

# The CAVALIER COURIER

Volume 4, Issue 6

Mercer Christian Academy

April 2010

## Marching Through the Spring

By **Leandra Sexton**  
STAFF WRITERS

Sunny days and warm weather seem to have finally arrived! Elementary students are now able to have outdoor recesses, and students at the high school are able to have fresh air coming through the classroom windows. Since missing 23 school days due to snow, students and teachers are working hard to fit everything in. School days were extended until 4:00 p.m. for three weeks in March to make up for lost work time. Students were also required to remain at school for a full day after the morning achievement testing the week before a shortened spring break.

Just when it seemed as if March would be dull and never-ending, the monotony was shattered by the Homecoming festivities! Parents, fans,

and MCA students, past and present, filled the stands in the high school gymnasium on March 18. In between games fought by the students, coaches, and teachers, the 2010 homecoming court was presented. The three senior girls that walked as this year's homecoming royalty were Ariel Harry, Danielle Preservati, and Leslee Easter. The one and only senior guy, Evan Bailey, escorted each of the girls onto the floor to await the announcement of King and queen. After a drum roll from the crowd, the reigning 2009 king and queen Matthew Brookman and Casey Cannon passed on their titles to Evan Bailey and Leslee Easter. The middle school and underclassmen attendants were as follows:

11th Grade: Laken King and Jon Lloyd.



**In the Royal Spotlight:**  
**Seniors Leslee Easter and Evan Bailey smile for the cameras after being crowned the 2010 Homecoming King and Queen.**

10th Grade: Kristi Fox and Ryan Wade.

9th Grade: Bridget Blizzard and J.T. Altizer.

8th Grade: Chelsea Froy and Chris Sweat.

7th Grade: Savannah Ball and

Caleb Janning.

6th Grade: Elizabeth Cole and Kyle Griffith.

Congratulations to all of the students voted to represent their classes on the 2010 Homecoming court!

### FROM THE EDITOR



Danielle Preservati

I don't know about you, but I am very glad that the warm weather has finally returned! When the weather is nice, I always seem to be in a better mood. Now that summer is just around the corner, I know that many of you are starting to get restless for the school year to be over, but hang in there! Don't slack off on your work, even though you don't want to do it. Trust me when the

time comes for you to graduate, good grades will definitely help you find a good college!

Also, Easter was this month. I know it is easy to get caught up in eating too many chocolate bunnies and Peeps, but don't forget that the purpose of this holiday is to remember that Christ died on the cross for our sins. We should be thankful and celebrate that He rose again, but

should also show respect and humility to the One who gave us life.

1 Peter 1:3 says, "Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead."

# FACES IN THE CROWD

## STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

By LAUREN EASTER

### EVA WARNER



**What is the best thing about school?**  
Language.

**What do you want to be when you grow up?**  
Veterinarian.

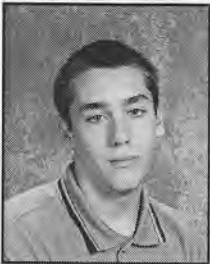
**Who do you admire the most?** My parents.

**What is your favorite sport?** Tennis.

**Grade:** 3rd.

**What is your favorite vacation spot?** Georgia.

### ADAM MEREDITH



**Who is your favorite sports team?**  
Washington Wizards.

**If you could live anywhere, where would it be?** Africa.

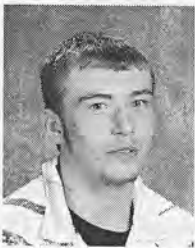
**What is the best thing about MCA?**  
My basketball team.

**Who is your hero?**  
Gilbert Arenas.

**Grade:** 8th.

**What is your favorite vacation spot?** Europe.

### JAMES BECKNER



**What is your favorite sports team?**  
WVU Mountaineers.

**If you could live anywhere, where would it be?**  
Miami, FL.

**What is the best thing about MCA?**  
There's not a lot of people.

**Who is your hero?**  
LeBron James.

**Grade:** 10th.

**What is your favorite vacation spot?** The beach.

By Amber Koppler

Ruth King Rivera graduated from MCA in 1997, after attending school here since 6th grade. While at MCA, Ruth was in Honor Society, Jr. Civitan, Spanish



Club, Student Council (as student body president her senior year), and Who's Who Among American Teenagers. She was also a member of the volleyball team and managed the girls basketball team.

