



The Messenger

A Word from our MMS Principal-Bob Price

I hope all of you had an enjoyable Winter Break. The second semester has gotten off to a great start. Our students and teachers have come back refreshed and ready to tackle the challenges that the new semester will bring.

We continue to make progress on our construction project. We should be able to occupy one of the new locker rooms in early February, and work will begin immediately on the second locker room. Preliminary work on the foundation for the new gym is almost complete, and we should be pouring the slab soon. The foundation is complete for the new PE classroom as well as the new Drama room, and their steel framing will be erected in the next couple of weeks.

Our students and staff are currently raising funds to donate to the victims of the terrible tsunami which occurred during the holidays. The

National Junior Honor Society sold wrist bands, and the Student Council is following that effort with a fund raiser through activity classes. Our PTA also has a box in the office for parents who would like to donate to this cause. These fund raising efforts only reinforce what we already know, that our students are not only concerned with academics but are involved in world affairs and want to help others. Our students have always been quick to respond to others in need of help.

It is gratifying to see young people respond with such enthusiasm giving of their own money and time to assist victims that they do not know and will never meet. Lessons about compassion and caring for our fellow man are vital to every students' education. Our students are excelling in this phase of their education as they do in many others.

Message From PTA President—Karen Crawford

It is hard to believe that 2005 is here and our spring semester is underway! The MMS PTA has numerous activities planned for the upcoming months.

You received a letter in the last report card outlining what the MMS family is doing to help with Tsunami Disaster Relief. The National Junior Honor Society has almost sold out of orange rubber bracelets, raising over \$3,000. The PTA is coordinating a Write-A-Check type fundraiser, which has brought in over \$1500 as of January 18th. We welcome your tax deductible contributions in the yellow box in the

front office (checks made payable to MMS PTA) or you can mail them to: Tsunami Relief Fund, c/o Karen Crawford, 302 Duncaster Dr., Houston, TX 77079. Be sure to note "Tsunami Relief Fund" in the memo blank of your check. We have not designated an organization to support, but the staff and Student Council will be researching children's relief groups and donating to the group where the donation will have the most benefit. Thank you for your generosity in offering aid to these devastated people.

We have kicked off our Spring Membership Drive for those new to MMS

Memorial Middle School
PTA Newsletter

January 2005

12550 Vindon,
Houston Texas 77024
713-365-5400

Highlights:

- ☉ Grade Level Honor Rolls
- ☉ Lost & Found Information
- ☉ All School Party
- ☉ Write a Check Update
- ☉ 8th Party News
- ☉ Dates, Dates and more Dates!

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... More From Karen

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or those who did not join in the fall. We welcome your membership. Please call Suzanne Copeland with any questions or see the article in this newsletter for more information.

We will present the slate of officers for 2005-06 at our February 10th PTA meeting, noon in the library. (EVERYONE is welcome to come and hear from **SIBSD School Board Trustee Barbara Larson**.) The slate will then be voted on at the PTA General meeting on March 17, also at noon in the library. (You'll want to be there to hear **Rev. Cynthia Harvey** talk about Parenting Adolescents.) A special thank you to the members of our Nominating Committee. Please see the list of slated officers below.

Time for another All School Party! The Student Council and PTA Activity coordinators are planning a Hawaiian happening for February 18, 6:30-8:30 p.m. in the cafeteria. Your students won't want to miss it!

Sheri Lathrop, Nancy Trice and their committee did a tremendous job with the Write-A-Check campaign. The collections from the generous MMS families have far exceeded our expectations (almost \$71,000 - amazing!) Their update in this newsletter will outline how the money is being spent.

Some PTA sponsored events to look forward to this Spring include: International Club luncheons, grade level Peer Group meetings, Cultural Arts presentations, All School Party, Teacher Appreciations feasts, Eighth Grade Party, Run for the Arts and much more.

Nominating Committee Report

The Memorial Middle School PTA Nominating Committee announces the following slate of executive officers for the 2005-2006 school year:

President -	Jana Dundas
1st Vice President Programs -	Carolyn Jenkins
2nd Vice President Membership -	Suzie Davis
3rd Vice President Directory -	Jean Tomlinson
Recording Secretary -	Sheri Lathrop
Treasurer -	Laura Riddle

Thanks so much to our wonderful nominating committee for helping fill the slate of officers for 2005-2006. **Anne Roland, Mollie Delouche, Kathy Bergmann, Suzanne Copeland** and **Nancy Trice** did a fantastic job! Thanks so very much to everyone who accepted the positions - we have a terrific slate! - - **Jennifer Church**, Chairman

8th Grade Counselor's Report Card

Hope everyone had a wonderful winter break and came back to school rested and relaxed! Congratulations to all of the students who made the regular and distinguished honor rolls-keep up the hard work! This semester we will begin to prepare and plan for high school course selection. We had the Texas Scholars Presenters come on January, 13th to talk to the 8th graders about the Texas Scholars Program and high school graduation plans, please ask your children what they learned. On Friday, January 28th the counselors from Stratford and Memorial High Schools will be at

MMS to talk about 9th grade course selections. On February 4th Westchester Academy will be at MMS to make presentations to our 8th graders during activity. Benchmark examinations for Social Studies and Science will be February 23rd- March 1st. We will have 8th grade Social Studies and Science Benchmarks on March 22nd and 23rd.

