

The Greyhound Gazette

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Meyerland Performing & Visual Arts Middle School

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**Submit Art or Writing or Questions
for the Advice Column for the back
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United, WE can do Anything!

by *Lalitha Snell & Jasmine Dixon*

The nation's first unified demo team was started this year, combining all students including special education, by Meyerland's own Kickstart Kids karate instructor Ms. Chelsea Clark. Students of all abilities work together 1-on-1 to learn the demo team routines, which are carefully choreographed to include all the students and highlight their talents.

Coach Clark says she heard about Unified Champion Schools, which is a Special Olympics initiative to give kids with and without special needs the opportunity to train and grow. "I had been trying to reach out to the Special Olympics for months, so I attended the meeting in hopes of doing so. I spoke to the presenter afterwards and we set up a meeting with Kickstart Kids and agreed to pilot the Unified Kickstart Kids program here at MPVAMS."

Ms. Clark's hope is that the Unified movement will spread and encourage more people to create inclusive teams where everyone has a chance to be successful. Some schools are already working towards that goal, and Ms. Clark is creating lesson plans for other schools to follow. We are so proud of our students and their dedicated coach.



Above: The Unified Demo Team premiered their amazing routine at the Winter Belt ceremony on December 18, 2018. They also performed for Mr. Chuck Norris, the founder of Kickstart Kids, on Saturday, March 23, 2019.

The Music Man by Aaron LaVohn

Seventy-six trombones came to our school on March 1-2nd! Our All-School musical, *The Music Man, Jr.* impressed and entertained us all. Rehearsals began after Thanksgiving break and continued all the way up to the show. Eighth grader Emersen Hunter said, "Rehearsals were fun and organized." Ms. Davidson directed the show, Ms. Evans helped with the music, and Mr. Peters rocked the choreography. Everyone did great!



Above: The Music Man, 6th grader Nhedrick Jabier, tries to sweet talk the women of River City into helping him start a band.

Sprint to the Finish... of the Season!

by Aaron LaVohn

"You can't ride on our bandwagon! We're too fast, and you're team's draggin'!" Our team's cheer drowned out the competition. They beat Pershing, Black, Tanglewood (twice), but lost to West Briar and Lanier. At our district competitions at Lamar High School the first week of February, our 7th grade boys and girls got first place, and won overall. Our 8th grade boys got first place, and while the girls got second, we still won overall.

We had numerous records broken this year in the district meet:

Boys 200 Free 8th Grade 2:01.63

Christopher McDonald

Girls 50 Fly 8th Grade 27.73

Chanice Posada

Girls 50 Back 8th Grade 28.82

Chanice Posada

Congratulations to all our swimmers on a great season!



Above: The 6th – 8th graders competed against each other in a host of hilarious relays in the yearly Reindeer Games on December 19, 2018.

Girls' Basketball

Coach Randolph led the 7th grade girls' basketball team. The highlight of the season was beating Lawson. Seventh grader Nehvaeh Thompson enjoyed being able to play for Meyerland; she said, "Basketball is a fun sport to play, and it keeps me healthy." Coach Sherita Jackson led the 8th grade team. Their record was 5-1 and they had a great season. Some of the top players were Kelsee Woodard, Carlin McQueen, and Kahlayn Barnes.

Dope Basketball (Boys')

by Jaya Evans-Moore

The gym filled up with chatter as everyone entered for the 8th grade basketball game on Thursday January 17 against the West Briar Grizzlies. Everyone was ecstatic, especially the players. Before anyone knew it, the buzzer rang and the game started.

The referee did a ball toss, and the Greyhounds got the ball. Shortly after, the Greyhounds score their first 2-pointer. The Grizzlies then got the rebound, and after a long time of running back and forth, the Grizzlies unfortunately score their first 2-pointer, tying the score. At the end of the first quarter, the Greyhounds add a point with a free throw, leading with a score of 15-6.

Picking up at the start of the 2nd quarter, the Grizzlies scored the first 3-pointer of the game, now getting the score to 15-9. After the disastrous Grizzlies scored a layup, the Greyhounds race down the court and try for a layup. One Grizzlies defender tries to block it and ends up flying through the air and falling flat on the floor. The Greyhounds get a layup themselves, bringing the score to 17-15. Fast forward to the end of the half, and the score is 28-16 Greyhounds.

Both teams continued to hit the boards and get some free throws and 2-pointers, but the Greyhounds are victorious with a score of 47-30. After the game Zach Chapman said, "I feel wonderful about the win and keeping the winning streak going." Coach Edmunds said that his team has grown a lot by listening, following instructions, and maturing as a team. Great job, Greyhounds!

The 8th grade team ended the season with a record of 9 wins and 2 losses (5-1 in the district). The 7th grade team had a record of 6-3 (4-2 in district). Coach Moore thinks this team will be great next year.



Above: 7th Graders Brandon Miller, Zahri Cade and Mary Clay work on frog dissection in Mr. Roberson's class

Frog Dissection

by Gissel Velasquez & Lalitha Snell

On March 4 - 7th, the 7th graders did the infamous frog dissection. We asked Ms. Levine about the kids' reactions, and she said, "I think the kids' overall reaction was really positive. Most kids were interested in the lab and really excited about it. Some were really worried that they would be scared, but some were pleasantly surprised and weren't scared of touching it. And most kids participated." She also said, about how hard it was to teach about the frog dissection, "It wasn't hard because I've been doing it for a long time. We have 2 days to prepare for the lab before spending 2 days doing the actual dissection."

