



Message From The Superintendent

The Christmas vacation has come and gone and January went by quickly. I would like to however highlight some of our positive events that have been a part of the MICS campus these past few months. Back in December we had an awesome Christmas program presented by our preschool four-year old classes. My special thanks to all the parents, Preschool Director Lisa Irby and Childcare Director Lucia Quintero who made this day possible.

Our enrollment continues to grow at a methodical pace amidst all of the financial woes our community is facing. I can tell you we are blessed in this respect. Our recent Shadowing Day with our preschool and sixth grade students was a success. So many of our students and I know you parents, had positive comments in regards to this special day.

Finally, our Prospective Student Open House was a well planned special event that many of our staff worked countless hours to make a success.

Once again, let me state that God has truly blessed this school with awesome students, teachers and parents. We are a shining light for the Merritt Island community in which we serve.

With Respect to His Blessings,

David M. Piccolo, Ed.D

Enrollment Begins for 2009-2010

Believe it or not it is enrollment time again at MICS! Priority re-enrollment began on Monday, Jan. 26 and will conclude on Friday, Feb. 6.

Returning MICS families should remember that there is a 50% discount (\$350 per child) on the enrollment fee when registering your child(ren) by the deadline of Feb. 6. As you should know by now, Superintendent Dr. David Piccolo and the MICS School Board are pleased to announce that in an effort to assist in a struggling economy the decision was made not to raise tuition for the 2009-2010 school year. It is our desire that this will help all our families in their decision process of re-enrollment.

If you have students that are transitioning into middle school or high school we hope that you are committed to having your child(ren) continue on and complete their education at MICS. We hope that parents were able to have any questions they may have had about middle school or high school answered during our parent meetings last month. If you continue to have questions, please feel free to call Secondary Principal Toni Gartrell at 453-2710 ext. 313.

Because our preschool and elementary students are loved and so important to the future of the school and community please feel free to contact Preschool Director Lisa Irby at 453-2710 ext. 312 or Elementary Principal Nanci Dettra at 453-2710 ext. 323 if you have any questions regarding those departments.

Finally, as you consider re-enrolling your children for the next school year we would like to share the following words from the President of the Association of Christian Schools International Ken Smitherman.

“Very few if any would subscribe to the notion that things of high value and worth are achieved easily and inexpensively. They often require extreme measures of saving, sacrificing, reprioritizing, and any number of other matters of discipline that simply are not easy. Training up children in the way they should go is one of the most challenging mandates of parenting. Christian schooling is about teaching and nurturing students so that they will pursue that right way. This pursuit truly is an investment in things that matter for eternity—literally, the priceless things.”

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Your Christian school has carefully and thoughtfully developed strategies to take students to appropriate academic achievement levels and to help them mature to loving God with all their hearts, souls and minds (Matthew 22:37); to growing in wisdom and stature (Luke 2:52); to living in the world as salt and light (Matthew 5:13-14); and to giving sacrificially of themselves and their resources (Romans 12:1). These spiritually mature students will reflect the essence and love of the Christ who lives and dwells within them. I urge you to continue pursuing the highest for your children.”

New student applications will be accepted beginning Monday, Feb. 9. Please call Admissions Director Margaret Davis at 453-2710 ext. 401 for details.

MICS Opens Doors to Prospective New Families



Merritt Island Christian School hosted a Prospective Student Open House on Jan. 15 which turned out to be a great success.

The purpose of the Open House was to provide a time for parents that are considering MICS as a school for their children to come in and meet Superintendent Dr. David Piccolo, principals, faculty and staff and tour the campus. This year 40 new student application packets were put into the hands of potential new families. Parents considering MICS were also able to visit exhibit tables where they received information on the MICS Fine Arts Department, Athletics, Clubs, Robotics, and the Parent Teacher Fellowship (PTF).

High school students served as impressive guides throughout the evening as they gave tours of the Preschool, Elementary and Secondary Departments.

