

DOLPHIN PRIDE

MARATHON MIDDLE HIGH SCHOOL

SEPTEMBER 1, 2023



The Class of '24 poses for a photo on their last first day of school.

Welcome Back!

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Every new school year brings about changes on a campus and this year is no different. Marathon Middle High School has a brand new administration this year as well as a slew of new teachers. The Dolphin Pride, our school newspaper, has a whole new staff and we are working on bringing you all the latest news from Marathon's campus and throughout the community.

Also new this year are a few classes, including Mrs. Bursa's German language class for middle school students and Mr. Driscoll's Biotechnology Engineering course for high school students. Biotech stresses environmental sustainability.

Fun activities are being planned by the administration and the leadership classes. There will be a few new club offerings as well, including Film Club and a return of our GSA Club.

Governor DeSantis issued a state-

wide executive order which banned cell phones and use of other electronic devices in classrooms except under very strict circumstances in which the devices are being used for instruction. Many students dislike the policy but for the most part, they understand and are being compliant. One new policy that students are not in opposition of is the ability of some upperclassmen to leave campus to work when they have successfully passed a required course. Some students who have already completed all of their graduation requirements or are enrolled in dual enrollment courses at College of the Florida Keys are also allowed to leave campus once their high school classes are finished for the day.

So far, everyone seems to be happy with this year's changes and we hope this positive trend continues all year long!

Dolphin Athletics

Football Falls to Pompano Beach in Season Opener

On August 25th, the Dolphins traveled to Pompano Beach to take on the Golden Tornadoes. Marathon lost by one in the closing moments of the game. In the 14-13 loss, Fabbianho Louis Jeune had one rushing touchdown and kicked a point after and Carlos Lezcano ran one in for a touchdown as well.

Defensively, Nolan O'Hara had two sacks in the game, Tanner Ross had six tackles, and Jeune grabbed a one-handed interception.

The 'Fins play September 1st at home against Silver Palms then travel to NSU University School in Ft. Lauderdale the following week.



Varsity Volleyball Loses Three

The Lady Fins varsity volleyball team has played three matches this season, losing them to Somerset Silver Palms, University School, and Key West. Despite their record, the team is steadily improving and won several sets against University School. If you want to see our Lady Dolphins in action, their next home game is on September 19th at 5:30.

They will play Silver Palms again and hope to get a win this time.



Cross Country Off to a Fast Start

Marathon's cross country team had their first meet of the season at Larry & Penny Thompson Park in Homestead. Marathon's top runner was Vance Bursa for the boys and Mikkell Ross for the girls. The team has been training all summer in preparation for the season and can be seen putting in the miles all over town.

Their next race will be Friday, September 1st against Key West on Big Pine Key. After that, they will travel back to Miami to run against Country Day on Sept. 6.



Part of the cross country team posed for a photo prior to a recent afternoon practice run.

Varsity Golf Busy on the Greens

The Golfin' Dolphins swung back into action this fall, playing multiple matches against Key West and Coral Shores. Freshman Rocco Piscetello and senior Dylan Ziels have been the consistent low scorers for the boys' team and senior Summer Haines is the top female golfer at Marathon.

Pictured to the right are senior Leo Mendez and freshman Caden Pitcher who played nine holes recently at the Key West Golf Course on Stock Island. The team plays two to three times per week in Key West, Marathon, and Ocean Reef.



Dolphin Athletics Schedule

Date	Team	Opponent	Time
9/1	Varsity Football	Silver Palms	7pm
9/5	MS Volleyball	PKS	5:30
9/6	Cross Country	@ Country Day	TBD
9/6	JV Volleyball	Basilica School	5:30
9/7	JV Volleyball	Palmer	4pm
9/7	Varsity Volleyball	Palmer	5:30
9/7	Varsity Football	@ U School	6pm
9/9	MS Football	@ True North	11am
9/9	JV Volleyball	@ Country Day	TBD
9/11	MS Volleyball	Basilica	5:30
9/11	Golf	CSHS//KW	3:30
9/12	MS Volleyball	Sugarloaf	5:30
9/12	Varsity Volleyball	@ Posnak	4pm
9/13	Golf	@ Ocean Reef	1pm
9/14	Varsity Football	Sunset	7pm
9/14	JV Volleyball	@ Coral Shores	4:30
9/14	Varsity Volleyball	@ Coral Shores	6pm

Bringing the Spirit: Meet the New Cheer Coach Taking our Team to New Heights!



