

FUND-AN-ITEM 2010

EVERY CHILD. EVERY CLASSROOM. SMART BOARDS FOR SMART KIDS.

Studies show that interactive whiteboards used effectively in the classroom are directly linked to an increase in student achievement. In classrooms with extensive professional development on the equipment, combined with teachers who have many years of experience, the increase is even greater.

All around the world, schools are implementing interactive whiteboards (often referred to as “SMART boards”) to bridge the “digital divide” to the younger, tech-oriented generations – that is, the educational gap between how today’s students learn and how they live. Mariners Christian School recognizes the need to keep pace with the changing dynamics of our student population with strategic application of educational technology.

SMART boards are a powerful tool for teachers to use in the education and inspiration of bright young minds. This year’s Fund an Item initiative will enable MCS to equip classrooms with interactive whiteboards as well as provide teacher training (which is critical) and ongoing upkeep/maintenance. SMART boards are recognized nationally as one of the best technological investments a school can make in the classroom.



Project Cost: \$250,000 will equip every classroom with interactive white boards as well as provide vital teacher training and annual equipment upkeep.

SMART BOARDS ARE FOR ALL STUDENTS, ALL SUBJECTS!

No two learners are the same. Because the Board touches the visual, auditory, and kinesthetic, it supports all different learning styles of students. Research shows that many students benefit from a varied teaching methodology, rather than a traditional “teacher-centered” classroom model. SMART Boards can be



used in a variety of learning environments and cross-subject areas, including English, math, science, social studies, music, art, and more.

Contact tperkins@mcs-school.org to pledge your support today!

SMART BOARDS MAKE LEARNING FUN!



as they explore academic topics. Teachers can create fabulous lessons that include interactive websites and multi-media components which are more interesting and involve students in the learning process.

According to an article in The Denver Post, “Teachers say they are more effective and students more engaged with the (whiteboards).” This innovative technology creates excitement and energy for students

SMART BOARDS CREATE NEW LEARNING SPACES

The SMART Board allows students to work with large amounts of data on an information space that encourages collaboration. Students work together to touch the board, answer questions, play competitive games, explore websites, and practice skills. This makes tasks such as reviewing math facts much more interesting and motivating.

HONOR THE LORD

In response to the 2009-2010 theme "Honor the Lord," a number of wonderful service projects are being completed this year, many of them led by students. At Christmas, families responded enthusiastically (for the 15th year!) to Operation Christmas Child, packing hundreds of boxes with toys and necessities for the needy. In response to the Haiti earthquake in January, the Laskey family initiated a shoe drive in Mr. Wilcockson's first grade class to benefit Soles4Souls, an organization dedicated to providing shoes for the needy. Those first graders collected an overwhelming 220 pairs of shoes for children and adults. In February, fifth graders in Mrs. Walsvig's class operated a bake sale which raised \$600 for Free Wheelchair Mission. Most recently, the 8th grade class organized a stuffed animal "Make a Child Smile" drive for children at Orangewood Children's Home — they collected more than 1,000 toys! This group of middle school students wrote the following mission statement for their effort: *"The Make a Child Smile Foundation wants to spread the word of Jesus Christ to children in need, to let them know they are not alone. We collect stuffed animals and attach biblical scripture and words of encouragement for delivery to foster children and young cancer patients."* We are proud of all MCS students who are learning to honor others above themselves.



GOOD NEWS FOR MCS

Have you noticed MCS featured in the news recently? Since November, the local media has featured MCS in more than 25 articles in the Orange County Register, L.A. Times, Daily Pilot, and Daily Voice. Our local community is reading all about the wonderful things happening on and off campus — stories about our Veterans' Day event featuring World War II veteran and hero Walter Ehlers, a profile on industrious 8th grader Kate Allen, who personally collected donations to install goal posts at an orphanage in Mexico, and many more. Additionally, many of our fantastic alumni have been featured in the news for their accomplishments in athletics and the arts: Jack McBean, Matt Barkley, Kristina Pelekoudas, Jeffrey Fichtner, plus many more. Additional story ideas are always welcome — please email tperkins@mcs-school.org with leads.



