

Jib Sheet

Volume 1, Issue 1

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In brief:

- 2002-2003 school year begins August 26th
- Teachers report on August 22nd
- Teacher Opt Days—August 20, 21
- Student transportation notifications will be mailed week of August 20th
- MAST applications for 2003-2004 are available September 15th
- Back To School Night is October 15th



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From the Pilothouse

As I look ahead to the 2002-2003 school year, I see it in my mind's eye as a clean canvas, still free of the etchings and brushstrokes that will eventually become a discernable picture. I know what I would like to see imaged on that canvas by the year's end—the many extraordinary moments that constitute the academic year at this world-class school.

While we cannot predict the year, we can certainly plan for it. And planning for the new school year is exactly what we have been doing since the early weeks of spring!

This coming year will see MAST and FIU expand their dual enrollment relationship, adding AutoCAD and engineering to the hospitality courses we have offered for several years. As I write this, we have begun to explore a Geospa-



tial Information Systems program with FIU. I will keep the MAST community apprised of our progress.

I encourage you to read the article on our new wireless laptop technology, and I want to mention as well that Mr. Guerra has just received training to use the school's 25-station wireless language lab. Because of MAST's commitment to teacher training in classroom technology applications, Intel recently provided funds for an additional Smartboard purchase. In sum, students

and teachers can now access sophisticated technology from virtually any location in the school.

I want to close with a brief look at recent history. The Class of 2002—a group of only 139 students—received offers for nearly \$3,700,000 in scholarships and assistance; 77% of the group were eligible Florida Bright Futures awards, and 57% graduated with the prestigious Superintendent's Diploma. These numbers suggest that our children derive enormous benefits from effective parenting and exemplary teaching. I thank our families and teachers—past and present—for their unflagging efforts on behalf of MAST's students.

Finally, my hope for us all is a safe and rewarding new school year.

Consuelo V. Domínguez

2002 Summer Session Sizzles

On July 8th, after a brief end-of-the-year respite, students were once again walking the airy corridors of MAST en route to research, speech, FCAT Prep, weight training, internship, and Mariner classrooms.

Ninth grade and Mariner parents were also counted among

the hall denizens that busy morning.

Principal Consuelo V. Domínguez was thrilled to see so many families: "It is extremely important to me that families feel comfortable at MAST. I welcome them in the summer and throughout the school year."

Summer school at MAST means compressing a maximum of learning into a calendar of only twenty-seven

days. Field trips, while plentiful, are directly tied to classroom activities. Sophomore Vanessa Chediak says that summer school "is a lot of work, but we get something important from it." Well said, Vanessa.

MAST's Microfleet . . . Technology in the Classroom

The *Nina*, *Pinta*, and *Santa Maria* have arrived at MAST . . . completely transformed as wireless classroom computer labs. The school now owns three "hubs" (as these assemblies are properly called)—two with twenty-four computers and one with thirty.

What they enable students and teachers to do is extraordinary. Ms. Sutton's journalism students use the labs to write, edit, and format *The Beacon*. Much of MAST's 2002 yearbook, *Mako Fuka*, was written and designed on computers. Science teachers—such as Outreach Specialist Brian Rapoza—use computers to conduct virtual labs. As this newsletter goes to press, Mariner classes are analyzing coral reef data using "microfleet" technology.

It would seem that as the classroom applications of technology expand, the demand for the classroom hubs grows exponentially. We have also seen increased computer use elsewhere in the school. According to Media Specialist Sharon Van Smith, "The microfleet has given our media center a greatly expanded capability to make computer and online resources available to staff and students."

The wireless labs have clearly made a big splash at MAST. We will continue to provide our students with access to the kinds of technology they will encounter in the redefined workplace of the 21st century.



Technology in the classroom

MAST Mariners . . . An Enriching Experience

Where can 6th or 7th graders go if they want to improve their water skills, study science, language arts, mathematics, and do a science project? They can attend the MAST Mariner summer program! According to veteran Mariner teacher Bobbi Savage, students get "a good dose of organiza-



2002 Mariners on Key Biscayne

MAST is an excellent school—some might say, in fact, one of the best in the country. Even so, we cannot be all things to all people.

We are a small school, with moderately-sized classes, and a teaching staff of only 36 full-time teachers. We offer the required courses for graduation and several electives that reflect our marine theme.

What we cannot do, however, is offer such courses Latin I and II, Global Studies, AP Government and Politics along with Micro- and Macroeconomics, and web design—because we simply cannot spread dedicated teachers too thinly.

