STUDENTS ANTICIPATE USING NEW PICNIC AREA

By Kindred Johnson & Avery Ifarinde

The administration has given the approval for Melissa Middle school to have a picnic area on campus. According to Principal Jim Miller, the picnic area will be outside in the courtyard.

“I want a place where the students and parents can have a nice calm place to sit and eat,” Miller said.

“I think the picnic tables will be good for the students, because we will not be cooped up in a building all day,” Addyson King, MMS student, said.

The outdoor area will be a great opportunity for all the students in Melissa Middle school.

Ask a Cardinal Advice Column to Launch in Next Edition of Times

By Langston Brady & Jack Counce

The MMS Times announces the new Ask a Cardinal column, scheduled to run in the next issue. Students may write in with their questions anonymously, seeking advice from The Cardinal.

Topics may include how to study for a test, how to take a risk, have courage to do a certain task, etc.

The Cardinal is one smart bird who is willing to share his life experience, and will help by responding to your letters.

Letters should not include names or things that are not deemed school appropriate. Use a nickname such as “Worried Wallace” or “Eager Elaina,” with an opening address, “Dear Cardinal.” Turn it into the box outside of Room 14 to be considered.
Whitney Watson’s passion for music began at a young age. She now uses her hands to direct a successful music choir program at Melissa.

Watson teaches 6-12 grades choir and music theory.

“I loved choir in high school and I knew I wanted to be involved in music,” Watson said.

Her biggest challenge is teaching a traditional style of music to her young students.

“My greatest challenge is teaching traditional choral music,” she said.

“Don’t get me wrong--there is some great choral music out there and that’s what I program on our concerts,” Watson said.

She loves teaching choir and is always excited when students come in ready to learn.

Watson plans on having three performances this year, the Fall Concert Oct. 17, Winter Concert Dec. 7, and Spring Concert May 22.

“Fall concerts are typically traditional. The winter concert is a mixture of secular/pop and sacred/traditional, and the spring show will be popular music,” Watson said.

A variety of music will be performed at the winter and spring concerts.

“We will be doing it all, from Mozart to Nat King Cole,” she added.

“The holiday and spring concerts are really eclectic. We pull in all types of music from a wide range of artists and even languages. We are currently working on a Hebrew song,” Watson said.

Watson is in her eighth year teaching, and second year at Melissa.

Whitney Watson’s choir students wait to perform the school song.

By Mason Velazquez

The second annual Reading under the stars is scheduled for November 8, at 6 p.m. It is a wonderful time to get enjoy reading a book that you would like to read, while sitting on the football field with your flashlight. Students who participate this year are urged to bring family members to participate as well.

In other news, the summer reading was successful.

“I was super excited to see so many students achieve their reading goal, since reading 800 minutes over the summer was quite a challenge,” Librarian Cari Montgomery said.
MMS Performing Arts Entertains in Salute To Broadway Extravaganza

By Sydney Freeland & Abbie Chaloupka

The MMS Performing Arts shared their musical talents in the Second Annual Salute to Broadway last Saturday, before a lively crowd.

Approximately 45 students participated in the show.

“I’m so proud of all the participants for modeling excellence and representing the middle school.” Louise Hickey said.

See Photo Gallery p 4-5

OAP Cast In Rehearsal for Great Pandemonium

By Maggie Walker & Everette Blackwell

The One Act Play The Great Pandemonium has been cast for the UIL Competition set for Dec. 2. Rehearsals began this week, and the cast is very excited, according Director Louise Hickey.

“This is a diverse cast that brings various experience and talent to the team,” Hickey said.

“Our understudies are truly actors that can step in at any time,” Hickey said.

The leading role of Jarred Nusthorp is still to be determined.

Hickey has her eye on some hopefuls, and indicated that she may hold additional auditions for the complex role.

The troupe will compete Sat. Dec. 2 at Celina. All are encouraged to travel to Celina to bring the “home crowd” support. There will be a preview performance at Melissa High School Nov. 30.

The run will conclude with an encore performance at the high school on Dec. 4 at Melissa.

