



Mountain Lion *Talk*

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Special points of interest:

June

- 10 AR Books Due
- 18 8th Graders Knott's Trip
- 22 7th grade Booster Club Breakfast
- 22 8th Grade Promotion Dance 6:00-9:00
- 23 7th Grade awards- 6:00pm in MPR
- 24 8th Grade Promotion and Recognition

Racism and Double Standards

Travis Gilbert & Veronica Ramirez

Racism is defined as, discriminatory or abusive behavior towards members of another race. Racist beliefs have had horrible consequences, from the enslavement of African-Americans to the holocaust. As we look at our behavior, we constantly must ask ourselves "Is it racist?"



In issue 6 of the *Talk*, a parent of a student at our school expressed concern to Mrs. Freeman about a phrase in the story "Two Hot Singers". The quote from the story was "Justin Bieber is a wannabe white boy out of N.Y." The parent mainly called to point out a double standard that made her uncomfortable.

ASB

What is ASB all about? ASB, also known as, "Associated Student Body" has been here at MLMS since the school opened in 1995. ASB is a group of students that make decisions on how to spend money raised from fundraisers. They are students that represent the whole school. This year, ASB is comprised mostly of 7th graders.

The teachers that help out with ASB are Mrs. Fletcher and Mr. Monge. They tell us that to be in ASB you have to have good

Double standards are when something one person says is considered o.k., but when said by a different type of person it is considered wrong. For example if a Hispanic person makes fun of a White person they may think it is o.k., but if it's the other way around it is racist. The parent expressed concern that if a white student said something similar about a Hispanic singer, there would be many more people upset about it. What do you think? Was the quote used in the story out-of-line?

Our principal, Mrs. Freeman told us that she doesn't like racism or support it. She also said that there has never been a big racial issue here at our school,

and that at our school we do not even have racial cliques. Some students disagree with Mrs. Freeman. They think that there actually have been racially motivated fights, but the students don't say it is racially motivated out of fear of creating more trouble for themselves. We certainly agree with Mrs. Freeman when she says that you should be careful in choosing your words. Some people might misinterpret them and think of it as racist when you did not have that intention.

Racism might still be present in our society, but it should not be part of anyone's experience at MLMS. Being considerate of other's perspective is important and a skill everyone should work to improve.

Mariana Madrigal & Edwin Lerya

grades and good behavior. Without ASB at our school, we would be unorganized and wouldn't be able to have all the fun activities that we have every year.

How does ASB help our school? ASB members form groups to discuss problems, at school, upcoming events. Associated Student Body argues about the difficulties we have on campus like gum at school, or trash problems increasing on campus. Sometimes the discussions don't go well, but at the end, a solution to

the problem is solved.

ABS always tries to solve the problems and to help our school find ways to work properly and avoid any bumps on the road.

The students of Journalism would like to thank ASB for all the great things they have done for us. ASB does a lot to make our school a better place for students to come and learn and have a great time. They also paid for COLOR printing in the insert of this issue! Tell them Thanks!

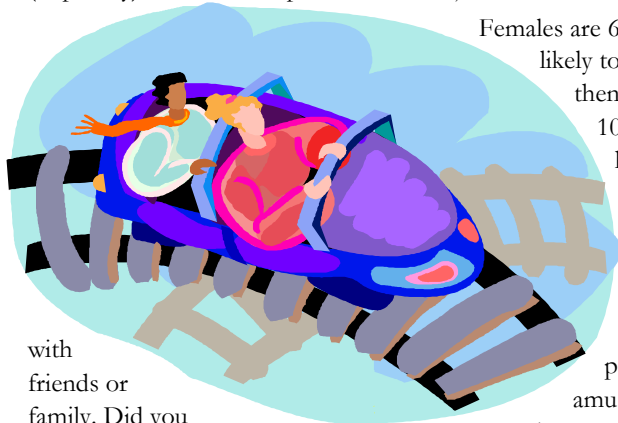


Amusement Parks

Morgan Craig & Vanessa Hurtado

Amusement Parks are fun. They have rides, food, and great weather (hopefully), and time to spend

go into the emergency room for amusement park related injuries.



with friends or family. Did you know about the dangers you are at risk of every time you buckle into your favorite ride? I bet you didn't know that every year, 8,800 people

Females are 60% more likely to get injured than males. Ages 10-14 have the highest death and injury interests.

Disneyland is one of the most popular amusement parks. Mrs. Fletcher's favorite amusement park is Disneyland and California Adventure, and she enjoys the Soaring Over California ride.

In this ride, you get a chance to go up in a glider and get the feeling of flying over California.