Alison Butler, 8th grade Counselor

Lisa Weir, 8th grade Assistant Principal

8th Grade Distinguished Honor Roll (All A's)—Third Six Weeks

Aamir, Nida	Lim, Jieun	Schreiber, Katherine
Abunasr-Shiraz, Michael	Mogyorody, Maria	Sutton, Shelby
Banon, Shawn	Nepute, Gianna	Thomas, Hailey
Carl, Rebekah	Noriega, Isabel	Wagner, William
Caton, Kyle	Patel, Chirag	Wang, Kevin
Cho, Sarah	Perkins, Eric	Watson, Cooper
Donnan, William	Porter, Rachel	Weidner, Creighton
Harrington, Samantha	Rothenberg, Natalie	White, Kevin
Henkel, Jessica	Riddle, Alexander	Williams, Haley
Kim, Ue Sin	Rosen, Max	Wohlfort, Lindsey
Koehn, Ryan	Schmidt, Sondra	

8th Grade Regular Honor Roll—Third Six Weeks

Abbassi, Tarek	Herlin, Elizabeth	Parker, Kara
Abiassi, Stephanie	Hicks, Leanne	Pence, Emily
Ackerley, Eve	Huang, Sherry	Perlmutter, Allison
Acosta, Adriana	Janes, Allyson	Phillips, Jordan
Bae, June	Jefferies, Alexander	Pugh, Anne
Ballard, Elizabeth	Jenkins, Courtney	Redding, Samuel
Baron, Jonathan	Jeong, Jena	Roberts, Stephanie
Bettencourt, Christina	Jin, Juncheng	Schmidt, Derek
Bradshaw, Tyler	Jones, Regan	Schneider, Brenton
Burman, Dean	Kageyama, Ken	Siegel, Claire
Carameros, Jared	Kelley, Taylor	Skinner, Cole
Chuchla, Robert	Kim, Justin	Snelling, James
Clayton, Tyler	Klein, Alex	Stewart, Kayla
Clifford, Sean	Klingen, J. T.	Sykes, Kathryn
Cook, Catherine	Lake, Kevin	Tanigaki, Will
Copeland, Amy	Madeley, Katherine	Topp, Patrick
Davis, Christina	Martin, Kristen	Utz, Marshall
Foster, Lauren	McBee, Brittany	Wicklund, Ryan
Freer, Anne	McDonough, Elizabeth	Widiantara, Wida
Graves, Catherine	Mehta, Mitra	Wile, Douglas
Gross, Corey	Min, Jin Hong	Yeou, Sho Young
Han, Sangho	Osborne, Taylor	Zeitlin, Zachary
Hatridge, Julia	Paick, Noah	
Heins, Katelynn	Paik, Alex	

7th Grade Principal and Counselor

Congratulations 7th grade for a hugely successful first semester! It is hard to believe that your middle school career is half over! Thank you parents, for your continued support and encouragement as your child continues their journey through middle school.

Congratulations to our honor roll recipients, as well as our STARS and EAGLE award winners. Our awards assembly on January 20th gave teachers a chance to show their appreciation for students' efforts during the first semester.

The spring semester has brought changes, and students have adjusted once again. New schedules were issued to everyone and while some students saw only a few period changes in subjects, some saw changes in many subjects. Thanks to you all for making the transition go smoothly.

It is that time of year again! Next month students will be introduced to the 8th grade course selections. Students will be given their course selection sheets and have an orientation, Wednesday, February 16th. Parents are invited to attend the 7th grade Peer Group meeting scheduled for Thursday, February 17th, beginning at 11:30 in the library. At that time we will introduce the eighth grade elective choices to parents.

Reminder: TAKS Writing for 7th graders will be on Tuesday, February 22nd. Please eat a good breakfast and get plenty of rest the night before. I know teachers and students are all working hard to prepare. Have a great fourth six weeks!

Katy Smith, 7th grade Counselor

Mark Hemphill, 7th grade Assistant Principal

7th Grade Distinguished Honor Roll (All A's)—Third Six Weeks

.Anderson, Katie	Hays, Joseph	Moses, Ali	Thorne-Thosen, Christine
Bard, Theodore	Jones, Cameron	Muhoberac, Elise	Tomlinson, Kelli
Brickhouse, Emily	Lathrop, Kelli	Orellana, Renan	Tran, Matthew
Cosnahan, Isabel	Lee, Hee Jung	Rogers, Ashleigh	Verschuren, Chloe
Cragg, Matthew	Linderman, Shannon	Sarvi, Venus	Waddell, Madeline
Curran, Danielle	McDonough, Margaret	Sexton, Nienke	Watkins Caroline
Danna, Bernard	Meng, Fanyu	Sharp, Misha	Witmer, Mackenzie
Ginsburg, Yael	Milazzo, Andrew	Simmons, Kristen	Wright, Natalie
Goodland, Collin	Miller, Taylor	Suchman, Alexander	Yancy, Sarah
Haley, Benjamin	Mocharla, Michael	Taylor, Kelly	Zou, Dianjun
Harris, Kirstie	Moreland, Lindsay	Tendall, Anne	

7th Grade Regular Honor Roll —Third Six Weeks

Alexander, Caleb	Brown, Devin	Elmore, William	Hanson, Caroline
Bauman, Claire	Bryan, Alexis	Flowers, Caroline	Herzberg, Jennifer
Beckwith, Emma	Bulota, Alicija	Glover, Grace	Hickman, Abigail
Bellis, Hilarie	Burleson, Justin	Gonzalez, Aranza	Hippard, Greer
Benninger, Brett	Byth, Hallie	Goodman, Kelly	Hogan, Eva
Bergmann, Nicholas	Cohen, Lindsey	Greenhill, Taylor	Holcomb, Kristin
Berwanger, Orion	Crawford, Rachel	Gremmel, Courtney	Hong, Seong Jong
Bett, Rachel	Croley, Aaron	Guldner, Owen	Jernigan, Emily
Bourgeois, Jeffrey	Dawson, Caroline	Hancock, Cody	Johnson, Emma
Brandt, Matthew	Dunn, Hannah	Hanka, Skyler	Continued on page 5...

7th Grade Regular Honor Roll—Third Six Weeks

.Continued from page 4

Johnson, Kyle	Linville, Rebecca	Patton, Taylor	Touchstone, Ann
Kim, Simmon	Lo, Jonathan	Perry, Marianna	Trice, Ann
Kindred, Jordan	Luck, Mary	Prather, Alexandra	Troutner, Parker
Kirchhofer, Bennett	McCloskey, Shannon	Purvis, Rebecca	Wagner, Catherine
Kleiderer, Sarah	McHolick, Katheryn	Reyes, Gerard	Walker, Harrison
Koo, Kevin	McMinn, Jordan	Roeder, Madeline	Warner, Paige
Kotch, Devon	Mitchell, Andrew	Saidi, Anoosh	Weaver, Kelly
Landon, Marianne	Moore, Joshua	Schindler, Katherine	Weir, Rachel
Lee, Chris	Murray, Laura	Shillings, Melbourn	Whitby, Claire
Lee, Susan	Nelson, Amelia	Signet, Alexi	Yancy, Hannah
Lewis, Jacob	Norris, Clark	Soudjani, Sam	Yu, Ying
Liesse, Elizabeth	Ostrosky, Tracy	Thorne, Gayle	Zepeda, Rina
	Palmer, Claire	Toole, Kathryn	

6th Grade Principal and Counselor

The sixth graders have finished a fabulous first semester. We are very proud of them! I will be visiting the 6th grade classes the week of February 15-18 to explain course selections for 7th grade. The course selection sheets will be due on or before March 4th. Congratulations to all of the students who have received

recognition for the Honor rolls and STAR awards. Keep up the good work!

