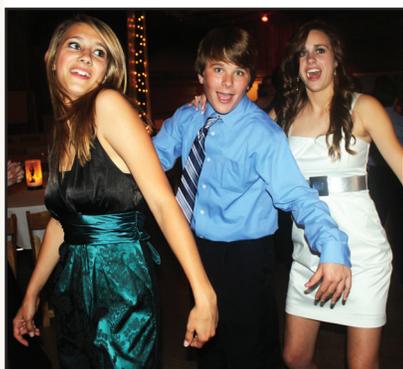




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Junior high dances the night away at their annual Spring Formal, held this year at Rock Creek Ranch in McKinney.



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Varsity track stampedes through TAPPS competition, with the girls' team capturing State Runner-Up for the second consecutive year.



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Entertainment reviewer Michal Smith gives Zoey Deschanel and M. Ward's new album of light, summertime sounds four out of four stars.



photo by rebekah johnson

Seventeen-year MCA teacher Mrs. Thomas retires Students over multiple generations will miss her gentle and kind nature

BY KAYLA FARR AND JESSICA WINDSOR

"The least movement is of importance to all nature. The entire ocean is affected by a pebble," said Blaise Pascal, a French philosopher. A single stone dropped in the ocean produces ripples in the waves, each one growing bigger. A single person can influence a life so much that he changes the lives of others. Every once in a while, a person will come into your life that changes you for the best.

5A teacher, Mrs. Thomas, is one of those people. She loves teaching at MCA. "I consider it a calling to come teach," she says. Teaching for thirty-four years, (seventeen of which were spent at MCA), Mrs. Thomas has taught four different grade levels in elementary school: 2, 3, 5, and 6. "My favorite part of teaching is interacting with the kids, just being with them; seeing them grow and mature and change and learn, stuff that we do every day," she said.

Mrs. Thomas decided she wanted to be a teacher at the end of her high school career. "We had a lot of teachers in my family; my mom was a teacher, my grandmother was a teacher and I had cousins who were teachers," she recalled, "I just thought it was the thing to do."

"My desire was to have every kid know at least two old hymns," said Mrs. Thomas. After all these years, students still come in to visit their 5th grade teacher. One of their first questions is always, "Do you still sing?"

MCA's Business Office Assistant, Tina Steenburg, recalls her joy in having Mrs. Thomas teach her sons Andrew, 11, and James, 9. "I'm glad she stuck around. I feel very fortunate to have had her teach my sons, learning from her and worshipping with her every morning." She incorporates God in all of her teachings, as well as her students' learning environment by beginning each day with song. "It's just a good way to start the day."

After thirty-four years of teaching, Mrs. Thomas has impacted more than one generation. Her kind nature and motherly tendencies reveal a heart inside her that is chasing after the Father's. Mrs. Thomas is full of patience, overflowing in joy, and abundant in grace. She has changed the lives of so many, influencing students at MCA since 1994. When asked to describe Mrs. Thomas in one word, students struggled, and for good reason. Junior Matt Curran sums up the dilemma, "It is impossible to describe Mrs. Thomas in one word because she is such a great teacher." Responses included, "wonderful," "nurturing," and "incredible."

Throughout her teaching career, Mrs. Thomas has always desired to create a peaceful learning environment for her class. "I want students to remember 5th grade as a place where they feel safe and happy. I want them to remember that learning was fun and that we laughed a lot," Mrs. Thomas said. She has impacted students of all ages with her sweet spirit and always content nature. Over her entire career, Mrs. Thomas has always had a single goal in mind, one she has more than accomplished: to strive to glorify her Savior by fulfilling her calling of being a teacher. Mrs. Thomas will leave behind more than a mere impact- all her students would agree. After seventeen years at MCA, Mrs. Thomas will leave a legacy that will remain for many years to come. "I want my students to know they had a teacher who loved the Lord and loved them." And above all, that is what we will remember of our dear Mrs. Thomas.



courtesy photo

Mrs. Thomas serenely oversees her fifth grade class as they work on an in-class activity.

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Putting a “swing” into things Students enjoy the swing dance theme for Prom 2010

BY KAYLA FARR

Prom, an event anticipated by many throughout the year has finally come! On April 23, the big night finally came. Students enjoyed the ‘Roaring Twenties’ theme at the second-story ballroom at Rick’s Chophouse in Historic Downtown McKinney, dancing the night away. “Prom was amazing! The music was really good,” said freshman Miranda Owens.