New cheer coach, new cheers, new team, but can they keep the same old enthusiasm? Michelle Macoskey is here at Marathon to help bring the pep back to the cheer team. After almost two months of searching for a cheer coach, Ms. Macoskey swooped in and saved the day. You may wonder, what makes her quali-

fied for this position? According to Mr. Lance (our athletic director), he thought that Coach Michelle was an astonishing contender.

After cheering for 15 years and also wanting to be a part of student life, there wasn't anyone who could possibly be more fit for this position. While being a cheer coach isn't her only occupation, she puts in the most effort applicable and makes it work. Ms. Macoskey is also a paraprofessional, and works at the Turtle Hospital behind the scenes. She thrives off of

helping others; whether it's animals or students, she is always eager to be of help.

Mr. Martin shared that Ms. Macoskey's communication skills are excellent, which is an essential element to success. The program truly needed to take the next step in becoming top-notch and that is exactly what our new coach did. She is always on top of her emails, texts, and more. Ms. Macoskey is a go-getter; throughout all of the struggles and things that the cheerleaders haven't been able to do for years on end, she persevered and made ends meet. That may leave you

thinking, "what has she added to the team?" Ms. Macoskey has reintroduced away games for the cheerleaders, is in the process of introducing new advanced stunts to our varsity cheer team, and adding new cheers no one has ever seen before. Mr. Martin is exhilarated to see what's coming up next in Dolphin cheer, and you should be too! Finally Ms. Macoskey wanted to share a few words of wisdom: "For any potential cheerleader scared to try out, it's always better to try than to fail to try."



A Female on the MHS Football Team?

By Justice Lee Isom

It has been 8-10 years since there has been a female's name on the Marathon High School's Varsity Football Team Roster. Marathon's Justice Lee Isom started her football journey by joining the team for the spring season last school year. Lee got quite a bit of playing time in Marathon's spring game against Somerset South Homestead while wearing #44 but now, she is representing #40. Her positions include Fullback (FB), Linebacker (LB), and Receiver (X).

Did she get it easier than all of the boys? No, Coach Sean McDonald

said, "That would be unfair, everybody has the same standards." That being said, he also mentioned that she absolutely has the same traits as a male football athlete. As you can see, McDonald sees all of his players as the same, he said "Everyone has differences, but are still all held to the same standards." He does not see them as different from each other as is gender, size, or any other differences. Everyone is treated the exact same. But, did McDonald ever see himself coaching a female on the football team? Truth is, "I

never thought about it in my early career," said McDonald. He even said that when it did happen his only thought was "it's just another player."

Lee is now on her first full season of football and is "absolutely loving it, I love how I am treated no differently than all of the boys, all of them, including the coaches have been so helpful and kind to me through this journey." What encouraged her to go for what is known as a "men's sport"? Lee said that "I wanted to prove that females can do anything men can no matter how "tough"

it may be." She stated that there were multiple people that thought she would not last long playing football. Lee has been able to prove multiple people wrong and she said that "I do not have a single regret of trying it and I continue to love it everyday!" Marathon's first home game is September 1st against Somerset Silver Palms at 7PM so, come out, support your Fins, and have a good time!



Tech Students Get Paid to Learn

by Noah Howell

Have you ever wanted to make money while learning? Have you ever wanted information that will look good on a resume or a college application and probably be useful in your future? Did you know at Marathon High School, there are classes as previously stated? In classes such as Tracy McDonald's Digital Media class it offers courses in which you pick a course such as an Adobe program or a coding course for Digital Media. Serena Steele, a junior at Marathon High School has is the perfect example of a student who took full advantage of these course offerings. She is certified in multi-

ple Adobe products and made \$600 last year by completing certifications. Steele stated "Someone who isn't that passionate about computers could make like \$600 if they wanted, but if you really applied yourself then you could make like \$1500."

Pretty simple, you pick a course, you learn how the program works, you get better at using the program, you take a test, and if you pass you'll get a cash reward and a certificate of completion. Pick a program, learn a program, pass the test on the program, get paid.

