

MGA News



Special points of interest:

- **NJHS Induction Ceremony Feb. 2**
- **Publishing Party Feb. 5**
- **Measurement Fair Feb. 5**
- **Valentine's Day Dance for Middle School—Feb.10**
- **All President's Day Feb. 15—NO SCHOOL**

February

Volume 3, Issue 5

BLACK HISTORY: A CHANCE TO LEARN, WIN

By Vanessa Acebal

famous black person.

Black History Month activity.

At the beginning of February, Mater Gardens Academy will host a Black History Month Door Decorating Contest.

Throughout the month, every class will send one group at a time to browse the classroom doors and write down notes on the famous black person that each class door is decorated of.

At the end of the month, Ms. Kirkwood will design a quiz that will be given to each student. The quiz will be based on all of the Black History Month figures.

Every class must pick a name out of a hat and the famous black figure chosen will be that class's door decoration theme. The class door must be decorated by the students with historical facts and pictures of the

“The purpose of this contest is to help students recognize and describe historical figures in black history,” said Ms. Kirkwood, who is in charge of organizing the

The class that does the best on the quiz will get a pizza party. The second best class will get an ice cream party. So, study and get ready to decorate and FACE THE FACTS!

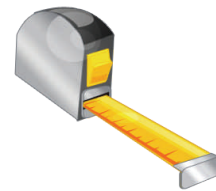
Inside this issue:

Chinese New Year	2
Publishing Party	2
Things To Do In February	2
Candy Grams For Sale	3
Valentine's Day Dance	3
NJHS Induction Ceremony	3
February Birthdays	4

STUDENTS MEASURE THEIR MATH SKILLS

by Stephanie Simosa

teach each other about measurement through hands-on activities. The sixth graders will set up several tables which



ing posters, instructions, and setting up the different work stations.

Mater Gardens and Mater Lakes sixth graders are hosting the annual Measurement Fair. The Measurement Fair will take place February 11th in the breeze-way on the first floor.

require the elementary students to complete various measurement activities.

“The Measurement Fair will be an effective way

The Measurement Fair is purposely made to have students



They are creat-

to teach students about measurement while having fun,” said Ms. Morales, a sixth grade math teacher involved in the organization of the event.

2010: CHINESE YEAR OF THE TIGER

by Manuela Gallego

Have you heard of the Sheng Xiao? Maybe you know it by the English name of the Chinese Zodiac. For those people who were born within the date range of January 28, 1998-February 15, 1999; 2010 is dedicated to you according to the Chinese calendar.

The legend states that the Jade Emperor decided to create a calendar. This calendar was of a 12-year cycle. To start, it gathered 12 different animals. They were supposed to

race across China. The order in which they arrived would be the order in the calendar. In the end, the animals came in this order: Rat, Ox, Tiger, R a b b i t , D r a g o n , Snake, Horse, Ram, Monkey, Rooster, Dog and Pig. The calendar would begin with the year of the Rat, and people born in that year would have the character traits of the Rat. And the same for all the other

11 animals and the years they represent.

This year is the year of the tiger. Tigers, considered to be brave and forceful, are the symbol of power and Lordliness. They are also well-known to be valiant, intelligent, faithful, virtuous and respected animals that fight evil.



Celebrate it while it lasts, the year of the tiger won't come back till 2022.

PUBLISHING PARTY HONORS WRITERS

by Kamila Fernandez

The Publishing Party for middle school will take place February 5, 2010 in the media center and will be hosted by Ms. Perez, the school's Reading Coach.

The event is intended to honor students that like writing and write very well. They will have a chance to share their writing with other students.

"The purpose of the Publishing Part is to honor good writing and to motivate students to write,"

said Ms. Perez.

The Publishing Party for the elementary took place on January 4.

THINGS TO DO IN FEBRUARY

- Percy Jackson and the Olympians: The Lightning Thief hits theaters February 12 and is rated PG.
- The Coconut Grove Arts Festival, February 13-15 from 9:00 a.m.– 6:00 p.m., offers visitors the opportunity to meet with exhibiting artists, sample fine cuisine, enjoy live entertainment and take a walk through history. And for the kids, they too can create their own works of art in our Coconut Grove Bank Kids Creative Corner.

ASK "WILL YOU BE MY VALENTINE?" WITH CANDY

by Aislynn Pedrianes

Would you like to send a Valentine gram to a special person?

Student Council will be selling Valentine grams. Valentine grams will be sold for \$1.00 from February 2nd through the 11th. Purchase one from your homeroom teacher or see

Ms. Mayorga in room 210. The grams will be distributed on Friday, February 12.



DANCE YOUR HEART OUT AT THE VALENTINE'S DANCE

by Aislynn Pedrianes

6:30pm in the cafeteria.

Student Council is hosting a Valentine's dance for the middle school students in February. The dance will take place on Wednesday, February 10th from 4:00 to

There will be a DJ and chips and refreshments will be available to purchase.

