



Message From the Superintendent

Dr. David Piccolo has been called to serve, and has accepted the position as Head of Schools for Augusta Christian Schools in Augusta, Ga. The faculty, staff, students and parents wish to thank Dr. Piccolo for his leadership for the past three years, and we wish he and his family nothing but the best as they continue to bless others in Christian education. This is Dr. Piccolo's final "Message From The Superintendent" column.

This year has no doubt been a special one at MICS. We witnessed the ground breaking of a new athletic facility back in September. We watched our girl's volleyball team progress to the final four for the third year in a row. We had two excellent events at Homecoming and Prom. We also have in our midst, the ACSI Teacher of the Year for Florida and Georgia, Mrs. Wendy Fisher.

These attributes are just a few of the incredible God-initiated experiences we have been blessed with this year at MICS. As I write this final message to you, our staff is working feverishly to secure and develop the new Aiken Academic Center for Excellence. This learning lab will broaden our ministry here as we attempt to reach our kids with exceptional needs with a stronger curriculum and individualized approach to education. We still need your help and support with this plan as we continue to build a curriculum and finance the program. Once again, we are stepping out in faith as is stated in Hebrews 11:1, "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen."

In closing, let me say to you what a blessing and honor it has been to serve at MICS for the past three years. This is a special place that the Lord has no doubt placed His hand upon and will continue to bless. My prayer is for the Lord's continued presence and guidance in the work of Rev. Titus Green who is a man with wisdom beyond his years. We are truly blessed to have this leader in our presence. Finally, I pray for my good friend and loyal Christian sister, Mrs. Nanci Dettra, as she takes over as Superintendent on July 1, 2010. Once again, God has placed a special lady in our midst who lives by the Word in all she does.

My wife Sherry, our children, Olivia and Camille, and myself thank you for this special season we will never forget and we thank the Lord for presenting us His plan as we look to our future season in Augusta, Ga. God bless all the MICS community. ~Dr. Piccolo

MICS Welcomes New Superintendent

Merritt Island Christian School is proud to announce Mrs. Nanci Dettra as the new Superintendent. Dettra has a total of 37 years experience in education and has spent her last 13 years at MICS as a first grade teacher for one year and as the Elementary Principal for the last 12 years.

It is not only her many years of experience that made Dettra the logical choice to take over as Superintendent, but her heart for Christian education and her vision for MICS in particular is what will set her up for success as she continues the mission of the school.

Dettra's overall vision for MICS is to continue to develop a school of excellence as unto the Lord with the main focus being on the mission of the school which is to lead students to Christ, build students in Christ, and equip students to serve Christ.

Immediate plans to implement this vision will include a focus on Christian character training and will begin with educating students, teachers and

parents about bullying and peer pressure. Look for details to come to you soon about a special assembly on August 20 which will feature a BMX bike demonstration including a positive Christian message on bullying and peer pressure.



The vision will also continue to have an emphasis on adding academic programs, especially in the secondary grades, as well as continuing to build relationships with teachers, parents and students. Keeping a strong athletics program will also be an important part of the continued vision at MICS which helps students gain self-confidence, school spirit and leadership qualities.

Dettra is excited about the opportunity to serve as Superintendent of MICS.

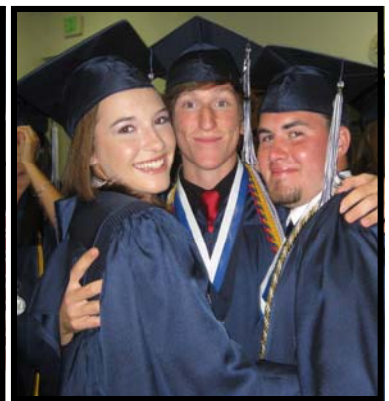
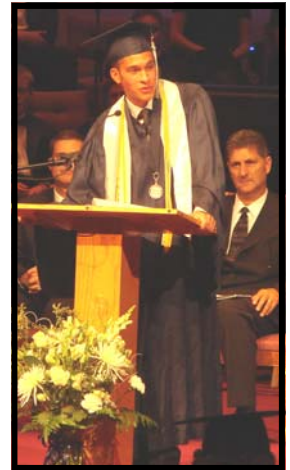
"My heart is for Christian education. I love every aspect of MICS from preschool through twelfth grade. I love the family connections and I also love a challenge. I am also excited about the team I will work with and I look forward to seeing how God will bless the school with growth," Dettra said.

