

Fall Festival: Take 17

By Gowri Buddiga

The 17th annual MLWGS Fall Festival will be on the afternoon of Friday, October 4. While Fall Festival will have the usual club booths and performances by various members of the MLWGS community, there are a few new aspects of the event this year.

The main new aspect of Fall Festival is that all booths will be accepting tickets instead of cash.

"This change will simplify money handling," said Ms. Kirsten Vithoulkas, a fall festival co-chair "Since clubs will not have to make change at their booths, food and other lines should move more quickly."

The Fall Festival committee is encouraging all attendees of the event to donate their unused tickets to the club of their choice before leaving Fall Festival,

"We hope that this will further benefit the clubs participating," said Ms. Vithoulkas.

Overall, students have a variety of reactions to the changes.

"I think [the change] is a great idea because now clubs can make transactions without needing cash to make change. Allowing students and parents to purchase tickets in advance should also reduce lines at the ticket sale booth," said Jack Miller ('16), continuing, "although I am skeptical as to whether waiting in the will-call line for pre-ordered tickets is any better than waiting in the line to purchase tickets."

Some students have more negative sentiments regarding the new ticket system.

"It discourages people from spending more than how many tickets they have. Usually people will buy... X amount of tickets to spend and then when they're done with their tickets they probably won't spend anymore. Cash... allows stands to attract customers to the stands, even if the customer has already reached their quota for spending," remarked Victor Dao ('15).

There are others who agree with this consensus.

"It prevents booths from marking

prices between dollar amounts. People who come to Fall Fest from outside MLWGS have to wait in, what I assume will be, a very long line to buy tickets," commented Ben McClure ('14).

However, McClure did elect to pre-order tickets.

"All the people that don't go to school at MLWGS, such as non-family members, will be buying their tickets at the festival... so if I already have mine I can just go straight into spending my tickets and don't have to worry about wasting time waiting in another line," he said.

Still, other students are waiting for the Festival itself before reaching a final conclusion about the success of the new system.

"I'm reserving judgment for when I see it in action... right now it doesn't make much sense to me," said Annesha Sengupta ('14).

The Fall Festival Committee has also actively reached out to the community with the addition of a Kid Zone, designed for children ages ten and younger, as well as an active effort to reach out to MLWGS alumni.

"You will likely see past graduates of Maggie Walker proudly wearing MW Alumni pins," commented Ms. Vithoulkas.



Students perform at the 16th Fall Festival in 2012. Photo courtesy of MLWGS Photography Club.

In Today's Issue

Editorial —Page 2

School Website —Page 3

Biweekly Bite —Page 4

Chess —Page 4

Figure Skating —Page 5

Scoreboard —Page 6

Time For Service

The atmosphere of Fall Festival is reflective of the MLWGS community in many ways: students are able to donate their time, participate in clubs specialized to their interests, draw in alumni and classmates, and have a fun and energetic time doing so. In many ways, this parallels the ultimate Maggie Walker experience. Ideally, a Maggie Walker student should sacrifice a good deal of their time to classes and clubs they are interested in and share their passion with their classmates and the community as a whole. And in most cases, I think we are there. There is, however, one major exception: connection with the community.

Of course we have the community service requirement, but the effectiveness of this is questionable. Instead of focusing our energies into a few, long term, interactive projects, many of us care more about “getting my hours” any way we can. When it comes to community service, we should emphasize quality over quantity. We should be aiming to participate in projects that are not only long term, but that promote progress in the Richmond community. Our classes at Maggie Walker should be focusing on creating a legacy of community involvement and betterment.

Donating canned goods, baking a batch of cookies for

a fund drive, or filling out a spreadsheet for a hospital or non-profit can all count towards our community service requirement, but these types of activities are severely lacking when it comes to actively contributing to an environment. The most common community service activities at the school are facilitated by an intermediary, depriving students of truly interacting and learning from the Richmond community. It is of the utmost importance that we be connected, inquisitive, aware, and innovative. Not only should the community be benefitting from our involvement, but we should be learning from our community as well. Community service should be about creating a dialogue. It should be about one-on-one communication and interaction. MLWGS students should be seeking out their community leaders, participating in already established programs, and finding ways to contribute in a way that is long-lasting and fulfilling.

Maggie Walker is about passion. Maggie Walker is about innovation and communication. Maggie Walker is NOT about ‘busy work’, and our community service requirement shouldn’t be either.

-MJL

Have an opinion?

