THE MANE EDITION

McKinney Christian Academy

November/December 2014 | Volume 13, Issue 3

NEWS BRIEFS

photo by Mike Pawlish

GIRLS VARSITY BASKETBALL: Senior Julie James, Freshman Marissa Wilks, and Junior Hannah Wilks pose with their tournament award.

photo by Tara Ackmann

GRANDPARENTS DAY: The fifth grade choir performs for their parents, grandparents, and great friends in the audience.

photo by Luke Norrell

PIE FEST: Second grade "Native American" Isaiah Evans enjoys his festive pumpkin pie in celebration of Thanksgiving.

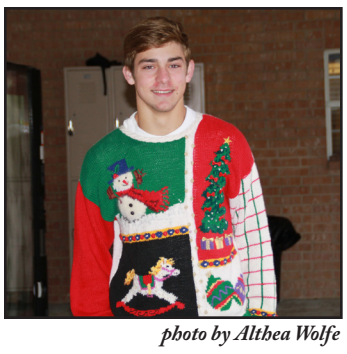

photo by Althea Wolfe

UGLY SWEATER CONTEST: Conner Harbor grins as he shows off his Christmas sweater during the Ugly Sweater Contest sponsored by Student Government.

FEATURE

Christmas Time at MCA

photo by Laura Smith

Much to the audience's delight, Julie Tucker's Middle School Drama class performed "The Grinch Who Stole Christmas" at the MCA Christmas Program. After hours of practice and days of hard work, the night proved to be a huge success.

Jessica Mains, *Editor-In-Chief*

On Monday, December 8, students and parents filed into the SLC ready to be filled with Christmas cheer. Fine Arts teachers Ken Snow, Chris Keyes, Diedre Sickles, and Julie Tucker took deep breaths in preparation. Soon after seats were filled, MCA's yearly Christmas Program began.

All of Middle School and Upper School Fine Arts programs participated in making the night a huge success. The sixth grade band began the performance, followed by Middle School band. The Middle School and Upper school bands joined together to perform songs such as "Reindeer Gallop", "Do You Hear What I Hear", "It Came Upon a Midnight Clear", "Rockin' Nutcracker", "Holiday Flutecake", and "Christmas Celebration".

The choirs also performed, sixth grade beginning and the others, including Middle School Choir, following after. The Upper School performed "What Child is This", "As the Snow Begins to Fall", and "Sing With Joy on Christmas Day". The Girls and Boys Ensemble Choirs also performed songs including "Dona Nobis", "The Virgin Mary Had a Baby Boy", "Gloria", and "Bethlehem Spiritual".

Of course, MCA's Upper School and Middle School Drama Departments also played their part, performing "The Grinch Who Stole Christmas" and recounting other favorite Christmas memories. Art students in Middle School and Upper School placed their works on display for all to see.

All of the Fine Arts students and teachers worked hard for this year's performance, putting in hours of practice and dedication before the final event. The Christmas Program turned out, as it does every year, to be a huge success.

Student of the Month

Bright of Mind, Strong of Character

Will Harrell, *Staff Writer*

When you think of how an MCA Mustang should act, what example comes to mind? To Upper School principal Laura Smith, Julie James was an easy choice. She is known for her academic excellence, stellar athletic performance, and outstanding character. As many parents and students know, as an MCA athlete, it is difficult to juggle both sports and academics, but James does this with ease. Upper School Science teacher John Keyes stated, "Julie James is one of the most gifted students I've ever come across. She's good at everything."

James is also known as a great friend. Senior Madi Dossey mentioned, "Julie is one of the most genuine, caring, and consistent friends you could possibly have. She's one of my best friends and I'm so proud of everything she's accomplished. I'm amazed at how she's able to keep Christ at the center of her life, so proud of her!" MCA is a wonderful school partially because of its amazing students and James is a great example of how to represent Christ through everything you do. MCA graduate and Naval athlete Connor Doyle spoke highly of Julie's character by adding "It is a privilege to have grown so close to Julie over the past few years. I am so thankful to be a part of her life, and to have seen the way she inspires others and me. Whether in school or in athletics, she gives 100% effort from start to finish. Most people don't understand the level of work she puts in on a daily basis... From taking advanced classes to playing on a nationally ranked soccer team, she constantly perseveres without complaint. The amount of admiration and respect I have for her is tremendous. I love Julie dearly and could not be more proud of her!" James is the type of Mustang MCA wants to have represent them and it will be wonderful to see the legacy she leaves.

photo by Prestige Portraits

Julie James smiles for her senior portrait. Julie is known throughout MCA for her outstanding diligence in academics, devotion and skill in athletics, and overall brilliant character.

