

MARIETTA CITY SCHOOLS

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Cultural Diversity Newsletter

2015 - 2016 SCHOOL YEAR

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Diversity & Exploration *By: James Guthrie*

Marietta Middle School is committed to creating a school culture that celebrates the cultural diversity within our school community as well as exposing students to diverse learning experiences. Here are a few of the activities that have taken place at MMS this semester.



High Museum of Art Field Trip - 7th grade students in Art visited the High Museum and participated in a STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math) workshop. Students worked in group to find possible solutions for a variety of issues currently facing Georgia. One group worked to solve the problem that plastic

rings, such as those used by Coca-Cola, pose to our environment and wildlife. The group designed an eco-friendly solution.

Native Heritage Spanish classes – Approximately 1/3 of the students at MMS come from homes where Spanish is the primary language. In response to the high number of students who already speak Spanish, MMS offers a Spanish class for Native and Heritage Spanish speakers. The class focuses on helping students develop their reading and writing skills to a level of true bilingualism. Students are able to earn credit towards high school graduation through this class.

Water Tower Project – 7th and 8th grade students in the Magnet program recently participated in the Marietta Water Tower Competition. Students were tasked with designing and constructing a working water tower.

Students worked in groups and had to create their tower with recycled materials and using the design process. Completed towers were judged by students from Kennesaw State University, and school winners competed against the winning teams from Cooper Middle School.

Friendship Circle – This club has been developed to bring together all students at MMS. Participants of the club meet regularly with special needs students and engage in a variety of fun activities. Participation in this club increases our IB Learners' awareness and appreciation for difference.



Hispanic Heritage Month By: Wendi Flores



Dunleith kicked off with National Hispanic Heritage month. *Dunleith* showed their students proud Hispanic culture by decorating a bulletin board covered with the many flags of the Hispanic speaking countries. The students enjoyed passing by the halls and identifying

their home country's flag represented! Students from different grade levels researched famous and influential Hispanic Americans along with the great contributions they have made to our society. The students took great pride in their projects they created and presented these on the

Dunleith News Network during the morning announcements for the school to enjoy. These Posters and Triboards were displayed in the media center. DNN also included fun facts, trivia, videos and literature books related to Hispanic Heritage Month.

World Champion By: Jennifer Madrigal



In October, *Sawyer Road Elementary* had an assembly and an international superstar visited us. Her name is Rene Bibaud and she is a professional jumper who has won world championships for jumping rope. When Bibaud was growing up, she was told that she was

not very good at jumping rope. Her determination, hard work, and practice not only made her improve at jumping rope, but she ended up jumping rope with *Cirque du Soleil*, a Canadian entertainment company to the country of Amsterdam and the city of New York. We

watched a video of Bibaud with *Cirque du Soleil* in Amsterdam. We saw images of her fast-paced jumping and dancing with glowing ropes. Her presentation inspired to use jumping rope to become more physically fit and to never give up on our dreams.

Multicultural Experiences By: Natalie Payton



West Side Elementary school provides students with as many multicultural experiences as possible. We have recently updated our inventory of multicultural lessons in our school notebook so that teachers can pro-

vide their students with different activities celebrating other cultures. The diversity team will also invite Joanna Maddox to perform for our students. Ms. Maddox has joined us in the past

with performances about Rosa Parks, Harriett Tubman, and Mae Jemison.

West Side is also the home to the TAG program. Many of our TAG classes provide students with opportunities to

Career Pathways at Park Street By: Logii Pinion

Fifth grade students from Park Street Elementary School toured Marietta High School to explore their 17 career pathways. This tour gave fifth grade students an opportunity to compare what they are learning during their career counseling lessons at Park Street to real work applications at Marietta High School. In addition to touring the MHS Career Pathways, fifth grade students also participated in

the homecoming pep rally. The fifth grade students were awe struck at the Blue Devil school spirit and the excitement of the high school students. After the pep rally MHS student ambassadors under the direction of the high school counselors gave our fifth grade students a tour of the high school and for many of our students it was their first time seeing the expansive school that stretches the length of two

football fields! This was an experience our fifth graders will never forget, and we were able to share the experience with the numerous parent chaperones who accompanied us.



