

**Mark Twain Middle School:  
Brag Sheet 2008-2009**

**Bragging about Our Students!**

September: Congratulations to September Team Mark Twain MS Students of the Month: Nebeyu Daniel; Liz Togbe; Katherin Hernandez; Jane Eyre; David Breinhart; Judy Nguyen; Steven Galeas; Jose Letona; Richard Clemmons; Veronica No; Maya Williams; Brandon Rodgers; Jamie N. Avila Hernandez; Morgan R. Cheatham; Dibora Wubershet; Lindsay Flowers; Lance Clark; Samuel Yoo; Juliette Cross; and Cliff Ballena.

October: Congratulations to 8th grader Nicole Lyon for winning the girls 12-4 age group at the Run With The Eagles 5K on Saturday, October 18. Nicole ran 30:23 for the 3.1 mile course down Franconia Road. Proceeds benefited the Edison Athletic Boosters Club. Nicole is a member of Mark Twain Girls On Track. Way To Go, Nicole!

October: Congratulations to the newly elected officers of the Mark Twain MS National Junior Honor Society: President: Cameron Spera; Vice President: Matt Kaufax; Secretary: Annmarie Carroll; Treasurer: Chelsea Pixa; Historian: Megan Chaplin

October: Congratulations to the following students who made it through the first round of the Math Counts competition! Carrie Sun, Sean Waterton, David Anderegg, Hassan Almas, Quark Wei, Nicholas Brown, Surya Srirangarajan, Chris Wu, Morgan Cheatham, Rasul Gupta, Shadid Sayed, Nikhil Gupta, Sam Yoo, Justin Nguyen, Mossab Alsadig.

October: Congratulations to James Stull, Clayton Mottley, Hannah Smith, Michelle Lam, and Nastassja Cordero for participating in Fall Regional Technology Student Association Rally which is the first step toward Regional Competition in March 2009.

Congratulations to October Team Students of the Month, as voted by teachers for a variety of reasons for excellence: Katherine (Kat) Motsko, Ayman Juburi, Nastassja Cordero, Alex (Jonathan) Freitag, Cristian Torres, William Woodward, Elizabeth Thomas, Kevin Cheng, Latrice Smith, Lidia Mengestu, Bryce Moorehouse, Nemesis Garcia, Andrea Uribe, Evelyn Zelaya, Matthew Kaufax, Jennifer Gomez, Maria Letona, Erica Benitez, Minelik Lemma, Lydia Clites, Chris Holt, John Melgar, Margaret Northrup and Reese Shaw.

November: Way to go, Latin Students! Ad Fontes Certamen was held at GMU on Sat. Nov. 15th. Congratulations to Team Huck Finn: Morgan Cheatham, Sarah King, Erika Weiskopf, and Quark Wei who came in 5<sup>th</sup> place; Team Tom Sawyer: Alana Whitman, Niara Lezama, and Tiara Diaz who came in 9<sup>th</sup> place; and Team Life on the Mississippi: Reily Polka, Surya Srirangarajan, Michaela Mulokey, and John Watson who came in 14<sup>th</sup> place!

November: Congratulations to the MTMS Turkey Trot Winners!

8th gd boys: 1st: Chris Benavides; 2nd: Cris Flores; 3rd: Julian Vargas  
8th gd girls: 1st: Catherine Babiec; 2nd: Chelsea Pixa; 3rd: Olivia Herder  
7th gd boys: 1st: Louis Colson; 2nd: Karim Gharbi; 3rd: Melkiz Palencia  
7th gd girls: 1st: Chania Ray; 2nd: Natalie Melendez; 3rd: Kenza Mdarhri-Alaoui  
Adaptive PE: 1st: Sean Wood; 2nd: Yonathan Tilahun; 3rd: Tad Twoney

November: Congratulations to all the Mark Twain GirlsOnTrack runners for a great job Saturday, December 6, 2008 at the Girls on the Run Race! Reindeer Romp. Nicole Lyon was our top finisher in 28:32 followed closely by Lydia Clites and Elizabeth Thomas. Great job also to Ahdyea Husseinkael, Zohnnie Milton, Mikea Green and Leslie Alfaro for completing their first 3.1 mile race! Thank you to teachers, Ms. Flynn and Ms. Gray, for their support.