Upon graduation Ruth entered Moody Bible Institute, where she earned a BA in Urban Ministries. Prior to her graduation in 2001, Ruth participated in urban club and worked part time. After earning her degree, she taught 5th grade for 3 years and coached volleyball.

Ruth married her husband, Robert Rivera, on March 17, 2001, and now has two beautiful children: Reyna (born Dec. 17, 2005) and Reuben (born Feb 21, 2008).

At the age of 29, Ruth was diagnosed with cancer, of which she is now a survivor. Ruth stated, "Something I have learned through the last few years is how short life is. There is so much we want to do. Don't take it for granted. Take advantage of what you can do now for the Lord."

In the future, Ruth hopes to home school her daughter Reyna and keep working alongside her husband with their church youth group in Chicago.

In reference to her time at MCA, Ruth said, "I feel like MCA prepared me very well for college. I appreciated the teachers offering advanced classes for small groups. And I made friends that are still very close friends today. Some of my closest friendships are from high school."

Where are they now? - Ruth (King) Rivera '97

# Teacher Tidbits

By **KELLI HOLDREN**  
STAFF WRITER

- **Where did you attend college?**  
Liberty University.
- **Where do you attend church?**  
Maranatha Baptist Church.
- **How long have you been teaching at MCA?**  
Two years.
- **What is your favorite part of being at MCA?**  
Being able to speak and teach freely about the Lord.
- **Who is your favorite Bible character?**  
Esther.
- **What do you like most about the spring?**  
Being able to get outside and walk.

- **What are your hobbies?**  
Cooking and playing games.
- **Would you share some information about your family?** Our son, Joseph, recently graduated from the Air Force basic training with Honors. Our daughter, Elise, is married to a wonderful young man named Russell Miller. We are grateful for the opportunity our children have to attend MCA, and that David and I are able to take an active part in their education. We are diehard Steeler fans, and we enjoy good food and good friends!



Mrs. Maranto

## Star Stage



On March 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>, five girls from MCA participated in the Christian Cheerleaders of America (CCA) National Competition in Charlotte, North Carolina. Kaitlyn Shumate, McKenzie Shumate, Ireland Garrett, Emma Cooper, and Sami Goings all participated in the different levels and divisions of the contest. Each girl placed in the competition, including several first place ribbons and grand champion awards. Congratulations to the girls for using this great opportunity to be witnesses for Jesus Christ!



Ireland Garrett, Kaitlyn Shumate, McKenzie Shumate, Emma Cooper, Sami Goings

\*If anyone you know has done something "star-worthy" in the community, send the information and a picture to [morgan.lynn.40@gmail.com](mailto:morgan.lynn.40@gmail.com).

**"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!"**

**2 Corinthians 5:17**



## Student of the Month

**April 2010**

Eighth grader Rhiannon Boggess was chosen by her teachers as the Student of the Month for April 2010. The nomination for Student of the Month is a result of good class participation, good attitude, good behavior, showing school spirit, hard work ethic and demonstrating positive, Christian behavior during the month of March.



# SPORTS CENTER

## March Madness

By LESLEE EASTER  
STAFF WRITER

MERCER CHRISTIAN HELD ITS HOMECOMING AND SENIOR NIGHT ACTIVITIES ON MARCH 18<sup>TH</sup> AFTER BOTH EVENTS HAD BEEN CANCELLED DURING THE REGULAR SEASON DUE TO WEATHER COMPLICATIONS. ALTHOUGH THERE WAS A LITTLE DIFFERENT TWIST TO THINGS THIS YEAR, THERE WAS A BIG TURNOUT AND EVERYONE STILL HAD A GREAT TIME. EACH OF OUR MCA BASKETBALL TEAMS PLAYED A 2 QUARTER GAME AGAINST THEIR OPPONENT: THE TEACHERS AND COACHES. IN BETWEEN THE BASKETBALL ACTION, THE 2010 HOMECOMING COURT WAS PRESENTED.

