



# DOLPHIN PRIDE

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2010-2011

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## "Welcome Back"



Seniors Arrive at School the First Day Ready to Take Over MHS and the World! *Photo courtesy of MHS Website/Karen McKeon*

## Mr. Gracy, MHS Principal Leading The Way

By Cynthia Garcia

On time and ready for work! "Start on Time" is one of the ideas that Mr. Gracy, our new principal has brought to our school. It requires students to get to class on time, with consequences if they do not abide by these requests. Mr. Gracy recently moved from Atlantic Beach, a town close to Jacksonville and a very different area from the Keys. When asked how the Keys life compared to his former residence he replied, "The community is smaller. The commute is also a lot shorter than from Atlantic Beach to Jacksonville." He also added, "I wouldn't consider myself homesick but I do miss a lot of things back home such as my neighborhood of 24 years, my house about a block from the beach, my neighbors, and the beach itself."

However, he enjoys the Marathon community and says it is very welcoming. Comparing Marathon High to his former school he states, "I went from a school with about 2000 students to a school with about 600 students." He enjoys the students in both the middle school and high school and says, "The middle schoolers are inviting and greet me every morning." Among his many goals, he would like to make this school the best school in America.

Mr. Gracy also wants to prepare the students for their future by increasing Advanced Placement classes and beginning an IB program. These two programs will increase the students' education and college opportunities.

Mr. Gracy is very pleased with the way things around campus are going so far. He is watching to see what else can be improved and is also looking forward to a great school year.



Mr. Gracy at his desk ready to lead the way helping students succeed. *Photo Courtesy of Nathaniel Kitchen.*

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## New Year - New Faces - New Directions - New Experiences

### *New Kids on the Block, Oops... the Halls!*

By Mariolys Hernandez

New school, new beginnings! This is the case for three new students that Marathon High has had the pleasure to add to its student body. So far the school has welcomed quite a few new students this school year. These students have come from different parts of the country and our state. The Dolphin Pride would like to introduce you to three of these new students: Micaela Maeder, Keirston Sanchez, and Stetson Odom.



Stetson Odom comes from Jacksonville, Florida. She is a 9th grader. Stetson Odom wants to be involved in extra circular activities, such as helping with the Homecoming float and joining cheerleading. Stetson enjoys her academic classes and she loves her new teachers and school.



Micaela Maeder is from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. She is a 9th grader. She enjoys MHS. "The students and teachers are really humble." Micaela Maeder played volleyball at her previous school. She adds, "I like volleyball because I played when I was in 7th and 8th grade, it's something to continue."



Keirston Sanchez is from Pontiac, Illinois. She is a senior and she loves being here. She is taking Commercial Art and AP Art History. Keirston doesn't like sports, the only sporting competition she says she likes is art!

*Photos courtesy of Jasmine Escobar*

### *True Artist*

By Sahalie Smythe

Walking down the halls on any given day you would be amazed at how many talented students attend our school. One of these students is Shane DiPaolo. Shane



Shane works on his latest piece during his art class. *Photo courtesy of Sahalie Smythe*

has always stood out as an athlete and artist. You may find it an odd combination but Shane's talent on the football field has always complemented his talent at the drawing board. However Shane is now a senior and is focusing on his future. He recently gave up the field to focus on his drawing. I had the chance to ask Shane a few questions about his art work. During our conversation, he explained that art is "...the best way to express himself to the world." Shane sees his future in art, however, he hasn't decided whether he will become a

commercial tattoo artist or fine artist. At this moment, Shane's number one focus is his art work and second, his scholarships. He is applying himself and working towards a scholarship from the Arts Institute of Fort Lauderdale. When I asked Shane what types of things he puts in his art he responded with, "...items that represent the problems and history of the world."

### *Meet Mr & Mrs. VanVoorst*

By Naomi Valerdi & Alek Steinmetz

Mrs. Van Voorst is a welcomed new addition to Marathon High School. She moved down from Nevada to the Florida Keys to be close to warm weather. She had previously taught in the southeast for four years. She taught in Arizona for ten years in a small school. She taught many subjects including physical education and science. She explained that she was a principal at an elementary school but she didn't like it. She felt that she had to deal with only the bad kids all the time. Now that she is at Marathon Middle School, she is teaching science. Mrs. Van Voorst loves the Florida Keys. She rides her bike to school every day and she enjoys going to the beach with her family. She couldn't be any happier. When asked if she had anything special planned for her students this year she replied that she was trying to get the students involved with hands-on experiments. Her goal is to educate her students in the most enjoyable way possible.