In the digital media class, participants can earn valuable certifi-

cations that showcase their expertise in various aspects of the "digital media" field. These certifications cover a wide range of skills like graphic design, video editing, and web development. The programs consist of Photoshop, Dreamweaver, HTML and CSS, and Premiere Pro. The certifications are not just a thing you learn to make money. Though these courses and skills you develop in the class are the same certifications and skills the adults need and earn for their jobs. Certifications which means you could get a job over another person who has none, or you could re-

ceive more pay than you would without a certification. If this sounds interesting to you, even if you're only interested in the money aspect, consider putting on a digital media class the next time the opportunity comes up.



Serena Steele with her latest bonus for certifying in Adobe Dreamweaver and Animate

Marathon Has New Social Workers on Campus

by Traes Neathery

Social work is an extremely underrated profession in the eyes of a student. Most students just brush the profession off as if it's like any other. But with our new social workers at MHS there's a lot of influence that could come from the social work industry. It's good to know some of the things about what social work can do for people and the person behind the job itself. Erin Flannery and Kaylie Swaine are new social workers who are

here with us at Marathon High School and both have Florida roots.

Erin Flannery is here from the shelter in Tavernier. She grew up in Key Largo. Both social workers were not sure what they wanted to do when they were young, and both went to medical/nursing schools

Ms. Flannery was a part-time babysitter before she had a position in the Tavernier shelter. This led her into child welfare and social working. She

later made the decision to start working at here at MHS.

Kaylie Swaine was born and raised in Sebring Florida. Her police officer father wanted her to be a doctor. After medical school she parted ways with the position and learned she liked talking to teenagers about their problems and helping them cope through volunteering in about four different youth groups. This helped her find her passion. She decided to

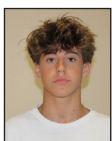
move to the Florida Keys from Central Florida, and she now resides here in Marathon where she and Ms. Flannery are available to help students in lots of ways.

If you are going through something and need a good listener, Ms. Swaine and Ms. Flannery are here to help.



Left: Kaylie Swaine is located in 1207

We asked some 'Fins...Who is your favorite new teacher and why?



Freshman Matthew Machado said that his favorite new faculty member is Ms. Sullivan, our new English I teacher. Machado described her as "chill" and that she is a good teacher because she is engaging with students.



Freshman Jack Dunn says his favorite new teacher is Ms. Watts. Dunn enjoys biology with Ms. Watts because the class is very hands-on and says that the teacher is understanding of her students.



Junior Marisol Diaz said that she likes Dr. Nicolas, the new Spanish teacher. Diaz explained that Dr. Nicolas knows the class content very well and said that the interactive class encourages a lot of student participation. She added that he also has a good sense of humor.

Marathon's School Nurse Offers More Than Just Band-aids

Nurse Sarah Ladd, the nurse at Marathon high/middle is the one person to see when you're sick or hurt but, what you may not know is that she is super friendly and loves seeing old faces and new ones, too. She is super nice, her greatest accomplishment would be to make students feel safe and letting them know that they can talk to her. Lots of people talk to her all the time and that is what she wants, to make people feel comfortable enough to talk to her if they need to. She wanted to be a school nurse because she likes working with kids and young adults and being able to help them. Nurse Sarah does not like seeing people hurt. She decided to work for Marathon middle/high because she always wanted to work in Marathon because she used to visit a lot and then one day decided to work there and since she liked working with kids it was perfect there was a job here at Marathon middle/high and she took it all a

by Daisey Crisp
dream come true in one. Her greatest strength would have to be getting to know the kids and watching them grow into young adults. Her greatest weakness would have to be seeing the kids hurt or sick! What is her favorite part about working with kids? Her most favorite part would be getting to know the kids for who they are and watching them go from little kids to young adults. In all, I would have to say she is the best and is so nice. She lets you talk about anything almost anytime as long as she's not busy. So be sure you go stop by and see her every once in a while she would love to see you too!



Nurse Ladd catches up on some paperwork.

What on Earth is a Quinceaneras?

