

Panther Press

The Voice of MLK Jr. Early College High School



Student Council Plans for MLK's

Future

Riana Mitchell—Student Council Reporter

Student Council at Martin Luther King Jr. Early College has been really busy this school year. Student Council leader, Ms. McLaughlin said, "It was a good year! However I would like to see more participation next year."

With major preparations to be made for next year's seniors (MLK's first graduating class) Student Council is in great need for support and funds. Student Council is organizing a series of events that will help fund next year's seniors and other MLK functions. These events include candy selling, a possible high school social, and maybe even a talent show! Student Council has already organized a car wash. The car wash was held on April 25th from 11am to 3pm right here at MLK. Funds that were made are intended to support senior prom and other senior ambitions, such as a senior trip. Student council is requesting help from student volunteers to help make this event a success!

If you would like to volunteer or if you have other ideas or questions you can contact Ms. McLaughlin or any Student Council member.

Lady Warriors

Michelle Esquivel – Girl Sports and MESA Reporter

On April 7, 2009 the Lady Warriors (Montbello High School) had a soccer game against John F. Kennedy high School. Throughout the ninety minute game there was a total of six injuries. Unfortunately four occurred to the Lady Warriors, and two occurred to Kennedy.



There were many opportunities when both schools could have scored, yet failed. For the Warriors there were three opportunities when the girls could have scored. There were four that they should have shot, yet in the final none went into the goal. Kennedy made fifteen shots, in which they were blocked by Brenda, Montbello's goalie. Kennedy had at least twenty-six misses, and in the end scored three goals.

"I don't think this game went as well as it should have. Many of the girls got tired. I thought most likely they were going to get those three shots in. Even though some of the players were recuperating from past injuries they were still playing their best," Montbello's Coach, Blake stated.

Montbello only has four games left in the season. They are all away, and all but one will be played at All City. Games that won't be played at All City will be held at Thomas Jefferson.



PANTHERS



The Japanese Culture Club

Sbeydi Valdez –JCC and MESA Reporter

The Japanese Culture Club offers something different from athletics and academics. On Tuesdays after school from 2:45 to 4:00 p.m., there is an opportunity for students to gain understanding about a different culture!

Alex Vierra, Katherine Quijada, Karen Roque, Maricarmen Palasios, Estefania Palasios, and Danny Nguyen founded the Japanese Culture Club. These high school students decided that they wanted to start a Japanese Culture Club and asked Julie Davis, one of MLK's biology teachers, to be their sponsor. More specifically because she has lived in Japan and has a much better understanding of this culture. Ms. Davis agreed to their request because she wanted the students to have a better understanding of a different culture. The founders and sponsors are determined to help any Martin Luther King Jr. Early College student who want to learn the Japanese language, tradition, and anime.

Every Tuesday when the club gathers they either have the students learn to draw anime, make origami, learn the Japanese language, watch specific movies, or play some Japanese games.



What Students Need To Do To Keep On Playing

Ruby Nunez-Editorial Editor, Administrators' Reporter & Layout Designer

At Martin Luther King Jr. Early College many students are involved in playing sports, but they must be eligible in order to play.

For students to be eligible they must meet the following requirements: maintaining a C average or higher in all of their classes, good behavior, and students cannot be suspended. It is important that students attend all their classes. If students have too many absences, they will not be able to perform in sports.

If a student is ineligible they have a week to speak to their teachers about raising their grades, because every Thursday the dean, Ms. Rivera, checks grades for all students who are in sports. Ms. Rivera believes, "The student as an athlete should be responsible and act as a role model for the other students. They should do what is asked of them so they can play." If students are thinking about joining sports or are in sports they should meet the requirements and maintain them.



History of Origami

Sbeydi Valdez – JCC and MESA Reporter

The Japanese Culture Club did a very big project involving origami. Their project was to make one thousand cranes.

Japanese Origami is the ancient act of folding paper into shaped figures and ornaments. The name origami did not begin until the Showa Period (1926). It used to be known as *orisue* or *orikata*, but the folding and cutting of paper is not just a hobby in the Japanese culture.

Some people thought that origami had a religious connection. It was thought that paper was sacred. Travelers thought that if they carried cut paper, it would ward off evil spirits. This paper also had a special writing on it that encouraged the idea of getting rid of the evil spirits. The first use of cut and folded paper was used in religious rituals.

From folding paper for crafts, to folding paper to get rid of evil spirits, origami has been passed down from generation to generation, and has been kept a traditional hobby!

