

November: All Eyes on Government and Politics

By Alicia Young

Social Studies department head, Dr. Elizabeth Bayerl organized city government week activities so students may understand and get more involved with our local government. League of Florida Cities sponsors yearly activities to increase understanding of and involvement in local government. Many social studies classes at MHS were invited to meet with one of our elected officials with firsthand knowledge of our city's government.

Clyde Burnett, city manager for the city of Marathon, joined our 8th through 12th grade students on Friday, Oct. 24th in Marathon High School Media Center to start city government week (Oct. 19-25). "My City" posters that were created by sixth, seventh, eighth, and tenth grade social studies classes welcomed Mr. Burnett. Mr. Burnett supervises Marathon's sixty-seven city employees. He has been city manager for six months. Mr. Burnett stated that the city residents pay the fifth lowest millage rate, 1.5 mills, of any city in the state of Florida with a population of more than ten thousand. This means that residents in town who own their homes pay one hundred fifty dollars per one hundred thousand dollars in real estate valuation per property in the city. Many of the students asked



Photo Courtesy: Joey O'Connor.

Doroty Jean-Charles (above) and Dr. Bayerl excited by the election process.

questions wondering about the challenges facing our city in the near future. Concerning our present economic crisis, Burnett told the students that our city, Marathon is on solid economic footing.

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Thanksgiving: Traditions and History

By Michelle Saunders

A lot of us already know the history of Thanksgiving. It started in 1621 when the first American Thanksgiving was celebrated. By the mid- 1800's many people observed Thanksgiving as a holiday and then in 1941, Congress decreed that Thanksgiving should fall on the 4th Thursday of November, where it remains today. Not only is it celebrated in the United States like it was back in 1941, but now seven other nations celebrate an official Thanksgiving Day. They are: Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Japan, Korea, Liberia, and Switzerland.

Many holiday traditions remain to this day that originated back then. For example, our ancestors are thankful for their independence and freedom as a whole. Turkey, corn, pumpkins and cranberry sauce are all symbols that represent the first Thanksgiving as a lavish meal. Special ceremonies were also held when the first Thanksgivings were celebrated. Villagers and settlers would go to church and participate in religious festivals.

A Time for Giving Thanks: What Are You Thankful For? By Stormy Bezanis

Thanksgiving is a time of celebrating all the things that we're thankful for. I decided to go around and ask our Marathon High community the simple question, "What are you thankful for?" Here are the responses given by our Dolphins!

"Healthy son, Logan, my family, and my friends" – Jesse Schubert

"My family"- Selena Bologna

"Family, friends, my life" – Barbara Allen

"God, my family & friends"- Trevell Beckford

"Family, friends, student body" – Ms. McPherson

"My wonderful girlfriend, Stormy Bezanis, and the fact that I'm making it through life" – Ian Dieter

"Roof over my head, family, & life"- Kendle Curry

"Family, little niece, Melody, great god, beautiful girlfriend, Lorayne Garcia, my house, & OBAMA" –Emanuel Borges

"God, family, my cousin, Miles Alexander Ventura, and my wonderful boyfriend, Emanuel Borges" –Lorayne Garcia

"My amazing boyfriend, Ian, my family, and for waking up every day" –Stormy Bezanis

"I am thankful for my energetic, creative students, my husband, children, grandkids and friends." – Mrs. Dick

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And so another month comes to an end...

By Lucy Agababian

And with it, the arrival of the winter season. The month has been busy and to say the very least, did not lack in excitement.

This month we celebrated Thanksgiving, Hispanic Heritage month and the election for the most powerful man in our nation, the president of the United States of America. This month our country made history and forever rewrote what can and cannot be accomplished within our borders when a black man was elected into the highest office within our nation. This month we showed that despite everything we can choose someone the country needs in this time of strife. Voters came out in the millions to vote for their chosen candidates, but in the end only one man could win, the people spoke, and the presidency went to Barak Obama.

In the previous month of October, we celebrated Hispanic Heritage month and all who came from a Spanish speaking country returned to their roots and enjoyed what it means to be themselves. Now it is time for our Hispanic students to step forward and tell the world they are proud of who they are and what they have accomplished in their lives.

