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& Ms. Hush

Special points of interest:

- This page, for starters!
- Freshmen enjoy a great donation of free books.
- Sophomores are looking forward to a field trip.
- Freshmen on ice?
- Spanish classes created an art gallery all their own.

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White Tigers on the Prowl

by Mr. Louis

Mirta Ramirez is proud to announce their very first Varsity team.

The new team consists of senior leaders Marcus Dodson and Jonathan Valez; juniors Adam Rios, Joel Calderon, and Joshua Mercado; a strong sophomore group of Marcus Johnson, Angel and Marcos Mendoza, Javier Laboy, Demethrice West, Keith Polk, and Brian Minor; and freshmen Manny Martinez, Billy Reynolds & Marquez Johnson.

White Tigers Win 55 - 32

On December 2nd, the Varsity team beat up on the Chicago Bulls College Prep in a 55 - 32 victory.

Dodson led all scorers with 19 points and was a strong leader throughout the game. Marcus Johnson followed with 13 and Polk dropped in 11. Martinez had 7 and Angel Mendoza 5. Record 1-0.

UIC College Prep 53-36

January 12th, Varsity pulled even with a .500 record in a rout of UIC College Prep (Noble). The game was highlighted by two buzzer beaters by Marcus Dodson.

Playing on the road as always, the Tigers shot extremely well from the perimeter, dropping 8 three-pointers. Dodson, Mercado, Valez, the Mendoza twins, and Polk all hit from beyond the arc. West sparked a run in the second half with physical play down low.

All 14 players saw significant playing time. Billy Reynolds played well on defense in the fourth quarter. Marcus Johnson dunked in the halftime shoot-around, drawing a technical foul from the referees.

The team's next game will be against Aspira Early College.

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Above: Joshua Mercado celebrates the victory at UIC College Prep.

Below: Marcus Johnson sometimes finds himself asking, "What defense?"



Tigers Trounce



Above: Coach Louis addresses the varsity squad after every game.

Right: Sophomore Javier Laboy cleared the way for Demethrice West's high-flying third quarter attacks against UIC College Prep.



Ms. Louis' class read The Kite Runner and gained new perspective on the world.



Stephanie Guilloty and the rest of Team 2 enjoy active reading time with new materials from DonorsChoose.com.



Go Sophomores!

The sophomores have been improving their effort and getting rewarded through the academy's PBIS program. The individual teams are rewarded points for "good" behaviors and practices in class.

Teams can earn up to 5 points in *each class each* day. Then at the end of the week the team with the

most points for that week earns a reward and/or a free period. This includes options of watching a movie, going outside and playing against another team, receiving a treat, or receiving a reduced assignment or quiz.

So far Team 6 has won twice; Team 7 twice; Team 8 once; and Team 10 once.

by Ms. Fahey

Points are being accumulated over the weeks for an *end of the semester* reward – a day off of classes!

This reward will allow that team to come to school to participate in an activity without having to attend classes. Most likely this activity will be off-campus; good luck, Sophomores!

Literary Redemption

The freshman academy has made wonderful progress this semester, and I am exceptionally proud of their efforts in the unit we have just completed in World Literature.

We have finished The Kite Runner, a novel that is

nearly 400 pages, in just over a month! We have taken a hard look at (and debunked) our assumptions, generalizations, and judgments about life and culture in the Middle East.

We have improved our reading comprehension, and

by Ms. Louis

we have explored the themes of loyalty & friendship, parent relationships, betrayal, remorse, and redemption.

I know everyone's hard work has been worth it. Good luck in the new semester!

College Literacy Hits the Books

Students have been busy in Ms. Lager's class learning reading strategies and practicing them both in and out of school to become better metacognitive thinkers and to improve their reading skills.

In school, students participate in Sustained-Silent Reading (SSR) two or three times per week. During SSR, students read a book of their choice for part of the class period.

They then graph how many pages they've read and how many minutes they were actively reading out of the time given to see how they are progressing.

After filling out the graph, students then record an entry in their

Metacognitive Log, which shows what processes they went through while reading.

Lastly, students share what they read and their reading processes with a partner and with the class.

Freshman student, Sandra Ramirez, states, "I enjoy SSR because it allows us to choose books we are interested in instead of the teacher picking them for us. This gets us more interested in reading."

Ms. Lager's students have been very fortunate so far this year as four projects which were posted on a website, DonorsChoose.com, were funded.

Donors Choose allows teachers to post materials they need for their classrooms along with an explanation of why the materials are needed. Then, potential donors view the projects;

by Ms. Lager

they decide to which projects they would like to donate money. Each of the posted projects requested more books for the classroom library, so that students would have a wider selection of materials from which to choose for SSR. Students were very appreciative of the donated books and wrote thank you letters to the donors to show their appreciation.

Celeste Rosario says, "I feel really blessed that someone would donate money for books for our classroom. The books are all really interesting and offer us more choices. I wish I could pay the donors back in some way."

Because of the generous donors, over 120 new books were added to the classroom library!

