



THE MANE EDITION



October 2015

McKinney Christian Academy

Volume 14, Issue 2

*"By the grace God has given me, I laid a foundation as an expert builder, and someone else is building on it. But each one should be careful how he builds. For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ."
1 Corinthians 3:10-11*

NEWS BRIEFS



photo by Laura Smith

The art class displayed their talent at the art and choir show by setting up their artwork for everyone to see, and their work amazed their audience.



photo by Sara Dahl

This October, Mrs. Boese and a few of her students launched a weather balloon high in the sky to collect scientific data and to take photos of Earth.



photo by Sara Dahl

Meals on Wheels is only one of the many facilities that received volunteers from MCA on the annual MCA mission day.



photo by Laura Smith

The amazing Lady Mustang volleyball players gather together enthusiastically after scoring a point during the first round volleyball playoff game.

FEATURE

State Champions



courtesy photo

Through hard work and dedication the McKinney Christian Academy boys and girls cross country team got first place in the TAPPS state meet. The cross country team faced many adversities, but they came out on top.

Sarah Channers, *staff writer*

Cross country started out the season practicing in the grueling Texas heat. From day one the coaches pushed the runners to accomplish their goals through tough workouts from mile repeats, to hill sprints, and even eight mile runs on Saturdays. Varsity coach, Chris Jamison, said, "We eliminated excuses, never said 'can't', and pushed each other as a family." This year the team accomplished more than they ever would have imagined.

Directly after school on Friday, October 30, the cross country runners loaded the vans and headed for Waco, TX. They spent the night bonding together, getting pumped for the next day's race by playing various games and watching movies.

The next morning the runners woke up and began preparing mentally and physically for what was to come. Due to heavy rains, the course was flooded, extremely muddy, and knee

deep puddles had formed. Freshman, Juliana Roller, says, "This was by far the hardest meet we ran all season. The mud made it harder to keep my balance, and took a lot of energy to keep moving forward." The meet was postponed for three hours, but that did not stop the Mustangs. Both teams approached the starting line with great confidence and crossed the finish line with even greater accomplishments. Varsity boys captain, Garrett Lee, 11, says, "We trusted our training and turned our obstacles into opportunities."

It wasn't until later, when the team standings were announced that they fully understood how great those accomplishments truly were.

story continues on page 07

Student of the Month

Anson DeLatte

Kate Witte, *staff writer*

Every month, a student is chosen by the faculty at MCA that demonstrates Christ-like qualities and is set apart from other students due to their exceptional character and involvement with the school. When asked to pick a student that demonstrates these attributes, Dr. David Etheredge, the middle school principal, effortlessly selected Anson DeLatte. Being a new student it is always challenging to adapt to a new school. However for DeLatte, it was a quick adjustment from Atlanta, Georgia. Etheredge said, "She has been a great example to everyone, not just for others, but to the 28 new families at MCA, and has opened up and already made many friends here."

When her good friend, Maddie Grace Gwynn, was asked about why she thought Anson was selected for this award, without hesitation, she replied, "Anson is outgoing, and as soon as she got here she made a lot of friends. Everyone likes to be around her because she is always smiling, and funny, and can make you laugh."

DeLatte is not only involved in the

school's athletic program, but is also an exceptional student as well. One of her teachers, Sharon Boese said, "Anson is a fun girl. She smiles all the time and has seamlessly integrated herself into her 8th grade class. She is already a Mustang through and through! We are very fortunate to have the DeLatte family become part of the MCA family."

DeLatte has helped out the two middle school volleyball teams as the manager and has dedicated lots of time helping keep the team organized and smoothly-running. MS volleyball coach, Wendy McDowell, commented, "Anson has a spirit of joy that radiates through the entire gym, she brings a smile every day to practice and is willing to do whatever we ask of her. She has even learned how to do the scoreboard and has stepped in when we do not have enough parent volunteers."