Disneyland has Disney themed rides and parades. Another popular theme park is Knott's Berry Farm; it has a country-western theme. Its fastest ride is the Xcelerator. California Adventure has family-friendly fun, including The Muppets and A Bug's Life movies and skits. Also, they have the Tower of Terror, where you get into an elevator and it drops suddenly. Sea World has numerous sea life shows including Shamu and his dolphin "friends". A few rides are

available, including the semi-new Journey to Atlantis water-ride. Universal Studios has a new Simpson's ride, and older, Jurassic Park, The Return of The Mummy, and the tour ride. This is themed for Hollywood, as it is located in Hollywood.

Most students look for the highest, scariest, fastest, or overall most fun factor in a ride. Most teachers, however, look for safety, and to get off alive, since they have kids that are relying on them.

So now that you are aware of the dangers of amusement parks... Have fun at Knott's, 8th graders!

Immigration Laws

Sebastian Prudencio & Sergio m Salazar

Recently, Arizona elected a new controversial immigration law. The law requires immigrants to provide ID to show that they are in the country legally. It lets police question people if there's a reason to suspect the person is in the United States illegally—but only if that person has been stopped for some *other* reason like a traffic violation. According to the law, police cannot stop and question someone simply because the police think they may be here illegally, and they can not question someone based on race or ethnicity. Even with those provisions, many think the law is not fair and they believe law enforcement could use the law in racist ways.

Teachers expressed differing opinions on the law. Mrs. Gutierrez says that she disagrees with the law for various reasons. Ms. Eccles said that it may create more racial problems and that it violates human rights to be asked

to show your papers based on nationality or ethnic background. Mrs. Hill thinks people should obey the law and that it's a step in the right direction. Mrs. Fletcher thinks it's an example of government gone wrong and it reminds her of Nazi tactics. Lastly Mr. Sanchez said that "Every nation has right to defend its borders—the United States is no exception. The concern over racial profiling is legitimate, still, the idea of stopping drug trafficking is also legitimate, and that is a part of Arizona's plan. I only wish no drugs existed or the demand for them".

While the Arizona law may be unpopular around here, there is strong support in Arizona and across much of the United States. Part of that is because there are many immigration laws *in Mexico* that don't seem fair. According to Michelle-malkin.com, the Mexican gov-

ernment will bar foreigners if they upset "the equilibrium of the national demographics." Can you imagine if the Arizona law said that?

In a CNN interview, The Mexican President clarified that many parts of immigration law in Mexico (presumably like the example above) were changed in 2008. Wolf Blitzer asked Felipe Calderon on how Mexico treats illegal immigrants today.

Blitzer: "*You find them and you send them back?*" (referring to immigrants entering Mexico illegally)

Calderon: "*Yes. However, especially with the people of Guatemala, we are providing a new system in which any single citizen from Guatemala could be able to visit any single border (INAUDIBLE) in the south. And even with all the requirements, he can or she can visit any parts of Mexico*". (from <http://transcripts.cnn.com/>)

TRANSCRIPTS/1005/19/sitroom.01.html

The bottom line is that Mexican law is actually very similar to the Arizona law. In Mexico, you have to be able to show you are in the country legally, which is all the Arizona law is about. The difference seems to be that unlike Arizona, Mexican President Calderon says he is trying to make it easier for immigrants who travel in Mexico. What do you think about this topic?

Teachers, Students, and Parents:

This story touches on an emotional topic for many people, and it went through several drafts as new facts were revealed. Regardless of your opinion on the Arizona law, it is important to avoid rhetoric from the extremes of either political side and get the actual facts when discussing this issue with students. We need to teach students to be informed, educated users of information to make the best decisions possible.

Keith Schumacher,
Journalism Teacher/Facilitator

Online version further edited for accuracy.

MESA

Travis Gilbert & Leonardo Diaz

Mesa stands for Math, Engineering, Science, and Achievement. Some of you may have heard of Mesa but in case you haven't, it is a program that offers advanced science to over achievement students. Mesa is a great program to be in. It allows kids to learn and have fun while doing it. While they are building, they're using their imagination to make magnificent models of boats and buildings.

Mesa, along with UC Riverside, help make this program possible to students living in Riverside. Mesa also gives out scholarships to students who win their activity. Students said that they are glad to be in Mesa and hope that it will be offered in high school.

Some activities the students enjoy are more competitive so that they work harder. The students make cardboard boats and race them across the high school pool. Some student's boats don't even float and just sink because they can't support the students.

There are also wooden buildings that are shaken on a simulated earthquake table. Only the best buildings make it through the shock. Many students made Mesa projects and won medals due to there hard work. It was our first year doing Mesa and it turned

out great. We won many medals and hopefully will achieve the same next year.