Dr. Piccolo was pleased with the success and positive tone of the event.

“I am encouraged through God’s blessing that He placed on our recent Open House. We received such valuable and positive response from the parents who attended and actually have already enrolled a student for this school year as a result of attending the Open House. God continues to raise up Merritt Island Christian School,” Piccolo said.



Top left: Elementary Art Teacher Leigh Halcom explains how art class works for kindergarten students. Bottom left: Prospective students receive athletic program information from Athletic Director Nat Aydtlett.



Stepping Up to Kindergarten and Middle School

Students in the MICS four-year-old preschool classes and sixth grade participated in a Shadow Day last month. The purpose of a Shadow Day is to give students a preview of what they can expect as they move on to both kindergarten and middle school.

After participating in the all-school morning pledges in the Atrium, the K4 students spent time participating in the many different activities that a kindergarten student experiences throughout the day. These activities included a classroom activity, class snack, visits to Spanish, P.E., art, computer and music classes, followed by recess and lunch with the present kindergarten students. “This event was a success. It will hopefully make the transition from preschool to kindergarten much smoother. The K4 students expressed how much they loved it,” Elementary Principal Nanci Dettra said.

The transition from sixth to seventh grade is sometimes a difficult one for students, therefore the purpose of a Shadow Day for this age group is to give each of them a preview of what to expect as they enter middle school. Students began their day joining the Secondary students during their morning snack break. This was a highlight of their day since they were allowed to purchase a snack from the Cougar Café, something they are not permitted to do as an elementary student. After the break the sixth graders took part in an art class activity with Secondary Art Teacher Wendy Fisher and were able to view some interesting specimens under the microscopes in the Secondary science lab with Science Teacher Bridget Godwin. Since an elective in seventh grade is chorus, the students then moved on to participate in a music lesson with Choral Director Susan Mathews and her middle school chorus class.

After a short assembly in which the students viewed a fun slide show of the day in the life of a middle school student, and had a time of questions and answers, they moved on to take part in a game of “Geography Jeopardy” with Middle School History Teacher Jamie Bopp and then took in a Bible lesson with Bible Teacher Micah Rockwell. Their day concluded with having lunch with the present middle school students.



Top Left: K4 students Cross Power and Dominic Pratt work on an art project!

Bottom Left: Caleb Morgan and Jarred Gannon check out some art projects they will do in 7th grade.



Top Right: Hayden Hadley concentrates on a specimen under the microscope.

Middle: K4 students get a glimpse of kindergarten music activities!



Bottom Right: Rachel Slade, Savannah Lang and Elaina Valencia purchase a snack from the Cougar Café...a privilege of being a 7th grader next year!

MICS Robotics Team Advances to State



The MICS Robotics team under the direction of Computer Teachers Rita Chase and Cindy McKnight participated in the Florida State FIRST LEGO League regional competition in January and received the Judges Award. This award is given to the team that was able to receive a rating of “good” in each of four categories: technology, team work, research and Robot missions. This honor gave the team an invitation to move on to the state robotics tournament at the Florida Institute of Technology in Melbourne on Feb. 22. Out of 300 participating schools across Florida, approximately 36 teams advance to state competition.

The Robotics program is part of the Florida’s FIRST Lego League (FLL). The partnership between FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition and Technology) and the LEGO Group has created a powerful program that helps young people discover the fun in science and technology, while building self-confidence, knowledge and life skills. Each September, FLL announces the annual Challenge to teams, which engages them in hands-on robotics design and authentic scientific research. After 8-12 intense

weeks, the FLL season culminates at high-energy, sports-like tournaments.

The purpose of the robotics program is to design accessible, innovative programs to build self-confidence, knowledge, and life skills while motivating young people to pursue opportunities in science, technology and engineering.

