



The Victor Gazette

WINTER ISSUE

JANUARY 2012

MCS Hosts Tennessee, Oklahoma and Indiana Legislators



Photo:

Dr. Morrison addresses the group and takes questions regarding School Choice and Private Education.

Miami Christian recently was chosen by the Association of Christian Schools International accrediting association to host a group of legislators from Tennessee, Indiana and Oklahoma who were on a fact finding trip to Florida sponsored by the Friedman Foundation for Educational Choice to research school choice and

its effects on private schools. The group stayed at the Biltmore Hotel in Coral Gables, meeting with the Florida State Commissioner of Education, Gerard Robinson, former Governor Jeb Bush and various State Legislators. They then visited MCS, meeting with the administration to learn about the State Scholarship System and private school

education. They also spent time visiting one of Mr. Burn's American Government classes and Ms. Cabrera's 3rd grade class. Since the visit, the administration has assisted the foundation in calls and suggestions to Tennessee legislators in the initial stages of their School Choice legislation.

200 NW 109 Avenue
Miami, FL 33172

miamichristian@yahoo.com
305.221.7754

www.miamichristian.org

PTF Sponsors Cancer Awareness Fundraiser

Miami Christian School's Parent Teacher Association sponsored a Breast Cancer Awareness Fundraiser with an after school ice cream social. Senior Yadira Santana rallied her friends to purchase awareness bracelets, and students further participated by wearing jeans and pink t-shirts for the day with an additional \$2 going to the fund. It was a great, warm day to enjoy the ice cream and the various toppings that the volunteers scooped for everyone. By pooling efforts and funds, the school was able to raise funds for a worthy cause and enjoy the day together.





Israel Ortet Wins Cervantes Award

Israel Ortet, AP Spanish and Spanish instructor was recognized as a Cervantes Outstanding Educator, based on his efforts to support excellence in the education of Hispanic students in Miami-Dade County. He, along with other recipients, was honored during a gala reception, October 20, at the Miami Airport Hilton. Mr. Ortet has served at Miami Christian for five years and also serves as an AP Spanish Test reader each summer. Nova Southeastern University's Fischler School of Education and Human Services and its Hispanic Advisory Board present the Cervantes Outstanding Educator Awards each year and the reception is an officially recognized event of the Hispanic Heritage Festival.



See You At The Pole

Students and staff at Miami Christian participated in the annual "See You at the Pole" event. **See You at the Pole** is an annual gathering of Christian students of all ages at a flagpole in front of their local school for prayer during the early morning before school starts.

The American SYATP event occurs on the fourth Wednesday of September annually. This annual gathering began in 1990 and has grown by word of mouth, announcements at youth rallies and churches, and the internet; See You at the Pole meetings now occur internationally.

High School Trip to Teen Valley

October was the month of the high school wide trip to Teen Valley Ranch in North Carolina.

Thirty-seven students, along with chaperones Mr. Woody Gentry, Coach Oz Pineda, Mrs. Gladys Mata and Mrs. Marcella Corrales made the trek to Plum Tree, NC. They enjoyed the time of bonding and spiritual reflection in the cool weather and activities including hiking, horseback riding, hayrides, bonfires, games

and athletic activities at the campgrounds.

Daily chapel services and delicious camp food also enhanced their time in the mountain. Trips to Grandfather Mountain and to Boone, capped off the event.

After returning to campus, students shared their experiences in a Friday morning Chapel Service.







Thanksgiving Activities

Thanksgiving is the time of year that students at Miami Christian begin their “drives” to help others in need during the Christmas and holiday season.

This year the senior class held a school-wide evening Thanksgiving dinner to help raise funds for their upcoming senior trip to Costa Rica. Facepainting for the younger stu-

dents and after dinner activities were enjoyed by all.

The elementary students also celebrated with the presentation, “What Are YOU Thankful For?” based on a song by Veggie Tales. A huge Thanksgiving feast was enjoyed after the play with delicious food prepared by parents and shared with all throughout preschool and elementary.





Miami Christian School Victors enjoyed a winning Fall season. Bowling, Cross-Country, Football and Girls' Volleyball were the teams competing.

Alexander Yaniz, on the bowling team, was the top scorer of all players in the Tamiami Youth Fair Tournament.

The football team topped off a winning season with a trip to Central Florida in post-

district play.