A Global Community By: Susie Throop

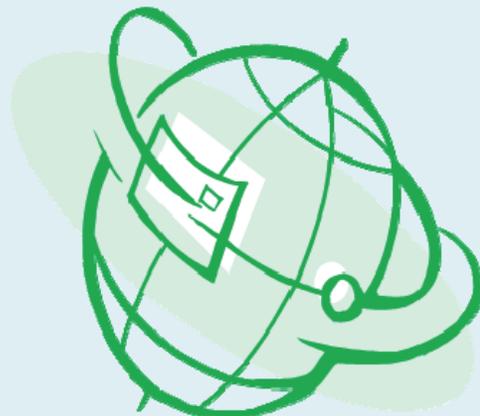
This year at *MCAA* the school-wide theme for our clubs is *KIVA Connection: Serving the Global Community*. KIVA is a microfinance non-profit organization that helps make small loans to people around the globe in an effort to alleviate poverty. Through this organization our students have learned about different parts of the world. Third graders are focusing on Greece, fourth graders on Africa, and fifth graders on Latin America. During the first few weeks of school, student s researched their area of the world. They completed

their first engineering design challenge which was to create a postcard and stamp to represent that part of the world.

The post cards and stamps are displayed outside of each classroom.

As part of our clubs, students are learning about the culture, music, dance, and customs from their designated areas of the world. In addition, as part of the club students choose recipients of small loans. They track the progress of the loans and as loans are repaid, they reallocate money to new people.

In February, students will proudly display artwork, music, dance, and drama that they have created at our annual Evening of the Arts. They will be able to share with their community how they have served our global community.



Celebrating Diversity

By: Jennifer Madrigal

At *Sawyer Road Elementary School*, we have been busy with many activities that have been integrated with our core subjects, specials areas, and even through visitors to our school.

We started out by celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month in Spanish classes and in our Spanish STEP club. We researched famous Hispanic people who have made history by making the world a better place to live in. We hung up projects in the halls that showed pictures of these famous people and gave others information about our research. We talked about famous baseball players, entertainers, and astronauts. We were amazed at the number of Hispanic people who have worked for NASA or have gone into space. Our curiosity about the space program made us want to learn more about the solar system and we learned how to say the planets in Spanish. In our Spanish STEP club, we cut out and glued the planets in

order onto black pieces of paper. We drew stars and labeled the planets in Spanish with silver sharpies.

Our Hispanic studies led us to also discuss Native Americans and Native Indians of Latin America. In art, students made buffalo hides that were worn by Native Americans in the northern plains. We used chalk pastels and brown paper bags to create the buffalo hides. We learned that the buffalo hides were used to tell stories, for decoration, and for ceremonies and daily use. They were also worn on the inside when the Native Americans were sick. In Spanish classes, we looked at pictures of cloths made by the Kuna Indians of Panama. We loved the designs and the bright colors that are used to make the cloths. We decorated pictures that look similar in design on paper. In Spanish STEP club, we are currently making Native Indian faces with "hair" made of yarn. We are braiding the

yarn and we will glue our faces to paper and place colored feathers in their hair. We are working on our vocabulary skills by writing about Christopher's voyage to the New World where he found Native Indians living in the United States and what is now Latin America.

Fourth grade also studied Native Americans of the United States by using STEM (Science Technology Engineering and Math). Their students were given a limited number of items including felt and sticks to create model shelters that were used by the Native Americans. As part of our I.B. program, we learned about how Native Americans were dependent on each other for survival and growth. Posters were made by our students that gave more information about Native Americans.



Spotlight on MCS Staff

Miss Rosina Diaz immigrated to the USA from the Dominican Republic when she was 3. After graduating from high school she attended the University of Georgia, where she majored in Education and earned a Foreign Language Education Degree in Spanish and French. During her time at MMS she has taught both French and Spanish!