WRITE A LETTER TO
THE EDITOR

newspaper@gsgis.k12.va.us



THE MLWGS Jabberwock

Editorial Policy:

The MLWGS Jabberwock covers news events related to the school community and provides a forum for students to share their ideas. Statements expressed by columnists or in letters to the editor do not necessarily reflect the views of the staff. However, all editorials are the combined work of both the Editor-in-Chief and her staff.

All members of the MLWGS community are invited to submit letters to the editor on any topic, although the publication of all letters is not guaranteed. The newspaper reserves the right to edit letters for grammar, language and length. Please e-mail letters to newspaper@gsgis.k12.va.us.

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MLWGS Miss

Opinion

By Radhika Srivastava

Recently, the administration oversaw the creation of a new MLWGS website. While the bright pictures and bold lettering are certainly visually appealing, actually using the website is far from easy.

Our new homepage displays a slideshow of students engaged in a variety of activities: playing sports, acting, singing, and working in class. However, every photograph is not accurately captioned.

For example, the caption welcoming the Class of 2017 to MLWGS is paired with a photograph of students from the Class of 2016. The group of students displayed in the Class of 2013 scholarships picture is made up of underclassmen.

The old website included pages for our counseling department and all teachers. There was also an easily accessible school calendar and links to all necessary forms for the year, such as volunteering forms.

Though the new website is more aesthetically pleasing, the lack of these pages, especially the volunteering forms, makes getting work done much more difficult.

For prospective students and interested families, the new website is more beneficial. The visuals, clear mission statement, and links to information about our academics, sports teams, and clubs make it easy for anyone outside of MLWGS to understand our school better.

However, for the students, the new website offers little in the way of staying up to date. In the end, whether to check homework or keep up to date on the lat-

est school news, we have to use ItsLearning.

Even so, there is no definite consolidation. While some of the teachers have made the switch over to ItsLearning, many still prefer the old method of posting assignments.

Some teachers continue to use their old website, and just link the url of their external website on their ItsLearning page. While clicking on the link in and of itself is no hassle, not being able to see the pages of those teachers other than our own is a downside of the new arrangement.

In past years, we were able to see the pages of all MLWGS teachers whenever we liked. This provided many benefits, such as evaluating the workload of a potential course, accessing links or test study guides, or getting notes.

Though not major, it is a struggle in all to have easy access to all our school-related resources. It would be much easier if everything we needed was available in one location.

There is currently not one consolidated way for student to get all their information. With ItsLearning, the new school website, PowerSchool, and individual teacher websites, keeping track of everything is a whirlwind.

For the transition to be fully complete, all teachers should establish their pages on ItsLearning, or all teachers should return to the old method of maintaining individual websites, available via the school website.

A school website should be easy to navigate, provide all essentials for daily school activities, and give a basic overview of MLWGS for anyone interested in learning more about us. Hopefully, in time, our website will grow to accommodate these necessities.

News in Brief

Class of 2011 Gift

By Daniel Yoo

The purpose of the base made out of cinderblock and limestone with a plaque dedicated to Maggie Lena Walker in front of the school has been the subject of speculation for many students. According to Mr. Phil Tharp, the project was not commissioned but is rather a gift from the Class of 2011. Five different casting companies were contacted by alumni of the Class of '11 to cast the bronze plaque.

Text commemorating the life of Maggie Walker and her accomplishments is engraved on the plaque, along with an image of her identical to the ones on the medallions given to board members. The English department crafted the words to go on the plaque. The design of Maggie Walker's image comes from Emma Fuller, a graduate of the Governor's School.

"We've had a lot of people walk by that have had a lot of positive comments," says Mr. Tharp. For some locals and even alumni, the project is a much needed testament to the ambition and courage of Maggie Walker. The mayor of Richmond, Dwight C. Jones, has expressed the need for a statue dedicated to Maggie Walker, along with local art groups.

A major feature of the statue is its versatility. Although it currently serves only to support the plaque, there is the possibility of a bust or statue to be placed on top of the limestone. A bust/statue would cost 20-40,000 dollars. Although this would be a fiscal burden for the school, graduating classes in the future may be able to consider funding the project as their class gift. Mr. Tharp also commented that a five-thousand dollar check has already been received from an alumni that could help fund any effort.

The plaque and its base will be officially unveiled at a ceremony at Fall Festival.

A Biweekly Bite

Keylime



Confection

"Life is what happens while you are busy making other plans."

— John Lennon

Ingredients

- 1 package cinnamon graham crackers
- 1 14-ounce can of sweetened condensed milk
- 1 6-ounce can of frozen limeade concentrate
- 1 cup of heavy whipping cream

Homecoming hype, Spirit Day swagger, and Fall Festival mark the beginning of our year. We are entering the fall, a season of excitement, but also a season that marks the beginning of the true rigor of Maggie Walker courses.