Tickets are \$5.00 per student. See your homeroom teacher to purchase a ticket.

NJHS MEMBERS INDUCTED IN CEREMONY

by Ashley Arguelles

The National Junior Honor Society induction ceremony will be held on Tuesday, February 2, 2010 at 6:00pm in the school's cafeteria.

NJHS is a worldwide organization for middle schools (grades 6-8). Membership is based on five criteria: citizenship, service, leadership, scholarship and character. Members must maintain a high grade point average (the national minimum is a 3.5) and participate in service projects. The NJHS requires service to the community, school, or other organizations. The projects help students meet the required service hour total.

The members of the NJHS also tutor other students and participate in fundraisers.

During the ceremony the chorus will perform the Pledge of Allegiance and the National Anthem. Mrs. Marrero, the Mater Gardens Principal, and Ms. Mayorga, the NJHS sponsor, will speak. The chapter's newly appointed officers will also take part in the induction. The NJHS president will introduce the other officers, each representing a different strand of the honor society (Scholarship, Service, Leadership, Citizenship, and Character). Then they will read a description of it and light a corresponding candle. Each newly inducted member will also

receive a candle and light it from the five candles that the officers lit.

Membership in an honor society is one of the top honors that can be awarded to a Mater Gardens Academy and Mater Lakes Academy students. Congratulations to all the inductees. The officers are as follows:

President: Martha Caceres

VP: Catherine Vazquez

Secretary: Katie Camero

Parliamentarian: Joshua Colome

Historian: Aislynn Pedrianes

Treasurer: Nicholas Augustin



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HOME OF THE
STINGRAYS!

MGA News is a school publication for the purpose of improving home-to-school communication. All the interviews are conducted by students, and the articles are written by students with guidance and editing by Mrs. Forte, the Journalism Club Advisor.

Members: Vanessa Acebal, Fara Alvarado, Ashley Arguelles, Katie Camero, Kamila Fernandez, Manuela Gallego, Emily Lopez, Aislynn Pedrianes, Susan Perez, Kately Rivero, Stephanie Simosa

Happy birthday to you...



Acosta	Steven	2/19/2001	Gutirez	Giovanni	2/12/2004
Aguelles	Ashley	2/21/1996	Guzman	Vanessa	2/15/1999
Aguila	Annabelle	2/26/2004	Guzman	Katelyn	2/20/2003
Arauz	Guillermo	2/8/1997	Hernandez	Jorge	2/28/2000
Arenas	Nathali	2/22/1997	Herrera	Karlyn	2/4/1997
Arias	Amanda	2/11/2004	Herrera	Margaret	2/24/2003
Artigas	Brenda	2/22/1997	Marante	Eddie	2/24/2004
Bencomo	Victor	2/12/1998	Martinez	Jasmine	2/27/1997
Bernal	Amelia	2/21/2002	Martinez	Judy	2/9/2000
Brito	Dannie	2/9/2003	Mendez	Lee	2/2/1997
Bursey	Lariece	2/18/1997	Novo	Angel	2/8/1997
Cabreja	Melanie	2/4/1996	Pirez	David	2/19/1998
Cabreja	Jesus	2/11/1999	Riegosa	Ryan	2/5/2002
Capo	Daniel	2/12/1998	Rodriguez	Veronica	2/10/1998
Carril	Jorge	2/10/2000	Rodriguez	Ashley	2/6/2001
Colome	Juliett	2/7/2002	Rodriguez	Cassandra	2/23/2004
Cordoba	Jovahny	2/19/1997	Roman	Nicholas	2/11/2000
Cue	Kevin	2/25/2004	Serrano	Ellena	2/26/2003
Delgado	Elizabeth	2/21/2002	Soles	Kelly	2/10/1997
Dennis	Christophe	2/24/1999	Spaeth	Alexander	2/16/1996
Dominguez	Keila	2/14/1999	Tamayo	Alyssa	2/26/1999
Echeverria	Orlando	2/14/1999	Tejada	Daniel	2/22/2000
Enriquez	Nancy	2/28/1997	Tejada	Christian	2/26/2002
Estevez	Eric	2/1/2004	Tmayo	Alexander	2/10/2002
Fernandez	Gianni	2/24/1999	Torello	Kyara	2/19/2001
Garcia	Bianca	2/13/2004	Torrello	Kariana	2/24/2000
Gonzalez	Laura	2/13/2001	Torres	Sophia	2/14/2002
Gonzalez	Layla	2/13/2001	Velandia	Caroline	2/27/2004
Govea	Alexander	2/12/1997	Vera	Jesse	2/12/1998
Govea	Michael	2/21/2001	Vera	Melissa	2/12/1998
Grullion	Amaya	2/12/2004	Wimberly	Rianna	2/3/2000