The cast seems to have good chemistry and a strong work ethic, according to Hickey.
“Students had to make the tallest tower with 5 straws and 10 inches of tape.”
Catherine Mckoy

“Students deconstructed lines to create meaning in duet acts.”
Louise Hickey

“Students practiced finding the literary device of symbolism in the Lion King.”
Alex Eichel

“Students were evaluating and solving rational numbers.”
Debbie Duguid
Dunn’s Students Rap About Constitution

By: Nate Crain &
Noah Lakey
Social studies students created raps about the colonies of early America, according to Brandon Dunn, Social Studies teacher.
Dunn believes that it helps students memorize things better.
“I think it gives you a chance to connect to the information,” Dunn said.
He loves doing fun activities in his classroom.
“I’ve always liked doing fun things. I’ve never been a textbook and paper kind of teacher,” Dunn said.
The students also seemed to like it.
“I thought it was funny watching other people go. Overall I thought it was fun. My rap was Bunker Hill, Breed's hill, British take a beating. At Sullivan's Island, skittish British are retreating,” Marshall Blackburn said.
Students hope that Mr. Dunn does more activities like this.

7th Begins Teen Favorite The Outsiders

By Josh Nicholas &
Addyson King
The seventh graders began the novel The Outsiders in reading class.
Students purchased their own books so that they can make notes and annotate, to help understand what is going on in the story.
Although the story takes place during a time students are not familiar with, Jared Castor feels that students will be able to relate to the universal themes of the book.
“Students will learn how to treat others with respect, no matter what their background is,” Castor said.
The Outsiders was written by S. E. Hinton, a young teen. The novel was published in 1967 and the movie was released in 1983.
“I think the novel will be exciting and interesting read,” Camryn Green said.
Sixth Graders Leap Into Middle School

**Student Survey by Sarah Hollenbeck**

“I like the Middle School better than the Intermediate School because the teachers are really nice.”
-- Gunnar Wilson

“I like it because there is more freedom and you get more chances to see your friends in the different classes.”
-- Hallie Hendrickson

“The Middle School is awesome, there is a lot of great kids here. The teachers are also very nice!”
-- Andrew Potts

“The Middle School is really big and well organised, they also have very nice teachers here.”
-- Alexis Ware

What’s Your Favorite Season?

By Kenzie Segleski & Kylie Kroese

“I like summer because I get to go outside and play basketball,”
- Siena Ayyal

“My favorite season is spring because it has really pretty flowers and trees,”
- Addyson King

“I like winter because it’s cooler outside and I get to wear longer pants,”
- Andrew Eustace

“My favorite season is fall because the weather cools down and there are many holidays,”
- Brandon Dunn
By Kindred Johnson & Addyson King

The Lady Cardinals dominated the volleyball court, winning all four games Monday.

The 8th grade A team won 25:14 on the first set, and then 25:5 in the second set. 7th grade A team won 25:10 on the first set, and then 25:19 the second set. Both B teams went out and took the win for Melissa Middle School.

Grayson Mitchell-Johnson bumps the ball over the net. Photo by Jim Miller

Rayanne Jones spikes the ball over the net. Photo by Jim Miller
Melissa Cardinals 7th and 8th grade volleyball teams played hard against Celina Bobcats. 7th grade A team won 26 to 24 in the first match and 25 to 11 the second match. We also have our 8th grade A team, they lost 25 to 22. They may have lost but they fought hard and aggressively.

Moving to the 8th grade B team, they won the first match 25 to 18 and lost the second match 25 to 23, and the last match they also lost 16 to 14. They had some really close games and fought well against Celina.

Photo by Faith Fortenberry

Lady cards celebrate the win.

Lady cardinals come together for a brief time out.

Photo by Blaise Barker

“Melissa takes volleyball more seriously,” 8th grade A team volleyball player, Chelsea George said.

Lady cards fight hard, with a pair of wins and losses at Celina

By Blaise Barker & Faith Fortenberry

7th grade B team won the first match 25 to 18. The second match they lost 25 to 23, and the last match they also lost 16 to 14. They had some really close games and fought well against Celina.

Moving to the 8th grade B team, they won the first match 25 to 18 and lost the second match 25 to 15 and won the last match 15 to 12.

Overall, all the lady Cardinals gave their best effort.

During the games on Monday, two coaches were out. Jaqui Nickell and Jennifer Henry. Because of this, Tera Gabel and Johnny Hodge, coached all four teams. Gable coached both A teams, while Hodge coached both B teams.

All coaches adjusted well with the players, and the players did their best to try and cooperate with the coaches.