A key point of excitement for our school also included the retiring of Tony Bryant's old football jersey number. He was forced to retire from the NFL after a neck injury took him off the field unable to play the sport he loved. He returned to his school on the last day of October in remembrance of his time here at Marathon High and to see to the next generation of kids move forward in the world of school life, involved in sports or not. He did not care either way, only that we follow our hopes and dreams to the very end and never give up. He shared lunch with us and of course signed autographs for his fans. I myself managed to snag one from within the throng of students that swarmed around him. And along with the celebration of Tony Bryant, our Culinary class led by the fabulous Chef Green cooked up a Hispanic lunch consisting of pork roast, yellow rice, and black beans in honor of Hispanic Heritage month for our students and guest to enjoy. In this edition, we are also focusing on our teacher spotlight and surely we are thankful for all the exciting activities that occur in our classrooms.

A month of thanks, a year of thanks that is what is signified during Thanksgiving, which falls on November 27th this month. Perhaps you have a lot to be thankful for this year, or perhaps you don't. But simply remember the true meaning behind this holiday, grueling though the real story is.

Women With a Voice: A Fight for Equality

By TaKara Coleman

Today most women in the United States are often chatting about who they will vote for concerning the 2008 presidential election. This right that all women now possess did not always exist, however. Through the strength and determination of past females, the voices of ladies will always have a say in the running of their country. One of the most fervent feminists was Victoria Woodhull. She was the first woman to run for president in 1872 and although she didn't win, she showed that women were as smart as men. Ms. Woodhull argued that the fourteenth and fifteenth amendments regarded women as citizens and as citizens women deserved to vote. She argued this point in front of Congress in 1871 and was the first woman to do so on behalf of the suffragist movement.

Susan B. Anthony was an amazing icon in the women's right movement. She delivered fiery speeches and exposed the shocking reality of being a woman. She be inferior and actually guards if they did not let her constant threats and insults voted on November 5, 1872 other brave women. Susan B. jail for the cause she believed 26, 1920 the United States women had the right to vote. for women everywhere and opened new doors for the female population.



and exposed the shocking Anthony refused to threatened to sue federal register to vote. Despite the she faced, Ms. Anthony along with just fourteen Anthony was willing to go to in and finally on August Constitution declared that This marked a huge victory

What is FRI?

By Lorayne Garcia

The Florida Reading Initiative is a state research based reading instruction program. How did we become a FRI school? Last spring, 85% of the faculty voted to attend a five day training and complete an online course in teaching reading in all subjects.



Banner displayed outside our school.

Photo courtesy: Sarah Bradshaw

At MHS, we are using it as a school wide reform effort. It focuses on extensive professional development for all teachers. Last summer, our principal and teachers attended a one week Summer Reading Academy. At the beginning of this school year, teachers met and selected strategies needed to teach all students.

FRI has good learning strategies. In speaking with Ms. McPherson, she revealed that there are six essential strategies that are useful for our teachers to use in the classroom. They are:

- Pre Reading Strategies (PAS)
- Question-answer Relationship (QAR)
- Summary Sentence Frames.
- Concept Maps.
- Column Notes.
- Reciprocal Reading.

What does a FRI classroom look like? Walking into classrooms you will notice student work displayed that use charts and visuals to define words and provide information. Many teachers have words displayed on boards, so that students remember them. I asked a student and a teacher to tell us what they notice about FRI. These were their responses:

Alicia Young: What is different in your classes?

In Mrs. Dick's creative photo class, the main ideas of the course are all arranged in sections of a flip book, where students analyze articles on how to take a good picture. When looking through the articles students use highlighting techniques to grab key points in the articles.

In Mrs. Costello's English classes, she breaks students into small groups to summarize reading selections. Each student has a certain job to do when reading a selection, for example, the summarizer describes what the reading selection was about, and the questioner comes up with questions in which they didn't understand in the story.

Mr. Lettau: Why do you like using FRI?

"I like FRI because kids work together and the teacher becomes more like a guide. Kids get involved with the learning process. We've done Socratic Seminars, paired and group's read aloud, venn diagrams, group activities for main ideas, and summary statements."

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This was a good start for students to consider our national presidential elections in our country or maybe even here at MHS.