AFTER THE VARSITY BOYS PLAYED THEIR GAME, THE SENIORS AND JUNIORS ON THIS YEAR'S GIRLS BASKETBALL TEAM WERE RECOGNIZED. THE SENIORS WERE ESCORTED BY THEIR PARENTS. EACH PLAYER WAS PRESENTED WITH A NICE GIFT FROM HER COACHES, AS WELL. THE NIGHT WAS EMOTIONAL BUT VERY ENJOYABLE. THANK YOU TO ALL THE TEACHERS, COACHES, PARENTS, AND STUDENTS WHO MADE THE EVENT SO WONDERFUL.

WHAT A CRAZY MONTH OF MARCH MADNESS. OH, ALL THE UPSETS!!! THE NO. 1 SEED, THE UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS, WAS EXPECTED TO MAKE IT FAR IN THE TOURNAMENT, BUT WAS SHOCKINGLY TAKEN DOWN BY THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTHERN IOWA. MANY



**Above left:** Devin Taylor goes flying high to try to stop Coach Sweat. **Above right:** Leandrea Sexton leads the girls team up the floor. **Bottom:** The middle school boys huddle in the middle of the court to get pumped for their game against the "Drill Sergeants" (a.k.a. teachers and coaches) homecoming night.

OTHER TOP SEEDS WERE TAKEN DOWN AS WELL. HOWEVER, OUR WEST VIRGINIA MOUNTAINEERS MADE THEIR STATE AND FANS PROUD AS THEY ADVANCED ALL THE WAY TO THE FINAL FOUR FOR THE FIRST TIME IN 51 YEARS! UNFORTUNATELY, THEY WERE STOPPED BY THE DUKE BLUE DEVILS WHO WENT ON TO WIN THE 2010 NATIONAL TITLE OVER BUTLER.

 Mr. Brooks' Corny Corner 

**"You can smell a pole cat (skunk) whether you see it or not."**

*(And all the students say, "HAHAHA!")*

### INSIGHTFUL CITATIONS

*"For everything you have missed, you have gained something else."*

**-Ralph Waldo Emerson**

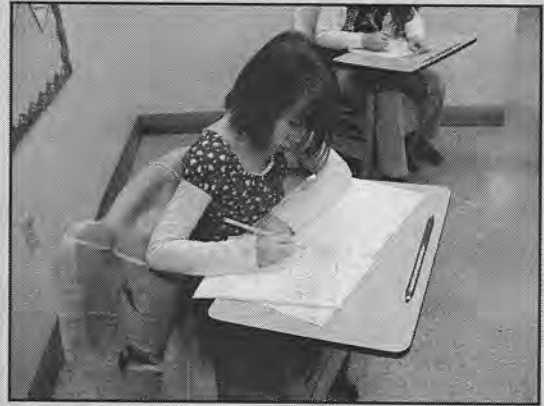
# ELEMENTARY ELEMENT

## The Third Grade Says "Welcome"

By **ARIEL HARRY**  
STAFF WRITER

This year, Mr. Strahan is taking on the third graders once again. There are eleven little munchkins running around in the classroom. In math, the kids are working on mixed numbers. The students are working on their science notebooks and studying vertebrates and invertebrates in science class. By the end of the year, the kids hope to have accomplished whatever is needed to move on to the fourth grade. When asked what the students are doing to prepare for achievement testing, Mr. Strahan said, "Review, review, review!" The third graders will know all of the foundational items in each subject area to make the big move to the fourth grade. Mr. Strahan says that the most unique quality of this year's third grade class is the welcoming spirit toward new students.

Now that the weather has cleared, Timothy Stout enjoys playing kickball outside at recess, and Abbi Haines was looking forward to going on vacation over spring break.