Quinceaneras...everybody seems to be having one but just what is a quinceanera? A quinceanera is a cultural celebration from Mexico and various Latin countries. Its meaning is that a young woman is transitioning from childhood to womanhood when she turns fifteen years old. This event contains a huge social gathering, almost like a massive Thanksgiving dinner of all of your family. The event includes a get together with music, dancing, a lot of food and drinks. The quinceanera, which is the young lady, is dressed in an elegant dress. There's also a change in the young lady's shoes, a presentation of gifts, and a traditional father and daughter dance.

by Jasmine Cortez
Karla Santos celebrated her quinceanera last October and she was happy to describe the event. "My quinceanera was held at my grandparents' finca (a ranch) in Homestead. I had a lot of family and friends at my party," she said. "To me personally it was one of the best nights I have had. There was Latin music playing and everything was a vibe. Everyone was all dressed up and matched with the color I had chosen for my party. This meant everything to me; it's a huge milestone in my life and to my family."

Though Santos did not have much traditional food at her celebration, she did participate in the traditional father-daughter dance. "I was scared to do the dance but

Five Fins Honored by College Board



Pictured Left to Right: Mason Buxton, Cami Wrinn, Mikkel Ross, David Ornelas & Serena Steele

Five of Marathon's finest earned special recognition from the College Board for academic excellence. To be eligible for the award, students must earn a GPA of 3.5 or higher and have an outstanding performance on the PSAT/NMSQT®, PSAT™ 10, and/or AP® Exams. Achieving this recognition is challenging and each year only handful of students are honored. Typically, students use their award status to stand out on college and scholarship applications.

If you see one of the awardees, be sure to congratulate their success!



when I started dancing with my father I got extremely emotional. My father was very proud of me and he was very emotional. I had tears coming down my face, but I stopped cause I didn't want to ruin my makeup," she explained.

So if you're invited to a quince and you are worried about not knowing what to do or how to act, stop worrying. Go to the party, bring a nice gift for the honored girl, and enjoy yourself because that's what quinceanaras are for.



Right: Karla Santos in her Quince dress

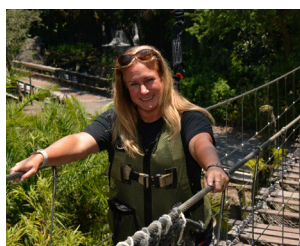
Meet Marathon's Newest Coach

by Yezaily Cruz

This year we welcome our new soccer coach Cathy Gwilliam and she is very excited to lead our team to victory! After playing soccer in high school and college she decided to become a soccer coach due to the bond and connection she felt with teaching young athletes skills. After coaching at Coral Shores for about ten years she decided to come here due to the opportunities, but she also wanted a change after teaching middle school and elementary school for 16 years. She wanted to work with older students.

Coach Gwilliam's

biggest rival is Coral Shores and her main goal this year is to beat them on the field. Competition on the soccer field is not the only thing that she leaps over, though. She's lived a very exciting life. Coach Gwilliam was in the Junior Olympics as a downhill skier. She is also an avid skydiver with over 100 jumps!



Above: Mrs. Gwilliam at Disney's Animal Kingdom.

Our Coral is at Risk

by Naylee Siegel

July was one of the hottest months on record in South Florida. Oceans around the world have been experiencing warmer temperatures affecting the marine ecosystem in many ways, and none of them are good.

The hot temperatures are putting coral at risk and coral are dying off due to bleaching. Coral is an important part of our marine ecosystem; if all the coral dies off, so will the animals. Scientists have estimated that nearly 70% of coral in Florida has been affected by bleaching caused by the extreme temperatures. Coral reefs are home to spiny lobster, snapper, and stone crabs which are

avored by fishermen. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) is predicting these temperatures will not get better until October.

There is a rescue operation underway in which scientists are trying to help the endangered coral before they are gone forever. They are moving coral to deeper, cooler waters in hopes of saving some organisms.

Regular people can help, too. While much of the coral die off is due to heat, human impacts such as boat groundings, overfishing, and pollution also affect coral negatively and should be avoided at all cost.

MHS Weighs in on Governor DeSantis' Executive Order on Phones

by Hydrie Boggs

On Tuesday, May 7, 2023, Governor Ron DeSantis signed multiple new educational pieces into law in the State of Florida, including the new executive order on phones in schools. This executive order allows students to bring their personal devices to school but bans the use of them during instructional times. Many parents and students have mixed feelings about this new rule.

Some students don't mind this new rule, yet many still disagree with it. MHS student Zyan Wiggins says, "It's understandable to not have our phones on while actively learning, but it wouldn't be bad to have

some free time with our phones". Wiggins also believes some students will still use their phones; she says, "Not allowing phones isn't going to stop the issue completely". She states that regardless of the rules, students will just try harder to hide them from teachers. Other students at MHS seem to be okay with the rule on phones, as they are trying to focus on their studies and aim for good grades. Another MHS student, Aurora Boggs, says the students who are using their phones irresponsibly are "blaming everyone other than themselves."