Our commitment to giving our students options, though, is unflagging. And thus we have incorporated online courses into our curriculum—through the Florida Virtual School (FLVS).

There are conditions that must be met by

Expanding Curriculum . . . Virtually

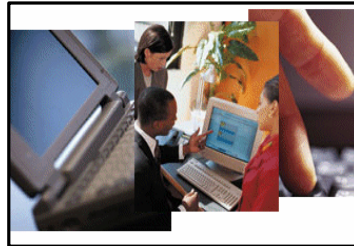


Photo from FLVS website.

students who want to learn "virtually." Because the online experience is less structured than the "traditional" course experience, we require that students have an unweighted GPA of 3.0. We also make FLVS courses an option for juniors and seniors only, and we do not offer online courses as a replacement for MAST courses. Other requirements and program parameters are outlined in the *2002-2003 Curriculum Bulletin*, pp. 48-49.

Begun as a pilot program in Orange County in 1996, FLVS has enjoyed extraordinary success. To meet the online demand, in fact, FLVS now licenses (or "franchises") its courses to several school districts.

MAST is proud to be one of the first schools in South Florida to develop a relationship with FLVS. We will continue to refine our partnership . . . until it is virtually

Just What Does NBPTS Mean?

NBPTS—acronym for the National Board of Professional Teaching Standards—is one of the most coveted pedigrees in education.

When NBPTS follows a teacher's name—as it does in the case of Mark Tohulka, Dion Phillips-Scotland, Diane

Garcia, Dana Yancoskie, new math teacher Dr. Mary Jo Murray, and John Ruppel—it means that the teacher has received national certification after passing the grueling NBPTS certification process.

For more information, go to <http://www.nbpts.org>.

quarium. Most people credit Outreach Specialist Diane Garcia with the program's success. This summer's group of 160 Mariners is grateful for the hard work of Ms. Garcia and her extraordinary team of dedicated teachers. Their efforts have resulted in a summer program that rivals those of the best independent schools in the nation. The Mariners program is certainly an example of public education at its best!



Ms. Simo Goes to Washington

Most people tour our nation's capital in typical tourist attire: a Washington, D.C. t-shirt, shorts, and sneakers. This summer, I had a completely different experience in Washington, D.C.—as a participant in the National Young Leaders' Conference. Instead of walking around downtown D.C. in the aforementioned tourist attire, I, along with 349 other “young leaders,” as we were called, traveled in professional attire such as skirts and business suits. I learned about how our government works and sharpened my leadership skills through various workshops, leadership group meetings, and speeches.

From the second I stepped off the shuttle bus and into the National 4-H Conference Center in Chevy Chase, Maryland, I knew I was in for quite an experience. The coordinators had divided the students into 16 different leadership groups, each with a faculty advisor. We met our faculty advisors upon arrival and were presented with a binder and a 200-page simulation book along with a three page itinerary. I remember noticing how young all our advisors and directors were and being shocked at all the things they had planned for us to do. Each day, we had leadership group meetings, where we discussed the day's events, did simulations of real life events from each branch of the government, and debated current events. We also heard numerous speakers talk on a range of different topics, from lowering the drinking age to international relations.

The highlight of each day was when we boarded the buses to our daily destinations. We visited almost every memorial in Washington, D.C., and spent one exciting day in Six Flags America. My favorite day was when we spent the entire morning and afternoon on Capitol Hill. We sat in on the House Floor in the same chairs that our lawmakers use. U.S. Representative Dennis Moore of Kansas talked with us about the workings of Congress. Each student had meetings arranged with their representatives and senators, although most of us ended up meeting their staffs instead. I was one of the lucky few who had a great personal experience with my representative, Ileana Ros-Lehtinen. She met me on the House Steps after voting and took me into the Capitol and through the underground train, which I never even knew existed, up to her office. We took several pictures together and then she invited me to her committee hearing where she sat me down in her chair and introduced me to several of her colleagues while the Secretary of Energy was testifying. After leaving the Rayburn Building, I met up with some of the students from Tennessee and walked with them to the Senate Steps to meet their senator and while we were there Senator Hillary Clinton (NY) walked right by us! It was definitely an amazing and unforgettable day.

Another highlight of the trip was attending the Presidential Scholars' Awards ceremony, where Secretary of Education Rod Paige and Vice President Dick Cheney spoke. The President was originally scheduled to speak, but he had to fly to Arizona at the last minute. Besides Capitol Hill Day, my best experience was letting loose and meeting dozens of new people from all over the United States. I bonded immediately with my three roommates as well as with other members of our leadership group. It was great to be surrounded by kids just like me and I definitely lost a lot of my shyness. In Washington, none of us had any fear of meeting new people; we would just introduce ourselves to every unfamiliar face wearing a NYLC nametag. Now that I am back in Miami, I still find myself wanting to go up to strangers, shake hands, and say “Hi! I'm Monica and I'm from Miami. What's your name?” (I would never have even thought about that before going to NYLC!)

