

A Note from Principal Duff

December 2, 2011

Dear Parents,

❖ **Tax Credit Donations:** It's a win-win situation! Tax credit donations are 100% deductible to you, and the school is able to use your tax credit donations to fund such things as field trips, and athletic equipment and uniforms. The students would get the biggest benefit from tax credit monies if you were to check the "general" category on the tax credit form. By checking the "general" category, MTA will have the ability to use the money for a broader range of activities than if you choose any of the other category options. You may submit up to \$200.00 for an individual or \$400.00 per family (note: \$50.00 of your contribution may be credited as a payment for your activity fee). You do not have to have a child attending the school, so let your relatives and friends know about this excellent opportunity. You may also want to check with your employer to see if they will match your donation. Forms and further information is available on the Madison School District web site.

❖ **Position Available:** We currently have an opening for a paid, 2 ½ hour a day, lunch-duty playground aide. If you (or anyone you know) are interested, contact Anne Grass in the office @ 602.745.4001.

Sincerely,

Mike Duff

Principal

Important Dates & Events

12/2 - Friday
All Teacher/Staff Breakfast
7:00am. Sponsored by 4th gr. parents

12/6 - Tuesday
1st Grade Music Program 6:30pm
MTA cafeteria (kids check in 6:15)

12/5 - 12/9 - Mon. - Fri.
Scholastic Book Fair

12/6 - District Board Meeting, 6pm

12/7 Wed. TCT Early Release 1:30pm
(10:20 for half-day Kindergarten)

12/9 - Friday
MTA T-shirt Day

12/14 Wednesday
Full Day Schedule 3:00 release
(10:50 for a.m. Kindergarten)

12/16 - Friday
MTA T-shirt Day

12/21 - Wednesday
Full Day Schedule 3:00 release
(10:50 for a.m. Kindergarten)

12/23 - Friday
Half-Day 11:30a.m. release
(8:50 for a.m. Kindergarten)
MTA T-shirt Day

12/26-1/6 NO SCHOOL

1/9 - Monday
School resumes

1/9 - Monday
Guild Meeting 6:30pm
MTA Cafeteria

Important Announcements

Dec. 2, 2011
Vol. 5, No. 15

Upcoming Games: Come cheer on our Owls!

All girls' games start at 4:30 (unless noted); Boy's games immediately follow.

Flag Football: Coach Alex Pierson (start time 4:30)

Monday, Dec. 5	Kenilworth	Away
Thursday, Dec. 8	Orangedale	Away
Monday, Dec. 12	Wilson	Away
Thursday, Dec. 15	Osborn	Away
Tuesday, Dec. 20	Meadows	Away

Varsity Boys Basketball: Coach Jon Simon

Friday, Dec. 2	Kenilworth	Home
Monday, Dec. 5	Madison Park	Home
Thursday, Dec. 8	Granada East	Away
Tuesday, Dec. 13	Catalina	Away
Tuesday, Dec. 20	Wilson	Home

JV Boys Basketball: Coach Ian Serdenia

Monday, Dec. 5	Madison Park	Away (4:45)
Tuesday, Dec. 6	Osborn	Home (5:00)
Monday, Dec. 12	Madison #1	Home (5:00)
Thursday, Dec. 15	Meadows	Home (4:30)
Tuesday, Dec. 20	Wilson	Away (4:45)

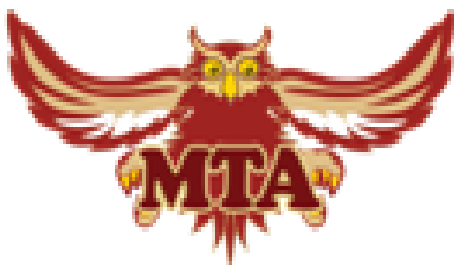
**Cheer Squad will be at all home basketball games

Varsity Girls Basketball: Coach Amy Hardy

Thursday, Dec. 1	Kenilworth	Home
Monday, Dec. 5	Madison Park	Home (4:45)
Thursday, Dec. 8	Granada East	Away
Tuesday, Dec. 13	Catalina	Away
Tuesday, Dec. 20	Wilson	Home (4:45)

JV Girls Basketball: Coach Jennifer Wolf

Monday, Dec. 5	Madison Park	Away (4:45)
Tuesday, Dec. 6	Osborn	Home (5:00)
Monday, Dec. 12	Madison #1	Home (5:00)
Thursday, Dec. 15	Meadows	Home (4:30)
Tuesday, Dec. 20	Wilson	Away (4:45)



The Book Fair is Here!!!!