On October 27th, here at Marathon High School we held a mock election for the 2008-2009 presidential election. Grades 6th-12th were given the opportunity to cast their votes for the next president of the United States. Barack Obama and Joe Biden were the overall choice in the race with 73.6 % (412 ballots) of the votes compared to the 22.5 % (126 ballots) that went to John McCain and Sarah Palin. The mock election was part of a district and nationwide effort to learn student political preferences prior to the November 4th election. MHS was closely aligned with district-wide results with 69.7% of the mock election voters choosing Obama and 27.4% for McCain. Each social studies teacher was responsible for preparing students for the election, and students voted in their social studies classes. Dr. Bayerl coordinated the proceedings by securing the county's voting election machine to tally the votes. District Teacher Leader, Jeanne Sanford, was on hand to process the ballots. Students here at MHS were very excited that they had a voice in the election even if they were not old enough to actually vote. Not having been able to vote in this election, now I've turned 18 and I am looking forward to exercising my right to vote in local and national elections.

Teacher Spotlights- Amazing Teachers At Work

Ms. Lori Denny- our Health Careers , Parenting and Life Management Skills expert gives students a taste of the real world.



Health Career students at work and the students stop for a group shot. *Photos courtesy of Michelle Saunders*

Amber and Eric toast to their imaginary future.

Photos courtesy of Shayna Halladay and Cassidy Burgos



Health Screenings By Layne Doyle

On October 16, 2008 Ms. Denny's Health Careers classes one, two, and three year students held an annual health screening for the 6th grade class. Ms. Denny's classes participate in this so they can experience the health profession hands on. The health career students performed optional tests on the vital signs which include body temperature, pulse rate, breathing rate, and blood pressure. They also performed optional tests on vision, height and weight. The classes also got to learn about the paper work and documentation that came with the different test. The screening was beneficial for the 6th grade students and Ms. Denny's classes by promoting a healthy student body and giving her class a great learning experience.

Mock Wedding By Sarah Bradshaw

Here at Marathon High School, the phrase "band before baby" took effect. On October 31st, Ms. Denny's parenting class put on their annual mock wedding. The bride was Amber and the groom was Eric. Positions of the wedding were picked by drawing names out of a hat. It took approximately a month of planning and the results were amazing. Student, Nancy Alvarez acted as the wedding planner and took control of all aspects of planning the wedding. Photography students attended the wedding to take pictures of the event and each student in her Parenting class was allowed to invite one person to attend. It took place in her classroom during 4th period. Ms. Denny's reason for having the wedding was to encourage a healthy relationship and marriage before planning to have children.

Mr. Childress

There is no doubt that Mr. Childress is a great teacher. He is dedicated, talented, and he simply has a way of making his students smile. Therefore, Dolphin Pride agreed that he is a great person to start our Teacher Spotlight segment.

Mr. Childress, also known as Mr. C, was inspired to become a teacher by the time he reached high school. He was tired of the average teacher that simply lectured and assigned homework. His goals as a teacher are to "improve every year" and to be honest with himself and improve his weaknesses. Mr. C can't imagine himself as anything but a teacher, but if he had to choose he admits that "I would be a drummer for a rock n' roll band!"

By TaKara Coleman



Mr. Childress takes some time from helping a student to smile for the camera.

Photo courtesy: TaKara Coleman

Hispanic Heritage Celebration!

On Friday, Oct. 31, 2008, students were treated to a party with music and food to celebrate Hispanic Heritage month - Here are a few pictures of the festive fun had by all including Tony Bryant posing with student.

Photos courtesy of Dolphin Pride Staff



Mr. Murphy

By Nicholette Smith

"Grades up, balls out!" Mr. Murphy is our World History teacher for the 10th grade level and proud soccer coach. Before coming to Marathon two years ago, he and his wife Mrs. Murphy (who teaches both CCC and Yearbook here at MHS) lived in Detroit, Michigan. He worked at a bank when he realized that teaching could really be his calling. "I did not enjoy my job and decided to look into other fields of work. Education interested me most, so I went back to school to get my teaching degree in Social Studies and Psychology." After that he and his wife looked for teaching jobs and were notified of positions here at Marathon High. The beautiful year round weather was just a huge perk and he tells us, "We love our decision to move here." Murphy played soccer throughout high school and college and still loves watching or plays the sport whenever possible. This year for the MHS soccer team he hopes to go all the way to districts and win. He also hopes that the amount of experienced seniors on the team will lead us to victory. It is no mystery as to why this teacher is widely liked and appreciated by students here at MHS. Hopefully he will be here for years to come.