Attending the conference has given me a greater appreciation of our government and a more thorough understanding of how it works. I learned, witnessed, and assimilated many aspects of it which I didn't even know existed. In addition, I grew as a person. I keep hearing myself say, “Washington is awesome, unforgettable, incredible!” NYLC is definitely one of the most memorable experiences I've ever had, and I strongly recommend it to everyone!

Written for the *Jib Sheet* by Monica Simo, Class of 2004

Team Schedules

Swimming & Volleyball

Girls' Volleyball 2002 Schedule

Date	Opponent	Time	Site
09/06/02	LaSalle	4:30	LaSalle
09/12/02	Country Day	5:30	Curley
09/12/02	Curley	6:30	Curley
09/26/02	Dade Christian (DC)	6:00	DC
09/26/02	DC	7:00	DC
10/01/02	FL Christian (FC)	6:30	FC
10/01/02	FC	7:30	FC
10/09/02	Curley	5:30	Country Day
10/09/02	Country Day	6:30	Country Day
10/21/02	Pace	6:00	Pace
10/29/02	Districts	5:00	FC

Swimming 2002-2003

Date	Opponent	Time	Site
9/11/02	Hialeah	3:00	Milander
9/18/02	Northwestern & Central	4:00	MAST
9/25/02	Miami Beach	4:00	MAST
10/9/02	Miami Springs	4:00	Springs Pool
10/17-18	Youth Fair Meet	TBA	Tamiami
10/23/02	Dr. Michael Krop	4:00	MAST
10/30/02	Coral Gables	4:00	MAST
11/7-8	G.M.A.C.	TBA	Tamiami
11/12/02	Districts	TBA	TBA
11/26/02	State Finals	TBA	TBA

The Re-Launching of mast.dade.k12.fl.us

As of August 20th, 2002, MAST will present a new “face” to the world—in the form of a substantially changed school website.

Our goals in transforming the site were chiefly two: ease of use and comprehensiveness. We hope we have succeeded on both counts.

New features include the *Principal’s Letter* (which acts as a guide to the site), a complete virtual tour of the campus, a Coast Guard JROTC page linked off the scroll on the main page, faculty, staff, and department links, a student gallery (where you will soon find online versions of *The Beacon*, *Spilt Milk*, and various student projects), club pages, a college advisement site, and a re-cast admissions page. Publications are up-to-date, easy to read and ready to print. This newsletter will also be available online, as will future school-home communications.

Melissa Fernandez, Class of 2000, is the school’s part-time webmaster. After a se-

mester at Amherst College, Melissa returned to Miami to continue her studies. (She’ll be off to med school in a couple of years!) A computer auto-didact, Melissa fairly dreams in pixels. We would not be able to debut our new site without her. Visitors to the website who want to communicate with Melissa can do so by clicking on the *webmaster* link on the main page.

If Melissa has been our technical genius, many people—here at school and beyond—have provided valuable input as we re-fashioned the site. Chief among them, of course, is Consuelo V. Domínguez, Principal, who has read, re-read, and then read again everything on this site. Teachers, students, and parents have offered constructive commentary throughout the year.

We’ve also enjoyed hearing from virtual visitors from across the country—and indeed the world. Students from Brazil, Argentina, Nepal, France, England, Italy, and Canada have visited the admissions page to

get information about both the school and the admissions process and to download the application.

Many groups that eventually make a “real time” visit to the school first became familiar with MAST through the school website.

Clearly, the website is an important part of the image we project to the world. We will continue to improve the site—and we hope you’ll suggest ways for us to make it even better.



Part of our new look!

Learning to Lead: CG JROTC

by LCDR Robert J. Camuccio

Much has been written about whether some men and women were born to lead or have learned to become leaders. My experience as both a military officer and educator tells me that leadership is a learned skill.



CG JROTC Battalion in Formation

Yet, like learning mathematics or a foreign language, there are individuals who seem to possess a natural tendency to ex-

cel as leaders. Most of us have heard of the natural athlete—a Jesse Owens, Mia Hamm, or Mark Spitz—but even natural athletes had to learn skills that were not part of their genetic coding.