In preparation, the students were offered swing dance lessons the previous week to tie in with the Roaring Twenties theme. The dance lessons the students took really paid off, most of the students danced to old Frank Sinatra tunes as they arrived. Before long, the dance floor was full, with students enjoying today’s hits. Everyone was laughing and dancing. “The power of music enthused me to dance all night long! I had way more fun than anyone,” said sophomore Natalie Lemieux, “It was the best dance yet!”

The yummy snacks provided students with a quick energy boost in between songs. The hour’s d’oeuvres and soft drinks really helped keep the students going. The snack table included a variety of snacks that reflected the theme.

This year, the prom added a photo booth for students to take pictures for free. This added to the laughs and fun times. “The photo booth was definitely the best part ever! I loved it,” said sophomore Nicki Noruk. The students could go into the photo booth and take as many pictures as they wanted together with bright, fun props like colorful hats, feather boas, and bright wigs.

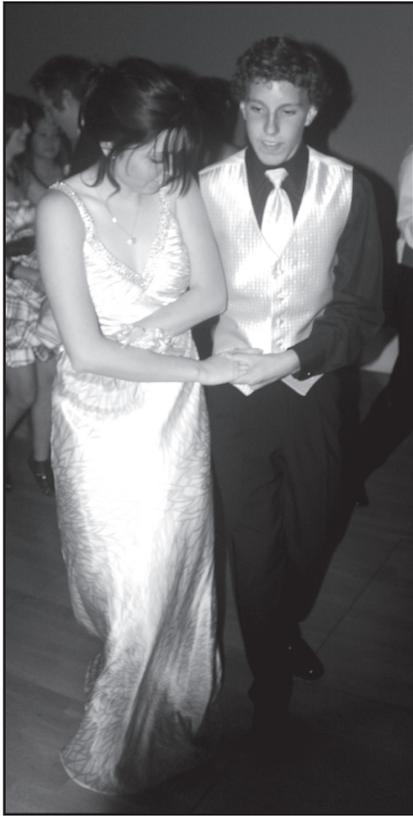


photo by john keyes

Enjoying their “Roaring Twenties” night on the dance floor at Rick’s Chophouse, junior Priscilla Melton and sophomore Chad Fess do a Lindy Hop aerial swing dance move. They were just one of the many couples who had the chance to show off their swing dancing skills acquired from the dance lessons provided the week before Prom.



photo by john keyes

Junior Alec Overn and senior Garrett Stinchcomb enjoy showing off their dancing skills. They were among several who participated in the swing dancing lessons held at MCA.

This year’s prom was especially memorable for the seniors and their new friend, DJ Kelly Hooper, who provided the music for the Winter Formal. “This was definitely the most amazing prom ever,” said senior Carlee Smith, “I will never forget it.” The DJ played exciting, fun songs that students danced to throughout the night.

Student Government did an awesome job putting together the memorable night. “We had the best DJ ever; it was fantastic. I danced the night away, and everyone looked so pretty!” said freshman Mandy Moore.

“Prom was a great memory that will last a lifetime. I will never forget it,” remarked freshman, Catlin Wilson. April 23rd was most definitely a night to remember.

Junior high dances the night away Students have a blast at Rock Creek Ranch

BY KELLY SIMS

The booming music, ecstatic atmosphere and awesome activities made the junior high spring formal held on April 30th at Rock Creek Ranch one to remember. This year’s formal was claimed as “the best dance we have ever

