



Message From The Superintendent

We are blessed at MICS to have the best teachers and staff in this world. We are also truly blessed to have a church where the pastors understand and appreciate the impact the school has on this total ministry. We are also blessed to have an enrollment that has maintained its numbers and has created an interest that initiates frequent phone calls on a daily basis. Many of our families of the past left the school for various reasons (mainly financial) and have returned to make incredible impacts to the MICS family.

The planning for our future Learning Lab is in full swing and our hope is to start this program next fall. There are still many unanswered issues and plans that will need to be finalized within the next five month period. If you would like to assist us, either financially or spiritually, with this addition to our school please, feel free to contact Elementary Principal Nanci Dettra at 453-2710 ext. 323 or Secondary Principal Toni Gartrell at 453-2710 ext. 313.

In closing, I urge you as parents to attend the next "Coffee with the Superintendent" at the Lazy Bean Café sometime in March. These meetings have proven to be very beneficial in gathering valuable input for the future of this school. I want to personally thank you for your unyielding contributions to MICS on a daily basis. ~Dr. David Piccolo, Superintendent

Business Academy Part of Future Plan

This is the second story of a three part series.

In the last edition of the Paw Print families were presented with the plans for the first of three projects that are already in the planning stages; an MICS Learning Lab, MICS Business Academy and the addition of new lights to the MICS Athletic Field. The main focus at this time is the start of the Learning Lab, but once that is put into place efforts will be made to implement the Business Academy into the high school curriculum.

"It will provide an avenue for student growth and real business world experience."

—Secondary Principal Toni Gartrell

For an overview and detailed explanation of the MICS Learning Lab please log onto: www.micscougars.com and refer to the October/November edition of the Paw Print.

The idea of the MICS Business Academy came from MICS Superintendent Dr. David Piccolo who presented it to his Leadership Team as they evaluated the current and future needs of students and parents. The purpose of the Business Academy would be to provide students with a grass-roots understanding of the integral parts of supervising and running a business. As interest grows, other aspects of business will be added to the curriculum to enhance not only the students knowledge of running a business, but to aid them in their personal lives as well. Accounting classes and personal finance classes that will teach stu-

dents how to keep their own adult finances in order will be added over time to the curriculum.

There are a few things necessary to get the program underway. First, the support and interest from parents and students will help gauge how quickly this plan will begin. Second, there will be a need for local business support in the form of internships and volunteers to speak to students about what it takes to be a successful member of the business world.

Parents can help by attending advertised meetings that will be held on the subject of the Business Academy. The input from parents is extremely valuable when planning a new program since it is their children that will be taking part in the educational process.

Local businesses will be relied upon to share the many different aspects of running your own personal business. It is also our desire that some local businesses would be willing to allow students some hands on experiences by inviting them to participate in an internship. This type of experience is always so valuable to a student as it is where their classroom knowledge comes to life in the form of actually putting to use what they have learned.

Secondary Principal Toni Gartrell sees a real potential for growth by adding a Business Academy to the curriculum.

"I am excited about the prospect of adding a Business Academy to the curriculum as it will provide an avenue for student growth and real business world experience," Gartrell said.

Don't miss out on the Talent Show Learning Lab Fundraiser (see back page of Paw Print) on Saturday, February 20 at 6 p.m. in the Atrium!

Students Display Creativity in Inventor's Fair

The MICS Elementary Department held its fourth annual Inventor's Fair in December. This year's fair was based on two national contests that students were able to enter: *The Bubble Wrap Competition for Young Inventors* and *The Rubber Band Contest for Young Inventors*. Each invention had to include bubble wrap or rubber bands in some way. All students in fifth and sixth grade are required to submit an invention for the MICS Inventor's Fair, and each project is judged on several criteria which include a journal, a written explanation of what the invention is, how it works and the benefits to society, as well as a board that supports the invention. Students are also judged on creativity. The individual with the highest points overall wins the Best of Show Award. It is optional for students to submit their inventions to the national contests. There were 59 students who opted to compete in the national contest.

Inventor's Fair Coordinator Judy Dixon explains that the Inventor's Fair provides benefits to both the students and the teachers. Students learn to research, keep a journal, take surveys, design an advertisement, use creative thinking, and pace themselves through a large project. By the time the project is complete the students experience a great achievement.

"After making the invention and conducting tests to prove its workability, they take prideful ownership of their project which represents over two months of work," Dixon said.

Teachers benefit from the fact that the students have learned how to organize and keep track of information gathered. Staying on track is crucial to the success of their project and helps develop skills in students to set goals and reach them in a timely manner.

