

# The Growing Edge

Your Midland Christian School Weekly News Source  
Friday, February 22, 2008

- ⇒ **NOTA BENE -- The Dilemma: Are we men or machines?** Manufacturing jobs are going over seas. The American workforce must now be prepared for "knowledge worker" jobs. But there's a catch. Knowledge worker jobs will go overseas just as quickly unless America can excel at education. In testimony before the Joint Economic Committee (June 2005), former chairman of the Federal Reserve, Alan Greenspan, noted that US children test above the world average levels at the 4<sup>th</sup> grade level while they fall below the world average by the 12<sup>th</sup> grade. Mr. Greenspan claimed that this issue needed to be addressed for the economic stability of the United States. As modern education trims "non-productive" subjects like the humanities in a rush to put more emphasis on practical subjects like math and science, it undermines the foundation of education AND students' application of the math and science skills they do have. In the process, the modern approach creates technicians who cannot think, do not have common sense, and do not write or speak well. We learn to think and relate to others through the process of education. By focusing on vocational training, we fail to make great doctors or great engineers or great thinkers and citizens. This is where C.S Lewis said modern educators make their mistake. They presume that classical, Christian education is an unnecessary luxury. Why read Plato or Aquinas or Burke? Why learn Latin or Greek? What relevance could it possibly have to medicine or engineering? The answer is simple, but not obvious. We are not machines to be programmed – we are works to be made. If we are bundles of cells that make up a complex organic machine, then our brains must be like a computer. Education should only require that we be programmed and filled with data. But, since we are creatures made in the image of God, then our minds must be cultivated to grow to their potential. To educate, we must read the great thinkers in history and evaluate their work in light of God's Word. Classical Christian education requires parents to look deeper into the foundation of education. *Take Note* of the MCS Family Dessert and Celebration Banquet as opportunities to learn more about the value of a classical, Christian education at MCS. Once you understand its value, you'll wish you could go back to school!
- ⇒ **MCSA ANNUAL MEETING – YOU DECIDE:** That's right, as a parent of an MCS student your involvement sets the direction for our school. There is no more important time for your input than at the annual MCS Association meeting on **Monday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>**. Many important topics concerning the direction and operation of Midland Christian School will be discussed and decided on that Monday evening. **WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT!** Some topics of discussion will be: 1)combining the present two-board system into one, 2)implementing classical education, 3)tuition schedules, 4)electing board members, and 5)budget approval. Midland Christian School can accomplish what it amazingly does because of parent involvement. Currently MCS needs a person with wisdom, commitment, and leadership skills to fill a position on the Board. Experience in finance or marketing would be a plus. Please pray and consider this important position. Email [Joeagrnt@charter.net](mailto:Joeagrnt@charter.net) if you would like additional information. We are hoping we will have a representation from every school family at the annual meeting. Please mark you calendar and plan to attend. Thanks.