Diana Carker, 6th grade Counselor

Anissa Myers, 6th grade Assistant Principal

6th Grade Distinguished Honor Roll (All A's)—Second Six Weeks

Acosta, Andrea	Curran, Bradley	Grace, Rebecca	Kim, Eu Bin
Alexander, Anne	Davis, Lauren	Hakone, Anzu	Kim, Su
Avasia, Arman	deMoya, Kelly	Halliday, Nicole	Kitterman, Sarah
Baassiri, Dina	Dennis, Tess	Heins, Marshall	Klein, Daniel
Barazi, Ghaith	Djuvik, Kimberly	Heisch, David	Klingen, Mary
Baumgartner, Lana	Douglass, Elizabeth	Hong, Sabrina	Koehn, Rachel
Bentele, Jackson	Dye, James	Hu, Gene	Kottwitz, Christy
Bettencourt, Henry	Faith, Andrew	Hudson, Chase	Kruger, Shane
Blankenship, Victoria	Frank, Sterett	Ibrahim, Nader	Kuni, Kelly
Bond, Zoe	Frey, Brandon	Janes, Benjamin	Laguarta, Marshall
Burman, Miles	Gaw, Christophe	Jenkins, Kyle	Leung, Shuting
Caton, Ryley	Gentry, Brooke	Jerez, Javier	Lund, Grant
Chen, Yifan	Gentry, John	Jerez, Monica	Lynn, Eric
Cho, Samuel	Ghani, Cydney	Jones, Christina	Ma, Xiping
Clayton, Stephen	Gilbert, Constance	Josey, Emily	Mai, Claire
Cobb, Kristin	Glendinning, Caroline	Kang, Joonwu	Mandola, Frank
Crump, Lela	Good, Myles	Kelly, Michael	Continued on page 6...

6th Grade Distinguished Honor Roll (All A's)—Third Six Weeks

Continued from page 5

Marnitz, Zachary	Nettles, James	Reilly, Patrick	Valach, Alison
Marquette, Pierce	Orlean, Benjamin	Riddle, Analise	Vasquez, Erika
Marucci, Gina	Ostrowski, Danika	Riddle, Lauren	Verschuren, Karl
Mauger, Matthew	Otis, Katherine	Robinson, Taylor	Wahl, Kathleen
McConkey, Gregory	Owen, William	Rommelmann, Sarah	Whitmire, Ryan
Meador, Morgan	Pichon, Marielle	Schneider, Alexandra	Wike, Katherine
Mohle, Olivia	Pipitone, Kelsey	Selzman, Jonathan	Williams, Allison
Moore, Trenten	Powell, Kendall	Sigman, Ryan	Wyatt, Richard
Mundy, Thomas	Price, Alexandra	Stagg, Sarah	Yauw, Adriana
Munoz, Andrew	Quoyeser, Alexander	Sun, Erin	Yoo, Jee
Nebeker, Lesley	Rabenaldt, Brian	Tendall, Ellen	Zander, Courtney
	Rebentisch, Aubrey	Tendall, Laura	

6th Grade Regular Honor Roll—Third Six Weeks

Abiassi, Anthony	Guthrie, Dylan	Meador, Diane	Schiller, Stephanie
Baassiri, Rima	Hand, Lindsey	Meyer, Betsy	Schmidt, Jennifer
Bang, Hyun	Hepler, Katherine	Miller, Erin	Shoraka, Cameron
Bell, David	Herrera, Ana Paulina	Molson-Park, Erica	Simpson, Brice
Sirius Berwanger	Hickerson, Jordan	Moreman, Sara	Smith, Hayden
Boatwright, Tatum	Hickman, Ryan	Nebeker, Claire	Snelling, John
Bokhetache, Mouna	Hill, Nicola	Nelson, John	Stewart, Clayton
Braun, Maryanna	Hillin, Luke	Newton, Abby	Stewart, Madeline
Brooks, Jonathan	Holcomb, Jacqueline	Nikkel, Jonathan	Strutton, Nathanael
Bryndzia, Oleh	Hollywood, Clare	Nirider, Olivia	Sturm, Thomas
Calderon, Miki	Howard, Griffin	Osso, Theresa	Temple, Alexandra
Calkins, Christopher	Howerton, Blair	Othold, Emily	Tormey, Samuel
Carr, Jeffrey	Hurley, Charles	Palughi, Kristen	Trapnell, Kristen
Christiansen, Zoe	Jerez, Michelle	Parker, Cassandra	Trevitt, Matthew
Clayton, Travis	Jones, Garrett	Patterson, Clint	Troutner, Sarah
Cunnion, Hanora	Khairandish, Yasmine	Pena, Jeffrey	Uno, Erika
Demiano, Abigail	Kim, Jenna	Phillips, Connor	Waltmon, Travis
Dinwoodie, Andrew	King, Peter	Pyndus, Michael	Weinstein, Natalie
Fultz, Jeffrey	Kruger, Jared	Reed, Molly	Weitzel, Catherine
Furman, Jack	Laguarta, Ross	Reichle, Danialle	Wellen, Erica
Gee, David	LaMay, Sophia	Rochna, Gregory	Wilkinson, Thomas
Geran Savadkoohi, Ateen	Lindsey, Robert	Roland, Matthew	Wohlfort, Laura
Gibson, Kayla	Little, Rebecca	Royal, Samuel	Yauw, Katherine
Glidden, Emily	Maruska, Micah	Rucker, Bryan	
Goldfine, Casey	McKellar, Matthew	Rustico, Federica	
Guerra, Patrick	McMurtry, Molly	Salazar, Valentina	

Houston Symphony Quartet

As part of the HSO "Community Connections" outreach program, the Memorial Middle School Orchestra now has a QUARTET-IN-RESIDENCE. Members of the Houston Symphony have been assigned to come in during the month of January and work on chamber music that the students are preparing for the SBISD Solo & Ensemble Festival. This has been a fantastic experience with our students playing side-by-side these professional string players. We are very fortunate to have the Houston Symphony supporting us!!