The young inventors are able to show off their creativity during the Inventor's Expo, which is an evening where parents and friends are invited to view the projects which are on display. Each student stays by their invention throughout the evening and is prepared to explain how it works. They are also given the opportunity to share their "jingle" advertisement with everyone. Later, creative and "experimental" refreshments are served to student and their parents.

Congratulations to this year's MICS Inventor's Fair Winners: Fifth Grade—1st Place for "Cozy Headbands" Lela Gunderson; 2nd Place for "Pressure Popper" Jack Brode; 3rd Place for "Popscotch" Jack Callaway; Judges Choice for "Crinkly Blanket" Madison Hardgrove. Sixth Grade—1st Place for "Flashing Lighted Shuttlecock" Sarah Eaton; 2nd Place for "Step N' Bounce" Jackie Kelleher; 3rd Place for "The Pop Page" Austin Gordon; Judges Choice for "The Toothbrush Buddy" Jason Knight. The Best of Show Winner for the 2009 Inventor's Fair was fifth grader Lela Gunderson.



Inventor's Fair Coordinator Judy Dixon and Best of Show Winner Lela Gunderson.

Two MICS Seniors Achieve Eagle Scout Rank

It is not often you meet someone who is an Eagle Scout, but MICS is proud to introduce two of its Class of 2010 Seniors who have achieved that goal.

Luke Davis and Sam Halcom began their Boy Scout of America experience after a Boy Scout recruiter visited their MICS sixth grade classroom. The visitor performed a demonstration of how to make fire using flint and steel. That's all these young boys needed to see to know they wanted to join. It wasn't only the presentation of fire that day that influenced them to become part of one of the oldest organizations of boys clubs in America. Their fathers had some say in the decision. Both dads were active in leading Boy Scout groups and Davis not only became involved in scouting just like his father did when he was a boy, but is now a second generation Eagle Scout.

The rank of Eagle Scout does not come easily. It has taken both boys six years to achieve this goal. There are six ranks that a Scout must work through before reaching the seventh and final rank of Eagle Scout. Each rank has very stringent requirements and a specific number of merit badges are mandatory before moving on to the next step. Silver lined merit badges are necessary, but there are also optional badges that can be earned along the way. Some of Davis' and Halcom's favorite merit badges earned include Home Repair, Environmental Science, Cooking and Archery.

Community service hours are also a large part of attaining Eagle Scout status with both boys putting in a minimum of 50-60 hours.

Part of the process also includes their final Eagle Scout project which can be chosen by each scout, but must be approved. MICS benefited from Davis' project as he chose to do some property repair and improvement on the school facility. Improvements were made to the faculty kitchen with the installation of a new sink,

countertops, ceiling tiles and a fresh coat of paint. Davis also built a large shelving unit for the records room which is being used to keep things organized and available at a glance.



Halcom chose an island restoration project. The purpose of his undertaking was to create a safer place for families who enjoy traveling and playing on the islands. He removed hazardous debris and cleared brush all in an effort to make the small islands safe.

Both boys have gone as far as they can go in scouting but appreciate all the positive things it has done in their lives and how they will be able to utilize what they have learned in the future.

"It provided opportunities for me to experience and learn life skills that I will be able to carry with me forever," Davis said.

Halcom agrees and is grateful not only for the skills he has gained over the years, but also how his experiences have benefited his relationships.

"It provided an opportunity to build character, learn practical skills and also a way for me to enjoy a close relationship with my father," Halcom said.



Eagle Scouts Sam Halcom and Luke Davis

The Importance Of Attending MICS



It is that time of year where some of our families are making the decision on whether or not to return to MICS for the next school year. Please read these quotes from some parents and student who believe attending MICS is the right choice:

“With our son Andy already graduated from MICS and attending college and our daughter Sierra currently enrolled in sixth grade, we are blessed to know they attended a Christ-centered institution with teachers and staff that lovingly care enough to guide our children forward.”—Denise Harrell, parent of alumni and current Elementary student

“Each of our children had different academic needs and MICS reached out to them and loved them and worked with them. I am proud to be the parent of three kids who graduated from one of the best schools in the county.”—Brenda Deen, parent of two alumni and current MICS senior.

“I love that my boys are getting both a great education and are learning God’s foundation that will carry them well beyond their elementary, high school and college lives. Proverbs 22:6 states, ‘train a child in the way he should go and when he is old he will not turn from it.’ I believe MICS is walking alongside us as parents in this journey.”—Wende Rachels, parent of a preschool and elementary students.

