community and school, is excited about the book the 9th grade is writing and they can't wait to see it!

9th Grade Academy Teachers



Standing: Jessica Richard, Kathy Lancaster, and Lance Martin
Seated: Andrea Murphy, Amy Urban, and Diana Walker, 9th Grade Academy Liaison

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P R I D E O F MARATHON HIGH

From Nursing to Teaching

By: Vanessa Sardiña

Who would have thought that a cardiologist nurse would make a career change to teach students and teachers?

Lori Denny went from a high-paced job dealing with life threatening injuries to teaching health-related subjects to young, active students.

Ms. Denny was born in Hialeah, FL, and raised in Cincinnati, OH where she attended the Bethesda School of Nursing and received her Registered Nurse Licensure. In 2000, she moved down to the Keys, and started working in local doctors' offices, with a background in cardiology.

Ms. Denny switched careers so it can fit her lifestyle. She proudly said, "I am a single mother that finds the hours of school employment very conducive to my daughter's schedule. I am off when she is and we have our summers togeth-



er. When she is doing homework, I am working on lesson plans and school work myself."

Ms. Denny is in the process of furthering her education. This summer she received the American Heart Association Core Instructor Course certification for CPR/AED and First Aid instructor. She also passed the exam to be a Certified Childbirth Educator. "I am currently working on my last requirements before obtaining my Florida state certification. With this certification, my hope is to be able to have childbirth and sibling classes for the community, teachers, and students enrolled in our Teen Parent Program."

Lori Denny is full of spirit, and she can't wait for all her "babies," as she calls her students, to grow and soar into their futures.

Greenman, The AP Scholar

By: Paola Castañeda

Susan Greenman was a successful student at MHS, always at the top of her class. As a junior, Greenman participated in the Rotary Club, through which she was able to become a foreign exchange student in Germany. Greenman returned to Marathon her senior year, participating in many extra curricular activities, which included Interact and Academic Challenge. She was recognized as salutatorian for the graduating class of 2007.

Greenman has earned the designation of AP Scholar by the College Board. She was recognized for her exceptional achievement on the college-level Advanced Placement Program Exams. This program offers students the op-

portunity to take challenging college level courses while still in high school, and to receive college credit, advanced placement, or both for successful performance on the AP Exams. The College Board recognizes several levels of achievement based on students' performance on the AP Exam, including the National, State or AP Scholar with Distinction Award. Greenman qualified for the National AP Scholar Award by earning an average grade of 4.25 on a 5-point scale for the four AP Exams she took.

After she graduated from Marathon High School, Susan Greenman is continuing her education at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Determination is Her Middle Name

By: Matias Pezzella

Vanessa Sardiña does it all. During the school year, she plays volleyball, basketball, and softball. She is also the current Junior Class President and a staff member of the Dolphin Pride. Her responsibilities as Junior

Class president are things such as planning prom, organizing fundraisers to raise money for the Junior class, and other activities such as float building where she tries to get everyone in the Junior class to help out as a team. The Juniors won the spirit stick during the first pep rally that took place this year. "This sets high standards this year to have a very successful float, prom, and school year overall".

Nike, SOS, Interact, Relay, Student Government, are among some



of the clubs she participates in. She also participates in the Academic Challenge Team, which competes against Key West and Coral Shores. However, on the weekends, she prefers to hang out with family and

friends. Vanessa also has a younger sister who also goes to MHS, her name is Michelle.

Currently, Vanessa is taking five advanced courses: English III Honors, DE Contemporary U.S. History, Chemistry I Honors, Pre-Calculus, and AP Probability and Statistics. After high school, she plans to apply to the University of Florida where she hopes to major in Business/Marketing Management.

"I like being involved and having a heavy workload. I want the best for myself and my graduating class."

Moving Up

By: Sarah Bradshaw

There is a new Office Manager in the front office! Brenda Clairmont recently got promoted to Office Manager at Marathon High School. Her prior position was Bookkeeper. She also worked in

the dental field for 26 years for Dr. Tommy Thompson and Dr. Fred Troxel. She subsequently worked at Sombrero Country Club as banquet coordinator/executive assistant.

Ms. Clairmont moved to the Keys 13 years ago. She has two children, Brandon and Jackie. Brandon graduated from MHS in 2006 and Jackie is in the 4th grade and currently



attends Stanley Switlik. As Office Manager, Ms. Clairmont's duties are to handle clerical responsibilities delegated by principal Harry Russell, to assist in the operation of the school, including keeping track of school property and arranging coverage for absent staff members. Ms. Clairmont's main goal is to make a difference at MHS. "I will help wherever I can, to act as a team member, to make the school run smoothly" states Clairmont. She is thrilled to be a part of the Marathon High team, and we are thrilled to have her!

Give Yourself A Challenge

By: Michelle Sardiña



Emotions erupted as Marathon High School's ninth grade students took part in an event called Challenge Day. It was on September 18th that the group of students, along with numerous mentors, gathered at the Marathon Garden Club, where they were inspired to be the change.