Overall, DeLatte's Mustang spirit is clearly visible as she builds those around her up. MCA welcomes her, along with her positive and contagious personality.



Photo by Kate Witte

Anson DeLatte is new to the school this year, but has already impacted MCA in a positive way. Her upbeat attitude and constant joy is a blessing to those around her.

Art and Choir Show Fall Festival Fun

Will Harrell, *staff writer*

On October 22nd the Upper School Choir and Art department put on a fall themed concert. This event was scheduled to be in the courtyard with a beautiful outdoor stage and natural lighting, however the weather did not agree with that plan. When it started pouring rain choir teacher, Chris Keyes, and Art teacher, Diedre Sickles, made a crucial save and moved the concert at the last moment. The concert was moved into the Student Life Center and the food truck with, "The Best Grilled Cheese in Texas" still came to serve delicious food such as their famous barbecue grilled cheese sandwich. At 6 o'clock the doors opened and the artwork was beautifully displayed throughout the gym. Artist Judson Williams said, "Mrs. Sickles worked really hard to show our artwork in the best possible way. The hard work we put into our pieces was totally worth it when the pictures came together in a creative collage." The hard work of the artists was also evident to their teachers. Sickles commented, "Everyone worked

very hard to display their highest quality artwork." Keyes stated, "Even though rain moved our concert indoors (for the second year in a row) it was fun to share the great music, grilled cheese, and good friends." After looking at the artwork, the spectators listened to multiple performances by the Upper School Choir. The choir performances included songs such as a mix of "O Happy Day" and "Halleluiah Get Happy," a sea shanty, "Why Does the Willow Tree Weep," and more. All of the songs were strategically placed by Keyes which she did excellently to add to the song dynamics for the performance. Spectator Mac Grimes commented, "The choir did very well. The sound system wasn't acting properly, and instead of that being a setback for the students, they adjusted and sang all the better. My personal favorite performance was probably the sea shanty sang by the male choir." Overall the fall festival proved to be an exciting, successful event.



photo by Laura Smith

The Upper School choir performs at their fall festival in the SLC where parents gathered around, intently listening. The festival was moved indoors due to the weather.

Space Day Learning about the Sun and the Son

Ashley Proctor, *staff writer*

On October 9th, the McKinney Christian Academy's second and third grade participated in Space Day. The third grade hosted Space Day and invited second grade to participate. The students participated in activities like the human solar system where they put white circles, which represented orbits around the circle drive, outside the SLC and used wagons to imitate the solar system orbit. Adam Gicheru, second grader said "The human solar system was my favorite part because it was very fun to learn about." High Touch High Tech, a company that delivers in-school "field trips" that transforms classrooms into a Living Laboratory, came to the school and taught all of the students about space and second grader, Nate Krusing said, "The Scientists were my favorite part of the whole day." They also had rockets which were presented by Rocketman, Travis Jackson. Through learning

about the rockets the students were able to learn about thrust, pushing suddenly or violently in the specified direction. Third grade students, Jack Williams and Gavin Fletcher both said that the rockets were their favorite part of the day. They were able to create space crafts which many students seemed to enjoy. The space crafts included decorating sugar cookies to look like the earth. The students also got to sample foods that the astronauts eat in space. Third grade science teacher, Kathy Purdum, says "It was very beneficial for the students because it reinforced what they were being taught in the classroom while also having hands on learning and visually seeing what they were learning." The theme of Space Day was that everything revolves around the Sun and students were able to apply this to their lives because it taught how everything revolves around the Son.



Photo by Liz Wong

Second and third graders illustrate the solar system by going around the circle in wagons representing certain planets on space day.

