



MATIGNON HIGH SCHOOL

“Expect Excellence”

Newsletter

January, 2010

Jake's Women

The mind of a madman is a place few have ever seen, and a place even fewer would want to. But on December 5th and 6th, the Matignon Masqueraders gave us a brief glimpse into the mind of Jake, a writer descending into insanity as the women in his head begin to interfere with his real life. This is the idea behind Neil Simon's play *Jake's Women*. While he descends into madness, Jake sends for the help of his women to stop his marriage from going under. As the play nears its conclusion and Jake is almost at his wit's end, the women come together and force Jake to decide whether he wants to keep his wife Maggie or his fantasies.

As a member of the Masqueraders, I can attest to the comradeship that exists between the cast and crew. Putting on this production, and enjoying it as much as we all did, would have been near impossible without it. The production was near flawless, thanks to the talented cast and crew. They are the best group of people to work with because everyone contributes something, whether it is a spectacular performance or simply being there for each other. I would like to thank them for all the time and effort they put into this show, and I hope there are many more like it.

To everyone who came and saw the show, I would like to thank you on behalf of all the Masqueraders and our director, Jim Grana. Our audience reached record numbers and only made the show that much more worthwhile. We couldn't have asked for more than the wonderful audience we had. Thank you again and we hope to see you at future shows.

Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony

An Annual Tradition Continues...



The Matignon family celebrated the start of the Christmas season on December 2 at the third annual Christmas tree lighting ceremony held on the front lawn of the school. A record-breaking crowd, including families, friends and neighbors of the school enjoyed singing, hot chocolate and cookies.

Field Trip to Plymouth Plantation

On December 10, the English Language Learners class visited Plymouth Plantation. As these foreign students are learning about our country in its earliest days, it was very interesting to them to see how two very different cultures co-existed to become one story – the story of Thanksgiving.

The students saw the homesite of the Native People who told them about their Wampanoag culture and history. They explained what their life was like in 1627. Students saw a boat being made by burning out the middle of a log and a mother with her baby strapped onto a cradle board. Each piece of clothing, including a skunk pelt cape worn by one of the guides, was made from animal hides. The students also visited the English village where they met costumed actors who had taken the names, viewpoints and personal history of actual people who lived at Plymouth Plantation during the late 1620s.

“I felt like the clock had been turned back in time.” -- Juri Osawa (sophomore from Japan)

“I was surprised that nine people lived in such a little house.” -- Tianyi Liu (freshman from China) “I was really interested in the way the Native People lived.” -- Jaesuk Jun (freshman from South Korea)

“I felt like I had stepped into a different world.” – Hoang Tran (junior from Vietnam)

Academic Decathlon

On Saturday, November 21st, Matignon's Academic Decathlon Team competed in the first round of the state competitions at Ashland High School. Top Team Scores were as follows: First Place: Pechsiree Pechvijitra; Second Place: Crawford Luce; Third Place: James McCune. Top Scores by Subject: Language and Literature: James McCune; Music: Crawford Luce; Science: James McCune; Art: Crawford Luce and Nicole Williams; Math: Pechsiree Pechvijitra; Economics: Pechsiree Pechvijitra
Pechsiree's score in Economics was also the top score in our division and won a Gold Medal for Matignon!! Congratulations to our team and thanks to all faculty members who tutored in the various subject areas.

From the Nurse's Office

Here's hoping your Holidays were Peaceful and Joyful! The Flu, and a sundry of other things which make us ill, continue. Reminder to follow these guidelines: wash, wash, wash, cough into your elbow or a tissue and stay home if sick! If you have a fever, you must stay home until fever free for 24 hrs without medication. All medical records should be current with all necessary immunizations up to date. If not, the student will be asked to stay home until all are current. Sports PEs need to be updated yearly.

Foreign Language Department:

The Foreign Language Department is pleased to announce that Mikaela Oliverio has been chosen Student-of-the-Month for the month of December. Mikaela is a student in French IV this year. She has maintained a straight A+ average in French throughout her four years at Matignon High School, and excellent grades in all other subjects as well. Last year Mikaela traveled to France as part of our exchange program with the Lycee Bossuet in Meaux. Living with a French family for a week gave Mikaela the opportunity to work on her spoken French. She makes the same effort every day in class and, as a result, she is becoming quite adept at expressing herself in the language. Mikaela also joined Academic Decathlon this year, because the theme for the competition is the French Revolution. In addition to her contributions to the Language Department, Mikaela has also been everyone's "right-hand girl" at Matignon for the past four years. Congratulations, Mikaela, on a job well done!