Mr. VanVoorst is currently teaching many math courses including Liberal Arts math, Algebra II, AP Calculus and Geometry honors. Before moving he lived in Virginia City Nevada, a much smaller town and taught in a school with only 169 students. He loves living here and enjoys having such motivated students in his classes. He also enjoys the local weather and loves to participate in outdoor activities such as biking, running, swimming, snorkeling and he one day hopes to start scuba-diving. The Marathon Dolphin Pride welcomes these dynamic teachers to our school.

### *Dress Code Blues*

By Cheyenne Martin

As the new school year begins, students have made a shocking discovery. The Administration at Marathon High is taking the school dress code seriously for the first time in years. For years, students were allowed to wear almost anything, with a few exceptions. Shorts were never a problem and neither were pajamas.

Although, the handbook dress code is still the same as it's always been, the difference now is the code is being enforced. A science teacher explains, "I agree with the enforcement. Students come to school to inappropriately dressed." Students and some parents argue back that it is summer and they don't want to wear long jeans in the heat of the day. Also, most parents don't have the money to re-stock their children's school wardrobe. Now, most kids are wearing the same thing to school each week.

As students and teachers argue back and forth, the administration isn't budging when it comes to the dress code. Hopefully, students, parents, and administration can find a balance that everyone agrees with.

### *EIL On The Road...to Spain*

By Adi Hernandez

The Experiment in International Living (EIL) partnered with MHS Take Stock in Children Scholarship Program gave the opportunity to three MHS students to go around world. One of these students, Kasey Platt shared some of her observations and experiences with this Dolphin Pride reporter.



Kasey Platt smiles for the camera.

*Dolphin Pride Archived Photo*

Kasey started her trip at the capital city of Madrid, where she had many experiences. She went to museums and saw many monuments. But her far more favorite activity was "The World Cup." Kasey noticed, "Spanish pride was something that no outsider could ever imagine." All during this trip, she was amazed by all she saw. It was truly special and memorable for her.

However, Kasey's experience going to Spain did have its ups and downs, "creating a roller-coaster-like experience." Although in the end, "the rewards definitely outweighed the bad." If Kasey Platt had to go again, acknowledging all the events she experienced in Spain, she would be more than willing to travel abroad again in the future but would also be prepared for the unexpected.



## In the halls and around our town...

### No More Wings

By Kelsey Wonderlin

Twenty years ago, Thursday 25 cent Wing Night at the Hurricane was unknowingly brewing into a long-lived tradition in present-day Marathon. Every Thursday night, many students from MHS could be found crowding the tables of the local restaurant.

But of late, managers of the Hurricane have decided to deny entrance to anyone under the age of 21. Why? "Liability," managers of the restaurant say. Alcohol is a main part of their business, and a person under 21 (and not accompanied by someone 21 or older) is not allowed in the bar area. But what ultimately sparked the age minimum idea? It was, in fact, the behavior of the teenagers who attended Wing Night. "It got a little unruly [and] unmanageable," the managers said. Teenagers were also "walking out on [their] checks."

Due to this behavior, managers do not plan on lowering or revoking the age restriction any time soon. For MHS students, the rule is definitely a disappointment. The Thursday night wing special served as a safe hangout spot for the Marathon teens. "It's something to look forward to each week," said senior Michelle Sardiña. It's a reserved time to socialize with friends outside of school. Before the 21-year-old age restriction, many students attended Wing Night virtually every week.

If you were to now walk into the Hurricane on a Thursday night, you would not find the doorway crowded with teenagers. It is instead a much quieter and calmer atmosphere composed of mostly adults.

### The AVID Approach: Yes, I'm Going to College



**Pictured left: The high school AVID students, faculty and administrators model their college tees for College Day, Sept. 3, 2010**

**Pictured right: Middle school AVID students follow suit.**

*Photos courtesy of Jasmine Escobar, DP Staff Photographer*



### Life's a Circus

By Kelsey Wonderlin

The dates for Homecoming Week have been set and it's time to start thinking of creative ideas for MHS Spirit Days. The theme this year is "Life's A Circus." This year, Homecoming Week will be October 18th-23rd. The Homecoming parade, as is tradition, will be on the Thursday of Homecoming Week, October 21st. The big game is scheduled for Friday, October 22nd, and the Homecoming dance will follow on Saturday, October 23rd. The themes for the Spirit Days are as follows:

#### Monday: Decade Day

This is the day to dig through your parents' old boxes of clothes and experience a blast from the past. Grab your leg-warmers and high-top sneakers or throw on a pair of platform shoes!