Pumpkin Lovin' Tucker Hill Pumpkinville

Madison Yates, *staff writer*

During October 17th through October 31st, McKinney Christian Academy hosted the annual Tucker Hill Pumpkinville pumpkin patch. The week before the opening of Tucker Hill Pumpkinville, McKinney Christian middle school students contributed in helping set up all of the pumpkins from the semi-truck. They helped get all of the pumpkins, hay, and activities set up for the next two weeks of Pumpkinville. When asked what they did while setting up for Pumpkinville, Nate Gwynn, seventh grader, said, "We created a hay maze and organized all of the pumpkins. It was a lot of fun." There are many different activities to enjoy during a visit to Pumpkinville. While at Pumpkinville, you can go and pick out pumpkins and use them in the activities that Tucker Hill Pumpkinville provides. The activities involving pumpkins include pumpkin painting, pumpkin planting, and pumpkin carving. Pumpkinville is also a place where families can come and enjoy many family activities together. Mollianne Martin, a seventh grader

who attended Tucker Hill Pumpkinville, said, "It was amazing. I felt that it was very family oriented. To be honest, I had a blast." Some of the other activities provided by Pumpkinville are a toddler sized hay maze, a petting zoo, face painting, costume contests, and more. There is also a tractor pulled hay ride, driven by MCA parent, David Shelton. The hay ride goes around the neighborhood of Tucker Hill so that guests can see the community's autumn and Halloween decorations that they have put up. Guests are welcome to have group outings or birthday parties during the pumpkin patch hours without any reservations. Guests are also able to spread out blankets in the grass for picnics during parties or group events. On Saturdays and Sundays during Pumpkinville, Spoons Cafe, in Downtown McKinney, sends over their food truck for Pumpkinville visitors to eat while looking at pumpkins and enjoying the activities provided at Pumpkinville. Pumpkinville had a great season this year and are already looking forward to next year.



photo by Connie Gibson

People pass on through looking at the mind boggling hay maze, the interesting animals, and the exquisite pumpkins.

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photo by Sadie Banks

Mrs. LaVecchia's fifth grade Big Dogz march down the lower school deck while the rest of the lower school students and parents cheer them on.

The Comfiest Day of the Year

Pajamas Blanket the Lower School

Sadie Banks, *staff writer*

Lower School students, parents, and staff all gathered for Pajama Day on the lower school deck on October 30. The Lower School students and teachers were decked out in their PJs to celebrate the day the Lord created.

Throughout the day, the students celebrated with joy and fun, loving the fact that they were allowed to wear pajamas. Lower School Principal, Chris Hydock, said, "We are here celebrating this day the Lord has made for us and that we get to wear pajamas."

From Stars Wars pajamas, to camouflage, to the 5th grade matching Big Dog pajamas, you could see a full array of comfort as they strutted down the Lower School deck during the parade.

To start the school day, students lined both sides of the deck to make a tunnel and parade with their

friends. During this, they made their way down by walking, running, dancing, and even sleep walking to add to the celebration. 3rd grader, Leslee Buchanan, said, "The parade is my favorite part of pajama day." At the end of the parade, 5th grade, "Big Dogz," danced to 'Who Let the Dogs Out' as the younger students and parents cheered them on. Rio Orozco, 5th grade, said, "I like that after the parade we get to wear pajamas to my favorite classes science and math." After the parade, they went back to normal school and carried out their normal school day except without uniforms.

As the day wrapped up, the students anticipation grew as they wanted next Pajama Day to arrive. They had lots of fun and enjoyed every bit of the comfy clothing day.

Sacrifice and Service

Serving for a Better Good

Christopher Thomas, *Campus Editor*

"As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace," reads 1 Peter 4:10. On Friday, October 23, the MCA upper school served the community by going to predetermined locations and helping people and organizations with certain tasks. The places the students served were Gracebridge, Habitat Restore, Slaughter, Mi Escuelita, Lawson ECC, Chestnut Square, Mission Regan, Meals on Wheels, and Brookdale Senior Solutions.

One service that students performed was helping little kids with daily tasks while having fun. Autumn Jacobs, 11, describes her experience at Lawson ECC by saying, "It was fun getting to show the love of Jesus to the little kids while working with my best friends. It was an amazing experience seeing the joy of each kid and I would do it

again." They were able to show Christ's love while having fun with the children.