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A Thanksgiving Production

An Old Tradition

Alec Harris, *Staff Writer*

What other tradition brings together all of the MCA community none other than Grandparents Day? Grandparents Day is an annual McKinney Christian Academy event involving the parents, guardians, and grandparents of MCA students. Family members of lower school students are invited to the school for a day of fun events, food, and even a musical play. Grandparents Day has been an MCA tradition for a number of years. This year, however, McKinney Christian Academy is getting back to its roots, only involving lower school students in the festivities. The Upper School seniors participated by selling items to the grandparents.

The 2014 Grandparents Day was truly an event to remember. It incorporated all of the Lower School. Together, through the direction of Lower School music teacher, Kathi Bass, they put on an extravagant, Broadway themed musical production. Throughout the show, they would sing and dance to old popular tunes, grade by grade. It was very well received, "I had a really great time singing to my grandparents", said fourth grader Katelyn Fillebrown. After families enjoyed that, they made their way over to the Upper School to partake in some of the great "Econ Fair" projects. This Grandparents Day was an enjoyable evening McKinney Christian Academy won't soon forget.

photo by Tara Ackmann

First graders sing the songs they have practiced so diligently for their families on Grandparents Day.

photo by Braxton Fillebrown

First graders gather together to work on some corn-covered projects during their Corn Fest.

First Grade Corn Fest

A Corny Day

Braxton Fillebrown, *Staff Writer*

On November 21st, the first graders participated in the Annual Corn Fest, an event not only for the students, but for parents as well. First graders participate fun activities involving corn in throughout the day. Some of these activities include: the Legend of the Five Corn Kernels, Cornstarch and Water, the Tasting Center, and Measuring with Corn Station.

The cornstarch and water station gives students the opportunity to mix equal parts of cornstarch and water together. Students then must decide if it is a solid or liquid because when it squeezed it turns into a solid and when it sits it is a liquid. This is a fun station for the students as, they get to get their hands dirty with the messy goop. In the Tasting Station students get to try cornbread, corn grits, cream of corn, kernel corn, and corn chips. After tasting all the food they graphed their favorite food on the smart board. The Corn Measuring station is where the students measure arms, legs, foot length, plus total body height with popped corn on a string.

Overall, the Annual Corn Fest is an exciting day that allows a fun, hands-on experience for first graders, their families, and their teachers to get into the Thanksgiving spirit.

The Best Pie Fest

Now, That's a Pie!

Abbie Parker, *Staff Writer*

The annual second grade Pie Fest was another success this year. Pie Fest is a fun-filled day in which second grade students perform a Native American dance, make crafts, and devour many different kinds of pie. The Pie Fest was held on Thursday afternoon, November 20. The classes taught by Mrs. Francis and Mrs. Shackelford were split into groups of four and assigned a tribe to research. Each group created a diorama about their tribe. Second grade teacher Mrs. Francis said, "During our 2nd grade pie feast we celebrate our students' knowledge of Native Americans with a Native American dance performance, artwork, group reports, and dioramas. We end it all sharing a time of thanksgiving and pie."

The Pie Fest is a time to have fun before Thanksgiving break. Second grader Isaiah Evans says, "I love the Pie Fest because I get to eat my favorite kind of pie; apple." The student's families were invited to see their children perform in a choral event singing Do-Re-Mi from The Sound of Music. Shackelford said, "The Second Grade Pie Feast was a fun celebration at the end of our Native American unit." The Pie Fest has been held yearly for a long time and the plan is for the tradition to continue on for many years to come.

photo by Luke Norrell

Second graders gather together to eat some delicious pies during the annual second grade Pie Fest.

MCA Teacher Honored

Orozco Awarded KLAK Teacher of the Month

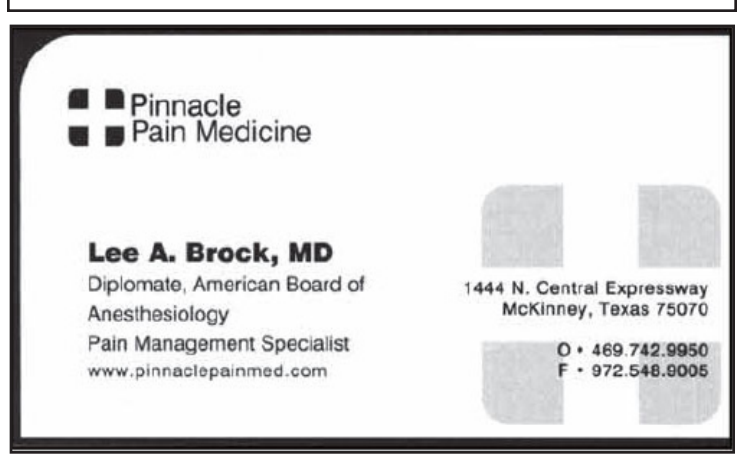
Guest Writers

In early December, 97.5 KLAK Radio announced MCA's own Jaimie Orozco as winner of their November 2014 Teacher of the Month award for Collin County. She received $500 to use in her classroom along with a commemorative plaque.