MICS Class of 2010 Celebrates Graduation

Merritt Island Christian School held its commencement ceremony for the Class of 2010 in the First Baptist Church Merritt Island sanctuary on May 21, 2010. MICS Superintendent Dr. David Piccolo, delivered the keynote address, and First Baptist Church Merritt Island Pastor Titus Green gave an encouraging and challenging spiritual message.

The graduating class of 2010 numbered 24 students with 10 receiving honors diplomas. Barrett Cutrer represented the class as Valedictorian, while Luke Davis earned the honor of Salutatorian. For the second year in a row MICS graduated one senior, Katie Higginbotham, who received her Associates of Arts Degree from Brevard Community College on the same night she received her high school diploma.

In a graduating class of 24 students there are 14 students who are recipients of the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship. One student, Barrett Cutrer has received a full ROTC scholarship to Louisiana State University. Graduate Stephanie Quinn has received a full athletic scholarship to Berry College located in Mt. Berry, Ga., where she will play volleyball. Seventeen graduates will be attending four year colleges and universities including: University of Florida, University of Central Florida, University of South Florida, University of North Florida, University of West Florida, Palm Beach Atlantic University, Liberty University, Berry College, Western Carolina and Louisiana State University. Six graduates will attend Brevard Community College, and one will attend Valencia Community College before moving on to four year colleges or universities.



Top Right: Valedictorian Barrett Cutrer delivers an inspirational and Christ-centered address parents, faculty and classmates. **Bottom Left:** Dr. David Piccolo, Pastor Titus Green, Spencer Baker and MICS Teacher Jamie Bopp get ready for the graduation ceremony. **Center:** The MICS Class of 2010. **Bottom Right:** Stephanie Quinn, Sam Halcom and Blake Hicks who have been at MICS together since Kindergarten share a hug before the commencement begins.

Learning Center Named For MICS Veteran Leader



As stated in previous Paw Print publications MICS is working toward implementing a learning lab. As plans move forward with the lab we are proud to announce that the MICS learning lab has been named “*The Aiken Center for Academic Excellence*” in honor of Loueda Aiken who has spent over 30 years serving the students of Merritt Island Christian School both academically and spiritually. Superintendent Dr. David Piccolo credits the decision to Aiken’s passion and experience.

“The decision to name the learning lab for Loueda Aiken was made because of her unyielding passion and many years of experience in educating students with exceptionalities,” Piccolo said.

A learning lab is a classroom set up to assist all levels of academic needs; gifted, average and students with learning disabilities. Students will be assisted in all subject areas including test taking, essay writing, homework and Accelerated Reader. It will be available to offer assistance to students in elementary and secondary. The goal is to strengthen students academically, provide academic assistance where needed, whether it be to offer more challenges to gifted students or to give assistance to students who need extra help. It will also provide a way to help build student self-confidence.

“*The Aiken Center for Academic Excellence*”

Named for Loueda Aiken for her wisdom in education and her love and dedication to the students of MICS.

MICS Athletic Teams Post Successful Year

Athletics plays an important role at MICS. Not only does it allow students to excel in sports they love, but the athletes are also encouraged to see sports presented to them in the light of their Christianity. The coaches at MICS always encourage the athletes to represent Jesus, the school, and their families to the community through their competitions. The 2009-2010 was no exception as MICS posted another successful year both on the playing fields and spiritually.

In the fall the varsity Cougars football team strived to a 4-5 record as they played many teams that ended up in the state playoff series. The season was highlighted by a 49-45 thriller against future conference foe Foundation Academy. MICS played the year as an independent and is anxiously awaiting their entrance into the Sunshine State Athletic Conference (SSAC). Moving to the SSAC will ensure that the Cougars will now play against schools of comparable size and philosophies of competition as well as providing a championship to pursue.

