

**MARIETTA CITY  
SCHOOLS**

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Preston Howard

School Diversity  
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# Cultural Diversity Newsletter

SPRING 2015 ISSUE

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## Student Diversity

Marietta Middle School students come from diverse backgrounds and speak a variety of languages. With more than 1300 students currently enrolled at the school, 445 students speak a language other than English. Native languages include Arabic, Farsi, French, Gujarati, Hindi, Haitian Creole, Polish, Portuguese, and Spanish. Families originated from countries all over the globe. More than 100 students were born

outside of the USA, countries of origin include Bangladesh, Brazil, El Salvador, Guatemala,



Haiti, Honduras, India, Kenya, Mexico, Nigeria, and Leone.

The school has made strong efforts to support

English acquisition among our English Language Learners (ELL). One program that was introduced in the Fall provides a special fifty-minute Flexible Learning segment that takes place during the school day. During this time, students receive small group tutoring in math, English, social studies and science, engage in English conversation activities, and are provided web-based language acquisition resources.

## National Danish Performance

On March 9th, the National Danish Performance Team (NDPT) visited Marietta Middle School. The NDPT is a group of 28 top-level gymnasts from Denmark who devote one year of their lives to ambassador

ship to Denmark to encouraging young people make better lifestyle choices. Their visit with MMS students involved dance-movement workshops and cultural forums. The NDPT has visited all over the

world including Germany, Singapore, Indonesia, Japan, Costa Rica, Chile, Uruguay and more. They performed for the community at Marietta Middle School on Saturday, March 14th.



# MCAA Reaches Out

Reported By:

Susie Throop

MCAA proudly reaches out into the community and beyond. MCAA conducts monthly coffee talks for our Spanish Speaking families in order to build a sense of community, understanding of the school culture, and an oppor-

tunity for them to learn how to support their children within the educational setting. The coffee talk topics have covered technology use, school culture, English classes, volunteering opportunities, GA Milestones, preparation for testing, and the purpose of

SGT. Through these endeavors, the parents have been able to build relationships amongst school staff and other parents therefore increasing academic awareness and providing parental voice within MCAA.

## Careers and Colleges

Reported By: Logii Pinion

Fifth grade students at Park Street recently completed their career interest inventories and college/ career portfolios as required by the Georgia Department of Education. This year the fifth grade portfolios are displayed in the main hallway of the school. The portfolios are evidence of the amount of research, writing, and use

of technology each fifth grade student demonstrated while working on their portfolios.

In addition to the career portfolios, Ms. Bussey, the school counselor, presented a lesson on college life to all fifth grade classes and encouraged all staff members to submit a pennant or poster of their alma mater which

are also displayed in the main hallway. It has been amazing to watch students read the various career portfolios, and to listen to teachers talk about the colleges and universities they attended. The ultimate goal of this activity was to expose students to various colleges and careers while promoting MCS systemic goal of Graduate Marietta.



## Black History & Heritage

Reported By: Lucille Cadet

In celebration of Black History Month and the focus of the diverse heritage found at Lockheed, our theme this year was "Black History: Celebrating a Rich Heritage". Some of the activities included our school-wide banner contest, our 1st Spoken Word/Rap contest and "Moments in Black History". Each of these events were highlighted on WJET. Our Annual culminating

event was the Black History Month program. It featured a trip down Black History lane. The Celebration included the Maya Angelou Tribute with select poetry reading by some of our Lockheed Leaders, Ms. Elaine Hinton's kindergarten African dance troop, Langston Hughes Spoken word tribute accompanied by 1st grade drummers, a Funk Dance celebrating the

African American music genre performed by Ms. Laffan's 4th grade leaders, and a silent play performed by Ms. Washington and her 4th grade leaders. We also had a speech given by Ms. L. Jackson and a performance by Ms. Stringer's 4th grade leaders. The audience and staff dressed in African attire and the participation was phenomenal.