Orozco teaches AP History, Economics, AP Government, and Personal Finance at the school. She has a real talent for engaging students and has always been known as an excellent teacher at MCA. "I am truly honored to have been selected," Orozco said, "But the truth is I work with many equally deserving teachers and I love my students." Orozco has also volunteered through her church for local organizations including Clothe-A-Child, Hope Resource Center and many more.

courtesy photo

Robert Camp, Senior Vice President of Commercial Lending at Independent Bank, and Shaun Schell of Eldorado Mazda present Jaimie Orozco with her award.



Helping Hands
Serving the Local Area

Mary Hana Spencer, *Staff Writer*

On November 21, McKinney Christian Academy's middle school students participated in Community Service Day by serving in the local McKinney area. Students were given the opportunity to pick a location of their choice. Some students chose to attend Mission Regan, where they sorted and organized medical equipment and supplies. Others chose to attend Minnie's Food Pantry in Plano, a foundation that feeds as many people as possible by providing groceries to families in need. Students were also given the chance to attend Burks and Press Elementary Schools. At the two elementary schools, MCA students spent time with their new elementary friends by working on crafts and writing letters to soldiers. Seventh grader, Maura Cueva, who went to Press Elementary said, "It was so much fun to make new friends with the little elementary kids, it was definitely a great experience." Eighth grader, Lauren Shackelford, who also attended Press said, "I learned that it is really important to help children less fortunate than us." Another mission option was First Baptist Anna's foundation, "Anna's House." The purpose of "Anna's House" is to provide families with clothing and proper necessities. Students who were given this opportunity packaged and delivered these items to families in need. Other MCA students chose not to leave the campus. Those students made crafts and letters for United States soldiers deployed around the world.

"It is such a blessing that MCA provides its students with the opportunity to serve as disciples of Jesus. This turned out to be a very successful Community Service Day," said middle school teacher, Julie Tucker.

courtesy photo

Middle schoolers pause for a photo while filling bags with candy for veterans during their community service day.

photo by Michael McIntyre

Seniors Madi Dossey and Rylee Frisbie sell all sorts of sugary sweets and treats during the Senior Econ fair.

MCA Seniors Take on Shark Tank
Future Entrepreneurs on the Rise

Makenzie Shaw, *Sports Editor*

It's that time of year again: time for selling and especially time for buying. Every year the senior class participates in an Economics Fair. During this time, Economic classes partake in a Shark Tank simulation. This assignment helps the students to learn how to start up and run their very own business along with managing their business accordingly. Economics teacher, Jaimie Orozco said, "I am so proud of the hard work and entrepreneurial skills displayed by the Seniors at the Econ Fair. They had to design and execute a business plan knowing their target audience, create marketing tools and practice interacting in a monopolistic competitive setting. They are looking forward to their Shark Tank pitches in front of invited sharks from the business and marketing world in order to put the students in a real life situation. All of the students worked tremendously hard in order to make their businesses successful." This process took endless amounts of time and effort to make their customers want to buy their specific product. The students sold a variety of things such as baked goods, jewelry, hand crafted signs, hot chocolate, coffee, and much more. Others decided to provide a service from raking leaves to flamingo pranks, and even cleaning services. Senior, Hannah Warren said, "I loved having the opportunity to be able to run my own business and get a hands-on experience of how much it takes to be a successful business running against many others." This assignment prepares the students with a glimpse of the 'real' world and all the ups and downs that come along with running your own business.

Keeping Up with Excellence
7th Grade Duke Tippers

Edna Pajela, *Guest Writer*

Thirty-six seventh graders of McKinney Christian Academy qualified in this year's Duke Talent Identification Program (TIP) Seventh Grade Talent Search. The Duke TIP provides opportunities to support academically gifted students in their growth and development.

"Eligibility is truly an honor," says Kate Perry, MCA School Counselor.

To qualify for this year's program, students must have achieved a score at or above the 95th percentile on a 2013 or 2014 accepted grade-level standardized achievement test or an approved state criterion-referenced test.

According to Duke TIP, "These students reach their full potential by providing an above-level testing experience, access to advanced educational programs, educational guidance, resources, and special recognition of their accomplishments."

In the past, some of our students have received scores that qualified for the state award and even for the grand award. Students invited to the state award must have an ACT score equal or above 21 in any of the four categories (English, Math, Reading, and Science) or a score of 20 three out of the four categories. Students invited to the grand ceremony must have an ACT composite score of at least 28 or have at least one of the following scores: English ≥ 29; Math ≥ 28; Reading ≥ 30; Science ≥ 27. Duke Tip also uses SAT scores.

