

MOUNTAIN LION TALK

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Mira Loma Middle School
Part of the Jurupa Unified School District

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Coming Events November:

- 2-18 AVID canned food drive
- 11 Veteran's Day Holiday
- 17 Minimum Day
- 23-27 Thanksgiving Week Break! No School!

Challenges Teens Face

By Morgan Craig, Chris Corona, and Sandra Lopez

Every teen has their own experiences and challenges. Here is what the MLMS students and staff had to say about their challenges. Eighth grader, Travis Gilbert said: "Getting along with other students has been the hardest challenge".

Robert Flores and Daniel Cuevas said that they would consider themselves successful because they can solve most of their problems. Boys aren't the only ones going through teen challenges! Amethzary Monroy commented "Going through death of family members were hard challenges for me."

Jannet Preciado shared her experience that keeping her grades up in school was a challenge.

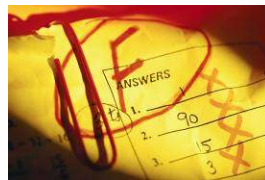
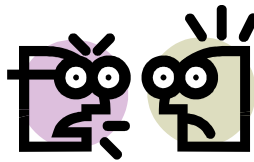
Believe it or not our teachers and staff have been teenagers too! Ms. Barba, discipline secretary, agreed that hard teenage years were 12-13. She said that her challenge was keeping her own individuality and trying to fit in. Even Mr. Franklin had challenges as a teen. He enlightened us that he had trouble choosing friends.

Even though he had challenges, he tried to set goals in school, and successfully put himself through



college.

Unfortunately, teenagers have to go through many unexpected situations and face high expectations. Ms. Eccles explained the present day challenges. Students are always trying to out do each other and all the pressure gets to them so they get stressed out. We all have to go through these hard years to become mature and experienced. Challenges make us who we are, and who we will become in the future!



Jurupa Valley Sports

By Aubrey Dabbs and Veronica Ramirez

There is a variety of many different sports at Jurupa Valley High. The

three main fall sports are Volleyball, Football, and Water polo. A couple of teachers said that the football team is not doing great. They are a work in progress because the majority of their starting line-up on defense and offense are sophomores. Marty Macaodo is a star player though, and has a chance to make a difference on the team and break all the previ-



ous school records in football. They have also complimented all coaches including the head coaches, whom are Coach Piersen, Hopper, and Saustad the varsity, junior varsity, and the freshman head coaches. The high school water polo team has also been doing great. They have been very successful so far by building their reputation as

one of the best sports at the high school. Obviously with their coach Jackie Elder

helping them to cause an intimidating rise from division IV(4) to division II(2) and entering into the newly formed Big 8 League. Maybe they can continue intimidating the other teams by keeping their starting players in the game. The girls' volleyball did excellent by doing better than they have ever done. Hopefully this

year they can do the same and go farther than last year especially with some talent that Coach Paul Kumamoto has to work with. They won their last pre-season tournament and their team captains are excited about their future. They will need to continue to work hard and give it all they got especially when going up against Summit and their rival, Patriot. They will do great as long as they work hard, give it all they've got, and never give up! Obviously JVHS has some very talented athletes and will go far.

Make a Difference Campaign

By Calvin Cerda and Sergio Salazar



**How will YOU
Make a Difference?**

This year, students were greeted with something different at Mira Loma Middle School. The Make A Difference campaign is designed to teach how much respect and manners and overall positive behavior can make a big difference in one's life. The campaign focuses on positive character traits and inspirational quotes that reinforce positive behavior. Mira Loma Middle School staff and teachers made The Make a Difference Campaign possible, but one teacher really took charge of getting the campaign running. Mrs. Wells, the leader of the campaign, thought of doing this because of the behavior

she witnessed last year in the lunch area. She says "Last year was horrible, students were disrespectful and didn't even say thank you." The teachers have asked us to please be respectful and make a difference in our school and please pickup your trash at lunch, to show respect and manners to the custodians. With everyone working together to make MLMS a positive place, we hope that the campaign will help reduce conflict, teasing, and bullying, which will make us all feel safer at school and in our community. Besides the obvious benefits to our campus and community, there are other reasons

why each student should strive to Make a Difference. All students that are seen making a positive difference will be recognized by Mrs. Freeman during morning announcements. Remember-Making a difference can be as easy as picking up a simple piece of trash without being asked. As Tom Robinson once said "To achieve the impossible is precisely the unthinkable that must be thought". The teachers hope that this year will be the best yet, and with the campaign going on all year long, we think it will be. Now it's your turn to Make A Difference!

Jerks in Class

By Mariana Madrigal and Alejandra Hernandez



Mr. Sanchez reminds jerks about the importance of respect, and that they are responsible for their actions.

We've all seen them; the students who are misbehaving and disrespectful to the teacher. Why do you think jerks behave the way they do? Teachers said that students act like jerks because they don't know how to do their work or just don't care about school any more. They feel bad about themselves, and to make themselves feel better they bully someone else. Mrs. Lopez mentioned that she will use her superpowers (evil eye) to put a stop to it, and her "CHOLA" style will come out. Mrs. Hill will work (one on one) privately with the victim and the bully. She would have them apologize to each other and call home to talk to the parents. Mr.