Varsity Basketball is Ready for January

by Mr. Louis

(Continued from page 1)

White Tigers Drop Game to Noble Street Pritzker: 48-37

After falling behind 2-22 the Tigers scrapped their way to a 8-32 halftime deficit. Despite playing at Pritzker, the team enjoyed a "home crowd" as seemingly half of Mirta showed up to cheer them on.

With strong defense led by Mercado, Calderon, West, Dodson, and the rest of the guards, the team held their opponents to 16 points in the second half, outscoring them 29-16.

Valez scored eight points in less than two minutes, knocking down two three-pointers from the corner and making his first lay-up of the season.

Although they lost, the Tigers regained their fight in the second half and clawed their way to a respectable finish. Record 1-1.

Victory to be Found in 48-43 Loss to Rauner College Prep

With another "home" crowd (thank you Mirta!!!), varsity lost a thriller at Windy City Field House on Thursday, December 17th.

Rauner, our opponents, typically beat up on all of the schools in the Noble League. The Tigers embraced the loss and found great satisfaction knowing that they played hard-nosed defense and disciplined basketball.

As a coach, I don't know if they could have played a better game. The Tigers took their only lead 19-18 just before the half and then kept the game within ten points for the entirety of the second half despite being outsized by four to six inches at nearly every position.

Dodson led the team with 11 points and played through a second half injury. Marcus

Johnson and West added eight each. Mercado dropped in five points including a three. Polk, Laboy and Martinez netted four apiece. Laboy had three blocks in the second half and played like a beast. *Everyone* played like a beast.

After the game it was clear that Mirta can hang with anyone. The loss left a bitter taste in our mouths, but encouraged us to move on and look forward to our next matchup. Record 1-2.

Hang in There, Junior Varsity

The Bethesda League will be starting up in January. Everyone that made the "junior varsity" team after October tryouts is still encouraged to play. Please see Mr. Louis or Mr. Moran for information.



Above: Keith Polk laying-up over the UIC Prep defense as Manny Martinez and Angel Mendoza hang back for the rebound. Polk made the shot.

Team 5 on the Road!

by Mr. Bindewald

Freshman this year have been working hard; each team has been rewarded at some time or other for having a great week. Referrals are down, uniforms are... more uniform, and many students are really owning their own success.

One team, however, has stuck out a bit more than the others; Team 5 has really responded to our PBIS team system.

As a result, they earned a trip to the Museum of Science and Industry.

Students participated in a photo scavenger hunt. We learned about ways in which robots help society, discov-

ered many uses for hydrocarbons and explored myriad forms of transportation. Robert Escobedo milked a cow, which was a bit surreal, but entertaining. Valerie Ramirez led a group through an interactive goal-setting exhibit set for the new year. Salvador Sanchez took the helm at the sub exhibit. We were all mystified by the inner-workings of the human body.

We stopped at Medeci for great pizza; definitely go if you are in Hyde Park for lunch.

We capped off the afternoon with some ice skating. Some people had clearly

been on the ice before; some were a little less practiced. Luis Gil was found, at one point, skating in circles, repeatedly shouting, "This is not fun!" His expression told me otherwise.

All in all, it was a great time. Freshman teachers are looking forward to our next trip; we hope you'll be there to join us.

Right: Valerie Ramirez, Karla Valtierra, Hilda Pinedo, Maricruz Mendoza and Daniel Ramos enjoying the ice at Midway Plaisance Park.

Below: Robert Escobedo takes a moment to get some milk while at the Museum of Science and Industry.



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Vision

AMRCS will create and support innovative curriculum targeting all students, including students with disabilities, in order to develop their academic, work-place, technological and citizenship skills for postsecondary success.

Mission

AMRCS is a community of empowered learners who are ethical, passionate risk-takers. All students, including students with disabilities, feel safe, secure, and accepted in our small school with a family-like atmosphere. We offer rigorous, practical, student-centered curriculum from devoted professional educators, which is rooted in a technology-driven educational environment. Through outreach to parents, guardians and the community, AMRCS fosters culturally aware, confident leaders who are prepared to pursue and succeed in higher education and fulfilling professions. We are an accountable community that promotes uncompromised excellence at all levels – students, staff, faculty, and administration.

We're on the web:
<http://mrcscs.aspirail.org/>

Spanish Art Gallery

by Sr. Rodriguez

**Hey students,
ever complain that
adults don't listen to
your side of things?**

All Juniors had the opportunity to make their own piece of art for Spanish class. They were able to choose a painting by a famous Spanish artist from art books and the Internet.

The project was done for the purpose of learning about Spanish artist and art from Spain and Latin America by making a replica of a famous painting.

The students really enjoyed the project and learned a lot about each artist.

Share your ideas, comments, concerns, and your art through the school newsletter. Reach the whole school with your vision for the school by submitting articles and art to the newsletter. You can submit a hardcopy to the box inside the door at room 101 or you can email the editor at RBindewald@mrcscs.aspirail.org.