The Texas state award ceremony is usually held at University at North Texas in Denton while the grand award ceremony honors students at Duke University in North Carolina.

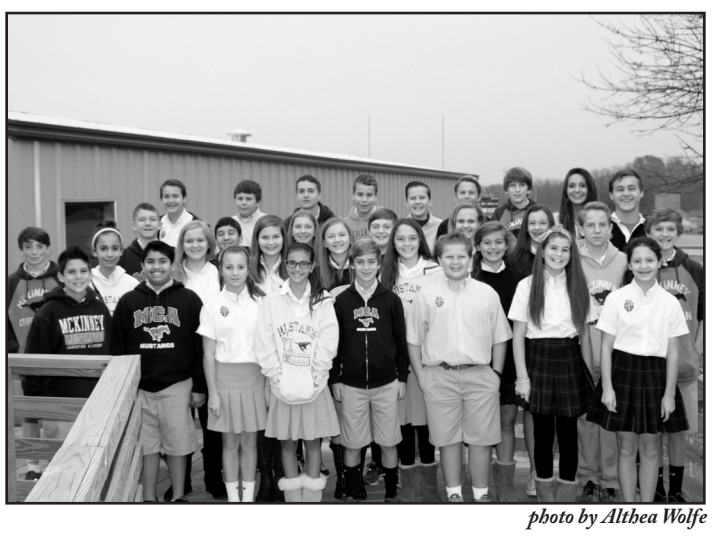


photo by Althea Wolfe

All the Duke TIP qualifiers get together for a photo after making MCA history.

stitch by stitch
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Hey Mustangs!
Do you want to win a $5 Bahama Bucks Gift card?
Find the Mane Edition's Hidden Mustang and show the office where it is!
Can you find it?
The Mustang looks <--- like these --->
(It may be in color)

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Jolly Ole Santa Claus

The Story Behind Saint Nick

Evan Gerdes, *Forum Editor*

Everyone knows Santa Claus. The jolly old man in the red suit and white beard has been a major cultural symbol for years. But is there a real story behind Santa? What might it be? Many different media have given their own version of an answer to this, but the true legend of Santa Claus goes back as far as ancient times.

photo by Lori Parker

Abbie Parker, four, and her sister Rebecca, seven, sitting on Santa's lap in December of 2003.

The original Santa was a young man called St. Nikolas of Myra, who lived during the fourth century. Born in modern-day Turkey, he is the world's most popular non-Biblical saint and artists have portrayed him more often than any other saint except Mary. Early illustrations of St. Nikolas depict him as stern and holding a birch rod. He was more a symbol of discipline than the happy, overweight gift-giver children know today.

In this ancient time, poor folks were kept from starvation when the orphan St. Nikolas secretly delivered to them gold coins, some of the first Christmas gifts. Over the years, the legend of St. Nikolas grew. He came to possess magical flying reindeer and a sleigh, crawl down people's chimneys, and hail from the North Pole. While we the classic tale has changed drastically over time, we know that there was, in fact, a real Santa Claus.

Beginning to Look a Lot Like... Christmas?

Christmas Fun During MCA's Ugly Sweater Contest

F. Brothers Junior Jack Sendelbach and Garrett Sendelbach stop for a quick picture.

A.Senior Logan Boozer shows off her festive snoopy sweater.

E. Freshman James Atchison is excited to show off his festive sweater.

D. Freshman McKinley Tyler smiles for the camera, wearing her ugly cardigan.

H. Ugly sweater contest winner Clara O'Neil poses showing off her winning sweater.

B. Mother and son teacher Sharon Boese and freshman Sam Boese take a quick picture together.

G. Winner Marissa Full, 12 pose with friend senior Noelle Reed after learning she won the ugly sweater contest.

C. Group of Upper School students pose to show off their ugly sweaters.

photos by Althea Wolfe

EDITORIAL

The Meaning of the 12 Days of Christmas

1 Partridge in a Pear Tree: Jesus Christ, who is injured to distract predators and defend His helpless children.

2 Turtle Doves: The Old and New Testaments, which tell the Story of God to the world.

3 French Hens: Faith, hope, and charity– the theological virtues.

4 Calling Birds: The four gospels or the four evangelists.

5 Golden Rings: The Pentateuch (first five books of the Old Testament) which give the history of man's fall from grace.

6 Geese A-laying: The six days of creation that confess God as Creator and Sustainer of the world.

7 Swans A-swimming: Prophecy, ministry, teaching, exhortation, giving, leadership, and compassion – the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit.