Yo-Yo Ma at Jones Hall

On December 2nd, The MMS Symphony enjoyed playing in the lobby of Jones Hall prior to the Yo-Yo Ma concert. Students performing were able to sit in the balcony free of charge and hear this world-famous cellist perform with pianist Emanuel Ax.

MMS Orchestra Patrons

The following families and friends are patrons of the MMS Orchestra and we would like to thank them for their generous donations. Our **Beethoven Patrons (\$500+)** are The Ackerley Family, Becky and Libby Cummings and Exxon/Mobil. Our **Bach Patrons (\$100-499)** are Richard and Betsy Chuchla, The Jernigan Family, Craig and Debbie Koehn, Sandy and John Norris, The Perlmutter Family, The Pichon Family, and The Vonderhaar Family. Our **aBrahms Patrons (\$1-99)** are Carrie and Jerry Alexander, Barbara Macken Mourglia, The Parkey Family, and The Scavone Family. You can support the orchestra by becoming a Beethoven, Bach, or Brahms Patron this year. To acknowledge your patronage, you will also see your name listed in all MMS Orchestra concert programs. See Mrs. Fezell, Mrs. Hemphill, or Ms. Bonds for details concerning the Patron Program.



Bowling Party

All Orchestra students that fulfilled their fund-raising goal celebrated with a bowling party at the Bunker Hill Lanes on Friday, January 14 for 6th graders and Friday, January 21 for 7th and 8th graders. After enjoying pizza and cold drinks the **Top Sellers** got to draw from the **money** box for their cash prize!!

Our *Chamber Music Evenings* were

held on January 24 and 25 at Pines Presbyterian Church. There were two performances each night at 6:30p.m. and 7:45 p.m. After each performance everyone enjoyed the delightful reception with delicious gourmet desserts. This performance was in preparation for students in Symphony and Philharmonic to perform in the **SBISD Solo & Ensemble Festival** on Saturday, January 29 at Spring Woods Middle School.

Things coming up for Orchestra...

Open House for 5th graders February 16th & 17th

Please choose **4:00-5:00** or **5:00-6:00pm**.
It is important for 5th graders to reserve a time so we can assure every child an instrument.

District Festival

If you are zoned to Memorial, your performance is Tuesday, March 1 and if you are zoned to Stratford, your performance is Thursday, March 3 Both concerts are at the Coleman Coliseum.

UIL CLINIC AND PARTY!!!

FOR SYMPHONY AND PHILHARMONIC

Friday, March 18th

3:30-8:00 snacks, work with clinician, dinner

8:00-9:30 party!!!!

Choir & Musical Theatre News

6th grade

Congratulations to the 6th choir students for a fabulous show in January. "Hooray for Hollywood" showcased the 6th grade students in a revue of songs from the early days of motion pictures. Students learned about the historical relationship between Broadway and Hollywood in the 1920's and 30's. They also got to learn classic tunes, including, *Jeepers Creepers*, *We're In the Money*, *Look for the Silver Lining*, and *I Can't Give You Anything But Love*.

Special thanks to 6th grade parents for their support!

Spring Branch VFW Post 50th Anniversary

3pm Saturday, March 5

After last year's well-received WWII tribute, the Spring Branch VFW Post Women's Auxiliary has asked us to

return to help them celebrate their 50th Anniversary. Students will give a 20 performance of familiar WWII songs, as well as songs from the 6th Grade Hooray for Hollywood Revue. Students and parents are also invited to stay afterwards and eat barbeque with the post members! An availability sheet will be sent home.

7th & 8th grade

After a busy and successful Fall semester, 7th & 8th grade choir students are hunkering down in preparation for the vocal and choral contest season:

Vocal Solo & Ensemble,
February 26 at NBMS

Pre-UIL Concert & Sightreading,
March 3 at SWMS

Spring Choral Concert (all grades), 7pm,
March 17 at MMS

UIL Choral Concert & Sightreading Contest,
March 21/22 at Grace Presbyterian Church



CHOIR PUTT PUTT INVITATIONAL

4:30pm Friday, February 18

at the Putting Edge in the Marquee

\$5 per person

Choir 60's Pop Show



MMS Choir
Presents

60's Pop Show
April 2005

Campus Improvement Team

Did you know that MMS has a Campus Improvement Team (CIT) that meets monthly? The CIT discusses a wide range of important school-related issues, including curriculum, budget, construction and renovation, etc. Now you can stay informed about the CIT; just click on the Bulletins Link on the MMS home page to read minutes from the monthly meetings. The CIT is comprised of administrators, faculty members, parents and community volunteers. Current members are: MMS staff - **Bob Price, Karie Meyer, Mark Miller, Gloria Montalbano, Denise Nygard, Katy Smith, and Susie Trepagnier**. Parent Reps: **Jennifer Church, Lynn Clayton, Colleen First, Joy Haley**. Community Rep.: **Ann Tidwell**. District Liaison: **Chris Kamradt**. Feel free to contact any of the Parent representatives if you have questions or would like to propose items for CIT discussion. We would be happy to hear from you!

Band News

The band is headed in to a busy semester with several contests, and competitions. The first thing on our agenda is Solo and Ensemble Contest at Northbrook Middle School on **February 5**. This contest is for all students to compete individually on their instrument in front of a judge for a rating. All students are accompanied by a piano player and work extremely hard to learn their solo and play to their best ability. The students are also allowed to participate in an ensemble with various combinations of instruments to play in a group in front of a judge for a rating.

We also started our Cheesecake/Cookie Dough Fundraiser on January 10th, so please support our program and buy a lot of cheesecake and cookie dough!

Our band open house will be **February 16th and 17th from 4:00-7:30 pm**. On these two days, 5th grade students who are interested in joining the band will come over and test out instruments to find out what they are best at, and what the directors recommend that they play next year in band.