Challenge Day is a non-profit organization that works to help transform the school environment to one where students can feel safe and loved. It helps bring students together by attempting to eliminate the violence and alienation that today's youth encounters in their daily lives.

The ninth grade students spent the whole day participating in this event. Kendra Owens, a ninth grade student said, "I think it was something that needed to be done." They played multiple games that encouraged students to interact with new people, as

well as have them be able to see that they are not alone. Tears flowed as past experiences were remembered, but someone was always there to support those who needed it.

Students learned to step outside their box and learned not to let anyone tell them they couldn't achieve their goals. Freshman Sarah Bradshaw said, "It was very motivational."

At the end of the challenge day experience all the students had an opportunity to apologize to anyone they have ever hurt and ask for forgiveness. You could see the joyful expressions on student's faces as they all made friends with one another.

Everything was great, at least for the rest of the week. "The intentions were good, but it needs to be more than just one day" said Shayna Halladay. There will be a Challenge Day reunion sometime in the future, but as the slogan says, "be the change" now. In order to reach the goal of the perfect school environment it is up to the students to take action and be the change they hope to see in others.



By: Michael Koppel

Attention Marathon High School students: We want you to try out for the LifeSmarts team! LifeSmarts is an exciting nation-wide program that encourages students to learn about today's consumer issues. Open to Marathon students in grades nine through twelve, the competition begins through the Internet, by which the students take part in a three-part quiz, testing student knowledge in personal finance, health, safety, the environment, technology, and consumer rights and responsibilities. The top five scorers represent Marathon High School in the Florida competition, which will be held at the Florida State Fair in Tampa, Florida, on February 18, 2008.

The Marathon High School team has proven itself a worthy competitor over the years. For example, in 2006, the team won the Florida state title and went on to Philadelphia to compete in the national competition. In 2007, Marathon earned second place in the state competition. This year, Marathon hopes to win back its state title.

See Mrs. Loggie in Room 7305 or visit the LifeSmarts website for more information.

By trying out for the LifeSmarts

Season Ender

By: Annabelle Walker

Marathon Volleyball is coming to an end this year with a challenging season under their belts. Mr. Kevin Freeman, one of our fitness instructors, returned to coach the Varsity volleyball team again this year. On the Varsity team, we have four girls that will be graduating at the end of this year, and saying goodbye to their team. Those girls are Mandy Ibsen, Jessica Brier, Alexis Culver, and Yari Alpizar. Coach Freeman said "Alexis Culver was the best all around player, she was great on the offensive and defensive end."

Our team wasn't outstanding, "but it wasn't in the cards this season," were Coach's words. The two hardest teams to beat in South Florida, Palmer Trinity and Westminster Christian, are, unfortunately, in our district. "We always seem to play them tough though, it seems the better the competition, the better we play," was Mr. Freeman's philosophy. Oddly

enough, Coach Freeman believes that our game against Westminster Christian was our best game, we didn't win but it was the team's best playing of the season. "I hope we can rebound from the season and do well in districts," is not only what coach wants, but the whole team wants.

JV, coached by our new culinary arts teacher, Mr. Anthony Green, has gained a lot more experience this year. Coach Green had them practicing every day after school from 3 o'clock to 5 o'clock p.m. Since the JV team was very small at the beginning of the season, another set of tryouts were held, and five new girls became an addition to the team. JV has a wide range of ages, from girls in their junior year, to girls in their seventh grade year. Mr. Green was always fair and gave every girl a chance to play in a game. He showed them tough love, but in the long run it'll pay off.



Coach Freeman poses with members of the varsity volleyball team

Cast Your Lines

By: Alex Hoffman

Attention fishermen, bait those hooks, and cast those lines. One of the new clubs this year at Marathon High is fishing club. The sponsors are teacher Ben Craig and athletic trainer Luis Leal. So far, they estimate 50 + students have signed up and they expect many more.

Members of the club will learn some of the basics of fishing as well as more advanced things such as kite fishing. And don't worry, fishing poles will be provided if needed.

During meetings, local Captains will come in and share their wisdom with the members. They are hoping to enter tournaments once a month, and are looking for sponsors to help with the entry fees. To be eligible for entering the tournaments, members must have paid their fifteen dollar dues, and be in good standing. One of the club's corporate sponsors is Big Time Bait and Tackle, but they are looking for more. If you are interested in fishing, be sure to check out this club.

Show Your School Spirit!

By: Kelsey Wonderlin

SpiritWeek—October 29th—November 2nd

Spirit week is when students get the opportunity to dress up for a daily theme. Blue Day is the last day of dressing up, and the students are to show school spirit by wearing our school color, which is blue. Dress up and show your dolphin pride!