“My mom said she wants us to be here. I used to think it was merely to show us how amazingly God could provide, but throughout my scholastic career at MICS, I have been nurtured and encouraged both academically and spiritually. I have now come to echo my mother’s beliefs and have become truly grateful for that.—MICS Senior Tiyhannah Shuntich who has attended MICS since Kindergarten.

“What Are You Doing Now?” Alumni News

Beginning with this edition of the *Paw Print* we will begin to feature MICS alumni in the “What Are You Doing Now?” section. If you are an MICS graduate or know of one that may be interested in being featured, please have them contact Ingrid Hall at 453-2710 ext. 322.

Our first alumni feature is 1994 gradate **Eric Herring**. After graduating from MICS Herring attended Barry University in Miami Shores, FL where he received a Bachelors Degree in Computer Science. His first job was at the Kennedy Space Center where he worked as a Software Engineer. Two years later he landed his current job as a Software Consultant with TGD Software, a small company located in Orlando. At TGD Herring has written many software programs to run some of the highest fidelity military flight simulators. His work from TGD has been with many companies which include Lockheed, Boeing, and L3 Communications and has also taken them out of the United States where they have designed simulators for Australia, Switzerland, Spain, and UAB. Some of the many simulators Herring has worked with include the F-18, F-16, F-14, AV-8 (Harrier), P3, AH-64D (Longbow Helicopter) and the AC-130 Gunship.



Herring has fond memories of his nine years spent at MICS. Although he describes those days as being “fun,” he is quick to point out that it wasn’t all play. “It was a lot of work, but it was also some of the best times of my life,” Herring said. He also credits MICS for instilling him with his strong beliefs. “My time at MICS also established many of my core values that I still follow today. It instilled in me that Jesus is our hope. Without Him, we do not have any. With Him, we have an answer to any problem that life may throw at us.” Herring went on to say that every teacher from the athletic department to the science department had a role in creating the person he is today. Herring is married to wife Kellie and they have two children, Jagger who is six and Hazel who is two years old. They couple has one more child on the way. They are currently residing in Dallas, TX.

Our next alumni feature is Class of 2008 graduate **Megan McSwain** who is attending Carson-Newman College in Jefferson City, TN and is double majoring in Photography/ Cross Cultural Sociology with a minor in Missions.



McSwain who attended MICS for six years began short term mission trips with the First Baptist Church Merritt Island Jubilation Student Choir when she was in the seventh grade. Her love for travel is what initiated her interest in missions trips, which she also took through MICS, but she soon realized that the motivation was much more. “I have always loved to travel and felt that maybe I could combine my love of traveling with sharing the love of Christ with others long-term someday,” McSwain said.

Since then she has served in California, Mississippi, Nicaragua, Canada, Haiti, Uganda and India.

It wasn’t long before she began to feel a calling to go and spend a longer period of time serving God on the mission field and before she knew it she stumbled upon an online blog written by a woman who had traveled to Uganda to start a baby orphanage called The Bulrushes, which is part of a mission organization in Uganda called Watoto. McSwain knew she had to go. After her acceptance she made the trip and found herself changing diapers, feeding babies, and showering these babies with love. It wasn’t all fun and games with the babies. “At times it was hard, as we had several severely sick and malnourished babies to care for, but at the same time I believe it was one of the most rewarding experiences of my life,” McSwain said. This summer she plans to return to Watoto for two to three months.

McSwain shared that being a student at MICS influenced her to serve the Lord on the mission field. “Being at MICS helped me build my foundation on what I truly believed. I was encouraged to pursue Christ. I grew so much in my faith throughout high school and the godly influence of my teachers played a big part in that.”

Megan is the daughter of Joe and Daphne McSwain and she has one sister, Sarah who graduated from MICS in 2005.

MICS TALENT SHOW

★ TALENT SHOW ★

Learning Lab
Fundraiser!

Saturday, February 20th
6 p.m., MICS Atrium

Come on out and SPONSOR a Talent Show act of your choice! The act with the MOST sponsorships will be named the TOP SPONSOR of the night!

All proceeds will go to the MICS Learning Lab project!

For more information on the Learning Lab and how it will benefit YOUR children refer to the October/November Paw Print at www.micscougars.com

DON'T MISS OUT ON THIS NIGHT OF
FOOD, FUN AND TALENT!

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We're on the Web!
www.micscougars.com



Upcoming Events

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| Feb. 11 | Duke Reception |
| Feb. 20 | Talent Show Fundraiser |
| Mar. 1-5 | Scholastic Book Fair |
| Mar. 12 | K3 Spring Program |
| Mar. 19 | Jr. Broadway " <i>Beauty and the Beast</i> " |