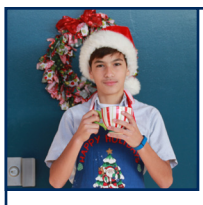
8 Maids A-milking: The beatitudes found in Matthew 5:3-10.

9 Ladies Dancing: The nine fruits of the Holy Spirit found in Galatians 5:22-23.

10 Lords A-leaping: The ten commandments found in Exodus 20:1-17.

11 Pipers Piping: Jesus twelve disciples, excluding Judas Iscariot who betrayed Christ.

12 Drummers Drumming: The twelve points of doctrine in the Apostle's Creed.



Cooking *with* Cueva
Santa's Hot Cocoa

Making Santa's Hot Chocolate is an easy and fun way to spend time with friends and family. Whether on Christmas Day or simply a chilly morning, just follow these easy steps and soon, you will have a warm, holiday drink everyone is sure to love.

You will need:

1. ¼ cup of water
2. 2 Tbsp of cocoa
3. 3 Tbsp sugar
4. 1 ½ cup of milk
5. Small marshmallows and candy cane stick (optional)

Steps:

1. Place the sugar and the cocoa in a pan, then slowly add the hot water.
2. Mix until fully blended.
3. Boil over medium heat for about two minutes. Stir constantly.
4. Add milk to the mixture and stir occasionally until the mixture is thoroughly heated. Do not boil.
5. Remove from heat and stir well
6. Pour into mugs.
7. Add marshmallows and a candy cane (optional)

Legends of Christmas

MCA In the McKinney Parade of Lights

Althea Wolfe, *Staff Writer*

On Saturday, December 13, McKinney Christian Academy participated in the Parade of Lights in downtown McKinney. This year was the fifteenth year that the parade occurred and the theme was "Legends of Christmas". The streets were packed with families anxiously awaiting the start of the parade. All the stores were open and ready for the crowds long before the parade started. Some people had even set up chairs and blankets hours before the event began. Around 5:30, the crowds began to get thicker and the streets more packed. Excitement buzzed in the air as the parade finally began..

Over fifty businesses, schools, and other organizations participated in the parade, including the McKinney Bass Club, the McKinney High School marching band, and Taylor Dance Studio. MCA has been participating in the parade for five years and have had a variety of students participate on the float as shepherds, angels, and in the manger scene as Mary and Joseph. The students are always excited to take part in making the float look good by showing their excitement throughout the parade.

> "I was really happy when I found out I would get to ride on the float as an angel. I had a lot of fun and I really hope that I get to be on it again next year." -Stevie Hickman, first

Students chosen to be on the float can be in any grade from pre-k through fifth grade. They all must exhibit Christ-like qualities such as respect since they are representing MCA. Not only are the students from lower school on the float in the parade, but both the Upper and Middle School cheerleaders contributed to the lively atmosphere. They passed out candy to spectators lining the streets and called out several some of their most famous cheers.

Students are always excited to participate. First grader Stevie Hickman said, "I was really happy when I found out I would get to ride on the float as an angel. I had a lot of fun and I really hope that I get to be on it again next year." Third grader Kyla Chastain said, "I have been on the float before and it was a fun thing to because I got to support our school." Faculty and staff, too, enjoy the parade. They love being able to see their students step up and represent Christ through the parade. Director of development Carol Ownby, said, "MCA is so proud of their shepherds and angels. We appreciate the Shelton's for all their hard work they put into crafting and designing the float and are very excited that we were awarded first place again." Both those who attended and who participated thoroughly enjoyed the Parade of Lights experience. The parade is a well anticipated event during the Christmas season and MCA certainly intends to participate for many years to come, reminding people to keep Christ as the center of the season.

photo by Kathy Barton

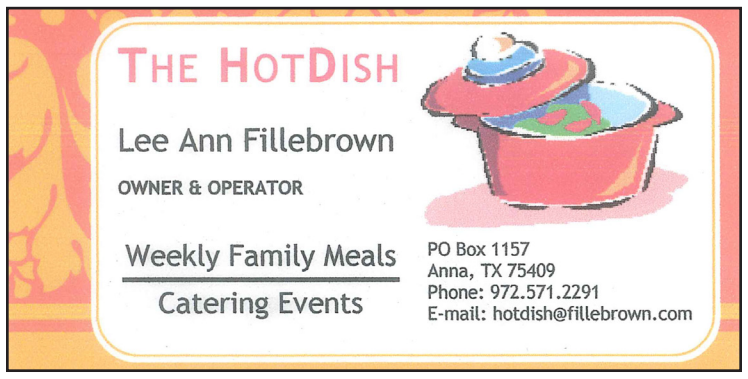
Upper School cheerleaders pose for a picture before marching through the parade in downtown McKinney.

photo by Kathy Barton

Second grader Emily Pulley acted as "Mary" on MCA's float during downtown McKinney Parade of Lights.

photo by Meg Pulley

MCA's float wins first place in the downtown McKinney Parade of Lights.