Sanchez reminds them about the importance of respect, and that they are responsible for their actions. He says that they normally want attention, have low self-esteem, and that they're calling for help inside. Ms. Eccles says that they are stealing learning time from others who want to really learn, and do their work. The lunch ladies say that students should say "Thank You" more often. They want them to keep behaving like the first day of school. Mrs. Enriquez wants students to walk instead of running. She says that they forget how easily someone can get hurt. A couple of students, Alejandra Torrez and Daisy Gomez shared that, "Jerks try to act cool." Hannah Spedrick said, "Jerks think that they're too cool for teachers." Eddie Gonzalez had also

said, "Jerks act like jerks because they don't have Jesus in their hearts." Another student, Nick Camerino, said "They just want to bug others." Francisco Gonzalez mentioned that they act like jerks to get attention. Lastly, Alexa Guevar and Hortensia Navarro said, "They act like jerks because they try to impress some girls." Have you ever thought about the consequence jerks get? The variety of consequences that teacher commonly give to jerks go from simply changing their seat, to handing out a referral, or an after school detention. From there Mrs. Freeman has a "Discipline Matrix system" that is based on harsh and well thought out consequences the staff applies to misbehaving jerks. Don't be a jerk—you just waste time and look foolish.

Scrubs? Toilet-Lickers? What?

By Edwin Leyva and Leonardo Diaz

If you are a student at MLMS, then you are familiar with the terms “scrubs” and “toilet-lickers”. You’re probably wondering how the scrub and toilet-licker names got started.

*According to Mr. Sanchez, back in 1995 Ms. Davis had a 7th grade student who teased people and called students names. Of course, Ms. Davis has a cool no-nonsense sort of style, and being irritated with that student, she blurted out, “SCRUB”. That quickly became the new name of all 7th graders. Mrs. Davis denies this story though, saying she had nothing to do with it.

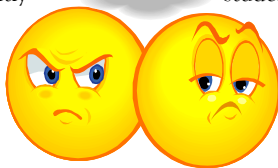


So then the 7th graders had to come up with a new name for the

8th graders. Apparently there were some 8th graders who were not too bright and they were trying to ditch class—in the bathroom of all places. A joke was made about them spending time licking toilets, and the name for the 8th graders was born.

Sometimes these names are used in a fun sort of teasing way, but for some other people it’s just plain mean. Because it is not easy to tell if someone is joking or mean, using these names can get you in trouble for teasing or bullying! Many students can feel put down by this, but others are cool about it. Last year this name calling was worse, but this year it’s not that bad.

On many school campuses, names are developed for the under-class



students. Each school has its own history behind names assigned to one class or another. More and more though, people do not like or tolerate the name-calling because at other schools it could lead to bigger arguments or even fights.

What do you think? When you hear those names, do you laugh or does it bother you? While there was no information about any fights at MLMS that happened because someone was called a “scrub” or “toilet-licker”, it is possible that it could happen here. Maybe the best thing to do is just be respectful to each other. Besides, being a Scrub or a Toilet Licker at MLMS is way better than being a JMS Panther!

What do you think? When you hear those names, do you laugh or does it bother you?

*** Editors Note:** *The original printed version of this issue erroneously reported information in this story, and failed to attribute that information to the source (Mr. Sanchez). This is the corrected version.*

What Does an AP Do?

By Jocelyn Vasquez and Christopher Rojas

Many schools have more than one administrator. Here at MLMS Mr. Bernier is our assistant principal. The question is : “What does the AP do here?” Mrs. Freeman says that he’s here to support her by taking care of discipline problems. Mr. Bernier takes care of activities and the school dances. Mrs. Freeman also says that he is probably the busiest person on the MLMS campus, he sometimes does the announcements because either Mrs. Freeman is running late or is at a meeting. Mr. Bernier has been here for two years and Mrs. Freeman says “he does an excellent job as an assistant

principal.” Mr. Bernier himself tells us that he likes his first two years being assistant principal here at MLMS. He already has a lot of experience with education though. He has been teaching for 10 years at Sunny Slope and Peralta Elementary schools.

Students have wondered why he walks into classes sometimes. Our assistant principal says that he walks in to see how kids are learning and being taught. Mr. Bernier tells us that he likes MLMS be-



cause it is well organized and helps make the job easier and faster than the other schools he’s gone to. The teaching staff appreciate having an Assistant Principal here at MLMS.

Ms. Pizarik likes that he works to set discipline for students that misbehave, and she also thinks that he is a good assistant principal. Ms. Eccles says she likes that Mr. Bernier is here to support the teachers in taking care of discipline problems.

All in all, Mr. Bernier has a pretty tough job to do, and we think he’s doing great!



“Mr. Bernier does an excellent job as an assistant principal.”
Mrs. Freeman

Fall 2009 Lion Life