# Civil Rights Museum



MMS students who visited the Center for Civil and Human rights in Atlanta were engaged in a variety of excellent learning op-

portunities. Through hands-on interactive exhibits, students were transported through time and place to learn about local, national,

and world history. The museum experience promoted understanding about current struggles for human rights on a global scale as well as challenged students to think deeply, be more principled and reflect. Students will follow-up on this experience later in the year with study of global human rights issues.

By: James Guthrie

# Connecting Globally

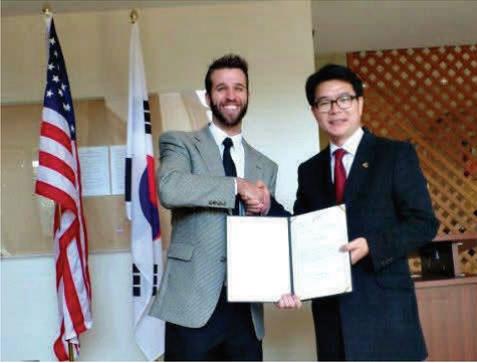
MCAA has connected globally! The Girls Without Limits Club at MCAA has developed a cross continental pen-pal relationship with girls at the Hidden Treasures Primary School in Uganda. The girls have written letters to each other and plan on a skype visit soon. The students are amazed at how

similar they are in their likes and dislikes. This has been a wonderful learning experience for our students. Giving them the opportunity to interface with students across the globe raises their cultural awareness and sensitivity.

Reported By:  
Susie Throop



# INTERNATIONAL HIGHLIGHT



Marietta Community School Coordinator Elliot Paulk, recently accepted the title of Honorary Ambassador from Mayor Chong Won O of Seongdong-Gu Seoul, South Korea on behalf of the Marietta/Cobb County community.

As honorary ambassador, Mr. Paulk will share his knowledge and experiences of Korea with the citizens of Marietta/Cobb County in order to strengthen the relationship between the two communities. "The partnership that has been developed with Seongdong-Gu Seoul, South Korea is one that has afforded our students and our community with priceless international exposure and supports our IB World School District status," said Marietta City Schools (MCS) Superintendent Dr. Emily Lembeck. "The work that Mr. Paulk has accomplished to create and foster this partnership is extremely valuable. He is an asset to our community and well deserving of this title."

Elliot Paulk traveled to South Korea prior to his employment at Marietta Community School as part of the Kennesaw State University teaching abroad initiative where he volunteered his time teaching English at a local elementary school (Haengdang Elementary School). Since then, he has spoken on behalf of the Korean program at the Symposium on ASIA-USA Partnership, assisted with establishing the Seongdong-Gu Marietta/Cobb County relationship, and volunteered his services to further the partnership between Seongdong-Gu and MCS.

## Spotlight on MCS Staff

### Hickory Hills:

*Vilma Thomas* is a teacher at Hickory Hills. Vilma was born in El Salvador and came to the U.S. when she was 5 years old. She was raised in Chicago, Illinois. Vilma is married to Paul and they have two beautiful children, Olivia and Joey.

*Karin Logsdon* was born and raised in West Germany where she got her bachelor's degree at a teachers College in Karlsruhe. She immigrated to America in 1984 where she married and raised 2 children through College. She loves baking and getting together with her friends on a monthly basis where they share their culinary interests. YUM YUM!

### MCAA:

*Anna Gaxiola-Leal* joined the MCAA staff this year as our enrollment clerk/parapro. Anna has an amazing story. She grew up on the Pacific Coast of Mexico in Sinaloa. She attended Universidad Autonoma de Chihuahua where she majored in communications. Anna worked as a newspaper reporter, radio show host, and TV movie producer. During her years with Fox Universal Dreamworks she worked on movie trailers. Anna has lived in Georgia for 15 years. When not working at MCAA, Anna can be found at her family owned restaurant, The Hot Dog Factory, in Smyrna.

### MMS:

*Amalia Davis* was born in Monterrey Mexico and has a degree in Agronomy Engineering. She speaks Spanish, English, and is learning Portuguese.

*Michele Ambio* speaks German. Her parents immigrated to the US from Germany and Switzerland.

*Ms. Hardaway* has family origins from around the world Panama, Africa, Native American and Ireland.