Volleyball

Itzel Martinez - Sports Reporter

Listen up all students attending MLK. If you are planning to join the Montbello's volleyball team next year here is what is happening. Conditioning starts April 9, 2009 and April 11, 2009. All students are welcome to attend. If any students can not attend conditioning it does not affect tryouts. Coaches Bailey, Baker, and Whells will be there to assist all students during conditioning. The teams available to try out for are Varsity (V), Junior Varsity (JV), and beginners (C team).

In an interview with Ms. Deanna Booth (a returning player on Montebello's volleyball team) questions were asked "Why is the team starting to condition so early?"

She responded "I believe that we are starting so early because the coaches and players want to play and get ready for the season."



Breakfast Fundraiser

Michelle Esquivel – Girl Sports and MESA Reporter



MESA is an after school club held from 2:30-3:00 in Ms. Davis' room (115).

MESA is holding a breakfast fundraiser every Thursday during Advisement. They pass by each of the high school classrooms with bagels (\$1.50), coffee

(\$1.00), doughnuts (\$1.00), orange juice (\$1.00), and bananas (\$0.50). The money MESA earns will go towards buying club sweaters. The extra money left over will go into buying supplies for future projects.

Currently MESA members are constructing hand-on-hand roller coasters with materials, such as wooden sticks, plastic straws, clay, wire, popsicle sticks, and tape.

Interview with Ms. Rowley

Sinai Perez – Counselors' Reporter

Ms. Rowley is one of Martin Luther King Jr.'s counselors. This is her third year working with students at our school. Ms. Rowley became a counselor because she wanted to help students get into college. She believes that all students should get the opportunity to go. Counselors have three main purposes: providing academic support to their students, helping students find careers while they're still in high school, and helping with personal lives.

There are many things Ms. Rowley enjoys about being a counselor at Martin Luther King Jr. Early College, but one of the most important things is that she enjoys getting to work with students, and getting to see how they progress in life.

Of course, as with all other careers there are some negatives, one of which for a counselor is scheduling. I think we can all conclude that it can get hectic dealing with many students' schedules, but Ms. Rowley can do it all! Martin Luther King Jr. Early College is very fortunate to be provided with such a wonderful counselor that gets involved with students the way Ms. Rowley does!

Young Life

DeVaughn Morgan: Young life Reporter

Martin Luther King Jr. Early College has had Young life after school for three years, yet its been around other high schools for half a century.

Young life is a foundation that is working to introduce teenagers to Jesus Christ and to help them grow in their Christian faith. Young life is lead by Ca'rel and Art Williams every Friday in the cafeteria. Young life offers free pizza and lots of fun!

Young life isn't just about having something to do after school. It's about trying to reach students outside of school.

Young life has different camps all throughout the United States, where kids from all high schools go and have fun. Many high school students from MLK have attended these camps and say they meet many people, and strengthen their faith. MLK students in the Fall usually go to Crooked Creek Ranch located by Winter Park for a weekend, and during the summer students travel to a camp in a different state. This year's trip is to Lost Canyon in William, Arizona.

This foundation didn't occur over night; in fact it all began in 1938 when a local minister challenged Jim Rayburn, a youth leader and seminar student in Gainesville, Texas to think of his high school as his church. As well as to think of ways to reach out to kids who don't have any interests in church. This is how Young life began. Young life has a simple message about Jesus, but with fun and excitement.

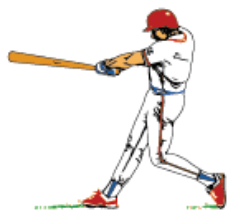
Even if you're not interested in finding your faith, Young life and its camps are a fun experience that you can share with your friends and students from other high schools all over the district. Many kids from Montebello, East, George Washington, and Thomas Jefferson High school are involved. If you want to be a part of this foundation, attend Young life on Fridays after school.



Future Baseball Player

Ande Le – Boy Sports Reporter

Freshman, Brandon Tate has been playing baseball at Montbello High School for one year. He choose baseball out of the other sports because he found out that professional baseball player, Alex Rodriguez was making 20 million dollars a year, plus he simply just wanted to play a sport.



Before baseball Tate wanted to play Soccer in kindergarten, but he was too late for the tryouts, and his mom made him play baseball for spring sports instead. At first he didn't want baseball to be his career, but when he plays for college, if professionals want to recruit him then he will sign a contract.

His position is first base. Once he was sliding to third base and he cut his knee. His knee ended up turning into a scab, and unfortunately has stayed this way, since every time he plays he slides to the bases, cutting his knee open continuously.

When asked what was his team's record he said, "The record is 4 -7!"

The coach for the freshman team is Jose Amaro. The team has so far played a good season, and has two more games left, so lets hope they win!