Another task was to help arrange medical supplies for mission trips all around the world. Avery Phillips, 10, discusses the eye opening community service project at Mission Regan, "The community service project was very inspirational because I knew that every medical supply that I organized was to help save lives." Mission Regan helped open the eyes of our students as they realized that their small work for that day could help people get better all around the world.

Altogether, community service day helped influence and open the eyes of the student body and teachers as they devoted themselves to the needs of other people, just as our Lord commanded us to do.



photo by Laurie Hubert

Upper School students pose for a photo during their community service project at Meals On Wheels where they sorted foods.

Reading With Friends

4th and 2nd Grade Book Read

Kjerstyn Franzmeier, *staff writer*

On October 1st, McKinney Christian fourth grade students came together to read books they had been writing in class to second graders. The fourth graders had been working on writing and illustrating small books about demonstrating the love of Jesus and learning more about who He is. Each fourth grade student was paired up with two to three second graders and had the opportunity to read their books to the younger students.

Michelle Miller, one of the fourth grade teachers, said, "Our goal with the book read is to share what we had learned with younger students and to build strong relationships and bonds." The students loved the book read and they are excited to do something like it again.

In the books students wrote about who God is and what He is like. They gave short statements and quoted bible verses to show attributes of God like omniscience and omnipotence. Fourth grader Haven Brewer said, "I really liked getting to know the younger kids in the book read. I learned that God is omnipotent and all powerful."

The lower school book read helped the older students get to know the younger ones and bring the grades closer together. The students enjoyed writing the books and getting paired with their younger friends. The fourth and second grade groups were a big success, and the fourth grade plans on pairing up with the younger students to do something similar to this again.



photo by Ansley Nevil

Emma Smith and Zachary Scott read a book during the book read day in the Lower School.

Balloon Launch

Up, Up, and Away

Brett Dahl, *guest writer*

Saturday, October 10, a group of McKinney Christian Academy Upper School and Middle School students launched a high altitude balloon to perform a series of science experiments. This project began in Mrs. Boese's 8th grade science class with the students brainstorming experiments they wanted to perform. A total of 14 experiments were selected which included measuring radiation, external and internal temperature, barometric pressure, altitude, ground speed, latitude and longitude, temperature effects on live flowers, air pressure effects on an uninflated balloon, radiation effects on film, DVDs, and seeds, and to photograph the curvature of the earth from the high altitude with two GoPro cameras.

The students are now analyzing the data and the experiments that were performed. Some of the more interesting facts of the flight include: maximum altitude 91,628 feet, maximum radiation of over 400urad/hour (that is about the equivalent of a chest x-ray if it was sustained for five hours), coldest temperature -59F, flight distance of over 120 miles. The group also captured some very interesting pictures of the curvature of the earth with the thin blue haze of Earth's atmosphere.

A big thank you goes out to Earl Foster, Gary Carter and the PARK Balloon club who all helped out with the project. The students who were involved were senior, Michael Collum, freshmen, Makayla Dahl, Archer Morrow, Katherine Hines, Kevin Currier, Nate Albers, Lauren Shackelford, Kara Vita, Mason Lee, Kate Witte, Elyse Mead, Madison Fitzgerald, Emma Lowes, and sixth grader Abigail Dahl.



photo by Sarah Dahl

The Upper school students and teachers prepare their weather balloon for a high-altitude launch just north of Tyler, Texas.

THE MANE EDITION

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Homecoming Week

The Greatest Homecoming on Earth

Julianna Roller, *staff writer*

MCA's homecoming theme this year was Bohemian circus and was called "The Greatest Homecoming on Earth". The entire school body dressed up for spirit days during the week, getting the whole school excited for the much anticipated homecoming football game. The tailgate also pumped the crowd up for the game while introducing the MCA sports teams to those who attended. The next day students attended the football game. After the upper school football game Friday night, middle school had their homecoming social, and the following night, upper school had their Bohemian circus themed dance.