BY THE NUMBERS

20

I am so excited for this season being a senior. God has given us this great opportunity, and we are going to make the most of it.
-Julie James (12)

03

It feels good being a senior but I am also sad that this is my last season to play basketball. I am looking forward to the rest of the year.
-Blake Gomaa (12)

10

I feel very confident in this years team. As long as we play our hardest, we will do great things. Go Lady Mustangs!
-Lily Thompson (12)

20

I feel like the season is going great. If we put in hard work in every practice and game we can do better than we ever have before.
-Gavin Corley (11)

57

I like basketball because my team is well run and the teams are fair and play well. The coaches are so nice and help us improve so much.
-Trace Norfleet (5)

Got Hoops?

Boys Stampede Their Way to District

McKenna Hubert *Staff Writer*

photo by McKenna Hubert

Boys Varsity Basketball team takes home third place in the S&S tournament in Sadler, Texas on December 6.

The McKinney Christian Academy boys varsity basketball team is off to a great start with their 2014-2015 season. Winning their home opener against Grapevine Faith, the Mustang closed out the game with a 91-79 victory. The team is expected to do tremendous things this season, and that is exactly what they are aiming for. Senior Blake Gomaa said, "I think that from the start of the season, the rest of the year looks promising." The Mustangs are constantly working diligently at becoming better, staying after practices to watch film, and practicing many hours and even some on the weekends. The team is preparing for district play which will begin December 9th. Junior, Gavin Corley said, "I feel like the season is going great and if we put in hard work, we can do better than we ever have before. I expect us to win a lot of game and I expect us to at least win one playoff game, if not more." December 4th-6th, the Mustangs played in the S&S Consolidated Love of the Game Tournament where senior Blake Gomaa was awarded All-Tournament Team. The Mustangs took a 3rd place victory against Pottsboro 73-32. During Christmas break, the Mustangs will host the fifth annual McKinney Christian Round-Up Tournament December 29-31st in the Joshua Gym. Going into these two competitive tournaments, the team is determined, confident, and ready to play competitively. Last year the Mustangs made it to the first round of playoffs and hope to do so again this year, going even deeper into the playoffs. The MCA boys' basketball team is confident that their hard work will pay off in the long run. The MCA basketball team is off to an exciting start. Make plans to come and cheer on these players as they make a run for a state title.

photo by Judy Collins

Sophomore, Blake Hartline attempts to make a layup against HSAA.

photo by Judy Collins

Junior, Cameron Martin dribbles the ball past two HSAA defenders.

COACH'S CORNER

"Our boys basketball is off to a great start. We are all involved in District play and charged to make a playoff run.

We are definitely ALL IN."

Coach Bartoo

Making a Statement

Solid Start to The Season

Katie Jones, *Staff Writer*

"The MCA JV boys are off to a solid start this season. The team has been working hard in practice to improve and is getting great leadership from their two captains: Juniors, Steven Singler, and Jack Adelsperger," says Head JV basketball coach P.C. Christopher. The JV boys' basketball team has already started the season with four wins, and three losses. Freshman, Ethan Norwood says," We aren't the most athletic team but we play as hard as we can and leave everything we have on the court," proving that by having a winning record. But the season is not over yet. On the court, sophomore Trey Tarazewich is the floor general who runs the offense and is usually tasked with guarding the opponent's best player. He is contributing 7.3 points per game. Brent Strunk is the power in the post and leads all Mustang scorers with 7.9 points per game. Sophomore Jack Adelsperger contributes seven points per game and freshman Mac Grimes brings a spark off the bench playing aggressive defense and contributing 6.2 points per game.

Freshmen Noah Shackelford says "If we all put in work, we will succeed, hoping to make it to the playoffs." The whole team believes that if they all work together, and work hard they will have a successful season, but if it is not a team effort they will not succeed.

Boys Are All In

Effort Leads to Success

Christopher Thomas, *Staff Writer*

Middle school basketball is practicing to be the best, whenever, wherever, and at any time. The middle school Mustang boys' teams have been practicing for a few weeks now and are participating in rigorous games. Mustang boys' basketball is working hard this season with Division 1 who is 2-0 and Division 2 who is 0-1. The season is picking up and head coach, Philip Wysong, expects to have a rewarding season.

Wysong says, "I am very happy with the team thus far. They are a group of solid, respectful, and intelligent young men. They listen and want to improve. This makes it fun and easy to coach them as well as make my job easier." Last season's performance was ended short when Division 1 lost against Parish Episcopal in the playoffs.