MCS RECOGNIZED FOR EDUCATIONAL QUALITY AND INTEGRITY



For the third consecutive term, Mariners Christian School is poised to earn a full accreditation from Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI) and Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC).

The accreditation process is an important part of ongoing, school-wide improvement. When a school is accredited by ACSI and WASC, parents can be assured that the school's outstanding quality has been validated in all areas. Additionally, the process assists the school in identifying goals for improvement. For example, at MCS we have already identified these topics as target areas for growth: expand enrollment plan in light of changing demographics; enhance our interactive web site to serve students and parents; expand learning lab capabilities for kindergarten and middle school; introduce a full-scale ceramics program; improve use of technology with art; strengthen the scripture memorization program across grade levels; assess grade level service projects and consider implementing new ones to support student outcomes, to name just a few.

"I cannot think of any action taken by a school that produces more total school benefit than the decision to attain (or retain) accredited status. Curriculum quality is strengthened, school policies are refined, student achievement enhanced, and future direction strengthened. Without accreditation the attainment of overall excellence for a Christian school is difficult."

- Ken Tanis-Delaware Christian Schools

MCS GOES TO ALL DAY KINDER!



In response to the changing educational climate, MCS is implementing several full day kindergarten classes beginning fall 2010. For several years, interested parents have inquired about the availability of an all-day kindergarten program for their children. Many dual-income households require this option; in

other situations, parents simply prefer to have their child in school longer for social or other reasons. We are thrilled to offer both a full day (8:15-2:30) and a 2/3 day (8:15-12:30) so that we can accommodate parents' varied interests.

SPORTS DEPARTMENT SHINES

Under Coaches Thompson's and Meyer's leadership, MCS Athletics has had another stellar year with championships in 8th grade flag football, 7th/8th D2 girls' volleyball, 6th grade D1 boys' basketball, and 6th grade D2 girls' volleyball.

8th grade flag football started off the year strong and went undefeated in league play, carried the momentum into playoffs, and beat Calvary Costa Mesa in a thriller that saw MCS capture the title for the third straight year in a row.

7th/8th grade girls' Division 2 volleyball team finished league play as the second seed going into the tournament. In the final game, they earned a championship for the first time in 5 years! In a moment of pure joy, the girls circled up to give thanks and praise to God in a prayer.

8th grade boys' basketball competed in the Coastal Athletic League again this year and did a fantastic job. They finished overall as the 5th seed going into the playoffs.

6th grade girls' volleyball also had a tremendous season with an overwhelming 26 girls coming out for the two teams. Both teams advanced all the way to the championship game of their respective divisions.

6th grade boys' basketball had a great year, losing only one game all season in their lead up to the championship game.

New this year, MCS organized its' first ever **boys' and girls' soccer teams**. The teams participated in the challenging CAL with public schools such as Ensign, Corona Del Mar, and Dwyer, and when all was said and done, the teams gained valuable experience this year in their first year in the league.



"This year, MCS Athletic Program continued to be popular among the 6th, 7th and 8th grade students with approximately 150 out of a total of 210 students participants in the various sports (many of which play 2 or 3 sports over the year). Student athletes are proud of their school and participate with pride at home and away always honoring God with their behavior on and off the field."

- MCS Athletic Director Mac Thompson

ESTUDIEN ESPAÑOL!



To enhance our middle school students' understanding of the Spanish language and culture, MCS offers an optional, annual family trip to Spain. Over the past 4 years, families (including alumni) have travelled together on teacher-led trips to explore Madrid, Barcelona, Segovia, and Toledo.

in 8th grade with a solid foundation in the language, and 95% of those surveyed tested into Spanish II their freshman year. Veteran MCS teacher Senora Bartlett has taught Spanish for 15 years, 11 of them here at MCS. Her goal is to instill a love and passion for the language that can be used when students travel abroad as well as on a daily basis in our ever-changing and diversifying community. She commented, "Students who wholeheartedly pursue mastery of the Spanish language will have numerous advantages for their future careers and in God's service." Senora Nova also has a wealth of experience to offer her students as well as a passion and love for the Spanish language and culture. She hopes students will have a better understanding of the Spanish speaking culture and an eagerness to learn more about their friends, neighbors, people in their community, around the world, and in the mission field.