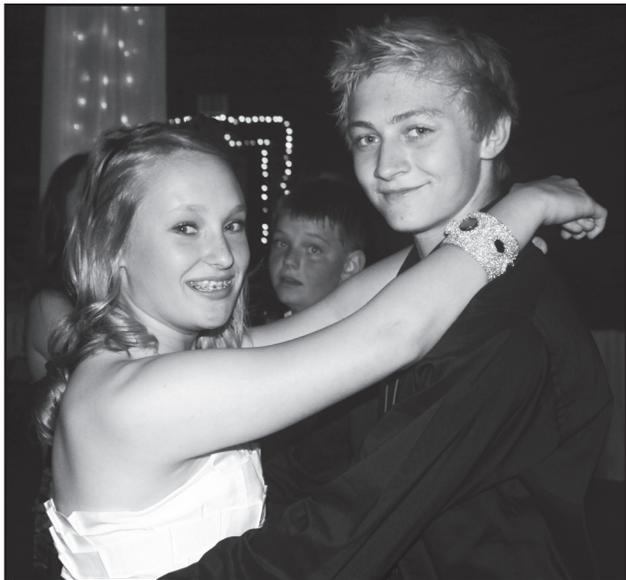


photo by john keyes

Amongst the enchanting decorations and booming music at Rock Creek Ranch, junior high students experienced a wonderful, social night. Eighth graders Maddy Vonhagel and Connor Doyle enjoy one of many slow dances to the many songs played that night.

had,” by eighth grader Kaitlyn Sifford. Dancing along to popular songs, eating from the snacks provided and enjoying the decorations, kicked off the students’ night.

New and exciting experiences brought grins on the junior high students’ faces. One new element was the setting, Rock Creek Ranch. The place was big enough for the students to talk, eat and most importantly, bust their moves on the dance floor. “The junior high dance was a blast. The music turned out great, and overall it was an awesome dance,” seventh grader Kailey Gates said. Every student was out on the dance floor barefoot, dancing to the music blasting through the speakers. Goodies such as brownies and cookies were available for the students to snack on when they were too tired to dance. “The photo booth was the best thing all night for sure,” eighth grader Alanna Curry said. This cute and clever way to capture memories had students trying on crazy hats and posing with their friends.

The new environment set the mood for the dance, which was fun and exciting. The junior high students rarely left the dance floor because of the loud tunes and the thrills of everything that night. The photo booth was a great addition to the Spring Formal, adding many memories to



photo by john keyes

Seventh graders Emma Phillips and Julie James kick up their heels, thoroughly enjoying the dance.

this already spectacular night. Eighth grader Connor Doyle says, “The dance was a great chance to open up and get to know each other better. It was a night to remember!”

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photo by amanda kidwell
Volunteering as servers at the auction, junior Avery Jones and freshman Mandy Moore help to keep their guests happy and satisfied.



photo by rebekah johnson
During the junior high band performance, eighth grader Gianna Ingram, playing the saxophone, and classmate Sarah Grubbs, playing the clarinet, contribute to the melody, "The Tempest," as they are directed by Mr. Jeremy Knight.

An Enchanted Evening Fairy tale auction brings fundraising success

BY EMILY WARREN

Not many events can take you to a place so magical that it feels just like a fairy tale. This year's auction was able to do this as it took the guests on a magical ride through an "Enchanted Evening". It was a night full of fellowship, bidding and plenty of food to eat. MCA parent Kristi Grubbs said, "The decorations were incredible; you were definitely transported into a fairy tale."

The auction committee planned this event for months. They met weekly and created the decorations in one member's home. It was evident that a lot of hard work and time was put into the décor. The tables were lavishly and festively decorated along with extensive, transparent green silk which was draped across the SLC to further the ambiance. The group also collected hundreds of auction items to fill the four silent auction rooms. Each MCA teacher or class was asked to make a donation to the silent auction. The committee also had to tackle the issue of workers and servers. MCA students were more than willing to show their servant's heart as 30 students acted as waiters, greeters, helpers, auction spotters and cleanup crew. Upper school math teacher, Mr. Tucker, who was in charge of the student volunteers said "The students worked hard and did an outstanding job serving all

those attending."

By the night of the auction everything was in place and the SLC was decorated with each auction item accounted for and in its proper place. Petra provided the food for the evening and was busy cooking and plating while the students waited, ready to serve. When the clock hit six the guests began filing into the SLC. All were marveling at the magical transformation. The evening and auction went according to plan. The silent and live auction garnered a large sum of money for MCA's scholarship fund, as well as many other school funded programs. Mr. Robert Richey who was the MC for the event kept the atmosphere lively and engaging and in the end all 300 plus guests went home entertained and stuffed with many new items.

