

The Flip Side

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Merced Scholars Charter School

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The Challenge

Submitted by Jon Magboo



You've been visited by "Extreme Makeover: Home Edition", and the build-

ers fixed up the electricity, wiring, etc., but on the bottom floor they installed a three light switch panel. One switch controls the light in the upstairs guest room. Your job is to find out which switch it is, but there's one rule: you can only go upstairs once. *How do you find out which switch is which?*

MSCS's 2nd Annual Celebration of Learning

By Mrs. Green

On Monday night at the Merced Scholars Charter School in Atwater over 150 people gathered to enjoy the 2nd annual "Celebration of Learning". This is a yearly event in which students can display their work for the year, as well as showcasing their talents and abilities.

Students Michelle Bullock and Rochelle Miranda were the Masters of Ceremony for the event and Student Org.

President, Lexie Pivrotto-Britton provided opening remarks.

Guest Speakers included the following: MSCS Administrator, Michelle Fagundes, Merced County Office of Education Superintendent, Dr Lee Anderson, and MSCS Advisory Chairperson, Karen

Pivrotto. Mike Nelson, Merced County Board of Supervisors, was also in attendance to present the school with a Certificate of Recognition.

The event featured poetry readings by Freshman Tiffany Bailey, and Sophomore Krista Roberts. There were musical performances by Sophomore Lexie Pivrotto-Britton and Junior Nathan

Moreno. There was also a skit performed by students Megan Riise, TJ Roberts, Krista Roberts, Drew Roberts and Jon Magboo.

There were Student Recognition Awards handed out for Community Service, Academic Improvement and Outstanding Academic Achievement. Guests also

took part in a Silent Auction with donations from the following businesses: Armstrong's Feed & Pet World, Bagel Tyme, Chevys, Christina's Finest Clothing, Essential Health Massage Institute, Joey O's Barber, H & W Family Drive-In, Home Depot, Jamba Juice, La Casita, Linens 'n Things, Periano's Jewelers, Playhouse Merced, Raley's, and Renee's Gifts.

The evening ended with closing remarks by MSCS Teacher, Debbie Nishihama. Mrs. Nishihama thanked everyone for coming and reminded everyone that next year MSCS will be adding a middle school and will be able to accept students from 6th, 7th and 8th grades, as well as High School students.

Anyone interested in additional information about Merced Scholars Charter



First Silent Auction a Success!

By Rochelle Miranda

"Wow, look at all the things they've got!" "Bid on that! Bid on that!"

This is what I overheard at the auction table at our very first Celebration of Learning Silent Auction.

There was a bidding war go-



ing on between people over the starter aquarium (donated to us by Armstrong's Feed and Pet World),

as well as the circular saw (from Home Depot), which was eventually won by Mrs. Bailey.

At the end of the night, our Silent Auction helped us raise \$350.00 for our leadership trip to Camp Green Meadows!

We would like to thank the businesses that so generously donated our auction prizes, as well as the people who spent their money bidding on everything!

Meet Megan Riise!

By Tiffany Bailey

Meet Megan Riise, Freshman and Student Organization Secretary! Megan is a good friend of mine, as well as an all-around good person. Every time I see her, she always has a smile on her face and something nice to say.

Megan's hobbies include: singing, taking pictures, drawing, going outside, being on the computer, and playing video games. She also enjoys being on her cell phone and surfing MySpace on her laptop.

Because of her love of animals, Megan once dreamed of being a veterinarian,

but after she learned more about the field, she changed her mind. Now Megan says that when she gets older, she'd like to be either an actress, a singer, or a model. Her goal is to one day get up in front of a crowd of thousands of people and sing for them. She hopes she can achieve that.

Music is a big part of Megan's life. Her favorite music includes Good Charlotte, Papa Roach, MXPX, Fall Out Boy, Gold Mind Squad, Relient K, and Hilary Duff. Among Megan's favorite movies are *Sweet Home Alabama*, *Bruce Almighty*, and *The Ring*.

Megan is a Christian and is also pro-life. She thinks it's wrong to criticize someone for their religion, because "we all have our reasons for believing what we believe."

Megan cites her most embarrassing moment as being the time that she was trying to demonstrate the splits for some friends and her pants split right down the middle!

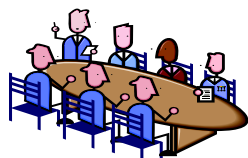
If you see Megan around, don't hesitate to say hello to her! You won't regret it!



Upcoming Events

By Nathan Moreno

May 11th, 2006



A parent meeting will be held on May 11th, 2006 at MSCS from 10 am to 2 pm. The first half of the meeting will be concerning Career Education courses at MSCS, and the second half of the meeting will be in regards to the integration of the new middle school. This meeting is for all parents of currently enrolled students, and all parents of future students.

