

# MGA News



## Special points of interest:

- Switch to Standard Time on Nov. 1
- Report cards go out the first week of Nov.
- FCAT Parent Night is Nov. 5
- Veteran's Day, Nov. 11—NO SCHOOL
- Thanksgiving Day, Nov. 26—NO SCHOOL

## Inside this issue:

Cyber Safety	2
Chocolate Sales	2
Spelling Bee	2
NJHS continued	3
Veteran's Day	3
Boys Basketball	4
November Birthdays	4

November

Volume 3, Issue 3

## MATER GARDENS IS SACS ACCREDITED

BY KATIE CAMERO

The Council of Accreditation and School Improvement (CASI) for the Southern Association of Schools and Colleges (SACS) visited Mater Gardens Academy on October 12 and 13 to determine if the school was eligible for accreditation. The decision: MGA has been approved!

"I think that this school is well organized and has excellent leadership. I really like the fact that the faculty is very young and full of energy and joy, the passion that they demonstrate is phe-

nomenal," said Dr. George M. Koonce, Jr., an AdvancED Field Consultant.

As a result of the recommended accreditation, there are two more steps that follow. Next, the QAR team or SacsCasi writes a detailed report with accompanying suggestions to the school administrators in order to improve our school. Subsequently, the report is reviewed by several levels of administration. There is the Florida Council, Board of Trustees, AdvancED, and Atlanta, Georgia. Once it goes through them, the accreditation becomes official.

"We decided to recommend accreditation because we thought that the school established standards that were needed. The staff and students also really helped us to think that they love their school, which results in the fact that Mater Gardens Academy is an "A" school," said Dr. Koonce.

According to the SacsCasi team, one of our school's strengths is the impressive leadership by our principal Mrs. Marroero and the quality of our staff. So let's keep working hard to enhance our school!

## MGA ESTABLISHES A NJHS CHAPTER

BY VANESSA ACEBAL

Mater Gardens Academy Middle is going to have its own chapter of National Junior Honor Society starting in mid-November.

NJHS is a worldwide organization that consists of chapters in middle schools (grades 6-8). Selection is based on five criteria: citizenship, ser-

vice, leadership, scholarship and character. Members must maintain a high grade point average (the national minimum is a 3.5) and demonstrate good citizenship by participating in service projects. The NJHS requires service to the community, school, or other organizations. The projects help students meet the required

monthly service hour total. The members of the NJHS also tutor other students and participate in fundraisers.

"Membership, however, is more than an honor. It's a chance to express those outstanding qualities that students have, which makes a difference towards their selection.



(Continued on page 3)

## ATTORNEY GENERAL HOSTS CYBERSAFETY TALK

BY ASHLEY ARGUELLES

The office of the Attorney General of Florida, Bill McCollum, will be hosting a CyberSafety presentation on November 6 at 9:00 AM in the cafeteria.

The CyberCrime Unit will be coming to talk to the middle school students about how to safely use

the internet.

“They will be coming to show students how to use the internet the right way and to show them that there are a lot of people that want to do some bad things that you don’t now about when you are talking to them,” said Ms. Perez, who coordinated the event with the Attorney General’s office.

The presentation will teach students about safe internet use, what children may be exposed to while online, and some tactics internet predators use.

The CyberCrime Unit will be visiting most middle schools and high schools throughout Florida.

More information is available online at [www.safeflorida.net](http://www.safeflorida.net).

## THE MATER GARDENS SPELLING BEE IS ALL THE BUZZ

BY STEPHANIE SIMOSA

In November, Mater Gardens Academy will be hosting a Spelling Bee for 1st through 8th grade.

“It’s a motivator for students, to also get engaged with their academics, and we also want to show that we have great students,” said Ms. Maria Garcia, the Spelling Bee Coordinator.

The classroom teachers will first do a class spelling bee to determine their

homeroom finalist. The names of those finalists must be submitted to Ms. Garcia by November 13.

Once the classroom spelling bee finalists have been announced, they will be given another word list to study and will then compete against other grade level finalists. During this grade level spelling

bee one winner will be selected for grades 1-3.

For grades 4-8 three grade level finalists will be selected. They will compete against each other in a school spelling bee for 4th-8th grade, and the winner from that will go to the local spelling bee hosted by the Miami Herald at Parrot Jungle, where they will compete

against other local school champions and have a chance to move onto the National Spelling Bee in Washington, DC.

“There will be medals for the classroom champion, trophies for the grade level winners, and a chance to compete for the national spelling bee,” said Ms. Garcia added.

Pre-K and kindergarten will do their own spelling bee towards the end of the year.



## WORLD’S FINEST CHOCOLATE SALES START

BY EMILY LOPEZ

The World’s Finest chocolate sales are going to begin on November 2 and go on until the chocolate runs out.

A variety of chocolates will be sold including almond, crispy, caramel, and milk chocolate. Students who are interested in selling the chocolates must have a form filled out by their parents or guardians and turn it

in to their homeroom teacher.

Whoever sells the most chocolate will receive a limo ride and a very special prize! The top class will receive a pizza, an ice cream party, and a no uniform day. The second place class will receive a pizza party and the third place class will receive an ice cream party.

“A lot of kids participate because they want the prizes and because they

want to help the school,” said Mrs. Martinez, who is organizing the chocolate sales along with Mrs. Vazquez.

The money that the students fundraise through the sales is going to be used for an LED school sign that will be installed outside the school. Important announcements will be posted there for parents to see when they drive by to drop off or pick up their kids.