It was an excellent night of fun and fellowship; but, it would not have been such a success without the generous giving of many families and individuals. Mrs. Andrea McAnally, an MCA teacher, summed it all up by saying, "What made the auction worth it was the fact that we raised lots of money for various MCA funds that will go to helping others!"

photo by amanda kidwell

Transforming the gym of the Student Life Center into a fairy tale niche, the moss green adornments came together to truly create an "Enchanted Evening" atmosphere on April 24th. The auction was a grand success.



photo by rebekah johnson

As a part of the high school choir production, the sacred ensemble group, directed by Mrs. Chris Keyes, beautifully performs "Trust in the Lord."

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The 2010
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Newspaper
Staff would
like to wish
you a blessed
summer!

Mustangs take on competition in stride

BY SHAWN JOHNSON

Dashing past the finish line the Mustang track team advanced from district to regionals and onto state. From junior high to varsity, the teams saw tremendous success as the season has progressed. Coach Sutton, along with the expertise of Coach Doyle, formulated a new workout from past seasons in which the athlete is more challenged. This workout paid off as the meets came and the medals came faster.

The junior high team competed in the Lion Relays at Prestonwood, the BVU Invitational at St. Marks, the Tom Landry Relays at Trinity Christian and the Saints Relays. They dominated the meets they competed in with gold medals across each event. "Our team this year has shown their worth as they practiced hard and competed even harder," said Jacob Weideman. The junior highers were driven to win and left everything on the track.

The varsity athletes competed in

the BVU Invitational at St. Marks, the Eagle Relays at Prince of Peace, the Cardinal Relays at Ft. Worth Christian and the TAPPS 2A competitions. As the season concluded for junior high athletes, the competitive spirit within district arose and the varsity athletes traveled to Bullard Brookhill for the district track meet. In district play, the girls finished 1st and competed extremely well sending nine athletes to regional. The varsity boys finished 2nd in district play and fought hard to send eight athletes to regionals. At regional, the girls again proved their valor as seven progressed to state level competition along with the boy's side which produced five state competitors. At state, the girls ran extremely well as they were State Runner-Up for the second year in a row. The varsity boys finished out the year at state with the 4x1 team placing 6th, Trent Stinchcomb placing 8th in the 100 meter dash and Brad Knam placing 6th in discus. "This year's track season has

been one of great success and was beneficial to all who participated. We competed hard and proved our rank in our division," said Dallas Brock.

MCA was represented at state by athletes such as Kaitlynn McAdams and Emily Warren. The boys' representatives were Trent Stinchcomb, Brad Knam, Dallas Brock, James Steenburg and Jake Gattuso. Mary Boyle ran the 3200 meter and placed 2nd at state. Ellie Kimball got 3rd in shot put and 2nd in the 4X100 with Taylor Brock, Rebekah Johnson and Alec Overn. Alec Overn earned the title of State Champion in the 100 meter dash and the pole vault, setting a new TAPPS AA record.

The Mustangs proved that through training and hard work, medals are possible. As the Mustangs continue to pass the finish line, on the track and off, let us continue to support and cheer them on.

Junior high boys bring the heat

BY ROBERT KELLEY

It was another exciting year for MCA with the launch of the new baseball complex; Noah Field, in honor of Noah Pell, a former MCA student who died in a boating accident in early 2009, because baseball was his favorite sport. Everyone will enjoy the new field and will always remember Noah. The brand new MCA junior high baseball program, coached by Mike Pell, had the great privilege to play the first game on the

new field with record attendance, many local dignitaries and even News 8 all on hand for the first pitch. The weather was great, the food was enjoyable and the game was exciting. This first game meant a lot to this school. Even though they lost everyone was happy the field was finally completed. That was a very good day for MCA.

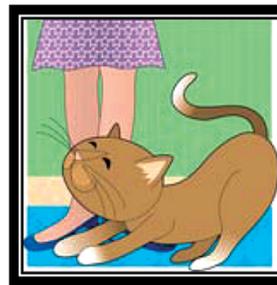
The junior high team played a modified schedule and was able to set the bar

for hopeful and successful seasons to come. The boys were dedicated and never gave up. Seventh grader Harrison Hodges said, "We had a great first year, and I am looking forward to next year." This new team set the standard for junior high baseball and will surely improve throughout the next few years.