But despite last season, both Divisions are persevering to have an even better season. Division 1 player Hayden Clow, 8, says, "We have had a very successful season and are going to continue our winning streak! We have practiced very hard for a very long time and the practice is finally paying off." Middle school boys' basketball is working hard every day, on and off the court to become better players and to be All In.

photo by Mike Pawlish

Mark Voelkel, seventh, attempts a layup.

photo by Kim Jensen

Second grade Lil' Stangs boys team says a prayer before their game.

photo by Judy Zbranek

First grade siblings Kody and Sadie Zbranek pose for a picture after their game.

photo by Sarah Dahl

Abby Dahl attempts to dribble around one of the opposing defenders.

Big Intentions

Starting Off Strong

Olivia Mitas, *Staff Writer*

With this being the first year for the Lil' Stangs basketball program, creating six teams was a great start. The programs teams consist of a first grade co-ed team, a second grade boys team, a third grade boys team, a third and fourth grade girls combined team, a fifth grade girls team, and a fifth grade boys team. The coaches are all parent volunteers and the teams practice once a week in the Student Life Center and have games held at the new PSA McKinney.

The students that participate in Lil Stangs basketball find it a blast. Fifth grader Abigail Dahl says, "It is really fun because you get to play with all your friends." Their first game was on November 29and all the teams may not have won, but they tried their best and gave it their all fighting to the very last point. Lil' Stangs 3rd grade boys coach, Sean Owens said, "Our third grade basketball boys played really well. The coach of the other team commented on our sportsmanship and then joined us for a team prayer." After the first game the teams continued to practice hard and increase their skills to increase their chances of winning the next games. So far, their season has been going well even though they have only had their first few games. The Lil' Stangs players will continue to keep on pushing and giving their all until they reach their final championship game.

Varsity Girls Got Game

Varsity Girls Basketball Shoots for a Title

McKenna Hubert, *Staff Writer*

The varsity girls basketball team is prepared and ready for their 2014-2015 season. With such a competitive and talented team, the Mustangs could definitely be unstoppable this year and will conscientiously work diligently throughout the season with one thought: A State Title. The team consists of 9th-12th grade girls and the three seniors, Julie James, Lily Thompson, and Kayce Zanatell will be the anchors of the team. Along with the boys varsity team, the girls also participated in the S&S Consolidated Love of the Game Basketball tournament, which was held on December 4th, 5th, and 6th, where they took home the Championship trophy winning 39-31 against Texoma Christian School. Junior Hannah Wilks and Freshman Marissa Wilks were awarded All-Tournament Team and senior Julie James was recognized as tournament MVP. The girls will also be hosting the fifth annual MCA-Round Up Basketball tournament December 29th, 30th, and 31st. According to the players, on unique aspect of their team is that they all get along so well and know how to encourage and uplift one another during practice and games. Senior, Kayce Zanatell, said, "This season had already been full of hilarious moments and has been super fun. I can already tell that we are going to go far in the playoffs." Through the years the Lady Mustangs have established a consistent district record of wins and ultimately heading into the playoffs. Last year the team made it to the fourth round but lost in overtime against Midland Classic. This year the Mustangs are looking forward to advancing even further in the playoffs with the final destination, the state finals.

photo by Judy Collins

Senior, Kayce Zanetell prepares to shoot a free throw, attempting to rack up points.

New Team, New Opportunities

Can't Hold These Girls Back From Success

Katie Jones, *Staff Writer*

For the past several years McKinney Christian Academy has not had enough girls to form a JV team. But this year enough girls joined the MCA basketball program and created a JV team. There are many girls who joined and had never played the game before but there are others who have played the game for years. The experience ranges from novices to veterans of the game. Sophomore Madi Hydock said, "I am very excited for this season. I hope we all can work better and improve individually, and to function better as one, and as a team." This group of hard-working girls is off to a slow start, but with each practice and game you can see major improvements. "I hope that the girls will learn more about the game, but to also grow closer as a team under God," said head JV Coach Dan Collins. The goal is for the players to learn the game and improve their skills so that they will be prepared for their season and the future, the varsity team. "The McKinney Christian Academy athletic department hopes to see the basketball future grow, and keep the winning tradition alive," says Collins.

photo by AnneMarie Jamison

The Varsity Lady Mustangs circle around each other to prepare before their game against HSAA.