The beginners have two big upcoming events this semester. The first one is their beginner Solo and Ensemble contest. Like the 7th and 8th graders, the beginners will pick various solos to play in front of a judge and get critiqued and rated. The solos are fun and exciting and it is really great to read all of the wonderful comments given to these students by their judges. Students are also allowed to play in an ensemble of their choice and go through the same process. This contest will be held at Memorial Middle School on Wednesday, **February 23, from 4-6 pm**.

The next big event for the beginners will be a festival for them in Katy. The date has not yet been set, but the beginning band will get to travel to Katy and compete for a rating and critique. This will be the beginner's first experience of a group effort to achieve success, and also their first concert in front of a large audience. This is a great opportunity for them to get a taste of what is in store for them next year.

Our Concert and Symphonic Band students will be participating in UIL Contest and Sight-reading in April. Both bands will be judged on three prepared pieces, and also on a brand new piece that they will read that day. This is a great competition, and we will be preparing for this competition during the first half of the semester. The second half of the semester will be spent working towards our Spring Concert and Spring Jazz Band Concert.

And lastly, we will begin looking forward to our Splashtown trip in May. From Charter Busses to Swim Trunks, we will begin finalizing details and agendas. We hope that you had a wonderful holiday and we will keep you posted on our events this semester.

Reflections Contest Winners



Reflections Contest Winners

MMS had many entries this year in the Reflections contest "A Different Kind of Hero" in the Literature and Visual Art categories. The following students had their entries go from the school level of judging to the SBISD Council:

Literature – **Isabel Cosnahan, Rachael Koehn, George Early, Jacob Goode, Marshall Heins** and **Sarah Rommelman**;

Visual Arts – **Zoe Christiansen, Kristen Trapnell, Jonathan Selzman, Alexandra Lloyd, Tommy Wilkinson** and **Brooke Gentry**.

The following students' entries moved on to the District level:

Rachael Koehn, Jacob Goode, George Early and **Zoe Christiansen**.

CONGRATULATIONS!!!

Reflections Chairmen: **Jennifer Miller** and **Robbin Spafford**

Library News

We wish to thank our volunteers & all the parents that support our library program here at MMS.

Dedicate or donate a book. Visit our website for a list of books that are available for dedication or donation. Just follow the link to Memorial Middle School Library & click on "Dedicate a book."

(<http://mmsweb.springbranchisd.com/rodgers/default.htm>)

Fill in & mail the form below with check payable to SBISD.

(E-mail the librarian if you have questions -

Karen Rodgers - rodgersk@springbranchisd.com)

Summer Reading Book Fair - will be held May 5 - May 11.

Research got you down?? Visit the "Library Resources Page", link

from the SBISD Home Page (<http://www.springbranchisd.com/>). Areas between the yellow lines are subscription databases

(like having a library at home!). Home access passwords are available from the library.

...cut out & return to MMS Library ...

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone #: _____

I would like to donate the following title: _____

Please attach a check to this order made payable to SBISD & send to MMS, Attn: Karen Rodgers, Librarian.

Dedicate this books as follows:

(Ex. "In Memory of John Smith")

Please attach a check to this order made payable to SBISD & send to MMS, Attn: Karen Rodgers, Librarian.

All School Party—Aloha



Please come to the All School Party

The theme is Hawaiian, so wear your Hawaiian shirts, grab a lei, and put a flower in your hair!

The fun will be Friday night, February 18th

6:30 - 8:30 at the school

Please drop off and pick up in the back of the school

Bring your NAP card for free admission, otherwise it costs \$3.00 to get in.

There will be a photographer available to take pictures which will cost \$5.00 each.

We will have lots of free snacks as well as pizza for sale for \$1.00 a slice and hot dogs for \$1.50.

Come be with your friends and enjoy games and our great DJ.

Aloha

December Teacher Appreciation

Our sincere thanks to the following parents for their generous contributions to the December 2004 Faculty/Staff Christmas Brunch

Co- Chairmen: **Marianne Rogers** (Ashleigh 7th)

Terri Weeks (Taylor 7th)

6th grade

Lynn Marucci (Gina), **Polly Meyer** (Betsy), **Leann Newton** (Abby), **Joanne Rucker** (Bryan), **Andree Stagg** (Sarah), **Candy Weinstein** (Natalie), **Renee Wong** (Briana)

7th grade

Paula Davis (Luke 7th, Ethan 6th), **Suzie Davis** (Baron), **Pam Dunn** (Laura), **Beth Jones** (Cameron), **Wendy Moreland** (Lindsay), **Melanie O'Malley** (Lauren), **Sandy Taylor** (Kelly), **Kathy Wiggins** (Gavin)

8th grade

Nancy Devlin (Charles 8th, Harrison 6th), **Ann Marshburn** (Tate), **Barri McNeil** (Jacob), **Karen Pong** (Alex), **Pam Rosen** (Max), **LaVaughn Sims** (Cameron)

The MMS International Club

Invites You to Enjoy

Upcoming "Visits" to

Syria!

Friday, February 18

11:00 - 1:00

Hosted by Riham Baumgartner

11902 Kimberley

Please RSVP by February 14th to

Riham Baumgartner 713-464-5058

Please RSVP by February 14th to

Riham Baumgartner 713-464-5058

January Teacher Appreciation

January Teacher Appreciation, "Lovin' 'em Luau," says thanks to the following volunteers who made the January 12th celebration GREAT!

Sixth Grade: **Sherri Boatwright** (Shelby & Tatum), **Suzanne Borden** (Morgan Holcomb), **Denise Heisch** (David), **Patti Kruger** (Jared & Shane), **Laurie Moore** (Trenton), **Raynell Rochna** (Gregory), **Debbie Scheffler** (Nathan), **Robin Spafford** (Molly McMurry), **Andree Stagg** (Sarah), **Nancy Wahl** (Katheen), **Lori Weitzel** (Catherine), & **Pamela Wike** (Alessandra).

Seventh Grade: **Debra Aitken** (Patrick & Teddy), **Carrie Alexander** (Payton), **Beth Brickhouse** (Emily), **Cheryl Cohen** (Lindsey), **Dollie Goren** (Haley), **April Hadley** (Andrew), **Amy Hancock** (Cody), **Susan Hanson** (Caroline), **Beth Jones** (Cameron), & **Jean Tomlinson** (Kelli).