“I am grateful for the opportunity and looking forward to developing as a team and building lasting relationships,” 7th grade volleyball player Sarah Hollenbeck said.

“It was exciting and challenging because I don’t coach them in practice, and I have to learn their whole demeanor.” - MMS Girls Athletic Director, Johnny Hodge, said.

“I had never even seen the 7th grade A team play. It was a little bit terrifying to coach their game because I didn’t want to let anybody down,” science teacher and volleyball coach Tera Gabel said.

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Flags and Rifles and Sabers, Oh My!

By Camryn Green & Abbey Bell

Color Guard is filled with many students enthusiastic about representing our school. “It’s a great learning experience,” Katelynn Wagner said. “I like helping other people in the activity,” Wagner added.

Our color guard participants have been practicing since day one to show off their amazing flags, rifles, and sabers.

“Color Guard is a series of weapons being thrown. It is a very interesting learning experience, you learn a lot,” Wagner said. “You learn drills on the flag that help you warm up. Then later in the year you perform with the band, then alone,” Wagner added.

Color guard is a great way to make new friends. “We are one big family,” Wagner said. “It is something that will make you want to come to school.”

Students Help Henry’s Family After Explosion

By Camryn Green & Abbey Bell

An unfortunate explosion occurred one week ago at the home of Jennifer Henry’s grandmother. The stove exploded and caused burns on over half her body.

Eighth grader, Brooklee Waltrip decided to raise money for one of Melissa’s favorite coaches.

Waltrip teamed up with several eighth graders for one week to raise money for gift cards and cash to help Henry’s grandmother, and to help her family get back on their feet.

The fundraiser brought in over $100 in gift cards and money. Henry was overwhelmed by the kind gestures of her students.

“I love ‘em to death,” Henry said. “I was so surprised and proud of my students. It just shows what good kids we have here in Melissa,” she added.

Showing kindness and pulling together in times of need are things that Melissa Middle School is all about.
By Brady Perry

The Cross Country team moves on from their victory in Flower Mound to a bigger challenge in Myers Park.

“This meet will be a whole lot harder than the last on,” Coach Clint said.

“More runners and more hills will require more teamwork.”

The team expects to get in the top three this week and get another trophy.

“I think we should do well because we know how it feels at the meet, we know how to run together against competition,” Noah Lakey, member of the Melissa Junior High Cross Country team, said.

Some people have high expectations like getting first.

“I think there is upcoming hills, but I think it will be easier because we’re used to running like that,” Nate Crain said.

The Cross Country team scored first overall at Myers Park. The sand and gravel didn’t seem to hurt the runners.

“I think it was a whole lot easier. There wasn’t as much sand,” Lakey said.

“The thing that challenged players the most were the hills. The whole course revolved around me pushing people to their best,” Lakey added.

COACHES’ CORNER: "IT TAKES A TEAM TO WIN"

By Jonah Tyner & Dalton Wittwer

“Not one individual can win a game in football, so my "standouts" this season are all the Middle School athletes that show up early in the morning ready to grind with the mindset of doing whatever they can to contribute to TEAM success.”

--Coach Castor

“I would like to see one more game before I talk about standouts. Some players stand out in practice, but would like to see another game before I answer this question. I believe both the 7th and 8th grade football teams will do really well if they play up to their potential.”

--Coach Justin Perry
Inside the locker room

By Jaci Seale

As a fantastic hitter for the MMS volleyball A team, Faith Fortenberry deserves this recognition.

In the game against Princeton, Fortenberry started the game off with her hitting skills. Even though MMS beat Princeton’s socks off, Fortenberry had great sportsmanship.

“Being in the newspaper for volleyball is a big deal for me,” Fortenberry said. “This is going to make me a better player for my school,” she said.

Principal Jim Miller is optimistic about Fortenberry and her time on the court.

“This Faith of ours is someone we need to keep our eye on, because she is a player that works very hard in what she loves.” Miller said.

“Lady Cards, look out here comes Faith,” Miller said.

Marcus Eckert also gave his encouraging words.

“Keep up the great work Faith,” Marcus Eckert said.

The Melissa Middle School is very proud of Faith and her skills on the court.

Positive Study Habits Produce Positive Results on Tests

By Jeffrey Boyd

There are many different types of study habits.

If you are oral person you like using music and rhythm. If you are verbal person you like to speak and use writing to study.