Girls Slammin' It

Middle School Girls Are Working Hard

Christopher Thomas, *Staff Writer*

The McKinney Christian Academy middle school Girls basketball season is picking up really fast as they compete and practice to be the best of the best. When asked, Head Coach Tyler Frisbee commented, "The season is going excellent, I am very proud of all my girls, they are giving great effort, every game, and they are giving great sportsmanship." Coach Frisbee trusts that his players will continue to improve and develop as better players as the season continues. The girls on the team are excited for a new season, new start, and new players. When asked, Emma Thompson, 8, commented, "I think this season will continually get better. We have great relationships on and off the court and we are a really good team." The teams are playing very well as Division 1 is going strong with the season so far as they are undefeated with three wins while Division 2 is still persevering despite their one loss. The basketball season is in full swing and they cannot wait to prove themselves time and time again. Middle school basketball is progressing each game and each practice, to win the ultimate goal, to become a better player for Christ.

photo by Judy Collins

Senior, Lily Thompson scans the court for an open player to pass the ball past the HSAA defender.

Boys and Girls Off to a Strong Start

Running Toward Victory

Tara Ackmann, *Newspaper Advisor*

The Mustangs Varsity Men's Soccer team stampeded their way to an impressive victory over Trinity Christian Cedar Hill on December 2, 2014. The Mustangs dominated in possession for most of the game. The first goal came early in the first half from a shot taken by freshman Marco Cueva off a corner kick delivered near the back post. Junior, Que Harris followed later with goal in about the 30th minutes then TCS answered with a goal against the Mustangs shortly before the end of the first half. The second half commenced with increased intensity from TCS but the intensity was matched by the Mustangs. Every foray in to the Mustang's half was smothered by the Mustangs suffocating defensive back line led by Juniors Kyle Johnson and Michael Collum. Junior, Logan Valetutto, Mustang's keeper cleaned up on every potential break away and shut the opponents out in the second half. Junior, Sungmin Lee added to the Mustang tally in about the 78th minute with another goal to make the final score 3-1 victory for MCA. Next scheduled game is January 6, 2015 vs. The Covenant School Dallas. The team, while buoyed by the victory against TCS, is not taking any game for granted.

The Varsity girls soccer team has gotten off to a quick 3-1 start this year going into district play in January. Anchored by seniors Madi Johnson, Rylee Frisbie, Louise Perry, and Olivia Haskin, the Mustangs' hope for a district playoff birth will depend heavily on their leadership on and off the field.

Newcomers Sophmore, Katie Dossey, Freshmen, Megan Garms, and Abigail Gordon show that the future is bright for the Mustangs and Juniors, Liz Wong and Sara Harris provide a quick offensive attack. Sophomore Tori Grace Kraft and Juniors, Rebekah Wright, and Logan Jones anchor a new but improving defensive line for the Mustangs as they move to take on opponents like Dallas Covenant, Irving Highlands and Dallas Westwood en route to a hopeful birth to the playoffs.

Inaugural Season for Middle School Girls Soccer

New Season for Girls, New Coach for Boys

Braxton Fillebrown, *Staff Writer*

This is the first ever Lady Mustangs middle school soccer girls team. The Middle school girls' soccer team has officially kicked off their inaugural season with a 5-1 victory over Providence, but fell short to Parish Episcopal 1-2.

The soccer team is striving to win their first ever TAPPS championship but their primary goal is to glorify God on the field. "That the consensus of the team is to grow together as a team bonded in the sisterhood of Christ playing to glorify the Lord," said head middle school girls soccer coach Wendy McDowell.

The goal for the Middle School boys' soccer team first seeks to grow as men and hold each other accountable on and off the field. The boys suffered a tough loss against Parish Episcopal 3-1. "It's been a rough start to the season the team has been working very hard," said eighth grader JD Hamilton.

Coach Duke says that the game is always evolving and they will continue to grow as players. "A secondary goal for this year would be to grow these young men in the fundamental skills needed to take the next step as soccer players. There is not a single soccer player in the world who has it all figured out," says head Middle School boys soccer coach Jason Duke.

5 POINTS

Cut the Drama

Joshua Mains, *Campus Editor*

photo by Alec Harris

"Nobody wants to hear about it. Nobody wants to live with it. Nobody wants to be involved in it. There is a quote from Anaïs Nin that says, "We don't see things as they are; we see them as we are." It is not what happens, but what we do with drama shows our character. Your interpretation of the situation is what you see. Sometimes it is good to go to other people for help, but all too often a desire for help reverts into complaining or gossip. Nobody wants to get into drama even if they're your friend, and it is infuriating to hear nothing but the "he's", "she's", and "its". Charlie Chaplin once said, "Life is a tragedy when seen in close-up, but a comedy in long-shot." Life will be difficult. We will face pain. We will be hurt by other people. But we also have a limited time on this earth. There will be a day with no more pain or fear, but for right now life is going to have some bumps in the road. Look ahead to the future to what really matters, and get past the drama. One easy way to stay away from this disease of drama is to stay away from those situations all together. How do we do this? Take this quote to heart when it says, "Be who you are and say what you feel, because those who mind don't matter, and those who matter don't mind." - Bernard M. Baruch.

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