Eighth Grade: **Valerie Burman** (Miles 6th & Dean 8th), **Patty Busmire** (Drew), **Colleen First** (Matthew), **Jennifer Miller** (Jake), **Brenden O'Rourke** (Christina), **Jeanne Perkins** (Eric), **Karen Pong** (Alex), **LaVaughn Sims** (Cameron), & **Rana Squires** (Tanner Barron).

Jennie Baker (Marcie 7th), **Karen Jones** (Garrett 6th), and **Sharon & Clint Simpson** (Brice 6th)



Mark Your Calendars

for these Upcoming PTA Meetings!!

Thursday, February 10

Come hear **Barbara Larson**, School Board Trustee, talk about the latest happenings in SBISD.

Thursday, March 17

Rev. Cynthia Harvey (Minister at MDUMC and MMS mom) will lead a discussion on the "Opportunities, Blessings and Challenges of Parenting Adolescents".

Both meetings will be at noon in the MMS library.

A light lunch will be served by the Hospitality Committee.



Hospitality Committee

Thanks to **Diane Sache**, **Joyce Pyndus**, **Faye Wyatt**, **Debbie Scheffler** and **Suzanne Dunne** for helping with hospitality at the January 13 PTA meeting. Thanks so much ladies!

January Co-chairmen—**Laurie Cragg** & **Jane Kremer**

MMS Lost & Found



Do any of these sound familiar?
Have you lost your favorite earrings, eye glasses or sweatshirt?

Go to the MMS office and ask for lost and found? According to the office they have many very nice watches, one man's wedding ring, lots of silver hoop earrings, silver bracelets (some James Avery), silver necklaces (James Avery and Brighton), and many pairs of eye glasses. Parents or students are welcome to come and describe any lost article.

The MMS International Club
Invites You to

LATIN AMERICA

Friday March 18 11:00 – 1:00

Hosted by **Hugette Teran**
2 Heritage Court

Please RSVP by March 14 to
Hugette Teran 713-467-3625

8th Grade Peer Group

8th Grade Peer Group Meeting

Friday, April 8th

11:30 a.m. in the MMS Library

Brown Bag Lunch

Desserts Provided

Panel discussion with MHS and SHS students about what our eighth graders can expect in high school and tips on preparing for ninth grade.

7th Grade Peer Group

7th Grade Peer Group Meeting

Note: Change of Place and Time

February 17, 2005
11:30

MMS Library — Katy Smith, speaker

Light lunch served

Chairmen: Wendy Moreland, Beth Shaw,
and Denise Roeder

6th Grade Peer Group

Attention All Sixth Grade Parents

Peer Group Meeting - April 7, 2005
12:00 in the MMS Library

Come meet new friends and hear the counselor, principal and coaches talk about electives for 7th grade.

A lasagna lunch will be served and we are looking for some volunteers to help with the cooking. Please email **Diane Lund** (dlund1@houston.rr.com) or **Mollie Delouche** (molliedelouche@houston.rr.com) if you can help.

This will be our last peer group meeting of the year so make plans to attend. You won't want to miss it!

*Next newsletter article deadline is
March 1, 2005*

*Please e-mail articles to Gina Daggett
gdaggett@houston.rr.com*

Label & Sort (Date Change) — March 16th

Upcoming Calendar of Events



- FEBRUARY 10 PTA Board Meeting, light lunch served at noon in the library
*Speaker: SBISD School Board Trustee Barbara Larson
- FEBRUARY 11 Teacher In-Service / Student Holiday
- FEBRUARY 14 President's Day Holiday
- FEBRUARY 16 Pete Hinojosa, 8:30-10:00 a.m., library, "The Facets of Life"
8th Grade Party Parent Planning Meeting, 7:00 pm, library
- FEBRUARY 17 7th Grade Peer Group, 11:30 a.m., MMS Library
- FEBRUARY 18 International Club Luncheon, 11:00-1:00, 11902 Kimberley
All School Party, 6:30-8:30 p.m., MMS cafeteria
End 4th Six Weeks
- FEBRUARY 22 TAKS Writing (Grade 7)
- FEBRUARY 25 8th Grade Student/Staff Basketball Game, 4 pm, MMS gym
Crystal Awards Dinner, 6:30 pm, Westin Galleria
- FEB. 23 - MARCH 1 Benchmark Testing
- MARCH 1 Newsletter Deadline
- MARCH 7-11 SPRING BREAK
- MARCH 16 LABEL & SORT Newsletter, 8:30 a.m. in the cafeteria
- Date Change
- MARCH 17 PTA Board Meeting, light lunch served at noon in the library
*Speaker: Rev. Cynthia Harvey
- MARCH 18 International Club Luncheon, 11:00-1:00, 2 Heritage Court
Progress Reports
- MARCH 25 Good Friday Holiday
- MARCH 28 Teacher In-Service / Student Holiday
- MARCH 30 Pete Hinojosa, 8:30-10:00 a.m., library, "The Facets of Life"
- APRIL 6 8th Grade Party Skit and Invitation Distribution
- APRIL 7 6th Grade Peer Group, noon in the library
- APRIL 8 8th Grade Peer Group, 11:30 a.m. in the library

8th Grade Party Update

May 7th will be here before we know it. Please mark you calendar for the parent meeting **Wednesday, February 16 at 7:00 P.M.** in the MMS library. Come and find out what you can do to help make this party a success for all the MMS 8th graders. We hope to have at least one parent from each family attend.

We are going to sell another round of casseroles to the teachers that will be delivered the end of February. If you are on the list, look for an email from **Barby Satterwhite** or **Dana Parkey** coming soon. If you have not signed up, please get in touch with them to help!!

You should have received a bright yellow letter in the mail explaining underwriting. Nancy Devlin is still accepting donation no amount is to small and no amount is to LARGE!

We also are doing something new this year a Faculty /student basketball game and raffle basketball shot out!! More info in this newsletter.

Also, please see the article about the DVD. We would love to see ALL the 8th graders in this video. Any questions let us know, **Julie Silverman** 713.468.0938 **Mary Roberts** 713.468.6961

8th Grade Party Underwriting

Thank you to the following families for their generous contributions to the 8th grade Graduation party. It will be a truly memorable event.