If you are a solitary learner you prefer to work alone by yourself.

If you are a social person you work best in groups.

To study, first you must take notes.

When you are home, find a quiet place to study. Get rid of all distractions like television.

Test Scores for Each Group

Did not study

Studied based on what type of learner they are

Period 1 Period 2 Period 3 Period 4
Starbucks Releases New Frappuccino

By Kate McGill & Kirbi Wilson

Starbucks has a variety of delicious drinks and treats but nothing has been more mouth watering than the taste of sweet and salty flavor of the salted caramel mocha frappuccino. The ingredients are obvious: caramel, salt, chocolate, and coffee are mixed together to create an appealing taste. Our expectation is for it to be an explosion of flavors and a variety of tastes.

“It tasted like salted caramel candy with a drop of coffee,” 7th grader Kara Moore said.

“It was very salty and there was like no mocha Flavoring in it,” 8th grader Brooklee Waltrip said.

The reality taste of the frappuccino is not quite what we anticipated it would be. We each had different opinions about the drink. One of us thought it was way too salty and could not taste the chocolate mocha flavoring and thought it was sour, and the other thought it was the best drink ever and would now be their usual. So in conclusion, it just depends if you like sweet or salty.

Expensive iPhone X On The Market

By Peyton Kohler

Apple is introducing the new iphone x. The iphone x has the largest display introduced in iphone yet! The price of the iphone x is enormously expensive. The price is $999. This iphone does not have a home button at the bottom of the screen like every other does, instead a swipe up at the bottom of the screen brings up the home screen. The iphone x has two more hours battery life than a iphone 7 does. It is waterproof but is not made to purposely go underwater. Instead of having to type in your password, it takes a 3D facial scan to bring you to your home screen. This new iphone also introduced something called animoji.

This means the emojis are now 3D. “I do not like the iphone x at all. This is because I don't like how there is no home button.” Kate McGill claimed.
Opinion

Guardians of Galaxy Is Out of this world

By Austin Miller

*Guardians of The Galaxy* proved to be hit in the teenage bracket.

The beginning was hilarious with Groot dancing to the music.

The middle part twisted me up when Peter meets his dad.

Just in case you haven’t seen it, I won’t reveal the ending.

47 Meters Down

By Camryn Green

*47 Meters Down* is a suspense thriller about two young sisters, Kate and Lisa, who go to Mexico looking for fun and adventure.

Kate persuades Lisa to go into shark infested waters in a protective cage. After getting on the boat they drive out and get in. Later they feel the cage fall down and realize the wire holding them up had broken and they were falling into shark territory.

Will they survive or will they die 47 meters down?

The movie was very entertaining and fun but at the same time thrilling and suspenseful. I would say this is now one of my favorites.

Children of Eden: a Thriller

By Audrey Burwell

*Children of Eden* is a novel written by Joey Graceffa, a New York times best selling author. It takes place in a society called Eden.

Eden protects the people from what happened to the outside world after the eco fail. In this society, it is illegal to have a second child.

Rowan is a second child that has been condemned to live in to her house her entire life. Her brother Ash has gotten to live the luxurious life of a first child. Rowan only gets to read, exercise, and watch videos.

Then one day Rowan gets tired of waiting and climbs the wall that has protected her for her entire life. Then her entire life changes.
Legend of Zelda Ranked Third in 2017

By Tucker Phillips

Legend of Zelda: Breath of the Wild is a role play game produced, made, and licensed by Nintendo.
Breath of the Wild is ranked third in the nation's favorite games in the nation. Second place is “For Honor,” and “Tom Clancy’s Ghost Recon: Wild Lands” is first.
Breath of the Wild has been rated 10/10 by “IGN.com,” Trusted Rivals,” and “Game Spot,”
Just like every other Zelda game the quest is to save Princess Zelda.