The Girls' Volleyball team went undefeated throughout the entire season and the post season play until they got to the Regional Final Game.

Congratulations to all the coaches and athletes who represented the school so well .





Photos from our Christmas Programs and Concerts

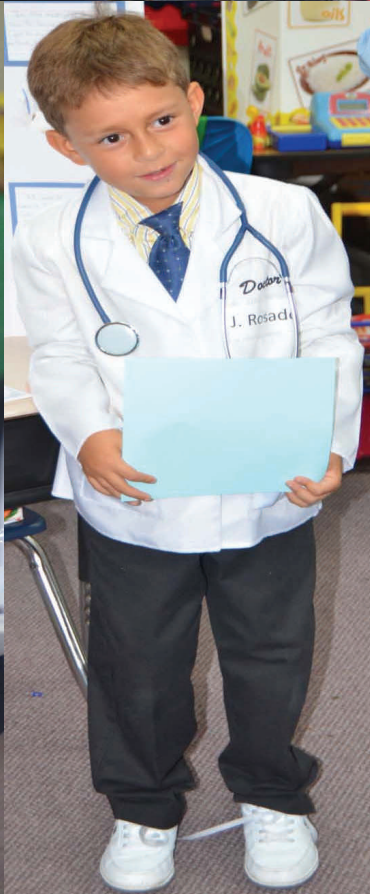


The Fine Arts Department had a busy semester preparing for different productions. Ms. Diana Cummings and the elementary students performed at the Thanksgiving Day Feast for their parents. Family and friends were treated to three different programs for the Christmas season. First Ms. Cummings and the High School Chorus performed their concert with special appearances by Mr. Wayne Williams and Mr. Derek Shute with Robert Barrueco. The various bands comprised the second concert under the direction of Mr. Shute and the last concert was the performance of "The Late Great Potentate" (the story of the 4th Wiseman looking for Jesus) directed by Ms. Cummings, Ms. Soraya Cabrera, and Mrs. Jennifer Gutierrez, with the part of the Late Great Potentate played by senior Alexandra Rios.



Community Leaders

Various community leaders visited our campus to share what they do in their occupations with the elementary students. Policemen, nurses and firemen were among the guests. The students finished off the week by dressing up in the attire of their future occupation, while parents visited the "Community Leader Fair" and listened to the individual presentations of what each student will accomplish in their dream job.



Read Under The Stars

The MCS Library and the National Honor Society hosted a "Read Under The Stars" for students on its campus. The younger students came and enjoyed snacks and beverages while listening to the Honors Students read books to them during the evening hours. Parents also participated in the event with their students.



National Hispanic Heritage Day

National Hispanic Heritage Day was celebrated in great style at MCS. Mariachis led the on campus parade of students dressed in the costumes of their national origin. Presentations and a feast with food from various countries rounded out the festivities.

Freedom Day

Freedom Day was observed on campus with a parade and rally. A human American Flag, comprised of elementary and middle school students was the highlight of the festivities. Bands and choral performances added to the overall feeling of patriotism on the Special Day.



Graduate Kevin Vega Addresses Students

Kevin Vega, graduate of the Class of 1998, visited the campus and addressed the student body in an assembly. Kevin holds the distinction of being the youngest chief engineer in the history of NASA, and he spoke about his journey from MCS to Wentworth College on a baseball scholarship to his working in the engineering department at Harvard throughout his time in Wentworth, to obtaining a position at NASA. While in college he worked on developing the Honda Insight Hybrid, ways to measure pollution, and as a senior project, devel-

oped a non-invasive probe to help detect cancer. His senior project won first place in the Senior Project Engineering Competition of all the Universities in the Northeast. While engineers are generally not hired at NASA without 5 years of work experience, he landed a job with them within 6 months after graduation. His quality work has led to promotions and ultimately to his becoming the youngest chief engineer in NASA's history. Kevin's words were motivation for all who attended the assembly.





Lizette Vinas Stars as Mayor of Whoville

Lizette Vinas, junior, had a leading role in a group of special performances presented by the Maria Verdeja School of Arts. She played the Mayor of Whoville in the musical, “A Whoville Christmas.” Performances were held for the Dade County Public School System and one for the City of Coral Gables Tree Lighting ceremony. Lizette got great reviews on her performance.



**Thank you to the individuals and corporations who donated their gifts
through the Advancement Office first semester!**

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