## NJHS MEMBERSHIP IS TOP HONOR FOR STUDENTS

(Continued from page 1)

NJHS recognizes not only academic achievement, but community service and citizenship, as well. It shows you that grades do count and that makes a big difference, especially in college," states Mrs. Mayorga, the NJHS adviser.

Membership in an honor society is one of the top honors that can be awarded to a Mater Gardens Academy student. The NJHS works hard to bring the accomplishments of outstanding students to the attention of parents, teachers, students, and the community.

Chapters in more than 5,000 middle and high schools across the nation strive to give practical meaning to the society's goals of scholarship, leadership, service, citizenship, and character.

## MGA REMEMBERS, APPRECIATES VETERANS

BY VANESSA ACEBAL

This coming Veteran's Day, veterans from all over the world will be appreciated and remembered. Many of these veterans have families, and that includes wives, children, and even parents. Mater Gardens Academy has many students that have a family member in the military, so let's commend some of those students and see what they have to say about being related to a veteran.

Sixth grader, Michael Marrero, is another victim of the military sadness. His stepdad is part of the military and Marrero has great grief due to the suspense of 'what if...'

"I think it's very brave of my stepdad to join the military and I don't stop thinking of him," affirms Marrero.

Marrero's stepdad has gone to sea, and now he's in the middle of the Pacific Ocean.

"I think he can handle it, he's brave and strong; he can take on anything," Marrero remarks.

Marrero's family is going through tough times.

His mom sends letter to his stepdad all the time and the pain ends with his homecoming.

Sixth grader, Eduardo Martinez, has a relative that's currently in the Marines. He is ten miles underwater in a submarine.

"When enemy was trying to sink his submarine, my family was scared," said Martinez.

The Chinese Navy sank his cousin's ship, and his family had a hard time going through that situation.

Seventh grader, Katie Camero, has a veteran in her family. Unfortunately, it is her dad. She claims that it's awesome to have a veteran in the family because she has someone to tell her stories and new adventures. Camero was not born yet when her father was sent to fight in the Vietnam War in the early 1970s, but his relatives were scared. Now, she as well as her family members are relieved that her dad is out of the war and in the safety of his home

with his family.

Mrs. Carmen Green, a sixth grade math and science teacher, is relieved that her dad is done serving in the Army. Her father originally joined with absolutely no English at all! He faced lots of challenges such as learning military rules and how to speak English.

Like her, Green's husband also grew up traveling to many locations because his father served in the military.

"It was hard for him to make new friends and get used to the idea that he was being raised only by his mother and that his dad was in a life-or-death situation," said Mrs. Green.

You know the saying, 'You don't what you've got until it's gone'? That is how families feel when soldiers go away to war or pass away. So this Veteran's Day, let's keep in mind all of those brave, patriotic people who fought for our country.





## Mater Gardens Academy

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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

## SHOOT THAT BALL IN THE HOOP, HOOP!

BY KATELY RIVERO

The boys basketball tryouts were held on October 21 and 23 at the basketball court. On Monday, October 26, a list of the boys who made the team was posted in the cafeteria.

“For students to make the team, we are looking for

not the best, but one that tries hard, is coachable, is responsible, and that takes care of business,” Coach Urbina said.

Only seven 8th graders, three 7th graders, two 6th graders were chosen to make up the 12 players team.

The newly formed basketball team will play other

charter school throughout Miami-Dade County during the season. The games are generally scheduled for Saturdays.

“I think kids should be involved in sports, to stay physically active, stay part of the team, and to know the importance of a good teammate,” Coach Urbina said.

## Happy birthday to you...



Alegre	Karina	11/26/1999	Hernandez	Christian	11/4/2002
Alvarez	Jennah	11/8/2003	Leon	Julio	11/18/1997
Arocha	Cristian	11/9/1998	Lima	Yaliel	11/16/2002
Bellver	Johanna	11/29/2000	Londono	Serena	11/24/2000
Bush	Ashley	11/6/2003	Luna	Valery	11/18/2000
Cabrera	Valerie	11/15/1998	Mairena	Bryan	11/5/2003
Cabrera	Daniela	11/17/1998	Morales	Jason	11/4/1999
Cabrera	Carlos	11/30/2000	Nunez-Prado	Richard	11/30/1996
Cadalso	Bryan	11/4/2000	Olivia	Kimberly	11/19/1999
Christie	Jade	11/21/2003	Paredes	Sofia	11/9/1995
Colome	Joshua	11/29/1996	Perez	Keven	11/21/1995
Cue	Melanie	11/10/2001	Reyes	Daniela	11/19/1999
Fernandez	Daniela	11/20/2003	Rodriguez	Michael	11/10/2003
Forte	Stephanie	11/3/1997	Rophail	Matthew	11/9/2001
Fung	Maria	11/5/1997	Sanchez	Katherine	11/12/1997
Garcia	Gabriella	11/2/1995	Santiestaban	Elizabeth	11/12/2003
Gautier	Nicholas	11/26/2000	Santos	Ariel	11/20/1997
German	Omaira	11/9/1996	Thomas	Devyn	11/6/2003
Gomez	Shirley	11/27/1996	Vazquez	Christian	11/18/1999
Gonce	Emily	11/6/2003	Wilson	Carter	11/12/2002
Gonzalez	Sebastian	11/4/2003	Yildirim	Kenan	11/5/1995
Gonzalez	Guillermo	11/24/2003	Zuluaga	Kelly	11/14/1995
Hernandez	Bastyan	11/26/2001			