**Hard at Work!** A studious Ashley Akers works hard during class.

### DID YOU KNOW?

- To escape the grip of a crocodile's jaws, push your thumbs into its eyeballs. It will let you go instantly.
- When you hear the ocean in a seashell, it's really the sound of your own blood pumping through your head.
- Most elephants weigh less than the tongue of a blue whale.

### WORD on the STREET

The Cavalier Courier asks: *If you could have any animal, what would it be?*

Compiled by Ariel Harry and Leandra Sexton



Aaron Mills

"A Baby Kitty."



Lizzie Warner

"A Hamster."



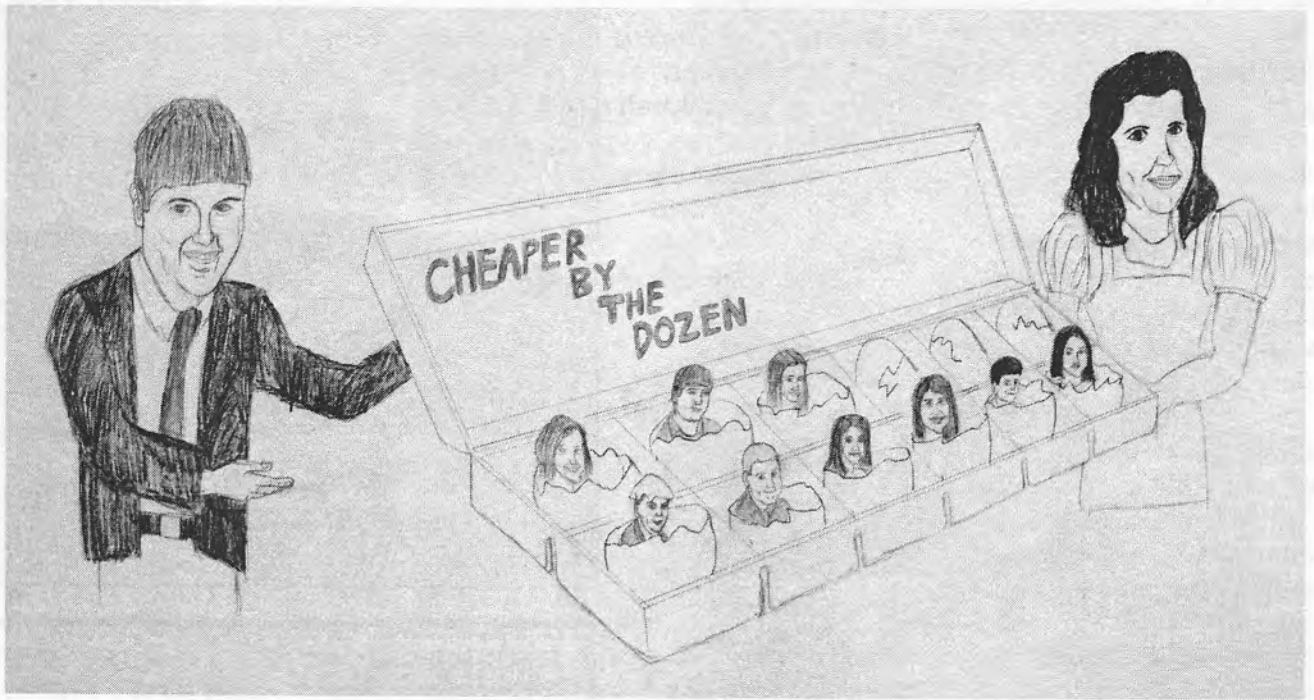
Chelsea Froy

"A Panda."



Justin Fern

"A tiger."



This sketch of the middle school and high school cast in the upcoming drama "Cheaper by the Dozen" was created by senior Evan Bailey. Catch this drama on either Thursday or Friday, April 15th or 16th at the high school!

If you would like to submit a drawing to be featured in the school newspaper, please contact Danielle Preservati. Her email address is [danniprez@yahoo.com](mailto:danniprez@yahoo.com).

*Made with hard work and love by:*

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The  
**CAVALIER COURIER**

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