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April/May 2010

Varsity boys play with passion Baseball team finishes off a groundbreaking season

BY ROBERT KELLEY



photo by amanda kidwell

A record breaking year for the MCA varsity baseball team, this season was an exciting one. The team won more games than ever in a district season with a record of 6 wins and 4 losses. Breaking at least three records, the team has also had its best batting average. The guys had the chance to host the first ever baseball playoff home game. No other MCA baseball team has ever been able to set the bar so high. "We had a scary team this year. Just wait till next year," said varsity baseball coach Lance Alford.

Nine out of the twelve guys that came out made some sort of district team. Senior Thomas Jacobs, junior Hayden French, and sophomore David Collum made first team All-District. Senior Garrett Stinchcomb, senior Trevor Stuart, and freshman Robert Kelley made

second team All-District. Senior Chris Shin, freshman Kevin Jacobs, freshman Andy Harrell made Honorable Mention All-District.

The team was very dedicated, never giving up even when they were down four runs in the bottom of the seventh in a game against Rockwall Christian Academy. The guys eventually won the game in the ninth inning. "Baseball was a great experience and I loved playing with these great guys," said senior Garrett Stinchcomb. This team was loaded with talent.

Even though the season started off rough, the team bounced back for a record breaking year. Not just winning the most games, but hosting the first baseball home playoff game. Though the season was cut short, they are building their way up. Maybe in the distant future all their work will pay off in the ultimate way, a state championship.



New coach proves her worth Junior high girls learn new tactics from former professional

BY KELLY SIMS

Ambition is what ignited the junior high golf team into existence. The junior high golf coach, Kelli Matthews, shared from her experiences, the life lessons and rules of golf to junior high students. Having grown up playing the sport, she taught the students real reasons why golf can improve other areas in their lives. Her life is dedicated to this sport, and she had the privilege of sharing her hobby with the students. "Golf is really catching on! It is a game of manners, and honesty is a must," Coach Matthews said.

Having two strong athletes as parents, they pushed Kelli Matthews into playing golf. Her love for it grew throughout the years she played, but unfortunately she and her sister were the only girls who played at her school. Having to join the boys team toughened her, but not having a girls team was always something she wished she could have changed. Her love for the sport grew and landed her a full golf scholarship to SMU. "Golf is a very difficult sport to pick up. It can take a person several years just to learn

the rules," she said. Coach Matthews realized the need and demand for giving kids a jump start early in playing golf. "Junior high is the place to learn the ropes and begin healthy low pressure competition," she said. With direction from her, the junior high team learned the basics

in golf. Coach Matthews taught everything from swinging mechanics to simple rules, which made students excited to play.

Coach Matthews took her life experiences and decided to make a difference in the lives of the MCA junior high golfers. The students improved a lot throughout the season, and had a great time doing so. The stress-free environment gave the students a chance to learn the mechanics of golf and practice at their own pace. "Walk the Path" was the theme, which came from

Proverbs 8:20, "I walk in the way of righteousness, along the paths of justice." Whether it was literally walking the fairway, or walking in their faith, the junior high golfers appreciated the chance they received to improve their skills with Kelli Matthews as their coach.



courtesy photo



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BY KAYLA FARR



photos by amanda kidwell

(Above) Senior Ashley Janning has worked very hard over the past four years on her artwork. Though she has excelled in many other areas of her life such as academics and her after-school job, she branched out and discovered a desire to create.



(Right) *Lost at Sea* is a very colorful painting. The octopus leaps from the sea to ensnare its catch.



(Right) The Senior Class of 2010 contributed a painting of the future school crest on a canvas with all of their handprints as the background. Senior Caroline Almond painted the art piece, as well as designed the MCA crest which will appear above the stage as the Class of 2010's Senior Gift to MCA.

(Left) Sophomore Amanda Kidwell used a new found technique while painting her canvass.

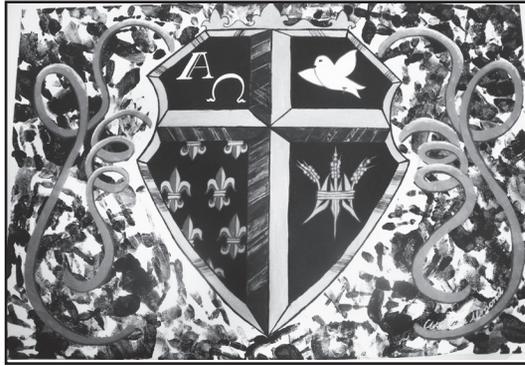


photo by caroline almond

JukeBox ★★★★★

She & Him Volume Two



BY MICHAL SMITH

Movie Star and now singer-song writer Zoëy Deschanel and indie-fanatic M. Ward of the band *She & Him* released their second album, *Volume Two*, recorded in Los Angeles that will have you humming along to every song. The duo formed in 2008 with the release of their first CD titled, *Volume One*. As the sequel to their debut album, the *Volume Two* album was released on March 23, 2010 with it being just in time for summer.