On the court the Lady Cougars once again dominated volleyball in the central region of the state of Florida as they won their eighth straight conference title, seventh straight district title, regional championship and state semi-finalist. The competitive schedule which has the ladies playing schools many times their size is again what prepared them for post-

To finish out the fall season the golf team won the conference championship. For the first time in MICS history a female golfer qualified for the state playoffs.

The winter season brought MICS a basketball team. The future of boys basketball at MICS seems to be on the rise with the talent pool found in the district. The varsity girls once again posted a third straight district title, conference championship and played in the state playoff series.

There was much improvement seen on the boy's soccer team this year as they qualified for their district playoffs which included many large schools in the area. MICS re-introduced a girls' soccer team this year with a young group of ladies that will prove to be competitive as they play in the coming years.

Spring brings the crack of the bat in both baseball and softball. Utilizing a group of rising sophomores stars the baseball team played a competitive brand of baseball that will solidify them as a presence in the state baseball picture for the future. Although the wins were not there, the maturation of the players was quite evident on the field. Failing to qualify for the state playoffs for the first time in several years will no doubt spur the 2011 squad back to their normal position in the district.

After several devastating losses of players due to transfers, the Lady Cougars softball team started grooming that next wave of softball players that will return them to competing for district titles in 2011.

Congratulations to all MICS athletic teams for a successful year not only in the win columns, but in your good sportsmanship and Christ-like attitudes during competition.

“What Are You Doing Now?” Alumni News

Our featured alumnus in this edition of the Paw Print is Derek Good from the MICS Class of 1998. After graduation Good attended Brevard Community College and went on to Palm Beach Atlantic University where he majored in business. Although he never graduated from either of those colleges, Good went on to attend Bible college at Christ for the Nations Institute (CFNI) in Dallas, Texas, where he completed the Missions/Pastoral School advanced program. Good met his wife, Erica through a friend and after a long distance relationship he moved to her hometown of Long Island, NY and the two of them were married August of 2002. In June of 2003 Good and his wife moved to Belize, Central America where they served as missionaries for four years.

Good has many great memories from his days at MICS and looks back on them with fondness.

“Memories of MICS are endless. I made some amazing friends there and I could go on with stories that would bring you to tears! My time at MICS was a good experience and I am glad I was a part of it. It is a great training ground for young people and I hold it very dear to my heart,” Good said.

Presently, Good and his family reside in Dallas where he is working

at CFNI as a security dispatcher. His plans are to return to school this fall and complete a degree in history at Dallas Baptist University. He would like to become a high school teacher, but his heart's desire is to return to the mission field someday.

“I would love to go back to the mission field one day when God sees fit for that to happen. China has a big part of me. We were there two years ago smuggling Bibles in. I would also love to travel to India and other parts of the world,” Good said.

The Goods have two children, Afton who is five years old, and Ella three years old. They are expecting another boy soon, whom they will name Sevren.



team boasted a 13-1 record and a conference title in MICS history a female golfer quali-

much improved and competitive varsity basketball at MICS seems to be on the rise with the talent pool found in the district. The varsity girls once again posted a third straight district title, conference championship and played in the state playoff series.



Back To School Celebration!

BACK TO SCHOOL CELEBRATION!

Friday, August 6, 2010

3:00~6:00 p.m. in the Atrium



The Back to School Celebration will provide a time to meet teachers, pick up student schedules, calendars and other important “need to know” information! You will also be able to purchase P.E. uniforms and there will be a Used Uniform Sale for you to browse through ...all used uniform items are only \$2 each!



*The FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL is
Monday, August 9, 2010*



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David M. Piccolo Ed.D



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

Upcoming Events

- Aug. 20 BMX Pro Tour Assembly!
- Sept. 9 Secondary Picture Day
- Sept. 10 Preschool/Elementary Picture Day
- Sept. 15 High School College Fair
- Sept. 24 Elem. Open House/School Wide Dinner