The Ackerley Family	The Farmer Family	The King Family	The Rossy Family
The Arguello Family	The Fetzer Family	The Kitterman Family	The Russell Family
The Aubrecht Family	The Foster Family	The Kligen Family	The Sadeghpour Family
The Balezentis Family	The Fuller Family	The Koehn Family	The Sarle Family
The Ballard Family	The Garcia Family	The Kutinac Family	The Satterwhite Family
The Banon Family	The Gillespie Family	The LaPorte Family	The Schreiber Family
The Bates Family	The Gonzales Family	The Martin Family	The Selzman Family
The Bauch Family	The Haberman Family	The Matthews Family	The Siegel Family
The Bering Family	The Han Family	The McArthur Family	The Snelling Family
The Blair Family	The Hand Family	The McGuinness Family	The Stewart Family
The Braband Family	The Harrington Family	The Miller Family	The Suttom Family
The Bradshaw Family	The Harvey Family	The Moore Family	The Sykes Family
The Burkett Family	The Hatridge Family	The Morris Family	The Thomas Family
The Busmire Family	The Herlin Family	The Navarro Family	The Toronzo Family
The Byerly Family	The Herring Family	The Pappas Family	The Utz Family
The Carker Family	The Howerton Family	The Porter Family	Thw Wagstaff Family
The Clifford Family	The Hutchison Family	The Pugh Family	The Webre Family
The Cook Family	The Jordan Family	The Reed Family	The Wile Family
The Davis Family	The Kelley Family	The Riddle Family	The Wilson Family
The Eldridge Family	The Kelly Family	The Roberts Family	
The Ellwood Family	The Kim Family	The Rodick Family	

Those of you that would like to contribute to this graduation party may still do so. Please mail your donation to: **Nancy Devlin**, 3 Beavertail Point, Houston, Texas 77024. Please make your check payable to MMS PTA. Thanks for your continued support.

8th Grade Video

Attention 8th Grade Parents!!

WE NEED PHOTOS FOR THE 8TH GRADE DVD!

We need pictures of your 8th grade student for the DVD that will be made to commemorate our graduates' middle school years. This video will be shown continuously during the 8th grade party, and there will be footage of the party added to it. You will have the opportunity to order a DVD of this special memento (more information to come).

START LOOKING THROUGH YOUR PHOTOS NOW!! Send your prints to school in a baggie or envelope marked "8th grade DVD". We are requesting three pictures of your 8th grader: 1 - in elementary school or younger, 2 - current picture, 3 - picture with friends and/or family. Please write you child's name on the back of each print in ball point pen (no Sharpies!) Pictures no larger than 4X6 (horizontal) work best.

We also need group pictures of MMS extra-curricular activities, such as school parties and clubs, choir, orchestra, band, plays, talent show, and athletics. Please make sure these photos are of MMS 8th graders, and identify all students in the picture. Label these photos with an "E" to distinguish them from the 3 photos for your child. (We may not be able to use all of these photos in the video).

*Please, no weapons in any photos or they cannot be used in the DVD!

These pictures will be collected until March 14, 2005, so if you want your child to be in the DVD, send in your pictures! If you want your photos returned, you must label each one. They will be sent home with the students when the DVD's are delivered, sometime before school lets out in May.

If you have any questions, please call **Colleen First** (713-461-1497).

8th Grade Basketball Fundraiser

STUDENT & FACULTY BASKETBALL GAME AND RAFFLE BASKETBALL SHOTOUT

February 25 @ 4:00

MMS Gym

Teams:

8th grade boys and girls A & B Basketball teams

VS

Brave faculty of MMS

Entry \$3.00

Students and Adults

(Tickets will be pre-sold during lunch on

February 23, 24 & 25)

RAFFLE

\$1.00 per chance to be chosen for shootout

10 MMS student will be chosen at Halftime

(Must be a MMS student any grade)

Prizes:

\$5.00-free throw line

Trade-up

\$10.00 3 point line

Trade -up

\$20.00 center court

Concessions will be sold during the game!!!

Holiday Home Tour 2004 Thank you



HOLIDAY HOME TOUR 2004

This year's Holiday Home Tour was a great success!!! We had a perfect day, just avoiding the rain. Many thanks to all who attended, with your support and raffle ticket purchases we made over \$7,000! A very special thanks to our homeowners, The Harlan Family, The Jefferies Family, The Osso Family, The Strain Family and The Weinstein Family. Your homes were just beautiful and we couldn't have done it without you!! We also want to thank our raffle donors, The Phillip Torres Family and Guadalajara, Miriam Westmoreland, Rice Epicurean and The Silverman Family, Sharon Simpson, The Pewter Lady, Professional Pen and our own MMS Social Studies Teachers!! And finally, thank you to the 65+ hostesses for giving your time to help at the homes.

THANKS! The Holiday Home Tour Committee,
Rhonda, Alison, Karen, Leslie & Jackie

Spring PTA Membership Drive

If you missed joining the MMS PTA in the fall or are new to the school, the **Spring Membership Drive** is underway.

This is your last chance to join the Memorial Middle School PTA and show your support! Please send in the following form no later than February 28, 2005!! If you are not sure you joined in the fall, please call Suzanne Copeland at 713-468-2202.

SPRING PTA MEMBERSHIP DRIVE FAMILY \$10.00/ INDIVIDUAL \$5.00

Parent's Name(s) _____ Life Member yes/no

_____ Life Member yes/no

Address _____ Zip _____

Student's Name(s) _____ Grade _____

_____ Grade _____

Amount enclosed \$ _____ Make checks payable to MMS PTA.

Have your child turn it in to their activity teacher or mail to:

Suzanne Copeland
346 Knipp
Houston, Texas 77024

Write-a-Check Update



The Write-A-Check fund raiser has been a HUGE success this year. As of January 13th **309 families have responded for a total of \$70,815.00 WOW!!!** On the following page, you'll find a listing of contributors since the December newsletter. Please check for spelling and e-mail me with any corrections. If you feel your name has been left off in error, please let us know. The students of MMS are the beneficiaries of your generosity. Mr. Price is busy purchasing items with the funds received to date. MMS will be getting 43 new Dell GX280 computers, DVD/VCR players, variable speed scroll saws, a SmartBoard, remotes and cables for projectors, video projectors, XP student computers, a color printer, a digital camera, software, and an Orbit2 microboard. Hopefully, we will continue

to collect money and be able to purchase all the items left on the wish list.