To become a member of the Robotics team a student must score in at least the 95th percentile in math and science on the Stanford Achievement Test (SAT). Members of the MICS Robotics team are: Eighth grader, Jada Mallant; seventh grader, Cody Bolton; and sixth graders, Katelyn Denyer, Mario Ferris, Kristina Hopf, and Kayla Morgan. Ninth grader Kyle Morgan serves as a student assistant to the team. To prepare for the competition the students met four days a week in the morning before school and as it drew closer they also met after school for one hour.

Sponsors Chase and McKnight are proud of the hard work each of the students put into their projects and are also grateful for the help and support they have received from others.

“The Lord has sent many people to us to help this year with our Robotics team. From the very beginning with a grant for our team, a table built by a parent, people from other schools who showed us how to accomplish tasks, and so much more. We feel like God has sent us angels all along the way,” McKnight said.

MICS Alumnus Attends Presidential Inauguration

MICS Class of 2008 graduate Logan Deen attended the 2009 Presidential Inauguration in Washington D.C. Deen, who is a Political Science Major at Samford University in Birmingham, Ala., became a candidate to attend the Inauguration festivities after attending several leadership conferences during his high school years at MICS. During his junior year in 2006 Deen attended his first Hugh O’Brien Youth Leadership (HOBY) forum, and later that same year attended the National Youth Leadership Conference (NYLC). The summer after Deen graduated in 2008 he participated in the University Presidential Inaugural Conference (UPIC). Deen was given the opportunity to become part of these leadership conferences after being nominated his junior year. Each year, MICS Secondary Principal Toni Gartrell nominates students to participate in the various leadership forums and it is up to each of those individual students to pursue that opportunity. MICS has had two other alumni that attended the NYLC; Class of 2006 graduates Stephen Carroll and Greg Robes. Present student, senior Erica Robes attended the same conference during her junior year.