DOLPHIN SPORTS

Fall Sports

Kicking Off The Soccer & Basketball Seasons

By Joey O'Connor

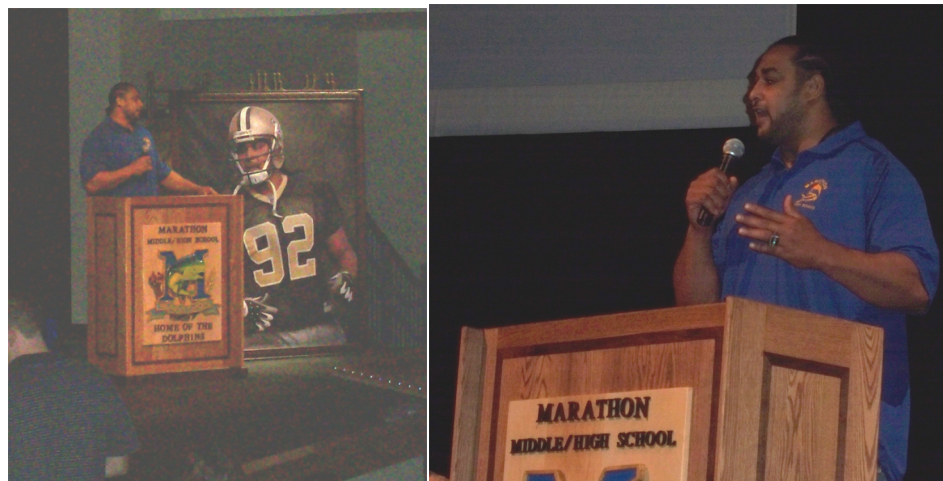


This year soccer season has just started and things are looking good for both the girls and boys varsity teams. The girl's varsity team recently had their first game winning 5-0. The girls then went on to beat Carleton with a score of 4-0. Thursday Nov 6th the boy's varsity traveled to Coral Shores to play in a preseason tournament. They won their first game 2-0 against Coral Shores. The next day the boy's traveled back to Coral Shores to play against Key West High School. They ended up losing this game 1-6. The first goal was scored by Senior, Charles Bragan. The boys later suffered two losses in the same week but then came back to beat Miami Christian 7-4. Boys soccer coach Charlie Murphy said "I think this is just the spark we need to get us going."

Eager to start basketball Varsity Coach Kevin Freeman started tryouts Nov. 3rd. With many players participating in other sports the turnout for the tryouts was great! "There were 30 kids trying out this year." – stated Coach Freeman. The Varsity team will play its first preseason tournament November 21 and 22 at Westminster Christian. Scores not available at press time.

Number 45 Comes Home

Tony Bryant returns to MHS and addresses the student body. In a special assembly, his achievements were recognized and his number 45 was officially retired from the MHS Dolphin Football team. Pictured below, Tony speaks to the students. Bottom row center: Tommie Lancaster sporting one of Tony's jersey's receives autographed football while Tony and his children watch. Athletic Director, Ms. Konrath unveils Tony's framed jersey, Number 45. *Photos courtesy of Alicia Young*



Football Finale

By Shelby Kuck

With the season winding down the Dolphins ended their season with a record of 6-4. They played Ransom Everglades Saturday Nov. 1st with a score of 21-3. Feeding off the big win they headed to Parkway Academy to play the Panthers Friday Nov. 7th. For a chance to play in the play-offs they needed to beat the Panthers but the Dolphins fell short to a win with a score of 7-48. Without any hope of playing in playoffs they prepared for the last game of the season. Their last game was a rival game against Coral Shores High School at home. After beating Key West earlier in the season they suited up to play the hurricanes for a chance to be Key's Champs. The game started at 7:30pm November 14 with the stands filled. At half time the Dolphins were beating the hurricanes 41-0. With a final score of 44-7, the dolphins dominated the hurricanes and were undefeated in the rivalry of the Key's teams.

The Varsity Dolphins ended their season losing 11 valuable seniors: Kenny White, Early Harris, Bobby Richardson, Toby Eigner, Johnny Lancaster, Angelo Hidalgo, Waldy DeArmas, Hector Vicioso, Justin Larson, Blaine Connell, and Daric Hunt.



Last Game for Seniors- Seniors prepare to play their final game of the season. They were all designated captains for the final game - they line up as they prepare for the final coin toss. *Photo courtesy of MHS Website.*

A Returning Champion - A Retired Jersey