May 31st, 2006



It is that time of the year again, when we must say good bye to another group of graduating seniors. This year MSCS will be hosting their graduation ceremony at the Clark/Newbold

Room at MCOE, from 6—7:30 pm. Please come and show your support to the eight seniors that will be participating in this ceremony. This year's graduating class is comprised of Katie Mackey, Alex Camberos, Ben Suarez, Richard Taylor, Alvaro Garcia, Viviana Mendoza, Giovanni Perez, and Khrystyna Parreira. Following the National Anthem (sung by Lexie Pivrotto-Britton) and the faculty introduction, the diplomas will be presented along with personalized comments to all of the graduates.

A Recap of MSCS's First Murder Mystery Party

By Lexie Pivrotto—Britton

The room went black. A scream rang out through the building. The lights flickered back on, and there lay a very dead Miss Bitters (Mrs. Nishihama).

This was the start of our Murder Mystery Party. One of the eight suspects (all members of the Student Organization), Brainy Brian (Nathan Moreno), Stuttering Stacy (Rochelle Miranda), Matilda (Me), Javelin Joe (Josiah Garcia), Drop-Out Dan (Drew Roberts), Gorgeous Gail (Megan Riise),

Lefty Lou (Jon Magboo), or Office Floyd (TJ Roberts), was the culprit, and it was up to the audience to figure out whodunit.

After the initial questioning of the suspects by Officer Floyd, in which the audience learned each suspect's motives for murdering Miss Bitters, they were given sheets of paper listing each suspect. Then were asked to choose who they thought was the real murderer.

The audience was asked why they thought



the suspect they chose was guilty, and then, the real culprit was revealed. It was none other than... ME! Matilda, the teacher's aide.

At the end of the night, the Murder Mystery Party truly was a success. It's something that we hope to do every year.

Oral History Presentations

By Lexie Pivrotto—Britton

This year was the first year that MSCS 11th graders have presented Oral History interviews in front of teachers, fellow students, and members of the community.

The 11th grade Oral History Project is an attempt by students to speak with older members of the community to try and bridge the generation gap between teenagers and senior citizens.

This year, eleven 11th grade American History students presented their interviews with a wide variety of different citizens in the community using various

different kinds of media, including video tape and audio recording.

The students really showed that they had gained some kind of knowledge from the people they conducted their interviews with.

Nathan Moreno interviewed Toshi Nishihama (Mrs. Nishihama's father-in-law), who was imprisoned in a Japanese internment camp from the age of 7 to the age of 11. His presentation included a powerpoint with slides containing pictures of the Japanese internment camps and audio of Mr. Nishihama speaking about his experiences. His presentation

was well thought out and beautifully done.

Hulda Cisneros interviewed Jerry L. Lewis, a friend of her family who was an army doctor. She read her interview in the form of a biography and told the audience the story of Mr. Lewis's life without needing any audio or visuals to show us. Her words and the way she said them did it for her.

All-in-all, the presentations were very well done. All the students did a wonderful job of trying to learn something from history.

Summer Plans

By Megan Riise

It's May, and, as you can see, summer is coming pretty soon, and we'll be out of school. I've been asking myself, "what should I do this summer?" I wasn't quite sure what to do, so I asked other people what they were going to be doing.

Some people said that they were going camping this summer.



Some said that they were going to visit family. Still some others said that they were going to go swimming in pools or at the beach.

Some people are going on cruises, car trips, or plane rides. Some are going to festivals or concerts, and still others are just going to stay home and relax. Some people... well...

some people are going to get jobs.

As you can see, there are many options beyond what I have listed that you can do during the summer. I can probably do more than one of these things.

Summer is going to be a time to explore, be silly, and have fun. Then you can get prepared for the next school year!

Student Writing

By TJ Roberts

In the lives of beings I see, true fantasy. Hopefulness of wondering, into deserts pondering, "What is in store for me?" No blessing, no warning, just some more dreaming. Just as a burrow, the danger seems narrow. Making it no sense to slow. Not knowing where you're going, into danger, life seems flowing.

No sense of fear, just a strong temper, and on into danger you go.

My friends, if life seems dreary, don't be weary, and go into the mouth of danger. Don't make the mistake, and make it delay, the course of life God has in store. For when connecting with danger, life is no straighter. Just a misread death is in store.

You know, for so long I've heard the words, patience is a virtue. And so far, in the past years I have not been withstanding. Once and a while complaining that I have not what I need. And putting forth my problems before whoever would hear. Then thinking to myself, to resolve the contempt, or problem myself, instead of stopping and asking God to help. But finally seeking patience from God, and listening patiently for an answer, or resolve. It might not come quickly, but when it does, it comes with the sort of thankfulness that you would not have if you didn't have pa-



tience. And the things you need always come to you at the right time. It is hard for me to say that at times, because sometimes I have to wait longer than I would like. But the relief of finally receiving the things that you asked for sometimes comes with something that you didn't ask for, that makes the thing you asked for better. It is confusing at times, but in the end it usually works out.

If you have a poem or writing you would like to submit, please see Mrs. Nishihama