- ⇒ **SECONDARY FIELD TRIP INFORMATION:** MCS 7-12 graders have the opportunity to go to Cedar Point Amusement Park in Sandusky, Ohio, for a fun day on **Friday, May 30<sup>th</sup>**. This will be an early morning to late night field trip with charter bus transportation provided. The admission to the park and bus fare will be \$65 per person. If anyone needs financial assistance in order to participate with this trip, please contact the school office. Students will also need to bring food and drinks for breakfast and lunch as well as money to purchase supper. Mark your calendar!
- ⇒ **MCS CELEBRATION BANQUET:** Our MCS Celebration Banquet will be held on **Friday, March 14<sup>th</sup>**, at 7:00 p.m. It will be important to the success of this event to have plenty of volunteers. If you can help with Child Care, Set-Up, or Tear-Down, please sign up in the school office or call us at 835-9881 at your earliest opportunity. Also, please begin now to invite friends or relatives who would be interested in finding out more about our school. You will be receiving Banquet invitations in the mail shortly to give away. An RSVP is required to attend. Thank you so much!
- ⇒ **CONGRATULATIONS!** Our MCS Battle of the Books team won their first competition on Wednesday, Feb. 13. They competed again this Wednesday, Feb. 20. Go "Number the Books" team!
- ⇒ **DRIVEWAY REMINDER:** Please remember when dropping off or picking up children during school hours, not to block the driveway in front of the main entrance. The right side of the drive near the sidewalk is to be used only for dropping off or picking up your children, **NEVER PARKING**. This is a driving lane and must be kept clear at all times. If you must **park briefly** and come in for 5 minutes, please park on the **left side** of the driveway. Please use the main parking lot for longer visits. Thanks!
- ⇒ **"CRUSADER CLASSIC" GOLF/WALK EVENT:** The spring fundraiser will be **Friday, May 9<sup>th</sup>**, and will take on a new look this year. In an effort to involve more MCS families in the event, there will be a fundraising campaign that will culminate with a day of celebration including golfing, walking, games, and prizes. It is an opportunity for the entire family to be involved in a fun and exciting experience while investing in the future of MCS. Best of all, your family can participate with little or no out-of-pocket expense. Watch for upcoming announcements so you can stay up-to-date with this thrilling event and decide how your family can get involved. **FORE!!**
- ⇒ **"CRUSADER CLASSIC" PRAYER TEAM:** Connie Wieber will be leading the prayer team for the Golf/Walk Event and will be sending out weekly prayer updates via email or paper (if you don't have email). She would like to have some faithful prayer crusaders to join her in this prayer effort. If you would be willing, please email Connie at [Connie.wieber@gmail.com](mailto:Connie.wieber@gmail.com) or call her at 832-0127. Thank you!
- ⇒ **FEBRUARY FOOD DRIVE:** The Student Council is sponsoring a food drive during the month of February. We are collecting non-perishable foods to be donated to the Caregiving Network food pantry, a local Christian outreach center. Each Homeroom: Preschool through 12<sup>th</sup> grade, will have a box in which to collect their donations. There will be a contest to see which grade or homeroom gathers the largest number of donations. Suggested food items that are needed are: canned fruits, vegetables, soup, and meat; boxed meals, cereal and pasta; peanut butter, jelly/jam, flour, sugar, personal care items such a toothpaste, laundry soap, etc. Your donation will provide help to those in crisis situations in Midland County. Please be generous and thank you in advance!

⇒ **PARENT AUXILIARY MEETING:** The Parent Auxiliary has rescheduled their February meeting to be held on Thursday, Feb. 28<sup>th</sup>, at 1:15 p.m. in Room 8. There will not be a meeting on March 6<sup>th</sup>. If you have any questions, please call Alice Fenske at 631-0897.

⇒ **UPCOMING EVENTS:**

Feb. 22-23 ACSI Girl's BB Tournament at Barry County Christian School in Hastings Township  
Wed., Feb. 27 Midterm for 3rd Marking Period  
" Education Committee Meeting at 2:45 p.m. in Room 11  
Thu., Feb. 28 Parent Auxiliary Meeting at 1:15 p.m. in Room 8  
Feb. 28-29 AuSable Institute Overnight Field Trip for Fifth and Sixth Grades  
Feb. 29-Mar.1 ACSI Boy's BB Tournament at New Covenant Christian School in Lansing  
Sun., Mar. 2 Preschool Open House from 12:00-3:00 p.m.  
Mon., Mar. 3 MCSA Annual Meeting at 7:00 p.m.  
Wed., Mar. 5 Finance and Development Committee Meeting at 12:00 noon in Room 8  
" Preparation and Response Committee Meeting at 2:45 p.m. in Room 8  
Mar. 7 & 8 MCS Parent & Staff Desserts at 6:30 p.m. at the VanDerhoof home – RSVP needed  
Fri., Mar. 8 Athletic Committee Meeting at 8:30 a.m. in Room 8  
" Representative John Moolenaar Reading in Chapel at 10:30 a.m.  
Fri., Mar. 17 MCS Celebration Banquet at 7:00 p.m. in the gymnasium  
Sat., Mar. 15 Spring Fling (grades 7-12) in the Cafeteria and Game Room from 7:00-10:00 p.m.