Ward harmonize together to create a catchy, folk sound. The band is on the rise with the hit- *In The Sun*, at which you can't help but turn up the volume, put down the top of your car, and roll down the windows. This band is the perfect tune to listen to anytime.

Although they are not of a Christian genre, they do not display anything against Christianity. *Volume Two* is lyrically clean and appropriate for any age group. I give this CD four out of four stars.

The CD's reviewed in the JukeBox are all clean artists and have been reviewed by our Journalism staff.

SNACK TIME

BY ANDREA BRUNO



"It's like a whole breakfast in a biscuit! It fills me up!"
~Heather Groff,
11th Grade.

★ ★ ★

"This is really good, I love it, it's amazing!"
~Alyssa Fogle,
12th Grade.

Ingredients:

- Five slices of bacon
- 1 (8 oz.) package cream cheese, softened
- 2 Tablespoon
- ½ cup shredded Swiss cheese
- 2 Tablespoons chopped green onion
- 1 (10 oz.) can refrigerated flaky biscuit dough

Directions:

1. Preheat oven to 375 degrees F. Lightly grease 10 muffin cups.
2. Place bacon in a large, deep skillet. Cook over medium heat until crispy and evenly brown. Drain and crumble. Set aside.
3. Place cream cheese, milk, and eggs in a medium mixing bowl, and beat until smooth with an electric mixer set on low. Stir in Swiss cheese and green onion and set aside.
4. Separate dough into ten biscuits. Press into the bottom and sides of each muffin cup, forming ¼ inch rims. Sprinkle half of the bacon into the bottoms of the dough-lined muffin cups. Spoon about 2 Tablespoons of the cream cheese mixture into each muffin cup.
5. Bake 20-25 minutes in the preheated oven, until filling is set and rims of the tarts are golden brown. Sprinkle the remaining bacon, and lightly press into the filling. Remove from pan and serve warm.

Movie Mania

BY ANDREA BRUNO

Bringing in over \$6.5 million dollars, *Furry Vengeance* will bring parents and their kids great laughter. Although aimed at a younger audience, this movie was full of quirky stunts and funny remarks.

Moving his family from Chicago to Oregon, Dan Sanders (Brenan Fraser) had quite a challenge ahead of him. Though unwilling, his wife Tammy and son Tyler go along with Dan desiring to stay together as a family. The move was prompted by a promotion that required the Sanders family to live in one of the five developing houses Dan was in charge of in Rocky Springs. Dan works for Leyman Enterprises and has the job of turning the forests of Rocky Springs into a suburbia complete with a forest-themed shopping mall. The animals, however, have a different plan in mind.

Led by a devious raccoon, the animals that live in Rocky Springs plant traps and plan schemes to get the developers of Leyman Enterprises to change their minds about destroying the forests. By making life difficult for Dan, the mischievous animals in the forest hope to stop all development and

keep their homes and families safe. Dan is tough and persistent when it comes to work and decides to set up his own traps for the animals which end up backfiring on him. Nobody believes him when Dan tells them what the animals are up to and slowly, his family begins to fall apart.

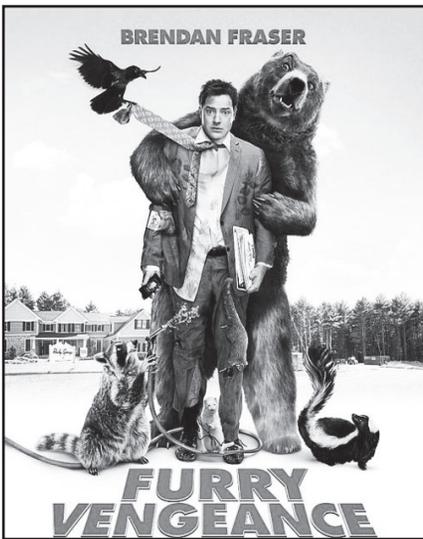
Through a series of events, Dan soon realizes that destroying the forest and animal habitats would be morally wrong. He has the new goal of ending the destruction before it is too late. In *Furry Vengeance*, there is brief smoking and mild language. The jokes and comedic reactions are

aimed at a younger audience of thirteen and younger. Many of the parts that got the crowd laughing can be seen in the previews on television. Unfortunately the movie was quite predictable and only led me to some dry laughs.