Great Excitement for New Kindness Club

By Avery Smith, Gwendolyn Stopinski, & Autumn Bell

The MMS Kindness Club just hit the scene, and students are already talking about it.
Lisa Broach, the sponsor of the Kindness Club, is already making plans for the students.
Being kind to others can make a great impact on you and even the whole school.
A good way to help and support our campus is to spread positivity everywhere you go. You cannot only make someone's day, but you can cheer yourself up as well. Broach held the first Kindness Club meeting Wednesday, Sept. 27, and several were in attendance.
When someone comes up to you and says something nice, you always feel a little better than you did before.
“I just enjoy making people happy and making the campus happy,” Tucker Phillips, kindness club member stated.
Broach is looking forward to this year's new kindness club.
“Mrs.Thompson and I wanted to keep the idea alive,” Broach said. “In the first couple of meetings we will come up with ideas for promoting kindness.”
The 2017-2018 Kindness Club is open to all students who want to share love and compassion.
MMS Students Anxious for Fair Day

By Kaylin Wells & SaNiya Cox

The Texas State Fair comes to town Sept. 29. On the following Monday, Melissa students have the day off to enjoy Fair Day.

The students are planning for the entertaining day ahead.

Students received complimentary tickets this week, and many are excited about attending.

“I can not wait to ride the rides and eat a funnel cake.”
-Kate McGill

“I'm looking forward to making life time memories.”
-Jaci Seale

Baby Ragan, New Cardinal in Town

By Halie Thanakeo & Presley Janacek

Tyler Ragan’s wife recently had their second child, and her name is Caroline.

On Wednesday Sept. 3, 5:47 pm baby Caroline was born.

“I was very happy, and I thought she was beautiful,” Tyler Ragan said.

“She is very healthy and growing more and more every day.”

“Caroline seems to be very content,” Ragan said.

Tyler and his wife have a very happy family, with a son and a daughter together.

His wife is doing very well.

“The very next day, my wife was running around playing with our dogs in the backyard,” he said.

The whole family is doing great and they are happier than ever.
By Cole Milburn & Bridger Atwood

The new art teacher, Samantha Yarbrough, is training young artists at MMS.

Although she just arrived, Yarbrough brings a large amount of expertise to the school, with her art experience. Some of the ways she teaches is by having a group evaluation on the art projects.

“I am very excited to see the artwork of my hard working students,” Yarbrough said.

Art is such an enriching part of the lives of students, and Yarbrough seems to be the right person for the job to inspire these students and to help them every step of the way.

Student work is on display in the “A” hallway, for all to enjoy as they pass by.

By Yisel Reynoso & Mia Dean

Seventh and Eighth graders have been working on the Atmospheric Perspective Project the past two weeks.

Atmospheric Perspective is where it’s warm colors in the front (red, orange, yellow) and cool colors in the back (blue, green, purple), according to Samantha Yarbrough.

Some seventh graders thought that the art project was a kind of difficult.

“It was some what difficult because it was hard for me to plan a landscape that I liked,” Mia Dean said.

While some eighth graders thought the project was difficult, others felt more at ease.

“It was not really (that difficult) because we did this last year in art class,” Andrew Eustace said.

“The closest thing we did was made a big animal and drew zentangles inside that animal,” he added.

Samantha Yarbrough, the art teacher, was pleased with the artwork the students made.

“I loved how students progressed on this unit and I saw growth. I saw a lot of unique designs in the student’s project,” she said.

Another art admirer thought that all of her students did an amazing job on their first project, and will be outstanding by the end of the year.
Hello everyone

Jones and TV MAN

THE BAD GUYS

TV man advertised Burger King, Our rivals!

I actually don't hate them Buuut they're my ride

The Big Mac
The impopular fry

He ate my brother!

The evil Mcnugget

This is the city of helpers. We protect them and they help us on some missions.

This is where we live

Wus poppin jimbo

My plan worked… wait no Home button?

My plan worked… wait no Home button?

WHAT? IS THE IPHONE 11 NOT GOING TO HAVE A SCREEN?!!

TO BE CONTINUED?

BREAKING NEWS
The Iphone X (see page 12) has no Home button?
S/O to teachers and administrators who came to support Salute to Broadway.
- The Actors

S/O to Nancy Perdomo who delivered tasty muffins to the teachers! We love you!
- MMS Staff

S/O to Lisa Broach for her outstanding work in beginning the Kindness Club at Melissa Middle School. Thank you for always modeling excellence and for leading our students in such a wonderful way. You truly do make a difference at our school.
-- MMS Staff

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Editors-In-Chief…. Camryn Green, Abbey Bell
Copy Editors....... Lars Costilla, Michael Terrill
Photo Editor........................ Halie Thanakeo

More MMS staff Positions will be announced in future editions.