If you were waiting for the new year or have meant to write that check and never got around to it, here's one last chance. Please use the form below and mail it with your check. Refer to the recognition levels on the following page and remember that all contributions are tax deductible! Also, don't forget to see if your company will match your donation.

Please make checks payable to **MMS PTA.**

Mail the form and your check to: MMS Write-A-Check

Mail the form and your check to: MMS Write-A-Check

c/o Sheri Lathrop

107 Lakeside Oaks Dr.

Houston, TX 77042

YES! We want to support Memorial Middle School!

Our family would like to make a contribution of \$_____.

Many employers have matching programs for charitable contributions. Please ask your company benefits department for details.

Name_____

Address_____

Zip_____

Please tell us how you want your contributions listed (e.g. The Doe Family, The John Doe Family, Jane & John Doe, etc.) or tell us if you prefer not to be listed:

Your contribution is tax deductible. A receipt will be mailed to you. Thank you for your generous contribution. (Please mark your envelope "Write A Check")

Write-A-Check Donations 2004-2005

Platinum Eagle **(\$1000-\$1400)**

The Gallerano Family
The Mike Baker Family
Sam's Club Foundation

Gold Eagle **(\$500 - \$999)**

The Byth Family
Denise, Gary & Maddie
Roeder
The Fultz Family
The Grace Family
The McCloskey Family
The McHolick Family
The Meador Family
Nora, Bob & Eve Ackerley
Nowlan Family
Sandy and John Norris

Silver Eagle **(\$250 - \$499)**

The Braband Family
Candy & David Weinstein
David & Susanne Purvis
Family of Sydney Thames
Friend of MMS
The Hillin Family
John & Julie Lynch
The Sharp Family
Steve & Martha Gonzalez
Steve & Shelly Caton
The Strain Family

Bronze Eagle **(\$100 - \$249)**

The Bauch Family
Berry & Judy Evans

Buz and Cindy Jochetz
Carl & Lynne Carameros
The Conner Family
The Dailey Family
David & Jackie Benninger
The Family of Ariel Chenet
Family of Corey Gross
Friend of MMS
Ginger Klein
The Goren Family
The Hadi Family
The Hammond Family
The Mark Lund Family
The Mather Family
Michael, Stephanie, & Mat-
thew Brandt
Nina & Harlow Farmer
The Randy Brann Family

The Rick Roberts Family
Rick, Debby & Liz Liesse
The Rob Smith Family
Russel & Laura Capper
The Sewell Family
The Whitmire Family
The Zander Family

Eagle (under \$100)

Annie & Abbie McKenzie
The Burkett Family
The Lassetter Family
The McAndrews Family
The Michael Walker Family
The Prescott Family
The Rebentisch Family
The Shillings Family
The Sutton Family
The Wagstaff Family

Expanding Your Horizons

Attention 6th, 7th, and 8th Grade Girls

If Math and Science is your thing, then this conference is for you!
13th Annual Expanding Your Horizons in Mathematics and Science,
for Middle School girls, along with their Teachers, Parents and Counselors

When: Saturday, February 26, 2005 8:00 a.m. to 3:15 p.m.

Where: The Rice School/La Escuela Rice
7550 Seuss Drive
Houston, TX 77025

This conference is sponsored by the West Harris County branch of the American Association of University Women. It is designed to nurture young women's interest in mathematics and science careers and to expand their career vision in these areas. Through a series of hands-on workshops led by dedicated women professionals, girls are given the opportunity to:

- Meet and interact with positive women role models who are active in math and science related careers.
- Increase their interests in these two fields of study by providing exciting and fun hands-on learning experiences.
- Receive encouragement to study as much math and science as possible by showing them the benefits of education and its relevance to their lives; and
- Foster awareness of career opportunities in math and science related careers.

There are 2 morning and 2 afternoon sessions for girls, and also sessions for teachers and parents.

Registration is open until February 11th. Register Now! Only available to 600 girls (city-wide).

Registration fee is \$6.00 per person.

All information, along with the registration form is available online at: www.aauw-whc.org/eyh

2005 Crystal Awards



2005 Crystal Awards *"An Evening of Honor"*

*Friday, February 25th, 2005
Westin Galleria Hotel, Houston
Honoring Six Outstanding Teachers
6:30 pm Registration, Cocktails, and Silent Auction
8 pm Dinner, Awards Presentation, and Live Auction
Live Performance by Planet Funk
Mrs. Jerry Mueck (Robin)
Chairman*

This event, benefiting the Spring Branch Education Foundation and the Readers Are Leaders Foundation, will honor the teachers receiving 2005 Crystal Awards. The awards are being presented by the Spring Branch Education Foundation and The Houston Chronicle, to recognize men and women who, through their roles as teachers, have made an exceptional difference in the lives of their students.

Proceeds from the Crystal Awards benefits projects of both Spring Branch Education Foundation and Readers are Leaders Foundation. Both are non-profit 501 (c) (3) foundations. Spring Branch Education Foundation's purpose is to support approved projects of the Spring Branch Independent School District. The Readers are Leaders Foundation promotes newspapers as effective tools for improving people' academic skills.

Tables for 10

Individual Tickets

___ Silver Crystal Underwriter \$5,000

___ Crystal Sponsor Tickets \$100

___ Crystal Benefactor \$3,000

___ Crystal Sponsor \$1,000

Name of Individual or Corporation _____

Name as you wish to be recognized _____

Address _____ City _____

I am unable to attend, but wish to make a donation in the amount of \$ _____

___ I would like to make my donation in the name of a special teacher.

Teacher's Name _____

School _____ District _____

(if the name of a teacher is specified, the teacher will be notified)

For information, call (713) 365-4781 RSVP by February 20, 2005.

Your check is your reservation, payable to the The Crystal Awards

Thank you for your contribution

The Messenger

Editor: Gina Daggett

Distribution: Catherine Bryd/Randa Jackson

Next Newsletter Deadline:

March 1, 2005



Happy New Year

Memorial Middle School

Spring Branch Independent School District
12550 Vindon
Houston, Texas 77024

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