Warriors Baseball

Lamar Cherry – Boy Sports Reporter

The Montbello Warriors' varsity baseball team is currently 3-8, beating Elizabeth, Aurora Central, and Englewood High School. The team is in 8th position in their division. With eight games left in the session (18 total) they could really use some victories. Coach Bryan Sanders says, "This is a very inexperienced team and they are doing fairly well due to the fact that they are so young."

The baseball roster consists of four seniors, three juniors, five sophomores and one freshman. With the youth, the Montbello Warriors' baseball team should be good in the future.

Currently Alfredo Herrera is the only player on the Montbello Warriors' varsity baseball team from Martin Luther King Jr. Early College.



Denver Museum of Nature and Science

Corina Almeida - Department Heads Reporter

"Finally we had a field trip." On April 20, 2009 the ninth grade class took their first field trip to the Denver Museum of Nature and Science. Most were very excited about the field trip.

London said, "It was a lot of fun. We had hoped we got to go to the I Max Theater and to the Planetarium, but overall the whole museum was fun."

Throughout the field trip the ninth grade students researched astronomy.

When Is The Time To Drive?

Ruby Nuñez - Editorial Editor, Admin. Reporter, and Layout Designer



Sixteen or eighteen is the question. There has been an ongoing debate trying to decide if the legal driving age should be sixteen or eighteen. In my opinion,

sixteen should remain the legal driving age for numerous reasons.

Sixteen would be better because getting a driver's license makes sixteen year olds more independent and responsible. Sixteen is also a better choice, since at sixteen minors are still under the supervision of their parents and other adults.

Some people will say that eighteen is the best choice, since it's an older age. They believe at eighteen children will be more responsible, and legal adults, but is this completely true? Others will say that eighteen is better since it is safer, yet in which ways? Eighteen might be better but there is a contradiction because at the age of eighteen many will be starting college and in college there are a lot of parties.

Sixteen would be better because since children would be learning at an early age they would be a little more experienced before heading off to college, than they would if they were to begin driving as they go off to college, or while in college. Imagine a campus full of beginner drivers and how reckless that could be. Finally, when you think about it if adults have problems with driving, what difference does it make if people learn at eighteen or sixteen? Overall, the age of sixteen would be better than learning to drive and getting a license at eighteen.

French Class 2009-2010

Sinai Perez - Counselors Reporter

Bonjortous Martin Luther King Jr. Early College etudiants! Or should I say hello all Martin Luther King Jr. Early College. students! As you all may know our school will be adding on a new foreign language for the 2009 - 2010 school years. Martin Luther King Jr. Early College wants to expose their students with a wider variety of the language. Currently our school will be introducing French as a foreign language. French class will be provided to high school students until administration can hire a full time French teacher. We will begin with beginner's French courses, because most Martin Luther King Jr. Early College students can't speak fluent French. Currently there are thirty slots open for French class until the master schedule gets organized. Soon Martin Luther King Jr. Early College will be a trilingual school, but until then, au revoir!

Baby (Egg) Project

London Ellington - Department Heads Reporter



Ms. McCall is currently doing the Baby (Egg) Project with her Life Management class. The Baby (Egg) Project teaches you responsibility, and shows you what it will be like in the future if you decide to have a baby!

The requirement for the project was for students to take care of the egg for a week. The students had to take care of the egg, build a sleeping place for it, if needed find babysitters, and treat it as if it were their own child.

By participating in this project it taught the students that having a baby comes with a lot of responsibility, and is difficult. Corina Alemdia a freshman at Martin Luther King Jr. Early College participated in the Baby (Egg) Project last year. She said "It was really fun and I learned lots of new stuff from the experience."

MLK Jr. Early College isn't the only school that does this project. In fact, other schools do it as well using eggs, flour, baby dolls, etc. This project as been known to be really fun!

Nike 5K Recently Canceled

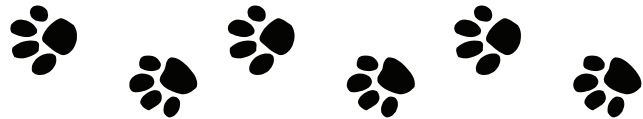
Jurea Trujillo – Sports Reporter



The Nike 5K has been recently canceled due to lack of funds.

Nicholas Lopez and Holly Wells, both gym teachers at Martin Luther King Jr. Early College, have just announced that the annual run/walk is canceled due to how bad the economy has gotten. The event was supposed to take place in May of 2009, but unfortunately it will not. The Nike organization that sponsors the Nike 5K event had to cut back on several events they sponsor due to a lack of money. The organization hopes that the event will be an annual event starting May 2010.

The students who have already signed up for this event are very disappointed that it has been canceled. Itzel Martinez says, "This would have been my first year, and now I will not have a chance to go. I was supposed to go with my friends, but I guess that's not happening now."



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