Online Ordering is going on NOW through Dec. 12. Go to our link <http://onlinebookfairs.scholastic.com/default.aspx?f=2977664> to order.

Onsite Hours:

Monday, Dec 5

Teacher Preview - All Day

Tuesday, Dec 6

7:30 - 8:00 am
10:30 am - 2:00pm
3:00 - 6:00 pm

Wednesday, Dec 7

7:30 - 8:00 am
10:30 am - 2:00 pm
1:30 - 4:00 pm

Thursday, Dec 8

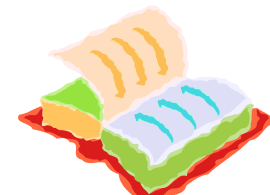
7:30 - 8:00 am
10:30 am - 2:00 pm
3:00 - 6:00 pm

Friday, Dec 9

7:00 - 8:00 am
10:30 am - 2:00 pm
3:00 - 6:00 pm

***see the Book Fair webpage at www.mtaguild.org

*** During lunch recess and after school, students shopping must be accompanied by an adult.





Ms. Kelly Munley (MTA Speech Therapist),

WHOOOOOOO ARE YOU?

Where are you from? I was born in San Diego, but I've been in Arizona since I was 2. When I was younger, I lived in Tempe, Chandler, and Gilbert. I went to high school in Gilbert and still live there currently.

Where did you go to school/college? I graduated from ASU with my bachelors of science in Speech and Hearing Science. I am currently finishing up my masters of science at ASU with a degree in Communication Disorders.

What was your inspiration to become a Speech Therapist? I have known people who received speech therapy in the past and it was wonderful to see what a difference it made. It was amazing to see the amount of improvement they made and the impact it had on their lives. When I was getting my bachelor's degree, I ended up taking a speech class at ASU and loved it! I decided to become a speech therapist after that. 😊

How long have you been a Speech Therapist? I was an assistant for one year, and then came to Madison. This is my fourth school year at MTA working as a speech therapist.

What is your favorite thing about your job? I have always enjoyed working with children and have worked in the school setting for many years. It's so rewarding when a child may not be able to pronounce a certain sound, and then it suddenly it clicks for them. It's wonderful to see how excited they are when this happens. It's inspiring to see a child be successful with their speech and language and see them achieve their goals.

Why did you choose working at the elementary/middle school level? I have previously worked in preschool all the way up through the high school level. I really like the variety of age groups I get to work with at a K-8 school.

What do you do when you're not working? When I'm not working on school work, I enjoy traveling, spending time with family and friends, running, reading, playing with my dogs, going to movies, and baking.

What are your favorite books? I love to read and it's hard to pick a favorite book!

What is your favorite food? I love desserts (especially chocolate!) and Mexican food.



Congratulations to MTA's Newest Blackbelts!

Three MTA students recently achieved their blackbelts in Tae Kwon Do.

The students have studied and trained for years under the guidance of Mark Gilbride, another MTA family. In order to become a blackbelt the students performed all 310 consecutive moves covering all levels of Tae Kwon Do without stopping, broke boards using their arm and foot, and successfully sparred against multiple opponents.

These students demonstrated not only their skills but the ability to stay focused over years to accomplish their goal.

Congratulations to Jessica Schneider (6th grade-Ms. Hardy's class), Jordyn Schneider (8th grade-Ms. Jenks' class), and Harrison Simmons (2nd grade-Ms. Klees' class).



Fry's Cool Cash Program



Each time you shop with your V.I.P. card you help MTA earn cash. As of 11/14/11 MTA has 92 cards linked to the "Cool Cash" program. We have spent \$42,268 so far, which means we should be receiving a check for \$500 by the end of the year!!

It's not too late to connect it to your VIP card, it is that easy. You must reregister each school year. MTA's school i.d. is #11325.



CHARACTERCOUNTS![®]



FLYING ABOVE AND BEYOND

at MTA!

Each month MTA will be teaching and highlighting a different Pillar of Character.

December's Pillar – CARING

MTA's CHARACTER COUNTS! and PBIS

MTA's PBIS (Positive Behavior Interventions and Support) Team would like to introduce a new recognition program that teaches and highlights character education by using positive student recognition in conjunction with CHARACTER COUNTS!