Also chiming in on the new order is the

faculty. The teachers of Marathon High School are excited about this school year and are actively enforcing the executive order on phones. MHS chemistry teacher, Dr. Crutcher says he is trying to help his students handle the distractions of phones, and his students seem to be responding well to how he is approaching the issue. Mr. Schubert, MHS English teacher, says he believes that teachers and staff members have been "fed up" with the phone issue for a while and it's good that it's being recognized and fixed.

With the new rule firmly in place, the only question is, will it last?

MHS Principal Christine Paul says she expects all teachers and students to follow through with this rule. She stated that this rule is no different than the one we had "in the books" before and it's just being enforced with greater fidelity. Ms. Paul believes that this action that is being taken on phones is "one of those things you realize is a good thing at the end of the day."



An Interview with Local Middle Grades Fiction Author Eva Polizze

by Olivia Polizze



Eva Polizze is the author of a middle school series called *Mishaps In Paradise* which is based on not only her life as a child but also her children. The books tell stories of funny events and silly misfortunes that took place in her and her children's lives.

Eva claims, "When I was in fifth grade, I realized that I loved reading books, so I would read all the time. Then I realized that I wanted to tell my own stories. When I was in fifth grade, I had a school assignment, and I wrote my first tiny book and even illustrated every page myself. I always loved it. So after that I always knew I was going to be a writer."

When asked what inspired her to write *Mishaps In Paradise*, she talked about how when her children were younger, they went through a lot of mishaps during their childhood that made her laugh, so she always wrote little notes about all the little things they used to do. She also explained that when she was a kid she was also very silly, getting her-

self into all sorts of trouble that led to her inspiration to write her book. With her little collection of silly events she had written down, she always wanted to write *Mishaps In Paradise*.

"Writing is not the only thing that I do. I have other businesses, but no matter what I have always done, I've wanted to write a book and I knew that until I do, I won't stop thinking about it. So when the pandemic hit and the whole world shut down, it was a perfect time to just sit down and write the books."

I asked Eva what her average day as a writer looked like. "I wake up and drink a cup of coffee, already planning and plotting the story, so the first hour or two I spend on planning and 'what are the scenes gonna be today?' and for the rest of my hours I would sit and write it all down," Eva explained how the first draft is always rough, but as long as there is a story on the page, it can always be edited. "The first day is just a rough draft of the scene that you planned in the morning. In the evening, you take a break. Then you start the same cycle again the next day."

"My husband and my two daughters supported me throughout my entire writing journey. They were a big part of my writing, and I am forever grateful for that," Eva said. I asked Eva if she had any other

unpublished projects, and if they were anything like *Mishaps In Paradise*. "I have some books waiting to be published but they are not for middle schoolers. They are for adults so they are very different from *Mishaps In Paradise*."

When asked what her favorite part of writing *Mishaps In Paradise* was, she said, "My favorite part during writing the *Mishaps In Paradise* diaries was working with my two daughters, who were the inspiration for the main characters in the books. We spent a lot of days together, taking photos and sketching the characters, so I will never forget those days."

Mishaps In Paradise is not just a story about silly island mishaps, but also it holds special childhood memories. It's the perfect book for children and middle schoolers who like to read about funny adventures that take place in the islands. Also, if you liked *Diary Of A Wimpy Kid*, and *Middle School: The Worst Years Of My Life* series, you'll love *Mishaps In Paradise*!



Above: Polizze signs copies of her books for her readers.

Impress Your Friends With Some Fun Facts

In Japan, there are literally hundreds of flavors of Kit Kat candy bars. Some of the more interesting varieties include Purple Yam, Roasted Green Tea, and Bean Sandwich. Mmmmm, bean sandwiches!



McDonald's developed broccoli that tasted like bubble gum in an effort to get kids to eat their veggies. They never put it on their actual menus, though, because, well, bubble gum flavored broccoli is gross.



The gentleman who invented the frisbee, "Steady Ed" Headrick, arranged for his ashes to be turned into a frisbee after he died. He reportedly did this so that he could continue to play frisbee with his son after he was gone.