So if you are a fan of science and you secretly love Math, then go join MESA and you will have some serious fun.



Radical Schedule Changes

Aubrey Dabbs

For many years there has been an exploratory wheel. But over the last several years it has changed a lot. The reason that it was called exploratory is because it was like a wheel and the class would go for 12 or 18 weeks, then the students would do switch to another class and try some thing different. "The whole point was to give kids a taste of something before High School," said Mr. Beasley.

There also used to be a wider variety of things such as, Art, Music, Computers, PSR, Languages, and Music Keyboarding. Now there are not as many choices available. Next year, students will not have the ro-

tating classes. This means that the students will have the same teacher and class all year long. Besides Exploratory, there will also be a new elective next year, Video Production. In this class they will be working with computers and video, and they will also be doing the morning announcements on a video. Mr. Schumacher, who will be teaching video productions, will be getting a lot of new equipment from ASB to make the class possible.

An even bigger change is happening to our Teams. Next year there will only be 2 teams per grade. "We're shrinking for the 3rd year in a row," Mrs.

Freeman. There will be 90 students less than the amount we have this year. This year the teams have an average of 140-175 students per team. Next year the teams will have an average of 222-259 students. There will also be 6 teachers on each team instead of 4.

The team names will also have to be renamed. The teachers will be deciding on the new team names. More than likely, the teams will still carry names based on the feline theme in place now.

Change happens, and while there will be things we miss, there will also be much to look forward to next year.

Old schedule



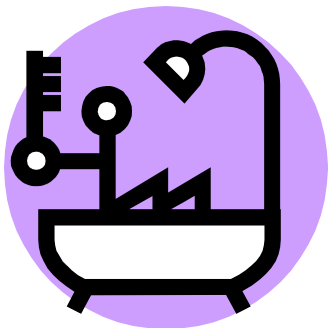
New schedule



How to Take a Shower (Because—some of you need to know)

Jocelyn Vasquez & Sandra Lopez

As the days get hotter, you sweat more and more every



hot water and don't forget to wash the important parts!" Mr. Cook said "Make sure the water is nice and warm before you go in."

Some students at MLMS gave awkward tips to follow when taking a shower. Kyle Heredia said "Don't use soap in your butt cheeks because it hurts!" Another of Kyle's friends, Chris, said "Do not scrub hard." Alejandra Torres and Yasmine Vargas said that it's important to make sure you wash any part of you that

might stink. Bryan Baca said "I get the soap and start washing my chest hair." Sure Bryan—sure. Chris Rojas said "I use Suave and soap."

Hopefully after these informational tips, you'll know how to shower the correct way. Maybe these tips will help you stay fresh during the summer!



"I get the soap and start washing my chest hair."

Bryan Baca

day. Many of us will shower up to 3 times a day due to the heat! But here's a funky question, "How do *you* take a shower?" Many of us might ask ourselves at this moment, "What kind of question is this?", but hey, not only is it curiosity to some of us, but it might also be helpful to some of you.

These are some different ideas according to some of our staff members and students here at our MLMS campus. Ms. Davis said, "Even if you have just taken a shower, you still need deodorant, because everybody stinks. You don't know you stink because you can't smell your own stink."

Mr. Sanchez says "Showers are for sissies." He also said "Doesn't everyone go to a river? Just get zest soap and a bucket and do the following: 1) Go to a private place. 2) Get your zest and scrub hardly. 3) Splash back like a gorilla. 4) Swim for five minutes and relax. 5) Dry off and pull off leeches, usually about 20. 6) Then get dressed and go to work."

Now we know what those bubbles are in the Santa Ana! Mrs. Harris says "Use less

It's the end of the year as we know it...

B	B	Q	A	F	R	E	E	T	I	M	E	N	O	I	T	A	C	A	V
A	K	N	O	T	T	S	Y	L	U	J	F	O	H	T	R	U	O	F	M
W	F	H	R	F	I	E	J	L	C	M	B	V	B	H	X	J	U	O	I
S	V	S	H	A	E	S	L	E	E	P	I	N	I	M	G	V	V	H	M
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L	X	J	J	M	P	B	W	T	E	X	M	D	X	K	F	U	F	P	C

- august
- bbq
- beach
- familytime
- fathersday
- fourthofjuly
- freetime
- friends
- fun
- highschool
- hot
- july
- june
- knotts
- melons
- movies
- nohomework
- promotion
- sand
- sleepin
- suitcase
- summer
- summerschool
- sunblock
- swimsuit
- tan
- travel
- vacation
- water
- watermelon

Goodbye— Have a safe and pleasantly aromatic Summer! See you in AUGUST!!