Furry Vengeance gave a good insight to big business and what some people are willing to do in order to make a few extra dollars. For a younger audience, this movie is quite appropriate and amusing.

I give this movie 2 out of 4 stars.

★ ★



Star Chart	*	Not very good, not suggested.
	**	Good, partially suggested.
	***	Well done, suggested.
	****	Excellent, highly suggested.

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- Caddo Lake is the only natural lake in the state.
- Feel like traveling outside the country without leaving Texas? Then you can go to Athens, China, or Italy, Texas.
- A coastal live oak located near Fulton is the oldest tree in the state. The tree has an estimated age of more than 1,500 years.
- Sam Houston, arguably the most famous Texan, was actually born in Virginia. Houston served as governor of Tennessee before coming to Texas.
- If you're getting cold we have Blanket, Texas to keep you warm.
- There is even a Kermit, Elmo, Nemo, and Sylvester, Texas for the kiddos.
- And here is some just to make you smile; there is a Frognot, Notrees, Kickapoo, Old Dime Box, Whiteface, and Veribest, Texas.
- The Flagship Hotel on Seawall Boulevard in Galveston is the only hotel in North America built entirely over the water.
- Dr. Pepper was invented in Waco in 1885. The Dublin Dr Pepper, 85 miles west of Waco, still uses pure imperial cane sugar in its product.
- El Paso is closer to Needles, California than it is to Dallas.
- More species of bats live in Texas than in any other part of the United States.

- texas.fizber.com

- <http://www.qsl.net/w5www/texasfacts.htm>

This is the End

BY RYAN HALTOM

*So think real slow
Don't forget that yes is yes and no is no
About the way you want to go
Cause I may forget the way to get back
home
This is the end if you want it.*

This is the end; for me, at least. These song lyrics from Relient K's most recent album *Forget and Not Slow Down* do a pretty good job summing up my feelings as I prepare to graduate. I've been here at McKinney Christian Academy for thirteen years now and I can be brutally honest in saying... I've loved every minute of it. That's not to say I haven't had my ups and downs; I have, trust me, but as I look back on over a decade under the influence of MCA, I can't think of anything bad enough that would make me reflect on this chapter of my life with anything but good feelings. Allow me to reminisce.

Believe it or not, I remember my first day of kindergarten. I don't necessarily remember the day at school, but the one thing I remember is my parents coming in to my room with two books, the titles of which I cannot remember. I remember them waking me up and some sort of excited feeling that I was starting a wonderful new chapter of my family's life. None of us knew it at the time, but that is exactly what would happen. Mrs. Lyon was my kindergarten teacher. Her daughter Brianna was one of the three

students in MCA's first graduating class in 2003. That's about all I remember from that year. Mrs. Brooks was my first grade teacher. I think that was her only year to teach here. She's had all three of her kids graduate from this school. It's sad to me that there are no more Brooks roaming around this campus. Second grade was an exceptionally good year for me. Ms. McCall was my teacher and that was the year when a few of the students in the class of 2010 came to MCA. Spencer Wood, Alexandra Burt and I are the only ones remaining from that year. It's amazing to me how many people have come and gone through my class since then. Third grade was the year I began learning my multiplication tables. Mrs. Schultz was my teacher and she had a cool song for us to remember for what, at the time, seemed to be impossible arithmetic problems. Fourth grade began the age of SAT testing and research papers. Mrs. Beardshaw was my teacher and one prominent memory from that year was her reading *Where the Red Fern Grows* aloud to us and me crying when the dogs in the story died. Fifth grade is when I discovered I cannot sing. Mrs. Thomas would play worship hymns on her little keyboard first thing every morning and I can only imagine being a fly on the wall to hear that chorus of ten and eleven year-olds singing (or lip synching, in my case) to the Lord. Sixth grade was the year I went to Mrs. Sass' office for saying some words I wasn't supposed to, bleached my hair blonde and participated in my first spring training

football practice. I thought I was so cool wearing my football pants around the old Lower School campus on Graves St. It turned out I wasn't, but that's just life. So that was elementary school. I definitely have many fond memories from that period of my life.