Exchange Program to Meaux, France:

Next March, for the second time, Matignon students will be traveling to Meaux, France, to participate in an exchange program with the Lycee Bossuet, just outside of Paris. Last year's students spent a week living with French families and visiting all the cultural landmarks that they had studied in French class. Students from the lycee returned with us from France to spend a fabulous week with our Matignon host families. Merci beaucoup to everyone in our Matignon community who made the exchange possible. We are looking forward to our return to Meaux with great enthusiasm This trip is open to French students of all levels. This year the trip will be chaperoned by Mr. and Mrs. DiSarcina and Mr. and Mrs. Gaffey. Interested parents can contact Mrs. Gaffey at pgaffey@matignon-hs.org

Pilgrimage to Lourdes:

For the third year in a row, Matignon High School students spent a week last summer in Lourdes, France, working with the "malades", people suffering from all sorts of illnesses, who come to Lourdes seeking comfort for their afflictions. This year's Matignon contingent included Eugenia Prezas, Stephanie Joseph, Colin Smith and Vinnie Ferlisi. They were accompanied to Lourdes by Mrs. Sue Redgate, a Dame of Malta, who participates yearly in the Order of Malta pilgrimage. Our students received kudos from participants and group organizers, as well as from Mrs. Redgate who found them to be wonderful examples of our motto, "Expect Excellence". We are hoping Matignon students will continue to participate in this extraordinary experience on a regular basis. Students who are interested in next year's pilgrimage should see Mrs. Gaffey in Room 202 for information.

Guidance Update

Junior parents: PSAT results were distributed to students last week. Parents should review these results with their child. Parents may contact their child's guidance counselor with any questions. The PSAT results will be used in the junior SAT prep classes after the holiday break. Juniors can access their "MY COLLEGE QUICK START" with the codes on their answer sheet.

Sophomore parents: PSAT results were distributed to students last week. A workshop will be held after midterm with the sophomores regarding "MY COLLEGE QUICK START" a College Board Program.

My College QuickStart™ is available now. This online college and career planning kit is available free of charge to all students who take the PSAT/NMSQT®. It's powered by the student's responses on the test and provides personalized information that helps students take the next step in the college search process. Students will need the access code printed on their 2009 PSAT/NMSQT paper score report.

QuickStart features include:

My Online Score Report

Enhanced report that allows students to review each test question, their answers, and the correct answers with answer explanations.

My College Matches

Starter list of colleges based on the student's home state and indicated choice of major.

My SAT Study Plan™

Customized SAT® study plan based on student's PSAT/NMSQT test performance, highlighting skills for review and practice.

My Major & Career Matches

Extensive information about majors and careers, including insights about what to expect and what courses to take now.

My Personality

Detailed personality test that helps students learn about themselves and discover majors and careers that fit their strengths and interests.

Freshmen parents: NEDT results were given to students. Parents should review these results with their child. Parents can contact guidance counselors with any questions. The guidance staff will again be meeting the freshmen after Christmas vacation regarding these tests.

Senior parents: Any senior who is planning on attending college next year should be completing college applications now if they haven't already done so. It is important for seniors who are applying to colleges to notify the guidance office of the colleges they are applying. This is done by filling out a TRANSCRIPT REQUEST FORM FOR EACH COLLEGE. (These forms are in the Guidance Office) This is the only way the student's transcript will be sent to colleges.

Some colleges and universities require mid term report forms to be sent by the high school. Students applying to colleges that require this information must submit the form to Mr. Carabello or Mrs. Graves.

Financial Aid: In order for a student to be considered for financial aid, the student must file the FAFSA and the profile forms to only the schools that require both forms. The state colleges and state universities require only the FAFSA. The FAFSA form can be submitted after 01/01/2010.

January 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Mary Mother of God New Year's Day	2
3	4 Classes Resume	5 Art Fair	6 Art Fair	7 Art Fair	8	9
10	11	12	13 Mass	14	15 Q2 Ends	16
17	18 Martin Luther King Jr. Day No Classes	19 Mid Year Exams Mod 1 & 2	20 Mid Year Exams Mod 3 & 4	21 Mid Year Exams Mod 5&6	22 Mid Yr. Exams Mod 7 & Makeup Sr./Jr. Semi Formal 7:30-10:30pm	23 SATs (not @MHS)
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
	31					

“The best way to cheer yourself up is to try to cheer somebody else up.” - Mark Twain

February 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Catholic Schools Week Class of 2014 Acceptance Letters	2 Teacher Appreciation Day Half Day	3 Mass Class of 2014 Phone Bank 5- 7PM	4 Parent-Teacher Conferences 5-8 PM	5	6 Academic Decathlon
7	8 6	9 Magic of Matignon 6:15-8:30PM Registration	10 Junior Retreat Registration Class of 2014 8AM-7PM	11 Registration Class of 2014 8AM-7PM	12 No Classes Professional Development Day Registration	13
14 St. Valentine's Day	15 Presidents' Day School Vacation	16	17 Ash Wednesday	18	19	20
21	22 Classes Resume	23 Spring Sports Candidates Meeting 6:30PM	24	25	26 Q3 Interims	27
28						

Celebrate Catholic Schools Week