The Coast Guard Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC) program is a four-year course of study that strives to teach leadership skills and to provide the environment to practice and develop leadership skills. This program mirrors the four-year program at the United States Coast Guard Academy. Freshmen are the followers, with little responsibility, while the seniors

have a vast amount of responsibility and authority to lead the JROTC program. Older students are challenged with increasing levels of responsibility and authority to build their personal leadership styles.

I am frequently told that when our cadets help with an event here at school or in the community, they handle themselves with dispatch, confidence, and authority. Their success is the result of hard work, natural talent—and plenty of opportunities to excel in the arena of leadership.

AP Challenge Is Worth the Effort

Why should students consider Advanced Placement courses? First, there is great value in being challenged. Assignments, discussions, topics, and assessments reflect a level of rigor beyond what students encounter in most other courses.

For students who score a 3 or above (on the 5-point AP scale) there is also the possibility of earning college credit. However, credit for high AP test scores is not awarded

by all colleges, so students need to become familiar with the policies of their top-choice schools.

Schools that do not grant credit will sometimes allow acceleration—which means increased flexibility: Students can enroll in courses in other disciplines without adding to their workload, cut back on courses during a particu-

$$\begin{aligned} x' &= \frac{x - vt}{\sqrt{1 - \frac{v^2}{c^2}}} \\ y' &= y \\ z' &= z \\ t' &= \frac{t - \frac{v}{c^2} \cdot x}{\sqrt{1 - \frac{v^2}{c^2}}} \end{aligned}$$

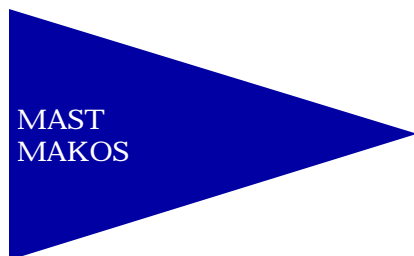
larly demanding semester, and change their major without remaining in school another year. But perhaps the most important reason to take an AP course is the satisfaction successful students derive from doing well both in a demanding course and on one of the most difficult examinations they will ever encounter.

**MAST ACADEMY—A NATIONALLY
RECOGNIZED SCHOOL OF
EXCELLENCE**

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We're on the move!



PTSA Greetings

MAST Academy Philosophy

For any institution to be successful, everyone involved must subscribe to clearly articulated core values. The MAST Academy's pragmatic approach to education emphasizes sound work ethics, parent and community involvement, a respect for the culture of the sea and the environment, self-esteem, civic responsibility, and job preparedness in an atmosphere conducive to learning and work.

MAST reinforces the fundamental concept that education is business. One of our primary tasks, therefore, is to encourage the creativity, flexibility, and responsibility our students will need in the work place. Thus, the curricular and extracurricular emphases on the problem-solving skills and team work essential to a productive life in business, government, science education, and community service.

MAST's philosophy points beyond intellectual development and career preparedness. The school seeks to develop the total student. Faculty, staff, parents, and the community work together to foster student initiative, integrity, honor, and leadership.

Congratulations to the incoming class of '06! Our eights crossed the tape, winners once again, with a 3-peat "A" rating on the FCAT. Like Lance and this year's Le Mans winner, we begin our training almost immediately in our quest for the yellow jersey: August 26th, the first day of school.

Agendas are probably the single most important piece of equipment on a shell for a novice. Without one, you are trying to steer a course without a rudder. Addresses, names, and numbers for teammates on your fours are helpful—that way, if you miss a practice or a test, you know what you need to do to catch up and keep the boat in perfect trim. Attitude is everything: Are you getting enough sleep, did you eat breakfast, exercise and review you homework before launching? Every two weeks, review your progress: Are you extending your stride, breathing easier, setting new goals?

Advice from a seasoned rower to a novice: 1) work hard in the beginning to build momentum and leave breathing room for the last 500 meters; 2) join crew.

The JV and Varsity teams are focused on raising their SAT scores, scanning and scooping-up scholarships and maintaining or improving their times/GPA with consistency in commitment to the team, internships, newspaper, yearbook, and student government. They are poised to draft an enviable list of first-choice, high-reach and safety schools for college applications. Do you know any alumni, teachers, or coaches? Get familiar with the applications ASAP. Provide reference letter forms to teachers/counselors early. Always check the essays carefully before shipping them out.

MAST PTSA meetings will be held at 7:00 p.m. on the first Monday of every month. We meet in the Boardroom on the second floor— everyone is encouraged to come help us set goals and chart our progress!.

Best wishes for a great year to all Parents, Teachers, Students and Administrators !

Joseph F. Suarez, President
MAST Academy PTSA

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