STUDENTS LEARN SPANISH VIA ALUMNI BLOG

While social network usage is exploding among teens and adults as a way to catch up or share photos, Spanish teacher Christine Novakovich is employing the new media in a more constructive way – as an instructional tool. Mrs. Novakovich learned about MCS Alumni Lauren Johnson, who is now studying abroad in Uruguay and writing a blog while she is there. She asked Lauren if she would interact with the class via the blog. Now students are getting Spanish lessons straight from South America! Lauren, whose blog is called Traigame Uruguay, or "bring me Uruguay," writes about her life in that South American nation, sharing with the students first-hand information on the culture, people and food. In another instance, Mrs. Nova asked her to blog about the type of clothes worn in that southern hemisphere country. "When she asked me to write about it, there was a huge festival in Montevideo called Carnaval," Lauren said. "It is the longest running carnival in the world, and during the parades they dress up in various costumes, which I explained to the class in a mix of Spanish and English." The result has been a success, Novakovich said. "This has definitely increased their interest in the language and Spanish-speaking culture," Novakovich said. "The students were amazed that what I was teaching them they will actually use. Lauren's blog can be read at <http://thoughtsandmusingsofanoddball.blogspot.com>.

Every day at Mariners Christian School, students in 2nd-8th grade are digging into foreign language study under the expert guidance of Christine Novakovich (2nd-5th) and Denise Bartlett (6th-8th). Spanish is taken once per week in the elementary years and twice per week in middle school – students graduate

ALUMNI ALL-STAR ATHLETES



MCS provides a solid sports experience for middle school students – not just in terms of “wins,” but also in terms of individual sportsmanship and personal development. MCS Athletics offers competitive athletics in volleyball, basketball football, and softball – but what does that mean for students that don’t continue in those particular sports after eighth grade? Over the years this has translated into a tremendous success rate for graduates playing in high school

sports. We asked some directly what it was that impacted them most. Greg Allen ('08) and Jack McBean ('09) have been seen in the news frequently, Jack as a star freshman on the CDM varsity soccer team. Jack helped lead the Sea Kings to capture the CIF title in March. He shares his thoughts on how MCS prepared him: *“MCS prepared me for high school sports by teaching me that sports is not all about winning. If you have the quiet confidence heading into a game, and faith in God that no matter what happens he'll be there, then your team will do fine.”* Another high school athlete is Alumni Catherine Carpenter ('07) on CDM's water polo team. Mariners Christian School prepared me for high school athletics by teaching me how to be a positive and encouraging teammate: *“Even though MCS doesn't have a water polo team, I developed a passion for being part of a team and will always be thankful for the encouragement I was given there.”*

SAVE THE DATE

**MIDDLE SCHOOL MUSICAL:
MUSIC MAN, JR.**

Thursday, May 20

Friday, May 21

and Saturday, May 22

LAST DAY OF SCHOOL

Wednesday, June 16

EIGHTH GRADE GRADUATION

Thursday, June 17

**MCS ALUMNI REUNION:
ALL CLASSES!**

Thursday, May 27, 6:30 p.m.

Food, Fun, Reminiscing, and
Volleyball Match



**MARINERS
CHRISTIAN SCHOOL**

300 FISCHER AVENUE
COSTA MESA, CA 92626
714.437.1700 FAX 714.437.7976
WWW.MARINERSCHRISTIANSCHOOL.ORG

Non-Profit Org.
US Postage

PAID

Santa Ana, CA
Permit No. 4175



100 grandparents joined their middle-school age grandchildren for a fabulous Egyptian and Science Fair.