Daniele Willis said, "The frogs were smelly, but it was worth it because it was very educational."



Above: The Advanced dancers, including Gavin Warfield, accompany Advanced Guitar playing "Misionera" during the Advanced Ensemble Concert on December 13, 2018.

Photo Credit: Guillermo Duron

Dance like Everyone's Watching

by Jasmine Dixon & Gissel Velazquez

The dance program had many impressive performances and awards this fall. Sixth grader Gavin Warfield was honored with being on the cover of *Boy Dance* magazine. We interviewed him about his dance career. **What first got you into dance?** "My sister helped me get started." **How does dance inspire your everyday life?** "It makes me happy and I enjoy it every time in a way that impacts me emotionally." **I heard you were in *Boy Dance* magazine. Tell me about that?** "Well it was life-changing. I got to be on the cover which I honestly didn't expect—that was pretty cool. I submitted to *Boy Dance* magazine and I got in it." **How far do you plan to take dance?** "For the rest of my life [laughs] but seriously, I do plan to take dance far." **How do you think what you do inspires male dancers?** "I think that boys don't think dance is 'cool' until they see other male dancers doing it. Then they'll think dance is for male dancers too."



Hot and Tasty Coffee

by Naomi Issak, Gissel Velazquez & Betzaida Granados-Rogel

Ms. Williams and Ms. Bailey are in charge of our TREK program at MPVA. The TREK (Transition Ready with Essential Knowledge) program helps students get ready for regular classrooms. They started selling coffee for the kids to raise money for fieldtrips and other useful resources for the kids to use at school.

Teachers have been buying coffee and treats on Fridays, and the kids enjoy it! The students make the coffee with the help of the teachers. And the coffee is hot and delicious! Whenever they deliver coffee, the students say the price of the order and what the order is.

In conclusion the TREK coffee is so the MPVA students can have a good year and a good time, and it builds their experience and lets them see the whole school.



Above: Ms. Williams helps the TREK students Jonathon & Adilson prepare the coffee for delivery.

R - E - S - P - E - C - T

by Aaron LaVohn

Eight competitors lined the stage for our All-School Spelling Bee on January 11, 2019. Every speller worked diligently for over a month studying 300 words. A special congratulations to Elisha Howard! He claimed first place after correctly spelling the word "xanadu."

Elisha competed in the district spelling bee on Tuesday, January 29. Ms. Cooper accompanied him. She reported, "Elisha knew all of the hard words but felt the pressure and got tripped up on a word he never thought he'd miss in round 3. I'm so proud of him for making it all the way to district level."

Our Club is S.E.C.R.E.T.

by Aaron LaVohn

Did you know our school has a Comic Book Club? The Super Elite Comic Readers Enthusiast Team (S.E.C.R.E.T). They play superhero games, discussing and debating favorites, and going to see movies together. So far, this year, they've seen *Spider-Man: Into the Spideverse*, *Aquaman*, and *Captain Marvel* together, with some 9th grade alumni joining in on the fun sometimes. They have plans to see *Shazam* and *Avengers: Endgame*.

Magnet Highlight Reel <i>by Aaron LaVohn</i>	ART Elisabeth Ross won 1 st & \$1000 in the World Aids Contest; Natali Rivera, 2 nd	DANCE Best Choreography Faculty & Student HISD Dance Festival	GUITAR Performed at the Early Childhood Winter Conference Jan. 26
MARIACHI HSPVA Mariachi Festival and joint HSPVA concert	BROADCAST Visited the new TV station for KPRC Did video projects	CHOIR 4 Choirs at UIL Varsity Women got straight 1s	ORCHESTRA UIL Varsity Superiors Sweepstakes Trophy & Beginner Festival
BAND Winter Concert Prepping for UIL Jazz Band excels	CREATIVE WRITING Yellow Rose and Hall Bulletin Board & Online submissions	PIANO Symphony field trip Recital / HSPVA Tour	THEATER Houston Ballet field trip Shout out to Layla Crear & Haley Prince: HSPVA

Show your Talent!



Art by Mia Zajicek, 7th Grade

"Mother to Son", in the style of Langston Hughes
by Sasha Russell, 8th grade

Well son, I'll tell you:
Life for me ain't been no lazy river
It's had jagged rocks
and strong currents
and murky water
and places where critters prey at night
hungry
But all the time
I've been navigating that river
and kayaking them currents
and riding them waterfalls
and sometimes goin' in the depths
where the sun don't shine
So boy don't you turn back
Don't you set down that oar
cause you finds it's kinder hard.
Don't you stop now—
For I've still rowin', honey,
I've still kayakin'
And life for me ain't been no lazy river

"Greyhound Q & A" Advice Column

I like this guy, but my best friend just broke up with him. I asked her if I could date him, and she said no. But I can't stop liking him! What should I do? *Go to your friend and talk to her and tell her how much you like him. Then make a decision if the guy is worth losing your friend over.*

I'm stressing so much over the STAAR tests! How do I chill out?

Do something that you love and relax. And remember to just do your best. The world will go on even if you fail.

My sister has this light she paid \$50 for and I accidentally broke it! How do I tell her?

You should start by apologizing and offering to buy her a new one. She probably already figured out it was you and is already mad. Apologizing and replacing it is the best you can do.

I got into a fight with my friend and now she is spreading rumors. How do I get her to stop?

You should ask her to stop spreading rumors about you, and if she doesn't, tell an adult you trust. Spreading rumors is a form of bullying. It is never okay. A real friend will stop.