The dress up days were a great way to create school spirit and relax from the normal schedule. Christin Nyberg, 9th, said, "It was fun to be able to see the relaxed and funny side of our friends." On Monday there was a competition between the small groups to see which one wore the best costumes, and this was won by Mrs. Tucker's group, who dressed up as Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs. There were many different types of costumes ranging from Pac Man ghosts to Greek togas and Monster's Inc. characters; some of the upper school boys even wore kilts one day to sport their Irish attire.

Families from lower school, middle school, and upper school all came out to support the Mustangs at the annual tailgate Thursday night. Senior, Jack Sendelbach, said, "Tailgate was great. They had In-N-Out, which was the best part."

At tailgate, the middle and upper school sports teams were introduced to those who attended. The varsity volleyball team performed a fun dance and the upper school cross

country team wrote a rap to share about their team, while football coaches Chance Gray and Jerrod Butler sang "Deep and Wide" to the crowd. Teacher John Keyes said, "I really enjoyed Coach Gray and Coach Butler singing 'Deep and Wide'." The cheerleaders did a few cheers with the Lil Stangs cheerleaders. Homecoming court from both middle and upper school were presented, and the middle school homecoming king and queen, Hannah Grubbs and Sam Harrell, were announced.

On homecoming day, the upper school boys played in a grade versus grade volleyball tournament and the girls battled by grade and played powder puff football games, and then came the notorious varsity volleyball team vs. staff volleyball game. The games, as well as the short pep rally, got everyone excited for the varsity football game that night.

Later that Friday night, the MCA upper school football team beat Irving Highlands 43-20. During halftime, the upper school homecoming court was announced. This year, Hannah Wilks and Jamie Greenwell were crowned the senior homecoming king and queen. Following the game, middle school had their homecoming social, and the upper school dance was Saturday night. The dance was a great opportunity for the students to hang out with each other outside of a classroom environment. Senior, Parker Fillebrown, said, "My favorite part of the dance was getting to dance and have fun with all my friends."

Overall, homecoming was a great experience for the entire school. Keyes said, "Homecoming always helps to unify our kids."



photo by Laura Smith

Junior Ivania Simpson and sophomore Addison Hydock slow dance together.



photo by Sharon Boese

Middle school girls pose for a quick picture before returning to the dance floor.



photo by Laura Smith

Upper school students dressed up in the "boho" theme and had a good time at the dance.

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H O M E C O M I N G W E E K

Small Group Monday



photo by Sadie Banks

Mrs. Davidson's small group wore attire similar to that worn by Rosie the Riveter on the poster from 1943.



photo by Sadie Banks

Coach Butler's group dressed as greasers and Mrs. Sickles' group matched them as Pink Ladies from the movie "Grease".



photo by Sadie Banks

Miss Nameth's small group dressed as ghosts from the Pac-man game while she dressed as Pac-man herself.

Tacky Tuesday



photo by Ansley Nevil

Seventh graders Keaton Jackson, Jacob Finke, and Nate Gwynn dressed up in unstylish apparel with their friends.



photo by Ansley Nevil

Freshmen Sam Utzig, JD Hamilton, and Syler Gabel pose in their tacky outfits before class begins.

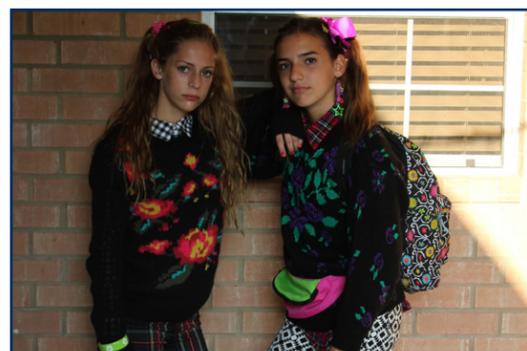


photo by James David Hamilton

Freshmen Ansley Nevil and Elyse Mead show off their tacky clothes and hair.