#### Tuesday: Around the World

Have you ever wished you could be a part of an exotic culture found somewhere else in the world? Now is your chance! Break out the kimonos, tribal wear, or even dress like the Eiffel Tower.

#### Wednesday: Famous Day

Today is the day to dress like the famous person you wish you could be, the cartoon character you most enjoy, or the famous duo you and a friend adore. Evil or good, any character, celebrity, or idol goes!

#### Thursday: Circus Day

It's parade day and it's time to match the theme of the week! Anything from ring bearer to lion tamers will work for Circus Day, so get creative and find your inner-carnie!

#### Friday: Spirit Day

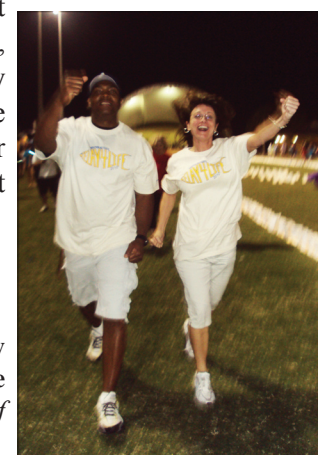
Spirit Day is the day to go all-out and show as much school spirit as possible, so get excited about the big game played later on in the evening. Sparkles, glitter, royal blue, white and gold should all be common themes of the day.

## RELAY FOR LIFE KICK OFF BY DANIELA ORTIZ

It's a sad fact, but cancer is out there all over the world and still no cure. It has caused about 13% of human deaths. For those who have been diagnosed with cancer and survived, Relay for Life can be a life changing event. The American Cancer Society created this event in order to celebrate those who have won the battle against cancer and to remember loved ones who may not have been as fortunate. In the Keys, it's an annual event that many people look forward to attending. Thursday, September 30th from 5:30- 7:30 p.m., the Middle Keys Relay For Life Kick Off will be held at Boot Key Harbor City Marina. All the Relay teams come together in celebration of raising money to find a cure for cancer. Every year the Marathon High School and Middle School teams both participate in this event. The MHS team captain this year is Annabelle Walker and the co-captain is Bryce Roberts. Sponsors of the Marathon school teams are Mrs. Dorl, our TV Production and middle school Art teacher and Ms Denny, our school nurse. Volunteers can come and help out with the MHS team

fund-raisers to support the cause. All the money raised by the teams will benefit and provide support, aid, transportation, encouragement and hope to those suffering with cancer. This year, 'Relay' will be held at the Marathon Community Park and Amphitheater on April 2-3, 2011. For more information contact the event chairman, Ginger Snead at arflkeys@aol.com. Come out and support the good cause!

**Pictured right: Our own Culinary teacher, Anthony Green and our Ms. Denny run jubilantly for the cure in last year's Relay for Life event.** *Photo courtesy of Karen McKeon/Dolphin Pride archives*





# DOLPHIN PRIDE *Extra! Extra!*

## Football News

By John Keller

The Marathon High School Football team started off with a rocky start compared to last year. This past Friday they had a victory against Barrington Christian after losing their first home game the week before. This should start their winning streak because now they have had their first taste of victory. They won 13-12 against Barrington Christian. However, before playing, there was a two hour game delay caused by heavy rain, thunder and lightning storms. But in the end, they came out on top with the win. Good job, Marathon Football team – keep it up!



## Swim Team Update

By Katy Larson

The MHS swim team this year is really on a roll! Sarah Maschal (pictured) is the swim team coach this year and she is confident that it will be a good year. "There are more girls on the swim team this year than last year and none of them will be graduating with the class of 2011, so we're expecting lots of performance from them. The boys are very good this year as well, with Aaron Grube breaking a school record that was first set in 2008. The school is very proud! We hope to better our record, and achieve making it to regionals," said Ms. Maschal. Come and support the Marathon High School swim team!



Trevell Beckford (#7) evades a tackle during the Dolphins' win over Barrington Christian. Photo courtesy of Dr. Kathy Lancaster

## Volley Ball Update

By Nate Kitchen

The girls' Volley Ball team is off to a good start in opening season games scheduled back to back. So far they are 4-3 and Coach Konrath is proud of her team and their efforts. "They are learning to play together...they are competitive, hardworking athletes and are demonstrating leadership on the floor."



Photo courtesy of Karen McKeon

## Pep Rally Madness- Go Dolphins!



Friday, September 10, 2010 the first pep rally of the season was held in the gym. Spirit is alive and kicking at MHS as pep rally madness overtakes the crowd.

Photos courtesy of Jasmine Escobar & Dolphin Pride Staff