November: Congratulations to the November Team Students of the Month: Congratulations to November Students of the Month: Dallas Walker, Isabelle Walton, Grace Webber, Hector Machado, Veronika Mironenko, Jimy Portocarrero-Yanez, Kathleen Pena, Dante Degregori, Diego Alzugaray, Amy Castillo, Megan Chaplin, Archal Jain, Brad Cooley, Darleen Nguyen, Ye Kyaw, and Jada Carpenter!

December: Twain's Got Talent! Congratulations to all the students who showcased their skills at the Talent Show on December 17, 2008! Wow!! Erika Weiskopf, Sara Moustaid, Urgessa Duguma, Paul Furman, Tyler Everett, Regina King, Kim Bazemore, Bryan Moore, Liam McElroy, Cameron Spera, Megan Chaplin, Juliette Cross, Autumn Lynn Dawson, Delena Bell, Richy Jones, Gilda Nimoh. And, staff members Mr. Hay and Ms. Lebowitz! Shout-out to the techies too who supported to make sure we could SEE and HEAR the talent! Nick Blewett, Sam Glad and Catherine Jordon. They also did some improv—what talent!!!

December: Way to go to the following students who made the District 10 All-District Honor Band: Grace Webber, Kaitlan Forsythe, Nicholas Brown, Niara Lezama, Elizabeth Thomas, Vaughn Varma, and Jessica Sheldon!

December: Congratulations to Shantel Schexnayder and Carolyn Elliott whose artwork was featured in the Springfield Connection, Children's Connection, December 30, 2008-January 6, 2009 edition.

Congratulations to the December Students of the Month: Pourash Bhandari, Najiyah Prome, Conner Hall, Fawzia Masud, Euginia Mensah, Jimmy Zheng, Usman Haq, Cloe Herrera, Cayman Hatton, Hannah Deal, Alana Whitman, Rasul Gupta, Himica Kumar, Zach Francis, Dylan Siasoco, Madelyn Luansing, Arman Husseinkehl, Alesandre Velasquez

January: Congratulations to Isabelle Walton and Quark Wei participated in the District 10 Honors Orchestra Event at TC Williams High School!

February: Congratulations to the MTMS students who will participate in the District 10 All-District Honor Band on Saturday, February 7 at 3pm at Hayfield Secondary. All are welcome! Grace Webber, Kaitlan Forsythe, Nicholas Brown Niara Lezama, Elizabeth Thomas, Vaughn Varma, Jessica Sheldon, Megan Chaplin, and Katie Necochea!

February: Congratulations to MTMS Latin Students who participated in the Riverbend Certamen in Spotsylvania, VA where Twain had three teams compete. Twain took 3rd place out of all the level 1 teams (high, middle, and elementary schools; public, private, and home-schooled). The team beat TJ's teams, and (for the first time), they beat the Frost team. Frost and Twain teams faced each other in every round. Team members included: Team Huck Finn: Morgan Cheatham, Surya Srirangarajan, Quark Wei, and Erika Weiskopf; Team Tom Sawyer: Niara Lezama, Katie Necochea, Dominique Rowinski, Alana Whitman; and Team Life on the Mississippi: Tiara Diaz and John Watson. Congratulations, Ms. Graham, teacher-coach of the teams!

February: Congratulations to the following ladies who have been selected to sing in District 10's Middle School Honors Choir next week: Sopranos : Jasmin Adous, Robin Maline, Dominique Rowinski, Nadia Shaikh, Annalisa Sheldahl, Molly Sternberg, Alana Whitman. Altos: Carloyenne Barrow, Juliette Cross, Amy Keller, Victoria Payne, Andrea Uribe, Anna Williams.

### **Bragging about Our Staff!**

August: Congratulations to Pathfinders English Teacher, Laura Mathurin, who was featured in the National Education Association's monthly publication. Her tips and strategies for classroom management are sure to inspire educators across the country!

September: Congratulations to Assistant Principal Jeremiah Caven who was featured in the Springfield Connection newspaper as we welcome him to the MTMS community!

November: Congratulations to Christine Arocho, science department chair, for being awarded a grant to purchase Venier Probeware for the 7th grade science curriculum! This grant was made possible by the AFCEA - Belvoir Chapter Education Grant Program.

December: Congratulations to the MTMS Math and Civics Department. Their vision for how to teach financial literacy to 8<sup>th</sup> grade students was featured in the Washington Post on December XX, 2008!

February: Congratulations to Lead Counselor, Denee Scott, who was awarded a grant to attend: A Dream Deferred™: The Future of African American Education Conference in Los Angeles, California in May of 2009.