Ancient World Wednesday



photo by Laura Smith

Senior Conner Harbor hosts the Toga Games while dressed as an ancient Greek scholar.



photo by Ansley Nevil

Seventh graders Memorie Treigle, Aaron Holmes, and Morgan McGee pose as ancient Egyptians and a soldier.



photo by Laura Smith

Senior Jewel Miller poses as Discobolus during the Toga Games during chapel. She had to hold the pose for a very long time.

Dynamic Duo Day



photo by Christopher Thomas

Juniors Autumn Jacobs and Sarah Chinnners dressed up as Lilo and Stitch from the classic Disney Movie.



photo by Christopher Thomas

Juniors Zak Albers and Anna Grace Di Leo came to school as Elvis Presley and his wife, Priscilla Presley.



courtesy photo

Some of the eighth grade girls dressed up as characters from the My Little Pony series.

Competition Day



photo by Laura Smith

The varsity volleyball team beat the teachers and staff in the annual varsity/faculty volleyball game.



courtesy photo

The senior girls took a picture in football gear before they played the sophomores in the powder puff football game.



photo by Laura Smith

The senior class celebrates after winning a volleyball game. They moved on to the championship game.

Varsity Football Pushing Into Playoffs

Michael O'Neil, *staff writer*

As the 2015 district season progresses, our Mustang football team is climbing in the ranks with a record of 6-2 landing them third overall in district. Clearly, with six wins and only two losses, the work the team has been putting in at practice is paying off. Offensive coordinator Chance Gray said, "This season has been highlighted with wins over Brazos Christian and Waco Reicher. We had to weather some early adversity with two losses right out of the gate, but we are a better team because of it." The team is lead by Seniors Isaiah Gore, David Bu-

chanan, Conner Harbor and Junior Jackson Brock. With the strong leadership that the football team elected, the Mustangs have high hopes for this year and anticipate a win at the state level. Offensive line coach Jerrod Butler said, "We have the talent and the scheme to be a state contender but it is on both the players and coaches to do everything they can in preparation and execution that will put us in a position to accomplish the goals that we have set for our 2015 season." With a strong record MCA is excited to see our boys in the playoffs.



photo by Brian Adkins

Senior Isaiah Gore comes up with a catch against GCA. The Mustangs defeated the Swordsmen 70-10.



photo by Brian Adkins

Senior Brock Berry and Junior Braxton Fillebrown celebrate after scoring a touchdown against GCA.

MS Football Finishing Strong

Althea Wolfe, *Entertainment Editor*

The middle school football team finished their football season Friday night against the Dallas Covenant Knights with a win of 50-14. This football team was made up of hard working and determined young men. The eighth grade captains have been a big force in pushing the rest of the team. "Our eighth graders approached each practice with great intensity. It is impressive to see as a coach and the whole team learned from their work ethic," said Head Coach Chance Gray.

The team steadily improved throughout the season and finished district undefeated with a 7-0 record and a 7-2 record overall. The chemistry on the team was dynamic; they were respectful and well-mannered to each other and the coaches. Gray added, "I loved coaching our middle school team because they were always trying to improve. They came to practice each day with a great attitude and that was refreshing as a coach." The coaches agreed that this group of young men were extremely coachable and courageous. They were not deterred by the size of their opponent; instead, this team worked hard, continued to improve and never lost heart.



photo by Wendy McDowell

The McKinney Christian Academy Middle School football team captains walk out together before a key game. The captains for this team are eighth graders JB Moore, Mitchell Tyler, Matthew Smith, and Ford Dossey.