History classes delve into new territory, English classes explore denser works, Math and Science classes move beyond the review packet, and Foreign Languages expect you to build upon all of the knowledge you supposedly gained in previous courses. It's easy to get caught up in the workload, to put up blinders to life and only focus on the necessary tasks.

But don't forget about life. Life still happens when you are too busy to enjoy it. The other day, my friends were too focused on studying to even chat with me, and I notice myself doing the same thing in the commons after school.

Even if you find yourself in a rush, or pressed to meet a deadline, you should never forget about the simple pleasures of life. One of my favorite remedies for school stress is this quick, easy key-lime dessert.

Don't worry about buying a crust, graham crackers work just fine. All of the ingredients are common, you may even find them already stocked in your kitchen. Make these for yourself, for your friends and family, for food Fridays or your favorite club. They are sure to delight, and to wake you up from the focused rigor of school.

Directions

This key-lime bar recipe is so ridiculously easy. I would have to write with more words and pretense than Thoreau to take half a page to describe the cooking process.

First, as always, make sure you have every ingredient. This should be pretty easy since there are only four of them.

Next, prepare your "crust" by placing the graham crackers flat down in a single layer on the bottom of an 8 by 8 or a 9 by 9 baking pan.

Combine the other three ingredients into a medium or large mixing bowl. Beat them together until fluffy. The mixture should be able to maintain its shape for a few seconds, forming what is known as "soft peaks." This should take no more than five minutes with an electric beater.

Lastly, pour the key-lime blend on top of the graham crackers. Though you make it in a baking pan, there is no baking involved. Just chill the key-lime bars for a few hours, preferably four, or overnight until they are fully chilled. Then slice them into portion-sized bars, or slice as you eat, like with a birthday cake.

I hope you allow yourself to enjoy your year. And I hope these key-lime bars help. Good luck!

Skating Towards Success

By Claire Mendelson

Reshini Premaratne ('16) is like any other high school student who enjoys hanging out with friends, listening to music, and watching crime shows in her free time. But, unlike other kids her age, Reshini is a figure skating champion.

Last month, Premaratne achieved the title of 2013 U.S. Figure Skating National Intermediate Solo Dance Champion, in addition to earning silver in the National Solo Dance competition.

Premaratne began skating before the age of 5, as her two older sisters signed up for lessons and she decided to give it a try as well.

"I just sort of fell in love with the sport," she said. Over a decade later, she has continued to stick with skating, competing solo and, as of last year, as part of a synchronized skating team.

"Some people don't even consider figure skating a sport," Premaratne says, "But figure skating is a sport that requires athleticism, agility, and strength."

Figure skating is a sport that requires athleticism, agility, and strength.

In order to prepare for competitions, Premaratne practices year round. She has practice every day before school, which requires waking up at 5:30 to get an hour and a half of rink time in.

"I'm used to it now, but it's still really hard getting up that early," she says. Despite this, Premaratne has come to appreciate these early morning practices.

"Sometimes I'm the only one on the rink in the morning, and it's just a really refreshing feeling."

Premaratne's hard work and dedication paid off in the competition. In order to make it to the national competition this year, she first had to make it through several qualification rounds. After advancing in these, her work wasn't done.

In order to prepare for the big competition, she added strength and conditioning at the gym to her practice schedule, and also took dance classes to learn how to be more expressive in her dancing on the ice.

You never get over getting nervous.

In a word, Premaratne described the national competition as "crazy." It was her first time making it all the way to nationals, and she was both very excited and very nervous. "You never get over getting nervous," she said.

Premaratne hadn't expected to make it to nationals, and this underdog mentality impacted her preparation and performance at the competition.

"It really motivated me to work extra hard in practices, because I didn't know if I'd ever get this opportunity again. Also since I was missing several days of school, I figured I had to make it worth it."

Nationals were held this year in Colorado Springs, CO, a site where many champion figure skaters practice at one of many U.S. National Olympic training centers.

"I got to skate with people I had

It was the most amazing feeling standing on top of the podium and looking out across the rink and seeing the crowd.

only ever seen on TV before," she said. "They were all super nice and down to earth, and it was a really humbling experience."

One of the obstacles Premaratne had to overcome for nationals was adjusting to the altitude difference.



Reshini Premaratne ('16) stands on the podium after winning the 2013 U.S. Figure Skating National Intermediate Solo Dance Championship in Colorado Springs, Colorado. Premaratne also earned silver in the national solo dance competition. Photo courtesy of Reshini Premaratne.