With seventh grade came the tail end of puberty and the front end of final exams. I played football for the first time, improved my typing skills and learned how to adjust to multiple teachers. Eighth grade was an awkward phase in my life. I got braces, learned how to "communicate" with the opposite sex and learned the proper pronunciation of the word *parabola*, much to Mr. Stewart's amusement. The best way I can describe junior high is an emphatic transition period in my life. I guess that is what it's meant to be.

High school. This monolith of a metamorphosis stood in front of me the summer of 2006, but thanks to how close-knit and welcoming this student body is, it was easy from the first day on. Ninth grade continued my tenure as brace face, cast me further into the dating pool and gave me my first experience playing basketball under Coach Bo. Those are wonderful (not to mention exhausting) memories. Tenth grade brought with it the Fields family, God love 'em, Señor's last year teaching Spanish and my first year of baseball, accompanied with six-hour drives to Amarillo the morning after prom. Eleventh grade brought about a lot of soul searching for me, ultimately leading to me recommitting my life to

Christ. I cannot even begin to describe how my life has benefited from His intervention in my life that year. Twelfth grade has been the proverbial "senior year" thus far. I've applied and been accepted to the college I've always wanted to go to and am confident it is where Christ wants me to go as well. I've been confronted with the concern that I have Senioritis to which I responded by saying, "I've had that since sophomore year". It's definitely not a good idea. Fortunately, I've had my best academic year of high school and feel ready to take on the college workload.

I hope I haven't bored you too much with my memoir of my time at MCA. Blame my parents for putting me here so early. All I've tried to accomplish by writing my final editorial as editor of this newspaper is to express my gratitude and appreciation to McKinney Christian Academy, its faculty and its students for shaping me into the man of Christ I am today. I would be nowhere without MCA.

*So think real slow
Don't forget that yes is yes and no is no
About the way you want to go
Cause I may forget the way to get back
home
This is the end if you want it
This is the end if you want it
and this is the end.*

A New Routine

BY LAUREN FESS

I am graduating high school. Wow, even after seeing that sentence formalized in print, I find those words hard to grasp. I have a routine and, next year, it will be no more. Up to now, I get out of bed to the sound of my brother's alarm clock across the hall, wear my plaid skirts and cardboard-like shirts, enjoy the company of Chad and Noah on the seven minute drive to school,

mingle in the halls with sunny breezeways, old-school lockers, and familiar faces, and come home from practice to that comfy moss green sectional which is perfectly worn from supporting members of my family through countless hours of Thursday night TV watching and conversations lasting into all hours of the night. This school and the people who make it a community have become a

part of my high school routine. But, now I am graduating to a new routine.

So many things come to mind when I think about missing my "routine." From McKinney Christian, I will greatly miss my teachers. Honestly, at no other school I've attended have I experienced such deep connection and love for learning and I attribute that to the devotion and passion of

my teachers.

Quite frankly, dissatisfaction with and complaints about my teachers were a part of my routine before I came to MCA. But I have truly loved every one of my teachers here. Whether it is a teacher like Coach A who will drop everything if one of his students needs him, or Colonel Bellue and his ability to connect any random fact about Physics to our Christian walk, or Mrs. Orozco who, at nine months pregnant, was able to pull off an amazing drama play, run the school via her secretary position, and lecture through her contractions just so her students would adequately be prepared for the AP Exam, these teachers exemplify how at the heart of a good leader is someone who is willing to serve and put others before themselves. I seriously could easily write an entire editorial on each staff member I have had the pleasure to know. The McKinney Christian teachers truly embody a Christ-like attitude. Beyond challenging us to think and develop our technical skills to apply to the real world, our teachers come down to our level and do what they can to help us form into solid, loved believers just as Christ commands them.

Seeing their faces day in and day out will no longer be a part of my routine. I am graduating- moving on to my next routine. But I will forever carry the things I have gleaned from my teachers; they will be imbedded into my new routine.

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