Lil Stangs Teaching Teamwork at a Young Age

Mary Hana Spencer, *staff writer*

Last year McKinney Christian Academy started the Lil Stangs athletic program. This program has allowed students from K-5th grade to begin developing athletic skills along with creating a sense of school spirit and pride. The students are able to learn a new sport and new skills with the accompaniment of their fellow classmates. During the fall season the younger students participate in football, volleyball, soccer and cheerleading. Third grader and Lil Stangs football player, Doug Verbsky said, "I really like being a corner and fill-in center. I also really love football because it is aggressive." The flag football team is coached by Coach Bob and Coach Smith. The 4th and 5th grade volleyball team has only lost three games in their season so far and will advance into a post season tournament. Lil' Stangs soccer coach, Coach Pedro Luna said, "The Lil Stangs are wrapping up their successful season. I have seen much improvement within the team. I am so proud of the team and how far they have come."

The Lil Stangs Soccer team finished their season and were placed in the Red Division, Plano Soccer Association's top division. Lil Stangs also exists to develop sportsmanship and a sense of community. "My favorite part about football is being able to say 'Good Game' not only to my teammates but to the players on the other team, too." Another 3rd grade football player, Luke Smith said, "I like being a part of Lil Stangs because I like spending time with my other 2nd and 3rd grade friends." Cheerleading Coach, Julie Tucker said, "It has been so much fun coaching the Lil Stangs. Their sense of excitement for cheerleading was contagious to everyone around them." Lil Stangs has begun working on the athletic skills of some of McKinney Christian Academy's youngest athletes, establishing a sense of school spirit, sparking new friendships, and even encouraging sportsmanship among its students. Lil Stangs will continue to better their Lil athletes throughout the rest of their athletic career.



photo by Alejandro Morales

The 4th/5th grade Lil' Stangs posing with their third place trophies. The team finished strong in their end of the season tournament.



photo by Tara Ackmann

Third grade quarterback Marc Jensen throws a deep ball down the field for a touchdown.



courtesy photo

Lil Stangs 1st graders Abby Vinciguerra and Matina English race to defend the ball.

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Upper School Volleyball Finish Strong

Second Chance to defeat the State Champions

Ansley Nevil, *staff writer*

McKinney Christian Academy High School volleyball teams had strong ends of the season. Junior Varsity starting players were: Abigail Gordon, Ansley Nevil, Emily Brochu, Madison Denman, Annika Ballesterio and Makayla Dahl. Scout Mayberry discussed her favorite game that JV had played this season, "One of my favorite games that we played this year was fighting Trinity Cedar Hill. We definitely showed the most hard work and teamwork by far." Junior Varsity narrowly won at Cedar Hill on September 24th. The first game was a close win at 27-25; however, after losing the second game it seemed like the third game would also be a loss. The Lady Mustangs fought back from a score of 3-21 to beat Cedar Hill with a final score of 23-25.

The Varsity volleyball team worked hard to prepare for playoffs. As they entered post-season play the Lady Mustangs were seated 2nd. The first round of playoffs was October 29th at MCA against Waco Vanguard. The stands were filled with MCA fans as the Upper School was incentivized with Chick-fil-a sandwiches the next day. The Mustangs defeated Vanguard in three games. The final scores of the games were 25-22, 25-14, 25-21. The starting players

were Emma Lowes, Avery Phillips, Katie Dossey, Olivia Mitas, Hannah Wilks, Marissa Wilks, and Mikayla Kuehne. The Varsity captains were Hannah Wilks, (12th) and Katie Dossey (11th). Dossey said, "Our team this year is a ton of fun! We've had a successful season so far and I cannot wait to see how far we go in playoffs." Kuehne talked about how she and her team have bonded and some great memories that they have made. "Our volleyball team is the most fun and entertaining team in the district. We dance and sing all the time. Our favorite song is 'Man in the Mirror' by Michael Jackson. We made a dance to this that we performed at Tailgate." Lowes said, "I'm excited for playoffs because it's just a great time for us to bond and learn more about our team and our abilities." The second round of playoffs was at Arlington Grace Prep on November 3. It was a close match but unfortunately the lady Mustangs could not defeat the Lions. The scores of the match were 25-17, 20-25, 11-25, and 18-25. Emily Brochu said, "I feel like even though we lost, we came together and left it all on the court and gave 100 percent. To me that feels better than a win." With only two seniors graduating, the Mustangs look forward to a strong team next year.



photo by Sarah Dahl

The Varsity girls volleyball team huddles up before a big game. This was their first play-off game.



photo by Sara Dahl

The Varsity volleyball team gets together for a team picture. This was before the start of a great season.