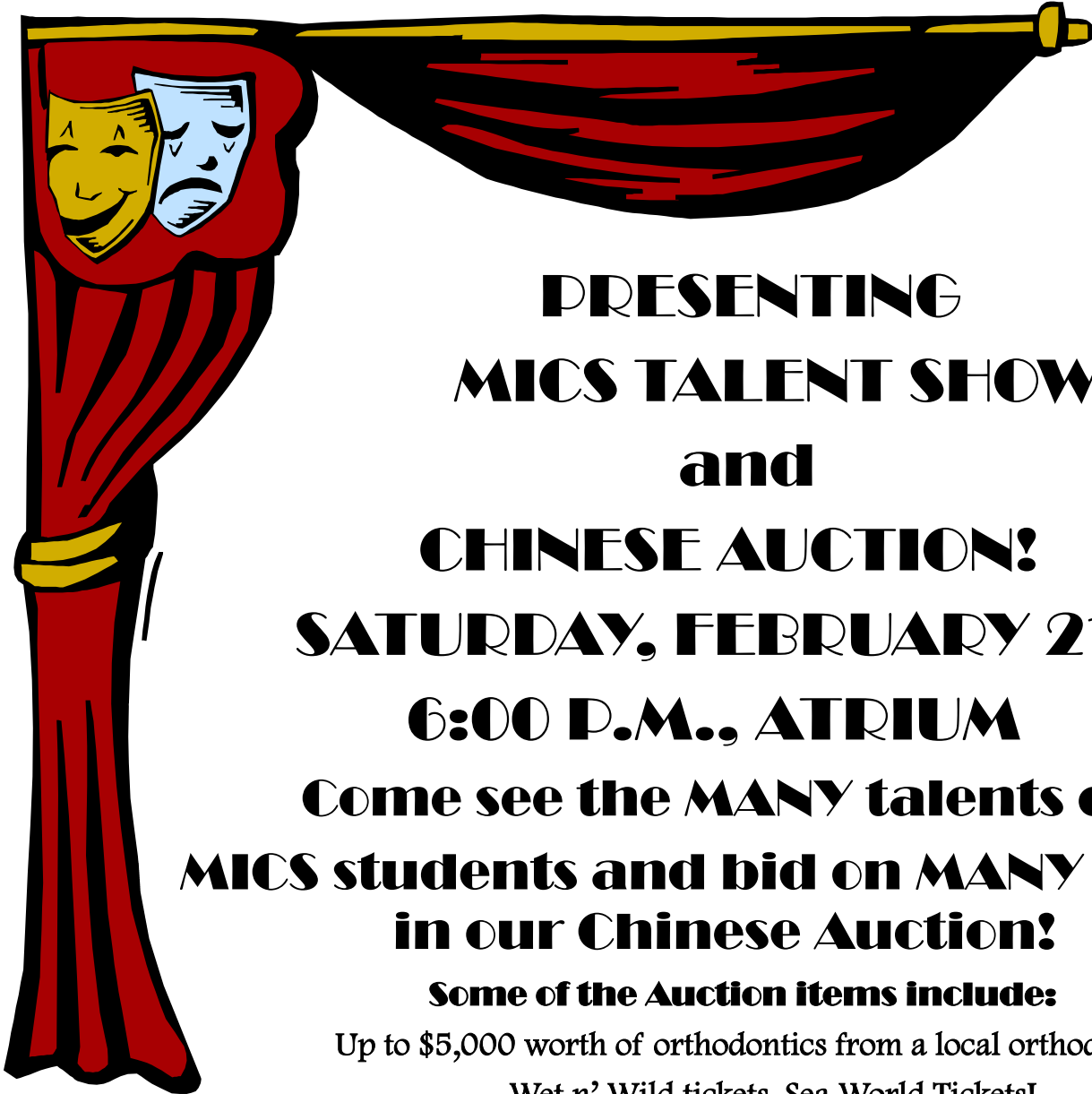
Deen had plenty of time to plan for his visit to this historical event in our nation as he found out about his invitation six months before the election. He had to commit to attending months before he would even know the outcome. While in Washington D.C., Deen’s invitation included accommodations in a four star hotel, participation in various conferences and meetings which featured famous news correspondents from NBC News and CNN. He was also able to hear speakers which included former Secretary of State General Colin Powell, and former Vice President and Nobel Peace Prize winner, Al Gore. A seat at the concert held at the Lincoln Memorial which featured artists, Beyonce, Jon Bon Jovi, Garth Brooks, and more was also included in the weeks activities.



Finally, Deen was able to have an up close spot at the swearing in ceremony of the 44th President of the United States Barack Obama, followed by a front row seat at the Inaugural Parade on Pennsylvania Ave. The festivities ended with the honor of attending an Inaugural Ball at the National Air and Space Museum. Deen knows this was a valuable experience for him. “Since I want to pursue a career in politics this was a lifetime opportunity. The experience was just incredible. Even though I did not vote for Obama, it was all really neat being a part of this important historical event,” Deen said.

For information on how an MICS student can learn more about these leadership forum opportunities please feel free to call Secondary Principal Toni Gartrell at 453-2710 ext. 313.

MICS Presents Talent Show and Chinese Auction



**PRESENTING
MICS TALENT SHOW
and
CHINESE AUCTION!
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 21ST
6:00 P.M., ATRIUM**

**Come see the MANY talents of
MICS students and bid on MANY items
in our Chinese Auction!**

Some of the Auction items include:

Up to \$5,000 worth of orthodontics from a local orthodontist!

Wet n' Wild tickets, Sea World Tickets!

Reserved seating for K5 Graduation, 6th Grade Celebration,

High School Graduation and the Elementary Spring Musical!

AND MUCH MORE!!!

If you or your business would like to donate an auction item please call Melissa at 453-2710 ext. 302

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David M. Piccolo Ed.D



**[We're on the Web!
www.micscougars.com]**



Cougar Booster Club

Meeting

Monday, February 9th

7:00 p.m. in the Chapel