This Spirit Week's Theme is Salad Dressings. There is a certain dressing for each day, and for each dressing, there is an even more specific theme that the students dress up as. The themes for each day are:

Monday: House Dressing- Favorite Sports Team Day

Tuesday: French Dressing- Fashion Disaster Day

Wednesday: Caesar Dressing- Toga and Flip Flop Day

Thursday: Thousand Island Dressing- Pirate Day

Friday: Blue Cheese Dressing- Blue Day

Parade—The Homecoming Parade is a tradition at Marathon High School. Each high school class designs and builds a float that goes along with our homecoming theme to be in the parade.

The classes are in a fierce competition and put a lot of time and effort into their floats. The floats are judged by secretly selected people, and no one knows who they are.

There are also vehicles that hold the sports teams, the Mr. and Ms. from every class, and the homecoming court in the parade.

Everyone is invited to find a shady spot on the sidewalk alongside US 1 and enjoy our parade, along with the candy that is thrown.

Homecoming Theme: "A Night to Treasure"

Date: November 1st

Time: 2:00 P.M

From: Boot Key Road

To: Publix

Game—The Homecoming game is the highlight of Homecoming Week for the community. Everyone is invited! This year, we will be facing Parkway Academy. The game is on a Friday night, and you can see all the rest of the details below.

Date: November 2nd

Who: Marathon vs. Parkway

Time: 7:30 P.M

Place: Marathon High School

Admission: Students: \$3
Adults: \$6

Dance—Once again, the Homecoming dance is a big tradition at Marathon High. Our high school's Leadership class, taught by Cheryl Doll, is going to be decorating the Homecoming dance.

The theme is "A Night to Treasure," which is a pirate theme, so the decorations should be spectacular, as usual. Tickets for the dance can be pre-ordered, and all the other details for the dance can be found below.

Date: November 3rd

Place: Switlik Cafeteria

Time: 8:00 P.M -12:00 A.M

Leaders of the Pack: The Senior Football Players

By: Josh Frank

#4 Sergio Howard: Recognized as one of the best running backs in the state of Florida, Howard will definitely play a key role in Marathon's success this season. Last year, Howard earned 1,943 rushing yards, breaking Marathon's old record.

#6 Jamie Holding: As of this year Holding is Marathon's new kicker. Holding has already kicked a 72 yard punt and is 10 for 10 on field goals this season.

#8 Fernando Taylor, a/k/a Moonie: Moonie was injured early last season. The Dolphins expect great things from him this year. So far Moonie is lead scorer for Marathon.

#11 Daniel Perry: New to the Dolphin's team this year, Perry has earned playing time at receiver and safety. He has made one pass this season to Sergio Howard for a touchdown, on one of Marathon's many trick plays.

#24 Denny Valladeres: One of Marathon's mean defensive linebackers, Valladeres has earned every bit of playing time he has received this year. He will be a strong asset to Marathon's defense.

#32 Chris Flingos: Flingos has been a leader on Marathon's team for the past two years. Making over 100 tackles and 12 sacks last season, Flingos was acknowledged as one of the best Linebackers in Florida.

#53 Andrew Araque: Araque suffered serious knee injuries last season, although he is not letting that hold him back this season. As starting WSLB and one of the captains of the Marathon Dolphins, Araque has already started talking to Division I schools.

#55 Waymon Ross: As the other captain of the team Ross plays huge roles on Marathon's offense and defense. Ross has already received an offer for a full education from Division I school, Western Michigan University.

#60 Bryant Marles: Marles has been a leader of Marathon's offensive line for the past two years. Everyone has high hopes for Marles in the rest of the season.

#61 Cody Stricklin, a/k/a Berteer: As a two year defensive line starter, he has made quite a name for himself. The long hours in the weight room pays off since Stricklin is one of the biggest players on the team.

#66 Josh Frank: Playing both sides of the ball, Frank has to know what he is doing. He received the All County award for defensive tackle last season, but is now playing defensive end and offensive guard.

#80 Stanley Jean-Charles: Jean-Charles is a key defensive player for Marathon. At corner, he is one of the team leaders in tackles so far this season.

#88 Vantrail Moore: Moore has been moved from defensive end to tight end this season. He has become a key player for making first downs. Moore has a lot to offer Marathon.

Marathon Pride

*By: Stephanie Toombs
8th grade*

The Marathon Dolphins are here to fight
We're going to win the game tonight
Everyone knows who we are
They come to battle us from near and far
Teams walk the school filled with pride
Fans and coaches by their side
Football, basketball, volleyball and more
All representing the school they adore
We know all the coaches' and players' names
They've worked so hard preparing for the games
Everyone has school spirit
We shout it loud so everyone can hear it
Faces painted blue and gold
Pom-poms and t-shirts being sold
Hear the Juniors and Seniors yell
Freshmen and Sophomores join in as well
Middle schoolers join in too
Cheering on their peers in gold and Blue
So to any team we say "Bring it on!"
Cause we're the Mighty Dolphins from Marathon!