MS Volleyball Fight to Finish

A Strong End to the Season

Ansley Nevil, *staff writer*

The McKinney Christian Middle School volleyball teams fought strong and hard to finish the season strong. The Division One starting players were seventh graders Truett Rothrock Micah McDowell and eighth graders Caitlyn Cooper, Waverly Frisbie, Courtney Martin, and Abby Beck. Beck talked about how much she loves her team and how they worked together to win. She said, "When you win, you win as a team. It doesn't matter if someone had more hits or barely touched the ball. You won as a team." Beck continued, "Our team really began to act more like a family. We had more energy than ever, and I love those girls to death. At practice they are encouraging and hardworking. It really made me sad that the season is over." During playoffs, the Division One Team finished third as they lost

in the second round.

The Division Two volleyball team also had a great season. The girls fought hard and played tough in their last game against First Baptist resulting in the final scores of 25-13, 25-16. The Division Two team starting players were sixth grader Lizzy Smith, seventh graders Mia Moore, Memorie Treigle, Maggie Yates and eighth graders Meredith Pogue and Maddie Gwynn. Treigle said, "I felt like not only has our team come closer but we have learned each other's flaws which made us love each other even more." Gwynn continued, "I felt like this season we really clicked as a team, and really built off each other in difficult situations, on and off the court."



photo by Life Touch

Division Two pose for their team picture.



photo by Life Touch

Division One pose for their team picture.

Cross Country continued

If you want to go fast, go alone. Want to go far, go together.

Sarah Channers, *staff writer*

After recovering from the run the teams gathered around the stage where the awards would be announced. Tension was mounting as the girls fourth and third place teams were announced. The mustangs knew they were champions when Woodlands won runner-up. Both teams erupted into cheers as the girls took the podium to accept their state award. Varsity girl's captain, Madi Hydock, 11, says, "Our dreams finally became reality." After the crowd died down they preceded into announcing the boys team standings. Junior, Jon Nyberg, says, "With every place that was giv-

en away to another team, our hopes of placing grew less and less." When the second place award was given to The Woodlands Christian, the varsity boys had lost almost all hope of placing in state. Until it was announced, "Finally, your boys class 3A state champion... with a score of 74... you folks over there can stop looking so worried. McKinney Christian Academy," says the announcer.

The McKinney Christian Academy Mustangs Cross Country, boys and girls, are 2015 State Champions.



photo by Sharon Boese

Upper School cross country runner Everett McKeller runs past an opponent. Cross country's hard work paid off with their state victory.



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Go Mustangs!

When Tragedy Strikes

Our Response to Life's Troubles

Joshua Mains, *Editor-in-chief*

In our recent news we have seen people who are being persecuted for their faith throughout the world. ISIS has been an issue for all Christians and missionaries for months on end. The new gay marriage rulings have caused a lot of turmoil between Christians and seculars. Even the church in North Carolina has felt the devastating effects of the persecution we face. During these times of hardship we are called to be lights in a dark world. Though we as Christians will face many trials and tribulations, we have faith in the hope that is Jesus Christ. It is the hope in Him that gives

us strength for today and hope for tomorrow. Though tragedy and hardship will fall upon us, we have hope to overcome these situations, and the love that we have in Jesus will shine bright. As Christians, we show our light by the way we act in these situations. We show God's light and glory in the way we handle difficulties, and we are the people whom God has called to be lights in a dark world. It is us, who are placed in difficult situations, who have the greatest opportunity to show the world the hope we have in Jesus Christ.



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