"In preparation for the competition my coach had me practice with a surgical mask on to build stamina. I still got headaches in Colorado though."

After winning gold and silver medals, the most memorable part of nationals for Premaratne was the awards ceremony.

"It was the most amazing feeling standing on top of the podium and looking out across the rink and seeing the crowd," she said.

Following her success at nationals this year, Premaratne hopes to compete again next year in the competition, but she is planning to take skating a little easier for a while.

"There's a lot less pressure now, and I also need to focus on school work," she said.

Figure skating will definitely continue to be a part of her future, though. "I love the sport," she says. "It's truly a beautiful art."



Walker 2 1 — 3



D. Run 0 0 — 0

Marissa Raper ('15) scored twice, Rachel Thoms ('15) scored once and Margaret Jewett ('15) had an assist, as the Dragons shut out rival Deep Run to remain undefeated.



Walker 6 0 — 6



Freeman 0 0 — 0

Eliza Bellamy ('15) found the back of the cage twice and assisted on another score, as the Dragons remained undefeated by slaughtering Freeman. Laura Fuhr ('15), Marissa Raper ('15) and Abby Williams ('14) also scored for Walker.

In addition to victories over Deep Run and Freeman, Walker defeated Hermitage, Thomas Dale, Patrick Henry, and JR Tucker by a combined score of 17-1 en route to its unblemished record.



Walker 16 19 25 26 15



CH 25 25 20 24 7

Matt Reichert ('14) and Christian Goodwin ('14) combined for 12 aces and 21 kills as the Dragons came back from a 2-set deficit to shock Colonial Heights.



Walker 25 25 25



Herm. 12 9 16

Josh Barlow ('15) had 6 aces, 3 kills and 12 assists, and the Dragons won their second straight by defeating the Panthers.



Walker 25 25 25



Tucker 20 16 16

Caitlin Swecker ('14) had 12 kills and 7 digs, Sarah Dishman ('14) had 26 assists, and Walker rolled over Tucker to improve its record to 7-2.



Walker 25 26 24 25



Herm. 18 24 26 15

Sarah Dishman ('14) had 25 assists, 4 kills and 4 digs, and Carley Leckie ('15) contributed 22 digs and 9 aces, as the Dragons improved to 8-2.



Walker 348



Bruton 358

Daniel Yoo ('14) shot a 77, Stenzler Green ('17) shot an 83, John Li ('16) shot a 92, and Brandon Shaw ('15) shot a 96, as the Dragons teamed up to defeat Bruton and capture a conference championship at the par 72 Kiskiack Golf Club. Yoo also won the individual title.

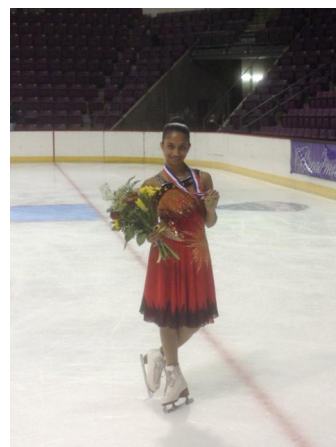


Daisy Banta's ('14) first place photo-finish paced the girls to a dominant team title victory at last weekend's Maymont Cross Country Festival. Alex Fleckenstein ('14) medaled at Maymont for the first time in Maggie Walker boys history to secure a fifth place finish in the invitational division, the boy's highest finish at the Maymont course in team history.



The MWGS golf team poses with the conference championship trophy after its 10 stroke victory against Bruton High School at Kiskiack Golf Club on September 23. The championship was the Dragons' first golf conference championship. Photo courtesy of Bunkersparadise.com.

Athlete of the Issue



Sophomore Reshini Premaratne poses after winning the national intermediate solo dance championship and earning silver in the national solo dance competition. The competition took place last month in Colorado Springs, Colorado
Photo courtesy of Reshini Premaratne.

Q: What is your favorite Disney Movie?
 A: "The Little Mermaid."
Q: What is your favorite class this year?
 A: "Spanish with Señor Jenkins."

Q: Where do you see yourself in ten years?
 A: "Finishing college or [graduate] school and studying economics."
Q: If you could have any superpower, which one would you choose and why?
 A: "It's a toss up between Invisibility and flight, but I think flying would be super cool."
Q: If you were an aisle in a grocery store, what would you be?
 A: "Definitely the candy aisle!"
Q: What is your favorite candy?
 A: "Kit-Kat, Swedish Fish, and Rolo's."