- Each month MTA's teachers and staff will teach and highlight one of the 6 Pillars of Character.
- Students have the opportunity to receive a FAB (Flying Above and Beyond).
 - A FAB can be received if a staff member sees a student going Above and Beyond what is already expected of them.
 - The FAB is carbon copied. One copy goes home with your child; the duplicate copy comes to the office where the student's name and recognition of their action will be read over the morning announcements.
 - At the end of each month, one student from each grade level, who received a FAB for that month, will receive an extra special recognition, depending on the month. December's winners will have Hot Chocolate and Cookies with Mr. Duff! These students will also be recognized at the next month's flag assembly, in front of the entire school.

Look for more information on PBIS and CHARACTER COUNTS!s in MTA's e-Hoots and Hoots & Hollers

CHARACTER COUNTS! @ MTA

December – CARING

March – RESPONSIBILITY

January – FAIRNESS

April – TRUSTWORTHINESS

February – RESPECT

May - CITIZENSHIP

www.charactercounts.org

Trustworthiness

Be honest • Don't deceive, cheat, or steal • Be reliable — do what you say you'll do • Have the courage to do the right thing • Build a good reputation • Be loyal — stand by your family, friends, and country

Respect

Treat others with respect; follow the Golden Rule • Be tolerant and accepting of differences • Use good manners, not bad language • Be considerate of the feelings of others • Don't threaten, hit or hurt anyone • Deal peacefully with anger, insults, and disagreements

Responsibility

Do what you are supposed to do • Plan ahead • Persevere: keep on trying! • Always do your best • Use self-control • Be self-disciplined • Think before you act — consider the consequences • Be accountable for your words, actions, and attitudes • Set a good example for others

Fairness

Play by the rules • Take turns and share • Be open-minded; listen to others • Don't take advantage of others • Don't blame others carelessly • Treat all people fairly

Caring

Be kind • Be compassionate and show you care • Express gratitude • Forgive others • Help people in need

Citizenship

Do your share to make your school and community better • Cooperate • Get involved in community affairs • Stay informed; vote • Be a good neighbor • Obey laws and rules • Respect authority • Protect the environment • Volunteer

www.pbisaz.org

Thank you to the MTA families who shopped at our Fresh & Easy Shopping Night (and our faculty who worked it)!



This month the Teacher Appreciation Committee has outfitted the "staff bathroom" near the office with lotions, soaps, disposable hand towels and miscellaneous toiletries. We hope they enjoy them!



It's getting colder.....If you need some new uniform items, remember to check with the **Uniform Exchange Committee**. Please contact Pepper Kincaid with any questions pepsemail@gmail.com.

MTA UPPER GRADE STORE NEEDS DONATIONS

MTA 'school dollars' are given to upper grade students as a positive rewards program. Students earn 'school dollars' for things like having good behavior, turning in assignments early, doing things in the classroom when asked, performing classroom duties, etc. This program is run for our 5th - 8th grade students. Students can be rewarded by both teachers and staff members. Students save their 'school dollars' and then have the opportunity to redeem them at the 'Upper Grade Store' which is open once at the end of every quarter.

The 'Upper Grade Store' will be opened on **December 23rd and we need your donations**. Donations can be new or gently used age-appropriate items. Some donation ideas that sell well at the store are: bulk, variety chips and candy (these are sell outs!), gift cards, stuffed animals and fuzzy socks (just to name a few).

Large donations can be dropped off in the Parent Room (located down the hall from the front office). There will be a marked box labeled "MTA Store Donations". Gift cards or other small donations should be labeled and can be given to Poincianna or Anne in the front office. Please have all donations to the school no later than December 21st. Thank you - We appreciate all that you do!

Congratulations MTA Students



Excellent job collecting **Box Top\$!!**

5 more classes have reached the first goal level

Mrs. Gullette and Ms. Thompson's Kindergarteners

Ms. Wolf's 1st Graders, Ms. Klees' 2nd Graders

And the first upper grade - Ms. Wehrenberg's 6th Graders



Check out your class total ... will your class be next?

Miss Ball - 773

Mrs. Gullette - 590

Ms. Thompson - 501

Ms. Fastero - 626

Mrs. Tucker - 880

Ms. Wolf - 519

Miss DiPede - 867

Miss Gaia - 265

Ms. Klees - 685

Mrs. Carlyle - 311

Miss DiRodis - 422

Mrs. Jackson - 469

Mrs. Simon - 658

Ms. Stilwell - 393

Ms. Weistart - 317

Mr. Coon - 409

Mrs. Coon - 297

Mrs. Hardy - 305

Ms. Wehrenberg - 517

Miss Mattingly - 143

Miss Monashkin - 160

Mrs. Jenks - 197

Keep clipping those **Box Top\$!!!**